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Media Release

Happy 80th Birthday RUH!

Do you have a small piece of history relating to the Royal United Hospital Bath? If so, we'd like to see it and possibly feature it in an exhibition. On Tuesday 11th December, the RUH will be celebrating its 80th birthday on the Combe Park site. As part of the celebrations, we'd like members of the public to bring in any artefacts they have relating to the hospital. From 1pm, a local historian will be on site to talk about the items and they may possibly feature in an exhibition in 2013.

There'll also be the final of the Great RUH Birthday Cake Bake Off competition with staff entering cakes to be judged by the High Sheriff of Somerset and a local celebrity chef and we'll be cutting a giant birthday cake with pieces being given to staff, patients and the public in exchange for a small donation to the Cancer Centre fundraising campaign.

We are also launching a heritage project involving schools and the Bath Spa University students and looking at key events over the hospital's history as well as looking ahead to what the next 80 years might bring. Next Tuesday the first part of this will be unveiled in the Atrium at 2.45pm.

Whilst the history of the hospital goes back much further, the doors of the brand new Royal United Hospital Bath opened on the 11th December 1932. A newspaper report from the time says, 'A whole community transferred its headquarters between breakfast and lunchtime. There was not the slightest hitch. It was a great day for Bath and for humanity.'* Then the hospital treated about 150 surgical patients a week, gave massage, electrical therapy, or artificial sunlight treatment to a further 250 and admitted about 66 as inpatients. About 50 patients a week passed through the x-ray department and just



over 100 x-ray images were taken. By comparison, today we carry out over 4,600 patient examinations per week and a single CT scan can generate more than 600 images alone!

You are invited to attend the celebrations from 1pm in the Atrium with members of the public bringing in artefacts. The Heritage and History project will be unveiled by the High Sheriff at 2.45pm and the cakes are being judged at 3.00pm.

ENDS

**The Bath Chronicle and Herald, 17 December 1932*

For more information, please contact the Communications Department on 01225 825799/825849

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