



EVE HILL MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

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DR SMART IS RETIRING

After 41 years in the NHS – 37 of them here at Eve Hill (formerly Grange Road) – it's with a heavy heart that I say goodbye. My last working day will be Tuesday, 3rd June.

So much has changed during my time here: we've gone from shared premises and handwritten records with just one practice nurse between three practices, to the large, IT-enabled, multidisciplinary team we are today.

In my family, we always reflect on the "highs and lows" at the end of every holiday – and thinking back on my time here, there are far too many highs to count. Some stand-out moments include the excitement of building our own premises (and that unforgettable snowed-in opening night!), and of course, the incredible achievement of becoming the first practice in the area to receive a CQC 'Outstanding' rating. But the greatest high has always been the people – the colleagues, patients, and friends I've had the joy of working with every day. Whether it was a shared laugh, a small act of kindness, or a word of encouragement on a stressful day, these moments have meant more to me than you'll ever know.

As for lows – very few, thankfully. The most difficult period was undoubtedly the lockdown, when we couldn't see each other in person. But even that reminded us of how much we value connection, and how precious it was to return, slowly, to a new normal.

One of my favourite sayings – borrowed from a postcard that sat on my father's desk – is: "Constant change is here to stay." I can think of no better way to describe working in the NHS. But through all the changes, one thing has remained constant: my deep gratitude for the amazing Dudley folk I've had the honour to serve.

Thank you all

Dr V Smart

