

Kingstone surgery newsletter

The end of this month marks Dr Warner's retirement as the senior partner at Kingstone surgery. He has been a partner here for twenty six years and steered the practice through many phases. We will all miss him, and although he is stopping clinical practice – after a break- will still be on hand to help us with some managerial guidance. I am also delighted to say he will be on the local GP federation board, helping to support general practice across the county so his expertise will be put to good use.

We would like to thank you for your many cards to him this month.

There are two events being hosted in the village to offer the chance to say goodbye. They are Saturday 30 April 2.00 - 4.00pm and Saturday 21 May 2.00 - 4.00pm both in the village hall.

In more staff news, Dr Alix Ritson is now back from maternity leave, and we are sorry that Dr Kirsty Mills- who provided cover during her absence- has returned to her family in Northern Ireland.

We have started the 'Spring Booster Campaign' for vaccinating people aged 75 years and over. We have already held one clinic, but have no control over our vaccine supply. In some surgeries, supply cancellations have meant them having to cancel clinics at the last minute, with disruption to many. As a result, we have decided not to book anyone in until supply has actually been delivered. We will be contacting all our eligible patients in due course, and there may be a relatively short time frame between contact and the appointments. If you are keen to get a vaccine from elsewhere, the local Herefordshire General Practice website is very helpful with information about walk in vaccination clinics and a link to the National Booking website.

<https://www.herefordshiregeneralpractice.co.uk/for-patients/vaccination-clinics>

Vaccinations are also starting across the country for 5-11 year olds. We will not be doing this at Kingstone, and parents should have been written to by the NHS.

We are very pleased that Hannah Martell is starting to work at Kingstone every Tuesday. Hannah is a 'prescribing paramedic' who is skilled at managing acute illness such as urinary tract infections/ chest infections/gout/bites/back pain and much more! Her background in emergency care will be really useful to us, and she has been working in Fownhope surgery for some time before coming to us. This is the first time we have had a paramedic working at Kingstone, and we are really looking forward to it. Please help reception if they offer an appointment with her.

Finally, I would like to share what I have been reading this month. 'Recovery: The lost art of convalescence' by Dr Gavin Francis is a gentle, thoughtful book about contemporary medicine and its limits. It is full of hopeful insights and stories and would be a delightful (and short) read for anyone, but especially if recovering from illness.

Dr Rosie Wellesley.