

## CHARM News up to Sept 2017

### Lord and Lady Fellowes open new palliative care unit in Blandford

A new palliative care unit at Blandford Community Hospital has been officially opened by Lord Julian and Lady Emma Fellowes. The development costing over £200,000 and funded by the health authority with assistance from the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital has involved converting part of the first floor Tarrant Ward and disused Betty Highwood ward, which was closed in 2013, into a separate unit providing two palliative care suites, four side rooms, a day room and outdoor facility which will in due course be shared with patients in Tarrant Ward. [Read more](#)

### Devon: Bid to refer hospital bed closures to Health Secretary defeated at angry meeting

Councillors have voted not to refer controversial plans to close hospital beds across Devon to the Health Secretary after a rowdy meeting at County Hall. Opponents of the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) scheme to close 71 community hospital beds in Whipton, Seaton, Honiton and Okehampton, packed into an emergency meeting of the health scrutiny committee on Tuesday. The meeting voted narrowly to support Cllr Gilbert's motion not to refer the plans, by seven votes to six with one abstention. [Read more](#)

### Devon: Shock closure of two Devon maternity wards

Heather Penwarden, the chair of Honiton Hospital League of Friends, said they were saddened by the news that Honiton will lose the maternity ward where 'many generations have been born'. Mrs Penwarden said: "My understanding is that because the medical wards are closing there will be no other staff in the buildings overnight and the midwives would be there alone."

[Read more](#)

## Derbyshire: Two Derbyshire hospitals to close after health bosses agree to axe beds

Health bosses all voted in favour to close wards across five Derbyshire hospitals which look after older people's mental health and community health. Bolsover and Newholme hospitals will close. The proposals that were agreed are to: Permanently close 16 beds at Bolsover, 16 beds at Clay Cross, 16 beds at Newholme, 20 beds at Whitworth, 16 beds at Cavendish and Permanently close older persons' mental health community hospital beds; 10 beds at Cavendish, and 10 beds at Newholme.

There will be a centre of excellence for dementia care at Walton hospital, specialist rehab beds and an increase in care at home teams.

[Read More](#)

### **Staffordshire: 23,000-name petition to save Leek's Moorlands Hospital receives unanimous support**

A total of 168 community hospital beds have now been closed at Cheadle, Bradwell, Longton and Haywood community hospitals, and a consultation on their long-term future is due to take place in the coming months. Leek councillor Charlotte Atkins, who seconded the proposal, said: "If you go into Leek today you would think there is some sort of festival; so many houses have got posters in the window with a red cross and a white background saying Save Leek Hospital. It's the sort of hospital that people regard not just as a hospital, but an important part of community life. This is not just about beds, but all other facilities."

[Read more](#)

### **Dorset: MP Chris Chope backs Friends group in bid to save St Leonards hospital**

Chris Chope MP is pulling out all the stops in an effort to save St Leonards Hospital from closure. The MP for Christchurch questioned Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Steve Brine in the House of Commons recently, asking why the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in its clinical services review is proposing to close the community hospital when it gives a good service and is approved by the community."

"I am going to introduce a Private Members Bill at the next session calling for such decisions to be subject to a local referendum. I am concerned about the accountability of the members of the CCG, who are self appointed." [Read more](#)

### **Somerset: 1,500 sign petition as fears over Chard Hospital ward grow**

NEARLY 1,500 people have signed a petition calling on Somerset Partnership not to close Chard Hospital's inpatient facilities after trust executives revealed it is considering the move. [Read more](#)

## **Devon Red Line Day - Local People Support their Community Hospitals**

1st April 2017

Across Devon, local people wore red and formed a human red line around their hospitals. The "red line" was in response to the local NHS saying that there is no red line. The protest was arranged for April Fools day, with the theme, "Don't fool with our local NHS."





Campaigners across Devon formed human 'red lines' around hospitals today to protest against Government cuts to health services and protect the county's hospitals. They said that lives are at risk if cuts of £550m from Devon's health spending go ahead.

Save Our Hospital Services (SOHS) Devon is co-ordinating the public support across the county to oppose NHS England's Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Campaigners say that the plan, under the guise of providing a better service, will in reality mean a cut of £550m from Devon's health spending.

In East Devon, there were protests at Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Sidmouth, Seaton, Exeter's Whipton and RD&E hospitals and Okehampton. In North Devon there were marches at Ilfracombe, Torrington, Bideford, South Molton and Barnstaple.

Read [more](#)



### **This report from Honiton:**

*"The people of Honiton came out in force today to protest against the closure of all the medical ward beds. There was a sea of red as over 350 people walked through the town to form a human red line around the hospital. West Country TV news filmed the whole event and interviewed many of the protestors including the Chairman of Honiton Hospital League of Friends. Town and District Councillors and MP Neil Parish all came along to show support and a small group presented bunches of flowers to staff on duty on behalf of everyone present.*

*With public support high for challenging the closures, the League of Friends is in discussion with lawyers about the potential of seeking a Judicial Review of the decision to close all the beds. In one week nearly £25k has been raised by the town towards legal fees with a cheque for £10k coming from one local business Otter Garden Centre."*



O2-UK 4G 19:30 26%



**DEVON YOU CAN'T FOOL US DAY**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 1ST**  
**RED LINES AROUND OUR HOSPITALS**

10 AM SEATON	10AM OKEHAMPTON
10AM SIDMOUTH VICTORIA HOSPITAL	
10 AM SOUTH MOLTON MEET TOWN CAR PARK 9.45AM	
10 AM TYRELL ILFRACOMBE MEET CANDAR 9.45AM	
10AM TORRINGTON	10.30AM WHIPTON
11AM BIDEFORD ARTS CENTRE	11 AM HONITON
1PM TORBAY WOMENS HEALTH UNIT	
2PM OTTERY ST MARY	

**WE ARE THE RED LINE**

NORTH DEVON RED LINES CONVERGE ON ND DISTRICT HOSPITAL  
 MEET PILTON PARK 12.30PM

EAST & SOUTH DEVON LINES CONVERGE ON ROYAL DEVON  
 & EKETER 12NOON

