

CHA News 2021

New Covid service to be offered at Tewksbury Community Hospital

A unit will be opened to treat patients with Covid-19 who need a specific type of treatment called Neutralising Monoclonal Antibodies (nMABs). John Trevains, director of nursing, therapies and Quality at Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the unit, said: "This is a new treatment, which has only been made available since December 16. It is delivered through a drip to people aged 12 and above, who have tested positive for Covid and are at highest risk of getting seriously ill." The unit will be located in the minor injuries unit which will be closed. [Read more](#)

Congratulations to Rye Hospital on its Centenary Celebrations

There were celebrations at Rye Hospital to mark 100 years since the original hospital was built. Much has happened since, and the site now consists of a redeveloped community hospital, St Bartholomews Court which is extra-care sheltered housing, the GP medical centre and the Hub on Rye Hill which is the new community resource centre. Plans are underway for a care home to be built as part of the overall development as well. Barry Nealon, Chair of the Rye community charity which owns the freehold welcomed visitors to the event. A film was premiered which had been specially made for the celebrations. An exhibition showed the fascinating history of the hospital and community services, and the roles of key local residents including Sir Paul McCartney and Linda McCartney as well as Spike Milligan. Jo Douglas was the clinical advisor for the hospital redevelopment in 1990s and worked with Helen Tucker as part of the project team. Jo is now a Trustee of the charity. Helen Tucker attended the event on behalf of the CHA. Further details [here](#)

Helen Tucker & Jo Douglas attending the event

The Hub on Rye Hill

View from the hospital

St Bartholomew's Court

Patient Experience Champion wins Award - Mold Hospital

An activities coordinator for patients has received both bronze and silver awards for her extra efforts as Patient Experience Champion. Diane Sweeney, who works at Mold Community Hospital, volunteered to be a Patient Experience Champion and has created and developed exciting activities for her patients. "We are all a family in Mold Community Hospital, we work hard to ensure that the patients experience is positive and this is achieved by creating activities, listening to concerns and most importantly focussing on what is important for each patient." [Read more](#)

Whitby Hospital's Minor Injury Unit has changed to an Urgent Treatment Centre

The MIU at Whitby Hospital only saw patients with minor injuries, but the new UTC will now also treat minor illnesses. The UTC will also have x-ray facilities. Before attending the UTC, people should call NHS 111 to book an appointment. Opening times will be 8am to 8pm, 365 days a year. Michele Moran, Chief Executive at Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust, said: "These new urgent services are standardised across the country, providing additional and more accessible options for those based in remote areas. We are pleased to be able to offer these comprehensive options for care to patients in our local communities and hope that the introduction of the UTC in Whitby is a welcome addition to their community hospital." [Read more](#)

New Healthcare Hub at Saffron Walden Community Hospital

Crocus Medical Practice is moving premises this week into a new healthcare hub. They will move into a new space at Saffron Walden Community Hospital. West Essex CCG managing director Peter Wightman said of the move: "This is an important strategic step to enable the practice team to operate from larger modern facilities to provide primary care for residents in the Saffron Walden area. The location at the community hospital also offers a number of opportunities for health and care professionals at the site to work together." [Read more](#)

Review of Community Hospitals in Warwickshire

The South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) is currently holding a review into the inpatient facilities at their community hospitals, with an eye on exploring their current and future use. A spokesperson for SWFT said: "South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust is currently undertaking a review of the inpatient facilities at Ellen Badger and Stratford Hospitals. "The purpose of the review is to identify the extent to which the current model of care meets the needs of the population of south Warwickshire both now and in the years to come and will be exploring previous, current and future use of our community hospital beds alongside out-of-hospital services. "The pandemic has led to new ways of working and therefore an opportunity to review the use of these facilities, and this will be a contributing factor within this review. "The review is currently underway and the trust will share recommendations at the appropriate time." There is concern about the potential loss of beds, particularly given the loss of beds already at Alcester Community Hospital. [Read more](#)

Bryn Beryl Hospital - Children Fundraising

The children of some of the staff from Bryn Beryl are very eager to raise some funds for the hospital. The children aged between 7 and 11 years are asking kindly for you to sponsor them to climb to the

summit of Snowdon (something which none of them have done before!) on July 4th weather permitting of course! [Click here to sponsor](#)

Need for greater integration of palliative care in Community Hospitals

"To deliver high quality care requires a model of integrated care between community hospitals, geriatric care and palliative care, and a skilled workforce to manage multiple care needs across the continuum of care and into end of life." This article is published in e-hospice on 18th March 2021. The article also gives links to us at CHA and to resources concerning palliative and end of life care. [Read more on the ehospice website](#)

The Future of Teignmouth Hospital - Parliamentary Debate

Anne Marie Morris MP prompted a debate on the future of Teignmouth Hospital and made 3 requests to the Secretary of State and Minister:

1. Intervene to stop the automatic closure of Teignmouth Hospital 2. Instruct the reconfiguration panel that no closure of any hospital or facility should be made going forward without the impacts of covid having been taken into account and a proper impact assessment having been made 3. Instruct the clinical commissioning group to put in hand a separate consultation specifically on the closure of Teignmouth Hospital, after the data I referred to have been collected. Edward Argar MP, Minister for Health responded by saying that he would respond to her letter that she had written to the Secretary of State and he offered to meet with her to learn more about Teignmouth Hospital. Edward Argar said "although the legal powers available to me in the name of the Secretary of State are limited until and unless an IRP referral is received and the advice is then given, I am always delighted to meet with my hon. Friend if she feels that would be helpful." [Read more](#)

Call to support our community hospitals

Tribute has been paid this week to the volunteer supporters who keep local community hospitals going by contributing millions of charitable donations. Heather Penwarden, chair of Honiton Hospital & Community League of Friends, stressed the value of community hospitals like those in Honiton, Seaton, Ottery and Axminster and encouraged more people to join the voluntary groups that support them. Heather said this week: "During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic much has been said, and quite rightly so, in praise of our NHS hospitals and staff. "I would just like to draw attention to all the community hospitals we have in the South West and to the staff working from them, either on local medical wards, outreach renal dialysis units, outpatient clinics, emergency medical units or supporting patients in their own homes sometimes under the most challenging of circumstances." [Read more](#)

Calls for new community hospital in Hailsham 'turned down'

Cllr Blake-Coggins "We've done some research on all of this and we've sent out 3,500 questionnaires and I have to point out that 82 per cent of those returned are in favour of Hailsham looking towards having a cottage hospital. Cllr Blake-Coggins went on to say such a facility should have a minor injury unit, an X-ray department and 20 medical beds available for GPs to treat patients locally. The proposal was turned down. After the meeting, Steve Murphy who is spearheading the fight for a community hospital, said: "It's a slap in the face for Hailsham residents. They have ignored the voice of the people saying we know what's best for you, let the Department of Health handle the matter." He promised that the campaign will continue and encouraged residents to make their views known, especially to the town's district councillors. [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Argyll and Bute to use Skyport drone operation in UK first

Test delivery drones are now being used in Argyll and Bute to transport Covid-19 test samples and other medical materials between facilities. The drones can carry upto 3kg of medical supplies a maximum of 40 miles - and their cargo will include Covid-19 test kits and samples, medicine, and essential PPE. Head of strategic planning for Argyll and Bute HSCP, Stephen Whiston, said: "We are delighted to once again be at the forefront of using this innovative technology, to assess how unmanned drones can enhance our logistics operations and improve services for patients and clinicians in some of our most remote and island communities." The drone delivery service will initially operate between Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, Mid-Argyll Community Hospital in Lochgilphead, Easdale Medical Practice in Clachan Seil and the Mull & Iona Community Hospital in Craignure. [Read more](#)

Millions needed to restore Herefordshire's hospital buildings

MILLIONS of pounds of investment is needed to bring Herefordshire's hospital buildings up to scratch, figures reveal. NHS Providers warned that the speed at which the NHS estate is falling into disrepair is putting patients' lives at greater risk and making it more difficult for frontline staff to provide the right quality of care. The sites at Wye Valley NHS Trust require maintenance investment include: Leominster Community Hospital: £370,000; Ross Community Hospital: £287,000; Bromyard Community Hospital: £259,000. [Read more](#)

Hospital arts programme scoops national award

Creating With Care was started by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) four years ago and sees patients get involved in a range of activities. The scheme was set up by Angela Conlan and dementia nurse Paula Har after Ms Conlan originally came in as an artist in residence at Witney Community Hospital. The initiative was soon rolled out across all six of Oxford Health's community hospitals. Patients get involved in photography, mosaics, dance, drama and poetry, and during the pandemic, activity packs have been given out, along with online performances from musicians. Over the last four years, there has been a total of 4,350 patient attendances at sessions while £39,784 has been raised for projects. Creating With Care claimed the Innovation and Best Practice Improving Patient Care category at the Community Hospitals Association's (CHA) Innovations and Best Practice Awards. Judges said: "This work is an example of innovation and creativity at its best. You should all be so proud of developing and delivering this work... such passion, joy and intelligence – absolutely inspirational." To read more about our CHA Award to Creating with Care in the Oxford Mail, follow this [link](#)

Andover Community Hospital Gets CT Scanner

The Chief Executive of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust wrote on twitter: "Today I Saw the brilliant new CT scanner at Andover War Memorial Hospital. The team have done a great job of getting it up and running so patients can be scanned in Andover - start of a fantastic diagnostic hub."

Development works progressing well at hospitals across north Cumbria

Works are progressing well on major construction projects across north Cumbria's hospitals. The Trust executive director Michael Smillie said "major refurbishments and extensions having also been completed at the Keswick and Brampton community hospitals, the past 24 months have been "really exciting" in terms of improving the trust's facilities. Both Keswick and Brampton have increased their bed numbers and improved their facilities. We continue to develop clinic and site bases at all our hospitals." He added that he was particularly grateful to the Leagues of Friends of both hospitals, who had been instrumental in achieving such significant refurbishments for both sites. "I'm actually humbled by their tenacity, their big-hearted support for our community hospitals," he said. [Read more](#)

Lutterworth

Campaigners battling to save an historic community hospital in Lutterworth believe they are winning their desperate fight. Campaigners battling to save an historic community hospital in Lutterworth believe they are winning their desperate fight. Mary Guppy, 77, said she is feeling much more confident of saving the town's Feilding Palmer Hospital after holding crunch talks with regional NHS leaders and South Leicestershire MP Alberto Costa. "We held a very positive meeting with local health chiefs and I'm delighted at how it went." [Read more](#)

First students start at North Devon's new school of nursing

A new school of nursing in North Devon is allowing local people to gain a nursing degree closer to home. Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT), Petroc and the University of Bolton have teamed up to support people to study for a nursing degree locally rather than travel out of area. The students' placements will see them gain experience on the wards at North Devon District Hospital, in South Molton Community Hospital, and with the community nursing teams caring for patients in their own homes in Barnstaple, South Molton and Holsworthy. [Read more](#)

Edward Hain Hospital

NHS bosses accused of 'planning to sell off' Edward Hain Hospital in St Ives

West Cornwall HealthWatch (WCHW) has accused NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) of only being interested in closing down Edward Hain Community Hospital in St Ives so it could sell off the building. The watchdog said NHS bosses in the county had not really looked at bringing the 12 in-patient beds back into use, after closing the community hospital "temporarily" four years ago. The Kernow CCG has issued a questionnaire asking residents to suggest uses for the hospital – so long as they don't involve reopening its in-patient beds. Edward Hain Hospital was originally closed on the grounds of it being fire risk, and last month the CCG said that reopening the inpatients beds was not an option. [Read more](#)

Phase two of Llandrindod hospital upgrade approved by health board

Plans worth up to £4 million for the next upgrade to Llandrindod Wells County War Memorial hospital, have been submitted to the Welsh Government. Welsh Government Health Minister Vaughan Gething visited Llandrindod County War Memorial hospital in March 2020 to see the Phase One redevelopments. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) gave phase two of the project the go ahead at their meeting on Thursday, October 22. The first phase of the redevelopment at Llandrindod has seen an expanded renal dialysis unit reducing the need of patients to travel to Hereford. Other improvement

include an integrated day surgery, endoscopy and day ward area to provide more surgical and diagnostic procedures. [Read more](#)

Andover hospital first in region to get new scanning technology

Andover hospital has received a new piece of potentially life-saving equipment as part of a £1.5M investment package for medical imaging in the area. A new computed tomography (CT) scanner has been installed at Andover War Memorial Hospital. The scanner is the first of its kind in the region, and helps to support staff in providing the best possible care to patients in North and Mid-Hampshire. Dr Julian Elford, consultant radiologist at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and clinical lead for the project said: "This is fantastic news for Hampshire Hospitals and for all patients coming into our hospitals for planned investigations." "This is an exciting time for Hampshire Hospitals as we continue to develop our community-based services while ensuring our busy acute sites can offer the best possible care to the patients that need it." [Read more](#)

New equipment prevents journeys for patients

Patients with heart problems will no longer have to make a round trip to Ipswich for a diagnosis after new equipment was presented to Felixstowe Community Hospital. Members of the Rotary Club of Felixstowe raised funds for the ECG (electrocardiogram) machine and club president Dougie Pipe presented it to Renee Ward, lead nurse of the Falls and Frailty clinic for the Felixstowe Team at the hospital in Constable Road. [Read more](#)

Visiting patients suspended at York, Malton and Selby hospitals

Visiting patients at seven hospitals in and around York has been stopped in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19. As of Wednesday, October 21 York Hospital Trust, which includes York Hospital, Scarborough Hospital, Bridlington Hospital, Malton Community Hospital, The New Selby War Memorial Hospital, St Helen's rehabilitation hospital in Dringhouses and St Monica's Easingwold has suspended visiting to all sites. A spokesperson from the Trust said: "We have taken this decision to limit the spread of Covid-19, and to protect vulnerable patients and ensure staff safety. As soon as it possible to safely relax the visiting restrictions we will do so." [Read more](#)

Two consultations on future of county's NHS services go live - time to have your say

One consultation is on what services a new community hospital in the Forest of Dean should provide when it opens. The local NHS is asking people to have their say on what services they want for a new £11million community hospital in Cinderford. The hospital is planned to replace the Dilke Memorial and Lydney hospitals, which the NHS in Gloucestershire has previously said are no longer fit for purpose. Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS foundation Trust said the new hospital, which will serve everyone in the district, will be built on greenfield land in the north of Cinderford. A new 24-bed community hospital, delivering urgent care between 8am and 8pm seven days a week, diagnostic services and a car park with about 150 spaces are planned. Previous consultation with the public highlighted issues raised by residents – including travel and access, end of life care and inpatient capacity – which the NHS says it wants to provide solutions to. The NHS document also said a working group will be set up to see if there is a possibility to develop options for more urgent care services in the Lydney area. [Read more](#)

Brackley's new health centre about to open

A new health centre is due to open in Brackley, Northamptonshire later this year, with a purpose-built hospital ward, with inpatient hospital community beds, among other services. The community hospital inpatient beds service will be similar to other services that Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) runs across the county at Isebrook Hospital in Wellingborough, Danetre Hospital in Daventry, and Corby Community Hospital. [Read more](#)

Shotley Bridge

Government to fund new 16-bed community hospital in Shotley Bridge in County Durham. The Prime Minister confirmed a new 16-bed community hospital in Shotley Bridge will be part of plans to build 40 hospitals in England by 2030. It'll be built on the former steel works site in Consett, Durham. The Government say it's 'Health Infrastructure Plan' is the biggest hospital building programme in a generation - and that the County Durham site is part of their levelling up agenda for the North. A plan to rebuild Northgate Hospital in Morpeth is also pending final approval. [Read more](#)

Final stage of East Lothian Community Hospital completed

The East Lothian Community Hospital in Haddington has now been handed over to NHS Lothian and the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership after the final phase of the project was completed by its development partner hub South East. Calum Campbell, chief executive for NHS Lothian, said: "It's great to see the East Lothian Community Hospital now fully complete. It really is a fantastic, attractive facility that is helping us to deliver high quality care, closer to home. This is convenient for our patients and helps relieve pressure on other hospital sites. [Read more](#)

'Use Worcestershire's Minor Injury Units to take pressure off A&Es' say health bosses

People are being urged to go to community hospitals, including the Princess of Wales in Bromsgrove and Malvern's Community Hospital, which can deal with small cuts, burns, strains or suspected fractures. Patients can now book an appointment slot at one of the sites via NHS111 or can just turn up and be triaged on site. There is a good chance they will be seen quicker than if they were to go to one of the county's A&Es. "Often the waiting times in our MIUs are significantly less than an A&E department and we have also taken all necessary steps to ensure our units are safe and can adhere to social distancing measures. Anyone attending a unit should wear a face mask, and we are also asking that only one person attends if possible." Minor Injury Units at Tenbury and Evesham Community Hospitals remain closed at the moment. [Read more](#)

Benenden Hospital launches health webinars

Individual webinars will be led by one of Benenden Hospital's team of leading consultants who will talk about the treatments within their area of expertise, concluding with a live question and answer session. Rowan Connell, medical director at Benenden Hospital said: "The webinars have been developed through a combination of responding to what patients have asked for and close working between teams at the hospital and will help to de-mystify and educate patients on a number of popular treatments. In addition to the public webinars, Benenden Hospital has also launched a series of treatment webinars for GPs across the region. [Read more](#)

Work on new £10m Hythe hospital set to start

Work to build a £10m state-of-the-art community hospital in Hythe is to begin this month, two years after planning permission was granted. The go-ahead was granted by New Forest District Council in

2018 for a new healthcare facility and up to 21 homes on the site of the former Hythe and Dibden War Memorial Hospital. The new hospital will provide a range of health and wellbeing services for local people including outpatients, therapy and diagnostic services as well as specialist community dentistry. League of Friends chair John Carr added: "This is such good news for the local community and has been long awaited." [Read more](#)

Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board Covid outbreak in eastern area hospitals declared 'closed'

North Wales health board has said a coronavirus outbreak in some eastern area hospitals including Deeside Community Hospital and Wrexham's Maelor Hospital is now over has been declared 'closed'. Today Dr Kate Clark, Secondary Care Medical Director for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, said: "It has now been 28 days since any new positive cases of COVID-19 were identified as part of the outbreak in our East area. As a result, we have declared that the outbreak is now closed." [Read more](#)

A Spitfire plane is due to fly over Stirling community hospital to thank front-line workers

A Spitfire plane travelling around Scotland is due to fly of the Stirling Community Hospital around 2pm this afternoon. The NHSSpitfire as it is called, has been flying over hospital around Scotland since 10am this morning, with the words "THANK U NHS". It is flying over Scotland's hospital to celebrate and thank those who are still working on the frontlines to fight the coronavirus pandemic. [Read more](#)

Upgrade for Dawlish Hospital as Teignmouth set to close

Some services would move to a new £8million health and wellbeing centre in Teignmouth town centre. Public consultation on the plans launched at the start of September had been delayed from March due to the coronavirus pandemic. That meant a start date on the site for the new health and wellbeing centre was pushed back to January 2021. [Read more](#)

Antenatal services relocated from Withington Community Hospital in order to 'protect the safety of service users and staff'

Changes have been made to south Manchester maternity services in order to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Community midwifery services at Withington Community Hospital have been relocated to the Borchardt Medical Centre, which is also in Withington. Women needing blood tests for gestational diabetes will be able to access services via Wythenshawe Hospital. Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust said the changes would maintain a local antenatal service for women while also being part of safety measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic. [Read more](#)

Smaller hospitals to thrive, says Hancock

"I've always been a massive fan of community hospitals and putting services in the community where they are needed, and the coronavirus crisis, if anything, has shown us how important it is to have hospitals and NHS services that are part of the community," Matt Hancock has said. "There was an era where more and more services were being centralised in huge locations. That era is over. The future of the NHS is getting services into the community, including community hospitals and the small and medium sized district general hospitals. Shotley Bridge, he said, was on the brink of getting a new

community hospital, "We have tried to split the NHS into green sites, which are Covid-free, and blue sites, where there may be Covid, so people going, for instance, for cancer treatment are safer. Shotley Bridge has had a pandemic bounce with oncology and chemotherapy treatments now taking place there." [Read more](#)

Professor Jon Glasby speaking on Community Hospitals

Professor Jon Glasby presents the key findings of the report which shows that community hospitals are valued and trusted by patients and communities. Jon Glasby talks of decisions on health provision being driven by "value for money." Jon Glasby asks whether we should not focus as much as the "value" as the "money" - and have a broader notion of what matters to local people when we are deciding about the future of local services. [Link for the video](#) [Link to the Report](#)