>>> your NEWS

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>>> *vour* NEWS

Advice on volunteering

PEOPLE interested in giving up some of their spare time to vol unteer are invited to a talk by an expert at Bexhill Library in Vestern Road.

Every month a 'Volunteering Champion' will be available at the library to answer questions about volunteering and provide advice

Councillor Chris Dowling East Sussex County Council lead member for community services, said: "Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, make friends and learn new skills. These new drop-in sessions at Bexhill Library will make it easier for people to find out more about now volunteering can fit into their lives with an informal chat in a central community venue.

The Volunteering Champion will be available from 1pm to 3pm on July 9. August 13. September 10, October 8 and November 12.

New shadow Cabinet

THE Conservative opposition on Crawley Borough Council has announced its new hadow Cabinet

Newly appointed group leade **Councillor Duncan Crow said** the team would be a "strong and credible alternative" to the new Labour majority.

He added: "Our shadow Cabinet will lead on providing the robust challenge that is needed to scrutinise Labou policy and will offer credible alternatives when we feel Labour have got it wrong.'

The new Cabinet includes **Richard Burrett, deputy** leader and housing; Nige Boxall, customer and corporate services: Duncan Peck, com engagement; Bob Lanzer, planning and economic development; Beryl MeCrow leisure and cultural services and Ken Trussell. nvironmental services

Councillor steps down

A COUNCILLOR is stepping down after his spinal injury worsened

Bob White has stepped down as Rother District Council member for Darwell ward because his injuries have made carrying out his duties "increas ingly difficult'

Coun White had served Darwell since May 2011 in a second spell after previously serving between 2003 to 2007. He had been the council's Cabinet member for culture, tourism and leisure.

He becomes the second Rother councillor to stand down in a matter of months after independent councillor John Lee stood down in April.

A by-election for Coun Lee's old ward, Collington, is being held on Thursday, June 12, while a second one is anticipated to find Coun White's replacement.

WE NEED CHANGE IN LAW'

'THIS doesn't give us any kind of justice.' Linzi Collings' mother Jean

Halfpenny died in 2010 after being administered three times her regular dose of the blood thinning drug Warfarin over 17 days at Orchid View

The abuse and neglect at the now closed care home in Copthorne, near Crawley, has been scrutinised over recent months in an attempt to learn from mistakes and ensure that care home residents are safe guarded in the future.

Reacting to the report. which was released yesterday, the residents' families have called for the Government to go further – to change the law so those responsible for "institution alised abuse" and the neglect that contributed to five of the patients' deaths will face criminal charges

A total of 19 residents' deaths were investigated

Safeguarding alerts

Patients at the Southern Cross-run Orchid View were abused, mistreated and neglected by staff. But the Care Quality Commission graded the home as good and numerous safeguarding alerts at the home were not acted upon by public services.

Lawyers representing some of the families said only a public inquiry would prevent further care home deaths

Mrs Collings said: "We can't do anything for our relatives or for the others at the home, but we keep hearing about more and more cases in other homes.

"This sort of thing is happening all over the country and something needs to be done to stop it

"My mother was from a generation who didn't complain and they took advantage of that."

An inquest last year found that the deaths of five patients, including Mrs Halfpenny, were contributed to by neglect

patients were underfed, locked in their rooms, staffing levels

Recommendations INCLUDE

- Care home residents and their families are assigned responsible nurse.
- Nursing home care homes should provide and facilitate the continuing professional
- development of their staff. Care businesses must have robust plans to recruit and sustain trained staff. monitored by the Care
- Quality Commission (CQC) **CQC** inspections include discussions with relatives of residents
- Concerns raised by coroner's officers about possible patterns or high numbers of deaths at services or organisation are reported to the police.
- Local authority and NHS nissioners share concerns about services with existing and prospective residents and their families.
- The COC develops an app that provides up to date information about care services and enables public

were unsafe and medical records changed or destroyed to cover up medication errors.

Yesterday's serious case review made 34 recommendations to care providers and public services to ensure that no more people die at the hands of poorly-run care homes

Recommendations made by the chairman of the review. Nick Georgiou, aimed to restore public confidence in care homes, help staff and patients raise concerns and hold organisations and individuals to She knew it wasn't right before account when things do go wrong

Leslev Lincoln's mother Enid Trodden was another of the five elderly patients found by an inquest last year to have died as The hearing was told that a direct result of the neglect she it could not prosecute individsuffered

Nurse Mrs Lincoln, of

- awareness. Care homes display their complaint process in prominent communal areas. Care providers contractually
- required to hold open neetings with residents and their relatives on a regular basis to discuss issues of general concern.
- Employers carry out stringent checks into staff qualifications and fessional registration
- Service providers are required to demonstrate that they have established training, supervision and appraisal processes for their staff.
- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) commissions training about situations that prompt safeguarding concerns and criminal activities of ill-treatment or wilful neglect.
- The CPS should obtain expert advice when considering neglect and safeguarding.

Copthorne, said: "I can't believe people in my profession acted as they have. I'm ashamed

"It is good that this has been looked into but it doesn't go as far as we need."

Describing an incident in which Orchid View staff spent more than 20 minutes trying to force her naked screaming mother into a bath using a lift that she did not fit into, she added: "Afterwards I said 'sorry mum' and she said 'they should have known that I wouldn't fit' anvone.

Sussex Police arrested five members of staff from Orchid staff. View, however the serious case review revealed the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) felt ual members of staff because "poor practice was the norm".



WILFRED GARDNER

ABOVE: Family of those who died at Orchid View and, left, Laura Barlow. BELOW: Neglect contributed to the deaths of five residents



Southern Cross could not be for corporate "We are going to be pushing The CPS also concluded that manslaughter as organisations cannot be held accountable for the criminal actions of their

Ian Jerome whose uncle Bertram died shortly after leaving Orchid View and was found to have signs of a head injury in his post mortem, said: "Orchid the inquest. We haven't had jus-View was the best looking home tice for that.

and pushing for changes. "A public inquiry is the only way we will get justice.

'This is just the first rung on the ladder for justice "The first we heard about

most of the awful things that happened to our relatives was in

'What happened at Orchid View was harrowing'

RESPONDING to the report. Peter Catchpole, West Sussex County Council's cabinet member for adult social care and health. said: What happened at Orchid View

"We welcome this report and its mendations. There is nothing more important than looking after the most vulnerab people in our society and in this respect Southern Cross Healthcare has been judged to have failed

"Statutory agencies such as West Sussex County Council had no choice but to take action to investigate and ultimately move people from the home to protect

"Nothing will help ease the pain of the families who were affected

by these terrible events and who lost loved ones. I want to offer them my condolences and assure them that we will act on the recommendations made in this eport and do all we can to ensure that the other agencies

involved in managing and egulating the care of our elderly relatives do the same.

"We wholeheartedly support the

recommendations made in this serious case review and want to see them acted upon so that individuals, private businesses and companies can be held to ccount when it comes to failings in care.

"The care provided at Orchid View was extremely poor and our own health and social care teams were faced with a difficult set of

the safeguarding investigation. "We do believe that acting on the recommendations contained in this report will go a long way towards preventing this happening again by encouraging ies and stakeholders to share information to enable emerging themes and patterns t be identified and acted upon.'

circumstances when they began





West Sussex Adults' Safeguarding Board ordered the serious case review The solicitor representing the families. Laura Barlow.

can be put before the courts.'

said: "I intend to write to the CPS to ask them if they would



A SERIOUS case review into the "harrowing" deaths of 19 residents at "Britain's worst care home" has made 34 recommendations to try to prevent further tragedies. But families of the victims believe the report is just the "first rung in the ladder" and a public inquiry and a change in the law are the only ways true justice can be done. Chief reporter EMILY WALKER reports

JEAN LEATHERBARROW

"We hope there will be a law change and those responsible through the net.

far as he can go, but there are still many issues, and criminal



SERIOUS Case Review ndependent chairman and eport author Nick Georgiou below. said:

"I want to emphasis three significant issues highlighted in this report:

"Firstly, a number of the concerns identified in the recent past with hospital services in the NHS have been echoed at Orchid View and it is right that the scrutiny and emands for improvement in the NHS are also expected from the independent sector.

"As a result of the concerns about the NHS there have been recent Government consultations relating to a Duty of Candour, the Fit and Proper Person test and a new offence of Wilful Neglect where people have mental capacity.

"This Serious Case Review vholeheartedly supports them being applied to independent sector businesses and

"As the role of independent sector care businesses has grown, the number, frailty and Inerability of people dependent on their care has increased. It is critically important that these services demonstrate that they can provide the quality of care

provider failed.

statutory sector had about the home. This was a particular problem for people paying for their own care.

"Thirdly, a great deal of work has gone into building this picture of the care at Orchid View and the volume of problems in the home. With the benefit of hindsight the pattern of safeguarding concerns is now clear, for example in regard to medication, and consistent failures by the people working in the home, and the senior management of Southern Cross Healthcare, to provide positive nanagement and leadership This was not the case for the social work and nursing staff involved at the time. Firm evidence and information about concerns, and the inability of Southern Cross Healthcare to follow through on remedial actions emerged piecemeal and as the safeguarding investigations ended Orchid View was closed.

"I want to acknowledge the information and understanding gained from the families of former residents at Orchid View I hope this report goes some way to addressing the serious and thoughtful questions they put to me based on their direct experience of the poor care their relatives endured.

"Finally, I want to say that it is not possible to say that this report or any other will preven all future safeguarding alerts. It will not do that, but acting on the recommendations will lessen the risk to other residents in other settings. "They also promote actions to support the statutory services

> and the service provider to respond constructively when there are safeguarding concerns to ensure safe and better

auality services for people dependent on nursing care.'

Drive latest vehicles at motor show

MOTORISTS will get the chance to drive the very latest car models at the Moving Motor Show next month

The show will be put on by the AA and takes place at Goodwood Festival of Speed, Chichester, from June 26 to 29.

There will be cooker demonstrations from top chefs and free 30-minute driving experiences on the Goodwood circuit for 12 to 17-year-olds.

Chris Jansen, the AA's chief executive, says: "Many people fondly remember the British motor show and the thrill of seeing new cars up close.

"The Moving Motor Show presented by the AA at Goodwood not only lets you get your hands on but in many cases, drive the latest models from many of the world's top marques

"It will be an automotive spectacular for the whole family with everything from the earliest motorcars to the latest hypercars.

Night tour of South Downs

A TOUR of the South Downs at night will be held on July 4 **Brighton and Hove City** Council's ranger service has teamed up with the Universit of Sussex for the 9.30pm to 11.30pm event.

They will use thermal imaging equipment, telescopes and moth traps to discover and learn more about insects. badgers, foxes, bats and

The free event will set off from the northern end of Ladies Mile Road, Brighto For more details and to bool call 01273 292929 or email cityparks@brighton hove.gov.uk.

XXXX LOTTERY

THE results of the latest Martlets Hospice lottery draw made on May 30, have been revealed.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket number 29384 held by someone from Hove

Second prize of £150 goes to ticket number 53322 held by someone from Heathfield.

Third prize of £100 goes to ticket number 02744 held by someone from Brighton and fourth prize of £50 goes to ticket number 28022 held by someone from Worthing

The following ticket holders each win smaller cash prizes: 00186; 12788; 26304; 26368; 26622 27640: 29788: 29806: 31540: 32920: 34164: 34519: 39440: 39988: 40208 41364: 41919: 42442: 44406: 44688 50084: 53548: 54984: 55788: 56200: 58002: 59217: 61246: 64540:68860 69004: 72204: 74168: 75860: 77404 78648: 79880: 83184: 84888: 86088



and apply to many different the country.

Extract from the blog of Louise Goldsmith, leader of West Sussex County Council:

It is our responsibility to ensure that the people that need us most the vulnerable, the weak, the frail - are cared for and protected from harm at all costs. Sometimes problems are so serious and fundamental that they cannot be resolved. Closure is then the only option. This was the case with a care home in Crawley known as Orchid View. In this extremely serious case there were five deaths which the coroner last year found were directly attributed to by neglect and substandard care at the home. This home was privatel un by Southern Cross Healthcare which no longer exists. In such cases we commission a Serious Case Review. conducted by an ndependent Chairman, to look at what happened. In the report here are recommendations for our Adults' Safeguarding Board and for the county council. I want to assure everyone that this will be an absolute priority for the county council. There is no getting away om the facts in this Serious Case Review. No one would want this o happen anywhere. Our duty is to do all we possibly can to prevent his happening again, and that has to be our prime commitment in he coming months

these cases have slipped

public inquiry could ask for.





organisations.

necessary.

"In this case the service

"Secondly, people were making crucial decisions about their care. or that of their relative and did so without full information about the home and were largely dependent on the services and selfproclaimed quality described in Southeri Cross Healthcare's own publicity.

"They were also illinformed by the information on the COC website and unaware of the concerns that



