

Communications Department

Tel: 01225 825489 / 821299

Email: communication@ruh.nhs.uk

Issue Date: 25 June 2008

PRESS RELEASE

NHS 60th anniversary to be celebrated in style!

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. The exhibition will also look at medical advances since those days and feature leading technology at the RUH.

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 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 yet another challenge undertaken next week.

A Celebrity v. Staff cricket match also forms part of the celebrations.

ENDS

Editorial Notes

It was on the 5th July 1948 that Aneurine 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!