



WATERFOOT PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

BEAT THE BUG BEFORE CHRISTMAS

If you've not got round to getting the flu jab yet, don't risk ruining Christmas! Ring the surgery and book your appointment now.

YOKOSO !

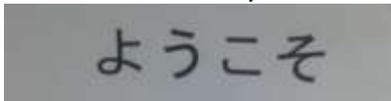


In October we were delighted to welcome Dr Ken, a visiting doctor trainee from Japan. He was only with us for a short time, but certainly packed a lot into those few days.

He began with sitting in on surgeries and clinics with almost all our clinicians. All of which he found "exciting, new and interesting." "All the doctors, nurses and patients were very kind to me," he commented. Although he admitted he found the language a challenge. "This is only the second time I have been abroad," he told me. "And the first place I have ever been where almost no-one speaks Japanese."

It was a valuable learning experience for him, as in Japan, doctor training takes place mostly in hospital. He will now return to Japan to do a 6 month rotation in cardiovascular, pulmonary, and kidney medicine.

Before he left us, he did manage to fit in some R&R, however. He especially loved the Rossendale countryside. And our pubs!



JAPANESE EXCHANGE

On the same professional exchange programme, organised by the Royal College of General Practitioners and their Japanese equivalent, our own Dr. Jameson travelled to Japan in May.

After a gruelling application process, Dr. Jameson was chosen to spend a week on the North island of Japan, "visiting a different clinic every day." He found it fascinating with a series of challenges for patients which are very different to those he comes across in Rossendale.

“This area of Japan was badly affected by the Fukushima nuclear disaster” he told me, “and local healthcare had to be reorganised to cope.”

The health system is built around the hospital rather than round the local surgery. This is to provide speedy access to tests such as camera investigations and CT scans, because of the much higher incidence of cancer caused by the nuclear meltdown.

And, although unlike the American system Japanese healthcare is universal, it is paid partly by health insurance, with patients having to contribute a top-up payment towards the costs.

Dr. Jameson came across quite a few cultural differences, with Japanese doctors “prescribing traditional Chinese medicine alongside the more regular ‘western’ treatments.” And on home visits, he was expected to remove his shoes before stepping into patients’ homes. But by far the strangest new experience for him was being offered the local speciality to eat: raw horse!

NURSE RACHEL

We’re sad to say “Goodbye” this month to Nurse Rachel, as she leaves us for pastures new after twelve years with the practice. The move is bittersweet for her, too. “I’ll miss my colleagues and my patients too,” she told us. “I’ve known some patients since they were children.” We wish her good luck and happiness in her new post.

Meanwhile Sue will continue her excellent care for the patients of the practice, aided by a locum nurse.

Watch this space for announcements of Rachel’s replacement in the New Year.

A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR...

Our staff supported the recent Macmillan coffee morning by bringing in a selection of



delicious cakes!

And £70 was raised for this worthy charity.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Finally all the Waterfoot staff would like to wish patients and their families, friends, and carers a very Merry Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year.