

As you may be aware, Dr Tim Mitchell is retiring from medical practice at the end of March and this letter sets out the new arrangements for continuation of primary care services at Pilning Surgery.

Dr Tim qualified in 1980 and, after serving in the RAF, joined Montpelier Health as a partner in 1986. When the opportunity to work at Pilning surgery arose in 2013, he welcomed the chance to start working with a very different population and has really enjoyed his time here.

Replacing Dr Tim from within Montpelier Health's current workforce would prove very difficult, so we have been exploring options which would ensure a continued high level of Primary Care services at Pilning Surgery.

The Partners at Montpelier Health are delighted to confirm that from the beginning of April the partners at Hanham Health have agreed to take over the service provision. Hanham Health already provide the services at Almondsbury Surgery, so this will strengthen the links between Pilning Surgery and other local South Gloucestershire practices.

Many of the non-medical staff will stay in post so familiar faces will still be present.

However, the changes do mean that other partners, such as Dr Tom Bailward and salaried GPs such as Dr Amanda Blake will be leaving Pilning to return to work at Montpelier Health Centre in Bristol.

Among the Hanham team, Drs David Atherton and Jenny Lockey will be responsible for looking after Pilning patients and there will be an opportunity to meet them on Thursday March 14th, 18.45 – 20.15, in Pilning Village Hall. This will also be attended by Dr Tim and other practice staff.

Dr Mitchell is off to Nepal for the first 2 weeks of April but will then return to Pilning for a couple of weeks to help ensure the transition is going smoothly.

This is an exciting new chapter that ensures the future of primary care services based at Pilning Surgery and we are looking forward to continuing to serve you in the years ahead. Please be assured, as a patient you do not need to do anything and you will continue to receive the same services as you already do under the current arrangements.

In Dr Tim's words: "Working at Pilning surgery gave me a new lease of life after 27 years of inner-city practice. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here but do feel ready for retirement. I will miss all the patients as you all contribute in different ways to the amazing variety that is general practice.