

SPECIAL EDITION

Welcome to this special edition of our Practice newsletter, which focuses on staffing changes at the Practice. Some of you may already have heard the news that Dr Claire Thirkell is retiring at the end of June and we are now pleased to be able to announce her replacement, Dr Amy O'Connell. We have also recently seen the retirement of one of our Practice Nurses who left us at the end of April.

Dr Claire Thirkell joined Heathgate in 1989 and has been a Partner for nearly 27 years. She is retiring from medicine, along with her husband Patrick, a GP in Great Yarmouth. Claire is looking forward to spending more time on two of her hobbies, dressmaking and quilting and travelling more, both here in the UK and abroad. She is hoping there may be time to take up some new hobbies too!

Claire will miss her interaction with her patients and we know many of you will also miss her clinical expertise, experience and caring manner. We are pleased that Claire's position in the Partnership will be taken by Dr Amy O'Connell, who some of you may already know as she has been working with us for the past nine months.

Dr O'Connell will provide continuity to Claire's patients' health and wellbeing over the years ahead and is looking forward to meeting those she has not already seen in surgery.

She has over the past few years gained experience working in different departments at our local hospitals and other Practices and is now looking forward to becoming a Partner at Heathgate Medical Practice.



Dr Claire Thirkell with Dr Amy O'Connell, who has been appointed a Partner

Amy is a keen musician and sings in a local quartet and has recently taken up dancing!



We have also recently said goodbye and happy retirement to Nettie Ridley, one of our Practice Nurses. Nettie was our longest serving employee of 19 years and retired at the end of April. She has recently become a Grandma for the first time and is looking forward to seeing more of her new grandson Cameron and, as a keen gardener, spending time in her garden, which she loves. Nettie would like to thank everyone for their kind words and good wishes for the future and like Dr Thirkell will miss so many of her patients and the staff at the Practice. We all wish Nettie a very happy and long retirement.

She will be replaced by Catherine, an experienced Practice Nurse joining us from Harleston Medical Practice mid May.