

## Kingstone Newsletter September 2022

There is suddenly an autumnal feel, and that means one thing to us... flu clinics. We have finally had the announcement we can deliver flu and covid vaccinations simultaneously again this year. Flu and COVID jabs are offered to anyone over 50, and those 'at risk' under this age. Our first clinic on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> is filling up fast, although we still have many slots available for the under 65 years. Keep an eye on the Kingstone surgery website for more clinic announcements.

Autumn also means are sadly saying goodbye to Dr Alix Ritson. Dr Ritson started at Kingstone as a partner shortly before the pandemic, and since then has had a daughter. We will miss her clinical wisdom and guidance and wish her all the best for her young family.

NHS structuring: As you are aware more and more NHS funding is going into 'Primary care Networks' rather than direct to practices. This is to build resilience into the system and share clinical staff. As a result, our 'extended access' early morning appointments will now unfortunately no longer be provided from Kingstone, but from other Primary care Network sites. We pitched hard to have them from here, but sadly as a smaller surgery we are losing out. However, there will still be these face to face appointments for Kingstone patients outside of usual working hours, including Saturdays from Much Birch and Ewyas Harold. We do hope you will make the most of them, and they will still sometimes be likely to be staffed by your regular Kingstone GPs!

In a similar venture, Herefordshire is also funding GP telephone appointments across the county via the 'Herefordshire remote Health' hub. You may well be offered these for same-day issues that can be dealt with over the phone. This is to help relieve pressures on the GP surgeries across the county. The clinicians will be able to arrange for prescriptions from our dispensary.

Text message appointment reminders have now started for all face to face appointments. We hope you find this useful. If you are not getting a text message, please update your mobile phone number with the surgery. It is so important to have the right details!

Building work has started in Kingstone to accommodate the need for a new clinical room. The building team have been working outside the opening hours so you may hardly notice the disruption, but might spot a few changes. We are really grateful for their swift input and help.

Finally we are delighted to announce the start of a new nurse next month. Rhian Gibbon has specialist skills in managing diabetes, asthma and COPD and many of you will get to know her for those routine reviews. We are looking forward to her starting, and know you will make her feel welcome.