

**REBRAND FOR CHARITY**

The RD&E Charity has changed its name after joining forces with the Over and Above hospital charity, based in North Devon.

The change follows the merger of the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust in April last year, creating the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The combined charity will now be known as the Royal Devon Hospitals Charity.

The charity's head of fundraising Ian Roomé said: "Nothing has changed other than the name; the money raised in Exeter, Mid and East Devon can stay local and remains ringfenced for the cause it was raised for.

"But by working together, the two charities have been able to pool their knowledge, resources, systems and processes, making us more efficient and meaning more money goes directly to our hospitals' wards and services."

Since forming in 2019, the RD&E Charity has raised more than £250,000 to improve facilities for younger patients at the RD&E. The charity has also funded countless other hospital wards and departments and launched an appeal to help fund a special emergency department area for children at the RD&E.

"We're proud of our past but excited about our future and what we can do together," Ian added.

"Altogether, there are more than 250 different funds, so you can raise money for the specific hospital, ward or service that you choose to support. Or if you'd prefer, you can raise money for general funds and we'll ensure the money is used by Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, wherever the need is greatest."

To find out more, visit [royaldevoncharity.org.uk](http://royaldevoncharity.org.uk).

**CARE AWARD WINNER**

Alex Scarlatt, who joined the Deaf Academy's residential care team last November, has won the regional final for care newcomer of the year at the British Care Awards.

Alex, who is deaf, now goes forward to the national finals, which take place in March 2024.

The award acknowledges and celebrates a member of staff who started and remained in employment in the care sector within the previous 12 months.

Alex joined the Exmouth-based Deaf Academy's residential care provision in November 2022 alongside Otto, her hearing dog for the deaf.

Assistant principal James Heaver said: "This is a very well-deserved win for Alex. She works so hard to provide great care for our students, drawing on her own life experiences to support our young people.

"We're very proud of what she has achieved and that it has been recognised in this way."



» Hospital staff mark the launch of the Royal Devon Hospitals Charity  
Guy Harrop

**SCHOOL'S SCIENCE SEMINAR**

West Exe School held a science seminar for pupils from Ide Primary School.

West Exe science teachers Megan King and Kelsey Flynn led the session, with a team of science helpers from the secondary school helping to teach the younger children.

It was a hands-on session with a heart dissection taking place, a life-like demonstration of how food is digested in the body and an examination of air resistance and parachutes.

West Exe headteacher Julie Fossey said: "It was lovely to have children from Ide Primary School visit us for a science seminar. I know they took a lot away from the session and it was brilliant to see our student ambassadors passing their knowledge on to the younger children.

"We are always happy to open our doors to our local primary school - we are committed to sharing our fantastic facilities and inspiration Science teaching here at West Exe."

**MILESTONE BIKE DONATION**

Exeter-based charity Ride On Cycling for All has been gifted the 6,000th bike donated since the charity was formed.

Located on Exeter Quay, Ride On was established in 2011 by bike ability instructor Martyn Laxton.

Working at a school in Teignmouth at the time, he was concerned many pupils either didn't have bikes or they were of very poor quality. He persuaded some friends to donate bikes and help do them up and it proved so successful he felt it would be a great idea for a social enterprise.

The kind benefactor of the 6,000th bike was David Green-smith, who sadly suffered a stroke in October 2022 and

retired through ill health.

He said: "My mountain bike has been sitting unused in a neighbour's garage for 12 months because I no longer have the

strength in my left arm to ride safely. It was time to donate it to someone who would benefit, and I was delighted to hand it over to Will Page who heads up this wonderful local charity."

Many bikes are found abandoned around Exeter and these get sent to the charity's workshop where a team of volunteers and four professional mechanics get to work on them. They get fully serviced and the charity sells them with a full warranty and new cables. The ones that can't be saved are stripped back for parts and a bike may be made up of up to four different bicycles.

Once a week the charity runs a Bring your own bike scheme,

where people visit the workshop to use their tools with access to the mechanics and their extensive knowledge while working in a safe environment.

**EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY**

Exeter Civic Society's last meeting of the year will be on Saturday, December 16, at the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street. The guest speaker will be Peter Stephenson on St Petrock's Limited, Exeter's charity for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed.

Coffee and mince pies will be available from 10.30am, with the meeting starting at 11am. Non-members are welcome for a small fee.

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» Alex Scarlatt with her British Care Award  
The Deaf Academy