

Grove Road Surgery Newsletter

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Editors Comments

(Stephen Fowler, Practice Manager)



It is with some sadness that I pen my last column before retirement but the good news is that the newsletter will continue under the care of Kelly Hartland my replacement. However, this newsletter is very different to the usual style newsletter that has been produced for the last 9 years or so. This is more of a staff update or staff bulletin as opposed to a surgery newsletter but as there has been several staff changes in the last few weeks, and new personnel coming I felt it was important to inform you of the departures and arrivals even if it does seem to have taken over events at the surgery of late.

Dr. Ribbons Retirement



Of course the main news is the retirement of Dr Ribbons

at the end of August. The above picture was taking at our main reception desk on his final working day and you can see he looks really happy and content. We were all very sad to be saying our final goodbyes to Dr Ribbons but we welcome Dr David Grant as his replacement. As some of you know, Dr Ribbons hosted a farewell session for his patients on the afternoon of Thursday 21st August where over 50 patients came to give him their personal thanks. I know he was touched by all the cards and gifts and well wishing that took place that afternoon which on occasions brought a tear or two. He was very moved by the vent and mentioned it on numerous occasions over the remaining working days he had left with us. On his behalf we would like to thank you all for making his departure such a pleasant and memorable one.



The above picture was taking at his retirement dinner which

was held 2 weeks after his actual retirement. Despite still happy and smiling he is now sporting a beard as you can see. This was met with mixed reactions from the staff but at the time of writing this newsletter he still has his beard as both he and his wife Becky are rather taken with it.

Practice Manager Retires



After almost 10 years at the practice and 42 years working in the medical profession, our practice manager and surgery newsletter editor, Mr. Stephen Fowler, retire(d) 30th September 2014. He was 60 years of age back in July and felt the time was right to go and he and his wife, Valerie, are emigrating to Spain around Easter time next year. He has served the practice extremely well in his time here and we wish them both the very best in retirement and their new life in Spain.

Dr David Grant

Dr David Grant (who has been replaced by Dr Peter Tabor) is now working 3 days a week (Monday / Thursday

and Friday) as a potential permanent replacement for Dr Richard Ribbons. Dr Grant will be with us until 31st August 2015 when a decision will be made about his long term future. It is very much hoped that you, as well as the staff, can persuade him to stay on, as he has proved a valuable addition to the clinical team and we know that many of you are delighted that he is here with us in Dr Ribbons place.

Dr Peter Tabor



We also welcome Dr Peter Tabor who is our new GP registrar. He will be with us until August 2015 and is the replacement for Dr David Grant in the GP registrar role.

Paramedic Practitioner



Once again we welcome a paramedic to the practice, Russell McCombie, until 7th November. He is about to finish his paramedic practitioner training, which is an advanced training course that senior paramedics can undergo. This qualification enables them to work independently. These are the ones you see in cars and on

motorcycles, rushing to any type of emergency situation, not just road traffic accidents. Russell is an Eastbourne boy, who went to the same school as Kelly, and they know each other from back then, so a little reunion has taken place. Russell is based in the Eastbourne ambulance station and on completion of his advanced training, will join the paramedic practitioner team operating from the same depot. Russell has an interest in art and enjoys painting. He is also a keen runner and is a member of a local archery club. Russell will be carrying out consultations during his time with us as well as going out on home visits as selected by the GP's.

New Practice Manager Arrives

On the 1st September we welcomed our new practice manager, Mrs. Kelly Hartland, who joins us after working 25 years at Stone Cross surgery. Kelly attended Willingdon school and is currently midway through studying an open university degree.

Medical Students

September sees the start of 5th year Medical Students coming to us for their 4 week placements into general practice. These doctors of tomorrow are in their last 6 months of doctor training and sit their finals between April and June 2015. They will then go into hospital and community placements for 2 years before deciding on what branch of medicine to specialise in. If you are given an appointment to see the medical student you will be notified when making the appointment and one of our

GP's will finish off the consultation with you.

Half day Closing Event



The next all local practices half day closing afternoon(s) are Wednesday 8th October and Tuesday 25th November. These events are for all practice staff to attend jointly organised training events. Our surgery website is now showing these dates to advise patients well in advance.

Footnote

As Stephen stated in his column, there is little in the way of medical information in this newsletter but updates our patient's on the staffing situation. It is with regret we see the departure of two excellent members of staff but together we will all start a new chapter in the surgery annals.

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