



Editor: J Nelson

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Sponsored by: The Friends

## The Friends of Avisford Medical Group

**Charity No: 1074882**

### News and Notes

A big thank you to all who participated in the 2016 Grand Draw which raised £693. 25 winning tickets were drawn in the Middleton Surgery waiting area on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please see our notice boards for prize details and see overleaf for thanks to local businesses who generously donated prizes.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the amazing number of donations received since membership subscriptions were dropped and replaced with the form at the bottom of this page. On your behalf, we are currently in the process of purchasing two new defibrillators that can be used on children as well as adults and two Spirometers that measure the movement of air into and out of the lungs. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for where money could be spent that would improve things for patients. Just drop a note into either surgery addressed to The Friends or email us on [avisford.friends@gmail.com](mailto:avisford.friends@gmail.com)

An excellent talk on Osteoarthritis & Osteopathy by Dr Tanner from the Oving Clinic in October, proved very popular with over 50 people attending. **The next talk** will be on Dementia, given by Dr Amaladoss on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017** in the Scout HQ at 7.00pm. This year's short AGM will be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the local pharmacist will talk about the advice and free healthcare services that modern pharmacies now provide. Certainly an option which may prevent you having to use a valuable GP appointment. All talks are free, open to everyone, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions. We usually run a small raffle to help pay for the hire of the hall, so don't forget to bring along some small change. Any ideas you may have for future talks are always welcome. There will be another talk in the Autumn - subject and date to be advised.

All Avisford patients are eligible to be members of the Friends and the Committee would like to ensure that as many of you as possible receive a copy of the Newsletter and notification of any talks or events taking place. Please ensure you complete the slip at the bottom of this page and return it to us to enable this to happen. As a Patient Participation Group the most important thing for us is communication. We need your valuable feed-back on the service you are receiving and suggestions for any improvement.

Our **new email address** is [avisford.friends@gmail.com](mailto:avisford.friends@gmail.com) or just drop a note into one of our honesty boxes by the books for sale in either surgery. We are planning to repeat our successful attendance at both Yapton and Middleton summer fêtes so do look out for us and lend us your support.



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.

## Thanks to local Businesses

Further to their front-page article regarding the Grand Christmas Draw, the Friends of Avisford Medical Group Committee would like to declare their gratitude to the following local businesses for their kind donations of prizes:-

Bailiffs court Hotel & Spa - Climping, Tesco - Littlehampton, Silhouette Salon - Yapton, Earley's Butchers - Barnham, One Stop - Middleton, Grande Wine Store - Middleton, Yapton Pharmacy, The Elmer Hotel, Elmer Beach Stores & PO, Peters Newsagent Middleton, A&M Barley - Middleton, Lloyds Pharmacy - Middleton, Five Villages Pharmacy - Barnham, Barnham Fish Bar, Barnham Windmill Holistics, Angie's Crafts - Barnham Windmill, The Candy Shop - Barnham, Elite Design & Cut - Middleton and Mrs Rogers. A very big thank you to you all.

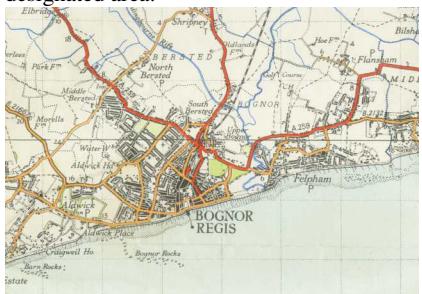
## Out of Area Patients

Our Practice catchment area can be loosely described as being from the river Arun in the East to Hotham Park, Bognor in the West – and then northwards to the A27. Once a patient moves out of this area, we regret that they CANNOT maintain their registration with us. They must register at another (ideally, more local) Practice.

Patients moving away but who do not de-register will be given 30 days to find a new Practice. After 30 days, they will be deducted from our list.

This stance may be different to how things were in the past – but it reflects our current policy. We don't feel that it is fair, whilst there is a prevailing shortage of GPs, for local patients to be unable to book an appointment because it has been taken by an out-of-area patient.

Also, we cannot justify having to carry out home visits that are not within our designated area.



## Private Medical Reports

Many patients may not realise that the free NHS service that we provide does not cover the completion of HGV medicals, taxi medicals, reports to support mortgage &/or life assurance applications, travel insurance claims, bus pass applications and any other reports that are not directly associated with that individual's health care. We are obliged to charge a fee for this.

We have a scale of charges that can be found on our web-site. The list is not exhaustive so, please enquire at Reception if you are unsure. For rarely-requested reports, we may need to notify you of the cost in due course.

Our scale of charges has recently been revised – most reports and medicals now cost more. This is our first increase for some years and brings our charges into line with most other practices.

We regret that fees cannot be waived on means-related grounds. Payment is required in advance – or at the point of collecting a report.

## Collaboration



Nearly every day, there seems to be speculation in the press about one or more aspects of the NHS. It can often be difficult to separate the fact from the fiction but what is certain is that there are significant and far-reaching resource and funding issues!

One initiative that is aimed to help involves Practices working together on a locality basis. A new 'Regis Healthcare' organisation has been formed, comprising 9 local Practices – of which we are one.

It's early days but we are currently drawing up a 'terms of reference' to provide a clearer understanding of exactly how we will collaborate with our neighbours and what resources we can share.

There are many benefits to be gained from 'pooling' or combining our resources in order to provide a more efficient service for our combined patient lists.

We will provide more information once the new scheme has got properly under way.

## Staff News

A few changes to tell you about in this issue – a mixture of arrivals and departures.

**Dr Peter Speer** has now retired as a Partner but we still see him from time to time in a locum capacity. All patients for whom Dr Speer used to be the Named GP have now been re-assigned to **Dr Oliver Middleton** who joined the Practice in November. He is an experienced GP who works at both surgeries over 4 days per week (not Thursdays).

**Dr Victoria Beattie** has helped us out for the last couple of years – but mainly for ladies with gynaecological conditions. Now, Dr Beattie has joined us on a more permanent basis. She spreads her time across both surgeries on Thursdays.

**Nurse Rachel Priest** is an experienced Advanced Nurse Practitioner. She can see patients with most complaints/illnesses, can refer and can prescribe medication. Rachel also carries out annual Diabetes reviews. Rachel works at both surgeries over 4 days each week (Monday to Thursday).

**Nurse Tania Ladbrook** is also an Advanced Nurse Practitioner who sees patients with minor illness and those with asthma and/or COPD. Like Rachel, Tania can refer and prescribe medication. Tania works at both surgeries over 4 days per week (Tuesday to Friday). Tania also works on Thursday evenings at Yapton.

**Rose Hobbs** left Middleton Reception in December but we have been fortunate to recruit the very experienced and capable **Wendy Pratt** in her place.

At Yapton, **Chris Patterson** has left the Admin Team – and has been replaced by **Belinda Munro**. Belinda will be responsible for medical summarising and processing private reports (see separate article).

## Prescription Messages

Our GPs often write messages on prescriptions – and particularly electronic prescriptions that are sent direct to the pharmacy. Please look out for any GP comments or instructions on the 'right-hand page' repeat slip that is printed by the dispensing pharmacy.

