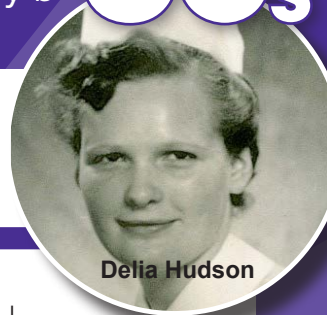




Platinum Jubilee: A Queen's Nurse for every Decade

'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.

1950s



Delia Hudson

Community Nurse details

Name: Delia Edith Hudson (nee Bowskill)
Nurse title: District Nurse Midwife
Location: Lancashire

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

I started cadet nurse training in 1954 then went on to qualify as a State Registered Nurse. In 1962 I became a Queen's Nurse then did midwifery training and in 1964 became a practising QN midwife in rural area of Clitheroe, Lancashire.

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

I was still a schoolgirl when the Queen came to the throne and as we did not have a TV (nor did many people at that time!), I did not see the televised coronation, which was hugely disappointing. Whilst undertaking my cadet nurse training at Accrington Victoria Hospital in 1953 the Queen and Prince Philip were touring the north of England and there was great excitement when we heard they would be visiting our hospital. We cadets were at the bottom of the hospital hierarchy, so were surprised to find we had been chosen to form a guard of honour for the Queen's visit. We were told we had to wear white gloves and were somewhat dismayed to hear we had to buy these ourselves – they cost 10s 8d which for cadets was nearly a week's wages! On the day we were all very excited - the Queen looked so pretty and she took the time to shake hands with each of the cadets, and Prince Philip was very tall and extremely handsome - all the cadets fell in love with him!

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

My proudest nursing moment was when I delivered my first home delivery on my own and the mother happened to be a girl I had gone to school with, and her husband had also been at my school. I'm glad to say that all went very well! My second proudest moment was in 1987 when I was given my Queen's long service award by the Queen Mother at St James's Palace. She was dressed in emerald green and I was dressed in blue civvies, as at the time I was a Chief Nurse for Monmouthshire so did not wear a uniform. The Queen Mother said she knew the area well because of the racing at Chepstow (!) – she was charming, well-informed about every nurse receiving an award and made us all feel very comfortable.

4. Any tips for aspiring community nurses?

Do not assume anything about your patient or their circumstances
Put yourself in your patient's shoes and treat your patient as an individual with immense respect and dignity
"SMILE" - you might be the only person your patient sees that day, so they will welcome a warm smile
Be prepared for absolutely anything because you never know what you are going to find going in to see a patient
Be kind and caring – no-one wants to need nursing!
Finally, be prepared because you are a community nurse – in other words a 'Very Important Person'.

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