

An Article from the Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The PPG is the group providing links between the patients and the practice. We have been considering ways that we might help and support the patients. We have been able to buy extra diagnostic equipment for the surgery, and we have recently supplied some toys for the children to play with, in a children's area, while they wait for an appointment. We are in the process of planning a bee friendly garden in an, as yet, uncultivated space to the side of the surgery. The idea is that this would not only be a pleasant place to sit but would also have raised beds and an accessible path for wheelchair users. We are hoping that patients may wish to get involved in its future planting and upkeep and therefore be able to meet and chat with others there. We have many other ideas that we hope to, eventually, put into action to benefit patients.

If you would be interested in getting to know more about these and other ideas the PPG have, or wish to get involved, please contact Eve (Chair) on eve.jackman@btinternet.com or Maggie (Secretary) on maggie.maynot49@gmail.com

If you would like to learn more about the activities of the PPG and give suggestions or ask questions, please come along to the AGM on Wednesday 6th May at 7 pm. It will be held in the Porch Room at Holy Trinity Church. A chance for an informal chat over hot drinks and biscuits after the meeting. All Minchinhampton Surgery patients are welcome.



Minchinhampton Surgery

Newsletter Spring 2026



Here With You

GP Partners: Dr Simpson, Dr Cain, Dr Xerri,
Dr Cooper, Dr Beard, Dr Walker, Dr Martyn

Registrars: Dr Sivapragasam, , Dr Badhams, Dr
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Welcome to the April 2026 Newsletter. Incredibly we have been in the new Surgery Building for over 12 months! We hope you have enjoyed the new experience as much as we have. You may have seen a number of tradesmen around the building while we mop up the remaining snagging issues. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused

Staff News

Since New Year we have welcomed back Registrar Dr Eleanor Badhams to continue her training with us, and Registrar Dr Charlie Miles began here in February. We have also taken on a hat-trick of new receptionists – Kate, Therese and Alex. Please bear with them while they learn the complexities of this very varied and demanding role.

Medical Students

Dr Freddie Walker is training two final year Medical Students full time this term - Tiger and Isla. This is very important work, and we are happy to be part of their learning journey. Tiger has written an introduction for them both –



“Isla and I are final-year medical students at the University of Bristol, completing our final placement at Minchinhampton. We will be running a shared clinic on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays under supervision from the GP Team, and are really looking forward to meeting some of you.

I chose to study medicine because it's a career that appealed to my love of problem solving with supporting people through a variety of life experiences and challenges. I have a particular interest in women's health and last autumn spent six weeks in Peru working with a charity to help improve access to cervical screening in rural communities.”

Hope Café – Pain Café

For all chronic pain/symptom sufferers -‘where nothing works’. For example - ongoing body pain (back, neck, head etc), vertigo, fibromyalgia, burning mouth etc. Introducing Hope Café - A new monthly initiative, which started in February, is held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next café will be on 21st April and held in Avening Social Club from 10.00-11.00am. The theme in April will Pain and the Brain.

This is run by Physiotherapist Cas Boddam-Whetham and our own retired GP Anne-Marie Marlow

Please contact Cas for more details on 07900 472999

Happy 100th Birthday!

To Dr Beard's patient Mr Raymond Sheppard from Butt Street, Minchinhampton. Mr Sheppard will be 100 on 22nd April. Originally from Bristol, he has been registered here since 2018 and his family will be holding a party for him. Happy Centenary!

Covid Booster Clinics

Eligible patients will receive an invitation to book in for a Covid Spring Booster. This is offered to patients over 75, and some others with very serious health conditions only. More details can be found at: [COVID-19 vaccine - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/vaccine/)

Non-Attendance at Appointments

A further 152 appointments were recorded as missed by patients in January and February. This equated to over 41 hours lost. If you cannot make your booked appointment, please call us so we can give this to someone else who needs it

Cirencester Road

Thank you for your patience while the road outside has been upgraded. We certainly found it challenging ourselves never knowing which way would be open! We are pleased to say it now looks substantially better!

