



March 2021

Dear All,

GP Changes

Following our last newsletter, we are delighted to share some updates:

- Dr Goss has now retired and starting to unwind after 25 years (on and off) with the surgery.
- Dr Roy, after 30 years as a GP Partner at the surgery, finally puts up his stethoscope next week when he retires too. With fond memories, Dr Roy shares...

“As I approach retirement, I feel very fortunate to have worked and lived in such a wonderful practice area and community for the last 30 years.

The last 12 months have been so challenging and the strength of support within the community has been tremendous. I'm also grateful for all the support I've had as a GP from the entire practice team during this period. Our administrative, dispensary and clinical teams have always been essential parts of general practice, but never more so than now.

I will look back on my years in general practice here with many fond memories. I'm glad I moved to Cornwall all those years ago having seen the advert for 'Looe Health Centre' in a medical library in New Zealand!

The practice has grown more than a little since then and challenging complex IT systems have replaced the small traditional paper notes. Importantly though the most rewarding part of the job fortunately remains the same.

Medicine has made many advances over these years but I suspect none more so than the current Covid vaccinations. It's been inspirational to see my colleagues and practice team working with the help of the local community and PCN to deliver this.

It's also been amazing to see how carers, health services and pharmacies have responded with such innovation during these difficult times. I think that's a good sign for the future of local services in our community”.

We'll miss Dr Roy & Dr Goss greatly, however living in the area we know we'll see them out and about, enjoying time in our beautiful surroundings from outside the surgery.

- Dr Allen is recovering well after her hip replacement and is planning to return to work after Easter when we look forward to welcoming her back.
- Two new GPs, Dr Hughes and Dr Kuteyi, have now joined the surgery and have started to see patients – we welcome them to the team and our community.

Dr Hughes

"I qualified from The Royal Hospital in 1993 and have been a GP partner in North Devon for 21 years. Now relocated to my homeland of Cornwall, I have an interest in Urgent Care, Palliative Care and Medical Politics.

Outside of work I enjoy open water swimming, stand-up paddle boarding, walking and (very slow) running. I am a trainee member of East Cornwall Search and Rescue Team".



Dr Kuteyi

"I finished from University of Debrecen, Hungary in 2013 and completed GP training in Edinburgh in February 2020.

With a budding interest in care of the elderly and public health/ health policy, I enjoy reading (both physical and audio books) and taking long walks".

Highest Covid vaccination uptake in Cornwall revealed

For those of you that didn't hear, Pirate FM announced last Friday that Looe & Polperro had the highest Covid vaccination uptake in Cornwall, with Pelynt & Lanreath in second place. This is absolutely amazing, with 90-99% of cohorts 1-5 having had the first dose of vaccine in our area, ensuring that we all come together to support ourselves and others.

Vaccination Update – Don't call us, we'll call you!

We are calling patients aged 60-65 years, with Covid clinics taking place at Millennium House, China Fleet and the Millpool Centre next week. Please don't call us, we'll call you, unless you are over 65 years old, shielding or have one of the eligible long-term conditions and haven't had your Covid first jab, as we are still trying to contact some hard-to-reach patients who we don't want to miss-out.

It is likely that we'll be moving to patients aged 55-59 very quickly afterwards, so to help us get prepared for these cohorts, plus subsequent cohorts, if any patients know that their contact information has changed, please can you email oldbridgesurgery.looe@nhs.net to notify us, as we really need to make sure that every text, email or letter that we send counts. The quickest and easiest way for us to reach you is by phone/text so, to make sure we reach you quickly, up to date mobile numbers would be perfect.

NHS England Covid-vaccination Invitations

If you receive a Covid vaccination invitation from NHS England directly, across mass vaccination centres such as Stithians or Devonport, please take that opportunity, especially as we cannot guarantee the supply and availability of vaccines for local clinics such as the Millpool Centre.

Finally

We are delighted to advise the number of local active Covid cases is the lowest it has been since the start of the pandemic, although we cannot be complacent.

- When you are offered a Covid vaccination, please book it as soon as possible. 2nd jabs are on the horizon for the first cohorts.
- If you or a member of your household have Covid symptoms, stay home, isolate and follow the guidelines, seeking medical help if needed.
- Look out for each other, as we gradually head out of lockdown, recognising that many will feel anxious and overwhelmed so please continue to keep each other safe, and remember 'Hands. Face. Space'.

Drs Roy, Kodde, Mogford and Buchanan
Partners, Old Bridge Surgery, and the Surgery Team