

Dear patients,

After 30 years as your GP, I have decided to hang up my stethoscope.

My wife and I got married in April 1994 and we moved to Scarborough, with me starting work two weeks later. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to have looked after so many of you past and present and to have been here for you when you have needed attention. It has been an honour to have been part of so many of your lives and as an "old school GP".

The practice was smaller when I arrived. We originally used paper Lloyd George records stored in disused ammunition boxes from the First World War and then moved onto cardboard boxes before digitisation and the computer age arrived. So much has changed over the years and we have not used paper records now for the best part of 24 years. In our area, our Practice was one of the first local Practices to go 'paperless'. Since then, the Practice has continued to expand and includes South Cliff and Danes Dyke Surgeries. The Practice patient list size continues to grow apace, as do the number of staff we need to support the GP Partners in meeting the ever-increasing demands on our finite resources. Our clinical team also continues to grow and when I leave as a GP Partner, I will be replaced by Dr Hannah McQuade who will become your new GP partner and we have recently recruited other GP's to fill her position. I will continue to support the Practice's desire to move the Danes Dyke surgery into bigger, better premises more suitable for this century and I know colleagues are pushing hard with the Commissioner and NHSE to make this happen.

As I retire, I am intending to spend more time with my family. We have two grown up children, my daughter is following the medical line and is an oncology Staff nurse in Manchester. I will have time to indulge my two passions cars and football and I hope to be able to follow Newcastle United home and away, even into Europe should we qualify again! I am also looking forward to getting out on my bicycle, return to playing Golf and hitting the gym more often. I might even start drawing and painting again.

I know I am leaving the practice in safe hands with a great team and forward-thinking people, I have loved being your GP and will miss you all.

Best wishes and I hope to be able to say goodbye personally to many of you before I go.

Remember in Life you need .. " A wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone"

Dr Mark Laws