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## Media Release

### **Patient organises charity concert to say thanks to the team that helped get her back on her feet**

A patient from the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust, also known as the Min, has organised a charity concert say thank you to the national specialist service that have helped her get back on her feet.

Liz Hunt, 24, from Bath was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), a chronic inflammatory spinal condition, in her late teens and is being treated for her condition by the team of experts at the Min.

“People who know me can not believe the difference. Coming to the Min has been a real turning point for me. Two weeks before I came I couldn’t even get out of bed, and I was in so much pain that I couldn’t move.” Explains Liz

AS affects approximately 1 in 200 men and 1 in 500 women in Britain. People who suffer with this condition experience spinal inflammation which causes pain and stiffness and can lead to significant disability. AS predominantly affects young people, with onset being in late teens and twenties.

“I came to see Dr Sengupta and thanks to him, the team of physios and occupational therapists at the Min, and the treatment programme that they put me on, I am able to get out and about. The difference is amazing and the pain is almost gone. I am certainly not aware of it all the time anymore.” She went on to say.

To say thank you to the team Liz has organised ‘Music for the Min’ a charity concert of opera, popular classical music and song.

“I wanted to give something back and as I teach music and sing Soprano I thought what better way than to organise a concert.

“Without the hospital I’d be lost. The team have taught me about my condition and given me life-long skills and techniques to help me to cope with day-to-day things.

“I have learnt that with the right treatment and support AS doesn’t necessarily have to hold you back from anything that you want to do.”

‘Music for the Min’ is at 7:30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July at St. Swithin’s Church, the Paragon, Bath. Tickets cost £12, inclusive of a glass of fizz and canapés, and can be purchased from the box office on 01225 463362.

All proceeds from the concert will be for the benefit of the Ankylosing Spondylitis Service at the Min.

ENDS

Please note: A patient case study is available on request.

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**Notes for Editors:**

- Dr Sengupta has experience in identifying AS patients, in line with NICE guidance, who will benefit from Anti-TNF, and in managing these patients throughout their treatment.
- The Min has an established history of research in rheumatic diseases. We look after a large group of patients with AS and there is research planned to help further improve the care provided for these patients.
- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in bath. Offering services to adults, children and young peoples the Trust has expertise in general and complex:
  - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
  - Neurological Rehabilitation
  - Chronic Pain Management
  - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
  - [www.rnhrd.nhs.uk](http://www.rnhrd.nhs.uk)