



#### CAREER LANDMARK:

Dr Joseph Chandy celebrates with fellow staff members and friends

Picture: DAVID WOOD

## GP celebrates 40 years of work

A GP is celebrating 40 years of looking after his community.

Dr Joseph Chandy, from the Shinwell Medical Group, in Horden, east Durham, is thought to be one of the longest-serving doctors in the country.

The Indian-born medic arrived in Horden in November 1970.

In 1988, Dr Chandy opened the first nursing home in Horden, which was the largest single private investment in the village after the closure of its colliery.

The practice has grown from 2,900 to 5,700 patients and has a substantial branch in Peterlee Health Centre. Dr Chandy is assisted by three GPs - Muhammed Sharjeel, Oliver Barnsley and Mala Kalita.

In 2006, Dr Chandy featured on the BBC programme *Inside Out* for his groundbreaking findings in relation to vitamin B12 deficiency. Two months ago, he was awarded the Glory of India award for his outstanding contribution to his adopted country.

Dr Chandy has been invited to Downing Street to meet David Cameron on Tuesday. Patients held a celebration for him yesterday to show their appreciation.

Dr Chandy, who has no plans to retire, said: "I always say put patients first and you cannot go wrong.

"At Shinwell Medical Group, we aim to provide first-class holistic quality care and promote wellbeing."