



*St Stephen's Gate Medical Partnership
Patient Participation Group
Newsletter Autumn 2023*



***Maxine Copson
Nurse Partner, Queen's Nurse***

Maxine is retiring on the 31 December after a career in the NHS spanning 42½ years.

She has been at St Stephen's Gate Medical Practice since it opened in 2006 and prior to that worked with Dr Gall, Dr Pyper and Dr Cafferty at Unthank Road surgery where she was initially the only nurse in the surgery.

Her career began in May 1981 when she started her nurse training at Peterborough Hospital. She finished working in the hospital as the Sister on the Coronary Care Unit in 1986.

Having met on the Respiratory Medicine Ward in Peterborough Hospital over a chest drain, she and Dr Copson moved to Norfolk in 1986 where he commenced his GP training. Maxine got her first taste of working in the community as a Practice Nurse at Newtown Surgery in Great Yarmouth in 1989.



They subsequently moved to Norwich and Maxine started her Nurse Practitioner degree at UEA. She completed this while working and caring for 3 children under 5 which gives a good insight into her work ethic – something that has not changed as she comes up to retirement.

When St Stephen's Gate Medical Practice opened in 2006 it was an amalgamation

When asked about the achievement of which she was most proud, she had no hesitation in answering that it was the development of the practice nursing team.

APPOINTMENTS

If you book an appointment and find you no longer need it, please ring 01603 228686 and **press 1 for the cancellation line.**

This means the appointment can then be freed up for someone else and this way we all benefit.

Maxine Copson: Nurse Partner, Queen's Nurse

of three practices – Unthank Road, Victoria Street, and part of West Pottergate surgery. Since that time Maxine has made it her mission to build a strong and skilled nursing workforce as well as supporting all staff working within the surgery.

In recognition of her commitment to the development of nursing in the community and as someone who has advocated for them and their role, she has the honour of being a Queen's Nurse and was also made a nurse partner in the practice in 2009.

We discussed some of the difficulties of working in the NHS – the ever-increasing demand, the aftermath of the covid pandemic and funding issues - and she is happy that SSG has risen to these challenges and continues to strive to provide excellent patient care.

Her three children have all grown up to work in the NHS as a doctor, a nurse and a paramedic. Must be in the genes.

When asked what she would miss in her retirement she replied that it will be her patients and colleagues. She will not miss getting up in the dark to walk her dogs.

Dr Copson is already enjoying retirement so will no doubt be able to give Maxine some tips about how to spend her time, but she is looking forward to seeing more of her family, reading some fiction, travelling to Ipswich Town away games (retirement can't all be fun!) and intends to learn British Sign Language.

As for the practice, we are sure we will not fully appreciate how much Maxine does for us all daily until she is no longer here but are immensely grateful for her contribution to the practice and the care it provides.

Maxine was in conversation with Melissa Korn, GP partner

Maxine has seen practice nursing change from a task orientated service, doing things like dressings, vaccinations and smears to a service which is integral to the provision of primary care; providing care for people with chronic diseases, managing acute illness, requesting investigations, and prescribing medication all of which frees up GPs to provide more complex care.



PPG wishes to thank Maxine for all she had done for the practice, including her strong support of the PPG. We wish her a very happy retirement. *Noreen Neal*

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