



DULVERTON SURGERY NEWS

WWW.dulvertonsurgery.co.uk

March 2007

Retirement of Dr Burton from Dulverton Medical Practice

Dr. Burton is retiring from the practice after 18 valued years as a General Practitioner on Exmoor, in which he has delivered an excellent and unique integrated complementary and traditional medical service to his patients. Although his official retirement date is the end of September, he will not be conducting NHS consultations after 31st March to enable him to have six months to prepare his new business.

We wish him well in the future and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his enormous efforts on behalf of the practice and our patients over the last two decades. We look forward to continuing to work with him in the coming years, particularly when we move into our new surgery building off Fishers Mead which is, finally, on the imminent horizon. To this end, we will be supporting him for a period of two years to provide homeopathic and acupuncture services free to a limited proportion of our NHS patients, starting when we enter our new building in 2008.

What will happen to Dr. Burton's NHS patients?

Dr. Burton's list of NHS patients will be taken over by ourselves, Drs Trill, Bird and Berger, and we will be increasing our hours and days in the practice to cover his departure. Our systems within the practice for monitoring chronic conditions such as high blood pressure run very smoothly and these will all continue for Dr. Burton's patients as currently. As GPs, we have always all kept detailed clinical notes on our patients and some of Dr Burton's patients are already well known to us. However, if you have a specific problem relating to your medical care which you wish to discuss with us and make us aware of for the future, please feel free to make an appointment with one of us in the coming weeks.

For reasons which are entirely out of our control, Dr. Burton's patients will each be assigned more or less randomly to one or other of us. The nature of GPs' patient lists has changed in recent years and this is simply a central administrative matter, which does not in any way restrict which GP you choose to see when you come to the practice. However, if you have a particular wish to be listed under a specific GP, please let reception know and we will arrange this in the coming months after the initial patient reassignment has been done. If you have any queries, please contact reception or one of us directly and we will be pleased to help. For those of you on the Internet, further information can be found on our website at www.dulvertonsurgery.co.uk.

As ever, we look forward to welcoming you to the practice and helping you with all your medical problems, but naturally we also wish you the best of health for 2007 and beyond!

Dr. Andrea Trill

Dr. Carol Bird

Dr David Berger

Monday: Dr. Bird, Berger and Trill

Tuesday: Dr. Bird, Dr. Trill (1/2 day)

Wednesday: Dr. Berger

Thursday: Dr. Trill, Dr. Bird

Friday: Dr. Berger, Dr. Trill (1/2 day)

Branch surgeries will continue but will be held on a Monday. **The first Monday will be 16th April.**

Wheddon Cross 10.00a.m.

Exford 11.30a.m.

Winsford 12.30p.m.

Andrea Trill

Health Visitor Update

Thursdays 10-12

Bumps and Babes

A group for Dads and Mums-to-be, parents and carers and their babies, up to one year old. This runs every week led by Jan Hoare and Kirsty Barrell with visits from Elaine Keen our Health Visitor.

A health education session runs once a month.

April 19th Accident Prevention by Jan Hoare and Elaine Keen

May 31st Behaviour Management from babies to toddlers by Jan Hoare and Kirsty Barrell

June 28th Oral Health by Sarah, Dental Nurse

Fridays 9.30-11.30

Drop-In Stay & Play: For all aged children especially toddlers.

All sessions are held at Dulverton Childrens' Centre

Practice Manager

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of a new Practice Manager, Kathryn Kyle. Kathryn will work for two days a week and will start at the beginning of May. We are delighted she has agreed to join the Practice and are very much looking forwards to working with her. Since Pam Wreford left to work in a smaller practice last August, we have been working without a Practice Manager and so it will be wonderful to have a new manager to take over Pam's work Katherine has a medical background and she lives near Tiverton with her husband and two small children.

Several exciting projects are planned for the surgery, so it will be a challenging role, helping to move us into our new premises and looking for opportunities and new services we could provide once we have done so. Our main priorities for the next 1-2 years are:

To move into the new surgery building with improved services including telephone systems

To reduce waiting times

To reassure patients about the excellence and continuity of their care with the departure of a long-serving GP

To make the surgery very accessible and appointments easy to arrange.

Home Delivery

The home delivery service for repeat medicines continues to run extremely well thanks to the huge commitment from our volunteer drivers, headed by Vicki Belam. I know this is a service much valued by many of our patients. We really do appreciate their hard work and are looking forward to our re-arranged (due to the fire-see right!) thank-you lunch in April.

If you usually have your medicines dispensed by the surgery and would like your medicines delivered, please speak to one of the receptionists as all you need to do is fill in a form.

Building update

Although no work has started yet, we are confidently promised that we will be in our new surgery next Spring! We hope to complete the purchase of the land at Pymble's within the next week or two and we have a building team chomping at the bit. We are getting very itchy feet and the day the building starts will be cause for huge celebration. The new surgery will be situated at the bottom of the Stenner's (dentist) garden and will have plenty of parking accessed from Fisher's Mead.

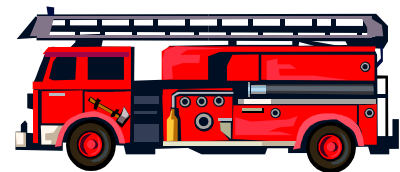
The dentist surgery will work out of rooms on the first floor and there will be plenty of space for other practitioners.

Flu

It cannot have escaped your notice that Dulverton and the surrounding area has been struck down for the last month or so by viral infection after viral infection. There has also been plenty of true flu about. The Department of Health issued a statement confirming that the severity of flu in patients having had the flu vaccine this year was much less than in those who chose not to have it, so perhaps something to think about for next year?

The flu vaccine is artificially made and does not contain any live ingredient, so it cannot give you flu. It is recommended for all people over 65yrs, all those with an on-going illness and for people working with poultry.

Fire in the surgery



In December we had a live fire drill when our fuse box burst into flames. Thankfully, everybody was evacuated and the building made safe very promptly. A huge thank-you goes to the fire service who were quickly on the scene and excellent. We are still waiting for some of the damage to be repaired, so we apologise if it is a little cold at times in the surgery. Please let our receptionists know and we can turn the plug-in heaters up.