

Good news

Toni Starr joined the NHS in 1964 - now she works in GWH's Special Care Baby Unit and is a GWH Star of the Month

Veteran nurse Toni is recognised for her 53 years unbroken service to NHS in Swindon

Five decades of giving care

53 years on the wards lands nurse in the spotlight

The story of SCBU Sister **Toni Starr** captured the imagination of local and regional media last week as it emerged her six decades in the NHS had earned her a coveted Star of the Month award.

Toni started out as a student nurse in Poole in 1964 before transferring to Swindon in the 1970s, where she has remained ever since.

She was surprised with the award during her shift last Friday, with friends, ex-colleagues and even a camera crew from **BBC Points West** turning up to join in the celebration.

Her story was shown later that evening on BBC One, with coverage also coming from **BBC Wiltshire**, the **Swindon Advertiser**, **Marlborough News Online**, **This is Wiltshire** and **Swindon Link**.

Balloon launched from Great Western Hospital carries message of mental health awareness overseas

Eight months after it was first released into the skies above GWH, a balloon carrying

a message about the importance of mental health has been discovered in the south of France.

Hiker Didier Bert was out walking in the hills of Barreme, a village 60 miles north of Nice, when he found the now-deflated balloon and the attached label explaining where it had come from.

Using Facebook to make contact with the Trust, Mr Bert said he almost mistook the balloon for a piece of litter.

More than two dozen identical balloons were launched into the sky from GWH in October last year to mark World Mental Health Day.

The remarkable story of one balloon's flight across the Channel has already been covered by **Swindon Link** and will feature in tomorrow's **Swindon Advertiser** too.

A camera crew from **ITV Meridian** also visited GWH earlier today to chat with **Wendy Johnson**, Head of Mental Health, for a piece that will be included in tonight's evening news.

Cyclists hit the road for 100-mile trip / Mum's pride in son's ride

It was all about blood, sweat and gears in this week's Brighter Futures spread in the **Swindon Advertiser** as both stories focused on some inspirational people raising money on two wheels.

First up was a group of over-60s who set themselves a challenge to cycle 100 miles around Wiltshire in just one day.

The riders, who made a pit stop at GWH during the challenge on Tuesday, have so far pedalled their Radiotherapy Appeal fundraising total to just under £7,000.

Elsewhere, the Adver spoke to mum Kate Maulik about her son Henry's decision to ride from London to Paris in aid of Brighter Futures after she spent five weeks travelling to Oxford for radiotherapy treatment.

She said: "My son Henry found it hard when I was diagnosed with breast cancer and I think it's amazing that he's doing something like this for such a good cause."

Other

GENERAL ELECTION 2017: Spotlight on the NHS

Prospective parliamentary candidates from Swindon's two constituencies have this week been telling local media how their party would support the NHS if they were to be successful in next week's general election.

The 10 candidates from the five main parties outlined their approach to healthcare in Wednesday's **Swindon Advertiser**.

Many mentioned the Trust in their statements and in particular the increasing demand that has been placed on services at GWH and in the community over the last 12 months.

[Click here](#) to reach what each candidate had to say.

"Just before she died she told me that she was setting me free"

A husband whose wife's final years were plagued by ill-health has spoken to the **Swindon Advertiser** this week about his plans to lobby the NHS into providing surgical patients with aspirin when they leave hospital.

Eddie Robinson has been campaigning on the issue ever since his wife Julie suffered a stroke following abdominal surgery at GWH in 2010.

He claims the stroke could have been prevented if she had been prescribed aspirin before being discharged.

However, this was rejected a judge during a hearing at the High Court last month.

Help spread the news

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