

Good news

Balloon takes flight to southern France

A balloon carrying a message about the importance of mental health awareness was found in southern France last week, eight months after it was released into the skies above GWH.

Found by a hiker in the French countryside, the balloon was one of 30 that was let go by staff last October as part of the Trust's annual World Mental Health Day celebrations.

Last Saturday's **Swindon Advertiser** featured an article about the story alongside a picture of Didier Bert, the French conservationist who picked up the balloon after thinking it was litter on the ground.

Wendy Johnson, Head of Mental Health, also appeared on last Friday's **ITV Meridian News** to speak of her shock at learning the balloon had travelled such a long way.

Hospital team celebrates

Endoscopy service at Great Western Hospital earns national recognition

A prestigious national accreditation has been bestowed on the endoscopy team at GWH.

The recognition from the Joint Advisory Group was presented to the team after inspectors were impressed with [the high standard of care and treatment being provided to patients](#).

With more than 1,000 patients visiting the team each month, endoscopy is one of the busiest departments at GWH.

Dr Ajeya Shetty, Consultant Gastroenterologist, said: "This national recognition shows we are as good as any other endoscopy service in the country.

"We deliver excellent quality and safety standards and our patient experience is the best it can be."

A photo of the team, along with a write-up of their achievements, featured in both the **Swindon Advertiser** and the **Swindon Link** this week.

Stage is set for charity performance

A pair of amateur dramatics from Ramsbury are preparing to tread the boards in aid of the Radiotherapy Appeal.

Veteran actors Dave and Sheila Hobbs are set to stage a special charity production of their daughter's play Bard Heads after both owe their lives to the care they received at GWH.

Cancer survivor Sheila told the **Swindon Advertiser**: "We are the lucky ones. But there are so many people who have to make that journey to Oxford every day.

"It will make such a difference to people's lives if we can have a radiotherapy centre in Swindon, not just for the people who live in the town but for all those from the surrounding area as well."

Help spread the news

Please pass this message on to your colleagues.



