

END OF AN ERA?



We all say a very fond and grateful farewell to Dr. Peter Toone who retires on 6th April after 35 years of dedicated service to Winchester and St. Clements' patients. General Practice has changed considerably since Dr. Toone arrived as a fresh faced youngster, starting his GP career as the junior of the practice. He and his wife Sue settled happily into life in Winchester; raised their son and are now proud grand-parents of a little girl.

Dr. Toone has been overwhelmed by the generosity of many of his patients who have been kind enough to send gifts and contributions towards his own choice of a present for his retirement. Rather than have a formal presentation, your contributions have been passed to Dr. Toone who is looking for a keepsake that will remind him of his many happy years at St. Clements.

If you would like to say an informal 'goodbye', Dr. Toone will be at the Practice from 1.00p.m. on Wednesday 31st March.

A 1998 Government White Paper, "The New NHS", introduced changes which would lead to GP Practices having more involvement in the commissioning of patient services. The initial stages were planned for early 2005 and the initiative is known as **Practice Based Commissioning (PBC)**.

St. Clements has joined a group of 13 local practices working to achieve some of the patient centred improvements identified for PBC, which include:

- o A greater variety of services
- o From a greater number of providers, and
- o In settings that are closer to home and more convenient to patients.

In addition, there are ways that the NHS as a whole, and hence the public, will benefit from:

- o More efficient use of services and
- o Greater involvement of front line doctors and nurses in commissioning decisions.

We will endeavour to keep our patients informed as we work with local providers to improve health services. Please feel free to submit any suggestions you have for the attention of the Practice Manager.

What is Hampshire LINK?

The Hampshire Local Involvement Network (LINK) is an umbrella organisation that brings together existing networks, organisations and individuals in Hampshire interested in Health and Social Care Services.

Hampshire LINK is independent of the Council and Health Services. Its aim is to provide a stronger voice for local people in the planning, design, commissioning and delivery of Health and Social Care Services.

Evolution

One of the ways the NHS has listened to patients has been through Patients' Forums. Attached to local Trusts, Forums have helped to improve frontline health care, but changes in the way the NHS is structured and the increasing integration of health and social care mean that new ways of involving people are needed. July 2006, the Department of Health published plans to strengthen the ability for local communities to influence the care they get through Local Involvement Networks [LINKs]

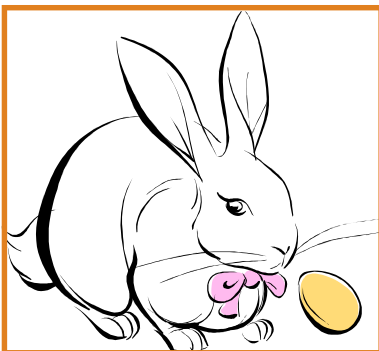
How do I Join?

Pick up a leaflet at our Surgery or go to [the Hampshire LINK website](#).

NEW PRACTICE PREMISES

Most of you will, by now, be aware that the Council's Developers were in administration as a result of the financial climate. We remain very confident that new developers will be found for the Winchester City Silverhill Scheme and that the development of new practice premises will proceed without too much delay.

We will keep our patients updated of progress as we receive confirmed details from the Council. In the meantime, we are continuing to endeavour to keep the practice in good decorative order with a programme of replaced flooring and decorated waiting rooms taking place over Easter.



Millions of pounds are wasted annually in unused medicines ordered as repeat prescriptions and either not collected or not used. This money might be otherwise available for medication or healthcare services where resources are proving difficult to obtain. PLEASE ONLY

ORDER MEDICATION YOU NEED AND DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO STOCKPILE—PARTICULARLY AT HOLIDAY TIMES.