



Platinum Jubilee: A Queen's Nurse for every Decade

20 00s

'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.

Community Nurse details

Name: Sharel Cole, Queen's Nurse
Nurse title: Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Nurse) – Community Frailty Team
Location: Kent



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

I started as a Band 5 Community Staff Nurse, as a newly qualified RGN in November 2004 with Wandsworth Primary Care Trust working with in the District Nursing Service.

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

Her Majesty The Queen is very special to me. I grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, having been part of the Commonwealth we have always felt a bond with HM The Queen as she was our Head of State until we became a Republic in 1976. I have been lucky to see the Her Majesty approximately 5 times in my life. They have been very special moments in my life!

1st: 1985 She is an amazing, impressive, and powerful lady...I remember when she visited Trinidad in 1985, I was only 5 years old and what excitement there wasI remember joining the crowds to get a glimpse of THE QUEEN. You are truly inspirational! God Save the Queen.

2nd: 2002 St George's University of London 250 years anniversary

3rd: 2011 William and Catherine's Wedding

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

Co-ordinating a person's end of life care wishes at home is a huge privilege. I was contacted by a GP to ask if I could liaise with the acute hospital to co-ordinate a discharge as a 97 year old man wished to be home if he was dying. I had never met the gentleman before. It was during the pandemic. I contacted the acute hospital; spoke to the nurse in charge and a doctor explaining the patient's wishes and the family's concerns as his wife was also starting treatment for oesophageal cancer. They asked the Consultant to ring me but he was not impressed. He asserted his experience as a consultant for 15 years. I explained that the nurses suggested he was being moved to a side room as he may be aspirating and his family were concerned that he was deteriorating and we would like to support an end of life care discharge to support his wishes. I was very disheartened. Two days later, an OT informed me he would be discharged later that day. I visited the first thing the next morning. The patient was awake but was very poorly. With my PPE on, he held on to my hand strongly and said, 'Please don't send me back to hospital.' I wished him all the best. He died the following morning....co-ordinating care, equipment, medications, advance care planning is a special skill community nurses and palliative care nurses have!

4. Any tips for aspiring community nurses?

Find out what matters most to your patients, know them as a person, discuss their future wishes, follow your gut instinct when you feel someone is unwell! Never hesitate to ask for support or advice from other members of the Multi Disciplinary Team! We are always learning and we must be committed to doing our best! Be PROUD to be a NURSE!

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