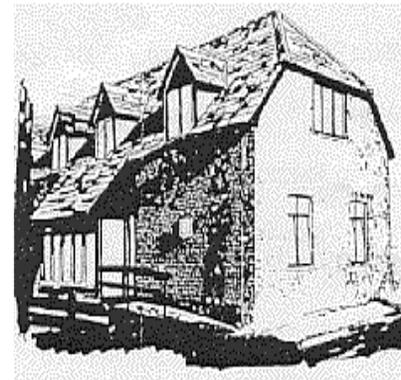


The Barn Surgery Patients' Participation Group



Dr Claire Farrer
MB BS (1993) MRCGP

Dr Ian Pidgeon
BM (2006) MRCP MRCGP

Message from the Patients' Participation Group:

Welcome to the Ferring Barn Surgery. The practice is run by three very caring and understanding doctors supported by a Practice Manager, Practice Nurse, Healthcare Assistants and Receptionists.

There is a Patients' Participation Group and all patients are automatically members of the Group - there are no membership fees. The Group is affiliated to the National Association for Patient Participation - the Patient's Voice in the NHS. The Association is represented on NHS Committees and Trusts nationwide to the highest levels of the NHS. The reason for the National Association for Patient Participation's existence is to be the Patients' Watchdog. The Barn Surgery group is managed by a patient elected Committee. The Practice doctors are ex - officio committee members. The aim of the group is to foster the welfare of all patients and an understanding relationship between the doctors and their patients and to buy various items of medical equipment, not available from the NHS, for the extra benefit of the patients.

You may be interested to know that since the Group was launched, the following is a sample of the equipment provided:

- Vitalograph (measures lung capacity)
- Defibrillator (used during heart attacks)
- ECG machines (concerned with heart attacks)
- Nebulisers (asthma relief)
- Chiropody equipment
- Fetal heart monitor

Over the years things wear out with constant use, and servicing and new batteries are needed.

You may be wondering how the Group is funded. During the past twelve years only two fund raising campaigns have been held, the rest of the fund has been donated voluntarily by patients who have their private reasons for wanting to keep the Practice up-to-date and well equipped; often in gratitude for the help and support received by the doctors. The fund is managed solely by the committee. All donations are treated with absolute confidence and only the Treasurer and Auditor know each donor's identity. No lists are kept and the doctors are not involved in finance. They never know who has, or has not, helped the group financially. The accounts are audited annually.

The Group holds three meetings a year in March, June and October. The doctors attend and speak to members on practice matters and equipment in an informal atmosphere. There is usually a speaker from the medical and health world. Notice of meetings is given in the surgery, the Parish Magazine and local press.

The doctors and committee hope that you will become interested in the Group, of which you are a member, and find the friendly and efficient health service offered by this Practice, helpful to you personally.

If you would like to make any comments, or complaints, please write to the Chair, Mr David Forder, 14 Chalet Road, Ferring, Worthing, BN12 5NY.