



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.

1990s



Candice Pellett

Community Nurse details
Name: Candice Pellett OBE, Queen's Nurse
Nurse title: District Nurse
Location: East Midlands

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

I worked as a Nursing Auxiliary in the community from 1987-1992. I started nurse training in 1992 as a mature student – my first career was in banking. I qualified as a RN (Adult) in February 1995. I worked on an oncology and haematology ward in the hospital where I did my nurse training until I secured a Community Staff Nurse post in a District Nursing team in September 1995 in Bourne, Lincolnshire. I qualified as a District Nurse (SPQ DN) in 1999 with a BSc (Hons) and went back to the District Nursing team that I started working with in 1995.

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

I remember the 1990's being a hard decade for HM The Queen particularly in 1997 with the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. It really affected a lot of patients that our District Nursing team were visiting at the time. Many visits were taking much longer than usual because people were grieving and wanted the community nurse to stay and chat with them. Every person visited was elderly, housebound and often lived alone. I remember lots of tears and cups of tea as we supported them through the shock and disbelief that they were experiencing after hearing the sad news. Each one sympathised with HM The Queen and the Royal Family. One elderly man used to work for the Royal Household in his younger days and always had photos and memorabilia of The Queen displayed in his home and he used to enjoy reminiscing about his work when the community nurse visited him.

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

I received the OBE from HM The Queen at an Investiture in Buckingham Palace in 2014 for 'Services to Nursing and Healthcare.' She asked questions about my career in nursing, working as a nurse in an urban and rural area and also asked about palliative and end of life care that the district nursing team delivered to people who wished to die at home. An equally proud moment in my career was receiving the Queen's Nurse title in 2007. I was in the first cohort with twelve other nurses to receive this at a ceremony in London. It meant so much to me because I was supported by two patients during the application process of which one had been visited by the district nursing team intermittently since the late 1990's. They were both thrilled when they heard that my application had been successful and we had enjoyable times doing media interviews together for the press and radio to talk about the Queen's Nurse title and community nursing.

4. Any tips for aspiring community nurses?

I have spent my entire nursing career working in the community and would absolutely recommend it whether they have years of nursing experience or are newly qualified. The majority of healthcare is delivered to people in the community where they live with the focus on keeping people out of hospital, and it is a privilege to deliver this care in people's homes and residential homes and on occasions, supporting staff who work in nursing homes. My tip would be to organise an insight visit with a community team as it would be an opportunity to ask questions about the role, preceptorship, future learning etc. Community nursing is a challenging job, every day is different and an insight visit will give a small window of opportunity to see the skilled work that is undertaken daily.

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