



September 2016

PAINTING THE TOWN **RED**

Saturday 22 October

North Devon Sees **Red**

Shocking News! Bideford Hospital Closure

We have just received news that Bideford hospital will be closing at the end of October. This was announced at a meeting this week. So the 16 stroke beds will be no more!

(Ed. Wasn't a consultation supposed to come before any success regime proposals were acted upon? Even the pretence at consultation has evaporated!)

Also we have been led to believe from a reliable source that the Devon Doctors, out of hours service - is closing in Bideford and Okehampton in October so there will be no out of hours service from these places. Doctors will have to come from Barnstaple and there will be fewer of them as well.

(Ed. Wasn't it stated at the CCG EGM that Devon Doctors were still covering?)

Material for future newsletters
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SOHS-Save Our Hospital
Services

(A non-party group whose aim is
to campaign to protect our
health services in North Devon)

We plan to flood the streets of Barnstaple with people dressed in red. The Hospital plans have made us see red, so we want to make them see red. This is an exciting opportunity to make our views known and we encourage you and your family to get involved in this exciting event. Imagine the spectacle of crowds of people around the High Street and shopping areas, all dressed in red.

Several people had been thinking of this idea, but what would be the purpose or focus of the day? At the SOHS meeting on 7 September 5 aims were identified:

1. Creating a mass movement. Get people to make a small commitment e.g. by wearing red.
2. Spreading the message of proposed hospital cuts on the day.
3. Getting more people on board who are doers, so that the campaign gains momentum
4. Strengthening our own determination and build up morale for the continuing fight to save our hospital services.
5. To have fun, meet new people, build a camaraderie, and create a defiant community spirit.

Wearing something red, is a small but visible sign you are supporting our NHS. A small act supported by lots of people will create a big impact. The proposed cuts will potentially affect every person living in North Devon. Older members will remember how Poll Tax was defeated by the "peasants revolt" of people refusing to pay it. This is a fight we can win together!

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Recent Action Taken by SOHS

Tues 23 August—Red Line Day.

A very successful event which had a massive turn-out and gave SOHS strong credibility as an organisation that will fight against the threatened cuts to healthcare services across North Devon. Well done to the organisers of this, our first action.

Wed 31 August—The CCG's Extraordinary Meeting to

discuss bed closures. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) squirmed under an onslaught of well-focussed questions as to the CCG's intentions, and finished with a vitriolic condemnation of the chairman and his acolytes. The chairman moved to strike the speech from the record, but you can see it on our website. (See detailed notes on the meeting taken by Netti on the website.)

Thurs 1 September— pinch, punch, first of the month, as SOHS members attended the **CCG meeting** in Plymouth and challenged the Success Regime again.

Tues 6 Sept North Devon Health Trust AGM The smug managers aimed to manage us and end the meeting in under an hour. They highlighted ONLY their successes taken from the quality report and although they answered some of our pre-submitted questions they, more or less, refused to answer questions from the floor, declaring it was "not a public meeting". Up roar followed, with a cutting speech from Dave Clinch.

Wednesday 7 SOHS meeting. (See minutes for a full account.) It was again re-iterated SOHS is a group whose focus is the protection of beds and services in North Devon, and "non-political being

linked to no political party, but with members from the full range of the political spectrum working towards the common goal

Thursday 8th saw the leaking of the Success Regime's Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) document (see this document on our website) Behind the fancy words and the fluffy propaganda, what does the STP actually mean

for ordinary people in North Devon? An analysis will shortly be available on our website. The main points include:

- **In all Devon—400 acute beds to be cut** - in real terms this will mean 1 in 6 beds being lost.
- **190 further community beds to be cut**—with this the closure and the threat of selling off of our community hospitals is very likely.
- **11% cut in the nursing workforce in North Devon.**
- **A and E for now will stay** (but remains still at risk of closure) Doubt exists about the continuance of emergency surgery at NDDH.
- **Acute Stroke service** patients should be seen within the golden hour of having a stroke for thrombolisation for treatment and to be scanned and assessed. From a reliable source—very much at risk of closure and moved south to Exeter and Derriford
- **This one is the main concern at present—maternity, children's and neonatal to be centred at Derriford with a second site in Exeter at the RD&E, not NDDH.**



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Painting the Town Red

If you are wondering what you can do to show your support for our NHS here are some ideas.

- Plan to come to Barnstaple High Street on 22 October to join in wearing something red.
- With the full agreement of the Town Centre Manager, shops will be encouraged to have Red window displays.
- Children (or adults) can have their faces painted red.
- Flash mob singing and dancing teams and drama groups are welcome to join.
- YOU can join us at Mermaid Walk for a Procession through the Town to the Square where there will be further activities, presentations and fun for all the Family.

If you have any ideas or represent a group that would like to get involved then please email ianwilliams2015@mail.com. All activities and events are subject to confirmation. Watch for details.

The unfortunate conclusion is that this is so risky that people will inevitably die as a direct result.

Reactions—BBC spotlight recorded people's reactions, to the proposed cuts to services such as stroke and maternity.

"Shock, Anger, Defiance" (spokesperson for SOHS)

"Astounded it could even be under consideration" (David Howell Mayor of Bideford)

"Disgusting, sometimes it's difficult enough to get to Barnstaple let alone Plymouth or Exeter" (Torrington mother)

Reactions on Facebook

"Do the powers that are making these decisions have families of their own or depend on the NHS for healthcare?" (Simon Heath)

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Get Involved! We Need Your Help

SOHS is a group of volunteers, many of whom are involved in other things. We have lots of different political views, but we all are committed to saving our hospital services. You can help with the task, by devoting a little time to helping us get the message out. Even if you are elderly or housebound there are things you could do. Here are some suggestions.

TELL OTHERS Sound out people you know in clubs, groups or societies, or at work, or almost anywhere. This affects all of them!

Tell them about Painting The Town Red and ask them to come along. We want everybody to do their "red thing" on the day from Clubs selling red cakes to sports teams changing their strip to red. Keep those ideas whizzing up on the SOHS Facebook page.

Ring your friends and tell them. If you are good at social networking, you can use that to tell others.

Don't just stop at talking about the "Red" day, explain about SOHS and get them involved.

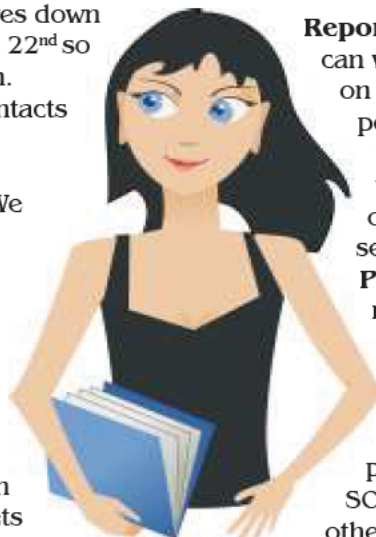
SIGN UP Make sure you and your friends are signed up to our email mailing list. You can do that on the website. That way you will get regular emails.

Like our Facebook page (search for SOHS Devon), then you can join in and make comments and suggestions.

Ask friends and relatives down for the weekend of the 22nd so they can join in the fun.

Start working your contacts e.g. friends, employer, shops, and clubs.

Research Assistant We need people who can read reports and search out suitable information (probably mainly on the Internet). This would then be compiled into a suitable digest or articles for inclusion on the website or in leaflets and so on.



Reporter Someone who can write short reports on SOHS events and possibly interview relevant people, which could include officials or health service users.

Photographer Not necessarily a professional, but someone with good amateur skills. To take photographs of SOHS events and other relevant pictures.

Videographer Someone

Coach Trip to SOHS Protest, Exeter Monday 19 September Joining Instructions

Unite Retired Members Branch have kindly agreed to fund the health service cuts/SOHS coach to Exeter for what is now two events, the demonstration outside the Success Regime/CCG's offices in the morning then attendance at the Success Regime's presentation of its latest plans to the County Council's Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee in the afternoon (start 2.00pm, finish no later than 4.00pm).

Three pick ups as follows:

- Bideford, Kingsley Statue, 8.30am
- Barnstaple, Golden Lion Tap pub in the Square, 9.00am
- South Molton, Constitutional/Conservative Club, 9.50am

We hope to arrive in Exeter, 10.50-10.45 am. Leaving as soon as the Scrutiny Committee meeting ends. The coach will transport those who want to be transported between the two locations.

Book your places quickly with Gerrard Sables, who has kindly liaised all this with Unite. We need as many as possible to make the trip. We need to look as though we really care, because they really don't

CONTACT Gerrard at:
gerrard.sables@phonecoop.coop.

Tel: 01271-373338 (leave a message if no reply). Remember he needs to know how many there are in your party and where you want to be picked up.



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"Why this does not make sense, but if men gave birth this would not be happening" (Marilyn Myers)

"When you are an hour or more away from a hospital that provides care that's likely to end in fatalities". "When they look at miles on a map, they can't really be taking into account poorly lit country lanes" (Louise Karezmarz)

who can take and edit videos that can be added to social media and the website. These could be taken at events, or be short documentary style videos.

Social Media people Posting photographs, reports and so on generated by others, just to engage social media interest. We would also like to start a Twitter account and get actively involved through that.

Website coder Someone to assist in preparing items for inclusion on the website. This will be for fairly basic coding skills, just processing the material coming in from others.

Artists We already have a couple of artists, but it would be useful to have others, who could help generate content for social media and other uses.

Area Contacts We would like to have a contact in every area, village or housing estate. Ideally these people would be known in their local community. You could hold small stocks of leaflets and posters for people to collect. You could also help to make the SOHS campaign known in your area, by distributing printed materials and telling people about our campaign; maybe you could host coffee mornings etc. or recruit other local supporters.

Spokesperson Are you skilled at public speaking? We have had enquiries about giving talks on the situation and the SOHS campaign at various places.

For jobs contact us by email:
webmaster@sohs.org.uk