

THE GREEN PRACTICE

**CLEVEDON MEDICAL CENTRE
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DR GILL HOW

MBBS 1977 MRCGP DRCOG FP Cert MFHom

DR PATRICIA HORRY

MBChB 1982 MRCGP DRCOG FP Cert

DR CAROLINE PARFITT

MIBBS 1987 MRCGP DRCOG DCP FP Cert

DR SIMON PAGE

MBChB 1975 MRCGP FP Cert

DR MARK RUSH

MBBS 1998 MRCGP DRCOG DCH

DR ALISON MARRIOTT

MBChB 1996 MRCGP DFFP

DR KAREN HATHWAY

MBChB 1997 MRCP DCH MRCGP DipSMed DFFP

MRS HELEN SANTRY

PRACTICE NURSES

BSc Nurse Practitioner CIDC FP Cert Nurse Prescriber

MRS DONNA DUNKLEY

RGN Cert Asthma

MRS JOY CUSHING

Health Care Assistant

Background

Clevedon Health Centre was built on the present site in 1971. Before then, the towns' GPs worked from a variety of large Victorian buildings, and the construction of the Health Centre marked the beginning of modern general practice in Clevedon. Since then, the building has been refashioned three times, the last being a major rebuilding project in 1999, which transformed it into the present Medical Centre.

There are three GP partnerships in the town, two of which work from Clevedon Medical Centre, the other practice having its recently modernised premises within the town.

Clevedon's population is approximately 24,000. This includes several surrounding villages. The town started as a small fishing village, which was adopted by the Victorians as a seaside resort as a result of the construction of the railway from Bristol in the mid nineteenth century. The Victorian town remains, though many of the larger houses have been turned into residential or nursing homes, which has a significant effect on the town demography and medical services.

Until the 1970s the town changed little, apart from some relatively limited post-war development. The railway ceased to exist under the care of Dr Beeching in the 1960s and in 1978 the award-winning Wynhol viaduct of the M5 was completed, between the Avonmouth Bridge and Clevedon. This enabled rapid expansion of housing development on land, which was part of the Somerset Levels. Because of its excellent road links, Clevedon is now mainly a commuter base for Bristol and the South West. There is some service and light industry locally, and employment on local farms. In addition, a large insurance company now has its headquarters on the outskirts of the town.

The original Victorian town still retains its charm, despite these changes. The famous pier, now rebuilt after its collapse following years of neglect, is one of the area's delights.

Clevedon is a small town with a strong sense of identity, despite the relatively recent expansion. There is a very active Community Centre, a Community Cinema (the oldest continually working cinema in Europe) and a leisure centre with swimming pool. The main community activities and societies include football, rugby, cricket and sailing clubs.

The Practice

Our practice was started by a GP who later became one of the founding members of the RCGP. There is a tradition of personal lists, which continues, but is now more flexibly interpreted, in line with increasing individual GP Specialisation and part-time working.

We are now five partners, with a total practice list size of approximately 7,500. We have one full time partner, looking after approximately 2,350 patients. The other two equivalent 'lists' are each shared between two part-time partners.

We have 2 GP retainers, who work four sessions a week each and we have a GP Registrar. A Nurse Practitioner manages chronic illness, (being particularly expert in diabetes) and also sees patients with acute problems. In addition, our Practice Nurse is developing expertise in the management of asthma, chronic airway disease, well woman care including contraception and also assessment of the vulnerable elderly. We also have a Health Care Assistant who sees our new patients and assists with taking blood pressure readings and helps with the disease management clinics.

We continue the original tradition of education and training. Two of the partners are trainers and we regularly have a registrar. Three times a year, students from Bristol have fortnight-long attachments within the practice.

As a practice, we have a strong philosophy of partnership and teamwork. We meet regularly and work hard to ensure good communication both between partners and the wider practice team. 'Away Days' are held annually, at which we not only discuss the past year's progress but plan for the future. We also meet regularly within 'protected' practice time for Practice Professional Development Plan meetings.

In 2002 both partnerships in the Medical Centre became PMS practices. This has enabled us to continue practice projects which we started under fundholding, and to start new initiatives, which including additional women's health and working towards early implementation of the National Services Frameworks in coronary heart disease and diabetes management.

Our practice financial policy reflects our general philosophy, with all profits being shared on the basis of time commitment, so that all income earned within the practice is shared between us.

The Partners

DR GILLIAN HOW, MRCP, DRCOG, FP Cert MFHom

Trained at Kings College Hospital Medical School and then on the Peterborough vocational training scheme.

Married with two children.

Practice interests include psychological aspects of family medicine, asthma, minor surgery and homeopathy. She is a Clinical Assistant at the Homeopathic Hospital.

Outside interests include choral music and singing.

DR PATRICIA HORRY, MRCP, DRCOG, MBChB, FPCert

Graduated from Leicester University in 1982. Joined the practice in October 1986.

Married with three children.

She has been a trainer since 1991.

Her practice interests include counselling techniques and women's medicine.

Outside interests include aerobics, tennis and reading.

DR CAROLINE PARFITT, MRCP, MBBS, DRCOG, CCP, FP Cert

Graduated from Guys Hospital Medical School in 1987. Joined the practice in December 1994.

Married with two children.

She has been a trainer since 1999.

Practice interests include paediatric surveillance and rheumatology

Outside interests include music, theatre and dance.

DR SIMON PAGE

Graduated from Bristol University in 1975. Joined the practice in June 2003. Formerly a GP in South Bristol.

Married with two grown up children and one grandson.

Practice interests include IT, Orthopaedic Medicine, Accident & Emergency Medicine, Ear Nose & Throat, Mental Illness and Care of the Elderly.

Outside interests include Hill & Mountain walking (usually accompanied by wife and dogs!), Sailing and Folk Music.

DR MARK RUSH

Graduated from St George's Hospital Medical School in London in 1998.

Married.

Practice interests include Minor Surgery, Sports Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Outside interests include walking and cycling (including duathlons), cooking and agriculture.

The Medical Centre

Clevedon Medical Centre is situated in the heart of the town, opposite Clevedon Cottage Hospital. The land behind the building includes the riverbank, which is home to many ducks and other birds. This area is being managed to increase the diversity of the wildlife.

The premises are owned by the two practices: Dr Bullock and partners and Dr Green and partners. We bought the building from the Health Authority, and planned and oversaw its recent transformation. The valuation of the building has benefited from the high quality of the development. We have been able to enlarge the car parking facilities, and further plans are in process.

Each Practice has its own Practice Manager and staff, although there a few staff members who are jointly employed, allowing us to share tasks and optimise working practices and services. The two partnerships meet regularly and enjoy a long tradition of fruitful collaborative working.

All staff use the EMIS computer software system, which was introduced in 1990. The Medical Centre is working towards paper-light status, although the pace of this change is determined in part by the ability to interface with hospitals' IT systems. The major upgrade to the system, with networked PCs for all clinicians, enabled NHS Net access.

The facilities at Clevedon Medical Centre include:

- 20 consulting rooms
- large fully equipped treatment room
- District Nurse base and store
- Health Visitor base
- Midwife base
- Health Education room
- Meetings rooms
- Counselling suite with library

Visiting health workers include:

- Practice-based counsellors
- Stress management physiotherapist (Community Mental Health Outreach)
- Drug and Alcohol Counsellors
- Orthoptist
- Community Paediatrician
- Dietitian
- Clinical Psychologist
- Continence Clinic
- Audiologist
- PCT-funded pharmacist

We also host or facilitate meeting of the local Patient Participation Group, which has supported us in community projects.

Clevedon has the following links:

District Nurse and Health Visitor Services

We are fortunate to have a particularly strong District Nursing team based at the Medical Centre, which is managed by the PCT. This enables the excellent communication which exists between medical and community nursing staff.

Primary Care Trust

Clevedon is part of the North Somerset PCT, which has its base in the town. There are regular GP forum meetings, which practice representatives are funded to attend. At present these are Drs Horry and Parfitt. The PCT has financed several initiatives including projects on prescribing, National Service Frameworks and access.

Secondary Care

Traditionally, Clevedon has links with the North Bristol Trust, which owns the Cottage Hospital. All the visiting consultants come from NBT, resulting in most of our referrals going in that direction. Referrals are also made to Weston Trust, which is geographically closer, but has fewer facilities. Some are also made to the United Bristol Healthcare Trust.

North Somerset PCT run the Cottage Hospital with links to NBT.

Social Services

Clevedon has close links with North Somerset Social Services, much of which is now based locally.

The Cottage Hospital

We are very fortunate to have the flourishing Cottage Hospital so close to the Medical Centre. Behind the listed façade there is a recently refurbished and extended building to which further alterations are planned.

Facilities include:

- 21 GP beds, with some single rooms

All GPs and registrars in the town have admitting rights. We use the beds for patients who live in the area:

who are unlikely to need more than two weeks inpatient care
who will benefit from medical intervention which does not require DGH facilities
who (and whose carers) need respite and/or rehabilitation
who need terminal care
who would benefit from blood transfusions

- Outpatient clinics

Consultants from all major specialities hold clinics in this new building.

- Physiotherapy
- Radiology
- Occupational Therapy
- Chiropody

- Minor casualty

This is used extensively by GPs for out of hours work and offers facilities for minor surgical procedures. It is used and much appreciated by local people and is open for their use until 9pm.

We hope that this profile of the area and the Green partnership has given some insight both into the area and to the character of our practice. We have a strong tradition of high quality care and are committed to continuing improvement. The new Medical Centre, together with advances in medical science and IT give us the opportunity to meet the challenges, which Primary Care undoubtedly faces.