

Campaigners praise NHS as hospital ward gets recruitment success

A campaign group has praised the NHS for helping to save a community hospital ward. The 16-bed unit at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital shut in 2021 due to staff shortages but in September, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust promised another recruitment drive. The move led to a number of new staff being taken on and a campaign group said everyone was "very appreciative". More recruitment events were planned in future months. Jenny Sargent, chair of Bishop's Castle Save Our Beds, said after two years of campaigning the group was now "working well with the trust". It had also been included in meetings and interviews for potential new recruits. "They have been very positive and we are very appreciative," she added. Read [more](#) New staff are being offered up to £3,000 as an incentive to work at the community hospital. Campaigners have welcomed what they call a £3,000 'golden handshake' for new staff as attempts to recruit people for the much loved community hospital saw interested local nurses turn up for a drop in at the hospital on Saturday. Read [more](#)

Bishop Auckland Hospital - Additional Community Beds

Extra healthcare services are being provided in County Durham ahead of the busy winter period thanks to the expansion of a community hospital. Additional beds are being used at Bishop Auckland Hospital to cope with increased demand and extra capacity required at this time of year. The County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust is working towards several key targets to help ease the pressures in the coming months. They include: additional ambulances, an expanded urgent community response, and same day emergency care. The trust's chief executive Sue Jacques said opening Bishop Auckland Hospital to allow extra services has helped alleviate some of the pressures. She said: "It's a really bustling environment and very different to what it was five years ago. We have opened additional beds there. We're using Bishop to the full and have expanded the amount of elective work that's being done there." Read [more](#)

Public Accounts Committee Report on New Hospital Programme

The PAC has published a report which declares no confidence that the 40 new hospitals promised in the Government programme will be delivered. Read the report [here](#) Community hospitals included in the programme included 4 in Dorset - Poole, Dorchester, Bournemouth and Christchurch; and Shotley Bridge in Durham. Read the programme [here](#)

Major winter beds shortage fears at Burton and Derby hospitals

Papers from the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust show that by January 2024 the organisation could be 163 beds short of the space it needs. The Royal Derby Hospital the trust aims to reduce the bed deficit by changing the "patient flow" for stroke

patients, moving services to Florence Nightingale Community Hospital, (previously known as London Road Community Hospital). Read [more](#)

Award for art installations at East Lothian Community Hospital

NHS Lothian Charity's Tonic Arts Programme received an award win at the 2023 Building Better Healthcare Awards, held at The Brewery in London, for their holistic and pioneering art and environment strategy at the new East Lothian Community Hospital in Haddington. Feedback from patients and staff has been positive. Anne Bisset, Patient, Carer and patient representative on the commissioning team, said: "When you're in hospital as a patient, your world becomes extremely small, you're confined to a quite a small space and your day's very routine and monotonous. To be able to go and look at a piece of artwork – is a respite from everything else." Read [more](#)

Minister for Health turns sod on new Letterkenny Community Hospital

Stephen Donnelly, Health Minister, turned the sod on Letterkenny community hospital. The new Letterkenny Community Hospital will comprise of 110 beds including a mix of long/short stay rehabilitation and dementia care with associated resident accommodation. The net construction cost of the facility is €52 million, and it is anticipated to be operational in early 2026. Minister Donnelly described the new facility as a 'game changer' which will provide fantastic care and increase the number of discharge beds available for the hospital. Read [more](#)

Glan Clwyd 'at breaking point' as calls made for community hospital

Rapid action is needed to open a long-awaited new community hospital in Rhyl amid "unacceptable" pressure at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan, a MS has said. Plans for a new hospital, on the former Royal Alexandra site in Rhyl, were revealed in 2013, but have yet to materialise. Proposals included community beds, a same day minor injuries and illness service, a treatment zone, outpatient therapy services, sexual health, community dental, radiology, adult psychology and mental health services. Read [more](#)

Fake Nurse at St Andrews Community Hospital

A health board has been reprimanded after a woman pretending to be an agency nurse was able to assist with the care of a patient and access sensitive medical records at St Andrews Community Hospital. A spokesperson for the health board said: "The individual was only on a ward for a short period of time and left shortly after being challenged by a member of the nursing team. While the person was never alone with any patient, they did have access to a handover document containing information relating to patients on the ward." A reprimand, issued by the Information Commissioners Office states that the person - who identified themselves as an agency nurse - was handed the treatment plans of the patients due to "a lack of identification checks and an unclear

process". The report also notes that CCTV on the ward had been accidentally turned off at the time, meaning NHS Fife and Police Scotland have been unable identify the person involved. Read [more](#)

Teignmouth Hospital closure plan paused after critical report

Devon County Council's health and adult care scrutiny committee agreed more evidence will be gathered before councillors decide whether to refer Teignmouth Hospital's planned closure to the health secretary again. The local community are campaigning to keep Teignmouth Hospital. In the meantime, planning approval has been given to a new Health Centre which will replace services from the hospital. Read [more](#) Also BBC Devon [here](#)Read the Response of the CHA to the BBC, written by Dr Kirsty Protherough Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

'It's a scandal': Protesters rally together in bid to save empty wing at Seaton community hospital

Protesters trying to save an empty wing at a hospital in Devon have said it is a "public scandal" that so much money has been spent on it while it has been out of use. Dozens of campaigners gathered outside Exeter's County Hall in a bid to save the two-story wing at Seaton Community Hospital ahead of a meeting with Devon's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee. NHS Devon is planning to hand back the hospital ward to its property service due to a 'lack of financially viable plans' for the space. Read [more](#)

Memorial Care Centre Rye - A Good Practice Model

Peter Dale, now Chair of the South East England Forum on Ageing (SEEFA) was one of the original project team for the development of the Rye community hospital and services. Peter celebrates the achievements of the community in an article published on the Age Alliance website. Peter writes *"It is an example of what can be achieved by a combination of professional collaboration, community involvement and a willingness to "join the*

dots” between services.” Read [here](#) Read Peter's paper "A New Narrative on Ageing" [here](#)

CHA joins a Care Coalition to Call for High Quality Care for People in the Final Years of Life

The CHA has joined a coalition of Care organisations to call for improvements to the care of people in their final years. A joint letter to the Secretary of State was signed by all parties. Organisations signing this open letter are: the CHA with [Gold Standards Framework](#), [National Care Forum](#), [British Geriatric Society](#), [Association of Retirement Communities Operators](#), [Care England](#), and [Homecare Association](#)

“We, as a coalition of leading health and care frontline organisations, urge you to improve EOLC:

- At workforce service level - to support all frontline generalist staff in health and social care to receive enhanced training to provide quality, proactive, compassionate care for people nearing the end of life;
- ICB System level - scale this up in ICBs for whole-system approaches to integrated joined-up care; and
- Nationally - policy and CQC regulation to support better care for older people nearing the end of life.”

Sue Greenwood, CHA committee member represented the CHA at the most recent meeting in November. We will report on progress.

CHA Chair Comments on Delayed Discharges Comparisons

Dr Kirsty Protherough was called upon to offer insights on the data issued by NHS England which showed delayed discharges in community hospitals in comparison to those in acute hospitals. Kirsty makes the case for a nuanced understanding and explains the role and

contribution of community hospitals. Kirsty writes" . *Senior healthcare leaders must acknowledge that properly resourcing Community Hospitals to cater based on their unique needs, to their local populations, rather than closing beds, can alleviate pressure on the acute sector, shorten hospital stays, and enhance the overall experience of older adult patients, their families, and friends. It is imperative that we approach this issue with a nuanced understanding to ensure the continued effectiveness of our Community Hospitals.*" Read the full article [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#)

Rye Hospital becomes the first in the UK to become Carbon Neutral

Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital has become the UK's first hospital to achieve carbon neutrality. *"Our goal was always to become a fully functional net zero community hospital, but to have done it so quickly and as the UK's first is beyond our expectations."* Barry Nealon, chairman at Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital. Read more on their website here, which includes a summary of achievements and interviews on media [Here](#) Barry Nealon and Jo Posnette spoke at a national conference "Our People, Our Planet" sharing their achievements.

Hub on Rye Hill Open Day at Rye Hospital

The Rye Hospital charity held an Open Day at their Community and Wellbeing Hub to celebrate the international year of the older person. The hub is in the grounds of the hospital, and offers a community communal space. There were stands of voluntary organisations, activities, taster sessions for services such as massage and foot care, live music, and delicious food from the cafe. There was a great atmosphere, and a chance for local people to spend time there and see what is on offer. Jo Posnette (Trustee Rye Hospital and CHA committee member) and Helen Tucker (President CHA) and Peter Dale (Chair of the South East England Forum

on Ageing) were members of the original project team for the redevelopment of the hospital and were pleased to be part of the day. Congratulations to all involved. Read more [here](#) in the article "Community at its Best"

Community Raises £1m to reopen Edward Hain Hospital as a Health and Wellbeing Centre

Edward Hain hospital was closed in 2020, but the community raised more than £1million to allow the building to reopen as the Edward Hain Centre. It will provide a range of health and wellbeing services. Kit Hain-Grindstaff, great-granddaughter of the founder Sir Edward Hain, said: "I just feel so blown away by the commitment of the friends and the people of St Ives, what it means to people and the family story. It is joyful." Read [more](#) The Friends of the Hospital have purchased the hospital and are now setting up the [Edward Hain Centre](#)

Friends of Denbigh Infirmary funding hundreds of thousands to improve services

The Friends of Denbigh Infirmary have recently reopened the side entrance to the hospital after spending hundreds of thousands on improving the service. **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Friends of Insch Hospital and Community Advertising for a Community Coordinator

The Friends of Insch Hospital have publicised that they are recruiting to a new post to play a vital role in addressing gaps in health and social care in the community.

Fordingbridge Hospital future uncertain as Ford Ward closes admissions

Fordingbridge Hospital failed to reach staffing levels required to keep staff and patients safe and has closed admissions. The future of the ward is now under review. Read [more](#)

Shropshire protestors push bed 18 miles in effort to save hospital in Bishop's Castle

A group of campaigners in Shropshire have pushed their local mayor through the streets in a double bed in an effort to try and save beds at their local community hospital. Cllr Josh Dicken was pushed 18 miles through local villages after starting at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital this morning. The 16 inpatient beds there closed

temporarily in October 2021, but have yet to reopen. A meeting on the 7th September will make a decision about their future. Read [more](#)

Celebrating 75 Years of the NHS!

A wonderful achievement, offering health care free at the point of delivery over 75 years. Community hospitals have been a vital part of the NHS, with local accessible community-based services within many rural, remote and coastal areas. We know that the first baby to be born within the NHS was born in a community hospital - Amman Valley Hospital in Wales. The NHS is fantastic institution that we must make sure continues. Thank you to all involved in the NHS!

Community Support Refurbishment & Re-Equipping of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne

The Friends of Wimborne Hospital and a local benefactor have funded the refurbishment and re-equipping of the hospital X-ray department costing £650,000. This has provided a second room both of which are fully digitalised, with auto-tracking which speeds up the workflow and avoids heavy handling. They can now accommodate 2 lists of 30-40 patients daily plus MIU and OP referrals. The new equipment can provide for max-fax and dental needs and can also avoid the need for elderly and obese to lie flat on the X-ray table. The more rapid throughput allows urgent referrals be done on the same or next day and routine imaging in 7 days. The waiting area, reception, seating and decor were designed to be dementia-friendly after liaison with the Wimborne Dementia Friendly Group. The department was opened on 16th May by Harry Rednapp who lives locally on Sandbanks. The project has been a huge success and welcomed by both staff and patients.

[Rye Hospital](#) and [Hub on Rye Hill](#)

Trustees of the Rye Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital welcomed a visit from the CHA and the Q

Community on 28th June. Barry Nealon (Chair of Rye Hospital) and his team talked about their community-based services for local people at the Hospital site which now includes: [Community hospital](#), [Community hub](#), [Extra-care sheltered housing](#) and [GP practice](#). In addition a Care Home is planned to be opened in 2024. You can watch videos about Rye Hospital [here](#) : People Power, Something Right, Our VIP Hospital, The Patient Journey, Centenary History. Tarnia Mason and her team from the [Q Community](#) had an opportunity to talk with those present about the role and potential of these services, and the value to patients families and communities. Also to talk about community hospitals nationally and their role and contribution. The [CHA](#) was represented by Helen Tucker, Richard Hallett, Julia Fairhall and Jo Posnette. This was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the community of Rye in owning, developing and managing these services. The CHA has a Community Hospitals [Special Interest Group](#) in the Q Community, which is a growing network. Thank you to all involved. It is great to further develop our networks.

Art Making a Difference

Oxford Health Arts Partnership (OHAP) launched their new video this week, showcasing the work they do across Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust services to bring the arts into patient wellbeing and recovery. Angela Conlan and Paula Har have been developing and promoting this arts programme - which won a national Innovations and Best Practice Award from the CHA. Do follow the link to learn more and to watch the video, which includes patients and their views. Read [more](#)

£15m redevelopment of Bro Ddyfi community hospital Machynlleth now complete

Construction has completed in the significant redevelopment of Bro Ddyfi Community Hospital in North Wales, creating an integrated health and wellbeing facility on the site of the former Machynlleth Union Workhouse, initially built in 1860. The project has created a multi-disciplinary facility, housing community and primary healthcare, adult mental health treatment, outpatient facilities, and women's and children's clinics, all under one roof. Intended to improve the lives of people living in Dyfi Valley for generations to come, construction is now complete, with the first patients coming through the doors last month. Read [more](#)

Staff and supporters mark 100 years of The Dilke Hospital with community celebration.

One hundred years of the the Dilke hospital in Cinderford has been celebrated. The Friends of The Dilke organised a celebration which included music from the Berry Hill Band and the Drybrook and District Ladies' Choir. The event is the last at the current site of the hospital as the new hospital in Cinderford is due to open in February next year. Read [more](#)

New community diagnostic centre set for Thurrock Community Hospital

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSEFT) has been working with partners across the Integrated Care System to put forward a bid for funding for a Community Diagnostic Centre. The centre will offer a range of services including X-ray, ultrasound, CT scans, MRIs, heart and lung checks, blood tests. Read [more](#)

Ripon hospital to provide more health checks after £1m award

Ripon Community Hospital has been awarded £1 million to expand the number of health checks and scans. It means GPs will be able to refer more patients to the hospital for life-saving checks closer to home and be diagnosed for a range of conditions. The NHS England funding is part of an expansion of community diagnostic services announced by the Government. Ripon Community Hospital will refurbish its X-Ray room and equipment and expand the service to six days a week. The ultrasound room will be extended and its services expanded to six days a week and a second audiology room will be created, with additional staff, to provide more hearing tests in Ripon. The funding will also help to create two clinic rooms to offer more frequent blood samples and local access to tests such as spirometry, ambulatory ECG and ambulatory blood pressure. The hospital on Firby Lane, which is part of Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust will have capacity for 27,000 checks a year once services are expanded. Read [more](#)

Public invited to share views on future of Bishop's Castle hospital

Hospital bosses in Shropshire are urging the public to share ideas about the future of a hospital which closed temporarily two years ago. Staff shortages at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital led to its 12-bed unit closing. Shropshire Community Trust said it still faced recruitment problems and could not reopen safely in the near future. An engagement process has started with stakeholders, the public and staff. Read [more](#)

United Lincolnshire Hospitals Charity prepares to raise £75k for NHS 75

The United Lincolnshire Hospitals Charity is setting out a Challenge 75 campaign for the year, with the aim of raising an additional £75,000 during 2023 to mark the milestone. There are already a whole host of fundraising activities planned, that will go towards raising the target amount. Events such as the NHS 75 Ball, a skydive, and the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge will support the appeal, as well as

the charity hosting an NHS Big Tea to officially mark the 75th year. Community hospitals include Grantham and District Hospital, Pilgrim Hospital Boston and County Hospital Louth. Read [more](#)

Health Minister praises partnership working at community hospital

The Minister for Health and Social Services Eluned Morgan and Deputy Minister for Social Care Julie Morgan have visited South Pembrokeshire Community Hospital in Pembroke Dock to learn more about how partnership working helps patients in Pembrokeshire receive the best care. Eluned Morgan and Julie Morgan, visited the Co-ordination Centre at South Pembrokeshire Hospital to hear more about the 'Further Faster' initiative where the Hywel Dda University Health Board, Pembrokeshire Council and third sector work together to co-ordinate and allocate the appropriate care to people across the county. Read [more](#)

Haddington: East Lothian Community Hospital hosts vaccination clinics

Vaccinations against a range of conditions will soon be on offer from the East Lothian Community Hospital. The team will reprioritise the roll out of shingles and pneumococcal vaccinations, before commencing on the annual flu programme alongside any announcement on further Covid-19 boosters. Read [more](#)

Calls for NHS services to be reinstated as barge set to arrive

Campaigners have renewed calls for NHS services to be reinstated at Portland Community Hospital ahead of the arrival of the asylum seeker barge. A Multi-Agency Forum (MAF) has been established by Dorset Council. It aims to ensure 'minimal impact' on local services, communities and businesses, and is overseeing arrangements for the provision of health services, operational arrangements such as transport and waste, and the safety and security of local residents and the asylum seekers. Philip Marfleet from the group said: "The need for proper functioning services on Portland has never been greater. GP surgeries are under enormous pressure and Portland Community Hospital has been stripped of its crucial Minor Injuries Unit and X-ray department. Read [more](#)

Cumbrian Trust nursing vacancies less than half the national average

A health trust in north Cumbria has successfully filled vacancies to its nursing workforce using a combination of 'ground-breaking' new approaches. As well as recruiting over 350 internationally educated nurses over the last two years, a 'grow your own' scheme has seen North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (NCIC) appointing hundreds of people locally into the Trust and supporting them to develop and train while they work. As a result, the nursing vacancy rate at the Trust has dropped to 6.4% which is almost half the national average and the lowest it has ever been in North Cumbria. The Trust is now sharing its successes more widely in the NHS as best practice in recruiting to rural healthcare. To date the trust has supported 52 health care assistants through their nursing degree with 23 more expected to complete this year. Among those qualifying last week were Annabel Simpson who is now a community staff nurse after changing her career from a home carer. She joined Penrith Community Hospital as a health care assistant and applied for her nurse apprenticeship which she has now completed after four years. Read more [here](#)

Livingstone Community Hospital in Dartford to receive government funding for new community diagnostic centre

A hospital is set to be refurbished in a bid to cut NHS waiting times. Livingstone Community Hospital will see a share of the £2.3 billion investment fund to create a new community diagnostic centre (CDC) for Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley. Read more [here](#)

New MRI unit and expansion announced for Ilkeston Community Hospital

A hospital has submitted plans for an extension to its outpatient area and a new MRI unit. The proposal has been put in for Ilkeston Community Hospital, and if approved, would allow the site to boost the range of diagnostic tests it can offer to patients. Read more [here](#)

South Molton Eye Centre official opened

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust formally opened the South Molton Eye Centre this week. Patients with eye conditions in Northern Devon and Torridge will now benefit from reduced waiting times and access to state-of-the-art equipment. The brand new £1.4m facility has been developed at the former renal unit at South Molton Community Hospital. This was made possible with a generous donation of £500,000 from the South Molton Hospital League of Friends. Read more [here](#)

Record £14 million investment plans proposed for new Community Diagnostic Centre at Withington Community Hospital

Plans for a record £14,200,000 investment in Withington Community Hospital would mean quicker and more convenient access to life-saving tests for patients in West Didsbury and south Manchester who have suspected cancers or cardio-respiratory diseases. The news has been welcomed by Professor Jane Eddleston, Joint Group Medical Director for Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Withington Community Hospital. Read more [here](#)

Machynlleth hospital opens to patients after £15 million redevelopment

Patients are now being admitted to Machynlleth's Bro Ddyfi Community Hospital following a £15 million redevelopment. At the end of April local GP practice Dyfi Valley Health moved across the road into the new hospital building and they are now operating from their new home. Hayley Thomas, is Interim Chief Executive of Powys Teaching Health Board: "We are truly grateful to Welsh Government for providing us with the funding to develop Bro Ddyfi Community Hospital in a way that will deliver better access to doctors, nurses, dentists and other health professionals in modern state of the art facilities." Read more [here](#)

Dartmouth and Kingswear Community Hospital goes up for sale on the open market

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust are putting the site of the former Dartmouth and Kingswear Community Hospital for sale on the open market. While the community bid to buy and redevelop may still be viable, it has been affected by significant delays in raising the requisite finance, which has not been achieved within the agreed timelines. Read more [here](#)

Police identify 19 suspects in Gosport hospital opioid deaths inquiry

Investigation into premature deaths of more than 450 people at community hospital will be 'decisive', say Kent and Essex police. Police investigating the deaths of hundreds of patients at a community hospital say they have identified 19 suspects. An independent police investigation was launched into Gosport War Memorial hospital, in Hampshire, after inquiries found that hundreds of patients had their lives shortened through the use of opioids. Deputy assistant commissioner Neil Jerome said: "The independent investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial hospital is one of the largest and most complex of its nature in the history of UK policing." Read more [here](#)

Plans approved to replace Shotley Bridge hospital with community facility in County Durham

A community hospital in County Durham has been granted planning permission. The proposals are for a new facility in Consett and would replace the current Shotley Bridge Community Hospital. Durham County Council's planning committee gave the go-ahead on the new multi-million pound proposal for Derwent View - part of the former steel works site. Read more [here](#)

New approach to Development of Health and Care Services across Falkirk

A series of projects will be aligned in a new long-term planning approach for health and care services across Falkirk and wider Forth Valley area. A review of the way community-based services are delivered has already been conducted as part of a wider master planning exercise for the Falkirk Community Hospital site. This Strategic Assessment looked at the range of services currently

provided, including ophthalmology, speech and language therapy, sexual health, dental services, psychology, audiology, podiatry, mental health support and inpatient facilities, as well as exploring future healthcare needs across the area. Read more [here](#)

Health committee to be asked to back ‘one-stop-shop’ new Mansfield diagnostics centre

Councillors on a county council committee will be asked to support plans for a state-of-the-art new NHS diagnostics centre in Mansfield. The major new project, led by Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust (SFH), was awarded Government funding last month. SFH says the facility, which would be built alongside the existing Stockwell Gate community hospital, could welcome its first patients in autumn 2024. Read more [here](#)

National CHA Award for Launceston Hospital

Anna Mitchell and team received their CHA Innovations and Best Practice award for their pioneering scheme - creating a Meaningful Activities Coordinator to support patient in hospital. The impact on the wellbeing of patients has been very positive so the scheme has been extended. Dr David Seamark, Vice President of the CHA, and Sue Greenwood, CHA Committee member gave this special Presidents Award in recognition of the significant achievements of the team.

Bicester Community Hospital Nutrition & Hydration Week

The staff at Bicester Hospital shared their news: Last week 13-17th March we celebrated nutrition and hydration week in Bicester Community Hospital. On Monday we celebrated Milkshake Monday with a variety of flavours including strawberry, chocolate and banana for staff and patients. Tasty Tuesday was used to highlight nutrition

with a variety of foods including various flavoured quiches which went down a real treat with patients – only 1 slice was left for staff. Staff bought in a variety of food including homemade rice, onion bhajis and vegetable samosas, thank you to all staff for embracing this, especially Taz. Wednesday was cupcakes/cakes and tea, again the cakes disappeared quite quickly and patient feedback was positive ‘loved the cupcakes available’. Staff bought and made lots of cakes for the staff to share, Sally’s fridge cake quickly disappeared. Thirsty Mocktail Thursday followed with a variety of mocktails including Sunrise mocktail and mojito mocktail – these were a refreshing change for patients and staff alike. Photos attached are from finger good Friday which included a variety of fruit along with cheese and pineapple sticks and pork pie. It was a really enjoyable week for patients and staff that was used to highlight the importance of nutrition and hydration. Colleagues and patients in Wallingford Community Hospital also had lots of fun during the week highlighting the importance of nutrition and hydration, with a special Mocktail menu. Images below are from Wallingford and Bicester Hospitals. Download poster [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#)

New Bench for Rothbury Hospital

The wonderfully talented and skilful Michael Boxall, agreed to make a bench to commemorate the *Save Rothbury Community Hospital Campaign*, and, in particular, two of its members who died during the campaign to save the NHS beds. The bench was created from an oak tree that had been felled by Storm Arwen, and was kindly gifted by the owner. **The Save Rothbury Community Hospital Campaign Team is so proud and happy to present this wonderful bench. It will provide the perfect place to sit and enjoy the view over Rothbury and Coquetdale.** Read more [here](#)

Teignmouth Community Hospital 'Government needs to rethink hospital closure' vote councillors

Councillors were today applauded as they unanimously backed calls to reopen Teignmouth Hospital - rather than close it and replace it with a smaller GP-led health centre. Campaigners demonstrated in a show of solidarity ahead of this morning's Teignbridge Council meeting. "Across Devon, Community Hospitals such as Teignmouth have played a vital role in healthcare, providing a range of inpatient and outpatient healthcare close to the community. Pressures on the acute hospitals, such as Torbay, are immense and made worse by the lack of beds in the community to which patients could be discharged by Torbay." The motion also called for the council 'to consider undertaking a review of the closure of cottage hospitals in the district'. Read more [here](#) *Thanks to GERALYN ARTHURS and her team for sending this to the CHA.*

Holywell Good Companions Fundraisers Re- Open Tea Bar

The Good Companions Tea Bar has reopened at Holywell Community Hospital after being closed for nearly three years. John Saunders, Chairman of the Good Companions fundraising group, said: "We are excited to have the tea bar open again. Staff, patients and visitors are very happy to see us open and to see us fundraising for the hospital." Read **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Questions on Community Hospitals by Julian Lewis MP New Forest East for a Written Answer

[Written Answers — Department of Health and Social Care: Community Hospitals](#)

Julian Lewis MP: To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many inpatient beds there were in NHS community hospitals in England in (a) 1997, (b) 2010 and (c) 2022; and if he will make an assessment of trends in inpatient capacity in those hospitals between those dates. (30 Jan 2023)

Julian Lewis MP: To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the potential role of inpatient beds in community hospitals as step-down beds to release capacity in general hospitals; and how many inpatient beds there are in community hospitals in England. (26 Jan 2023)

Bring back cottage hospitals to free capacity in NHS, says senior health leader

Professor Dame Clare Gerada, chair of the [Royal College of GPs](#), has said that a new generation of cottage hospitals could offer better treatment to elderly people living with long-term health issues. The article describes Cottage hospitals as a small type of hospital first developed in the UK in the mid-1800s providing outpatient and day-patient care, with patients with minor illnesses able to recover in a bed near their homes and family. Read the article [here](#) and read the response from Dr Kirsty Protherough of the CHA [here](#)

Encouraging Staff to Identify their Superpowers in Didcot Community Hospital, Oxford

artist-in-residence Tom Cross who was commissioned to capture, through art, the stories of patients and staff over three months. The project was completed last week. This was all made possible thanks, in part, to the wonderful fundraising efforts of the 1 Regt RLC, Fijian Community and for Oxford Health Charity and facilitated by Oxford Health Arts Partnership. Read more [here](#)

Funding Awarded for Arts Project - What Makes Didcot Community Hospital Brilliant

Angela Conlan from [@OxfordHealthNHS](#) told That's TV about the Didcot Art Project, that that aims to celebrate what makes Didcot brilliant. National Lottery Funding is enabling theme to celebrate what makes Didcot Community Hospital brilliant, and to retain their artist in residence. Watch the excerpt on twitter [here: pic.twitter.com/nnZR8U9Blx](#) Read Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust Press Release Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

COVID-19 Outbreak shuts Leominster Hospital

Visiting has been cancelled and new admissions stopped after a Covid outbreak at a hospital in Herefordshire. Wye Valley NHS Trust, the group behind Herefordshire's hospitals, said Leominster Community Hospital had suffered an outbreak of Covid. At Thursday's trust board meeting, bosses said there had been three different outbreaks across its hospitals since August. Read [more](#)

Whistleblowers concerns at Ross-on-Wye Community Hospital

Whistleblowers have raised concerns at a Herefordshire hospital where patients' belongings keep going missing. Wye Valley NHS Trust, which runs hospitals across Herefordshire, said health and social care regulator the Care Quality Commission had received three complaints about Ross Community Hospital. The complaints, raised at the trust's board meeting on Thursday (October 6), have been raised anonymously by staff. Read [more](#)

Patient 'over the moon' as beloved dog pays her a surprise visit in Falmouth Hospital

A patient at Falmouth Community Hospital had a heart-warming reunion with her beloved dog who visited her on the ward. Janet Van De Voorde was admitted into the community hospital after a fall. Due to her lengthy stay, she had to give her 13-year-old dog Charlie away. He first stayed at Rosevean Vets in Penzance for a month but was then put into the care of the Last Chance Hotel and found his foster mum, Ann Tew. Read [more](#)

Fears over 'major threats' to future of Shropshire's community hospitals

Concerns have been raised over the future of community hospitals in Shropshire with urgent communication needed. The issue was addressed at a meeting of Shropshire Council's scrutiny committee. It comes after an announcement was made in October that the former maternity unit in Ludlow had been sold, subject to contract. Now, fears have been raised over rural community hospitals and the impact that closure would have on access to healthcare services county-wide. Read [more](#)

Ellen Badger Community Hospital Demolition

The sight of the Ellen Badger Hospital being demolished in Shipston has galvanised people to march in protest over the lack of a replacement. The League of Friends handed over £635,000 towards the cost of rebuilding the town's community hospital in 2018, but since then South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust has stalled on the promise of building a replacement hospital, and still says it is contingent on the long-awaited results of a bed review. Read [more](#)

Community hospital reopens injuries unit to ease pressure on Poole and Bournemouth

A MINOR injuries unit is to reopen at a Dorset hospital in the latest phase of reviewing urgent care provision across the county. Dorset HealthCare has re-opened the Blandford Hospital Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) for two days a week. Additionally, to help relieve pressure on emergency departments in Poole and Bournemouth, extended opening hours at the Victoria Hospital MIU in Wimborne will be maintained. Read [more](#)

Concerns after new figures show some north-east minor injury units aren't being used compared to others

Concerns have been raised after it emerged some local minor injuries units in Aberdeenshire aren't being used compared to others. Scottish Conservative research has highlighted just three local hospitals have been dealing with the majority of routine primary care across the region since Covid - Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Huntly. New figures from NHS Grampian show 5685 appointments were carried out at Peterhead Community Hospital, 5311 at Fraserburgh Hospital and 3350 at the Jubilee Hospital in Huntly this year. Read [more](#)

Leaders call for Bishops Castle community hospital to re-open to ease pressure on the NHS

Leaders in south west Shropshire are calling for a community hospital to be re-opened to help ease bed pressures in the NHS. Liberal Democrat Councillors, Heather Kidd, Nigel Hartin and Ruth Houghton from south west Shropshire think that government funding should be used to pay more for nurses at Bishop's Castle to attract staff to open it as a diagnostic centre. This, they say, would alleviate pressures in Shrewsbury and Telford, save a lot of travel time for local residents and the 12 beds would release beds at the acute hospitals. Read [more](#)