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**DORRIDGE SURGERY NEWSLETTER**

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**Winter 2014**

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Dorridge did not really exist as a community until the mid-nineteenth century. It was simply the name given to the 'ridge' of land running westwards from Knowle, and joining the top end of the present-day Grove Road and Dorridge Road. The big turning point came in 1852 when the railway was built. Our station (now called Dorridge but originally called Knowle, and later Knowle and Dorridge) provided the impetus for a separate and rapidly growing community.



By 1866 Dr R N Foster of Knowle had made himself responsible for patients in the Dorridge area and in 1900 Dr J O Hollick thought it worthwhile to 'set up shop' here. The practice became fully independent in 1924. Dr Hollick was a very colourful character, still remembered with great affection by a few of our older patients. He was a great man to hounds, and it was no good being ill if there was a local hunt in progress! The photograph on the left shows the entrance to the Surgery, which at the time was located at the bottom of Station Approach, well before Forest Court.

The names on the plaques? Dr A J Allen; Dr G M Thorpe and C Needham, see the article on page 2 by Dr Upton.

Since those early days the services offered have grown out of all recognition and the premises at 3 Avenue Road has seen many alterations in the years since its construction in the early 1960's to accommodate the needs of the community.



The biggest change has just taken place, with the complete refurbishment and extension to the building, bringing the premises into the 21st Century.

**DORRIDGE PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP**

**Are you in the 25 to 40 years of age bracket?**

**Would you like to make a difference to the future of local medical services?**

There is a need to balance the membership of the Committee and introduce an age range to reflect the patient base of the Surgery. Whilst all the members have been 25 at some stage in their lives, and indeed some still think they are 25 or even 18, with 53 years experience!

**The times they have changed and it is important for fresh input.**

The Committee meets once a month, at the surgery either on a Monday or Tuesday evening from 7.00 pm. This next year, meetings will change, in that once a quarter, a guest speaker will present their specialist subject to an open audience, which will be of direct interest to Patients of the Surgery.

**Interested?** Please Contact the Practice Manager, Amanda Shakespeare, Tel: 01564 776262

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## END OF AN ERA?

Dr Stuart Upton

Retires 31st December 2014.

"In 1974 when I joined the Practice at Dorridge we became a five partner Practice – the other partners were Dr Tony Allan, Dr George Thorpe, Dr Peter Price and Dr Lewis Coulton. We had over 10,000 patients but spread over a much larger area of Warwickshire than we currently serve although we still have some outlying patients in the country. The Practice was immediately a warm and friendly place to work and I have a great affection for my old colleagues, two of whom have sadly passed away.

Coming straight from hospital some of the presenting complaints were a little unusual being the kind of thing that is seen in General Practice but not in hospital practice and I was grateful for a few tips from Peter!

Naturally then we provided care 24 hours a day 365 days a year and initially only had the telephone as a means of communication. This meant that weekends on call were a sore trial for one's long suffering wife. The drug treatments and emergencies were somewhat different and many things have improved out of all recognition with the advent of newer and more effective treatments. The other big difference was in those days we used to do our own obstetrics which usually meant yet more reasons for getting up at night whether you were on call or not. There may well still be some patients out there whom I delivered!

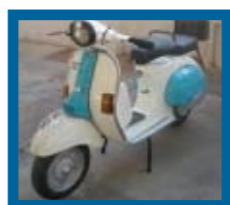
The patients were routinely referred to the General Hospital Birmingham (now the Children's Hospital) and to Warwick as Solihull was a relatively small hospital and at that time unconnected with Birmingham Heartlands Hospital.

Administration was much less managed entirely by one Secretary cum Administrator with four Receptionists as I recall. We did have a Practice Nurse Hazel Thornton, which was considered very Avante Garde in those days. I can recall there was always pressure on appointments with the five of us. Now there are eight Doctors on the permanent staff and appointments are still under pressure!

It has been a happy time this last 41 years and although there were sad occasions, as well as funny ones, I can only look back with pleasure and gratitude to all the wonderful people who have been my patients, and my superb Partners. I shall miss you all. Behind every man there is a good wife: mine has been brilliant and understanding and long may that be so."

Dr W S Upton

Perhaps Dr Upton can now concentrate on his other Passion.



Classic Transport!



**WELL DONE!**

Over the last 18 months 5 of our staff have gained NVQ's. 4 have a Customer Service NVQ and 1 has a Business Administration NVQ.

We have had a great assessor who has worked closely with the staff involved, so thank you to her, and a big **well done** to each of the staff who have put in the hard work and effort into gaining a work based qualification.

*(What is a NVQ? It is a National Vocational Qualification and is a work related, competency-based, qualification. These are usually completed in the workplace and are designed to gain the specific skills and knowledge needed to do the job.)*

**ON THE MOVE!**



December sees two of our Foundation Doctors move onto their next rotation, so **THANK YOU** to Dr Akhtar & Dr Conti for the last 4 months they have been with the surgery. Dr Liddar and Dr Spooner will be moving here in December until early April 2015.

*(Dorridge Surgery is proud to be involved in training and developing the 'General Practitioners' of the future, more about the involvement will appear in a future issue of the Newsletter.)*

## DR FARHAT MAHMOOD

*returns after a spell in the wilderness!*

Dr Mahmood gained her BSc and then moved into medicine graduating once more from Southampton in 2004. Her initial training was in Hospital Medicine, but in 2008 the call to general practice became quite strong.

Her GP training brought her to Dorridge, which was successful and she qualified in 2012. Since then she has worked in and around Solihull and returns to us as an Associate General Practitioner. Specialities include sexual health, palliative medicine, care of the elderly and dementia.

**WELCOME BACK**



## Spotlight on a Patients Participation Group Member



Val Tabb is one of the newest members of the group having joined in September 2012 and is the elected Secretary for the Group.

She has been a patient at the surgery since 1988 when she and her family moved to the area. Until she retired 7 years ago she worked at one of the local surgeries as a practice manager.

Though grandchildren and hobbies such as gardening, U3a, tennis and walking, keep her busy in retirement, she retains her interest in the NHS and its future.

Participating in the work of the PPG gives her the opportunity to stay involved in a small way and perhaps to use the experiences she gained during her working life to good purpose.