**Autumn 2024 - Patient Newsletter**



Our PPG (Patient Participation Group) recently suggested that patients would be interested in having a regular Newsletter (quarterly) with information and updates about West Road and Louisa GP Surgery. This is the 1st edition and we would welcome other suggestions and ideas about what patients would be interested to read about in future editions – drop us an email or speak to reception if you have any suggestions or would like to be involved in our patient participation group.

Find us online!

[www.westroadandlouisa.co.uk](http://www.westroadandlouisa.co.uk)

find us on Facebook (Give us a like!)

West Road and Louisa Surgery

**Recent Developments at West Road and Louisa Surgery**

We were sad to say goodbye to **Dr Ben Ho** who left the practice in May this year. We wish Dr Ho all the very best for the future.

We are delighted to announce that **Dr Amanda Porch** has now joined the practice as a partner. Her working days will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. **Dr Katherine Fielder** and **Dr Catherine Dawson** are now both Salaried GPs at the practice and work 2 days per week each.

Congratulations to **Sarah Punton** who recently completed her training as a nurse associate! From next week, Sarah will be working with us as a fully qualified Nurse Associate. You will no doubt see her in clinics working alongside our GPs and highly skilled Nurse Practitioners, **Linda, Louise, Dawn and Karen**.

Did you know, we also have a number of highly skilled ARRS staff (additional roles) within the practice including -

* Clinical Pharmacist – our Clinical Pharmacist Chaye can help with medication queries, medication reviews and routine clinical work.
* Podiatrist – Our on-site podiatrist Joanne can deal with issues related to your feet/biomechanics.
* Physiotherapist – We have an on-site physiotherapist.
* Social Prescribers – can help with non-clinical issues where patients need additional support.
* Young Persons Mental Health Worker
* Mental health nurse

Other support available through the surgery includes a monthly menopause clinic, women's health Hub (contraception advice and support including coil fitting) and frail elderly visiting scheme which allows healthcare staff to visit frail and elderly patients on a weekend to avoid hospital admission.

**If you feel you would benefit from support or advice from any of our wider team – please discuss with reception staff.**

**Did you know…**

Late night and weekend appointments are available to West Road & Louisa Surgery patients at Tanfield View Surgery –

Pease speak to reception if you would like an appointment.

**Pharmacy First Scheme**

We are delighted to support the Pharmacy First Scheme!

Local pharmacies are now able to treat a wide range of ailments including UTI’s, shingles, impetigo, sore throats… For more information drop into your local pharmacy or visit [NHS England » Pharmacy First](https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/)

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**Protect Yourself!**

**Flu Vaccines**

We are currently making appointments for flu vaccines at the surgery. You should have had a text inviting you to make an appointment. If you haven't had a text or phone call and think you are eligible, please contact reception to book your appointment.

**Childhood flu**

We will shortly be inviting eligible children for their nasal flu. Please contact the surgery to make your appointment when you are invited.

**RSV vaccines**

The RSV vaccine help protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common virus that can make babies and older adults seriously ill. We recently invited all eligible patients for vaccine. If you have received a text or a phone call and have not yet made an appointment, please contact reception. We will continue to invite you as you become eligible. If you think you are eligible and haven't heard from us then please contact us.

**Covid Boosters**

We will be offering covid boosters again this year. We will contact eligible patients when the vaccines are available. Covid boosters will also be available from local pharmacies and through the national booking line.

**Feeling unwell or have a request for the practice? Use eConsult!**

Our eConsult service allows you to request advice and treatment from our practice online aswell as giving you self-help advice for hundreds of common conditions, the practice will review your request and decide on best next steps to help you. Download the NHS app or visit our website [www.westroadandlouisa.co.uk](http://www.westroadandlouisa.co.uk)

for information.

**Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy Winter!**

**Next addition will be available early 2025, let us know what you would like us to include!**