

# Community Bulletin

**Issue 1:** August 2018

## **Plans shape up for new surgery at Hatherleigh**

A planning application has been submitted by Ruby Country Medical Group for the creation of a GP surgery in central Hatherleigh.

The practice is asking West Devon Borough Council for permission to change the use of the former NatWest Bank building in the centre of town.

Work is under way in parallel to prepare for conversion work and the installation of secure IT connections, so the surgery could open as soon as possible if permission was granted.

NHS England also investigated the possibility of bringing in a temporary mobile surgery, but the long lead time, lack of guaranteed availability, limited sites and IT issues made this impracticable.

## **Premises in Shebbear**

Ruby Country Medical Group continues to explore options for securing suitable premises in Shebbear. Preliminary landlord discussions have been held.

This will always be a delicate process, but the practice is doing all it can to bring GP care back to the village as soon as it can.

## **Local collection of prescriptions**

A GP practice that wants to dispense medications itself – rather than via a pharmacy – has to get approval from NHS England. This requires a formal application, in line with national regulations.

Ruby Country is seeking dispensing rights for its patients in the Hatherleigh and Shebbear areas. An application has to be based in part on demand from patients, which the practice is collating.

### **Interim arrangements**

GP appointments continue to be offered at Holsworthy Medical Centre while the practice works on longer-term plans for both Hatherleigh and Shebbear.

Dr David Lee is the usual GP for patients from Hatherleigh and Shebbear. He will be joined by a further doctor, who has been appointed and is due to start in October. In the mean time, patients can see any of the GPs at the practice.

A free bus service operates every weekday to ferry patients to and from the surgery, though current take-up is not high.

Requests for repeat medications can be phoned or emailed to the practice, so no personal visit to the surgery is needed. Many of the local pharmacies can also arrange delivery of the prescribed medications to save on collection.

For full detail of arrangements for booking appointments, bus travel and repeat prescriptions, please refer to the letter sent to all patients in July or look at the practice website: [www.holsworthymedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.holsworthymedicalcentre.co.uk)

To contact Ruby Country Medical Group:

- Email: [D-CCG.HolsworthyMC-Reception@nhs.net](mailto:D-CCG.HolsworthyMC-Reception@nhs.net)
- Tel: 01409 253692

To contact NHS England, which commissions GP practices, please contact:

- Email: [england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net)
- Tel: 0113 825 5299 (office hours)

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- Email: [england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net)
- Telephone: 0113 825 5299