



No.20 - 21 January 2017

WELCOME

This Redlines is mainly a number of articles giving information to our supporters. With the growing numbers of supporters it is increasingly more difficult to ensure that everyone is aware of what is going on. We don't want anyone to feel that they are not appreciated and wanted, or that they have been left out.

Apart from reading Redlines, information can be obtained from our Facebook page, and our website has numerous documents for download, as well as all the previous copies of Redlines. We try to keep things up to date, but sometimes things slip through the gap, and if something is missing then do let us know. The numbers of subscribers continues to grow steadily and we welcome you if you are one of those who have recently signed up.

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)

Spreading the word and fighting the cuts and the STP

28 January 10.30-1.00

Barnstaple High Street, outside the Pannier Market

Can you spare half an hour for the campaign. We need to spread the word to those people who don't know about the cuts which are being proposed for our hospital. We need people to man the stall, and to,

- 1) ask people to sign the petition
 - 2) hand out leaflets
 - 3) listen to concerned members of the public as they express their fears about the cuts.
 - 4) tell people about the proposed cuts
- We will have a soapbox where people will speak for a minute or so on the cuts etc.
- 5) Could you be in a crowd listening to this and cheering on the speaker?

(The public will gather round and listen, rather than walk past if there is already a crowd.)

- 6) Maybe you would stand on the soapbox for a one minute speech?

- 7) We will have several "howls" against the STP and the cuts, could you lend your voice?
- 8) could you video what happens as there are "dramas" being planned

It would also be good if we had a samba band, and a choir to sing our SOHS song.

Can you think of anything else, that the 10,000 of us in the facebook group, could do to spread the word on the day?

Why the 28th January? This is the day when there will be a national demonstration in London, and we hope the local press will also wish to report the local action happening on that day.

John

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Benefit Event, The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington

Saturday 28 January. 7pm

Ricky Knight and Friends!

Ricky Knight is back at The Plough! He was only too pleased to take part in this benefit to raise funds for the Save Our Hospital Campaign. He has been an activist for most of his adult life and people will know him as a man of principle and firmly held beliefs.

Ricky is part of the campaign to save our acute services at North Devon District Hospital and jumped at the opportunity to host this evening so that SOHS Devon campaign can raise money to send coaches to London for the It's Our NHS, Health Campaigns Together demonstration which is taking place on 4 March.

Ricky has played in a number of bands over the past fifty years, such as The Elderly Brothers, Geneva, Soul Agency and Clockwork Orange. He will be joined by some of the musician friends he has made in his long and colourful musical career. Amongst his influences and inspiration have been Jimmy Smith (the legendary jazz keyboard player), Elton John, The Beatles, The Beach Boys and Billy Joel. You can be sure to hear something from all of these

musicians at the concert. Ricky was keen to involve other local musicians and Jim Jones and Amy Newton, two of our most well known local musicians, have agreed to take part and support our fundraising.

The last couple of years have proved promising for Devon-based singer-songwriter Small Town (Jim) Jones. Having provoked numerous great reviews including a four-star review in Q magazine, and a 5-star review in Maverick, Jim is making some noticeable waves. He is becoming more widely known after the title track of his last album "Freight Ships" was picked up and was played on the BBC Radio 2's Dermot O'Leary show, which later led to a live Saturday Session with his long time compadre and guitarist Dave Little and has recently led to him returning to the show.

Amy Newton was one of the 40 musicians chosen from around the world to attend Paul McCartney's LIPA (Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts) and became a member of the Institute's first graduating class.

Since then, she has recorded two solo albums and an album, 'The SB Band' with Gary Stringer, Jack Bessant and Dominic Greensmith from 'Reef'.

She now runs her own recording studio and music venue at 'Saunton Road Studios' in Braunton with her husband Simon. Amy has also formed the Saunton Road Choir - the choir will be performing at their studio on Wednesday 25th January before the big night on the 28th January, raising money for the SOHS.

The evening promises to be a fabulous mixture of music with something for everyone.

There will be a raffle and information about the SOHS Devon campaign.

All Tickets: £7. Box Office: 01805 624624 or book online at www.theploughartscentre.org.



Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 25 January Holsworthy SOHS Public meeting, Memorial Hall, Holsworthy

Saturday 28 January 10.00-13.00 Barnstaple Action Day. (See front page.)

Saturday 28 January Hands Off Our NHS! D-Day March 11.00 · Gower St to Trafalgar Square

Saturday 28 January 20.00 - 22.00 Ricky Knight and Friends, benefit event for SOHS. The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington EX38

8HQ £7 from Box Office: 01805 624624 www.theploughartscentre.org

Wednesday 8 February 19.00 SOHS campaign meeting, The Castle Centre. Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR

4 March 2017 Health Campaigns Together IT'S OUR NHS DEMONSTRATION, London, Coach tickets: £15, DEPOSIT £5. Available at SOHS Devon meetings, Public meetings, Benefit events or contact Dave Tel: 07887 650671 Coach pick-up from Ilfracombe, Braunton, Barnstaple, Bideford, South Molton

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

Coach to London

(Note: Amended details)

IT'S OUR NHS DEMONSTRATION, Health Campaigns Together Demonstration 4 March

COACH TICKETS £15 DEPOSIT £5 Available at SOHS Devon meetings, Public meetings, Benefit events Contact Dave Tel: 07887 650671 Coach Pick-up points:

Ilfracombe: Petrol Garage, High Street, 6.00am

Braunton: Car Park next to SQ Bar, 6.15am

Barnstaple: Old Town Station, North Walk, 6.25am

Bideford : Kingsley Statue, 6.50am

South Molton: The Square, 7.40am

PRESS RELEASE

A couple of press releases from our Press Officer, Dave Clinch

Public Meetings across North Devon against potential cuts in the acute services at North Devon District Hospital

The SOHS Devon campaign over the last two months has run a series of meetings across Northern Devon in Combe Martin, Lynton, Bideford, Northam, Westward Ho!, Braunton, South Molton. Without exception they have been packed to capacity with around 250-300 people at each meeting.

Speakers from the campaign have been informing the public of what can be done to avert the real danger of the acute and emergency services being removed from *North Devon*

District Hospital following the publication of the so-called *Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)* for Devon.

Laura Nicholas, Director of Strategy at the 'Success Regime' and one of the authors of the STP made this astonishing statement to the Braunton council public meeting in November 2017. *"If an ambulance has to drive past a hospital front door to go somewhere else, someone may die. That may be the case, but we have to balance that against a whole range of people who may not have access to any services at all. And that may also lead to that outcome."* A 'balance' of a death against a death?

Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=depJD668c0>

It is abundantly clear that the general public is seriously concerned at what the consequences of any cuts to acute and emergency services at the NDDH will be.

"The people of North Devon fought to have the District Hospital built because of the vital need in this isolated area. It is the second most remote district hospital in the country", said campaigner Phillip Wearne. "The people of North Devon are fighting now to save our hospital from cuts, which will result in lives being lost."

South Molton Public Meeting

16 January 2016

Members of the *Save Our Hospital Services Devon* campaign addressed a meeting of approximately 300 people about the forthcoming *Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)* which is being prepared to implement across Devon.

In the latest in a series of packed out meetings across North Devon the speakers explained the details of what confronts the public if the so-called Success Regime carries through its programme of cuts, specifically the acute and emergency services at NDDH.

Most obvious would be the journey times to Exeter or Plymouth for patients in emergency situations such as stroke, paediatric, maternity or neonatal, leading to the conclusion that there will be deaths on the road.

Audience members were angry and very worried. Some contributions were both moving

and dramatic eg a person who described what happened after being diagnosed with sepsis. Without the emergency services at NDDH the chair he was sitting on would have been vacant he said.

A woman spoke about the swift action of the ambulance service in bringing her to the NDDH and probably saving her life. She had lost power of speech and other functions temporarily after a stroke. If she had been forced to endure the journey to Exeter she said that she would have died.

There was an invite to join the campaign. Action cards were distributed. Coaches have been booked for a national *Health Campaigns Together* demonstration in London on 4 March. SOHS Devon campaign member, Dave Clinch said, "The momentum is gathering across Northern Devon, and beyond, to resist any cuts in our National Health Service.

Dementia 2020

The Department of Health has launched its new Dementia 2020 Citizens' Engagement Programme. This programme, developed with people with dementia and carers, is an opportunity to hear first-hand from people with dementia, their families and carers if policies on improving dementia care and support are making a positive difference and where further improvements may be needed, in order to influence and improve the delivery of services and support at a local level.

There is a national survey developed by a number of organisations and with people with dementia and carers to find out people's views and experiences of dementia. The closing date is 31 January 2017.

To support local dementia groups and networks to get involved in the programme the Department of Health has also launched an engagement toolkit.

Have your say on North Devon Healthcare

Do you have recent experience of using a Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust service? Healthwatch Devon is working with the North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to understand what you think about the care you received and the things they can do to improve your experience of their services. The information received will be collated by Healthwatch Devon and reported back to the NHS as part of their Patient Experience Strategy. They want to hear from users of all the

services North Devon Healthcare Trust provide: North Devon District Hospital, community hospitals and community nursing or therapy teams.

They are hosting focus groups in North Devon and Torridge to hear from you. The last one is: **Wednesday 25 January**, 10.00am - 12.00pm, Landmark Theatre, Promenade, Ilfracombe, EX34 9BZ

To book your place or for further information call 0800 520 0640 or email

info@healthwatchdevon.co.uk.

Background information will be issued prior to the event and a short survey to help inform the focus groups.

Conference Plans for February

The All Trades Union Alliance are organising a conference in London on 11 February. Although SOHS is not affiliated with any unions, and is cross-party, the conference is likely to be of interest to some of our members. It has the promising title: Throw Out the STPs. It is not clear from the information whether you have to be a union member or not, but I will put it on the website so those interested can investigate for themselves.

Repeated from last week in case you missed it

The Howl and the Thunderclap

We have received information about an event in London and the related "thunderclaps" that you can join in from your own home. Here are the details that have been sent to us:

Following the huge success in December, of the 'Howls' against the NHS "Slash Trash and Privatised" (STP) independently organised by various campaign groups around England, another is being held in London on 28 January 2017.

■ Assemble from 12.30pm Old Palace Yard, Westminster for a 1pm start, speakers and a HOWL

■ March to Parliament Square (more speakers and second HOWL)

■ March to Department of Health/ Whitehall, (more speakers and third HOWL)

There will be simultaneous HOWL events across the country – details and locations TBC.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1599650713674010/>



Please sign up for the 'Thunderclap!' The social media 'reach' in December was a million people! Even if you can't attend an event, your social media involvement will be very helpful.

Thunderclap link <http://thndr.me/AlqXdn> and check event on FaceBook for updates as even if you are not signed up to Facebook, you should be able to see the page.

Please share the short urls for social media:-

■ event details <http://bit.ly/2j9a4Zt>

■ thunderclap <http://thndr.me/AlqXdn>

■ petition <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/stopNHSattacks>