

Bridge Of Allan Health Centre

An interview with Practice Nurse Sister Brenda

BY ALISON LOGIE

Many of the residents of Bridge of Allan know Sister Brenda from the Health Centre.

From Stirling originally, she has been working in the Bridge of Allan practice for 18 years. During that time she has seen many changes in her role as Practice Nurse.

How long have you been a nurse and what made you decide to choose that path?

I've been a nurse for twenty-six years. I really don't know what made me decide to be a nurse. I've always wanted to help people and there's a great satisfaction in seeing ill people getting well. I believe nursing is a vocation.

How many nurses are in the Bridge of Allan practice?

There are 12 nurses in the Health Centre, some part-time, some full-time. There are two practice nurses, one practice/treatment room nurse, one health visitor and four community nurses. There is one community midwife, one continence adviser, and three health care assistants.

Many people don't know the difference between a Practice Nurse and a Health Visitor. Can you explain?

Practice Nurses provide health promotion services, which include Well Woman clinics, travel health clinics, chronic disease management, and liquid nitrogen clinics for the removal of warts/skin lesions, and wound management. They are closely involved in the organisation of influenza clinics, the organisation of which starts around January each year.

A telephone triage service is also provided by the Practice Nurses who can give advice or arrange appointments with members of the multi-disciplinary team depending on the patients' medical needs.

The Health Visitors care for children from birth till school age, help with family problems and deal with child protection issues. They also have an input in the local schools and nurseries, and in health promotion.

What do you like best about the job and what do you like least?

I really enjoy dealing with the local population and caring for all ages, working on my own and also as part of multi-disciplinary team. Working within an appointment system sometimes can be difficult. On occasions I can fall behind time, as each person is cared for as an individual and may require a longer appointment than has been originally given.

What are your final thoughts on Bridge of Allan Health Centre?

I believe this Health Centre is well organised and our goal is to provide the local population with a good healthcare service. Any suggestions for improving the service are always very welcome.

The public can help us by informing us if they cannot attend an appointment. That way another person can then be fitted in and the time not wasted.

Information on the Bridge of Allan Health Centre can be found on their website www.bridgeofallanhc.co.uk or in their booklet which can be picked up in the Health Centre.

Fascia Fun Competition

The winners of the competition were Iain and Tori McCusker of Station Road, Bridge of Allan. They received a cheque for £25 for matching each of the letters to the respective store sign:

B	BOTTOMS UP
R	Ruby Tuesday
I	CLIVE RAMSAY
D	ROAD AND ROAD
G	GATEWAY BUILDERS
E	ELEMENTAL
O	WOODWINTERS
F	ALLANWATER CAFE
A	BAYNES
L	Lloyds TSB
L	ALLANWATER PAPERS
A	BANK OF SCOTLAND
N	JOHN CULLENS



Tori and Amelia (six months), Oscar (2) and Iain McCusker

successful Rescue Challenge, the annual competition for UK firefighters. The weekend-long event, held this year on the University campus, pitted 40 teams against one another in a series of challenging scenarios.

Bridge of Allan 100 Years Ago

Alarming Occurrence

On Wednesday afternoon, when the [horse-drawn tram-] car which is due at Bridge of Allan at 2.10 was descending the incline at Mount Hope, the brakes refused to work, with the result that it dashed along at an alarming rate. On reaching the incline opposite Stanley House, which is even steeper than the one first-mentioned, the driver made another attempt to stop the car's furious progress but without success. Fortunately, however, he was able to bring the horses to a standstill on reaching the terminus, and thus a serious catastrophe was averted.

(Stirling and Bridge of Allan Reporter, January 16, 1909)