

# Derbyshire General Practice Champions

## Dr (Mr) Justin Walker

Senior Partner, [Stewart Medical Centre, Buxton](#)  
GP lead at High Peak Place  
Dementia and Mental Health lead at North Derbyshire CCG



### Career Journey:

Applied for medicine because my friend did and I thought it had the best pulling power.

Officially the worst ever medical student Edinburgh 1988-1993, was called to prove my identity in a Pharmacology pass/fail oral, my first clinical supervisor made strenuous attempts to get me thrown out, saved only by the intervention of the Professor of Medicine. Within 5 years of finishing medical school had got married, Diploma of Child Health, both parts of Surgical Fellowship, post on Basic Surgical Training Scheme and two children, with a view to a career in Paediatric Surgery.

Then suckered into going to Professorial Unit @ Great Ormond Street to buff my CV. Was the first ever Paediatric Surgeon to be awarded an MRC personal grant to complete the research that I hated with every living fibre of my being, was working 100+ hours being on call to pay the bills, went a bit mental, resigned, had 3<sup>rd</sup> child, long spells as locum Paed Surg Reg at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford allowed me to feel useful again, came to Sheffield 2001 as SpR in Paediatric Surgery.

Marriage failing, I was supported in taking a year's break from Paediatric Surgery and via Chesterfield Training scheme accessed GPVTS. Never went back, no longer an imposter, I recall almost falling off my seat when asked how I felt about a case.

Partner at the Stewart Medical Centre, Buxton since 2006, divorced 2008. Met Penny 2009, Senior Partner since 2015, 4<sup>th</sup> child 2011, 5<sup>th</sup> child 2013.

### Best piece of advice I ever received:

There's nowt so queer as folk" – my Nana

"I'm not scared" – my Father

"Care not cover" – Ken Ballantyne, Consultant Surgeon

"Surgery is war, avoid at all costs" – Miss Agrawal, Consultant Surgeon

"Have faith, be patient" - me