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PRESS RELEASE

‘NHS 60 at the RUH’

Can you remember what the hospital in Bath was like 60 years ago?

Did you, or a member of your family work there?

Do you have any pictures or hospital memorabilia from the late 1940's, early 1950's?

If so, the Royal United Hospital in Bath would like to hear from you.

The NHS is 60 years old this summer, a milestone which will be celebrated all over the UK on the weekend of the 5th and 6th July 2008.

The RUH is keen to mark this national anniversary but with a localised regional feel and is planning a number of events centred around its' history, our staff, achievements and our patients. We will also be looking ahead to what the next 60 years may hold in store for health services at the RUH.

We will be involving staff past and present along with patients and children from across Bath Somerset and Wiltshire in the celebrations. We have already enlisted the assistance and guidance of some of Bath's eminent medical historians.

One of the ways in which people can get involved is by having a look in their attics!

The hospital is planning to celebrate in a number of ways, and one of these ways involves the need for artefacts from around when the NHS was first created in 1948.

Aided by the Hospital Friends, we hope to recreate a ward or operating theatre circa 1948: complete with beds, uniforms and equipment used then.

The hospital's Communications Team is seeking memorabilia relating to the RUH from the last 60 years - this could be photographs/postcards/letters or hospital magazines. They'd also like to hear from anyone who was a member of staff just after the war – and would love to hear stories from both ex staff and patients. Ideally some of these may be recorded and used in the exhibition.

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Editors Notes

- The hospital was already 200 years old in 1948 when the Beveridge Report envisaged a free health service, financed by the State.
- In 1948 there were 4 separate hospitals operating on the Combe Park site so a Bath hospital Management Committee was formed
- Building began on a new Theatre Block and Teaching department and the first operation in the new unit was carried out in September 1952.
- The then Regional Hospital Board bought the Spa Hotel in Bath for £100,000 plus furniture and fittings for £25,000 and from June 1950 it was used as a nurses home.

Ref: The Royal United Hospital, Bath by Jack Lloyd

If you have a story to tell OR if you happen to have some interesting memorabilia, please contact Helen Robinson-Gordon or Brigid Devlin in the Communications Team on 01225 825849/821299. Email: communication@ruh.nhs.uk

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