



NEWSLETTER



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Left: Members celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday at their indoor street party on June 14th at Reigate Baptist Church

From Joan Robinson, Branch Chair

What a year of celebrations and congratulations for the Branch! We have celebrated our 35th Anniversary and the Queen's 90th birthday and we must also congratulate our Branch Honorary President, Michael Wilson, CEO of Surrey and Sussex Healthcare, on receiving a CBE for services to the NHS in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



At an NHSRF Conference, I was inspired when I learned about the Care Home Ask and Talk (ChAaT) volunteer service, an award-winning partnership between a Branch in Wales and their health board. Members volunteer to visit people living in local nursing homes and spend time

talking to residents about their experience of nursing home life to identify what may need to change to make it better. The volunteers' skills and experience qualify them uniquely for this.

I took this idea to East Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group and found interest in developing a partnership for a similar project in our area. Volunteers would be trained as in the Welsh project. If you have a passion to improve care for people living in nursing homes and would like to volunteer, please get in touch with me. I'm sure our Branch has the enthusiasm and talent to help prevent the serious failings in care that can happen when vulnerable people are not listened to.

Meanwhile, the Branch has an exciting programme of outings, so I hope you will be able to get out to enjoy as many as you can.

Indoor Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday

Forty members of the Branch gathered on June 14th at Reigate Baptist Church to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with a 1950s themed party. Bunting, balloons, flags and music of the time created the party atmosphere while the showery weather outside evoked memories of the Coronation in 1953. Branch Chair Joan Robinson led a quiz based on places and events in the Queen's life. Sherbet dips were prizes for the winning teams. Members then enjoyed a lunch including egg sandwiches, sausage rolls, corned beef pies, jellies, jam tarts, rock buns and butterfly cakes washed down by orange squash. Another reminder of the 1950s was the raffle third prize – a tin of Spam won by Pauline Sullivan!

After lunch, Joan thanked Deanne Beaver for organising the lunch and members who had contributed the food.

Right: Win Sparshot and Deanne Beaver enjoy a well-earned drink at the party



Ninety Glorious Years – Janet Lambley joined in a recent Branch outing

Her Majesty's 90th birthday provided an excellent excuse for celebrating the past nine decades with popular and patriotic songs. That's exactly what the show 'Ninety Glorious Years' presented by Neil Sands at Redhill's Harlequin Theatre, did on June 8th. Eight Branch members were in the packed audience. They thrilled to the spectacular costumes of singers Angie Diggins and Gemma Turner who with Neil Sands sang songs made famous by stars of the Royal Variety Performances including Petula Clark, Cilla Black, Tommy Steel and Max Bygraves. The show ended with rousing performances of favourites from the Last Night of the Proms and a selection of 'Songs that Won the War' when the audience joined in with full voice.

There will be more nostalgia when Neil Sands comes to Redhill again in November with his show 'Christmas Memories'. If this is entertainment you like, please ask Deanne and Bob to arrange another outing to the Harlequin Theatre.

Celebrating success at the Branch Annual General Meeting on April 12th

Thirty-seven members and visitors attended the Branch AGM at Reigate Baptist Church on April 12th. The visitors included Audrey Harris, National Chair of the NHSRF, Ros Lobo, Regional NHSRF Representative for South West Thames and Gillian Francis-Musanu, Head of Corporate Affairs at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare (SASH), representing Michael Wilson, CEO and Branch Honorary President.

In her annual report, Joan Robinson, Branch Chair since 2009, noted how the membership has grown from 39 in that year to 72 in 2015/16. Average attendance at Branch meetings has increased from 20 to 43 and in February this year the Branch celebrated its 35th anniversary. Joan thanked the Committee, especially the organisers of outings and monthly speakers, Deanne Beaver, Bob Eden and Pat Thompson, for all their hard work. Joan was elected as Chair for another year.

Margaret Steele, Branch Treasurer, reported Branch finances to be in good standing through funds raised from the monthly raffle and book sales and the annual bring and buy sale in December. These funds enabled the Branch to subsidise the New Year Lunch at the Reigate Manor Hotel attended this year by a record 62 members and their partners.

In her address, Audrey Harris exhorted every Branch member to recruit a new member in 2016. Word of mouth is the most effective way of attracting new members. Audrey stressed that the NHSRF exists as a community of interest to care for people who have spent their careers caring for others. Increasing the number of subscriptions received will help the NHSRF overcome the shortfall of funding that has arisen since it no longer receives any money from NHS England. Lack of funds means that there will be no annual conference this year, but Audrey hoped that the NHSRF will hold a self-financing conference in 2017, so that delegates from Branches all over the UK can enjoy time together.



Above: Left to right, Audrey Harris, Gillian Francis-Musanu, Margaret Steele and Joan Robinson

Replying to Audrey, Gillian Francis-Musanu, as the lead for corporate communications at SASH, undertook to find ways of promoting the Branch to hospital staff. Gillian also told members about some exciting new developments at East Surrey Hospital: the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre, a new CT scanner for the Emergency Department and the new 21 bed unit, one of the first joint projects between a Trust, social services and commissioners to prepare patients for discharge from hospital.

Ros Lobo thanked Audrey and Gillian for their contributions to the AGM and members for supporting the Branch. She wished Joan and the Committee good luck with their plans for the coming year.

Another outing to the Harlequin Theatre, Redhill



Country Superstars May 12th Deanne Beaver and Mo Mills write:

A small group of us met for an evening of country music presented by tribute artistes Sarah Jayne and Andy Crust. Country singers they represented included Dolly Parton, Billie Jo Spears, Tammy Wynette, John Denver, Kenny Rogers and Johnny Cash. They performed to backing tracks in front of a screen where old photos of the actual singers were projected. Although we all agreed that Sarah and Andy were very convincing in their portrayals, we felt that something was missing - a live backing band would have added much more atmosphere.

A message from Janet Lambley, Editor

A big thank you to everyone who sponsored me on the YMCA East Surrey's marathon walk from Guildford to Redhill in March. Your generosity helped me to raise over £500 which all goes towards the £1.9 million the YMCA needs to build an integrated sports facility for people with disabilities as well as the able-bodied. I'm planning to take part in the YMCA's next marathon walk, from Lewes to Eastbourne along the South Downs Way on August 14th. If you would like to sponsor me, please contact me or go to <http://virginmoneygiving.com/JanetLambley>

Forthcoming Events from July to October

July 12th Outing to Whitchurch Silk Mill and Winchester: please meet outside The Angel at Woodhatch at 9:00 for a prompt departure at 9:15.

July 26th Guided tour of Gatton Park: please meet by the lych gate, St Andrew's Church at 2pm. Cost £8 which includes a cup of tea and a cake after the tour. Please bring the exact money. Able walkers only.

August 17th Bletchingley Golf Club: enjoy a full cream tea at 2pm, cost £10:95, pay on the day. Includes sandwiches, homemade cakes, scones with clotted cream and preserve with a pot of tea or coffee. Numbers required by the branch meeting on August 9th.

September 27th Guided tour of the Foundling Museum, London: the coach will be full so this outing is now going ahead to follow up the very interesting talk by Jane King last October. Total cost £20.50. Please pay by the branch meeting on August 9th.

October 20th Fashioning a reign: an exhibition at Windsor Castle featuring 90 years of style from the Queen's wardrobe. Total cost approximately £32. Please pay by the branch meeting on August 9th.

Any enquiries - please contact Deanne Beaver

Please remember to wear your name badge at Branch meetings!

Branch meetings open at 10:00 on the second Tuesday each month at Reigate Baptist Church www.nhsrf-eastsurrey.org.uk

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