



NewsWATCH

The Watlington & Chalgrove GP Practice Newsletter



Issue 003

Email us at: wat.chal@nhs.net

March 2012

PPG Members

Watlington

- Roger Beattie
- Josephine Carrington
- Jenny Tindale
- Doreen Hobbs
- Shirley Brown
- Beryl Parkinson
- Jacky Wagstaff
- Marian Davis

Chalgrove

- Neil Topping
- Evelyn Chakera
- David Lee
- Ann Reed
- Lesley McCourt
- Gill Walker
- Lynn Baker
- Peter Grout
- Helen Moss-Black
- Audrey Mainwaring

If you have any issue that you would like raised at a PPG Meeting, please contact any of the above or email us.

Special points of interest:

- Changing times
- New records
- Can't remember!
- Are you satisfied?

Contact Us By Email

wat.chal@nhs.net

The Times They are a Changing.....!

As Bob Dylan famously sang back in the 60's!. One thing in life is sure (along with death and taxes) - nothing stays the same for ever!

We've already advised that a number of long serving receptionists have retired recently.

Now we can advise that from 1st April Dr Neale will be reducing the number of hours that he works at the Practice.

Whilst he has regularly had to miss surgeries in recent years, the good news is that Dr Neale will now be available every week on Mondays and Fridays.

Having worked for the NHS for 35 years and been a GP in Chalgrove for 32 years he has been offered the post of Clinical Advisor to the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

This work will involve, among other things, giving advice and support to all of the community services including community hospitals, the GP Out of Hours service, Minor Injury Units and District Nurses.

Initially, his work on other days will be carried out by a locum, Dr Henry Hoy, but the Practice intends to appoint a more permanent replacement in the fullness of time.

The PPG, on behalf of all his patients, would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Neale for his excellent service to the community and wish him every success with this new venture.

Nothing stays the same for ever!

.....not only in Chalgrove!!

At present the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) plans and provides local healthcare services in the community and funds hospital treatment.

It works with GP practices, dentists, pharmacists and opticians in Oxfordshire and also provides services such as district nursing, health visiting, school nursing and a range of specialist and therapy services.

In 2013 the Oxfordshire PCT will be disbanded and replaced by the

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG).

The reasoning is to shift decision-making as close as possible to the patients through the establishment of local consortia of GP Practices which will be given more power and responsibility for commissioning services. Each local consortium will be supported by and accountable to a new independent NHS Commissioning Board.

For more information visit the OCCG website;

www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

Summary Care Record Cards

Summary Care Record Cards are being introduced in April for all patients.

These record cards are simply a summary of information regarding which medications you are taking, any allergies you suffer from and any serious reactions you have had.

If you give your permission, the above details will be able to be accessed by authorised healthcare staff anywhere in England.

At the end of March all patients over the age of 16 will receive a pack which gives all the details about these Summary Care Record Cards.

The pack will include an 'Opt-Out' form which you will need to fill in and return to the surgery only if you do **NOT** want to have one of these summary care records.

Doing nothing will automatically include you in the service.

Oxfordshire NHS has decided to supplement these Summary Care Record Cards

with an **Oxfordshire Care Summary Card** which will contain more detailed information but which can again only be accessed by authorised healthcare professionals and with your permission.

These would be, for example, out-of-hours GPs or hospital Doctors who would then have more information from which to decide on your treatment and care.

If you wish to opt out of this you will need to complete and return a separate 'Opt-Out' form.

Our Practice is supporting both the national and the Oxfordshire summary cards. You can discuss the information that is on your card with your own GP at any time or when he/she may need to add or amend your information following a significant change to your care or treatment.

If you have any questions about the Summary Care Record Cards, you are welcome to contact Gerry Davidson, Practice Manager or call in at the surgery and she will do her best to answer them for you.

Memory Loss

Earlier this month Dr McManus very kindly agreed to come and speak to the PPG about memory loss.

She explained the difference between the loss of memory that affects us all as we get older - where did I put my keys? - and the loss of memory that characterises Dementia.

She showed us examples of simple tests that can be done in the surgery if someone is concerned about their memory loss and explained how clinicians arrive at a diagnosis of Dementia.

Dementia is not a disease as such but a description of symptoms which include loss of memory, mood changes and problems with communicating and reasoning.

Dr McManus went on to describe how in 1906 Dr. Alzheimer first identified the physical changes in the brain that accompany the clinical symptoms in patients with the disease that was later named after him. Interestingly when his findings were checked using modern techniques in 1997 his work was revalidated.

She then ran through some of the causes of Dementia and some of the treatments that are available. She outlined some things that you can do to lower the risk of developing Dementia such as keeping yourself active and watching your diet - as you will probably have guessed.

If you would like to read more, check out the feature on the PPG's page on the Practice website www.watlington-surgeries.nhs.

There you will also find links to other websites with information about Alzheimer's, support groups for carers, grants that are available etc.

Patient Satisfaction Survey

Last November patients attending both surgeries on a designated day were asked to complete a questionnaire about the Practice. These were then sent away for evaluation by external assessors. The results have now been sent back to the Practice and a group of us will be looking at this information which is designed to highlight what the Practice does well and also areas where there is room for improvement.

We will prepare a report on the findings which will then be e-mailed to patients, put on the website and also available as a hardcopy in both surgeries.