



Newsletter November 2016

Hastings Old Town Surgery PETITION

HOTRA are organising a petition to support Dr Craig Namvar and his colleagues. They are trying to get Hastings Council to grant a Change of Use to turn the former Ice House in Rock a Nore Road into a surgery fit for the needs of present day patients.

We are asking for your support because:

- 1] There is a national shortage of G.P.'s. New premises would help to attract and retain G.P.'s to work in the Old Town. [Do you know that all G.P. work in Rye is currently done by locums ?]
- 2] The Old Town Surgery patient list is over 8,500. The existing building is inadequate. Additional provision / services like physiotherapy cannot be provided because there is no space.
- 3] Pressure on the Conquest and other hospitals means that local surgeries should provide as many front line services as possible. Without the space that cannot happen. The new surgery would have over 20 treatment rooms.
- 4] Dr Namavar would like a comprehensive service including a pharmacy, a dentist an optician, a small gym, a healthy eating cafe.
- 5] Failure to secure a Change of Use will prevent a modern service being provided in the Old Town. Then the search would be for premises outside the Old Town. This would put local residents at a great disadvantage.
- 6] Parking is already a problem with the Bourne car park often full during the day. Patients need to access their G.P. and nursing services between 8.00am and 4.00 Monday to Friday. The Rock a Nore car park is only ever full on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer. Thus car dependent patients will have a large car park to use which would be closer than the existing parking. It will also ease congestion in the High Street.

7] The Old Town has a large number of people aged 70 and above, many living alone. Residents at Old Hastings House and Bourne Court add to the total. For these individuals their future medical needs are best served by a new surgery.

Please support and sign the petition. REMEMBER you must either live or work within the town of Hastings and St Leonards.

Hastings Storytelling Festival 7th - 13th November

There will be a wide range of events to promote the Art of the Spoken Word. In the 2 weeks beforehand an Artist and a Storyteller will be in residence in local schools. The children will then be invited to take part in the closing Childrens Day on the Stade. On Sunday 13th, from 12 onwards there will be a mix of activities including a puppet theatre, a large whale that you can sit inside to hear stories and much more. The Festival will be concluded by a parade around the Old Town. All these events are FREE.

Dame Jacqueline Wilson is the main act at 2 pm at the White Rock Theatre on Saturday 12th. Her stories about 'looked after' children are widely read. These include Hetty Feather - a Victorian foundling. Many of her stories feature on CBBies.

Did you know that our Patron Sir Quentin Blake discovered a living dinosaur in Rock a Nore Road this summer ? **Rockanaurus** is wonderful because it can also speak. It wants local children to explain why they keep talking to a piece of plastic they hold in their hand. Drawings of **Rockanaurus** are included in the programme booklet.

FULL DETAILS OF THE EVENTS CAN BE SEEN AT www.hastingsstoryfest.org.uk
If you have time take a look at Jacqueline Wilson's wonderful website.