

# Articulus

GP News - Autumn/Winter 08

## Welcome to our latest GP newsletter



The summer weather has proved to be dull, but life at The Horder Centre has been anything but. We have had an exciting few months with new staff and Consultants being appointed and events such as our Golf Day being held.

We have received fantastic news that The Horder Centre is to be the West Kent Chamber of Commerce and Industry charity of the year for 2008/2009. You can read all about these developments and more throughout this issue of GP news.

In this edition you'll also read an interesting report from the Chair of our Medical Advisory Committee, Mr Michael Fordyce about longer lasting joint replacements. We explain how we are promoting Free Choice door to door and show how the Centre is well placed to respond to the increasing demand for our services.

May I also take this opportunity to refer you to our fine selection of Christmas cards that can now be purchased from the fundraising department. This year I am delighted to say that our fundraising team have produced a beautiful charity calendar that is also now on sale.

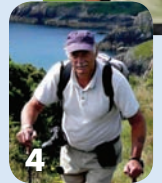
I hope you enjoy this, our last issue of Articulus for 2008. Remember you can always keep in touch with events and find out more about our work by logging on to our website [www.hordercentre.co.uk](http://www.hordercentre.co.uk)

With warm regards

**Diane Thomas**  
Chief Executive, The Horder Centre

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## Three new Consultants for The Horder Centre

We are delighted to announce that three new Consultants to the Centre were granted Practice Privileges at a Medical Advisory Committee on 14th August. They are Mr Richard Slack, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, lower limb, from the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust; Mr Oliver Keast-Butler, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, lower limb; and Dr Christopher Scanlon, Consultant Anaesthetist, both from the Conquest Hospital in Hastings. We welcome them to The Horder Centre and look forward to working with them.

## Autumn Golf Day hailed a great success

On one of the few sunny days this year we held our annual fundraising golf tournament. The event was held on Monday 8th September at the East Sussex National Golf Resort near Uckfield and was attended by nearly 100 players.

Teams were made up of Consultants, suppliers, former patients and supporters of The Horder Centre. Everyone set off with a shot gun start at 12pm and completed the course in around 4-5 hours. There were practice facilities available before the start and a putting competition took place once play had finished.

Guests then enjoyed an evening supper in the club house. The master of ceremonies was Mr Mike Theobald, a long term supporter of The Horder Centre, and the address was made by Mr Andrew Skyrme, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon. The Awards ceremony was hosted by Karen Planterose, Director of Operations and prizes were presented by Mr Ken Tuson, our Clinical Director.

Awards were presented to overall winner Scott Tingley, second placed John Philips and third placed Mark Turner. The best lady award went to Deirdre Winchester and the runner up was Sue Farrant. A raffle was also held on the evening with prizes kindly donated by suppliers and supporters of The Horder Centre.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended we raised a fantastic total of £1,600.

Commenting on the day, Diane Thomas, our Chief Executive said; "We have had an excellent day and I have been overwhelmed by the support and generosity received from all our supporters. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank all of The Horder Centre employees and the staff at the East Sussex National Golf Resort who contributed to the smooth running of the event.

All the proceeds raised at the event go towards the Centre's charitable purpose and make our care and treatment programmes accessible to as many patients as possible."



## Increasing activity and responding to local demand

As a result of a recent growth in patient numbers, The Horder Centre is well placed to achieve its aim of becoming the elective orthopaedic centre of 'choice' in its core catchment area.

Our last financial year was particularly successful with activity increasing by 68% over the previous year: Over 75% of our patients are now referred via their GP's using the 'Patient Choice' route.

Over the past year we have identified a number of key changes in the profile of our patients.

- Interestingly over half of our patients are under 65, with 25% under 50 years of age.
- The number of day cases we see has increased to 40% whilst we have also seen an increase in the total number of joint replacements carried out in the past 12 months.

These figures really demonstrate the impact 'Patient Choice' is having for individual patients and Centre's like ours that treat them. The flexibility that 'Patient Choice' brings means that patients are proactively choosing where to have their treatment and can therefore benefit from the advantages a specialist independent (and charitable) hospital, such as The Horder Centre can offer. These advantages include; reduced waiting times, exceptional levels of cleanliness, excellent clinical outcomes and outstanding patient feedback.

The Horder Centre is positively responding to these new demands. We work strenuously to maintain our excellent relationships with many GPs and develop new ones wherever possible. If at anytime you would like to visit our Centre first hand or need more information about what we do, please don't hesitate to contact Christine Bacon, our Executive Team PA.

## Who's who in Orthopaedics

The consultants that work with The Horder Centre include:

### General

Mr Kenneth Tuson

### Upper and Lower Limb

Mr Per Anderberg

Mr James Buchanan

Mr Paul Skinner

### Lower Limb

Mr Hugh Apthorp

Mr Andrew Armitage

Mr Adrian Butler-Manuel

Mr Michael Fordyce

Mr James Ritchie

Mr Guy Selmon

Mr Richard Slack

Mr Andrew Skyrme

Mr Sentil Kumar Velayudham

Mr Oliver Keast-Butler

### Upper Limb

Mrs Lisa Leonard

Mr James Nicholl

Mr Mark Pickford

## Integrated Governance – Your Help Appreciated

The Benefits of Integrated Governance are:

- Improved risk management
- Improved clinical and patient safety
- Operational efficiencies
- Reducing cost of litigation claims
- Supporting management reporting requirements for us, our regulators and customers.

Because it is important that Governance is integrated between clinical, commercial and financial operations, we have a new committee that reviews all patient outcomes such as re-admissions, re-operations, deaths, PEs, DVTs, infections etc. They will also review any incidents, accidents or risks identified throughout the Centre.

If any of your patients have problems or concerns following discharge from the Centre. Please don't hesitate to contact our In Patients Matron or Senior Nurse in Charge on 01892 665577.



## 'Viewpoint'

...Update from our Medical Advisory Committee Chairman

### New hope for longer lasting joint replacements

Approximately 1 in 10 hip replacement operations and 1 in 20 knee replacement operations are revision operations of failed primary joint replacements. These revision operations are on average twice as complicated as the primary operation. The recovery period is longer and the prosthesis used are many times more expensive than the primary prosthesis.

Therefore there has been a constant effort to try and improve the longevity of primary joint replacements. This is especially necessary as the number of hip and knee replacements is rising quickly and is forecast to continue to do so for many decades to come. Also the average age at the time of replacement is lowering and the average life expectancy is increasing.

A great deal of effort and research has been undertaken to try and improve the longevity of joint replacements, and hopefully the burden of revision surgery will reduce.

Most joint replacements fail due to the joint surfaces wearing and causing the implant to loosen. The most common parts to wear are the polyethylene sockets of a hip replacement and the polyethylene surface of the tibial component in the knee replacement.

Alternative bearing surfaces have therefore been developed for hip replacements; metal-on-metal, ceramic-on-ceramic and metal on much stronger polyethylene (highly cross linked) which

are now being used and all of these are available at The Horder Centre.

Knee replacements still have to be made of metal on polyethylene. The hope is that with the new, stronger plastic, these will also be longer lasting.

All the above options have various advantages and disadvantages but it appears likely that the present generation of joint replacements should outlive their predecessors.

**Mr Michael J F Fordyce FRCS  
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

### Our Clinical Director, Ken Tuson steps aside after five years in the role



After five very successful years as The Horder Centre's Clinical Director, Mr Ken Tuson is to retire from his post. Ken took over when our

former Surgical Director Mr Charles Gallannaugh retired, having worked as an Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Centre since 1990.

As well as holding an important role at the Centre, Ken has been Orthopaedic Regional Advisor to the Royal College of Surgeons in the South East; Chairman of the Regional Higher Training Committee and an author of specialist orthopaedic training literature. He is also particularly interested in training in the third world and has held the position of President of World Orthopaedic Concern.

Diane Thomas Chief Executive of The Horder Centre said, "Throughout his 18 years at the Centre Ken has been a truly committed member of the team. He has played an important role in developing The Horder Centre into one of the UK's Centre's of Excellence for orthopaedic surgery. For that we thank him. We look forward to working with him in the future as he will remain working with us as a surgeon under practice privileges."

### We're promoting Free Choice door to door

As part of our ongoing strategy to attract new NHS patients to The Horder Centre, we have undertaken promotional activity aimed at potential patients in our local catchment area. The promotion saw leaflets arriving through over 60,000 letterboxes during early October. The leaflets explain why more and more people are choosing The Horder Centre and how NHS patients can access our treatment through their GP via Free Choice. Just in case you haven't seen a leaflet here is a summary.

#### Why people choose The Horder Centre for their NHS treatment:

- Cleanliness is a top priority – in 2007, 99% of our patients rated cleanliness as very good
- Accessible to all with exceptional services including free parking on site, complimentary refreshments and a television and telephone in every bedroom
- Consistent reputation for successful diagnosis, surgery and treatment with good clinical outcomes, monitored by the Healthcare Commission
- Quality care provided by dedicated and experienced staff
- Reduced waiting times ensuring that from GP referral to hospital treatment, patients do not wait longer than 18 weeks.

#### How NHS patients can access The Horder Centre via their GP

The easiest way for your patients to access The Horder Centre is by using the Department of Health's Choose and Book referral service. As you are aware Choose and Book is an online referral service which allows patients to choose the place, date and time of their first outpatient appointment, in conjunction with their GP.

These four easy steps explain how it works.

**Step 1:** Following consultation with the General Practitioner, if it is clinically indicated a patient may be referred to an orthopaedic specialist.

**Step 2:** The GP gives the patient a Unique Booking Reference Number (UBRN).

**Step 3:** The UBRN is the patient's passport to Choose and Book. GPs (or other surgery staff) can use this service to book appointments with The Horder Centre online, or the patient can book their appointment online at home by visiting [www.healthspace.nhs.uk](http://www.healthspace.nhs.uk). Alternatively patients can call the appointment line on 0845 60 88888.

**Step 4:** The Horder Centre will access the patient's referral electronically and contact them in writing to confirm their appointment.



## Jim's story

"Unable to walk, cycle, dance or comfortably play bowls for the last two to three years, I urged my GP to consider me for a complete knee replacement. However, at the age of 68, he said I was too young. After much persistence I was finally accepted by my local Primary Care Trust. Their guidelines state that operations should be carried out within six months and with my six month deadline fast approaching, I was contacted and asked if I wouldn't mind travelling from Folkestone in Kent to The Horder Centre in Crowborough. Of course not, what enormous luck it was to be accepted by such a hospital. My first knee operation performed in June 2007 was, after dedicated home physio and an individual exercise plan, a complete success. So much so that under the Choose and Book system I requested that my second knee operation be undertaken at The Horder Centre, which it successfully was in January 2008.

From the Reception team upwards I received fantastic care by all. The attention by the medical and physiotherapy staff was quite overwhelming, even the catering team couldn't do enough for me. I tell friends



and family that it was like being poorly in a five star hotel! I have much gratitude toward everyone at The Horder Centre for getting my life back on track and putting the years of pain behind me.

As my wife and I are keen caravanners, we started our holiday this year at Kingsbury Water Park site. We cycled a 24 mile round trip on the Birmingham & Fazely canal towpath as well as around the water park itself. From here we headed to the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path National Park where with rucksack, walking poles and lunch at the ready, we headed off for many pain free scenic walks along this beautiful part of the British Isles. These pictures were taken near Stackpole Quay and as you can see, are proof that a great quality of life can return. I am so privileged, that thanks to The Horder Centre, I am now able to partake in the pastimes I love and enjoy.

I will forever be in debt to The Horder Centre and its staff. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

**Jim Wraight**

## Consultant Focus – Guy Selmon



"I have been a Consultant for five years after becoming a Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons in 1997. My special interests

are adult spinal surgery and joint arthroplasty.

Qualifying from Guy's Hospital, I spent a year at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, South Australia studying a spinal fellowship before beginning my current position. At the moment my work is split 50% spinal work and 50% joint replacement and general orthopaedics.

I am a member of the General Medical Council, British Orthopaedic Association, The Medical Protection Society and am also Regional Coordinator of National Joint Registry.

I've worked at The Horder Centre for nearly five years now. It's a fantastic place to work - a dedicated orthopaedic unit in which the staff clearly enjoy working means efficiency and a high quality service is assured.

....and finally when I am not working I enjoy spending my free time playing a game of golf, cricket or tennis."

## West Kent Chamber of Commerce – Charity of the Year

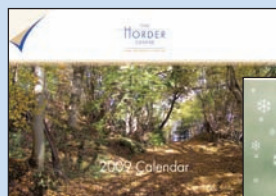
We were absolutely thrilled to have been recently informed that The Horder Centre is to be the West Kent Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WKCCI) charity of the year for 2008/2009. This is a real honour for the Centre as we are a relatively new member of the organisation. This recognition will enhance our profile in the West Kent business community and will also help raise much needed funds.

As well as providing a forum where businesses can come together, WKCCI is very much part of the local community and counts 11 charities among its members. We are therefore proud to be associated with the Chamber.

"We choose a charity each year and raise funds for that organisation at our Business Exchange Evenings, as well as at our Golf Day and Charity Ball," commented Jackie Matthias, Chief Executive of WKCCI.

The Chamber celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and the Charity Ball held on the 3rd October had a golden theme to mark the occasion. It was announced at the Ball that The Horder Centre is the Chamber's supported charity for 2008/2009.

For more information visit: [www.wkcci.com](http://www.wkcci.com)



## Christmas Cards and Calendar Now On Sale

**All new selection for 2008, plus  
our new 2009 Charity Calendar.**

Each year we offer a selection of Christmas cards and this year is no exception. Plus this season we've also introduced a new 2009 charity calendar which will make a perfect Christmas gift. With the generosity of our patients, supporters and friends the money raised does make a significant difference to our fundraising efforts. You can view this year's choices and download an order form online at [www.hordercentre.co.uk](http://www.hordercentre.co.uk) - if you get the chance please log on and take a look or email our Fundraising Assistant at [angela.reynolds@horder.co.uk](mailto:angela.reynolds@horder.co.uk)