



## Hamdon Medical Centre News April 2018



### **A healthy future for Hamdon Medical Centre...**

We are sad to say goodbye to Dr Bulley, but also delighted that he can now enjoy some quality retirement time at home with his family. Patricia Thomson, our Technician who has been with us for 19 years is also retiring at the end of May.

Following Dr Bulley's announcement, we have spent a number of months researching the best options to secure a healthy future for the surgery and to ensure we can continue to provide a high quality healthcare service for our patients.

From 1 May, we have decided to join forces with a larger, local NHS healthcare organisation: Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS); a wholly owned subsidiary of Yeovil Hospital that is run and managed by a separate experienced NHS primary care support team, based at Wynford House in Yeovil.

By joining a larger network of practices we will be able to provide and maintain a high quality range of healthcare services in the community and to meet the growing challenges of more patients with complex long-term health conditions, GP recruitment and increasing demand on services across the wider healthcare system.

I will be staying at the practice as the Clinical GP Lead and our experienced healthcare teams will continue to deliver services at the surgery. Whilst we look for an additional GP to join us, Dr Bulley's patients will be transferred to my list and supported by Dr Brain and other regular locums.

I feel very confident that becoming part of a larger organisation and staying within the NHS, will enable us to develop new ways of delivering healthcare to manage the growing demands on General Practice.

**Dr Kathryn Blaydes**

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### Meet the team!

We are pleased to highlight some of the new roles that we have introduced within the surgery that will support both GPs and patients.

Many of our patients will have already met our Health Coach; Helen Bell over the last year. Our Health Coaches work alongside patients helping them to gain knowledge on their health and wellbeing and better manage existing health conditions. The Health Coach role has been a very successful link between the patient and the medical team and we hope to recruit a second Health Coach very soon.

In February, we also welcomed our first Advanced Nurse Practitioner; Laura Reeves. Laura has extensive experience across the NHS from over the last 20 years and will be able to treat a wide range of patients with acute healthcare needs, as well as complex healthcare support needs. Laura is able to prescribe, just like a GP and is the new Clinical Lead for Diabetes within the surgery.

We have a friendly and experienced reception team who have been trained to book you an appointment with the most suitable person, which often is not the GP! Please be assured that our teams treat all patient conversations with the utmost respect and confidentiality.



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## **Introducing Symphony Healthcare Services**

Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS) was launched in April 2016 as part of the south Somerset Symphony Programme; a national programme to design innovative new ways of delivering high quality care to patients and in particular, strengthening and supporting primary care to support GPs and ease the pressure on healthcare services.

SHS was created after three initial GP practices approached Yeovil Hospital for support after struggling with difficulties in recruiting permanent GPs, growing patient numbers and increasingly complex healthcare needs.

### **Is it private healthcare?**

No, it is an NHS healthcare organisation. The healthcare services that we provide our patients are funded by the NHS through the same contracts as any other GP practice. We work very closely with NHS England, the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Medical Committee (LMC) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to ensure that the care we provide, meets the high standards set.

Across SHS we now have eight GP practices that have chosen to join us. Being part of a larger organisation means that we can help to support GP practices to develop the healthcare teams required for the future.

**For more information on the changes, please come along to a 'drop in' information session at Hamdon Medical Centre on:**

**Monday 23 April, between 1 and 2 pm**

**Friday 27 April, between 1 and 2 pm**

**Or visit: [www.symphonyhealthcareservices.com](http://www.symphonyhealthcareservices.com)**

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Dear patient,

Welcome to our Hamdon Medical Centre newsletter, where we would like to share some important news with you. At the end of April this year we will say a very fond goodbye to Dr Bulley; who has cared for so many of our patients over the last 35 years. We wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.

### **Dr Bulley explains;**

*"I cannot believe that it is 35 years since I started out in General Practice here in Stoke sub Hamdon. As some of you may remember the old Surgery was housed in the building that is now owned by the Dentist.*

*What an amazing change when we built the new Surgery and then later added the Pharmacy, which has proved such an asset to the community.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the highly professional, caring and committed team at Hamdon Medical Centre and over the years have been privileged to get to know many of you well and watch your families grow up in this beautiful part of Somerset.*

*Retirement beckons, but before then I want to send a heartfelt thanks to you for your kindness, support and good humour throughout my career - I shall miss you all.*

*With warmest regards  
Dr R J Bulley*