

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team

A quick update from Dr Vicki Taylor about the Buxton Mountain Rescue Team:

Although I have taken a backseat role in Buxton Mountain Rescue Team due to family commitments I am still supporting them as a doctor by organising their hepatitis B injections and blood tests. These protect frontline volunteers who deal with casualties and may be at risk of needlestick injuries in the line of duty. The costs of this have been met through charitable contributions.

Patients may notice that the collection box has gone from the front desk in Alderley Surgery as it was sadly stolen in December 2011. If you wish to support this cause you can always pass donations to me in surgery, via Reception or make a donation online at: http://www.buxtonmountainrescue.org.uk/support_us/donate

There have already been 22 call outs from 1st January – 1st May, 2013 keeping these unpaid volunteers busy in all weathers and at all times of day and night. Follow their heroic exploits on the website, Facebook page or Twitter.

Sincere thanks to all our patients who support Buxton MRT and for their generous and ongoing financial contributions.

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WRVS Luncheon club

A word from the ladies who run the club in the village:

WRVS lunch clubs give older people the opportunity to leave the house, meet old friends and make new ones in a warm and friendly setting. It is a chance to socialise while enjoying a hot, healthy, balanced and nutritious meal. If you or anyone you know would like to come along, please let us know. We would love to increase the numbers attending our lunches. Alternatively, if you are able to help in any way, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Anne Bale on 01625 582514 or email: annebale@goggs.co.uk

Alderley Edge Medical Practice Newsletter June 2013

Medical Centre Premises Update

The new medical centre project is still very much alive!

Unfortunately there is no physical sign of it, but behind the scenes there is much activity. Most of this is to put in place the necessary legal agreements which we are obliged to have for a project which relies on public finances.

We have been hindered to some degree by the radical changes in the NHS which have meant abolition of the PCT and a new governing body, NHS England. Most of the people we have dealt with in the past have moved on and we are establishing new links with people in the NHS Local area team who will be responsible for medical premises.

We will keep you informed of developments.

Patient Participation Group

We need you! We have a small group at the moment but would love to get more people involved. This is your chance to influence the priorities of the practice and the wider health provision in East Cheshire. If you would like to find out more, please phone or write in to Michelle Martin at the practice and give your contact details—phone number and email please.

Text Messaging

We have now set up a system to confirm your surgery appointment by text message and send you a reminder 48 hours before the appointment. We hope to use this system for giving you blood results too. Please let us have your mobile phone number, so that we can use this system effectively and if you are happy to receive results by text, let the nurse know when she takes your blood sample.

How could the latest NHS changes affect you?

You will have heard that from the 1st April this year all local health services will be managed by the new Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (ECCCG) based in Macclesfield.

We are one of 22 practices in the CCG.

The CCG has the responsibility for spending the £221.5million budget on purchasing all the drugs and medical care for the Eastern Cheshire population. The government had promised that by giving control of the budget to local doctors and patients we would improve services which would be better targeted.

The old Primary Care Trust (PCT), which had this responsibility until April had always been underfunded in comparison with other PCTs in the North West and similar PCTs nationally.

We had expected a new funding formula for CCGs which would take account of the proportion of elderly patients in the population and fund our CCG more equitably. A formula was proposed but NHS England rejected it and has continued to use the old one to calculate CCG budgets.

Eastern Cheshire has a large population of elderly patients, many in nursing homes, who have a high use of medical and social services. The current formula takes no account of this.

The consequence is that our CCG will receive approximately £1000 per head of population. We have the lowest per capita funding of all CCGs in the Northwest, some of whom have 50% more money per capita. Our budget for 1 year is £221.5million. Our CCG has a projected overspend of £12.5million based on past years' budgets. We are expected to produce a balanced budget at the end of year 1. This is a tall order and very serious.

Before they can practise as independent GPs, Registrars all have to undergo a difficult and demanding assessment procedure. This begins with a computer-marked test of factual knowledge which they have to pass before they can proceed to the next stage. During their time in the practice they are continually assessed in a process called work place based assessment – this tests not only knowledge but attitudes, consultation skills, readiness to learn, note-keeping, ability to make appropriate referrals, ability to work well with all the other clinical and non-clinical staff, etc etc – a very thorough process.

They also have to take an assessment of their consultation skills and knowledge in an exam called CSA (consultation skills assessment). For this they go to a special assessment centre in London and do a simulated surgery where 13 different patients (actually specially trained actors) present their case and in 10 minutes for each case the doctor has to take a full history, examine them, decide what needs to be done and do it! As you can imagine this is the exam which they get most anxious about. It is very rigorous and only about 75% of candidates pass. They are allowed 3 attempts over a period of usually a year or 18 months but if they do not pass, they cannot practise as a GP, a fact which I hope as patients you find reassuring!

As trainers we have to mark the work place based assessment and prepare them for the CSA exam. Dr Merchant and I were the trainers for almost 20 years but in the last year we have handed over to Dr Speake and Dr Taylor. I have been an examiner for the CSA exam for almost 10 years and have just been awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners for this work. My presentation ceremony was on May 17th 2013.

As time and space allow in the future, we may also start to teach medical students as they too now spend large parts of their training in General Practice.

Thank you again for your continuing support. Our Registrars always appreciate your kindness and tolerance and readiness to be involved in their education.
Dr Helen Hall

She works alongside existing members of staff, learning her new role in reception.

Nursing Team

Sian one of our Practice Nurses reduced her hours to coincide with her eldest son starting school in September. As well as covering the treatment room two mornings per week, Sian is responsible for childrens immunisations and she also looks after the diabetic patients. This left us with an opening for another Nurse and this was filled by Liz. We welcomed Liz as part of the nursing team in August. Liz covers the treatment room two mornings a week and also runs the smear and heart clinics

In December, Mair one of our practice nurses decided it was time to leave the NHS and start her own business. We wish her well with her new venture. Jane joined the nursing team in February 2013. She is responsible for the asthma and COPD clinics and also works in the treatment room at Prestbury surgery on Tuesday mornings. Liz and Jane have both settled in and become part of our existing nursing team consisting of Sian, Heather who works in the treatment room, Ruth our Healthcare Assistant and Julie our Phlebotomist.

Teaching at Alderley Edge surgery

We have been a teaching practice for almost 20 years now. As patients you have always kindly and enthusiastically welcomed our registrars and I thought this might be a good time to tell you a bit more about the process. It has gradually changed over the years but in summary the doctors will all have spent at least 3 years doing hospital jobs before coming to us. Some now spend a 6 month spell with us then go back to hospital jobs before spending another year in general practice. This is soon going to be extended to another 18 months in practice. General Practice is increasingly being recognised as a vital part of all doctors' training, even if they are going to be a hospital consultant in the future.

This situation is grossly unfair. Our CCG Board have appealed to the NHS England (who privately agree with our case) but without success. The CCG board will continue to fight our case, but will also have their energy directed at commissioning medical services which is their primary purpose.

A simple example illustrates the situation. If you move a few miles into the Stockport or South Manchester CCG areas you will immediately have more money allocated to your healthcare.

Can your MP explain why our government is spending less on your healthcare than your neighbours in Stockport, Manchester, Liverpool etc when you pay the same rates of income tax, National Insurance, VAT, as everyone else?

Perhaps you might like to ask him.

Dr S D Merchant, Dr H E Thompson, Dr Helen Hall, Dr Vicki Taylor, Dr P G Speake

About Us

We have had some departures and some new arrivals in the practice over the last few years. We have sadly said good-bye to our business manager, Farrah Jaura, who was only with us a few months but contributed significantly to moving the new premises forward. Unfortunately she was only lent to us by Manchester PCT and had to return there with the NHS reorganisation. We will miss her!

We have had new arrivals in our medical and nursing teams - we are very pleased to welcome them and are benefiting from their skills. Here is what they have to say:

Dr Peter Speake

I joined the practice in September 2011 after graduating from Manchester University in 2004. I completed my pre-clinical studies at St. Andrews University. I completed most of my hospital jobs at Manchester Royal Infirmary including a two year rotation in surgical training. I have continued to use these skills at Alderley Edge by conducting minor surgery. I also have an interest in sports medicine and orthopaedics as well as all aspects of General Practice. I live locally with my wife and young family.

I am a keen runner and have completed multiple marathons and represented Cheshire at national level. I have recently completed a half ironman triathlon and I also enjoy gardening but I am not always that successful!

Dr Hannah Knowles

I am one of 4 siblings and was born and raised in Stockport. I graduated from Liverpool Medical School and went on to work in Warrington Hospital for 2 years before completing my GP training in Macclesfield and Disley. I work part-time in Alderley Edge and as a part-time Locum in Disley and Congleton.

I have special interests in Womens Health and Family Planning. I hope to expand my interests further perhaps in Dermatology.

I recently got married in an exquisite location in Ibiza called Amante Beach and learnt the Paso Doble for my first wedding dance. My hubby and I explored South East Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia for our honeymoon. It was amazing!

I love the great outdoors and in my spare time I like to compete in trail running events in the Lake District. In November 2012 I took part in a team event called Tough Mudder (a 12 mile army assault course). It was very tough but loads of fun!! I also enjoy camping and play netball every week for the 'Pink Panthers' at Reddish Sportsclub.

Dr Rahul Mittal—our Registrar (trainee)

I qualified from Bristol University and subsequently did my initial training in the South West before coming to the North West to do my medical training. I have also worked at the Christie Hospital in oncology before taking the plunge into general practice. I am currently in my 2nd year of my training. In my spare time I like going to the gym, walking and reading books.

Sister Jane Kent

I joined Alderley Edge practice in February 2013. I qualified as RGN in 1990 at Newcastle Upon Tyne where I worked for 10 years on a variety of medical wards as a staff nurse and ward sister. I then moved to Carlisle and set up a respiratory unit and worked there until moving into medical education. I then moved to Wales and spent 5 years as a District Nurse; since moving to Macclesfield I have taken up the post as Practice Nurse here. My clinical work includes health assessments and monitoring, wound care and ear irrigation. My specialty is managing asthma and COPD and I hope to complete my degree within these fields. I am married with 2 young children and hobbies include hill walking, spinning and kettle exercise when I can fit it all in!

Sister Liz Carter

I joined Alderley Edge Practice in August 2012. Prior to this I have worked as a Practice Nurse for over 20 years - in Macclesfield, Salford and South Manchester. I trained at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

My principal areas of clinical interest are Cardiovascular Disease and Women's Health.

I am married with two teenage children.

I am a keep fit fanatic and also enjoy live theatre and ballet.

A note from Carol Janion, Practice Manager, about other staff changes:

Reception Staff

Since our last newsletter we have seen several changes amongst our staff. In March 2011 Julie joined the reception team. Although Julie had worked in a surgery before, she hadn't worked on reception but she soon settled into her new role. She has recently trained to do phlebotomy so some of you may see her when you come in for a blood test. In January 2012 Judith joined the practice as a receptionist. Judith had never worked in a surgery before but she soon settled into practice life. June saw us lose one of our longer serving members of staff when Pauline decided it was time to retire after working here for 11 years. We miss her telling us how many days, minutes, seconds it was until we had to change the clocks! In September/October Lisa joined the reception team.