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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The RUH turns back the clock to 1948 and celebrates and very modern achievement!!**

**You are invited to the official opening of the Exhibition, 'History & Innovation' on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3pm at the Oasis on the RUH site.**

At the opening, the Trust's Chief Executive, James Scott, will also reveal details of how the RUH has just become one of the most successful trusts in the South West in bringing down waiting times for treatments and consultations.

The details are embargoed until 3pm tomorrow, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

The Exhibition contrasts the birth of the NHS with present day clinical expertise and Mr Scott will use the official opening of the Exhibition to describe the Trust's present day success story regarding waiting times.

As the NHS heads towards celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Royal United Hospital Bath, has transformed part of the RUH into a ward from 1948 and is bringing together patients and staff who last met 60 years ago.

This ambitious exhibition 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 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 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 on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

**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!