

## New arrival for Dr Hannah Knowles.

So after a long wait, Baby Harley Joseph was finally born on 26th July weighing 8lb He is a very happy, content baby and he is the pounds. We're already having loads of fun and I'm loving being a new mum. I am not missing work one bit but do plan to return in the new year for those of you that might be getting a little worried.' :-)



Hayes  
8oz!  
piling on

### Repeat prescriptions

Repeat prescriptions may be requested as follows:

By ticking the boxes on the counterfoil of your prescription or filling in a request slip at reception. Please drop the request into the box in the hallway or the box on the reception desk.

Online, once you have registered at reception and brought in two forms of ID, preferably your passport and a utility bill. You can also use this facility to book appointments with the Doctor.

Please allow two working days for your request to be processed and collect your prescription from the surgery after 3.30pm.

If you would like us to post your prescription to you, please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope with your request.

Check with your pharmacy as some of them offer a free order and delivery service.

In July we started doing electronic prescribing. You have to nominate which pharmacy you wish to use and your prescription will go directly to them. It doesn't have to be a local pharmacy, it can be one near your work or where you do your shopping. You need to check with them first that they are doing electronic prescribing and either let them know or let someone know here at the surgery which pharmacy you want your prescriptions sending to. Not all medication, mainly creams and ointments, are available on electronic prescribing so you may still get a paper copy for some of your items. You can change your nominated pharmacy at any time or continue to have paper prescriptions if you prefer.

### Christmas closing 2014

The surgery will close on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm and will open again on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00am. Should you require a Doctor for a genuine medical emergency between these times, please telephone 01625-502999 or you can get medical advice by dialling 111(NHS 111 Service)

### Contact information

We always like to make sure we have the correct contact information for all our patients. Please make sure we have the correct address, telephone number, mobile number and email address for you by filling in one of the slips that are on the front desk.

### Flu Clinics

This year's flu clinics have started. If you are aged 65 or over or have a chronic illness please telephone the surgery on 01625-584545 to book your appointment

# ALDERLEY EDGE MEDICAL PRACTICE Autumn Newsletter 2014

## Goodbye from Dr Stuart Merchant

I will be retiring in early December and my last surgery will be Wednesday 3rd December. I joined the practice on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1982 so I've worked out that, including my training, I will have spent 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  years in general practice.

To be honest I have got mixed feelings about retirement. I shall certainly miss the patients who have been a pleasure to work with and from whom I have learnt so much. I will miss the doctors and staff and the excitement at long last of moving into brand new purpose built premises next year.

However I am looking forward to having more time and less worry and I know the patients will be in good hands.

I don't have any grand plans for retirement other than to complete my desensitisation for a severe bee and wasp allergy.

I shall be saying goodbye and wishing patients well over the next few weeks but we're not moving away so I'm sure I will bump into you from time to time.

I know I can get pretty booked up. However I will be clearing my room for a few hours on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> so you are more than welcome to drop in. Please let reception know if you might call in.



Given that local writer John Wallace ([www.johnwallacecopywriter.com](http://www.johnwallacecopywriter.com)) is the younger son of the late Dr Bill Wallace of the George Street practice, it seemed a good idea to ask him to provide a brief history of the George Street practice – so here is that story, from its origins in 1923 to the present day.

## PRACTITIONERS OF THE ART

### The George Street practice has enjoyed 90 years of dispensing the healing arts of wisdom, reassurance and the best in medical care

If you had to sum up the Alderley Edge Medical Practice, consider these words from the Hippocratic Oath, to which all new doctors must swear allegiance when first entering the medical profession: “*May I enjoy my life and practice my art, respected by all humanity and in all times.*” If you are a patient at the George Street practice, chances are that you accord such respect to those who treat you, on account of their skills, knowledge and professionalism – but also for the sheer enjoyment and enthusiasm with which they dispense their wisdom – and there is nothing quite so reassuring as being treated by someone who puts their heart and soul into your care.

### A one-man practice

In 1923, Dr Toby Allison brought his enthusiasm and care to Alderley Edge, starting a one-man practice in a room at 16 George Street, rented from Mr and Mrs Orr (whose picture you’ll see in the downstairs waiting room). He dispensed medical knowledge and healing empathy in equal measure, and was particularly popular amongst the dowager ladies of the village, who were much flattered by his assiduous politeness and impeccable manners. During the Second World War, he met Dr Bill Wallace in India, and invited him to join the practice, by which time it was looked after by Mrs Platt and her daughter, Hilda. The Platt family lived on the premises, grew rhubarb in the back yard, and constantly polished the surgery until it gleamed – an absolute necessity in an era when it was warmed by real fires burning a sooty diet of coal, anthracite and nutty slack.

### Just turn up!

At this time there was no appointment system; patients simply turned up, with people cramming the waiting room, hall and stairs during the day’s three surgeries. A greater medical presence was required, so Dr George Edward was taken on, forming the long-lasting and much respected practice of Allison, Wallace and Edward (you’ll find their photo in the waiting room). The formidable Ruth Markwick took on the new role of Practice Manager in 1972, reflecting the need for the surgery to be run on a less *ad hoc* basis – and her gimlet eye for detail kept the surgery running smoothly for many years. When Bill Wallace retired in 1976, Dr Chris Lamb replaced him, with Dr Stuart Merchant replacing George Edward in 1982, by which time the practice looked after over 5,000 villagers. Dr Doug MacDonald joined the practice in 1982, with Dr Edwin Thompson joining the practice five years later to create a strong and long-lasting quartet. Dr Celia Pardoe graced the practice as its

first lady but was replaced by Dr Helen Hall in 1989 – and with patient numbers now over 6,000, 16 George Street expanded into 14 George Street next door.

### Expanding to Prestbury

The George Street practice opened a Prestbury surgery in 1990 – and the former Practice Manager, June Heaton, stitched a fine sampler, which now hangs in the George Street office, bearing the stirring words: ‘*God and the doctor we alike adore*’. In 1996, the surgery expanded again into 18 George Street, with Margaret Smith as Practice Manager (her picture is on the wall too). As a training practice, George Street welcomed newly qualified doctors, and Dr Victoria Taylor joined as a trainee in 2001 later becoming a partner. After Doug MacDonald retired in 2011, Dr Anthony Cunliffe joined, later to be replaced by Dr Peter Speake, with Dr Hannah Knowles arriving in the same year; in summer 2014, Dr Tom Hunsley joined the practice

Change is ever-present at George Street, and current plans are for a major move to entirely new premises at the Festival Hall, Stamford Road – but what is constant is the care dispensed by the doctors, who continue to enjoy their lives and practice their art with skill, diligence and compassion!

### Changing Doctors

It is not only the new medical centre that is changing over the next year but also a number of doctors that are leaving after serving the practice for many years. Dr Stuart Merchant, Dr Helen Hall and Dr Edwin Thompson all turn sixty in the next 6 months. Dr Merchant has served the practice for well over 30 years and Dr Hall for over 25 years and they are both retiring in December 2014 and March 2015 respectively. They will both be difficult to replace and missed by both the practice and patients. Dr Thompson I am pleased to say is continuing but is reducing his hours from the end of November this year after a break for a month covering most of November.

We are pleased to welcome Dr Tom Hunsley as a permanent doctor in the practice. Dr Hunsley was our registrar last year and has stayed on to replace Dr Hannah Knowles who is currently on maternity leave. Dr Hunsley will then take over from Dr Merchant in December. Dr Knowles is due back from Maternity leave in January 2015. We have a new registrar (trainee GP), Dr Eleanor Dempster, who joined the practice in August and will be with us until 2016.

We hope you will join us in wishing Dr Merchant and Dr Hall all the best for the future but also welcoming the new doctors into the practice. If anyone would like contribute anything towards Dr Merchant’s retirement please make any donations payable to Dr S. Merchant they can be left at the practice FAO Mrs C. Janion - Practice Manager.