

Patient Participation Group 'Interview with a GP'

We have had a few changes in GP's over the last year or so and members of our Patient Participation Group have interviewed them to find out a little more about them.

Dr Grey

What immediately becomes apparent when talking to Dr Grey, Senior Partner at Riverside Surgery, is his passion for and commitment to his role, the future of GP Practice and the NHS.

He grew up in the small village of Aldbourne in Wiltshire and at school was interested in all subjects but with a preference for the sciences. Initially he was not sure what his career path would be except that it would be guided by his talent and aptitude for the sciences.

Halfway through his A' Levels he decided that medicine was the career for him citing two reasons: firstly, it would mean not having to get a job for five years (maybe said a little tongue in cheek) but, more importantly, that it would offer the perfect balance between the sciences and humanities. He added A Level chemistry to his studies and subsequently entered Liverpool University to study medicine in 2001, qualifying in 2006.

After qualification he worked at Whiston District General Hospital in Prescot, a very old building that still had corridor like Nightingale wards but gave him a broad experience and thorough foundation in medical practice. His initial ambition was to work in A&E as it offered buzz and excitement but he soon realised that it did not offer any long-term contact with his patients or the opportunity to see through the outcomes of treatment.

His move into General Practice was inspired by the opportunity to develop relationships with patients and their families that could be sustained over many years and that he could be a part of their medical journeys. For him General Practice was the embodiment of the original ethos of the NHS: free at the point of delivery medical care from cradle to grave.

Within the practice Dr Grey specialises in minor surgery, muscular skeletal and child health; skills that broaden and strengthen his enjoyment of the job. He is also an undergraduate, foundation doctor and GP trainer. These roles are particularly important to him as he is passionate about the future of the NHS and sees his training role as a vital part in ensuring the continuity and quality of future provision in General Practice and the NHS more broadly.

Dr Grey was married at his home last year and has four children ranging from four to twelve years of age. He also has an Old English Sheep Dog, chickens and several thousand bees: he really is living "the good life".

His hobbies include playing the guitar: he has an extensive collection of left-handed instruments and, as he explained, this is because each one offers a unique sound suited to a particular genre of music. He also loves gardening and tinkering with engines and admits that he is never happier than when covered in oil, mud or both!

As stated at the beginning of this profile, Dr Grey is a passionate believer in both GP Practice and the NHS. He does not believe that the government is committed to the "cradle to grave" principle and sees part of his role as a defender of the Partnership Principle of GP Practice and working tirelessly to defend the founding principles of the NHS.

Dr Lodge

Dr Lodge (MBCChB Liverpool, MRCP, DRCOG, DFFP) happened to be good at science subjects at secondary school. During A levels he applied to study medicine. He is the first in the family to become a doctor. He completed 5 years of medical training in Liverpool and continued to work in Liverpool at Aintree hospital. He went to New Zealand with his now wife and worked in rotation through Accident & Emergency, Palliative Care, Paediatric Medicine, Cardiology and Surgery.

On completing his GP training, he has worked in west Wirral and here at Riverside surgery. Dr Lodge's special interest and experience lends to palliative care, cardiology side of things including anti-coagulation and cancer. The surgery is a veterans accredited practice and Dr Lodge is the lead.

Dr Lodge is married with three children and they have a dog called Buddy, he is a Bernese Mountain dog. His hobbies include climbing, running and triathlon sports. He completed both the Boston Marathon and Iron Man Alaska in 2022. He very much enjoys working here and says the team are nice, friendly, empathetic and supportive.

Dr Hastings

Dr Hastings (MBCChB, MRCP) knew she wanted to be a doctor since attending secondary school. She studied at Leicester University for five years and a further two years in Northampton where she decided to be a GP, going on to apply for GP training in the northwest. She spent three years in Chester as a trainee GP and then worked in Warrington for 4 years, before moving to Riverside Surgery.

She is happily married with three children, one dog and two cats.

Dr Hastings works Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday as full days in the surgery and holds a wealth of experience and special interest in children's health, baby checks and women's health. She also works with, and is a trainer of, the foundation doctors at the surgery. She enjoys working at the surgery, saying 'there is a lovely team who are very supportive.

Dr Mohapatra

Dr Mohapatra (MBBS, MRCP, DFRH, PG Diploma Diabetes, DRCOG) had her basic medical training in India. She came to England to study further education but stayed due to series of turn of events. She has since worked in Scotland, Midlands, Essex, Buckinghamshire and now the Wirral as a GP. She has trained at Oxford deanery as a GP. She has worked at Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire as a GP for 12 years before moving to Wirral.

Dr Mohapatra has enjoyed the change of scene and enjoys living in the Wirral and is keen to be involved in community projects. She holds a wealth of experience and interest in diabetes, female health, contraception, mental health and addiction.

She has two daughters and one is currently training to be a doctor. She is an avid collector of books, especially on spiritual, mental health and psychology.

She has enjoyed moving to Riverside surgery and finds her experience working here very rewarding.

Dr Husein

Dr Husein grew up in several places in the UK including Scotland and Liverpool. His family are now in Staffordshire. He qualified in 2015 at the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth and then worked in North Wales, Bristol and Somerset, initially in hospitals.

A chance encounter with a man to whom he was able to give advice to control an illness which could have become very serious, led to his interest in general practice, seeing the value of early intervention in keeping us healthy. He also thought the working practices in General Practice would suit his lifestyle needs. He is interested in developing an expertise in the use of injections to improve joint mobility.

He is getting married this year so with that and work is not finding much time for hobbies but enjoys cycling and climbing when he can.

He comments that the NHS is clearly in a time of great change but hopes for the best as we move forward.

Dr Sargent

Dr Sargent grew up in the West Country near Bristol and studied medicine at Leicester University, qualifying in 2014. In the early part of his career he worked in Anaesthetics in hospitals but chose General Practice as he finds engaging with patients and their lives and building relationships more gratifying. He particularly enjoys Paediatrics (treating childhood illness) and hopes he may be able to develop this further.

He lives on Wirral with his partner and enjoys hobbies in the open air-foraging, hiking, biking and open water swimming.

He commented that the NHS is facing challenging times and solutions to its issues don't look easy but he will make sure he gives his best to the patients he sees and is looking forward to getting to know the community in Rock Ferry.