

DUNSTER & PORLOCK

SURGERIES

Newsletter

September 2017

Dr. David Davies
MB ChB FFPHM MRCGP

Dr. Ian Kelham
MBChB, FRCGP

Dr. Benjamin Fawden
MA MBChB MRCGP

Dr. Catherine Sherry
BSC, MBChB, MRCGP

FLU CLINIC DATES:

(Patients need an
appointment)

Porlock Village
Hall
Tuesday 3rd October

Washford Village
Hall
Tuesday 10th
October

Dunster (Tithe
Barn)
Wednesday 18th
October

*Please phone to
Book *



Dunster Surgery
West Street, Dunster,
TA24 6SN

Porlock Medical Centre
Porlock
TA24 8PJ

Surgery news...

It's been a busy few months at the surgery with lots going on both on the front line and behind the scenes. The merger between Dunster Surgery and Porlock Medical Centre went as well as we could have hoped for in practical terms. In reality it should make little difference to you as patients accessing your health care but it does enable us to share staff more effectively and increase availability of appointments between the two sites. Any new faces you see in the coming months are likely to have been working at the sister site for some time!

After working 5 very long days a week for 21 years in West Somerset, Dr Ian Kelham plans to cut down his workload. To do this from the 1st October, Dr Kelham who will be 63 in November will cut a day a week from his schedule and from the beginning of 2018 he plans to cut out another day a week.

We are delighted that we have been able to recruit a new GP, Dr Catherine Sherry who will be working between the two surgeries, as will Dr Davies and Fawden

Dunster and Porlock Surgeries' Patient Participation Group

The Dunster and Porlock Surgeries' Patient Participation Group (PPG) was reformed in May 2017 with new and former patient members from each of the two surgeries (and from the former Brendon Hills practice). At any one time we expect to have 12 members broadly representative of the geographical spread of the patient population.

We are currently seeking an additional member to represent the younger generation of patients, so please do get in touch if you'd be interested.

A list of the current members will be displayed in each surgery and included in the PPG part of the surgeries' website.

The PPG plays an important role in helping to shape the services and facilities available at the combined practice. The PPG is independent of the surgery but works closely with the Practice Managers and GPs to help Dunster and Porlock Surgeries build an understanding of the patient's perspective.

We meet quarterly and the date of our next meeting can be found under the Minutes tab of the PPG section of the website.

We are always keen to hear your views on any aspect of your experience at Dunster and Porlock. There is a Suggestion Box in the surgeries for patients to give feedback and submit ideas, and all comments are shared with the PPG.

You can also provide the PPG directly with feedback and ideas to help us improve our local services via the 'Contacts' tab on the PPG part of the website.

Tim Forster – Chair of the PPG



Volunteers needed for meals on wheels service

Magna are looking for volunteers who could deliver meals to the elderly within a 10 mile radius of Watchet, one or two lunch times a week, between 11:45am and 1:30pm.

You would need to have your own transport and Magna will pay mileage of 45p a mile.

For more information about volunteering, please contact the sheltered housing and supported services team on:

0800 999 6130

admin-shss@magna.org.uk

Evening & Weekend Appointments

If you find it difficult to get to the surgery during normal working hours and would like an evening or Saturday morning appointment, Practices across West Somerset work together on a rota basis to provide evening and Saturday morning appointments for our shared patient lists.

Appointments are available until 8.00 pm Monday to Friday and up until 12.30 on a Saturday.

We regularly provide evening appointments on a Tuesday at Dunster surgery, but if one of these appointments does not suit your needs, we can help you arrange to be seen at one of the other practices in West Somerset on an evening that we do not provide appointments or on a Saturday morning.

The West Somerset Federation of GP Practices working together to provide improved services for patient care are: Dunster & Porlock Surgeries (Dunster), Exmoor Medical Centre (Dulverton), Harley House Surgery (Minehead), Irnham Lodge Surgery (Minehead) and West Somerset Healthcare (Williton).

Dunster Surgery Dispensary

From Tuesday 1st August 2017, Dunster Surgery Dispensary is closing for routine medication collection between 12pm and 2pm every day.

This decision has been made so that preparation of your medicines can take place in a quiet environment to ensure safety and care.

Your routine medicine will no longer be available for collection during these times and the Dispensary Team will not be available to speak to regarding routine queries.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you but hope you understand that your safety is our priority. This will only affect the Dispensary; the Reception will continue to be open as usual.

TRAINING at Dunster and Porlock surgeries.

We are fortunate in being a GP training practice, helping to train future generations of General Practitioners. There is usually one, or maybe two, GP trainees who you might see: all are fully qualified and experienced doctors who are looking to specialise in family medicine. Our newest trainee is Dr Rick Marsden who will be working between the two surgeries.

We are also delighted to be taking medical students over the coming months and showing them what life is like for a GP in West Somerset!

The Centre for Academic Primary Care's (CAPC) Teaching team has won the Education and Training Team of the Year Award at Health Education England South West's 2017 Star Awards.

The team won the award for the 'Whole Person Care Course', which uses innovative techniques, such as art and performance, to teach trainee doctors how to deliver truly patient-focused care. Our very own Dr Fawden is involved in this teaching scheme, so well done Ben!

Danni Sherring our Health Care Assistant has now completed her assistant practitioner training, enabling her to perform more reviews and procedures under supervision.

Mel Barry our Practice Nurse has completed her Asthma training and will soon be fully qualified in cervical smear taking.

USEFUL CONTACTS:

www.dunsterandporlocksurgeries.co.uk

PORLOCK SURGERY 01643 862575

DUNSTER RECEPTION 01643 821244

DUNSTER DISPENSARY 01643 822594 for repeat medication orders and enquiries.

This line is open between the hours of 9-11am and 3-5pm.