

Canolfan Feddygol Gwrych Medical Centre



Newsletter

Issue One Summer 2009

Work starts on new medical centre for Abergele

At long last, construction of the new medical centre for Abergele has commenced.

After a ten year journey, Welsh Assembly Health Minister, Edwina Hart, marked the start of work on the new state-of-the-art Canolfan Feddygol Gwrych Medical Centre, Abergele, North Wales, by cutting the first turf in Spring 2009. The new medical premises, located on North Wales Business Park, will replace the existing dilapidated facilities on Kinmel Avenue. It will provide an array of contemporary facilities including state-of-the-art accommodation for GPs, practice staff and visiting staff from Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust. It will also include 13 consulting rooms, one treatment room,

a minor operations suite and space for other health staff such as District Nurses, Health Visitors and a Community Midwife.

Dr Honeybun, a partner of Canolfan Feddygol Gwrych Medical Centre, said "We are delighted that construction has started on our new building. When finished, the Gwrych Medical Centre will allow us not only to offer a more comprehensive range of services to patients in the region but also to offer visitors a comfortable and relaxing environment."

The new medical centre, which will be home to the practice of Dr Davies and Partners, will welcome the first patients into the building early in 2010. For your chance to win a VIP tour of the new centre, prior to officially opening, enter the competition on the back page of this newsletter.



Edwina Hart Welsh Assembly Health Minister



Paula Lamont, Alice Naylor and Dr Honeybun

Winning logo announced

The competition, launched April 2009, to design the logo for the new medical centre has been won by Alice Naylor, a pupil at Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan. The winning logo will be used on the exterior of the building, all stationery for the medical centre plus featured on these newsletters (see above right hand corner). The standard of entries was very high, so much so that Jack Macdonald, who won third prize, will see his design used as part of an artwork display in the play area within the waiting area. As well as

first, second and third prizes awarded, surgery staff decided to offer highly commended awards for two other pupils to reflect the high calibre of entries.

"It's nice to see that things with the surgery are finally moving along after so many years. It's great that so many healthcare facilities are coming to Abergele, and that these children will be able to play their part in it" commented Malcolm Medicott, Deputy Mayor of Abergele.

Work in progress...

Construction well under way

Primary Asset and their chosen contractor McGoff & Byrne were delighted to commence construction of the new medical centre on 23 February 2009. The steel frame was erected very quickly and the building is now shrouded in scaffold behind which walls are being erected, floors cast and internal partitions built. The roof is nearly complete and over the next few weeks the services backbone for all the heating and lighting will be installed.

McGoff & Byrne Project Manager, Nigel Dixon said "We are making excellent progress on the building and would like to thank all the local residents for their support and understanding during this noisy period of construction".

The programme of construction is 43 weeks with completion due at Christmas 2009 enabling the surgery to open early in 2010.

McGoff & Byrne are based in Manchester and have been selected for their knowledge and understanding of primary care development having recently completed four primary care centres. Craig Lord from Primary Asset said "We were impressed with the level and quality of finish and understanding of primary care buildings."

Construction of the new medical centre is well underway



As can be seen from the photographs the new medical centre is taking shape. Progress is being made on erecting the feature stonework and completing the external blockwork which will be rendered. Windows and doors will be installed throughout August and it is anticipated that the scaffold will be dismantled in mid September.

The rooms have been formed internally with block work walls and fitting out of heating and lighting will commence in earnest over the next few weeks. Following this decorative finishes will be started.

Computer generated image of the new medical centre



Interior photo under construction



Stained glass window

Stained glass window artwork



Stained glass artist Paul Jones, of Phoenix Glass, based in Glan Conwy, has been chosen to design and make a stained glass window which will be installed in the waiting area of the Gwrych Medical Centre.

Entitled 'Nurture' - the stained glass window will represent the philosophy of medicine and medical practice with a mother/angelic figure standing on medical books to represent the body of medical knowledge. She is holding 3 triquetra symbols which represent the three ages of man and the cycle of life. The window also includes a representation of Gwrych Castle. The design is spread over 12 adjacent windows and the overall dimensions will be an impressive 5m x 4m, ensuring that it will be a quite spectacular feature of the new building.

The GPs are underwriting the cost of the window themselves as any application for public funding could cause

bureaucratic delays to the build schedule. Sponsorship would be very welcome, and any companies or individuals who would like to contribute should contact Dr Honeybun at Abergele Surgery. Significant

contributors would be prominently acknowledged on a sign adjacent to the window.



21st Century gadgets

Time capsule to be buried

Your ideas needed...

In order to provide an insight for future generations of life in the early 21st Century we will be placing a time capsule in the grounds of Gwrych Medical Centre and we need your ideas.

The purpose of the time capsule is to provide a glimpse of life as it is today and show how times have changed when it is opened. The time capsule will be buried during the construction process and we want your suggestions on what to include.

We have already had some suggestions including USB sticks, iPod's and of course mobile phones. However, the more unique the suggestion the more likely that it is to be included in the capsule.

To ensure your place in history, as well as the chosen items, a list of all the contributors will be included in the time capsule.

Please email your suggestions and contact details to abergele-newsletter@primaryasset.com by 27 September 2009.

Your chance to win a VIP tour of the new medical centre before it officially opens!

For your chance to win a tour of the finished new facilities, simply answer the following five questions:

Submit your answers via email by 27 September 2009 to abergele-newsletter@primaryasset.com, don't forget to include your contact number.

1. Who cut the first turf at the ground breaking ceremony in Spring 2009?

2. Where will the new medical centre be located?

3. What is the name of the school that helped design the new medical centre logo?

4. Who is the artist involved in designing the stained glass window feature?

5. What year will the new medical centre open?

The lucky winner will be randomly selected from all the entries and announced in the Autumn 2009 newsletter.



Abergele Surgery a history so far...

The present Abergele Surgery was created by Dr P Hughes, Dr Thompson and Dr T R Jones back in the mid 60s when it was a novel and futuristic notion for then single handed doctors, who were more often than not working from their own private homes, to collaborate.

By 1977, Abergele was rapidly expanding and with patient numbers rising, the surgery grew to incorporate Dr H O Davies and Dr J Grey. Until fairly recently, with the introduction of the out of hours 'Morfa Doc', GPs were responsible for 24 hour care for their patients, 365 days a year. Administration was done by one person and the doctors' wives often helped with taking messages during the three daily surgeries. The surgery formed an essential hub to the town and so when Dr T R Jones retired at the end of 1977, Dr Lloyd Williams was quickly appointed in his place.

With further building work going on in Abergele, the practice was in need of a long overdue expansion, so when Dr Lloyd Williams and Dr P Hughes retired together in the 1990s and the surgery was joined by Dr J Evans and Dr N Clarkson, an extension was added

to the main building. The surgery then became a training practice and doctors who now had to do one years training in general practice were also attached to the surgery. The caretaker's flat was eventually needed for medical purposes but although extra floor space was added, the need for more outgrew the work already done. As medical secretaries, district nurses and more ancillary staff joined the practice, the house next door was purchased to accommodate them. Again, this eventually became too small and the police station in Bodelwyddan was converted into the current surgery.

With all the changes that have occurred since the practice first started and with the introduction of Healthcare Assistants, Specialist Nurses and dedicated clinics the need for modernisation has become paramount. The acquisition of the new premises in the new Gwrych Medical Centre has come after a long struggle and will finally ensure we can provide constant first class care in 21 Century premises.