



**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## Patients rush to register as surgery shuts

Patients at the Cherry Tree Surgery in Southern Road, N2, have been forced to register with a new GP after receiving letters informing them that their doctor had resigned and the practice was closing by December 31.

With 3,268 patients listed on the surgery's website, they were given a list of 86 alternative practices "within a three mile radius of the Cherry Tree Surgery and close to where you live" (although some seemed rather distant).

Not surprisingly, people were soon queuing to register at their nearest surgery, East Finchley Medical Centre in Baronsmere Road. The professional way staff there dealt with the situation was admirable, some being specially assigned to assist applicants with the necessary form-filling.

### 'No option' but to resign

Many people were upset and in disbelief at the news that Dr Sergio De Cesare, their popular doctor at the Cherry Tree Surgery, had resigned. The letter they received from the Head of Primary Care NHS stated: "This has been a difficult decision for Dr De Cesare but due to the outcome of the inspections and changes to his status as a GP, Dr De Cesare feels he now has no option but to resign from his contract, to enable him to focus on returning fully to practise as a GP."

### CQC reports raise questions

Last year's June and November editions of *The Archer* reported on two previous Care Quality Commission inspections which, despite time and additional support for improvement being instigated, did not result in a turnaround.

A rating of 'inadequate' was applied to categories of safety, effectiveness, responsiveness and leadership, and the caring aspect was judged to be 'requiring improvement'.

Some patients who read this and also the full CQC reports could not marry them up with the doctor they knew and respected. Dr De Cesare was regarded by many as one of the best in the area and people are puzzled as to why there is little mention of actual medical care. They also suspect that single-handed practitioners are no longer looked upon favourably.

Indeed, one of the conditions imposed on Dr De Cesare states that "he needs to be supervised by another doctor to continue practising". This has not proved to be possible at Cherry Tree Surgery.



Read all about it: Siobhan and Vasco D'Gama take *The Archer* to Easter Island.

## Stone me! Is that a copy of The Archer?

This month *The Archer* celebrates 25 years of bringing news to readers in East Finchley but if this picture is anything to go by it seems our circulation area might be spreading beyond the boundaries of N2. Turn to our silver jubilee coverage on pages 6-7 to find out more.

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