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News for supporters of the QNI

The charity dedicated to improving patient care by supporting nurses working in the community



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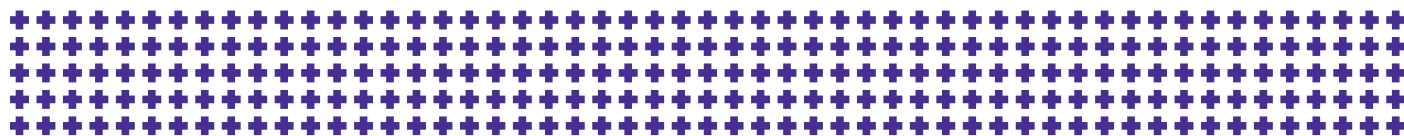
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First Winner of William Rathbone X Award Announced



*Above: guests at the event;
Left: Michelle Bateman with her certificate.*

Michelle Bateman, the chief nurse of Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust and is a Queen's

Nurse, has been announced as the first winner of the William Rathbone X Award for Excellence in the Executive Nurse Leadership of Community Nursing Services by the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI).

The award was presented to Michelle at a ceremony at the Wellcome Collection in London on 9th June. Steph Lawrence MBE, chief nurse of Leeds Community Healthcare and GP Federation, was highly commended. The presentations were made by Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, the QNI's Chief Executive, and by Nick Addyman, QNI Council Member, representing the Rathbone family.

Michelle was one of 11 nurses nominated for the award. Michelle said, 'I am both honoured and humbled to be the first recipient of this award. Community nursing is and will always

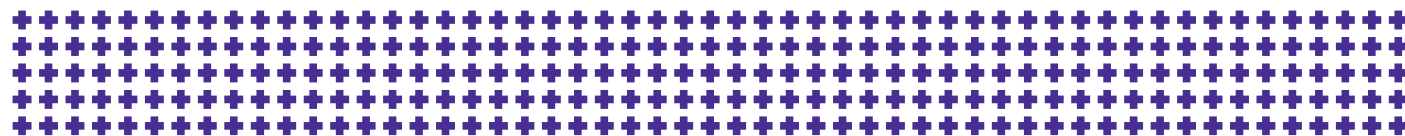
be my passion. Thank you to my incredible colleagues who inspire me everyday and thank you to my mother who is a nurse and will always be my role model.'

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE said, 'I am delighted to be able, through this new award, that the QNI is able to recognise the exceptional contribution of a remarkable executive nurse who is an outstanding role model, a credit to the nursing profession – and as a Queen's Nurse, a credit to the QNI too.'

The presentation was held following the inaugural William Rathbone X Lecture, given by Professor Alison Leary MBE, who spoke on the highly topical subject, 'Thinking differently about nursing workforce challenges.' Professor Leary is a QNI Fellow and Director of the QNI's International Community Nursing Observatory, and Chair of Healthcare and Workforce Modelling at London South Bank University. The lecture will be recorded and made available for viewing online via the QNI website.

The William Rathbone X Award is named for a member of the QNI's Council who gave exceptional service to the charity over many years. The award created in his name will raise the profile and importance of the role of the executive nurse leader within healthcare provider organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It provides the recognition of the impact of excellent strategic nursing leadership, support for staff and the consequent positive outcomes for patient experiences in the delivery of community nursing services.

To read more about the event and see more photos, please go to: <https://qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/first-winner-of-william-rathbone-x-award-announced/>



New Film Celebrates Contribution of Four International Nurses in England



to pursue their career in the community in England. The film gives a privileged insight into their different life journeys and their aspirations for career and family. We hope these positive and uplifting stories will give a new and richer understanding of the international nursing experience to a wider audience.

The Queen's Nursing Institute has made a new short film featuring four international nurses working in the community in England.

The nurses – Ananthu Ashok from India, Katrina Capito from the Philippines, Gustav Grib from South Africa and Merin Jolly from India, all trained overseas and have all recently begun work for community nursing services in different parts of the country.

The launch of the film, on International Nurses Day, celebrates the contribution of international nurses to community nursing services in England. Filming took place in March and April in four locations – Herefordshire, Sussex, Hertfordshire, and London.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, QNI Chief Executive, said, 'This new film is the first of its kind to show the real experience of internationally educated nurses working in the community in England today. Historically, most nurses coming to this country have worked in hospitals as a first destination, but this film shows the range of opportunities that exist in the community, and the strong support structures that are available for nurses making this transition.

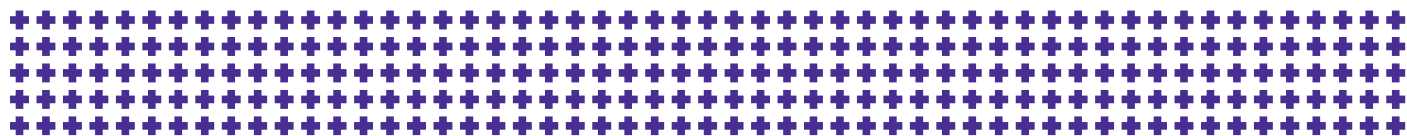
In just a few minutes, the film introduces us to four international nurses who have chosen

The QNI would like to thank all the nurse stars who appeared in the film, the people they care for, their families and colleagues, and the healthcare trusts who supported them. The response we have received to the film so far has been overwhelming and I hope it will encourage others to consider a career in the community.'

The film shows the nurses delivering care in people's homes, in educational and clinical settings, and with friends and family in their local communities. It explores a number of significant themes for nurses who are working in a new country, including driving, housing, education, professional and personal support. It also explores the importance of autonomy in practice and delivering personalised care in the community.

Ananthu Ashok won the QNI's award for International Community Nurse of the Year in 2022. The QNI encourages all community healthcare providers to nominate eligible nurses for the award in 2023. <https://qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/international-recruitment-to-the-community/international-community-nurse-award/>

To watch the film, please go to the QNI Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/825763074>



The QNI launches new survey of District Nurse Team Leaders



publish the results of the survey later this year.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive of the QNI said, 'The QNI has a proud history of advancing the community specialism of District Nursing; the charity was originally founded to educate and organise the District Nursing workforce on a national basis and for over 130 years has led the way in championing healthcare in the home and community.

The QNI is calling on District Nurse Team Leaders in the UK to participate in the first major national survey of the profession since 2019.

The new survey of the District Nursing workforce comes at a crucial time in the profession, when change has become the new normal in the planning and delivery of services, and widespread evidence of increasing demands placed on a workforce that has not grown to meet growing population need. New models of care have emerged and services have additionally had to adapt to the pressures of the pandemic.

The information gathered will be used to analyse trends in the work done by District Nurses, how it is organised, what support it receives and where additional support is needed. The survey will allow a close comparison with the situation in 2019 when the last similar report was published.

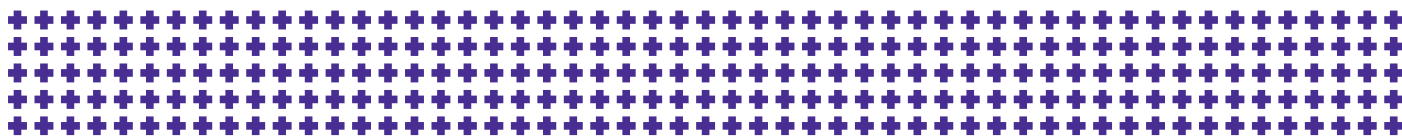
This evidence gathered is of equal importance to both the NHS and to community interest companies and social enterprises that employ District Nurses.

The survey is particularly for those leading and managing District Nursing services. The QNI will

District Nursing is the bedrock of healthcare delivery in the community and yet the profession has suffered from poor understanding, and lack of investment, by politicians and system leaders. The number of District Nurses has been falling in recent years, despite an increase in demand led by a growing and ageing population who are living with multiple complex health conditions.

To help us create the evidence needed to argue for greater investment in the District Nursing workforce, we need nurses to give us the numbers and the intelligence about how services are delivered by their teams, in their area. We will analyse this data and produce a report that articulates the needs of the District Nursing service on a national basis. This evidence will be of crucial importance to politicians and system leaders.'

The survey is being conducted by the International Community Nursing Observatory (ICNO), led by Professor Alison Leary MBE, Chair of Healthcare and Workforce Modelling at London South Bank University, also ICNO Director, and Dave Bushe, Project Manager and ICNO Data Analyst at the QNI.



Keep in Touch Programme - A Day to Remember, by Candice Pellett OBE, Queen's Nurse



I am a member of the Keep In Touch programme and I have been phoning Jackie every week for the past 5 years – what a privilege it has been to hear about her past nursing career, her family and to chat about nursing issues on a regular basis.

Some weeks ago I mentioned that I was going to St Paul's Cathedral in London to The 58th Florence Nightingale Commemoration Service and I asked Jackie if she would like to come with me. The service is usually held every year in May at Westminster Abbey, but had been moved this year to St Paul's because of the Coronation Service of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

I was delighted when Jackie said she was free that day and would be able to come to London – and so the planning began in earnest! My husband said he would travel to London with us and then do some sight-seeing whilst Jackie and I were in St. Paul's, so we decided we would drive to Cambridge, then get the train to Kings Cross as it stopped at a station near where Jackie lives. A neighbour had kindly offered to take Jackie to the station and meet her at the end of the day.

As we left Cambridge station I sent a text to Jackie to let her know which carriage we were in, and from then on the day went like clockwork. We met Jackie on the train and got a taxi at Kings Cross that took us right outside St. Paul's where we

first went to a coffee shop for lunch, as Jackie had been there in the past with her husband and she knew the area.

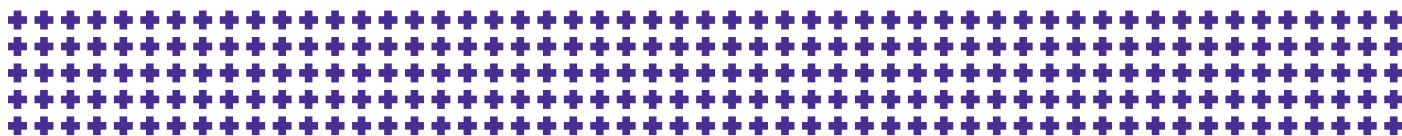
I had already arranged that we would enter the Cathedral via a side entrance with easier access, and had confirmed that we would have accessible seats. We breezed through security following a bag search, and were taken to our seats right at the front, where we had a bird's eye view of

everything that happened during the Service.

The whole event was wonderful, filled with music from the organ before and during the service, along with the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral and the Band of The Prince of Wales. It was also very poignant as we remembered nurses and midwives named in two rolls of honour; the Covid-19 Pandemic Roll of Honour dedicated to all nurses, midwives, nursing associates and health care support workers who courageously and selflessly provided care during the Covid-19 pandemic, which was carried through the Cathedral by the Chief Nursing officers of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the Commonwealth Roll of Honour commemorating nurses who lost their lives on active service in the Second World War, which was carried by a military nurse and escorted by the Chief Nursing Officers of the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

Later during the Service a burning lamp "The Procession of the Lamp" was carried through the Cathedral with a procession of Health Care professionals including student nurses and midwives to signify the transfer of nursing and midwifery knowledge to future nurses and midwives. The lamp was then placed on the altar followed by an Act of Dedication and hymn.

Following the sermon, hymns and prayers, the Service concluded with the National Anthem. As



we left the Cathedral Jacky said that "It was a privilege to be able to participate in the day and we must never lose sight of the standards and dedication to service that Florence instilled in the nursing profession, and it is such an honour to follow in her footsteps."

After the Service my husband was waiting outside and we decided between us we would eat before we headed home. There was a pizza restaurant by the cathedral and we had a lovely meal. Two

ladies on the next table turned out to be Admiral Nurses and we had a wonderful time chatting to them and they both thought the Keep In Touch programme was great and said they were taking the idea back with them to see if it could be put in place in their work area.

We had a fabulous day creating many happy memories giving Jacky and I lots to chat about during our future weekly catch-ups.

Candice Pellett OBE RN DN Queen's Nurse

Keep in Touch poem by Sue Wynne

The Keep in Touch Volunteers meeting took place in May this year and one of the volunteers, Queen's Nurse Sue Wynne, wrote a poem about the day:

The last three years, have been a roller-coaster ride,

We've missed our friends, or those by our side.

*The dark has passed, and the gloom dispelled,
a pilgrimage to London, from all corners of the realm.*

A buzz in the air, from greetings far and wide;

An update from Crystal, we know she's by our side.

The Keep In Touch family, were thanked for all they do.

The stories that were shared, gave us laughter too,

with humility and grace, and unstinting sense of pride,

A sit-down feast to celebrate our time.

If you take time to wonder what it is we do, take time to ask,

And become one too.

A phone call is all you give, to brighten up someone's day,

It truly makes a difference in so, so many ways.

Volunteers meeting gift



One of the new Keep in Touch volunteers, Queen's Nurse Simon Littlefield crocheted a fuchsia doll which he gave as a gift to the QNI's CEO, Dr Crystal Oldman.

Crystal christened her "Elsie" as Simon is taking part in the Elsie Wagg Innovation projects, funded by the National Garden Scheme.

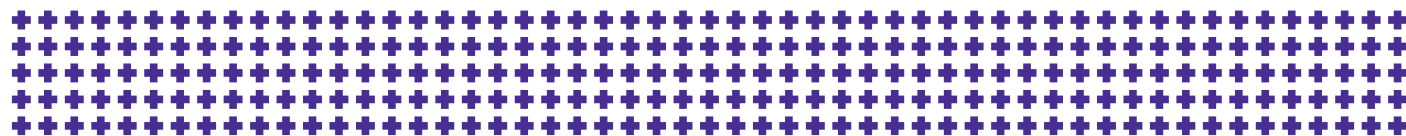
Crystal said, 'I was blown away by this gift, a fuchsia - hand made by the talented Simon Littlefield, thank you!'

Surrey Heartlands Community Workforce Community of Practice

All retired and current nurses are invited to the Surrey Heartlands Community Workforce Community of Practice, a quarterly (online) forum for nurses who wish to remain in the loop with their previous (or current) careers who are uniquely positioned to add a valuable

perspective to discussions around unmet needs in the workforce.

The next event is taking place on Thursday 21st September at 1-3 pm, to book your place, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3v65ufve>



Jo Moorby, the QNI's Education Grants Manager, retires



Jo Moorby, the QNI's Education Grants Manager, retired from the QNI in May.

Jo worked at the QNI for more than 17 years and in recent years was the Grants Manager and latterly

the Education Grants Manager, working in the Support for Nurses team.

Dr Crystal Oldman, the QNI's Chief Executive said, 'Jo's work in supporting community nurses has been outstanding and she leaves a legacy

of a thriving grants programme and the Keep in Touch programme. Jo had the idea for the Keep in Touch programme almost 10 years ago and she was thrilled to appoint Suzanne Rich into the team and to see Keep in Touch blossom under Suzanne's expert leadership.

Jo was also delighted when Justine took over as the Grants Manager and she was able to step into the Education Grants Manager role.

I would like to thank Jo for her considerable contribution to the QNI and to the community nursing profession - the QNI is a better organisation because of her work with us.'

Eton College Gardens opens for the National Garden Scheme



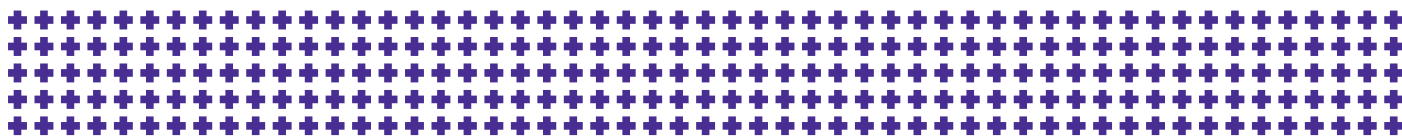
A group of Queen's Nurses and members of the QNI staff team met at the gardens of Eton College, Berkshire, on 4th July when it opened for the National Garden Scheme. Eton was suggested as an alternative to Frogmore, which is not opening for charity this year.

The gardens are very historic forming a central part of the whole Eton complex, which faces Windsor on the opposite side of the River Thames. The college was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 and many of the buildings date

from that period, arranged as quadrangles with gardens at the centre. There are also grassy meadows leading down to the river and these are semi-wild, supporting biodiversity and presumably the college's biology curriculum. Small wooden bridges connect an island on the Thames floodplain, developed as a garden in the 19th century. There are also some magnificent cedar trees as you can see from the photograph.

We had a warm welcome from Heather Skinner, NGS County Organiser for Berkshire, and the staff of Eton College including the head gardener who answered some tricky questions from QNs about the names of ornamental trees and other details. Delicious teas and cakes were provided by volunteers raising funds for Thames Hospice. All together we had an excellent afternoon despite some very wet weather later on.

Matthew Bradby, QNI's Head of Communications



Mayor of Bristol shadows QN Teresa Chinn MBE



Above: Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees, having his blood pressure taken during the shadowing visit

When I first became a Queen's Nurse last year I was determined to 'do something' to help to highlight the amazing work that Queen's Nurses, and, in fact, nurses everywhere do, so when the QNI's CEO Dr Crystal Oldman suggested at the QNI awards ceremony that we might like to invite local politicians to come and shadow us, I was on it!

I emailed the Mayor of Bristol Marvin Rees and he replied! Not only did he agree to come but he also asked to bring along Councillor Helen Holland (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Integrated Care System).

Shadowing my job is complicated as my role, working in the Director of Nursing & Care Services team, means that I am often involved in confidential meetings and travel between our seven sites. My role requires two approaches: the day-to-day approach, which involves problem solving and meeting challenges head on and the long-term approach, which is all about ensuring that we can continue to provide a high standard of care in 1 year, 2 years and even 5 years' time. I wanted to ensure that both Marvin and Helen got a real flavour of the work I do, the amazing teams I work with and the challenges we face

as nurses working in social care. With this in mind, I brought together some of the teams I work with to highlight projects that I am leading, including our trainee nursing associate (TNA) programme and our falls prevention programme. It was important to me to give people an opportunity to shine and to show what we do and how I, as a Queen's Nurse, support them.

When the shadowing day arrived, it was met with a flurry of activity; it was great to see the whole team come together to make the afternoon a success. Marvin and Helen arrived right on time and with flowers... a really thoughtful and appropriate touch, after all they were visiting people's homes.

We spent lots of time talking and during conversations explained things like workforce challenges and how we are meeting this challenge by providing apprenticeships for TNA's and beyond that Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeships. Marvin and Helen were able to meet some of the wonderful TNA's that I support and the TNA's were able to practice some of their clinical skills by taking Marvin's blood pressure!

Both Marvin and Helen spent a lot of time listening, asking really pertinent questions and then listening some more. They were both clearly deeply interested in nursing and social care and used the experience as an opportunity to take that learning and insight into their own roles. During the debrief at the end of the afternoon, Marvin talked about how he wants to map services across Bristol, and look at how services are, or aren't, working together.

The day definitely helped to create a general awareness of what a Queen's Nurse is and the work that we do, and helped to highlight the brilliant nursing and care teams working in social care.

Teresa Chinn MBE QN



QN Jean Beckett (née Barstow), celebrates 100th birthday



Above left: Jean Beckett at home with a card from the King and QNI flowers

Jean Barstow was born in April 1923 at Whetstone, London, to Edwin and Dorothy Barstow (née Forster). Dorothy had trained as a nurse and worked during World War 1 and Edwin was a pharmacist - both worked at the (old) Charing Cross Hospital, London. Jean had an older sister, Ruth, born 6th November 1921.

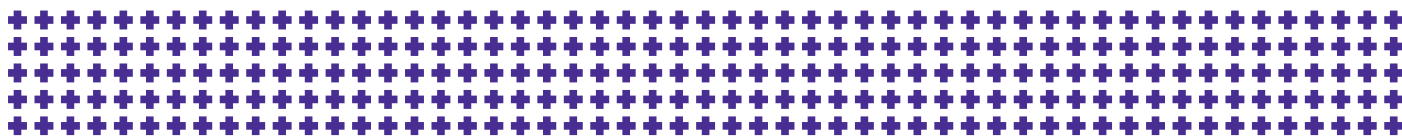
Jean loved Sunday School and Guides where she made and kept lifelong friends. She loved drama, going to camp, but sadly did not live up to her father's expectations, failed her 11+, went to Skinners' Company's School for Girls in Hackney, where she stayed on to do a secretarial course. In 1939 she was evacuated to Welwyn Garden City where she stayed with a lovely family with whom she kept in touch until they died. This illustrates Jean's lifelong gift of friendship and her faithfulness in maintaining these relationships. She has always made friends with neighbours, the elderly, sent cards – a very caring lady.

Jean hated office work and longed to be a nurse, but was told she wasn't clever enough. She applied to The Royal Free Hospital, London as they did not charge fees to train. In February 1943 she began her nursing training, making many friends and in February 1946 qualified as a State Registered Nurse and continued to work at The Royal Free.

In June 1946 Jean then started her 6 months District Nursing training with The Queen's Institute of District Nursing, which offered a combined course in District Nursing and Midwifery.

In January 1947 she started Midwifery training with QNI which involved 6 months at the Queen Mary Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, which had been bombed in September 1940 and was evacuated to Kent and 6 months on the district in Rochester, Kent.

Here she met another student midwife Anne Kidney, an Irish girl who later became Matron of Salford Royal Hospital and was also Godmother to one of Jean's children with whom she kept in touch until Anne's death in 2003. Jean recalls the bitterly cold winter of 1947 (46/47) when they filled their hot water bottles in the hospital and took them down the long drive to their very cold quarters and hoped they would still be warm. She spoke about the ice on the inside of their bedroom window, and remembered when the mice ate the biscuits they had brought back for their evening night cap. They obviously had great fun, and Jean speaks of one occasion when a fire broke out in the nursery which she and Anne put out with their bare hands which were black and when someone went into labour, they both thrust their hands into gloves and delivered the baby. The fathers would drive down from London on motorbikes for the evening only visiting time. She also remembers the mothers sitting up having their Guinness – on doctor's orders – after lunch!



Jean qualified as a State Certified Midwife in June 1950 when she was admitted to the Roll of Midwives (Roll number 126115).

Jean worked on the district with Miss Jane Eames (Bessie), Senior District Nurse who was eight years older and they remained close friends, Bessie becoming Godmother to all three of Jean's daughters. Bessie later married Will Jerratt and became Matron of Parker House, a residential home for the elderly in Eastbourne. She later became Deputy Warden then a resident in Joan Nightingale House, a home for retired Queen's nurses in Haywards Heath, East Sussex where she died aged 95 in 2011.

In 1950 Jean went on to do her Health Visitor Training, which was on the job with lectures in Hounslow, London, but not at the hospital.

Her Health Visiting Certificate issued by The Royal Sanitary Institute was signed 21st July 1951 Registration No 33682.

In 1951 or early 1952 Jean went to work as a Health Visitor in Bexhill, living once again with her mother in Eastbourne. Jean took her driving test on the day of King George VI's funeral so the streets were empty! In June 1953 Jean camped out overnight on The Mall to watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

In Eastbourne Jean met Richard Beckett, an accounts clerk, whom she married in April 1954. They moved to London where she worked as a Health Visitor in Ealing until her daughter Sally was born, followed 17 months later by Judy. Richard became a gardener, moving to Rutland, the Lake District, where Clare was born, and then to Essex where Jean worked as a District

Nurse. Their final move to Berkshire led to Jean taking a full-time health visiting post in 1973 in Theale and then Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, from where she retired in 1988 - although she continued to work one evening a week in a nearby residential home until 1993.

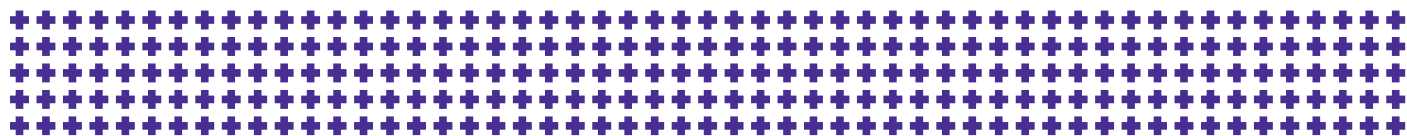
Jean's Queen's Nurse badge was lost in a house fire in the 1970's but the QNI were able to send her a replacement badge which arrived just after her 100th birthday.

Richard died in June 2016 and in May 2019, Jean suffered a stroke, leaving her right side paralysed. She went home in the September with a full care package, supported by her daughters and on Easter Monday this year, nearly four years later, celebrated her 100th birthday - her mother, Dorothy died in 1990 just two months before her 100th birthday. Sadly, Jean is now blind and her hearing is very poor, though thanks to modern technology she can listen to audible books and the TV streamed directly into her hearing aids. She is thankful "I still have all my marbles"! A committed Christian, Jean's faith and trust in God to strengthen her and to give her the resilience to face each new challenge has been an example to many.

Jean is a much-loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. Friendship and "keeping in touch" are very much her gifts and she maintained contact with many nursing friends, and others, until they died.

Her middle daughter, Judy, followed Jean into a nursing career, training at The London Hospital, Whitechapel and moving to Bristol to do her midwifery.

Sally Wilkinson, Jean's daughter



Mary Walsingham, 21/7/1927 - 28/2/2023



Mum applied successfully for a job as a theatre sister in Mwanza, but it was only when she stepped off the plane in Tanganyika (as Tanzania was then called) that she realised that she had applied for a job on the wrong continent! It's just as well that Mum was bad at geography because it was there that she met Dad, whom she married in 1956. They

The last thing I heard Mum say before she died was in hospital, when she woke up briefly and the lovely Beth who was nursing her asked if she wanted anything: "A cup of tea is in order I think" Mum said. "You want a cup of tea?" Beth asked. "Not for me dear, for you", Mum replied, "I think you need a break!" That brief conversation summed up Mum's life perfectly; a life spent caring for others.

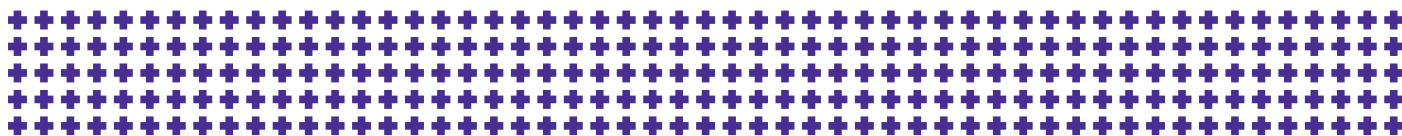
Mum was born in Chapeltown, Barnsley in 1927, the youngest of nine children. She grew up in Chapeltown, in a small, terraced miner's cottage, not far from the pit where her father had worked. Her Mum died when she was a young girl and by the age of ten she was caring for her widowed father, who had been involved in an industrial accident.

Some of Mum's older sisters were nurses and Mum followed them into the profession, leaving home to study and work at the Middlesex Hospital in London. It was here that she met her lifelong friend Cynthia Senetheraga, who was from Ceylon and when Mum qualified, as a Registered Nurse in 1951 and Midwife in 1952, they decided to move to Ceylon to work together.

lived on the shores of Lake Victoria and there was a stone in their garden that marked the spot where John Hanning Speake declared Lake Victoria to be the source of the Nile.

In 1959, Mum gave birth to my sister Erica, who sadly died just after she was born in Mwanza. I think this loss in part led Mum and Dad moving back to England in the early sixties. They got snowed in during the winter of 1963, staying in Bower Hinton and they fell in love with this area of Somerset. They bought a plot of land in Little Norton where Dad designed and built the house where they spent most of the rest of their lives. Guy was born in 1964 and I was born just over a year later. We shared a happy childhood in Little Norton and Mum and Dad did everything they could to encourage us to explore the world and to support us. Family was hugely important to Mum and she loved her five grandchildren.

Mum helped set up the new Maternity Unit in Yeovil that is still operational today, before joining Martock Surgery as a Midwife and District Nurse. She worked in Martock and the surrounding villages from 1970 until her retirement in 1987.



Even after retirement she continued to work for others through her fundraising and volunteer work supporting St Margaret's Hospice.

Mum cared for Dad through a brain tumour and heart bypass and during the early stages of his Parkinson's disease. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease four years ago and eventually went into care at Burnworthy House in South Petherton, where she was looked after for the last three years.

Alzheimer's is such a cruel disease, in the way it steals your memory, as if it is stealing your past. Yet what remained in Mum's case was a fixation on the core things that mattered in her life. She would ask repeatedly about the kids; circular conversations about each of her grandchildren and what they were doing. If I asked about her nursing career, it felt like she could remember every single baby she had ever delivered. She would ask about Dad and check that he was being looked after, even after his death. And she was always planning to go home, even though "home" in her mind was Chapeltown, where it all began.

Perhaps the best way that a life can be judged is through the way that life touches others. Mum's life was spent caring for others, and in particular for her family and the families of the hundreds of babies that she helped to bring into the world.

When Mum died in Yeovil Hospital at the age of 95, in the care of the profession that was such

a huge part of who she was, she did so without pain and with great dignity. I hope she knew how many lives she had touched and how much good she had done in her time here. I'd like to end with two quotes. The first is from Mum's colleague and friend Dr John Parker In a note he wrote to Mum on her retirement from Martock Surgery:

"Mary, can you do this?... Yes of course!

Mary, can you do that?... Yes, of course!

Mary, can you squeeze in the other?... Yes of course!

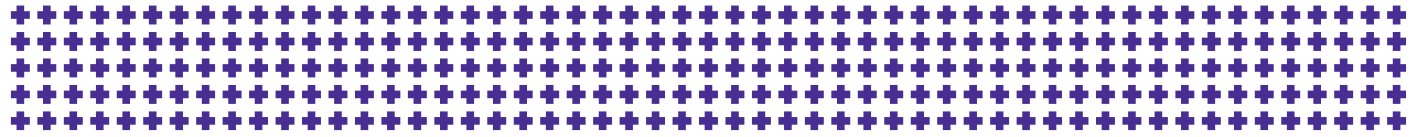
Always there, never too busy, always with a smile, never, ever out of humour, always full of ideas, always ready to tackle anything. Always with extra care.... Always a joy to work alongside."

The second is a simple message from someone in Martock, replying to a note that I put on the local Martock Chat group, to make people who knew Mum aware that she had passed away.

"Your mum was midwife to some of my siblings (and me!) and I remember her so well. I remember wanting to be like her when I was a little girl and here I am, a midwife of 23 years myself!"

If a life is judged by the way it touches others, then that is testament to a life lived well.

Mark Walsingham, Mary's son



Ruby Alice Beryl Cooper (née Marshall) 15/2/1932 - 2/5/2023



*Above: Ruby at Part 1
Midwifery City
General Hospital
Leicester, July 1955*

Ruby was born in the city of Leicester shortly after her family had just moved up from Kent. Her father was made redundant from a pottery in Sheerness during the global recession of the late 1920's and moved to Leicester to find work; eventually finding a job at Imperial Typewriters.

The family's love for the countryside saw them move out of Leicester fairly shortly after, with a short spell in the village of Queniborough, and then to Thornton. The youngest of three girls, Ruby began her school days in the village infant school in Thornton.

The advent of WW2 unfortunately meant that public transport into the city stopped and so her father could no longer get to work. This resulted in a move back to the city to Melbourne Street. Ruby continued her schooling there and after passing her 11+ attended Newark Grammar School.

Leaving school at 16 she spent two years working in the offices of Avery Scales in Leicester. Then in 1950, aged 18, she enrolled to do her SRN training at Mildmay Mission Hospital in the borough of Shoreditch and at the London Hospital.

In 1955, she commenced Part 1 midwifery training at Leicester General Hospital, followed by her Part II training at Westhill Hospital in Dartford, Kent. Ruby then went on to complete

her District training in Brighton, and was finally appointed a Queens Nurse on 1st October 1957.

In the autumn of 1958, she moved to Bromham to take up her role as District Nurse/Midwife. The nurse's house was located in the centre of Bromham Park - a picture postcard cottage surrounded by beautiful countryside.

It was during her time there that Ruby met Douglas Cooper, a farm labourer working in the park. The romance blossomed, with the couple finally tying the knot in September 1964.

Following their marriage Douglas took on the role of tenant farmer at London Barn Farm in Bromham, where the couple settled down to married life. Unfortunately, during their time there Ruby became ill. This required a period of hospitalisation and recuperation, resulting with a move back to Leicester so Ruby could be supported by family.

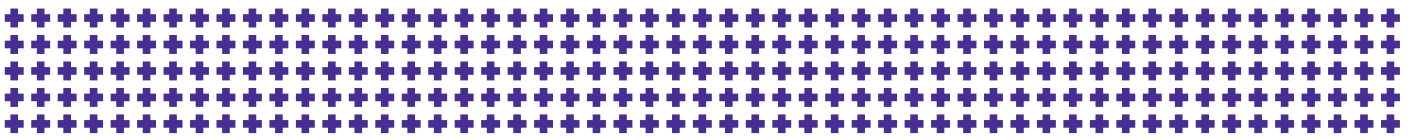
Once her situation had stabilised Ruby started nursing part-time again at Leicester General where she continued to work until her retirement in 1992 .

Following retirement Ruby joined the WRVS, working part time in the shop at Leicester General for over 20 years. Ruby also developed a passion for bowls and was an active member of Evington Ladies Bowls Club for nearly 20 years, 5 of which as treasurer.

Throughout her nursing career and subsequently with the WRVS Ruby dedicated her life to the service of others and had a real heart and compassion for those in need. In the words of her younger brother John: Ruby was the sort of person who would do anything for anyone.

"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stephen Allen, Ruby's nephew



Audrey Land (nee Cunliffe) 3/2/1927 - 26/3/2023



Audrey was born in Accrington, Lancashire and appointed a Queen's Nurse on 1st July 1952.

Except for Part 2 Midwifery which she completed in Herefordshire, Audrey did all her nurse training in Leeds and continued her nursing career in Leeds.

The family moved from Accrington to the King's Head Hotel, Appleby when Audrey was four years old. Her mother died three years later. She attended school in Appleby. Her senior school years were spent, during term time, with a friend of the family in Halifax. Audrey lived through the war years and saw the birth of the NHS.

Audrey was a very private person with great strength and depth to her personality. In all the

years I knew her (58 years) I never heard her complain about anything. She always appeared content with her family and home. She was a true homemaker.

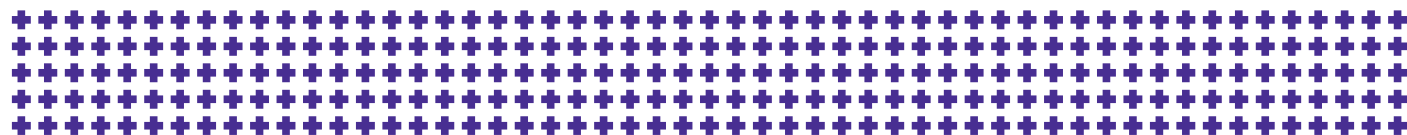
Audrey married at the age of 28 years to Philip Joyce, who was a photographer for geological surveys, recording landscapes. Their only son Nick was born in 1964. Philip died when Nick was aged two. As a single parent Audrey returned to Midwifery, working night duty at the local Midwifery hospital.

After being a single parent for a few years, Audrey married David Land, a widower, in 1973 who had two teenage sons. The two families had known each other as David was also a geologist and had worked with Philip.

David transferred to International Development work as a geologist in Indonesia, working in the Borneo jungle, training the local geologists to prospect for coal. Audrey, Nick and David moved to Java in 1978. They enjoyed their many adventures living in Indonesia where Audrey, despite having kitchen staff, insisted in doing all the family cooking!

In 1981 at the end of the contract they relocated to Edinburgh where David had been offered a senior post as a District Geologist. On his retirement the family moved to Durham. David died in 2010 and very gradually we were aware in Audrey, the changes to memory and personality that Alzheimer's brings. During her last years Audrey was cared for by the staff of St Aidan's Care home, Durham, where she died on 26 March 2023.

June Wright, a nursing colleague from Leeds.



Gardens and Volunteering



Top left: Matthew and Crystal; **Top right:** Louise, Matthew and Hanna; **Bottom left:** Hanna in Matthew's beautiful garden; **Bottom right:** the teas and cakes

Matthew Bradby, the QNI's Head of Communications, writes about opening his garden in London for the National Garden Scheme.

'Opening my garden again for the first time since the pandemic felt like quite a big decision. But it gave me a focus and a goal through the winter months, an extra reason to get outside with hat, coat, boots and gloves on.

Then suddenly it was May and spring had sprung, albeit a fairly cold and cloudy one. Persistent rain meant little watering was needed and the garden was looking lush.

I planned to sell teas and cakes, and plants – only possible if you have volunteers to help and I was very lucky to have Aga, Hanna and Louise from the QNI, my father Hugh and sister Alison. I had some very kind donations of homemade cakes from Alison, friends and neighbours.

On the day, the sun didn't shine but at least it didn't rain so we were able to serve the teas

and cakes outside as planned, while Dad sold plants from the greenhouse at the top of the garden.

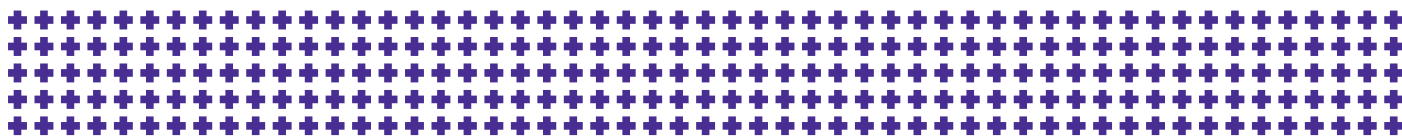
I'd forgotten how much fun it is to welcome people to your garden and a morale boost to hear their positive comments. Some visitors were close friends and neighbours, but others I had never met before. It was lovely to see Crystal and

Helen, colleagues from the QNI, and my aunt who haven't seen since before the pandemic. A real reunion.

I was also reminded how rewarding voluntary work can be, connecting you with other people in a positive way. One guy I'd never met before suggested making tea from the lemon balm growing in the garden, so we did, and it was delicious.

If you want to get involved with the National Garden Scheme there are a number of ways to do it. If you have a garden you think you could open, they'll be glad to hear from you. There are other things you can do, like volunteer at a friend's garden, or organise a tea party as a fundraiser – it only need be a small private event. It's a good excuse to get that tea set out of the cupboard and make some cake. And you'll be raising money for nursing and caring charities, which has never been more needed.'

To find out more about The National Garden Scheme, go to: www.ngs.org.uk



Pet's Corner

Our Pet's Corner is back! If you would like to have a photo of your pet included in HomeVisit, please send it to joanna.sagnella@qni.org.uk. We'd love to see him or her!

1. Queen's Nurse Delia Hudson with her daughter Leonie's dog, Finley.
2. Former QNI Nursing Manager, Eve Thrupp's dog, Ruby.
3. The QNI's Children's Community Nursing Project Lead, Rebecca Daniels' Syrian Hamster, Skittles.
4. The QNI's ICNO Director, Professor Alison Leary MBE's lodger Kit Kat ('not technically our cat, but he lives down the road and spends a lot of time in our house!')



'Easyfundraising' for the QNI



Launched in 2005, Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site. Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand you're shopping from.

If you would like to find out more and consider choosing the QNI as your chosen charity, please go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>. Thank you!

Feedback

We would love to know what you like (or would like less of!) about the newsletter, and if you would like to send in any reminiscences, we would be delighted to feature them. Please email us at suzanne.rich@qni.org.uk, or write to Suzanne Rich, QNI, 1A Henrietta Place, London W1G 0LZ.

Please note: if you have recently changed address, please let us know by emailing us at mail@qni.org.uk.

QNI News as it happens - online



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