

# DATCHET HEALTH CENTRE

## - NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010



The Datchet  
Health Centre

Patient Participation Group

### Building Work at Datchet

A building project will be starting at the beginning of March 2010 to provide a first floor extension to the practice building. The extension will provide us with two additional consulting rooms, an extended upstairs waiting area, a disabled toilet and a tutorial room on the first floor. This will enable the practice to become a training practice and train doctors who wish to become GP's. Dr. Ferguson has just completed a course to enable her to become a GP trainer and Dr. Wallbank is starting the course this month. Having a GP registrar at the practice will support our development as a learning organisation and we hope that it will improve continuity of care for patients and reduce the need for locum doctors when a GP is absent. Ultimately we hope that more appointments will be available for patients. An extended and ventilated upstairs waiting area will, we hope, provide a more pleasant environment for patients.

Building work should be completed by September 2010. Please bear with us during the construction period as there may be points at which clinicians have to change rooms and patients have to wait in the upstairs meeting room. We will direct you accordingly when the time comes. Thank you for your patience.

*Karen Holmes, Practice Manager*

### Asthma Evening

Do you suffer from asthma or does one of your family have asthma? If so then put a note in your diary –  
**Tuesday 27 April**

The Patient Participation Group is staging another Health Education Evening – this time it will be held at the Wraysbury Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The subject this year is “All About Asthma” and we invite all patients who either have asthma or an interest in asthma to attend. There will be three speakers – Dr. Richard Russell a consultant chest physician, Dr. Martin Chan and Cathy O'Brien, Specialist Respiratory Nurse. We will also invite stallholders to attend to support the respiratory theme. There will a chance for questions after the talks and we hope that this session will be as interactive as it has been in previous years.

Refreshments will be available at the end of the evening and we aim to finish at around 9.15pm.

### Walking for Health

The Datchet Health Centre formed a walking group in January 2006 to provide organized walks for patients, staff and friends led by members of the practice team.

The aim is to encourage all of us to exercise a little more and to enjoy some of the wonderful walks that are available locally. The annual subscription cost of joining the Walking Group is £12.00 per person.

All the subscription money goes to the Friends of the Datchet Health Centre, a registered charity (no. 1098325). For this subscription you will receive written instructions for a walk every month, to be led on the first Sunday of the month. The walks are led by a member of the practice team usually starting at 10 a.m. and are open to all group members. They are circular walks averaging about 5 miles in length.

Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome! Members are free to bring occasional guests whom they consider are able to complete the walk safely at a cost of £1 per walk

We welcome new members. How to join the group and further information can be found on the Health Centre website ([www.datchetdoctor.co.uk](http://www.datchetdoctor.co.uk)), at the front desk of the surgery or by emailing Helen Dalton at ([helensd@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:helensd@tiscali.co.uk)).



## Training in general practice

I have learnt much more during my years as a doctor than I ever did as a medical student. As in life itself, learning in the medical profession is a continuous process. In fact, the more experienced I become, the more I realise how much there is to know! Every working day offers new challenges to my abilities and working practice. This is true in my role as a GP, as a partner within the practice, as an employer and as a member of the primary health care team. But by recognising these events, no matter how small they may be, I have the opportunity to expand my understanding and to learn from the experience.

Nowadays, all GPs have to go through a process of appraisal once a year. This consists of an assessment from a GP colleague who has been trained for the purpose. The appraisal is a supportive process that encourages the individual GP, under guidance from the appraiser, to chart the progress of their learning and the direction of their development. GP's summarise this in their Personal Development Plan (PDP) which is updated every year at the time of their appraisal.

GPs are expected to demonstrate that they have undertaken learning activities to support their PDP. This may entail attending training courses in particular subjects, reading relevant articles, summarising clinical guidelines, and learning new skills. This can't be done during a normal working day, so at our health centre, every GP has the equivalent of 4 working days each year set aside for training and education.

In fact, all members of staff at the health centre are encouraged to attend training and educational activities relevant to their work and personal development. Our practice manager oversees these activities and provides an in-house appraisal to every staff member once a year. Sometimes we need to meet together as a whole team for updates such as child protection or resuscitation, or to discuss issues such as service provision, practice development or health and safety. Once every quarter, the PCT arranges training afternoons that involve all the practices in Berkshire East.

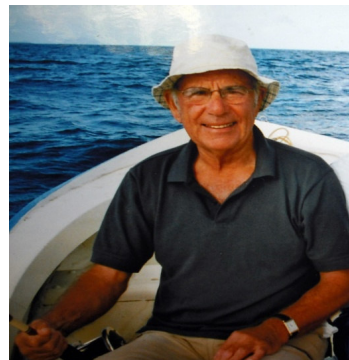
Patients may wonder why the surgery is sometimes closed for a few hours in the afternoon "for training", or why a particular GP is away "on a course". We understand the inconvenience that this may cause, but we hope that our patients understand that it is for a good purpose. *Dr Adrian Dalton*

## Mobile Phone Numbers

It is more and more important that the practice maintains an accurate record of mobile phone numbers for patients. This information enables us to reduce the number of letters that we send to patients. Hospitals are also keen to ensure that contact numbers are accurate to assist prompt appointment booking. In the future messages and reminders can be sent automatically by text to patients and thus significantly reduce the manual administrative work. We can also let you know promptly of any unavoidable changes to your appointment - if a clinician is taken sick at the last minute - and avoid a wasted journey to the practice. We hope the number of patients who do not attend for pre-booked appointments will be reduced if we have a reminder system in place.

Please check that we have an up to date mobile phone number for you and let us know if your number changes at any time.

## Dr Wyn Parry-Williams



We are very sad to announce that Dr. Wyn Parry-Williams died suddenly and peacefully at home on 16th February 2010 aged 79. Wyn will be very sadly missed by his wife and daughters as well as by all his many loyal and devoted patients and colleagues at The Datchet Health Centre. Wyn retired from the surgery in 1997, having spent 40 years caring for the people of this area. He was an enormous character and skilled clinician. Through his insight and dedication Wyn (together with Dr. Dalton) led practice development and moved to the current Green Lane site. We all owe him an enormous amount - he will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace. A memorial service for Dr. Parry-Williams was held on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 at St. Mary's

The PPG newsletters are also on the Datchet Health Centre website – [www.datchetdoctor.co.uk](http://www.datchetdoctor.co.uk) – along with a lot of other useful information