

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League

85th AGM & Reunion

Charity registration number 290546

The Annual Service preceded the 85th Annual General Meeting and Reunion of The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League in the Benjamin Gooch Hall at the hospital on **Saturday 16th May 2015** at 1.45pm. This year it was taken by the Hospital Chaplain Reverend Stella Green. Heather Parle read the Gospel, the pianist was Annette Jude and Pat LeGrice donated the flowers which later went into the Chapel.

Mary Dolding, our President, welcomed 100 Members to the 85th anniversary of the Nurses League. Vivien Aldridge introduced our speaker *Carrie Wingfield Nurse Consultant* in the Dermatology Department at Cromer and NNUH who was unaware of the existence of the League until invited to speak to Members on her work. She admitted to being more nervous than any time in her lecturing career. Carrie gave the Members a talk '*From Auxiliary Nurse to Nurse Consultant at the NNUH*'. A detailed account of this will be printed in the 2016 Journal. The presentation was well received by Members who later asked interesting questions. Doreen Betts thanked Carrie for giving up her afternoon to talk to us on her career and the latest treatment and management of skin cancer. The Chapel collection raised £311 for use in the Dermatology Unit. Appreciation was shown by the Members.

The President's Address **Mary Dolding** chaired the meeting welcoming Members and three Vice-Presidents in the audience Douglas Beattie, Ivan Weston and Lavinia Gordon-Gray.

She opened the meeting telling members that the Trustees had worked hard to put on the day and if nobody came it would be a big disappointment. After a very busy year was pleased everything had gone according to plan and thanked all the Trustees for their efforts especially Ruth McNamara, our Secretary, for being a key player. Appreciation was given by those present.

She was pleased they had enjoyed our excellent speaker and this year certificates of attendance were available for those still working which can be used in their work portfolio. In the East Atrium there are information stands about the Retirement NHS Fellowship, Hospital Open Day Fete June 2015 along with heritage/archive material with tribute to Margaret Allcock & Vivien Aldridge for the success of this project. Members will receive a small gift from the League, a blue/white gladioli bulb, in memory of this occasion. Emma McKay, the current Nursing Director, was thanked for supporting our application for funding the tea and Claire from SERCO for setting up the tea and organised making the celebration cake.

The business of the AGM then commenced:

Apologies for absence 69 apologies had been received from absent Members.

Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated with the 2015 Journal, were confirmed and signed by the President. There were no matters arising. Proposed: Ruth Perfect Seconded: Yvonne Archer

Trustees/Executive Committee Elections.

Ruth McNamara was re-elected to serve as Secretary/Trustee. *Vivien Aldridge, Elizabeth Blaxell* and *Pat LeGrice* were all re-elected with full support from the floor to serve as Trustees for a further three years. Proposed: Jane Jackson Seconded: Ivan Weston.

Mary asked any Member interested in becoming a Trustee to come to a meeting to see how it works.

Lavinia Gordon-Gray has kindly supported our website, run by her husband Anthony, but this is their last year so the committee are urgently looking for someone with the skills to help maintain it.

The Treasurer, Hilary Barker commented on the Financial Statement saying she took over the role in June 2014 and this year has been a learning curve. Accounts had been submitted and examined and all found to be in order. Copies of which were available for those interested. As a charity it is our duty to inform Members of our financial situation.

Expenses last year were approximately £1500 more than the previous year but included two years Journal postage and legal fees of £735 to change the League's Objectives and to get them registered and accepted by the Charity Commission. More money was spent on our heritage project to preserve our archives and memorabilia when deposited in Norwich Record Office for all to see. We have continued to remember our Senior Members with our Christmas Benevolent Fund. Unfortunately production costs and postage for the Journal has increased but it is hoped Members enjoyed the splendid 2015 edition.

A pull-up banner was purchased to advertise the Nurses League, encourage new Members and improving funds. Despite all this our financial situation is still very solvent with the current account £1810. 47p as of last week which includes this year's subscriptions and generous donations from Members to whom we have a special thank you. £272 was claimed in tax relief in the form of Gift Aid from subscriptions and donations. Members were reminded that if they do pay tax this gives us a generous income.

Our Saver Account was unchanged and the £15,000 Investment Account continued to bring extra income approximately the same as last year. Chris Rengert, our Financial Adviser is happy with our investments and was thanked along with Charlotte Ayres who had looked over the accounts and was satisfied all was in order. Thanking the committee for their support she could find no reason why the Leagues expenses should not continue to be covered in the coming year. Appreciation was shown by the Members.

Membership Secretary Ann Copsey thanked those who sent interesting letters. Many she had passed on to the editors who were always delighted for Journal articles. Membership now stood at 371 with three new members since the Journal. Sadly lost Mrs June Coles (Hawkins) 1957-60, Miss Bee Taylor 1933-7, Mrs Joan Leach (Rowe) 1945-8, Mrs Kathleen Lewis (Seeley) 1942-5 & Mrs Vera Green (Morley) 1947-50. She apologised for the omission from the 2015 Journal of Mrs Ann Coverdale (Charnock) 1961-5.

Betty Lee celebrated her 90th birthday recently and had over 90 cards. Today she is celebrating at her friend Maize's 90th birthday lunch. They have been arranging flowers together in Trinity Street church for over 12 years. She sends her best wishes to everyone and hopes to attend next year.

Joint Editors Doreen Betts & Elizabeth Blaxell thanked everyone for the nice words about the Journal of which they were both pleased with the edition. They enjoy compiling it but really do need articles from Members as it is hard to produce them themselves. Especially they need to be informed of Members who have 'left us' so that they can be remembered. Elizabeth told Members that Edith Cavell was shot 12th October 1915 in Brussels and throughout Norfolk events are being held in her memory.

Heritage Sub-Committee:

Vivien Aldridge gave the Members an update on the Heritage Committee's progress. She thanked Margaret Allcock who had over 2,000 items stored at her home. They had continued to meet during the past year sorting folders. One on staff is not yet complete for the Members to view; another orthopaedic folder is nearly complete. Information is required from Members to boast these contents to improve interest. Betty Lee has written about her orthopaedic experiences and contacts. The folder telling of royal visits shows photographs and letters from those present. Soon these will be deposited along with others already at Norwich Archive Centre at County Hall making them accessible to a much wider audience via their website or on site viewing. The public will not be allowed to remove them from the department.

The League was recently approached by Emma Jarvis who was displaying nurse's uniforms at the hospital and we were able to loan one dating 1918 from our collection. She also needed information on the 'medicinal use of mustard' this was found in one of the books in our memorabilia. New items received this year are on display in the Atrium and any unwanted items about nursing/hospital will be gratefully received from Members.

Any other business:

Mary Dolding informed the Members Mr Alan Green had recently died at his home in Norwich. In February we had written to him inviting him to become our Heritage Advisor as he had helped us with our collection. We had received a very welcome letter saying he would be delighted to accept. She reminded Members that the Matrons were in uniform, some of whom were new Members, all welcomed questions and would talk informally to them during tea. A plea was made to encourage present nurses in service to join the League as they are the future for the NNUHNL as so many other Nurses Leagues around the country have closed.

Much rejoicing was heard when it was announced Norwich City Football Club had regained their Premier League position with a 3-1 win against Middlesbrough that afternoon in a nail biting match at Wembley.

Tea and celebration 85th anniversary cake was served in the East Atrium at the hospital.

Voucher raffle raised £139 for League funds. Winners were: Maureen Cox, Pat George & Douglas Beattie.

86th AGM & Reunion: Saturday 14th May 2016 **87th AGM & Reunion: Saturday 13th May 2017**

88th AGM & Reunion Saturday 12th May 2018

Signed.

Date.