



# Platinum Jubilee: A Queen's Nurse for every Decade

'A Queen's Nurse for Every Decade' is a series celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee featuring Queen's Nurses who started their nurse training during one of the decades of Her Majesty's reign, 1952 - 2022.

# 1970s



Agnes Fanning

## Community Nurse details

**Name:** Agnes Fanning  
**Nurse title:** Independent Community Nursing Health Consultant  
**Location:** Buckinghamshire

### 1. When and where did you start nursing in the community?

I qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1977 and I began nursing in the community as a Staff Nurse in 1985. I undertook my District Nursing training in 1987. I had found my niche; District Nursing was the best job I had ever had. I never took for granted the privilege it was to care for patients and their families in their own home environment knowing that I was making a difference and enabling them to remain in their familiar surroundings.

### 2. What memories do you have of HM The Queen during this time period?

My one favourite memory of HM the Queen is her Silver Jubilee in 1977 when there were great celebrations across the UK to recognise her 25 years as Queen. It was the year I qualified and a year before I got married. My fiancée John (now husband) and myself went up to London on a sunny day in June to join in the celebrations. I recall John carrying me on his shoulders (I was a lot slimmer in those days!) so that I could see the Royal Procession along the Mall. The Queen and Prince Philip were in the Gold State Coach and the Queen wore a pink outfit. The atmosphere was amazing, and I was buzzing with excitement at seeing the Queen, but poor John did not see anything.

### 3. What has been your proudest nursing moment so far?

It is difficult to identify one specific moment where I could say 'this is my proudest nursing moment' as there have been so many special times during my nursing career. However, just after I qualified in 1977, I recall an 89-year-old patient writing a poem for me.  
*'In friendships name to you dear nurse I've watched you with your smile, your fair hair, blue eyes. Just a touch of the hand, a word of cheer. When the heart grows sad and weary to me it's a gift from God that no earthly ties could sever.'*  
This poem is so special to me as it reminds me why I became a nurse. Yes, ongoing education and the use of evidence-based practice is necessary to work safely and effectively but it is also important to remember the human factors. Working as a District Nurse has brought with it many proud moments knowing that I, and the team I was working with, had enabled a patient to remain at home surrounded by family and loved ones, particularly those patients requiring end of life care and I would anticipate that most District Nurses would concur with this. Being awarded the title 'Queen's Nurse' was a very proud day for me too. I had been working in academia for many years so when past students have told me that 'I became a District Nurse because of you' - it makes me proud knowing I am passing on a legacy for District Nursing.

### 4. Any tips for aspiring community nurses?

I would advise any aspiring community nurse whether trained in child, mental health, learning disability or adult nursing to spend time working with a community nursing team before furthering their education in their field specific area of Specialist Community Nursing. Community nursing gives the opportunity to truly advocate for patients whilst also promoting independence and autonomy. Get involved with the local PCN or ICS so that you can influence policy – be heard, you can make a difference.

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