



Community Hospitals Association (CHA) Newsletter #10

*** Free Lifetime Personal Membership ***

The CHA is offering free lifetime personal membership. Please do join our network, and be part of the Community Hospitals Association. The offer is being made to celebrate 50 years of the CHA.

Community hospitals first starting providing services to communities 150 years ago, and represent a strong tradition of care to generations of families throughout the UK. The CHA has been supporting staff and communities involved in their local community hospitals for 50 years, through offering networks, resources, conferences and advice as well as celebrating good practice.

Do join us, and help promote the contribution of community hospitals to health and wellbeing throughout the UK. Please download the form from our home page and be a part of our vibrant network. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/index.html>

Community Hospital Opened – First NHS Seacole Centre

A community hospital for recovering patients has been opened in Surrey, and is named after Jamaican-born Mary Seacole. This pays tribute to BAME staff on the front line of the pandemic. The NHS Seacole Centre, which will have up to 300 inpatient beds and is based at NHS Headley Court Hospital in Surrey, part of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust. Chief nursing officer for England Ruth May said: *“Mary Seacole made an extraordinary, long-term contribution to community healthcare and so it is fitting that such an important service is honouring her name.”*



*Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust chief nurse Arlene Wellman and Mary Seacole Trust chair Trevor Stirling at the opening of the centre in Surrey
Picture: Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust*

NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens said the centre, likely to be the first of a number of Seacole hospitals established around the country, paid tribute to the black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) nurses who have been at the forefront of the response to the pandemic. The facility recognises the vital importance of intermediate care and rehabilitation, which community hospitals have been offering for many years. To read more: <https://rcni.com/nursing-standard/newsroom/news/covid-19-community-hospital-recovering-patients-named-after-mary-seacole-160736>

Coronavirus and Covid-19

Community hospitals are playing a variety of roles in the current global pandemic. This includes being centres for Covid-19 patients, offering rehabilitation for recovering patients, and providing palliative care. Community hospitals are also offering a location for non-Covid health services such as hosting a relocated chemotherapy unit and maternity services. This frees up space in acute hospitals. Our website features resources, blogs and news stories.

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/index.html>

Guest Blog from Helen Rowe, South Petherton Community Hospital

Helen Rowe is a Senior Ward Sister at South Petherton Community Hospital in Somerset. Her full blog can be read on our website <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/blog.html>. These are some extracts.

“Staff are being supported across the Trust in various ways....”

“We have also been up-skilling staff in clinical skills....”

“The team are incredible and I feel both proud and privileged to be their manager.”



Helen is featured in the centre of the photograph, receiving a national CHA Innovations and Best Practice award on behalf of her staff and the hospital. The CHA committee were delighted that Helen subsequently joined the CHA committee.

Tribute to Staff in Community Hospitals - RIP

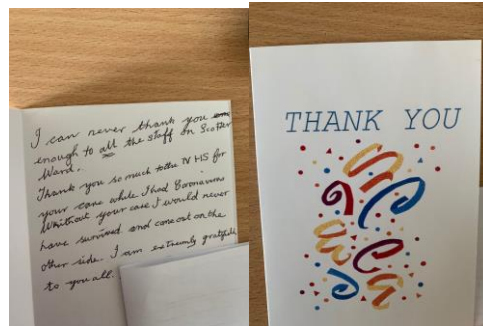
The committee of the CHA is very sad to learn of the deaths of staff throughout the NHS and in particular those working in community hospitals. The CHA is writing to Matrons of community hospitals concerned to express our condolences.

CHA News Stories

News stories featuring community hospitals can be found on our website and a selection are shown below. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/news.html>

* Celebrating Success

Staff at Scotter Ward at the John Coupland Hospital are sharing the good news that the first patient to recover from Covid-19 and be successfully discharged home has written to thank them. The staff are delighted that the patient are successfully recovered.



* Coronavirus: Woman, 94, 'feels fine' after recovery in Community Hospital

A 94-year-old woman who spent weeks in hospital with Covid-19 says she feels "wonderful" and cannot wait to get home. Eluned Mathias was transferred to a community hospital set up to deal with the impact of the pandemic. Her gradual recovery meant she was able to be transferred to Ysby Bryn Beryl in Pwllheli - one of three community hospitals transformed into "red sites" in north west Wales. They are designed to accommodate patients who no longer require care in the most acute settings, easing pressure on the main hospitals and placing patients closer to their own communities. Eilir Hughes, clinical lead at Ysbyty Bryn Beryl, said people on the coronavirus ward were mainly "step-down patients" transferred from district general hospitals for ongoing rehabilitation.

"Every single one of them has had a positive covid test and some of them are actually nearing the end of life as well, so there is palliation going on here as well. It's a quieter unit, so it's more conducive for palliation than some of the busier wards." He said one of the advantages of caring for suitable patients in community hospitals, was that *"it's a calmer environment"*.

"The nurses often know the patients or their families so there's that link to them. Because patients can't see their own families, at least it feels a bit more familiar to them, and they know that they're closer to home, and that's really important to these patients."

* Bridgwater Community Hospital

Bridgwater community hospital has opened a Primary Care assessment for Covid-19, and will have additional staff from Burnham MIU, which will be closed temporarily.

<https://www.burnham-on-sea.com/news/burnham-on-sea-hospitals-minor-injuries-unit-temporarily-shuts-during-coronavirus-outbreak/>

* Dorset Community Hospitals

Shaftesbury's Westminster Memorial Hospital, St Leonard's Community Hospital, Wareham Community Hospital and Weymouth's Community Hospital were amongst the beneficiaries of a generous donation of lunches. It comes after Dorset Council and local brewers Hall & Woodhouse teamed up to show their support for Dorset's NHS workers.

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/18407227.240-homemade-pub-favourites-delivered-dorset-healthcare-workers/>

* **Bridgeport and Whitchurch Community Hospitals**

Bridgnorth and Whitchurch Community Hospitals to provide Urgent Treatment Centres relocated from acute hospitals. The relocation of urgent care centres has been welcomed by local communities and campaigners for community hospitals. Councillor Buckley said: "Despite the terrible circumstances, this decision is a welcome relief to families in the Bridgnorth area. *"Once again our community hospital will become a warm site with doctors and nurses to respond to urgent cases. As our campaigners have always made clear, these excellent local facilities have a vital role to play in serving our patients closer to home, thus reducing unnecessary travel, and at the same time reducing pressure on both Telford & Shrewsbury hospitals and A&E departments."* <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/health/coronavirus-covid19/2020/04/23/shropshire-urgent-care-centre-relocation-welcomed-by-bridgnorth-campaigners/>

Community Hospital Research

The CHA is actively supporting a research project looking at the role of charitable funding in health care. The CHA has been pleased to work with Professor John Mohan and the team of researchers over the past four years on the study looking at the value of community hospitals. The CHA provided a letter of support for this study, and the community support for community hospitals will be featured in the study. Given the recent fundraising activity of Captain Tom Moore who raised over £30 million for the NHS this is very topical. To read more, please follow the link. <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2020/04/researchers-investigate-charitable-funding-health-care.aspx>

CHA Resources

The CHA has collated important resources that are relevant for all health services. In particular there are resources to support the health and wellbeing of staff such as <https://people.nhs.uk/> Please let us know if there is anything that you have found useful to you in your work, and wish to share it. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

CHA Forum

We have an online forum that you may find helpful. The committee and our network will be monitoring this, and hopefully queries, concerns and suggestions can be easily shared amongst us. <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/forum>

CHA Social Media

The CHA shares news on community hospitals across the UK on social media and on our website.
Twitter: @CommHospUK
Linkedin: Community Hospitals Association
Facebook: Community Hospitals Association
Website: <http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/>

Contact

The CHA committee now meets weekly, and is actively supporting staff working in community hospitals in this very difficult time. Please get in touch if you have a story experience or a practice that you would like to share and that you think might help others. Please get in touch if you would like to talk to any of our committee members – we have doctors, nurses, managers, those working in Leagues of Friends and researchers who would be pleased to talk to you, individually or as teams. Thank you. infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com