

Exeter

Here We Come!

WELCOME

Any content for the next two newsletters **must be sent direct** to editor@sohs.org.uk as Irene will be away and not checking her email regularly. We may have to have a shorter Redlines than usual as we will be down to a one-man operation unless someone steps forward to help.

We are expecting a number of reports on SOHS events that are taking place around now.

As always we welcome new readers, numbers increase steadily, but from our web records we see that only 50% of you open up your emails. What are the rest of you doing? Hopefully the answer is that you are busy campaigning, because that is the whole reason SOHS exists.

Material for future newsletters editor@sohs.co.uk by Thursday
 SOHS-Save Our Hospital Services
 (A non-party group whose aim is to campaign to protect our health services in North Devon)

Exeter will see SOHS Red Line Warriors take to the streets on Saturday 3 December. The assembly points are listed below (showing approximate distances to Bedford Square) with a leaving time of 11.40 am from:

- Walkabout Inn Fore Street (5550 m),
- St Davids Community Centre via Iron Bridge & North Street (800m)
- Farmers Union/Dinosaur Clock Tower via Queen Street (750m),
- Sidwell Street Methodist Church (700 m),
- Civic Centre Paris Street (300 m),
- George's Meeting House via South Street (650 m)

This will be followed by an rally in Bedford Square at 12 noon. There are posters, handbills and car stickers for you to download, available on the website on the Events tab.

Don't forget to send us your photographs and videos so that we may have a great report afterwards. You can email them to webmaster@sohs.org.uk



OTHER EVENTS

There are so many events that it is difficult to keep up with them all, There are posters and handbills on the website, and we are displaying a couple here for you to see. Even if you are not able to go to the event, please display a poster if it is in your area. Don't forget to let us know if you are organising an event so that we can make sure people know about it.

SAVE OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

PUBLIC MEETING IN BIDEFORD

Our local hospital and healthcare services are under threat.

- North Devon District Hospital's maternity unit could close
- Paediatric & neonatal services could be lost from T. Devon
- The future of stroke services in T. Devon remains uncertain
- If it is beds across Devon could close
- Emergency services (A&E) could be greatly reduced

All members of the public are warmly invited to attend a meeting in support of

SOHS SAVE OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL SERVICES www.sohs.org.uk

Monday 28 November 7.00pm
Pollyfield Centre, East-The-Water

Find out the full facts for yourself

This informal meeting will be hosted by Bideford residents who support Save Our Hospital Services Devon, an open, broad based, non-aligned group that has come together with the single aim of campaigning against the proposed cuts to our local hospital and healthcare services. At the meeting, we will provide the information that we have on this issue, explain how you can help to fight the cuts and, to the best of our ability, answer any questions you may have. There will also be an opportunity to voice your concerns in the company of other local people. We look forward to meeting you. If you have any questions, please e-mail cally@sohs.org.uk or call [01392-211200](tel:01392-211200).

OUR FUTURE CARE!

The consultation ending on 1st Jan 'YOUR FUTURE CARE' (patients, carers, relatives) will be over. Services at Exeter, Bideford, Torquay, Barnstaple, Bideford, Bideford, Bideford and Bideford. We have already gone from Devonshire, Devon, Devon, Devon and Devonshire.

THE PUBLIC MEETING (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY) IS HELD IN A PUBLIC MEETING

Get us all about this urgently with friends, family and to our clubs, churches and workplaces - bring these here all in one notice on 9th December!

FRIDAY
9 DECEMBER
PUBLIC MEETING 7.30 PM
PARISH CHURCH, CHURCH ST
SIDMOUTH

SOHS SANTA HELPS SAVE OUR HEALTH SERVICES

CHAMPIONS

Linda has been doing a great job of recruiting Champions, people who help and support SOHS in their local area. We ran an appeal last week for people to come forward in some of the places that we have not yet covered, and some of those are still in need of support. Contact Linda on champions@sohs.org.uk

Care in the Home Report

Care in the Home is an essential part of the new STP strategy. Essentially people are looked after in their home by commercial companies instead of having to go to hospital outpatients. Although the idea sounds attractive, there are many potential flaws, and concerns that the standard of health care would inevitably drop.

A report has been produced by Healthwatch, an auditing body based in the Torbay area, which looks at some of the issues that have arisen in an existing scheme. The document can be downloaded from our website, or direct <http://healthwatchtorbay.org.uk/.../HWT-FINAL-MEARS-REPORT-v8.pdf>.

Briefly the main issues seem to be that there is a lack of trust between the client and the service provider, and that staff are insufficiently trained in even basic tasks. Other grievances include appointment times not being kept, or the service provider not turning up at all. There were also concerns about same-sex staff requests being ignored, and confusion about medication. Many clients felt concerned for their safety.

It is clear from this report, that the service provider is completely unable to provide a level of care which could be considered acceptable.

Diary dates

Visit our new diary page on the website. More dates and pretty pictures!

Monday 28 November 13.30 – 15.30, CCG Your Future Care Roadshow, The Plough Arts Centre, Fore Street, Great Torrington EX38 8HQ

Monday 28 November 17.30 – 19.30, CCG Your Future Care Roadshow, New Hall, Tiverton EX16 6QP

Monday 28 November 19.00, SOHS Bideford Public meeting, Pollyfield Centre, Avon Road, East-the-Water, Bideford EX39 4BL

Tuesday 29 November 19.00, CCG with Braunton Parish Council, Public Meeting, The Parish Hall, Chaloners Rd, Braunton EX33

Tuesday 29 November 9.30am – 13.30, North Devon and Torridge Voluntary Health and Social Care Forum, Barnstaple Library, EX31 1EL. More information, or to book a place, email: lyn@ndvs.org

Don't forget to send us your dates to include in the diary. If people don't know, they won't attend

Saturday 3 December 11.40 See Red Day, Exeter. Start from various points. See Article on page 1.

Thursday 8 December 14:00 - 17:00 Devon County Council, Full Council meeting. County Hall, Topsham Rd, Exeter EX2 4QU, UK

Councillors Greenslade and Biederman's motions to be voted on. **LARGE NUMBERS NEEDED!**

Friday 9 December 19.30, Our Future Care, SOHS Public Meeting, Sidmouth Parish Church.

Wednesday 14 December 19.00 SOHS full meeting at The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple, EX31 1BW

Saturday 28 January 2000 - 2200 Ricky Knight and Friends, benefit event for SOHS. The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington EX38 8HQ £7 from Box Office: 01805 624624 www.theploughartscentre.org

Reported Pressure in Accident and Emergency.

According to a report submitted to Parliament by the Parliamentary Health Committee (which may be found here: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cm201617/cmselect/cmhealth/277/27703.htm?utm_source=277&utm_campaign=modulereports&utm_medium=sumbullet), there is unprecedented pressure on A&E Departments.

The Government urgently needs to address the underfunding of adult social care to relieve pressure on A&E departments, the Health Committee concludes.

Unless the shortfall in social care provision is addressed, people will continue to face avoidable admission and delayed discharge from hospital.

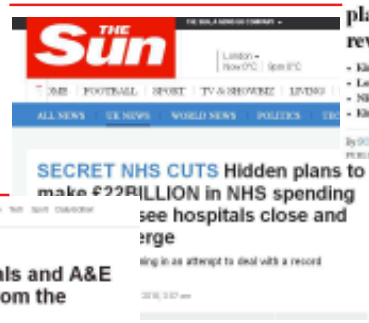
Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Health Committee, says: "Accident and Emergency departments in England are managing unprecedented levels of demand. The pressures are now continuing year

round without the traditional respite over the summer months as departments try to cope with increasing numbers of patients with complex needs."

Some trusts are supporting patient flow out of their hospitals by creating their own services that provide social care in order to address the problem of delayed discharges. These initiatives, however, have a limited scope when trusts are themselves under such financial pressure. Investing in social and intermediate care should be a priority.

STP Plans Filter Through to MSM

On 14 November all the mainstream media carried reports that revealed the NHS had secret plans to transform the health service. Of course, groups such as SOHS had been revealing this for weeks and one must ask the question of why it took the MSM so long to catch up. Conspiracy theorists might suggest there was a hidden agenda. However papers led with headlines that were more or less alarmist depending on the style of the paper. It was revealed that there would be hospital closures and that A&E and Maternity Units would close. NHS England blamed the changes on the government and their commitment to a 7-day a week



health service.

There was nothing new

in the information that came out, but at least it is now in the hands of the public. Whether they will do anything about it before it is too late remains to be seen.

£8bn Not enough

Simon Stevens used a major speech to NHS leaders to tell Jeremy Hunt that £8bn was not enough and that a 2014 blueprint said up to £21bn may be needed for the NHS. Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, said



budget demands will continue to increase because there are already heavy demand for NHS services, particularly A&E care and GP appointments.

Patients are also having to stay longer in hospital than they should, despite being medically fit to leave. Stevens went on to say that NHS England was pressing ahead in 44 regions with "sustainability and transformation plans". Each hospital was being set goals of the amount of money they must save in 2016-17.

New Content on the Website

Every week new items are added to the website, usually on the news page. On average up to 10 new postings are made each week, many of them linking to reports where more information can be obtained.

Keeping track of all the documents is quite difficult, and although there is a downloads page, sometimes people still have to email me to get help finding

what they are looking for. Of course, any library system requires maintenance for it to be most useful.

In the next few days it is intended to add a new graphical feature which explains what our campaign is all about. I have already been testing it, and just have a few finishing touches to add. It's on my list!

Stephen

Website Viewing Figures

In November, so far we have had 23910 hits while the total for October was 45488. That is an average of just under 1500 a day. However a hit is not a visitor. Every page someone visits is a hit. We do have the statistics for visitors, which average over 100 a day. That means every visitor looks at 15 pages, which is actually quite good for a website as it is not uncommon for people to visit the home page and then go immediately without looking around.

The STP report is the most viewed and downloaded, with newsletters being next highest.

Are these figures good? That is a matter of interpretation. It does appear that people are using the website for research and information. The number of daily visitors is not huge, but it is not shabby either. Compared to the SOHS Facebook page, which has 10,000 or so followers, the website looks poor, but they are for different purposes. The website is intended for serious researchers and for the dissemination of information whilst Facebook is for immediate discussion and sharing of views and news, a bit like the library and the coffee shop. Both are useful, but they serve different needs.



SOHS
(Save Our Hospital Services Devon)

RICKY KNIGHT AND FRIENDS
With special guest Jim Jones
A Benefit for SOHS
Keep the red line going- wear red on the night!
Saturday 28 January 8pm
All Tickets £7

the plough
ARTS CENTRE
Great Torrington
Box Office: 01805 624624
www.theploughartscentre.org.uk

Redlines Future

We have been appealing for some time for help with the production of Redlines, and other publicity items. As a campaigning organisation we rely heavily on making our views known in the community and on sharing information and research. Unfortunately there has not yet been enough response to make a difference, and so we may have to cut down the number of newsletters we send out. My time is divided three ways, between the Redlines work, running and coding the website, and graphic design, and all this has to be fitted around my business commitments. As the workload has increased, with extra events, more information coming through and general development of the campaign, it is impossible to do all the things properly.

Please have a think as to whether you or someone you know could help. There are three main areas in which we need help:

Assembling and collating information from emails and reports. This volunteer would need to have some knowledge of the workings of SOHS, be able to use computers and emails, and

be able to devote regular time every week to the task, working often on tight deadlines.

A diary secretary. Really just collating and transcribing information, with a little bit of tracking down missing details, such as starting time! Ideally the person will also be able to enter the information onto the computerised diary, but this is not too hard, and doesn't require more than average computer skills.

A writer. Someone who can take information and write articles from what they read. This might involve summarising a web report, or putting together two or three items to make one out of them. Most people who have been students at College level should be capable of doing the task. There are other things that you might be able to do, but it is processing all the information that is our key priority.

Please contact me on webmaster@sohs.org.uk if you want further information. It would be disappointing if nobody came forward and to take up the reins and continue this important contribution to the campaign.

Stephen

Had a little bit of space left, so here's another Christmas cartoon that is really an "in" joke for SOHS members. I will put a copy on the website for downloading in case anyone wants to use it for anything. And before anyone asks - yes got a lot of emails after the last one - it is produced by your one and only webmaster, editor and graphic designer. I'm not really a cartoonist, the original image wasn't mine (but is copyright free), I just write the jokes and alter the picture to suit.

