

### **New surgery announcement**

All systems go! After many months of meetings, negotiations, communications, sheer determination and will power, we have finally signed on the dotted line. It's been a more complex process than you might imagine but we're looking in good shape and are hoping to start the actual build in the Autumn of this year. The builders forecast a year to completion but allowing for any complications, we're realistically hoping to move in some time before the start of 2025. We will keep you updated with any major developments either here or on our website.

### **Your feedback is important to us**

How are we doing? We genuinely want to know what you make of our service. It's important that we understand and learn from your feedback whether it's good or could do better. How was your experience? Did we answer your call quickly, was your query handled sensitively and efficiently, did you get the treatment and care you were hoping for from our clinicians? You might get a text after your appointment, we have forms at the Reception Desk or you can go to our website - whichever route works for you, we will ask you to grade your experience of our service from Very Good to Very Poor. There is also space for you to explain your reasoning which, if you have time, is actually very useful to us as we can then address your concerns more specifically or give praise where it is due.

We've been getting around 300 responses a month over the summer and are delighted to share that, on average, over 93% of you think our service is Good or Very Good. We averaged 2% Poor or Very Poor which is low but 2% too many in our book and we're doing all we can to improve on this. Thank you again for communicating with us.



# **Minchinhampton Surgery**

## **Here with you**



### **September 2023 newsletter**

**GP partners:** Dr Weir, Dr Simpson, Dr Cain, Dr Xerri, Dr Cooper, Dr Beard, Dr Walker

**Registrars:** Dr Qaiser, Dr Martyn

**Clinical Manager:** Ros Duncan

**Practice Manager:** Kerry Thompson

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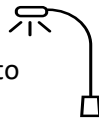
**Welcome to our September issue. You may have noticed our last one was in June but now that the newsletter is up and running again, we have decided to make it a quarterly issue so that you're not overwhelmed with communication from us.**

### **Say Hello, Wave Goodbye**

We are pleased to announce that we have two Registrars training with us now: Dr Chanda Qaiser for the next 12 months, some of you may already have met her, and Dr Chloe Martyn who joined us in August and will be with us until November 2024. We also bade a fond farewell to Dr Fiona Neiles in July; we are delighted that she passed her GP exams and wish her all the very best for the future.

### **Shine a light on – Cervical screening**

Cervical screening is not a test for cancer; it's a test to help prevent cancer.



All women aged 25-64 are invited by letter from NHS England to cervical screening (also known as a smear test) to check the health of their cervix (opening to the womb). If you've had a partial hysterectomy or are a transgender man with a cervix, you will also be invited, and you can book an appointment as soon as you get your reminder letter in the post.

During the screening, a small sample of cells are taken from your cervix to check for types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that can cause abnormal changes to the cells. You can get HPV from any kind of genital skin-to-skin contact and it can stay in the body for a long time. Finding HPV early means that abnormal cell changes can be monitored and treated before they have a chance to turn into cervical cancer.

- ✓ Attending your screening appointment provides a high level of protection against cervical cancer.
- ✓ We register quite a number of missed appointments for this procedure but please be assured our Nurses aim to make it as pain free as possible.
- ✓ Healthy eating, exercise, not smoking will all help to boost your natural defences which in turn can help clear the HPV virus.
- ✓ In England, all boys and girls aged 12-13 are offered the HPV vaccination which can greatly reduce the risk of cervical cancer but cervical screening from 25 is still strongly advised.

### **When you'll be invited in England**

Under 25	Up to 6 months before you turn 25
25-49	Every 3 years
50-64	Every 5 years
65 or older	Not invited unless a recent test is abnormal

Results by letter are normally back to you within 4 weeks.

**High Risk HPV Negative** means you have a negative result and your risk of cervical cancer is extremely low. You will automatically be sent an invitation letter when it is time for your next routine test.

**High Risk HPV Positive** means you have cell changes which may disappear on their own but can sometimes lead to cancer if left untreated. You may be sent for further investigations or be recalled for another cervical screening sooner than the usual interval.

For more information, please visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening)