



## **The Friends of Avisford Medical Group**

**Charity No: 1074882**

### **News and Notes**

It was lovely to see so many people at our June AGM enjoying the excellent interactive talk and demonstration given by Tori Cooper, Registered Nurse from Western Sussex NHS Hospitals Trust. The talk – Saving Lives – showed everyone the important steps to take to help save someone's life if they had a cardiac arrest. Everyone learnt when and how to do basic CPR and how to use a public automated external defibrillator. There was plenty of opportunity to ask questions and to practice on demonstration models. Certainly a very popular talk that we will be repeating in the future.



In July Mr Paul Carter, Consultant Urologist from St Richard's Hospital repeated his very popular talk – Living with prostate problems. First given last year at Middleton, the talk proved equally popular when it was held in the Yapton Village Hall, especially the time given to answering questions at the end.

The next talk is at 7.00pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October in the Middleton Scout Hall. Dr Tanner from the Oving Clinic is coming along to talk on Osteoarthritis and Osteopathy. Please do come along, as always the talk is free and is open to all.

The committee is currently busy organising a Spring talk on Dementia so do keep a look out for more information on this nearer the time.

Thanks to all of you that came and supported us at the recent Middleton and Yapton Fêtes. We were certainly very lucky with the weather on both days and it was lovely to see so many people trying to guess the first name of Mr Bones our skeleton and the position of where some of his organs should be.

The Friends have recently invested in some nice big notice boards in both the surgery waiting areas. Our aim is to keep you informed at all times of the latest news including when the next talk will be held, the latest equipment purchased, so that you know what your donations are being spent on and the total money raised through book sales each month. You will also find contact details for the committee so do let us know if there are any issues that you would like us to raise at our regular meetings.

Finally it is coming to that time again when we start selling our Annual Grand Draw Tickets. First prize is £150 with plenty of other prizes for the runners up. Tickets can be bought for £2 a book of four at any of the flu clinics (so do remember your money) and are also available from either surgery reception at other times. The Draw will take place in the Middleton Surgery on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

On your behalf the friends were pleased to recently purchase: 2 new vaccine fridges, 2 sets of bariatric scales and 2 high quality paediatric pulse oximeters.

Newsletters are always available for collection next to our new notice boards but remember for an electronic copy or to receive one through the post please complete the slip below.

**I would like to receive a copy of the Practice Newsletter and notifications by email.**



Name..... Email address.....

**I would prefer to receive a copy of the Newsletter by post.**

Address.....

**I would like to make a donation of £..... to the Friends of Avisford Medical Group**

**I am a UK tax-payer and would like the Friends to claim Gift Aid on my donation.**

Signature..... (please also complete your address and postcode above)

**Please return completed forms addressed to Friends of Avisford Medical Group to either surgery Reception.**

## Staff News

The major staff news that we ought to share with you is the fact that we have a significant shortage of GPs (see separate 'Appointment Shortage' article).

On a positive note, however, we are pleased to announce that **Dr Heather Beaumont** and **Dr Paddy Feeney** have recently joined us – both on a locum basis.

On a less happy note, our popular Nurse Practitioner, **Carole Phillips** has been tempted away by a teaching position much nearer to her home in Portsmouth. We are hoping to recruit a replacement Nurse Practitioner as soon as possible.

Following Annette Smith's departure, **Rosie Hobbs** has joined our Reception team at Middleton.

## Practice Boundary

For many years, the Practice catchment area has been exceptionally large, stretching from Climping in the east to Aldwick in the West. Whilst we are happy for our eastern boundary to remain marked by the River Arun, we are finding it increasingly difficult to carry out home visits in and around central Bognor. For this reason, we have applied to re-draw our boundary to the eastern edge of central Bognor.

No patients will be asked to register elsewhere as an immediate consequence of this boundary change but we will not register any new patients from the affected area. There are, however, a number of other GP Practices that serve central Bognor – and all have open registration lists.

Patients living outside of our current catchment area, however, will be asked to register at a more local Practice. In the current climate of restricted appointments, we can no longer justify the provision of care to those who do not live close-by.

## Dr Speer stepping down

Dr Peter Speer is due to retire as a GP Partner at the end of December 2016. Dr Speer has been with the Practice since 2002 following a merger with his Barnham Practice. He has worked predominantly at Yapton and is our current Senior GP Partner. Dr Speer will be missed by all of his patients – including many of those who came with him from Barnham.

## Important Vaccinations



The Flu season is nearly upon us and we want to be sure that all patients aged over 65 and those who are under 65 but at risk get their **Flu vaccination** early. By the time this newsletter is published, flu jab clinics will be well under way but, if you have forgotten or have been unavailable, please book now.

This year, we would also like to remind our patients to give serious consideration to having a **Pneumococcal vaccination**. A single jab will provide lifetime protection. It isn't practical to give a pneumococcal jab at a busy flu clinic but there will be ample opportunities to book appointments to have this done.

Many patients in their 70s may also be eligible for a Shingles vaccination. Please ask if you are unsure about your eligibility.

## CQC Report

As previously reported, we had our first Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Although we were generally content with our overall 'Good' rating, we were disappointed that, because of a failure to carry out a recent electrical safety test, our equipment was deemed to be unsafe.

The Partners would like our patients to know that the requisite testing was carried out without any delay following the CQC inspection – and without any significant concerns being raised at either surgery.

## Pharmacy2U

Many local residents will have received a leaflet in the post from a company called Pharmacy2U offering a free medication delivery service.

Their leaflets have details of our two surgeries pre-printed on them but we do NOT endorse the Pharmacy2U service and we did NOT provide them with any patient name or address information. At present, we don't know how this information was obtained.

## Appointment Shortage



Unfortunately, due to a continued shortage of regular GPs in the Practice, we cannot always provide the level of service that our patients have been used to. We apologise for this and would like to assure everyone that we are trying very hard to recruit – but with limited success.

Until we are able to solve this problem, GP appointments will continue to be in short supply and we ask all our patients to bear this in mind when trying to book.

GPs' Receptionists have been accused of being obstructive in the national press recently but they simply cannot give appointments that don't exist. If a Receptionist tells you that there are no appointments available, she is merely complying with the GPs' wishes.

Our Receptionists now ask patients for brief details of the problem about which they wish to see the GP. Whilst we appreciate some will not be happy to divulge such information, patients should know that our GPs have requested that they do this – as it helps them to ensure that the patient gets the most appropriate care. A Receptionist will **NOT** make a judgement about the urgency of one case over another – but will pass the information to the relevant clinician to make such a decision.

There are a lot of medical conditions that our nurses can deal with – and our Reception staff will tell you if your problem is likely to be best treated by a nurse.

## New Website



We now have a new-look web-site. Some users who may have the old site stored as a short-cut or favourite might need to check that they connect to [www.avisford.co.uk](http://www.avisford.co.uk).