

HONITON SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

Dr Penwarden Retirement

After more than 30 years as a GP in Honiton Dr Penwarden is retiring as of the 1st April 2006. He graduated from Westminster Medical School and started work as a GP in Honiton in 1975. At that time the practice was based in the High Street and moved to its current location in 1979. For the last 12 years Dr Penwarden has been the senior partner and also has been responsible for being the lead at the Bungalow (the elderly confused unit). He will be greatly missed not only by his patients but also by his friends and colleagues at the surgery. During his retirement he plans to enjoy his new found hobby golf, continuing his woodwork and walking his dog Scampi. We certainly wish him and his wife Heather a very enjoyable and well earned retirement.

New Partner

As many of you will already be aware Dr Justin Geddes has been working in the practice for the last eight months and he will be taking over Dr Penwarden's list. Dr Geddes will be consulting on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He trained at Leicester medical School and moved to Exeter in 2000 to begin postgraduate training in general practice. He is married with 3 young children. We are delighted he is becoming a permanent member of the team.

Changing Working Patterns

Dr Barber and Dr Courtney will soon be working three-quarters time and from April for a few months this year Dr Ben Hallmark will be working as a locum GP with us before starting a permanent post elsewhere in East Devon. With a change in our working patterns and an ever increasing number of patients living in Honiton we are looking at expanding the team further this year with the appointment of yet another new partner. Further details will be available soon.

Other Staff Appointments

Sandy Wason has recently taken over as Practice Manager enabling Christine Baugh to lead the financial developments of the practice.

It is also with great pleasure that we inform you we have recently appointed Mike Ilsley as Referrals Co-ordinator and Trudi Craig as Personal Assistant to Sandy Wason.

Improving Practice Questionnaire

It is the intention of every member of our team to provide you with the best possible service. To help us do this we recently conducted an improving practice questionnaire which many of you were kind enough to complete. Your comments are greatly valued by us and have been taken seriously. Overall the comments we have received are very positive and one particular issue that we are addressing is an extension to the premises. If you wish to bring any matters to us to help develop the service we offer further then these can be directed through the Patient Group.

Building

For many years we have been aware that we are struggling with space at the surgery. This will shortly be rectified by a large extension planned for later this year. It will provide a modern up to date waiting area and a much larger Pharmacy. The consulting rooms will be increased in number and decorated to provide you with a more pleasant environment to see the health professional of your choosing. This will improve your comfort and privacy. Plans for the extension will shortly be available for you to review on the notice boards in the waiting room.

Patient Group

We are very fortunate to have a group of patients who are working with us to help us provide you with excellent health care. They meet quarterly with a GP, nurse and a

manager in order to improve our awareness of your needs. Suggestions can be written and put in our "Suggestions Box" located on the table in the waiting room, or if you would prefer the following patient representatives can be contacted:-

Mrs Val Royle on 01404 44463
or
Mrs Meg Pipe on 01404 850855.

Smoking Cessation

We encourage all our patients to stop smoking but recognise that it is far from easy. Help however, is at hand. If you want help

then please contact the NHS help line on 0800 169 0 169 or log on to www.givingupsmoking.co.uk. It is never too late to stop.

Outlook

There is considerable change afoot in the NHS with the recently published White Paper for Primary Care in addition to other initiatives such as Choose and Book and the Practice Based Commissioning. We are continually developing our team and hope that with a larger purpose built extension to generate the space we urgently need that we can improve our services further to meet your needs.