

Quarter no:1
April-June 2026

The Meadows Surgery Quarterly Newsletter

themeadowssurgery.co.uk



Providing NHS services



TheMeadowsSurgery

Opening Hours

Monday	08.00-18.30
Tuesday	08.00-18.30
Wednesday	08.00-18.30
Thursday	08.00-18.30
Friday	08.00-18.30
Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays	Closed

Practice Half Day Closing for Training

Thursday 23rd April	1.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 28 th May	1.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 25 th June	1.00pm-6.30pm

What we do during half day closures

This is an essential meeting that our entire practice holds each month. It ensures that we stay current with all our mandatory training requirements. During this meeting, we have the opportunity to conduct training sessions on ****Basic Life Support**** and ****Fire Safety Training****, discuss any practice-related issues, and address significant events along with the lessons learned from them.

Somerset NHS Charity is the official charity for NHS Services across Somerset. If you or a family member have been treated by this GP surgery and would like to help us make a difference for patients, please get in touch.

COVID-19 Spring Vaccinations

Spring COVID-19 Booster Information

While we will not be participating in the Spring COVID-19 Booster campaign, you can still book your appointment through the NHS website or by calling 119. You can receive your booster at the Archie Gooch Pavilion, Ilminster, TA19 9FE, during the following times:

****Thursday, 23rd April****

****Thursday, 30th April****

****Thursday, 7th May****

****Thursday, 14th May****

Hours of operation are from ****9:30 AM to 4:30 PM****.

Welcome Dr Benjamin Awuku-Fremont

We have the pleasure of welcoming Dr Fremont to the Practice. His clinics run weekly every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Below is a small Bio that we asked him to write about himself as way of an introduction to you all.

I am pleased to have joined Meadows Surgery, Ilminster, as a General Practitioner in February 2026. I qualified from the University of Ghana Medical School and undertook my clinical training at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra. I subsequently obtained Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) in the United Kingdom.

My decision to pursue a career in General Practice was shaped by a strong interest in continuity of care and the opportunity to support patients across all stages of life. I was particularly drawn to Meadows Surgery by its commitment to patient-centred care and its integral role within the local community.

Originally from Accra, Ghana, I value spending time with my young family outside of work. I also have a keen interest in football, supporting Yeovil Town and Manchester City, and I look forward to contributing to the ongoing care of patients in Ilminster and the surrounding area.



**Somerset
NHS Charity**

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.somersetnhscharity.org.uk/>

Welcome to our new Deputy Practice Manager

Samantha Dodd

Samantha has been a valued member of Symphony since 2021. She began her journey with us at Crewkerne Health Centre as a receptionist, later advancing to Reception Lead at Hamdon Medical Centre, where she took on the role of Deputy Practice Manager. In March, she joined our team here at The Meadows. Samantha brings a wealth of knowledge, and I hope you all will help make her feel right at home.

Patient Online Requests

When submitting an online request, please include all the topics you wish to discuss with the clinician. Our clinicians strive to address your concerns during a 15-minute appointment; however, this may not always be sufficient time. They will triage your requests and recommend the most suitable appointments for you. This could involve scheduling a double appointment or arranging one urgent session followed by a routine visit, depending on your needs.

Useful Numbers

The Meadows Surgery 01460 52284

Our Dispensary 01460 52469 (open from 11am-1pm weekdays)

Musgrove Park Hospital 01823 333444

Yeovil District Hospital 01935 475122

How A Village or Community Agent Can Help you

Do you know your Local Village Agent?

Are you an unpaid Carer, or look after someone else informally & need a little help & support?

Do you have a problem that can't be fixed or improved by accessing the right people or services in the local community?

Do you live alone, are feeling lonely and isolated?

Have you found a community with a collective problem that needs a kick start to solve?

It doesn't matter how big or small the problem, your Village & Community Agents are here to help.

Call 01823 331 222

Email: info@somersetcc.org.uk

www.somersetagents.org/agents-call-back

Patient Surveys

We encourage patients to respond to the surveys we send following appointments to help us learn and make improvements.

Alternatively patients can provide feedback at any point via the surgery website or email.

"Happy with everything thanks. All of the staff were lovely. Fabulous doctor, nurses and receptionist"

"My appointment was with diabetic nurse, she was very efficient and gave me sound advice and guidance going forward"

"Nothing to improve, just want to say that the lady I had my appointment with was so friendly and put me at ease as I was very nervous. It made a huge difference."

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) in NHS surgeries are groups of patients, carers, and GP staff who meet regularly to improve local services, bridge communication gaps, and provide a patient perspective on care. They act as "critical friends," helping to influence decisions, provide feedback, and support health education

Allergy Relief: Hay Fever Medication

Just a friendly reminder to our patients: if you require hay fever medication, you can conveniently buy it over the counter at any pharmacy, as we no longer provide prescriptions for this at our practice.

Repeat Medication

Last year, we sent a reminder to all our patients that we only dispense a 28-day supply of medication. Please do not request an additional supply, as we will not be able to fulfil this for you unless you are travelling abroad. See below for more ICB guidelines:

Patient Medication Whilst Abroad

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) for the NHS has indicated that, contractually, any patient who leaves the county for more than three months should be deregistered from their current practice and re-register with a doctor in their new location. They also recommend that patients should not be prescribed more than three months' worth of medication at a time.

Symphony wide updates

For organisational wide updates, please see our Symphony April newsletter: www.symphonyhealthcareservices.com/blog/2026/04/