



## **Friends of Amersham Health Centre Patient Participation Group**

### **Newsletter**

**April 2023**

#### **From the Chair**

Finally, Spring has come after a very wet and, at times, bitterly cold Winter.

I start this newsletter with the very sad news of the death of Nicky O'Driscoll who was a member of our committee. She took on the responsibility of organizing and working with all the wonderful volunteers during what proved to be a very difficult time for the surgery during both the pandemic and the removal into the carpark for 3 months. Nicky was always positive, cheerful, practical and hardworking and she will be very much missed by everyone. We wish her family well and send warm thoughts.

News from the practice includes the information that a Facebook Page will be launched by the surgery in the near future. If you have any thoughts about what kind of information you feel would be useful to have on the page, please let the Surgery know.

We have also been told by the Practice Manager, Meeta Jobanputra, that the current website will be updated to become more user friendly.

It has been encouraging to hear, too, that the Surgery now has a full complement of doctors, although they are still working under considerable pressure, as explained in this newsletter.

With best wishes

**Daphne Lally**

[Chair1ppg@outlook.com](mailto:Chair1ppg@outlook.com)

## Amersham Health Centre GPs

You might find it helpful to have a complete list of the names of the GPs at the surgery and the days they attend, together with some of their specialties. These days may change due to illness and annual leave.

On the AHC website, the names of the GPs are listed under “Staff” and the days when they are at the surgery are listed under “Times”

Dr Clare Gabe	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	GP Trainer Coronary Heart Disease Family Planning & Contraceptive Coils Joint Injections  Elderly care
Dr Paul Layng	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	Diabetes  Elderly care
Dr James Murphy	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday	Paediatrics Emergency Medicine
Dr Dushan Hettiarachchi	Monday, Tuesday morning, Thursday and Friday	Elderly Care  Contraceptive implants GP Trainer
Dr Vandana Pathak	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Women’s Health
Dr Suneetha Siripurapu	Monday and Friday all day and Wednesday morning	Women's Health
Dr Rangah Niranchanan	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	Elderly care
Dr Dip Sen	Tuesday & Thursday	Maternity Cover
Dr Wazir Afghan	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday pm & Friday am	Trainee Registrar

There is a full complement of GPs at the surgery, currently. However, there is still considerable pressure on appointments because they are continuing to look after patients who should have been seen in hospital during the pandemic but are still on hospital waiting lists. Most of these patients need to be seen and monitored frequently and regularly.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that patient numbers at the surgery are very high at 14,000. The Practice has written to ask patients whose addresses fall outside the Amersham Health Centre area to register, instead, with practices nearer their homes.

The Surgery suggests that if you are calling about anything other than making an appointment, it is best to call after 11.00am, when the phones are less busy. In addition, local pharmacies can be contacted regarding advice and support for minor illnesses, initially.

### NHS App access to GP health records

It is hoped that the difficulties in establishing the system whereby AHC patients can access their GP Health records via the NHS App will be resolved soon.

The NHS states on its website that, in total, more than 1,400 practices across the country, around one in five, now offer full prospective record access by default. That is one in five Practices. It means 6.5 million patients with online accounts can automatically view new record entries such as tests results, appointment notes and hospital letters online and through the NHS App (and other approved patient-facing apps). For more information: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app/nhs-app-guidance-for-gp-practices/guidance-on-nhs-app-features/accelerating-patient-access-to-their-record>

### Talks

- Thursday 18 May at 7.00pm at Barn Hall, Amersham on the Hill  
Dr Rajnish Attavar MBBS, MRCPsych, Consultant Psychiatrist, will be speaking on *Mental Health for You and Your Family, after Covid*. Dr Attavar is a highly experienced neuro-developmental psychiatrist with 25 years of NHS experience, much of which has been in Buckinghamshire.
- Thursday 13 July at 7.00pm at the Barn Hall Amersham on the Hill  
Meeta Jobanputra, Practice Manager, and Charlotte Prince, Senior Patient Co-ordinator will be giving a presentation on *Ways to make appointments at Amersham Health Centre*, in which they will explain ways to make an appointment other than by phone or queuing at the surgery.
- Dr Clare Gabe, Senior Partner at AHC, will give an up-date on the surgery in September, the date to be decided.

**!!! Seeking new active committee members!!!**

You will soon be seeing this new item on the waiting room screen. If you are keen to be involved in establishing excellent relations with the Practice and ensuring that patients views are heard, do please contact us at [Chair1ppg@outlook.com](mailto:Chair1ppg@outlook.com)

In addition, if you know anyone who might be interested, please forward this newsletter to them.

## **PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

**FRIENDS OF AMERSHAM HEALTH CENTRE**

# **HELP!**

*The Committee needs new active members*

*Do you want your voice heard?*

*Do you have ideas?*

*Interested?*

*Please contact: [Chair1ppg@outlook.com](mailto:Chair1ppg@outlook.com)*