



# Carronbank Medical Practice

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July 2015 newsletter

## In This Issue

- All change at Carronbank
- New faces and change in role
- Helping out locally
- Premises
- Wart clinic

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**Holiday vaccinations:** please give us at least 4 week's notice for these – or else contact us for private travel clinic details

## All change at Carronbank



This year will see the retirement of some of the best known faces in the practice. Dr Stuart Donaldson has been here since 1986, and this represents 29 years of service to the patients of Denny and Dunipace. Stuart did not have the best of starts, as on his very first day here he was involved in a car crash when out doing home visits. Thankfully, there were no injuries. Luckily, it did not seem to put him off! Over these years, he has had a loyal following of patients, who will be sorry to see him go.

We hope to have a replacement doctor when he goes at the end of September. Stuart will spend his new free time with his family and doing some walking and cycling. He also tells us he is looking forward to watching Killie win the league again.



Most of you will know Alison Findlay as the friendly face at reception. She has been our senior receptionist for the past 15 years and also retires in September. Over the years, Alison has been superb at keeping calm in busy times and always getting things sorted out for the patients. She also has the happy knack of being so nice to the doctors that they do whatever it is she asks them to do. Her new found spare time will be spent keeping her award winning garden up to scratch and with her family. We wish her well.

Our third long term colleague who is retiring this summer is Glynis McBride, our health visitor. She has watched over an army of Denny babies as they have grown into Denny teenagers and adults. There are many of our mums who will have fond memories of the support and advice that she has given them at a crucial time of their lives. Glynis says that it is now time for her to worry about the animals on her small holding rather than the Denny weans.

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We also bid farewell to some of our younger colleagues. Dr Laura Forsyth was a GP trainee here a few years ago and came back part time last November after having her wee girl, Emily. Laura has now got a permanent post as a partner in Bonnybridge and though it is always sad to see young colleagues move on, it is very satisfying to see them move into a long term post. Our two current trainees, Dr Colette Williams and Dr Martin McKee, have also finished their time with us. We thank them for their contribution to the work of the practice and hope they have long and successful careers as GPs.

## New Faces and Change in Role

We are delighted to welcome Isla Molloy to our practice nursing team. Prior to joining us, she has worked as a Cardiology Nurse Practitioner in Glasgow Western Infirmary, as well as having a busy home life raising triplets! She will undoubtedly be a great asset to our team here at Carronbank.

Christine Hornsby has been part of our administration team for many years now and has recently changed role to become our Office Manager. She will continue to work in the back office in administration but with extra responsibilities and working closely with our practice manager, Lesley.

Dr Steven Lewis will be returning to the practice in August as our new GP Trainee to complete his GP training.

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## Helping out locally

You may have noticed in the press that there is currently a significant shortage of GPs in Forth Valley, with a few practices being particularly affected. The Health Board has asked for help supporting these practices, and we have agreed to provide a GP to Grangemouth for one day every fortnight, starting from August. This may mean that it takes a little longer than normal to see a particular GP, but our normal appointment availability should be little affected.

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## Premises



We are excited to announce that we will be upgrading our premises. This will involve moving the reception forward into the waiting room and creating two extra consulting rooms at the back of the surgery. We will be reorganising the reception services separating direct contact and phone services to enable a smoother service for those getting in touch with us.

There will inevitably be some disruption while the work takes place and we would encourage patients to use the services we have available to minimise the use of reception while the work is continuing. We have **online appointment booking**, and **repeat prescription ordering**. These are also available as a smartphone app. This service can be used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The check in machine on the wall will also enable you to book in more quickly. If you wish to register for the online booking/ordering or need help to understand the check in machine, ask at reception and the staff will be happy to assist you.

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## Wart Clinic

Due to Dr Donaldson's retirement, we will unfortunately no longer be offering a wart clinic from October. For advice on how to deal with warts, see: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Warts/Pages/Treatment.aspx>. Treatments such as salicylic acid or a cold spray are available from the pharmacy.