

Communications Department

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PRESS RELEASE

'Budding artists invited to design a birthday card to help the Royal United Hospital celebrate 60 years of caring'

Children from across Bath Somerset and Wiltshire are being given the opportunity to create a very special birthday card.

The NHS is 60 this July and as part of the local celebrations, the Royal United Hospital in Bath is hosting a competition for budding artists to design the 60th birthday card.

There are six age categories, covering primary and secondary school pupils and a professional artist will choose a winner in each category.

Each winner will receive a prize of artists materials and a family day out at one of the region's top attractions. Their entries will also be professionally mounted and displayed at the Hospital as part of the week long series of events.

NHS 60th anniversary celebrations will be taking place at the RUH from 2nd – 10th July. They include an exhibition, open to the public, of rare and interesting memorabilia from the 1940's together with displays of new clinical procedures and equipment with experts on hand to explain what they do. There will also be audio visual displays of patients' recollections from the time.

There will be a vintage tea party, for hospital staff who are 60 this year and for former 1940s patients, a celebrity cricket match, photographic displays and a 'Ground force' style renovation of a garden area at the hospital to make it the NHS60 garden.

BANES, Wiltshire and Somerset county councils have lent their support, promoting the competition via their school's email services. Justin Robinson, Somerset County Council's Portfolio Holder for Health and Well-being said, *"Somerset County Council is pleased to support the competition run by the NHS to celebrate their 60th birthday. The Council works very closely with the NHS to ensure that residents of Somerset receive excellent health services which allow them to live their lives healthily and independently. The competition helps engage young people with the services the NHS provides and supports their creative learning."*

Helen Robinson-Gordon, the hospital's Head of Communications said, *"We know that children and young people have fantastic imaginations and can be very creative in making things like this. We are very keen to have their talents displayed as part of the NHS60 celebrations. The cards need to reflect the idea of a birthday celebration and health and hospitals, other than that, its down to their imagination!"*

The exhibition is set to open on 2nd July and further information will be made available nearer the time

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Editorial Notes:

Entries welcomed in the following categories;

Primary Schools: 4-6 years, 7-9 years and 10-11 years and Senior Schools: 11-13 years, 14-15 years and 16+

**Each design should be clearly labelled; with the artist's full name, age and school and posted to:
NHS 60th Birthday Card Competition, Communications Office, RUH, Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG**

For interviews please contact...

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