



# The Doctors Notes

The Cranborne Practice Community Newsletter

Autumn 2021



## It's Time to hang up the Stethoscope

After more than 30 years in General Practice, GP Partner **Dr Colin Davidson** is retiring from The Cranborne Practice in September.

After qualifying at the Middlesex Hospital in 1981, Colin worked in London, eventually making his way South to the

Coast and west to Dorset, where he completed his core training to become a Consultant Physician.

Following work experience in Australia, Colin returned to Dorset and his first love, the home of true General Medicine - Primary Care. He was lucky enough to join two fantastic GPs, Margaret McDermott and Sandi Malpas, who were expanding their practice in Cranborne to include a branch in Verwood. They took a chance on a lad in a Barbour and wellies with a wife and a black lab.

Colin's wife, Philippa, ended up as a partner in a practice in Blandford, and their dog came to work and on visits with him. This gave him the chance of looking after the community locally, which he always felt was a privilege and a pleasure.

Maintaining skills and interests in hospital medicine with various part-time roles in Respiratory Medicine and Gastroenterology, Colin eventually led the Community Endoscopy Service at Wimborne. About 15 years ago, he volunteered to become involved with a new venture called Practice Based Commissioning, which led to a role as Locality Lead for East Dorset with NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group providing input to the planning and improvement of local health services.

From their home base in the East Dorset countryside, Colin and Philippa have brought up three children (and two more dogs) - two of whom have followed their parents into medicine (the children, not the dogs!)

After 33 years, departure from the Cranborne Practice will leave a big hole, but Colin looks forward to some new challenges in the next stage of his life using some of the professional experience he has gleaned. He is also anticipating more time to enjoy things like his skiing, long-distance walking, finally mastering his vegetable garden, and maybe reducing his golf handicap. His first grandchild is due in September, so that rather neatly marks the passage of time and highlights that as one door closes, another opens. Enjoy your retirement. We will miss you, Colin.



## The Marquee is up! Which means its drive time again!

Following overwhelmingly positive feedback from patients last year, Winter Flu Vaccination Clinics will again take place as drive-through at the Lake Road Verwood surgery site.

Clinics are currently scheduled for Sunday mornings from 9 am: on **12th September** for patients aged 65 and over; and **19th September** - for patients aged 18 - 64 who are in an eligible At Risk Group, including pregnant women.

We are also able to offer 50 to 64-year-olds the flu vaccine again this year. Patients in this group are invited to book a slot at the 19th September clinic. Other dates may be arranged, but we want to get as many patients vaccinated as early as possible this year.

Book an appointment quickly and easily online. Scan this QR code to book a flu jab today or visit our website:



[www.myvaccination.co.uk](http://www.myvaccination.co.uk) for more information.

## Other Staff News

While Dr Colin Davidson departs for pastures new, we are pleased to share other staff news:

- **Dr Julia Chubb** is expecting another baby in January 2022. From October this year, she will be providing telephone consultations only until she goes on maternity leave from early January.
- **Dr Emma John** has been undertaking her registrar rotation with us and is due to complete her training this November. We are delighted that she has agreed to stay with us following her qualification. Emma will increase her sessions to provide some maternity cover for Julia.
- While **Dr Ahmad Al-Chalaby** continues to provide locum GP support to the Practice, **Dr Oksana Hayes** will be rejoining the Practice as a salaried GP from October to cover some of the sessions previously handled by Colin as well as some maternity cover in Julia's absence.

### Our team provides strength & depth to care for you

While General Practice, by its very nature, provides care across a range of health needs. Many of our GPs have areas of interest and specialisms on which they can offer advice. Set out below are specific areas of interest for some of our doctors, although all our GPs can help:

**Dr Andy Levinson** - Respiratory illnesses, Homeopathy

**Dr Bruce Woollard** - Maternity Care, Womens' Health, Palliative Care

**Dr Caroline Hamblett** - Mental Health

**Dr Ed Davis** - Older People's Health and Care

**Dr Emma John** - Womens' Health

**Dr Julia Chubb** - Older People's Health and Care

**Dr Nicola Scott** - Dermatology, Dementia Care

**Dr Oksana Hayes** - Endocrinology

**Dr Sucheta Mukherjee** - Diabetes, Endocrinology

We are lucky to be supported by a fantastic team of Practice Nurses and Health Care Assistants (HCAs). Our Nursing team are actively engaged in health education and disease prevention and are always happy to discuss this with you. Our nurses can offer advice on smoking, diet, weight, exercise, travel and immunisations, contraception, and well-person and health checks. Chronic Disease Management is also offered by specialist nurses, for example **Kim Goddard** - Diabetic disorders, **Liesel Pollack** - Leg Ulcers, well person advice and cervical smears and **Lisa Oakes** - advice on Child Immunisation and Respiratory illnesses. Sadly one of the nursing team, **Sue Sanders**, is leaving us in October to move to the sunny Southwest. We wish Sue all the best and will miss her.



Our HCAs provide an essential service by observing, monitoring and recording patients' conditions such as blood tests, blood pressure checks, applying dressings and routine health checks. Our HCA team members are: **Sarah Copeland-Glen, Jemma Silcock, Mary Rackham & Helen Northway**.

HCA Team leader **Lolly Goddard** oversees the team and manages the Practice Tracker service, keeping an eye on any vulnerable patients within the Practice. **Next time: Meet Practice Management & the Admin team**



## Spotlight on Workload

New data released by the NHS covering Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and part of Somerset has thrown a spotlight on the massive increase in workload faced by GP practices during the pandemic.

In this region, the number of appointments offered rose by an average of 11.8% compared to July two years ago. Here at **The Cranborne Practice**, we've been crunching the numbers: we undertook **19.4% more appointments** in the June/July period this year than the same period (pre-pandemic) in 2019! That despite having to allow for sanitisation between face to face appointments.

Over the 2020 Winter Flu season, we carried out more flu jabs than ever and have managed and administered the COVID-19 vaccination to over 98% of our patients.

We are not looking for sympathy, just a better understanding of the situation. GP practices throughout the country have faced unprecedented workloads, partly due to increased demand and because we are being affected by the backlog elsewhere in the NHS.

We appreciate that both our staff and patients have had to adapt to new ways of undertaking consultations and the introduction of new technology providing access to our services. We are here to support you, so please continue to show us your support by being kind, patient and responsible when accessing our services.

Thank you.