



**SHEPHERDS SPRING MEDICAL CENTRE
PATIENT REFERENCE GROUP
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015**

Dear Fellow Patients

We hope you found our newsletters from last year interesting and informative. Here is our second newsletter for 2015.

Some Practice History written by Tom Watson

Dr. Alan Hamilton:

To the left of the reception is a large photograph of Dr Alan Hamilton. He was a well-regarded and liked Doctor who passed away suddenly in 2004. He had practised in this surgery for a great number of years with passion and dedication and he is still missed by patients and colleagues alike.

Alan came to the Practice from the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop after his discharge to work closely with Doctors Tim Lovell and Keith Eaton.

In the early days it was very hands on with both Tim Lovell and Alan being on call day and night. With the new estates springing up it was a very busy time with numerous home deliveries of new born babies.

The surgery was very busy, perhaps not as hectic as today, but it soon became obvious that the premises were not quite big enough. That's when a purpose built practice was erected.

The GPs worked long hours and were on call two or three evenings a week. Alan sometimes worked from the evening surgery until 9am the next morning and they were also on call most weekends.

Both Dr Lovell and Dr Hamilton were helped by their caring wives who were both nurses and understood what it was to be a Doctor in those early days.

Dr Alan Hamilton always cared for his patients and his colleagues and it is always nice to look back on his time at Shepherds Spring Medical Centre. It also gives a small story to the face in the picture for new patients.

Shepherds Spring Medical Centre:

Shepherds Spring Medical Centre started life in a cottage in 1965 near where Tesco Extra now stands. It was opened by Dr Tim Lovell and by a St Mary Bourne Dr, John Evans.

With all the new houses being built this side of town there was a big need for a Doctors surgery. When it first opened Dr Lovell called on the estates for patients to sign on, plenty of legwork. But as time went on, and this side of town got bigger, it was time to move on to Cricketers Way, where the practice is today.

When the practice first moved to Cricketers Way there was room for Nurses and a Physiotherapist, and there was a flat attached for young GP's gaining General Practice experience to live. The Dispensary was also in the building run by a Mrs Ellen Hughes. Dr Lovell ran the Practice in partnership with Dr Alan Hamilton and Dr Porter. Dr Hoole joined the practice in December 1989.

In the 1990's it became quite obvious that even this building was not going to cope with the ever increasing number of patients moving to the area so it was decided to increase the size of the Practice yet again, and a major development was planned. This caused plenty of upheaval with porta cabins for consulting rooms and lots of mud. Dr Pawley joined the practice in November 1992.

When it was finished the Pharmacy had its own premises adjacent to the surgery and it is now run by Superintendent Pharmacist Amarjit Singh.

With the ever increasing number of houses being erected this side of town it will not be long before even this development may need to be upgraded again and recruitment of new doctors is already planned.

DNA – Did not attend

With an increasing list size appointments are at a premium so it is very important that you cancel any appointment you are unable to keep as soon as possible.

Results of a recent audit show the following:

Between 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012	1693 patients failed to attend
Between 01/01/2013 – 31/12/2013	2010 patients failed to attend
Between 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014	2044 patients failed to attend
Between 01/01/2015 – 28/10/2015	2038 patients failed to attend

Under NHS rules the practice can remove patients from the practice list if they regularly DNA.

Patient Access

Patient Access will allow you to view your medication list, request prescriptions, view your immunisation history and any allergies. You can also book non urgent routine 10 minutes appointments on-line (but not diabetic, copd, nurse or smear appointments).

In order to use the new system you will need to register by asking the surgery to send you a PIN number. This number is unique to you and cannot be used by other members of your family or to order prescriptions for other members of your family. They will have to request their own access.

We would welcome more members for the group to become more representative and more involved for the benefit of all our patients. If you can spare no more than 2 hours of an evening roughly every 2 months, please get in touch with us through our Secretary, Karen Carn, at the Surgery (01264 310777).