



Communications Department

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***‘Celebrating 60 Years of the NHS at the Royal United Hospital, Bath’***

*Bringing people together who last met 60 years ago, and transforming part of the RUH into a ward from 1948, are just two of the events taking place to celebrate sixty years of the NHS at the hospital next week.*

The recreation of the ward area is part of an ambitious exhibition called 'History & Innovation' which opens to the public on the 3rd July. Items on show will include an iron lung, anaesthetic equipment and letters and personal memorabilia from the late 1940's. There will also be stories from those who, as children, were patients at the time. Many of these are harrowing by today's standards as the children often spent months or even years in hospital.

The exhibition will also look at medical advances since those days and feature leading technology at the RUH with demonstrations and models from a variety of clinical practises.

The hospital is also bringing together past staff and patients for a reunion tea party, 1948 style and a similar event is being held on Saturday 5th July, for staff who themselves are 60 this year.

Turning a shabby hospital garden into a space filled with healing plants, valued for their medicinal properties and creating a haven in a busy and often stressful world, will be yet another challenge undertaken next week. The challenge has been taken on by the Prior Park Garden Centre and funded by the hospital's League of Friends

A Celebrity v. Staff cricket match on the 8<sup>th</sup> July also forms part of the celebrations. This has developed from a staff idea and we are grateful for the fantastic assistance of the Somerset County Cricket Club.

It was on the 5th July 1948 that Aneurin Bevan's efforts to create a state run health service, free at the point of delivery, came into being. For the RUH, this meant combining 4 independently run hospitals Combe Park, under one Ministry of Health organisation, almost overnight!

Today the RUH has a catchment population of 450,000, covering the city of Bath, the whole of Bath and North East Somerset, the majority of the western half of Wiltshire and the Mendip area of Somerset. We treat more than 70,000 patients each year and have some of the shortest waiting times for treatment in the South West.

Attached is a detailed itinerary of events and media opportunities



## **Itinerary of Media Opportunities for NHS60 Events at the RUH**

### **2.45pm Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

***History & Innovation*** Exhibition opens in the Oasis, RUH.

VIPs invited to opening followed by reception. Exhibition then open for 1 week to staff and public

Media invited to opening with opportunity to interview clinicians and contributors and look at exhibits.

### **2.30pm Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Ex-patients/staff from 1948 invited to Afternoon Tea Party, 1948 style and Exhibition. Media welcome to attend from 2.45pm to interview ex staff and patients, many of which have contributed amazing artifacts to the exhibition.

**3.00pm Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** RUH Staff who are 60 in 2008 invited to exhibition and to an Afternoon Tea Party, 1948 style, in marquee erected alongside exhibition space.

**4.00pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July.** Winners of the children's NHS60 Birthday Card competition announced and prizes presented at the Oasis on the RUH site

**5.30pm Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** Celebrity charity Cricket Match at Lansdown Cricket Club. 5.30pm. Somerset County Players & Lansdown Players v Hospital staff & local celebrities. Staff and public welcome.

If you would like to attend any of the above events or require further information, please contact the Communications Team. We can also supply stills and imagery from 1948

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