



# Princes Park Health Centre Newsletter

[www.princesparkhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.princesparkhealthcentre.co.uk)

Volume 1 Issue 1

Feb 2012

## Introduction from Dr Martyn Stockton



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to this new feature.

We are hoping to publish this newsletter on a regular basis, as a means of keeping you better informed about our Practice.

If anybody would like to contribute to this scheme and be included in the next newsletter, then please leave your comments at reception or email; [grahamhunt@nhs.net](mailto:grahamhunt@nhs.net).

### Did you know?

40% of appointments are now pre-bookable up to two weeks in advance.

### Did you know?

That most GP's offer evening appointments that are also pre-bookable.

### Did you know?

Last month 106 people forgot to turn up for their appointment!! Please, if you cannot attend your clinic appt make a cancellation. This then allows others waiting to utilise the freed up place.

### Did you know?

From time to time patients forget to put essential information on the specimen pots! Please complete all the information required as this saves time and reduces the chance of having to carry out a repeat.

## Voice from the Partners



As a Practice we are proud to be an approved GP training Practice for both Medical Students, as part of BSMS (Brighton and Sussex Medical

School) and fully qualified doctors who have spent time working in a hospital, but need to spend an extra year in general practice as part of their training to become a GP. Dr Jonathan Andrews is our main trainer looking after the GP registrar, with most of the other partners taking it in turns to look after the medical students. We have had excellent feedback from students who felt the time spent with us was extremely valuable and many thanks to all those patients who were willing to be interviewed and examined by the students.

### A note to our Diabetic Patients:

If you are overdue your 12 month check up, please contact us to make an appointment.

### Blood forms

Please can patients who have blood forms from the hospital let reception staff know when they are booking their appointments, as this will save duplication.

### Welcome to Dr Tim Tran

Dr Tran is our current GP Registrar and will be with us until end of July this year. He describes himself as one of the best GP Registrar's in Eastbourne! In his spare time Tim enjoys BMX riding and is know as an X-box legend.

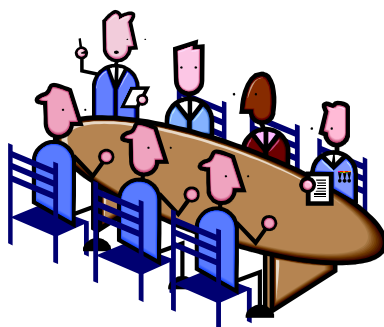


### Running 4 Charity

Dr Jonathan Andrews is running three half marathons in aid of Demelza Hospice for Children. He ran Brighton last week, Eastbourne is this coming Sunday and finally Hastings is on 25<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to sponsor Dr Andrews...and every little helps!! Sponsor forms are at reception.



### Voice from the Patient Participation Group



The purpose of this group is to gain views from the patients on how well the current surgery services are run and then feedback these comments constructively to the practice.

The minutes from meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2012 are now available on the website.

Patient questionnaire now available to complete in surgery or you can receive an electronic version by contacting:

[grahamhunt@nhs.net](mailto:grahamhunt@nhs.net)

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 12.20pm.

### Foreign Travel

If you and your family are planning to travel abroad and need advice on what injections or medication you may require, please arrange an initial discussion with one of the Practice Nurse's well in advance.

### Other Services

Remember that we offer other services from attached staff, including a Podiatrist and Audiologist, together with

retinal Screening. Orthopaedic and Minor Surgery clinics. There is also a full digital x-ray and DEXA scanning service, (bone density scanning for Osteoporosis), available on the NHS next door at the Apollo Centre. A MRI scanner on the NHS will also be in place by end of April.

### Would you like a Coffee Shop?

If enough patients are in favour of putting a coffee shop within the waiting room we can carry out a feasibility study to see if the project is viable. You can either leave your reply at reception or email: [grahamhunt@nhs.net](mailto:grahamhunt@nhs.net)

### Princes Park Website

Finally you can find a copy of this newsletter on our website plus lots of other useful information. [www.princesparkhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.princesparkhealthcentre.co.uk)

Attached to this newsletter is an article by Dr Martin Writer on the changes that are taking place within the NHS. Martin is Chairman of the Coastal Community Health Consortium which from April 2013, assuming all goes to according plan, will be the body responsible for local Healthcare provision.

## Coastal Community Health Consortium

Many of you will be aware that when the Coalition Government was formed a major part of their plan was Health Service reform. They believed that the system was overly bureaucratic and money could be spent in better ways.

Their plans were 2 fold, firstly to give responsibility for health care service design and delivery (commissioning) to groups of local GPs and secondly to open up competitions in the wider NHS so that private organisations could deliver health care much easier.

This initial plan caused some concern, particularly the aspect regarding opening up it up to private providers. Surprisingly giving GPs more power caused less political unease, as this was part of all the parties' plans for Government.

A period of reflection took place and this has recently ended. There will be some changes in both major planks, however the element regarding GPs Commissioning services has not been radically overhauled.

Locally we have formed a group consisting of all the GP Practices in Eastbourne, Seaford and Hailsham, to form a Commissioning Group. For those of you who have taken an interest in local medical politics, in the past, will recognize this as the group that was formed at the start of the last Government's efforts at reformation, the health service does have a habit of moving in circles!

We will, as a group, be working very closely with others, particularly those in Hastings as we have a lot of common interests, particularly with our local hospitals.

We are entering a very difficult time with health care planning, as a community we have to make significant savings over the next few years in order to live within our reduced budget. This means we need to work in different ways.

The GPs on the board are committed to making sure that the best services possible are delivered in the most appropriate place. Some of these choices we control but very many are controlled by circumstances that we have no influence over. For example experts tell us how care should occur and often where. This means that in the future we can all expect change and we have to be prepared for it.

I am very keen to hear your thoughts and ideas as to how services can be delivered in different ways, that might be better than you currently experience. We only see one side of our local health service, and being able to see both sides will hopefully help us shape and improve it.

Dr Martin Writer  
admin.parkpractice@nhs.net