



# Happy Easter

## WELCOME

Recruiting and the forthcoming County Council Elections are our focus this week. Of course many of our supporters are away for the holidays, or spending time with their family. No doubt things will take off with renewed vigour after the break.

I've added a few more bits to the Fools Day page on the website, so do have a look at that if you haven't done so. The website has grown massively through the campaign, and is now home to many documents and reference materials, plus 31 editions, soon to be 32, of Redlines.

Irene and I wish you all the best for Easter, and hope you have a great time.

We also welcome a few new Redlines subscribers and thank you for your interest.

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)

*Here is a kind of Easter present. Well actually more of an Easter future.*

The year is 20... It doesn't matter when. Some time in the future. People across Devon are hunting for Easter eggs. I see a group of young mums, and some soon-to-be mums, hunting expectantly. They are looking for the Maternity Egg. It is rather special with an odd, but rather attractive bump, on one side.

"You won't find one here," someone says. "They are all in Exeter"

"Exeter! That's 50 miles away. How am I going to get there in my condition?"

"I don't know, luv. I suppose you just have to get there any way you can."

My focus shifts, and over there I see some people hunting for the Stroke Egg.

"That one's in Plymouth," said a voice. "You've only got an hour to find it, and then it starts breaking up. If you do get there before it is too late, you might only get a tiny piece."

I wonder if anyone has any Eggs.

A group are gathered.

"We used to have some in our community, but then they were temporarily withdrawn."

"Why? Weren't they needed?"  
"They were needed, alright.

They said it was staff shortages."  
"How tall were they, then?"

"No, I mean they couldn't recruit the staff to look after the eggs. Not that they advertised much or anything. Of course now they are all gone. No Eggs."

I turned to another group, because I heard they had some Eggs. "Yes, if you want an Egg, you just stay at home, and they bring it to you."

"What, a great big Egg, like we used to get."

"Not exactly lad. You remember those popular little

eggs we had from a famous British Chocolate firm?"

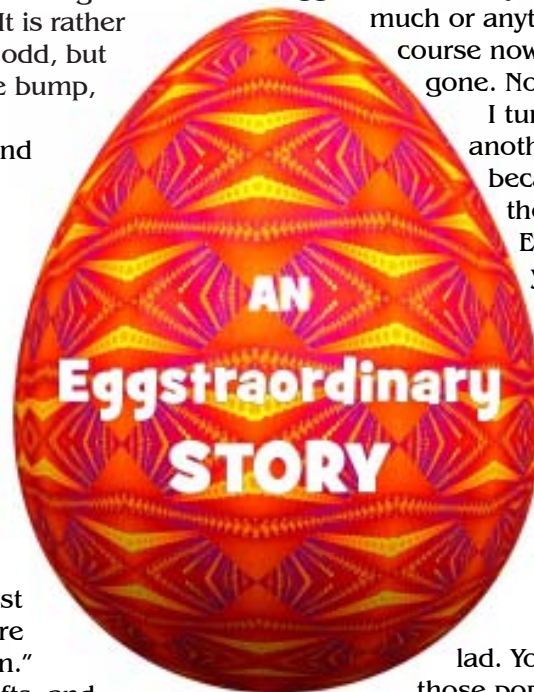
"Yes, I used to get one, several, every year."

"Well, people are saying they keep getting smaller, and the chocolate is not so good."

"I know..."

"Well it is the same with the eggs they bring you at home. They keep getting smaller, and you need more and more of them."

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## Appointment of Temporary Secretary

The Editor would like to personally thank Ruth, who has served many months as Secretary, and has worked extremely hard. She stood down at the last Campaign meeting. It is going to be hard to follow the example she set, and with the depth of knowledge she has of the situation.

Cathy Slaughter has offered to be Acting Secretary but only until the next meeting on 10th May, when it is vitally important that a (Correspondence/administrative) Secretary and a Minutes Secretary be appointed. Nominations urgently needed.

Please consider very carefully if you would be prepared to stand.

We very much need to find someone who can commit themselves to these important tasks.

Ruth tells us that the work of answering correspondence and administrative tasks takes on average around two hours a day, but can be much more at busy periods. Anyone applying for the voluntary posts should be committed to being available regularly and to keep up with the work. Apart from answering correspondence there are various administrative tasks such as booking halls, and so on.

## Tell It Like it is

**Time is running out for you to submit details** of your experiences of the effects of the NHS cuts on you so far. The deadline is 9 May for you to make your written report to the impending Commons Select Health Committee Sustainability and Transformation Plans inquiry

<http://tinyurl.com/kc7y74s>

Written evidence can be submitted as an individual or as an organisation.

A number of campaigners are putting information together that might be helpful to submit and this is a rare opportunity for ordinary folk to submit their experiences at a national level where it really can have an effect. Please support our campaign by making a submission if you can.

We have already written about the opportunity afforded in the upcoming County Council elections to vote for candidates who are opposing health cuts. The views of candidates on NHS, health and social care concerns are being sought and some volunteers are working on this. It is intended that a questionnaire will be sent to all candidates next week and we will try to publish the responses on the website and on Facebook. The questions will also be made available for supporters to use.



### North Devon County Council Candidates

Barnstaple North	
GREENSLADE, Brian Carol	Liberal Democrats
HOARE, David William	The Conservative Party
KNIGHT, Ricky	Green Party
NORDEN, Andy	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
TOMLINSON, Roy Ernest	Labour Party

<b>Barnstaple South</b>	
CHALMERS, David Nigel	Liberal Democrats
CHAMINGS, Matt	Green Party
CROWTHER, Steve	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
MATHEWS, John Vincent	The Conservative Party
OVEREND, Laurence	Labour Party
<b>Braunton Rural</b>	
CANN, Mark Michael Robert	Labour Party
CHUGG, Caroline Jean	The Conservative Party
MCCONNELL, Rob	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
SPEAR, Liz	Liberal Democrats
<b>Chulmeigh and Landkey</b>	
EDGE, Richard Colin	The Conservative Party
MASON, Marion Elizabeth	Labour Party
PUTTIPAP, Lucie Catherine	Green Party Candidate
WORDEN, David John	Liberal Democrats
<b>Combe Martin Rural</b>	
BELL, Oliver John Leslie	Labour Party
CHIVERS, Kyle James	Green Party
DAVIS, Andrea Vivienne	The Conservative Party
HAYWOOD, Sue	Liberal Democrat
IRVING-BELL, Jon	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
<b>Fremington Rural</b>	
ADNAMS HATCH, Julie Sheelagh	Liberal Democrats
BIEDERMAN, Frank Lindsay	Independent
CANN, Rodney Sheridan	The Conservative Party
CRAWFORD, Ian	Labour Party
DAVIES, Pauline Lesley	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
WEARNE, Phillip	Green Party
<b>Ilfracombe</b>	
CRABB, Paul Edward	The Conservative Party Candidate
EBERT, Toby	Labour Party
EDMUNDS, Mike	Independent
PEARSON, Netti	Green Party
ROBERTSON, Stuart	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
<b>South Molton Rural</b>	
BUSHELL, Matt	Liberal Democrats
HINCHLIFFE, Steven William	Labour Party
HORSNELL, Ian Derek Henry	Green Party
YABSLEY, Jeremy Owen	The Conservative Party

### 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

**Thursday 4 May** County Council elections. Vote for candidates who will protect our health services!

**Thursday 4 May** NEW Devon CCG Governing Body meeting 13.00 venue to be advised

**Wednesday 10 May** SOHS campaign meeting 19.00 The Guildhall, Barnstaple

**Tuesday 6 June** ND Health Trust Board meeting 10.00 – 17.00, Chichester Boardroom, North Devon District Hospital

More dates will be coming soon. Other events are being planned!

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

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# How to put together an article for Redlines

It has been suggested that I put together an article giving guidelines on how to prepare a contribution for Redlines. We always welcome articles and contributions, and where possible they are used. However some have to be discarded for the simple reason that they are not ready for publication.

I will explain some of the traps in this article, but I would say that perhaps the main reason articles cannot be used is that they would require too much time working on them to make them ready. Unfortunately, with a Redlines to produce each week, and only a single writer/editor, there is just not the time to look at anything that will take up too much of that.

The first thing to say is that I am not in the least concerned about your writing style, grammar or spelling. Sorting out any errors for that aspect takes me hardly any time, having edited articles, books and thousands of words throughout my lifetime. Just now and again I manage to hit on something that is unclear or ambiguous, but that is not really a problem.

Where we do run into difficulty is the message that says, "I think this is useful..." and then gives some sort of link. It may well lead to a great article, but it can't be published just like that. I usually have to treat those submissions as just a link, which is a shame because there might be some valid content, and probably most

people don't have the time to follow a link. It would also be great to include some SOHS slant or maybe additional content. I'll come on to that later.

Equally submissions that say little more than, "I think you should write about..." may be valid, but not as helpful as they might be. Apart from my lack of time, I also do not know what



particular aspect of the subject the submitter thinks is important. The obvious question to answer is, "why do you think I should write about that..."

Here are a few other things to be avoided:

**Don't make the article too party-political.** You might think that all the problems are the fault of the such-and-such party, but not everyone shares your views. It is also ridiculous to suggest that it must be automatically wrong

because it came out of the such-and-such party. These one-sided views are unhelpful, alienate readers, and display a poor lack of reasoning.

**Do not make personal attacks.** This is a slightly hazy area, because some level of attack of a public figure is permissible, but it should be relevant and not personal. So it would not be acceptable to make reference to a person's appearance, educational ability or ancestry unless it was relevant. So "so-and-so is a fat, ignorant fool, descended from apes, with the brains of an amoeba" is almost certainly destined for rejection.

**Do not cut and paste.** This is a big one, because we are all tempted to do it. We read something that is good and with a quick swipe of the mouse a paragraph or two appears in your article. Unfortunately this is not allowed, as it constitutes infringement of copyright. There is such a thing as "fair usage", but this is hazily defined. If you copied 100 words and placed them in your long article of 10,000 words that would probably be

considered fair usage, as it is just a small portion. However if the 100 words were part of a 200 word article, then that would certainly be copyright infringement. You might think that nobody would know if you use someone else's words in your own article, but you would be wrong, as some people protect their copyright jealously and have search engines that hunt out copyright infringement.

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The penalties for copyright infringement may not be that great, as it is usually limited to the loss of revenue the original writer would have sustained, however one hardly wants to become involved in legal proceedings that could be avoided by following this guideline.

How about re-wording the content you want to cut and paste? This seems like a simple solution, but it can still count as infringement of copyright if all the content is the same, just the words changed.

**Don't put conjecture as fact or be misleading** Things that you think or believe can be preceded by something like, I believe that... If you want to imply that many people believe something it is fine to use vague generalisations such as many people believe... If you decide on most people believe... then you need to be able to give some justification as to how you arrive at that conclusion. Of course you could say most of the people I have asked believe... which might sound stronger, but could imply that you have only asked people who would share your opinion.

Poor arguments weaken your case, and readers might see through them, however it is not something to be hung up on. Not every point of an article will be precisely right, and certainly, in the rush of turning out copy, I know I have often thought, "I could have put that point better".

Now we turn to what makes for a good article. I am not going to embark here on a course of how to write, just make a few general observations.

The first point is that the subject must be of interest widely. Many years back, I was editor of a village magazine. I received an article, in fact a small book, submitted on the history of the local cricket club. The magazine committee felt that this should be published, and it fell to me to edit and typeset one of the most boring articles that has ever come my way. Not only had the writer chosen a subject which was of limited interest, but he had then proceeded to present it in the most boring way. The scores of long-dead, widely-forgotten players were presented in meticulous detail. No attempt had been made to provide any interesting detail, saying who these people were, what jobs they did, what they looked like. Even boring content can be presented

in a more engaging way. So it needs to be interesting and relevant, and if possible it should contain a human touch. People like reading stories about people, and although cold facts are sometimes necessary, they still need to be engaging. I am sure there are people who spend hours reading and studying tables of statistics, but the majority of people find them hard to digest.

I would suggest that it is also good to acknowledge that there may be a different opinion, and sometimes to present a counter argument, for example, "some people would say health cuts are necessary, but have they considered that there might be alternative places where those cuts can be made without such harmful outcomes?" Might be better than simply, "we oppose all cuts."

I'll give you one final thought. A good ending is recommended. This might be to restate your main point, or it could be a witty remark that will leave people thinking or smiling. For the items you are submitting for consideration, don't feel that you need to get it all absolutely correct, because the editor should put what you write, ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup> Right?

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<b>Bideford East</b>	
BARNES Stephen	Not given
BRENTON David George	Labour and Co-operative Party
DOUGLAS-MANN Will	Green Party
HELLYER Linda Joan	The Conservative Party
PENNINGTON Phil	Independent
ROBINSON Sam	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
WOOTTON Robert Ivor	Liberal Democrat
<b>Bideford West &amp; Hartland</b>	
BRENTON Anne	Labour Party
INCH Tony	The Conservative Party
JULIAN Robin	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
POTTS Stephen	Liberal Democrat
<b>Holsworthy Rural</b>	
GALE Vivian George	The Labour Party
JOHNSON Nigel Andrew	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
LEAVER Caroline Frances	Liberal Democrat
PARSONS Barry Michael	The Conservative Party
<b>Northam</b>	
BERRYMAN David	Liberal Democrat
COATS Stan	Labour Party
EASTMAN Andrew John	The Conservative Party



HAMES Peter Graham	Green Party
LEATHER Chris	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
<b>Torrington Rural</b>	
AUVRAY Ray	Liberal Democrat
BOYD Andy	Not given
CRAIGIE James Andrew	Labour and Co-operative Party
DARCH Roger	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
FUNNELL Keith Stuart	Green Party
SAYWELL Andrew	The Conservative Party

**Find out who your local candidate is**  
**Don't forget to ask their views on potential health service cuts**  
**We will be publishing more information later**

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"I wanted one the other day. The first person delivered a bit of tinfoil. He said it was the wrapper. Another team were bringing the egg. They've not got here yet..."

In the corner is an old man. He has long white whiskers and his hair is grey and wild. He is wearing red, and he looks like... Father Christmas! He can't be, surely. Wrong season! When he speaks, he rambles, as he is inclined to do. "I can remember when we had lots of Eggs," he is saying. "Everyone had Eggs. There were enough to go round. They were big Eggs, brightly wrapped, and with luscious, thick chocolate. They were so big and so thick, they lasted for days."

A person, dressed in a jester costume, flits across the scene. He appears to be carrying bags of money to take to some rich people. I notice he has strings

attached to his hands and legs, and I wonder briefly who is pulling his strings. "Silly old fool, he mutters, nodding at Father Christmas. "Silly old fool..."

Suddenly, I give a loud snore and awake. It has all been a brief dream, but it had

almost become a nightmare. I drift back to sleep.

And then I see, across Devon, little mounds of Eggs.

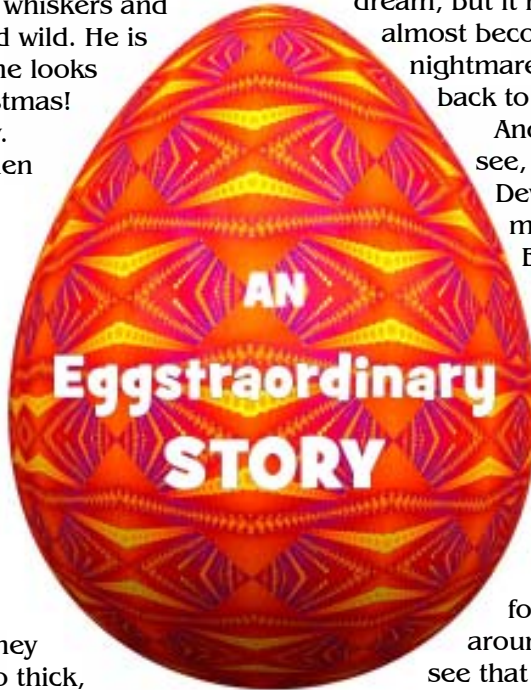
Clusters, piled in glittering, shiny, attractive heaps, and yet it is not the Eggs that are my

focus, for around them I see that there is a

red line of people,

standing hand in hand, linked in their cause to protect the Eggs.

And I chuckle, for while the evil jesters dance around trying to find a way in, I see that the



people. hands linked, around the clusters, seen from above, have drawn an egg-shaped red line of protection around that which they deem precious, and I know that unless the red line breaks the Eggs are safe.

Stephen

## Who is Anybody?

I am going to end this Easter issue with a very well known story.

It is about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

*There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.*

*Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.*

*It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.*

I have heard it dozens of times, but it always brings a smile to my face. Unfortunately it has more than a grain of truth in it.

In this issue, we are appealing for a new Secretary to step forward. In case you are already breathing a sigh of relief because you can't write, can't spell, or don't know how to use the computer, let me assure you there are plenty of other jobs that need doing. You tell us what you can do, and we will find a suitable task for you.

You see *Everybody* could help our campaign. But hardly *Anybody* comes forward because they all think *Somebody* else will do it and in the end *Nobody* does it.

What can you do? Please email [admin@sohs.org.uk](mailto:admin@sohs.org.uk) and ask for a job!

## Drawing a RED LINE across Devon

When we organise an SOHS event, I think it is important we are clear about why we are doing it and what our aims are. The redline had three key aims. Firstly to organise a cross Devon coordinated action against the threat to our health services in Devon. With the closure of hospitals across South and East Devon action groups have sprung up, the Red Line event aimed to get these groups to link together, sing from the same hymn sheet and demonstrate we are able to mount a cross Devon coordinated action when the proposed cuts to

our acute services are eventually set out. Secondly, to get people out on to the streets to show the The Powers That Be that we will not accept any cuts to our health services across Devon. Thirdly to build a sense of camaraderie across Devon and to create publicity for the campaign so more people are aware of the proposed cuts and join us in the fight. A great fighting spirit was evident from all those taking part. This is a fight we all know we cannot afford to lose. Our lives, and those of our loved ones, depend on it.

John