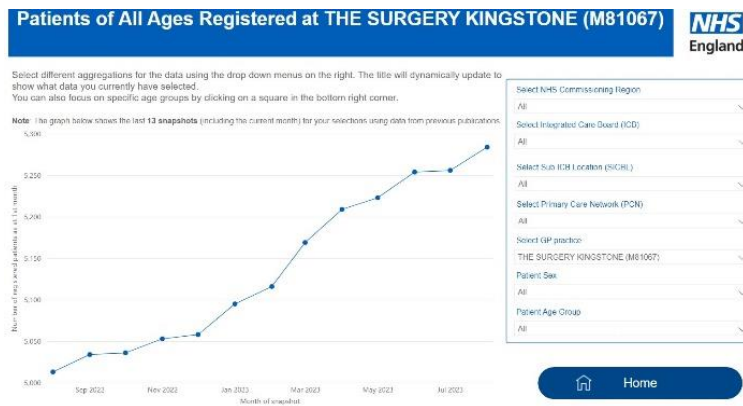


Kingstone newsletter September 2023

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **two new GPs** to the surgery, bringing our GP team up to seven.

Dr Lauretta Hughes is originally from Herefordshire and has moved to us from working across the border in Wales- you may have already met her as she helped with clinical cover during the summer months. **Dr Ruth Hillier** has moved back to the NHS after a career with the army. They are both excellent additions to the team and we know you will make them welcome.

With these GPs, our increased nurse appointments, four times more health care assistant appointments and now two clinical pharmacists we have more clinical cover than ever before. This is necessary for the future as our patient numbers are steadily increasing. For many years the Kingstone surgery patient population was stable at around 4,500 – as it was in 2019. This then started to rise gradually. In the last 12 months it has risen from about 5,000 to now 5,300. With the 90 new houses in Clehonger (completion due this winter), and another smaller building site in Madley on the corner of the Bridge Sollars Road we expect this to continue. We cannot refuse new registrants living in our catchment, but we are strict that if you have moved out of our boundaries we cannot continue to care for you. You can see the data yourself on the NHS digital website:



We are also proud to have been approved by Health Education England as a **GP training practice**, and look forward to welcoming our first GP trainee in the Spring 2024. They will be a fully qualified doctor with some years of experience working in hospitals but who is new to the world of primary care.

We are also pleased that our **monthly Saturday 'extended Access'** appointments are now being manned by our own Dr Dennison in Kingstone surgery. Our practice manager worked hard to get these appointments (which are provided by wider general practice organization Taurus) to be based in our surgery building so that you can best benefit from them, and are delighted with this new chance for GP continuity. Please do ask about these appointments -they use a different booking system which means they are sometimes easily overlooked.

Dispensary has been let down this month by the wholesalers missing deliveries. This hugely sets us back and affects efficiency. The team have been working weekends and evenings again and we expect to be back on track this week. We have Tracie who has joined the team increasing our staffing capacity- please welcome her, too.

FLU CLINIC- Our first date is in the diary- Saturday October 7th. We are aiming to deliver COVID vaccines on the same day if our vaccine orders are honoured. Please note this year the eligible age category age has increased back to 65 years (unless you are in the usual at risk groups) see our

website front page for more details <https://www.kingstonesurgery.co.uk/> We will be getting more dates as soon as possible. Look out for messages on your NHS app or your mobile phone where you will be sent booking links. Admin teams will be calling those eligible with no mobile number on file.

Student starting University? According to statistics from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) around one in eight students due to start college or university this month remains unprotected against the ACWY strains of meningitis. If you're starting college or university you should make sure you've already had:

- the MenACWY vaccine – which protects against serious infections like meningitis. You can ask us (or your usual GP) for this vaccine until your 25th birthday, if you missed having it at school or before coming to the UK to study
- 2 doses of the [MMR vaccine](#) – as there are outbreaks of mumps and measles at universities. If you have not previously had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, ask us to do this for you.

Please register with the NHS app (also available via desktop) to view your own vaccine history.
<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/about-the-nhs-app/>

Finally, I hope you all enjoyed the September heatwave. We had one stethoscope melt in the heat, our desktops got close to it but our spirits were kept up by some much appreciated fruit and cold drinks deliveries. Thank you so so much as always.