

Fellowship

The newsletter of the NHS Retirement Fellowship

Special 70/40 Anniversary edition

You did it! and there's more to come



The seventieth anniversary of the NHS and the fortieth of the Fellowship has vividly demonstrated what a lively membership we have and revealed our organisation to scores of people in the NHS and ex NHS who never knew we existed.

Branches all over England, Scotland and Wales have been actively seizing the moment to put themselves in the public eye with television, radio, and newspaper coverage.

And in many cases it has meant that today's NHS leaders and staff have become aware of a vibrant group of people keen to build an alliance with their NHS Trust to the benefit of both.

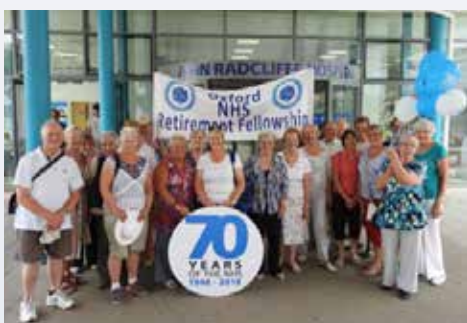
As this special issue shows, it's been a year packed with events at which the Fellowship has been represented including services at Westminster Abbey and York Minster, Scotland's leading health event, the NHS Confederation conference, London's official celebrations, and royal garden parties.

In Wales the Fellowship led the way by organising major events in both north and south Wales. On the south coast Brighton and Eastbourne both staged public exhibitions, and all over the UK branches held celebrations, parties, picnics and walks to mark the anniversaries.

Chief Executive John Rostill commented: "What a wonderful couple of months. I doubt anybody could have predicted the tremendous media coverage. This surely exceeded all expectations and it was enhanced by the involvement of our members who spoke passionately and authoritatively about the early days of the NHS. I am so grateful to everyone involved."

And it's not over yet. The anniversary year continues with an exhibition in Crawley during September and events in Bury St Edmunds and Walsall. A DVD is being produced which captures the year (see back page).

Many of the events have been supported by a £10,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Cathedral Services

York

A service full of song

Services to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the NHS were held in York Minster and Westminster Abbey. Gillian Oldfield reports from York and Andrew Moss from London.

Four members from Yorkshire region joined Fellowship patron Ken Jarrold at York Minster for a seventieth anniversary service full of song and music.

It began with the Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band who were playing as the congregation gathered for the service which was hosted by Linda Nolan (of the Nolan Sisters) who had had treatment for cancer.

Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care was followed by Hull & East Yorkshire NHS Trust staff choir and then Maisie Saunders a former nurse and Fellowship member gave an interesting account of her career – arriving from Jamaica at 19, eventually training to be a nurse and working her way up to becoming a manager.

Gillian Oldfield reports: “We sang ‘Make me a channel of your peace’ and then listened to the Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Choir who sang ‘With a little help from my friends’. Ian Dalton CBE, Chief Executive of NHS Improvement was followed by the congregation singing ‘You’ll never walk alone’.

“A young man of 22 then spoke about being a carer for his father who developed bipolar disorder when he was 13 and how he has gone on to found Imagine Bradford which helps young people with mental health problems.

“We sang ‘Love is all around’ and then heard from a girl aged 15 who was seriously hurt in the Manchester bomb attack and now wants to become a nurse specialising in the treatment of burns.

“The B Positive Choir sang which was followed by us singing ‘Lean on me’. The service ended with an address by Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair of NHS England. After leaving the service I felt extremely privileged to having been able to be present on this occasion in the wonderful surroundings of York Minster.”



Gillian Oldfield (Harrogate) Colin Billington (regional representative). Ros Bartle (Wakefield), Ken Jarrold and Mary Bradley (Harrogate) at York Minster.



Colourful as ever: Ethel Armstrong joined the celebrations at Westminster Abbey.

Cathedral Services

Westminster Abbey

Looking back with pride and forward with ambition

Representatives of the Fellowship joined the congregation in a packed Westminster Abbey for a thoughtful and uplifting service to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the NHS.

Looking both back and forward, the service reflected on the achievements of the service and held out the promise of further advances.

Fellowship member Olive Belfield, 91, a founder member and former chairman of South Manchester branch, who was a nurse at the start of the NHS in 1948, assisted by her daughter Rowena, was first to speak and recalled how before the NHS people would delay getting treatment because of the cost, and when they did, it was often too late.

More recently, she has been a patient herself. “The care has been excellent. The staff are so kind, no matter how busy they are” she said. “Thank you so much for inviting me here. It has been an honour. And thank you to all the NHS staff. It wouldn’t be what it is without you.”

Fifteen year-old Freya Lewis, who was severely injured in the Manchester Arena bomb attack, spoke movingly of her experience. She underwent 13 operations lasting a total of 70 hours and told the congregation: “I am now alive because of the incredible care I received. It was the impressive and wonderful NHS at its very, very best.” Since then she has launched an appeal which has raised £58,000 for Manchester Children’s Hospital.

NHS Chief Executive Simon Stevens reflected that the NHS was there at the most profound moments in people’s lives. “When that happens, standing alongside us are the staff. We should give thanks for their service, their skill and compassion – and for their bravery.”

But the day’s celebration should not be misty sentiment and nostalgia, he said. To be proud of the NHS is not to be blind to its imperfections. It is to be honest and aspire to higher standards. “The NHS will always be changing and it must always appear to be inadequate. It must always be impatient with the present. We look back with pride and forward with ambition, determination and hope.”



Joining the celebrations at Westminster Abbey: l to r Di Furbear (Cheltenham), Margaret Moffat (chairman NHSRF), Christine Harper (Suffolk West), Olive Belfield (South Manchester), Andrew Moss (Oxford) and John Rostill (Chief Executive NHSRF).

Members feature at major Scottish event



Mairi McCulloch and Laura Kempton-Smith on stand duty at the NHS Scotland Event

Scottish members handed out more than 1,000 leaflets and attracted a lot of interest to their stand at the NHS Scotland annual event in Glasgow.

The two day event is the leading health event in Scotland and the premier meeting place for people providing health and social care. As this is the seventieth anniversary of the NHS, the Fellowship was given a stand which provided the opportunity to celebrate what it has meant to Scotland, and to showcase the work of members.

The stand walls displayed stories and memories of members who worked in the NHS in its early days, gathered from branches across Scotland. The nurse training record of one nurse – Marion Dunlop – proved of great interest, particularly a handwritten item at the bottom of the printed record which read: “Care of penicillin.” It was

treated like gold dust and had been reserved for forces’ use in Scotland until 1947.

As well as the stand, Scotland development officer Hilary Robb was asked to give talks in the 70th anniversary theatre at coffee and lunch breaks. The session featured memories and anecdotes from members who were nursing in Scotland on 5 July 1948, and the medical advances experienced by members in later decades.

“I did not know it, but the talk was filmed and beamed to the main auditorium, which has resulted in me being asked to give the talk to other organisations. My talk ended with a 1948 recipe from the kitchens of the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh for cheese soufflé, with the instruction that patients could have this made from game or rabbit. How times have changed!”

The stall was “manned” by Hilary and volunteers Laura and Mairi from Edinburgh on day one, and Trish from Edinburgh and David from Forth Valley on day two.

“We decided to target the relatives of those who are working in NHS and social care and this proved a successful way of getting people’s attention. A high percentage of current NHS staff joined as a result of parents and relatives having worked in the NHS. Sadly, hardly anybody that came to the stand had heard of us, but they were very supportive about spreading the word. We also picked up some very good contacts which we will be following up. It is important to capitalise on these events to increase membership.”

Wales events a great success



Two highly successful events in Wales looked back at the origins of the NHS, celebrated its achievements and paid tribute to the work of the Fellowship.

Starting at St Asaph in North Wales, 85 delegates and guests from Bangor, Aberconwy, Clwyd, North Wales Ambulance and North East Wales branches listened to an outstanding speech from Fellowship patron Ken Jarrold which recalled the struggle to create the NHS in the face of dogged opposition from political and medical opponents of the Labour government and its determined health minister Aneurin Bevan.

Dr Peter Higson, chairman of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board brought the NHS story up to date with a summary of today's developments.

In the south, on July 25, more than 120 people met in the historic venue of Bedwellty House, where the young Aneurin Bevan began his career in politics as a local councillor. Branches represented were West Glamorgan, Cardiff, Carmarthen and Gwent.

Dr Andrew Goodall, Director General Health and Social Services for Wales, and a long time supporter of the Fellowship, stressed the importance of its role, congratulated it on reaching its fortieth anniversary and said he hoped it would continue for another 40 years. Guests listened attentively as he went on to review events in the NHS in Wales where the service faced the challenge of achieving major savings without damaging front line services.

Nick Thomas-Symonds MP who has recently published a biography of Aneurin Bevan, recalled glimpses of Bevan's character. The Fellowship exhibition tracking a time line in the development of health care attracted a lot of attention as members shared memories of earlier years.

"Both events went extremely well" said John Toman, Fellowship development officer for Wales. "As well as the speakers and the exhibition we had marvellous music from the internationally acclaimed harpist Eleri Darkins."



Top: Guests gathered on the parched lawn for a memorable picture of the North Wales anniversaries event

Above: Margaret Moffat, NHSRF chairman, with the Mayor of Tredegar, Haydn Trollope at the Bedwellty House event.

Left: Dr Peter Higson, chairman of Betsi Cadwaladr UHB (centre) with John Rostill and Ken Jarrold at the St Asaph event.

Left: Norman Bishop and his wife Pam celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary at the same time.

Standing ovation for Fellowship members



Left: NHS members at the conference.

Below: Chief Executive John Rostill signs up a new member at the confederation conference: Simon Pleydell, former Chief Executive at South Shields and the Whittington Hospital hands over the cash.

Fellowship members received a standing ovation from current NHS staff when they took the stage at the NHS Confederation Conference in Manchester in June.

Interviewed by Danny Mortimer, Chief Executive of NHS Employers, Olive Belfield, 91, who had already been working as a nurse for three years before the NHS started, Peter Sykes, a consultant surgeon for 25 years and Cynthia Matthews, a GP and former chairman of the Fellowship reflected on their time “on the front line” and what now seem the primitive practices of earlier years, but were then routine or even ground breaking.

They were joined on the stage by other Fellowship members who had contributed to the service – and continue to do so in the Fellowship - including

John Rostill, Chief Executive, John Toman, Development Officer for Wales and regional representatives Sue Williams, Ros Lobo and Barbara Smart. Unfortunately Evelyn Lamb, who was accepted on a pre-nursing course before her 17th birthday in 1948, was delayed by problems on the trains and despite leaving Dorset at 9.00 she did not reach Manchester until late afternoon, and was unable to join members on the stage.

John Rostill said afterwards: “It was a delight to see members representing the very best of the Fellowship and it was gratifying to know that people who work in the NHS now appreciate the work of their predecessors. The standing ovation was entirely unexpected but really special.”



Lorraine speaks at London event

North West Thames regional representative Lorraine Taylor was among the speakers at a major London event to celebrate the NHS anniversary.

The Big NHS 70's Tea Party was held at City Hall and hosted by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, pictured here with Lorraine, standing on the right of the banner. Also in the photograph is Caroline Pidgeon, London Assembly member and representatives of other charities.



Spreading the word

All over England, Wales and Scotland branches have used the opportunity of the seventieth anniversary of the NHS and the fortieth of the Fellowship to celebrate and to spread the word about our organisation.

On this page and on pages 10, 11, 12 and 13 we feature some of the events that have made 2018 such a special year.



Brighton display hailed a success



The Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Councillor Dee Simpson who opened the exhibition, is pictured here with John Rostill (left) Peter and Sheila Sheppard and Bob Middleton who is project managing the 70/40 celebrations for the Fellowship.

Brighton and Hove members, who led the way in anniversary celebrations by starting planning their exhibition in the Jubilee Library a year ago, have been delighted by the response.

“It was better than we could have hoped” said Peter Sheppard who with his wife Sheila planned and prepared the two week exhibition which was opened by the Mayor of Brighton and Hove on July 3. Branch members were on hand every day to welcome visitors and promote the Fellowship.

“I did not realise how big it was going to become, but it was absolutely worthwhile – there is no doubt about that.”

The exhibition featured a time line in health care and captured memories of branch members on a series of display panels which nearly came to grief because of the hot weather. After setting up the laminated sheets using sticky tape members stood back with pride, only to receive a phone call from the library later that day to say that the heat had caused them to fall off. Plan B was for panel pins – and was completed just in time for the opening.

“We don’t know yet what effect it is going to have, but it attracted lots of interest and we gave away plenty of membership forms” said Peter. “Time will tell.”

Visitors included NHSRF chairman Margaret Moffat, vice chairman George Kempton and his wife Margaret; regional representative Ros

Lobo and her husband Tony; members of nearby branches, a coach party from Newham branch and a group of members from Kingston branch, who happened to arrive on the same day as Brighton branch were having a summer social – so they were invited to join in.



Members joined a special walk on the anniversary day which started at the Macmillan Horizon Centre and made its way along the sea front to the library, where they were joined by visitors and library staff to sing “Happy Birthday NHS.”

Nottingham share city celebrations

Nottingham members were able to join in an event organised by Nottingham City Council to celebrate the 70th birthday of the NHS with a stall to promote the NHS Retirement Fellowship and then to attend a tea party in the evening at the Council House.



Our picture shows June Odell, the busy chair of Nottingham branch with one of the posters promoting the Fellowship.

East Suffolk

Barbara Barker, chairman of East Suffolk branch cuts the celebration cake at the anniversary celebrations attended by about 50 members. Carol Lindsay-Allen, who made the cake, stands on the right of the picture.



Members delight in E

Trudie's big day out



Trudie: doing it in style dining at the Ritz



Chauffeur driven to the palace



Ready for the big occasion

There was an extra surprise in store for Trudie Spicer from East Dorset and Ringwood branch after she won the Wessex area ballot to attend a Buckingham Palace garden party.

On the big day Trudie travelled to London by train, accompanied by her grandson Andrew. When they got there she was told that she would be taken by taxi to a surprise venue for lunch. Unknown to her, Trudie's son in law, who

worked for the owners of the Ritz, had arranged a wonderful reception for her at the hotel. She was met and treated like a VIP, given a special goodie bag and after a lovely lunch taken by chauffeur driven Daimler to Buckingham Palace. Trudie saw Prince Charles and Prince Edward. A fine finish to a wonderful day that she will remember forever.



< Brighton

Sheila Sheppard and Ann Mash from Brighton and Hove branch enjoyed "a wonderful day" at a garden party in May. "I'm in the hat" said Sheila, "I bought it from an outdoor clothing shop in Brighton. I thought I would be able use it again when I go out to paint landscapes on the South Downs. They asked if I was going on an expedition. I said 'Yes, Buckingham Palace.'"

Northallerton >

Chris and Graham Kyle from Northallerton enjoyed their day at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. "We had a wonderful time despite only seeing the royals from a distance. We enjoyed relaxing and chatting to other guests," they wrote afterwards.



Palace Garden parties

North West

Sheila Ashworth and Kathleen Travis represented the North West at a garden party in June. Between them they have 86 years of service at Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Sheila was working in the NHS on the day it started, retiring as Personal Assistant to the General Manager after 44 years and Kathleen retired as Catering Manager after 42 years.

“I am 88 and at times I wondered if I would be well enough to attend” said Sheila. “I am pleased to say I did make it and I was able to speak to Camilla who I found charming and approachable. She was interested in my hospital service and shook my hand and said ‘well done.’”



Sheila Ashworth and Kathleen Travis soak up the atmosphere on the Buckingham Palace lawn.

Peterborough



Michael and Marylyn Court from Peterborough where Marilyn spent 20 years as an X-ray typist enjoyed a day at a royal garden party in June.

Michael writes: “Marilyn, with other wheelchair users were lined up against the Orangery wall so that the royal party of Princess Anne, Charles and Camilla, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, were able to say a few words to each of them as they departed.

It was a glorious, sunny afternoon. I met some Scout Leaders from Stowmarket where I lived at 15 and had been a member of their group, and one of them was a teacher at the school where I had been a pupil.”

Ten days after the visit Marilyn had a stroke but thanks to prompt treatment from the NHS she was hoping to return home in July. “Fellowship” wishes her well.

Harrogate



Valerie Muscroft, a previous chairman and president of Harrogate branch and Brenda Hawkswell-Stock, vice chairman enjoyed ideal weather and also had a wonderful day. They saw the Queen meeting guests and two bands played. It was a day that they will never forget.

Medway



Enid Osborne, from Medway branch attended a garden party on a warm day in May. “It was most enjoyable on a very warm sunny day” she said. “I was very happy to be there – thanks to the NHSRF.”

Spreading the word



Eastbourne strengthen links

Members of Eastbourne branch with more than 2,000 years of NHS service between them joined forces with their local NHS Trust to celebrate the anniversary.

The branch, led by chairman Jane Dubery, held a strawberry tea on July 5, attended by the deputy mayor and then staged an exhibition in the Arndale Centre, a major shopping venue in the heart of Eastbourne on July 11.

“It all went very well” said Jane, “we have definitely got some new members and there were several people who expressed an interest. The other good thing was that we re-established contact with East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust and the chairman has offered to include information on the Fellowship when he writes to retiring staff.”

The refreshed contact also meant that the branch was able to link with the communications department and lend some memorabilia for use in a Trust display and to “borrow” a giant birthday card for the shopping centre event, which visitors could sign.

Eastbourne has about 100 members and their exhibition shared memories of their NHS careers, which sometimes involved generations of the same family.

Into the community

Members of Basildon & Thurrock Branch had a Fellowship table at the community weekend in Grays in June.



Left to right: Berry Kipping, Jenny Deats: Kathy Ostler: Penny Griffiths: Jackie Price-Doyal MP, Vic Griffiths and Audrey Harris.



Eastbourne’s event in the shopping centre attracted many visitors, among them Rosalie Burke, Charlotte Foord and Cathy Healy, just about to join the Fellowship.

A worthwhile event

Visitors to a stand promoting the Fellowship at the Market Place and annual meeting of East and North Herts NHS Trust voiced an often heard comment: “We’ve not heard of you.”

Organised by Chris Kitchin, chair of East Herts branch, the group worked with members of North Herts branch at the event which was attended by nearly 400 people.

“Some passed by, some stopped for a chat” said Chris. “The consistent message was: ‘We’ve not heard of the Fellowship. What a good idea. Can I have more information’. It was a worthwhile event and we have an invitation to return next year.”



Chief Executive Nick Calver being persuaded to join.

Cosham members at nurses’ day



Two members of Cosham branch, Barbara George, chair, (right) and Irene Woodward, treasurer, met Mark Cubbon, Chief Executive of Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust at a nurses’ day in May.

Wisbech share memories

The Mayor and Mayoress and Wisbech, the site manager of North Cambs Hospital, and Margaret Moffat, chairman of the Fellowship were among the guests at Wisbech branch celebrations.

“We had a wonderful afternoon with loads of memories and strawberries including a talk by our member Jean Blackley who was training to be a nurse when the NHS began” said secretary Jenny Siret.



Pictured at the celebrations are the Mayoress, Mrs Jane Tanfield; Jean Blackley, Sandra Coales (branch chairman), the Mayor, Peter Human, Mandy Cuckow, site manager of North Cambs Hospital and Margaret Moffat.

Spreading the word



Awareness stand at RCN conference

When the Royal College of Nursing decided to arrange its first conference for retired nurses, members of St George's, Merton and Wandsworth branch were quick off the mark and were offered space to set up a display at the college's London HQ in Cavendish Square.

"It was to raise awareness" said branch chairman Ros Lobo. "There were about 80 retired nurses, we had lots of enquiries and one person signed up. It was lovely because I also met five other members of the Fellowship."



Oxford raise awareness on anniversary walk

Oxford members completed a sponsored walk linking all the main hospitals in Oxford on July 5, raising cash for hospital charities and raising awareness with a banner.

Starting from the John Radcliffe (pictured) the walk took in the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, the Warneford Hospital, the Churchill Hospital and Oxford Brookes University where the next generation of nurses are starting training.

Pictured at the stand are Ros's husband Tony (left) and Ros (right) with Fellowship members Cath Heslop and Ester Craddock and Jean Mullen (centre) who joined on the day.

Busy day at St George's

A special 70/40 exhibition at St George's Hospital, Tooting attracted lots of interest in a busy day on July 5 when the Fellowship branch worked alongside the NHS Trust to celebrate the anniversaries.

of St George's, Wandsworth and Merton branch. "There was a lot of interest in the Fellowship and we attracted five new members."

The branch linked with the media team at the Trust and members featured on local TV and radio and social media.

"There was a good turn out from the public and staff throughout the day" said Ros Lobo, chairman



Zeena Wilson (left) and Ann Walton, members of St Georges, Merton and Wandsworth branch, completed a five mile walk to Hyde Park on July 5 as part of the celebrations. Zeena is the walks co-ordinator for the branch.



Tooting MP Rosena Allin-Khan was one of the visitors, pictured here with Annie Johnson, branch secretary and Ros Lobo.

Spreading the word



Garden spot for nurses' day

Guy's and St Thomas' branch were very fortunate to be allocated a pleasant spot for their stall at the trust nurses' day in the gardens in front of St Thomas' hospital.

The stall was decorated with posters, photos, a banner and lots of literature and information about the branch. Members were able to explain and spread the word about the Fellowship and what it stands for and does. Sir Hugh Taylor, the trust's chairman, visited. He is a staunch advocate of the Fellowship, and spoke at the recent branch AGM. "It was a very enjoyable day that we hope raised our profile" said Marilyn Downs, membership secretary.

Trust chairman Sir Hugh Taylor with branch chairman Kay Lucey.



London branches link as new branches form

Two new branches have launched in London and a new group to link branches in and around the M25 has been set up by development officer Sally Bundock.

An active committee at the Royal Marsden branch got things under way with a fun quiz in June and officially started in July. Speakers this year include a crime prevention officer from the Metropolitan Police and talks on the Bayeux tapestry and surviving a plane crash.

The M25 Group helps branches to share events and information and the Royal Marsden's committee have said they would like to open up at least their next few events to the group.

A new branch at Great Ormond Street Hospital started in June with David Blair-Reid as chair, who kicked things off with a very interesting talk on civil protection. He now works for the London Borough of Hackney but was previously at Great Ormond Street.

Anniversary celebrations



Celebrations at St Thomas' Hospital on 5 July included cutting a huge cake.



Royal Marsden: active committee gets things going

Cecilia in the spotlight

Cecilia Brown a member of St George's, Merton and Wandsworth branch featured prominently in national media in the run up to the anniversary and was invited to attend the health heroes event which recognised the work of health care staff.

Cecilia came to England from the Caribbean and worked at St George's Hospital until she retired and joined the Fellowship. She is pictured here with her husband and the immaculately dressed former boxer Frank Bruno.



New members at St George's

Combined celebrations with St George's Hospital helped to recruit four new members to St George's Merton and Wandsworth branch.



Our picture shows four members with the committee cutting cakes for 40 years of the Fellowship and 70 years of the NHS. The branch is flourishing, with 72 members (the most yet) at the June meeting.



Great Ormond Street: ready for action



Brent branch celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Fellowship with a very tasty cake.

Thanks to the NHS

Postal member Christine Hurwood has reason to thank the NHS from the day of her birth (on the eve of the new service) to today's high tech surgery. Christine joined the Fellowship in July after seeing one of our members talking about it on television.

She writes: "I was born on the 25th June 1948 in Westminster Hospital, London. I surprised my parents especially my mother as I arrived nearly in the lift and early, but my mum had me free as her due date was on the eve of the new NHS, so she did not have to pay.

I have had brilliant experiences if the NHS. I am type 1 diabetic due to autoimmune disease and I have had lots of surgeries. In 2017 I fell on holiday on the Isle of Wight. I broke my femur. I had an ambulance. They wanted to airlift me as I was in a sunken garden but I said no if possible I would rather not. I was taken to St Mary's Hospital Newport. I had major surgery the next day and transferred to local hospital two weeks later. I will now have a total knee replacement. I have a half knee replacement in the left knee already. Yesterday I had my shingles vaccination. How we have progressed."

"I used to work in the NHS at Northampton General from 1997 till 2007 then I moved to West Sussex and worked for the now Sussex Community Trust. I loved the work. I was in administration and a receptionist. I felt I was giving something back."

Christine Hurwood: born, worked in and cared for in the NHS.



Party Time



Cosham

Members of Cosham Branch enjoyed a strawberries and cream tea party to celebrate the anniversaries.

More than 80 members attended, including the honorary president Mary Verrier, senior Fellowship representatives, and representatives from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.



Cutting the 70/40 birthday cake l to r: Theresa Murphy, Chief Nurse Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Mark Cubbon, CEO Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Paul Pople, Fellowship development officer for the south west, Margaret Moffat, chairman, and Eleanor Walsh, Wessex regional representative.

North West Surrey

Andy Field, chairman of Ashford and St Peter's NHS Trust, and Ros Lobo, Regional representative, joined over 50 members at the North West Surrey branch AGM to celebrate 70 years of the NHS and 40 years of the NHSRF.

Photos, stories, booklets and even a poem reminded members about how techniques and

Exeter

Exeter and District branch held an anniversary garden party in July and were featured on local radio and television the same day. It was also a celebration of the 80th birthday of two members.



Shared memories

Members of Wakefield branch joined Pontefract members in July for an afternoon tea to celebrate the anniversaries. Among the sandwiches, savouries and cakes they shared memories of their time in the NHS.

equipment had changed in the last 70 years. The Trust Chairman spoke about plans for local healthcare. Members enjoyed sandwiches and a special cake while sharing their memories.

Suzanne Timms, the cake maker and Jackie Douch, chairman, about to cut the celebration cake



AROUND THE BRANCHES

Huntingdon in Ilfracombe



Forty two members and friends from Huntingdon branch enjoyed a mid-week break in Ilfracombe, staying at the Palm Court Hotel, a very friendly, family-run hotel.

Outings included Exmoor National Park, Lynton and Lynmouth, Bideford, Bude and Woollacombe. Various groups took place in the evenings and the walkers took advantage of opportunities to explore on trips out.

Whittington's successful year



Whittington branch has had a successful first year and celebrated with a tea party at their AGM in May.

Members enjoyed visits to places of interest around London arranged by their chairman whose knowledge of the area is exceptional, as well as branch meetings with speakers.

Six members attended the conference in Nottingham and are planning to attend the next one at Chester in November. The branch is now looking forward to the year ahead and hoping to increase membership.



Hastings tea party

Hastings and district branch had a strawberry tea with home made cakes at a party to celebrate the 70th anniversary.



Postal memories

Basildon & Thurrock members beside a Victorian 'green' post box in London on a recent guided tour of the London Postal Museum and history walk. The trip included a ride on the underground Mail Rail. Oxford members enjoyed the same trip in July.

Busy Blackpool

Blackpool Wyre and Fylde branch had a very busy month in July including a strawberry tea to celebrate the NHS at 70 and the 35th anniversary of the branch.

Guests included national chairman Margaret Moffat and her husband Tony, and there was musical entertainment from Joseph Boe, brother of the celebrated tenor Alfie.

Also in July four branch members took part in recalling stories and memories from childhood and working in the NHS for a project run by Manchester University and the branch had a stand in the local hospital to promote the Fellowship and attract new members.



Picnic in the park

Crawley and District branch celebrated the anniversaries with a picnic in beautiful Tilgate Park.

Visitors were invited to sign the "Birthday" book. Ros Lobo, South

West Thames regional representative joined in the event which was enjoyed by all. Next up is a special display in Crawley Museum from September 7 to 30.



Celebrations and thanks

Bournemouth and Christchurch members celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Fellowship at their AGM in July with a beautiful cake which was cut by retiring chairperson, Hilary Tice, who has served in the post for the last eleven years, and David Moss, chairperson of Bournemouth NHS Trust.

New branch chairperson Margaret Taylor, thanked Hilary for her sterling dedicated work.



Hilary Tice and David Moss (who had earlier given an interesting talk on the Trust's future plans) cut the celebration cake.

OBITUARIES

Barbara Jarrald

Barbara Jarrald a member of Watford branch, died in December aged 86.

Her nursing career started in 1964 at Luton and Dunstable Hospital after a successful career in business. She qualified in 1967, then qualified as a midwife and worked at Watford General Hospital until she retired in 1991.



Barbara then joined the newly formed Watford branch and soon became the committed chairman/secretary for many years. She loved to travel and enjoyed socialising, especially at our meetings and historical walks until her hearing precluded this. Sadly she passed away suddenly while on holiday on Christmas Eve.

Jean Hooper

Beryl Jean Hooper (known as Jean) a former member of South Manchester branch, died in March aged 89. Jean attended Manchester Grammar School and graduated at Manchester University/Park Hospital (now known as Trafford General), as a pharmacist, working in the NHS in South Manchester where she later became District Pharmacist until retirement in 1989. She was responsible for many innovations in hospital pharmacy.

She joined Fellowship on her retirement and became treasurer with her sister (now deceased) rescuing the branch when the treasurer retired, and was treasurer for over 14 years. She remained an enthusiastic member until illness prevented her from attending.

Jean was much loved by members and working colleagues as was shown by the large number attending her funeral.

Pauline Phillips-Turner and Pam Patient

Sadly two long standing members of the Royal Berkshire branch, Pauline Phillips-Turner and Pam Patient, passed away in April. Pauline was secretary for a short time and attended meetings regularly, often accompanied by her trusted dog Ben, until her health prevented her.



Pam was branch treasurer over many years and attended almost every meeting, with a reputation of frequently being late. She had many interests



– especially her garden - and any plants on the raffle table were eyed by Pam in the hope she would win them.

Elsie Holland

Salford branch report with sadness the death of Elsie Holland, a founder committee member and friend to all. She was a glamorous lady of 94, immaculately dressed in up to date fashion, with perfectly manicured nails. She was part of the X ray team at Hope Hospital until her retirement. Sadly missed but never forgotten.

Olive Hughes

Brent branch have lost their dear treasurer, Olive Hughes, aged 96. She was a founder member of the branch and became treasurer and membership secretary, posts which she loved. She was also the regional representative for North West Thames for some years.

"She was an excellent treasurer and worked hard in the branch" said secretary Theresa Harvey. "She was very popular and well known throughout the Fellowship. Her death has left a great hole in Brent branch."



Jeff follows in family tradition

Fellowship member Jeff Jackson, who was recently made an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Health Engineering and Estates Management, is the third generation of his family to follow a career in hospital engineering.

His grandfather Edward (Ted) was in the hospital service long before the NHS, but later worked in the NHS in Derbyshire.

His father Peter was a Bevin boy during wartime national service before joining the NHS and rising through the ranks to become Area Engineer for South Glamorgan Health Authority in the 1960s, when he helped to commission the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

Jeff himself joined the NHS in Wales aged 16 as an apprentice electrician and moved on to become a hospital engineer before moving to Berkshire to become Senior Engineer, Facilities Manager

and Director in East Berkshire and play a key role in major changes in services and management structures.

He lives in Yateley, on the Berkshire/Hampshire border and joined the Fellowship as a postal member after early retirement.

John Rostill, the Fellowship's Chief Executive, has congratulated Jeff on his family's record. He added "It is so refreshing to find several generations working in the NHS who are not nurses or doctors. The NHS relies on so many different types of staff without which it would not survive."

Altogether the Jacksons have recorded over 120 years of service. Jeff commented: "I am very pleased that a profession which is crucial to the safe running of the NHS is being recognised – and I am proud of the contribution our family has made."



Jeff with family certificates from the Institute

Busy time for Suffolk West

It's been a very busy few weeks for Suffolk West branch with the anniversary celebrations.

It began with the Anglia regional afternoon tea in Bury St Edmunds, enjoyed by six branches, including hosts Suffolk West. Guests included Bury St Edmunds deputy mayor and mayoress Patrick and Anna Chung and Suffolk West branch patron Jan Bloomfield. A raffle raised £250 to be shared between Marie Curie and West Suffolk Hospital.



Members have also been standing in the heat, raising funds at fetes and a dog show for their chosen charity for 2018 the "Every Heart Matters" appeal for a new cardiac unit at West Suffolk Hospital.

In September the branch stages a 70/40 heritage project in conjunction with West Suffolk Hospital's AGM and exhibition.

Win one of two photography competitions

Perhaps old or a bit tatty, perhaps falling into disrepair? 'Seen Better Days' is the theme for the current photography competition. Closing date is 28 September 2018.

'In the City' is the theme for the next competition closing on Friday 29 March 2019.

Further details and entry forms are on the website or contact the Photography Group coordinator, Anthea Zell on 01520 722951 or by email photography@nhsrf.org.uk



DVD will showcase Fellowship

A special DVD which celebrates the role of Fellowship members in the NHS and in the Fellowship and records some of the major events in 2018 is nearing completion.

Made for the Fellowship by British film makers PinPoint Media it will be available in early autumn.

"It's going very well" said PinPoint's Project Co-ordinator Max Evans. "We have an enormous amount of footage with some great interviews and great stories to tell – there is so much to put in."

The film showcases the Fellowship and the 70/40 project, the 2018 events and features members' memories of their time in the NHS, how and why they joined the Fellowship and what it has meant to them.

The big task now is to edit the material to make a film which can be used at branch meetings and to promote the Fellowship. Chief Executive John Rostill and 70/40 Project Manager Bob Middleton were due to join the PinPoint team at the end of August to help with the final edit.