

11 May 2010

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Media Release

‘Spring Watch’ at the RUH

Young patients will be able to carry out their own ‘Spring Watch’ at the Royal United Hospital. The children will be able to study wildlife - both natural and man made - throughout the seasons in a courtyard garden that contains natural planting and delightful wildlife sculptures.

Environmental artist and the Trust’s artist in residence Julie Starks, has created a willow deer, a bird and a large sculptural shelter for the garden and the young patients have created clay creatures, which Julie has cast in Jesmonite, to form a wildlife trail.

Hetty Dupays, Arts co-ordinator at the RUH, says: “Being able to see and access these gardens, or nature spaces, is extremely beneficial for patients and staff within the hospital. This particular courtyard garden has the added bonus of being directly accessible from the schoolroom on the children’s ward. As well as benefiting from a green and pleasant environment, the children will also be able to study plant and insect life and the art in the garden, as part of their schooling whilst they’re in hospital.

“On the 24 May we are looking forward to welcoming the Mayor of Bath Shaun McGall and children’s author Jeremy Strong to the RUH. They’ll meet some of the children who created elements of the garden as well as taking a tour around to see the willow sculptures. They’ll be arriving a little earlier to enjoy a classical music recital in the atrium as well as viewing the latest exhibition of art by The Old Bakery Artists, other local artists and the Swansea 10, which is displayed in the hospital corridors.

“We are very grateful to the Friends of the RUH, the People’s Mission Church and the Bath Primary Schools Arts Festival. Their generosity has made it possible for Art at the Heart to create a restorative and educational garden for everyone to enjoy.”

Ends

Photo opportunity:

There is a classical guitar/percussion performance by Mestizo, with a Cuban influence, at lunch time in the Atrium on the 24 May, followed by a visit to the garden by the Mayor and Jeremy Strong from around 2.30pm. Please contact Hetty Dupays on 01225 824987.