



# NEWSLETTER



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*Left: Member Sheila Bubb proudly displays her top raffle prize at the New Year Lunch at the Reigate Manor Hotel on January 9<sup>th</sup>*

## ***From Joan Robinson, Branch Chair***



As I write this letter, the icy Beast From the East is about to arrive although I have some very cheerful daffodil blooms in my garden. Let's hope that by the time you read it there will be more evidence of spring.

This year we have two anniversaries to celebrate; on April 18<sup>th</sup> the NHSRF will be 40 and on July 5<sup>th</sup> the NHS will be 70 years old. Alison Cass has kindly offered the branch the use of her garden for a celebration of both occasions on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will welcome your ideas for adding to the enjoyment; please let me have them. There are also plans for the branch to be involved in a joint celebration of the NHS anniversary with East Surrey Hospital.

On a more mundane note, annual subscriptions of £20 are due on April 1st. Betty Austin will be collecting them from now; please pay her as soon as possible. This year, all the money raised from subscriptions must go to Central Office as capitation fees. This means that, for the branch to cover its costs, next year's subscription must be raised to £25. You will have an opportunity to discuss this at the branch AGM on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for the nomination forms I have received for the election of branch officers at our AGM. Please remember it is your branch and it's up to you to vote for the Branch Officers you want.

My best wishes go to those members who are unwell and not able to attend our branch meetings.

A Happy Easter to you all!

## ***From the Editor, Janet Lambley***

The Fellowship's logo for 2018, seen at the top of this page, marks our 40th anniversary year. Since the Fellowship's anniversary coincides with the NHS 70th anniversary, there is much interest in recording people's experiences of working in the NHS, especially in its early days. John Rostill, Fellowship CEO, has asked members to send their memories to him at Central Office to contribute to a collection of reminiscences which he aims to use to raise the Fellowship's profile. Locally, Zoe Messenbird, the Communications Officer for Central Sussex Commissioning Alliance and East Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group has requested contact with people willing to be interviewed about their experiences of working for the NHS in Surrey and Sussex and the changes they have seen over the past 70 years. You can contact her at [z.messenbird@nhs.net](mailto:z.messenbird@nhs.net) or 07979 427190.

If you would like help with putting your reminiscences on paper to send to Central Office, or if you're willing to share what you have already prepared for the branch newsletter, please get in touch with me.



## ***Pam remembers her career in nursing***



Pam always wanted to be a nurse, but had to wait many years to fulfil her ambition. 'My family were in printing and my parents especially didn't want me to go into nursing. They had my life mapped out for me, so I went to work in the accounts department at the Temple Press in London, where I felt frustrated not to be doing what I wanted to do'. Pam was in her thirties, married and with three sons, when she started her nurse training at Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield.

After qualifying, Pam worked on various wards at Chase Farm. 'Things were very different in the 1960s', she remembers. 'The ICU was like an ordinary ward, but all the patients' monitors were out in the corridor, so staff spent a lot of time out of the ward looking at them'. Pam recalls one patient in particular whom she nursed on ICU. 'A man was brought in with a heart attack, very anxious to see his wife. When he was settled, his wife came in and he confessed to having an affair. I watched him go home some weeks later, but I don't know how his wife reacted to his confession.'

Pam also worked on the geriatric ward at Chase Farm. She enjoyed her time there, but found the hours difficult to manage with a young family, as this incident shows. 'I was

driving to work one day and a policeman stopped me for speeding. He asked me where I was going in such a hurry and I said I was going to work. "Where do you work?" he said, so I told him I worked at the hospital. "Well, Sister Jones works there but she wasn't speeding." "But she wasn't late and I am!" I said, and he waved me on!

Because the hours were more compatible with family life, Pam later transferred to district nursing. As on the wards, she particularly enjoyed listening to her patients' stories. 'Men seem more willing to talk to a nurse than to their families and this is especially true of difficult wartime experiences', she says. 'I often felt there was never time to listen properly, we were so pushed along to get work done. But on the district, if someone had been telling me something interesting, the next time I saw them I'd say "Last time you were telling me about..." and encourage them to continue.'

Pam still remembers some patients' amusing misunderstandings of medical terminology, for example, the man who said he'd had a corona and another who told her his wife hadn't looked back since she had a vasectomy.

After she retired from the NHS, Pam took a part-time job with a care agency. 'I enjoyed it as a way of continuing nursing but I missed being part of a team. When I was nursing I worked with such lovely people and had lots in common with my colleagues'.

### ***Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance – an update***

At last year's June branch meeting, Jackie Robertson gave a fascinating talk about the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance. The service had just taken delivery of a new AW169 helicopter, based at Redhill Aerodrome. This aircraft flies faster, further and for longer than the older MD902 helicopter, enabling the service to reach and treat patients and deliver them to hospital more quickly, and potentially reach more people in time. In January this year alone, the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service team attended 114 critically ill and injured patients. On February 7th, they featured on Channel 4's *24 hours in A&E* delivering an injured motorcyclist to St George's Hospital. There is a link to the episode on the website [www.kssairambulance.org.uk](http://www.kssairambulance.org.uk)



*Above: Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance A169 helicopter at Redhill aerodrome*

### ***Forthcoming outings: please register your interest with the Social Secretaries***

*May 3rd* at 19:30: *My Fair Lady* at the Harlequin, Redhill, cost £17

*July 10th* Summer outing: a three-course lunch at the Moorings restaurant in Pevensey Bay, followed by free time in Eastbourne, total cost between £28 and £30; deposit £10 payable as soon as possible, please. The coach will have disabled access.

*August 2nd* at 19:30: *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Harlequin, Redhill, cost £14.

*August 14th* Garden party at 111 Honeycrock Lane, Salfords. Bring a chair; if you can lend a gazebo, please tell Alison Cass.

*September 18th* Coach trip to Bluewater, cost to be confirmed.

*October 18th* Ten pin bowling at Crawley, cost to be confirmed.

*November 27th* Salisbury Christmas Market, cost tbc.

### ***Branch meetings programme April – October***

April 10th Stroke, dementia and diabetes

May 8th Annual General Meeting

June 12th The forgotten village of Duxhurst, near Reigate

September 11th Simple first aid

October 9th Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

### ***Members' News - Alison Cass writes:***

In late May, I am travelling with my husband Brian to Malawi in East Africa to witness my niece Ann's induction into the local tribe where she is living. Ann works as the local co-ordinator for a charity called Build a School which raises funds to build schools in Malawi and then organizes the build.

In December, the charity completed a hostel for girls at Kabuthu Secondary School and the team is now working on a school at Dzaleka refugee camp. You can find out more about the charity's work and see pictures of Ann, the team and their projects at [www.buildaschool.org.uk](http://www.buildaschool.org.uk)

I am collecting tiny soaps, shower gels and individual wipes to make up sanitary packs for young girls arriving at the refugee camp without any possessions. I would appreciate any of these items so that my granddaughter Emily and I can make up packs to take to Malawi. Please bring any you have to the April branch meeting. Thank you.

***Branch meetings open at 10:00 on the second Tuesday each month at Reigate Baptist Church***  
[www.nhsrf-east Surrey.org.uk](http://www.nhsrf-east Surrey.org.uk)

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