

### **New Charity**

We're in the process of setting up a new Friends of Ashby Health Centre Charity. The aim of this charity is to raise money to use for equipment and services which aren't available on the NHS to benefit Ashby Health Centre patients. This charity will be registered with the charities commission and the money will be controlled by an independent body of trustees. If you'd like any more information on the charity or wish to donate please contact Sue Barker, the Practice Manager.

### **Get to know us a bit better on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

We're going to be having a stall at the Ashby Food & Drink Festival on the Bath Grounds on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It'll be a chance to see our plans for the new building; for us to answer questions about how the surgery works and take suggestions from patients; for patients to meet and find out more about our Patient Participation Group and last but not least; a chance for us to fund raise for our new charity. We look forward to seeing as many patients as possible on the day.

### **Doctor Leaving**

We're really sorry to tell patients that Dr Thorne is leaving us at the end of April. We've tried to recruit a doctor to replace him but without success. Due to the pressures of working in general practice many doctors are choosing to retire early or leave the profession. There's also a reduction in the number of doctors choosing to train as GPs. This means that there is a shortage of GPs and many practices are in a similar situation nationwide.

Fortunately we have been able to find a locum, Dr Rawat, to work 3 days a week for us from May until August to help fill the gap. In the meantime we are still trying to recruit a doctor to replace Dr Thorne with a permanent GP and hope to have some news on this in the next few months.