

05.07.21

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Media Release

RUH marks the NHS's 73rd birthday with a big thank you

To mark the NHS's 73rd birthday the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is saying a big thank you to the local community.

The birthday falls on July 5, but celebrations were started early with Thank You Day on Sunday - a chance to recognise all the things that people have done to support the NHS.

The RUH has released a video highlighting just some of the fantastic contributions that have been made, despite the challenges of the past year.

These include the food producers who've kept patients and staff well fed, the paramedics who've cared for patients before they arrive at hospital, the COVID-19 testers who've been there whatever the weather, the volunteers who've stepped forward to support the vaccine rollout, and community pharmacists who've provided trusted expert advice.

The RUH is also marking the occasion by lighting up the front of the hospital in blue at night.

Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks said: "This birthday gives us the opportunity to reflect on what makes the NHS so special, and a big part of that is our local community.

"Everyone has played their part in keeping things going in very difficult circumstances over the past year. All those things make it possible for us to do what we do.

"That includes the bus drivers who bring our patients and staff to the RUH, the neighbours who get a bit of shopping for someone who's vulnerable, the shop workers who make sure we can all get some groceries after a long day at work, and so many more people too.

"On behalf of the RUH, I'd like to say a really big thank you to all of you."

You can watch the thank you video online: <https://youtu.be/jxBqFtvils4>

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks

