



# Bridge Lane Group Practice Patient Group Newsletter

June 2025

The latest news, views, and announcements

## This edition

Next Patient Briefing  
Dr Judith Pearson

The Future of the NHS:  
What Patients Need  
to Know

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What's Happening in  
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Last Patient Briefing  
Dr Rupal Shah

Find your way around  
the Practice website

Bring your skill set  
to our Patient Group  
Committee

Cast your vote for  
future briefing topics



## Don't Break My Heart

an update on

**CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH**

by Dr Judith Pearson

**BLGP Patients Briefing**

**Thursday 19 June @ 5pm**

to attend in person, or online, reserve your ticket via Eventbrite

You can also book via Reception or email to [BridgeLanePPG@gmail.com](mailto:BridgeLanePPG@gmail.com)



## Know Your Numbers

At Bridge Lane we have 14,400 patients, of whom 265 have a diagnosis of coronary heart disease; 269 have atrial fibrillation (an irregular heartbeat); 1611 have hypertension (high blood pressure) and 539 have diabetes mellitus. Some have a combination of the above conditions.

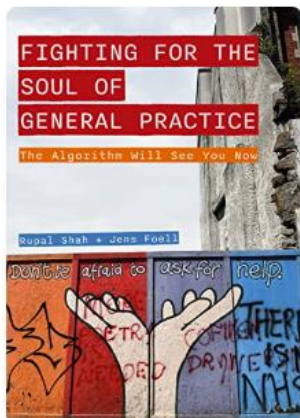
## The Future of the NHS: What Patients Need to Know

The government recently announced plans to **dissolve NHS England**, raising questions about the future of healthcare services. The functions of NHS England will be absorbed into the Department of Health and Social Care, with the aim of **reducing bureaucracy** and **streamlining decision-making**. While ministers argue that this will improve efficiency, critics warn that it could lead to increased political interference in NHS operations.

What this means for patients:

- Localised decision-making may change, impacting how services are funded and delivered.
- GP services and hospital funding could see adjustments as responsibilities shift.
- Ongoing concerns about staffing shortages and access to care remain high on the agenda.

The PPG will continue to monitor these changes and share updates with patients as more information emerges.



## Local NHS News: What's happening in Battersea & Wandsworth

### Concerns Over GP Shortages in South West London

The demand for GP services in Wandsworth continues to rise, but at Bridge Lane our staffing is stable and Total Triage has enabled us to meet patient needs more efficiently than before. Reports indicating that some patients wait up to three weeks for a routine appointment (previously up to 8 weeks), disguise the good news that those with more urgent clinical need than 'routine' are being seen more quickly, often the same day. Within two weeks is the target for non-urgent cases.

### New Urgent Care Centre Proposed for Wandsworth

Plans are being discussed for a new **Urgent Care Centre** to help reduce pressure on local A&E departments. This facility would provide treatment for minor injuries and illnesses without the need for a GP appointment. If approved, it could be operational by **late 2026**.

## Recap: Patient Briefing with Dr Rupal Shah

On **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, Bridge Lane PPG hosted a **special patient briefing** with **Dr Rupal Shah**, one of the surgery's Partners and experienced GP. Dr Shah recently co-authored the book *Fighting for the Soul of General Practice* with Dr Jen Foell. The event, attended both in person and online, sparked a lively discussion about the challenges facing GPs today.

**Dr Shah spoke about the challenges of balancing the requirements of following standard protocols mandated by the NHS with individuals' needs. Her desire is to maintain a person-centered approach in GP care, but this is difficult when confined to 10-minute appointments and increasing paperwork.**

Anouska Forte, Business Manager, explained that there is a lot of work that the practice is required to do to support patients with long term conditions - it is not just about coming to the GP when you are unwell. Both emphasized that at Bridge Lane, they will continue to try to ensure patients get to see the same GP to build those important relationships to improve patient care.

## Our Bridge Lane Group Practice Patient Committee:

**Chair:** David Herbert

**Secretary:** Jan Forbes

**Committee:**

Barrie Temple

Julia Rossman

Kate Israel

Laura Roberts

## Make a Difference & Join Us

We are looking for new people to help us. If you are a Bridge Lane patient and want to work with the practice to improve services, share feedback, or help organise events, we'd love to hear from you. We are especially looking for volunteers with skills in writing, design, IT, and social media, to support our committee activities.



**Email us at: [BridgeLanePPG@gmail.com](mailto:BridgeLanePPG@gmail.com)**



**Visit the PPG noticeboard at the Practice**



**Follow our WhatsApp Channel for updates**

***Together, we can ensure that patients' voices are heard!***

## Navigating the Practice Website

For full details of all the practice facilities and services, including the appointment booking arrangements, refer to the practice website at:

<https://www.bridgelanegp.co.uk/>

You'll also find details of all the current doctors and other members of the Practice by following the menu options:

[Practice Information > Meet the Team](#)

The Patient Group page can be found under:

[Practice Information > Patient Participation Group](#)

WhatsApp users can keep up to date with the latest postings from the Patient Participation Group and the Practice by following our shared WhatsApp Channel. The QR code below will take you there:

BridgeLane WhatsApp Channel



## More NHS News:

### Wandsworth Council Approves New Renal Unit at St George's Hospital

In January 2025, Wandsworth Council approved plans for one of the UK's largest kidney units at St George's Hospital. The six-storey building will house 89 beds and 24 dialysis stations, offering 24/7 care. It will centralise services currently split between St Helier and St George's, improving efficiency and patient experience. Construction is expected to begin later this year, marking a major investment in renal care across South West London and Surrey.

### National NHS Update: Rise in Waiting Lists and Heart Valve Treatment Delays

As of March 2025, NHS England's waiting list has grown to 7.42 million patients, marking the first increase in seven months. While long waits over 52 weeks have slightly declined, the overall rise poses challenges to reducing backlogs. Concurrently, a study reveals that over 400 individuals with aortic stenosis die annually while awaiting transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI). The average wait time for this life-saving procedure is 142 days, with minority ethnic patients less likely to receive timely treatment. Efforts are underway to expand access to TAVI and address these disparities.

## Vote For Your Choice of Briefing topic

See the WhatsApp Poll, via the QR code above, and vote for one of these topics for the Patients' Briefing on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Alternatively, mail your preference to [BridgeLanePPG@gmail.com](mailto:BridgeLanePPG@gmail.com)

- Gut Health / Nutrition
- Vaccines
- Preparing for Winter
- Social Prescribing
- Pharmacy First
- Health & Wellbeing support