

You Can't Fool Us Day

Events across Devon - 1 April

WELCOME

Just a short Redlines this week, as I have been hard at work on the Fools Day page on the website, and also had to find time to work on my own business activities. Of course, many of our supporters are also juggling their regular activities to find time for the campaign, and we are grateful to each and every one.

A campaign is only as good as its supporters and followers, and your contribution, big or small makes a difference.

A round of public meetings have produced a number of new supporters. I can usually judge how well the meeting has gone, by watching the number of subscriptions added! We hope that the Fools Day event will provide an opportunity to meet some of you and work alongside you in promoting our cause.

So welcome to all new subscribers and have a good Fools Day.

Are you ready for the SOHS Fools Day event? These are taking place at hospitals around Devon. There is sure to be one not too far away.

Now is the time to ask your friends and family to join you at the Red Line. You can get busy on social media if you like, but a personal invitation works just as well.

If possible, wear red. Remember, we use red to signify the red line we have drawn to protect our health services. TPTB (The Powers That Be) say there are no red lines when it comes to cuts. We disagree. Some cuts are unacceptable because they would put the health of our families at risk. The elderly and the vulnerable will suffer most, but even the young and (mainly) fit will be inconvenienced, even if not endangered. TPTB have

failed to make a sensible, coherent case for their proposed changes, and have made ludicrous claims, for example, supposed journey times, which only a rally driver could manage to achieve. These are foolish claims, as are many of the claims surrounding the proposed changes.

Sensible placards welcome. Don't forget to post lots of pictures on social media, and share the message.

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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)

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A dedicated page has been set up on our website with a number of posters for download, more details, and will have pictures and reports as they come in. Please remember to send pictures direct to our email address, and don't just post them on Facebook as we are unable to collect them from there. The email address is editor@sohs.org.uk and the web page is:

sohs.org.uk/fools-day

North Devon

Ilfracombe 9.45 the Candar for 10.00 at Tyrrell Hospital

Torrington 10.00 at Torrington Hospital

South Molton 10.00 South Molton Hospital

Bideford 11.00 Arts Centre, Bideford

Red Lines then converge at 12.30 in Pilton Park to proceed to **North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple** for 13.00.

Rest of Devon

Seaton 10.00

Sidmouth 10.00

Okehampton 10.00

Whipton, Exeter 10.30

Red Lines then converge at 12 noon **Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter**

Honiton 11.00

Torbay 13.00 Maternity Unit Lowes Bridge Entrance

Paignton 14.00

Ottery St Mary 14.00

NOTE: More details on the website

A Report on the first Barnstaple Public Meeting

"The consultation on the cuts to NHS acute services at North Devon District Hospital Devon (NDDH) is a sham" was the claim made at a public meeting organised by SOHS. Sue Matthews, a campaigner from SOHS who has worked in the NHS for over 30 years said: "that while the STP public consultation is being conducted, patient access to health services is being reduced so that the management can declare a drop in demand and close beds as they have done at Torrington and recently at Holsworthy."

The meeting for Barnstaple residents was held at the Grosvenor Church and attended by some 100 people. The interested audience was informed that the NHS England review known as the Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) is a five year plan to cut £550M from Devon's NHS budget. Already £1.4M has been spent on salaries and consultants conducting the STP review where proposals are to cut nursing staff by 11% and leave Devon with two acute hospitals instead of the current four.

Phillip Wearne, a campaign organiser, recalled working at the old Infirmary in Litchdon St and the opening of the new hospital in 1978 after a long campaign and reminded the meeting that: "with the development of 17,000 houses in North Devon, a population increase of over 25% that there is an even greater need today to maintain all health services at NDDH – the resistance to these cuts will be determined by the public's support given for the SOHS campaign."

Local councils are supporting the campaign to keep acute services such as A&E, Maternity, Stroke and Post Natal at North Devon District Hospital and retain our community hospitals and SOHS are asking everyone to write to their MPs and follow the campaign at www.sohs.org.uk

Adapted from the Press Report by Ian Crawford.

A suitable poster for use as a placard or banner. It has been added on the website on the new fools-day page. Best way to print it is to go to a printer that specialises in large format printing. Just give them the file, they will do the rest.

Diary Dates

Visit the diary page on the website for more dates, fuller details and maps. There are also a number of other events. Details on the website news page

Tuesday 28 March 19.00 Barnstaple Town Council, special public meeting at The Guildhall. To quiz Alison Diamond, Chief Executive of Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, about plans for the future of hospital and other health services in North Devon

Saturday 1 April *You Can't Fool Us* 10.00am Red Lines at North, East and South Devon Hospitals. A full list is given above with additional material on the website.

NDHT Holsworthy engagement events (NHS)
Book for Drop-in sessions (Judith Latcham 01271 322460 or judith.latcham@nhs.net). No booking needed for public meetings.

Thursday 30 March Drop-in session 9.30am-12noon. Holsworthy Community Hospital, EX22 6JQ.

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

