

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League

86th AGM & Reunion

Charity registration number 290546

The Annual Service preceded the 86th Annual General Meeting and Reunion of The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League in the Benjamin Gooch Hall at the hospital on **Saturday 14th May 2016** at 1.45pm. This year it was taken by the Hospital Chaplain Reverend Alinda Woodrow. Winifred Rogers read the Gospel, the pianist was Annette Jude and Wendy Hobbs donated the flowers which later went into the Chapel.

Mary Dolding, our President, welcomed 96 Members to the 86th anniversary of the Nurses League. introducing our speakers **Mary Downing & Niki Wyatt** from the Integrated Stroke Services for Central Norfolk to talk to the members on '*Journey of a patient following a stroke*' A detailed account of this will be printed in the 2017 Journal. The presentation was well received by Members who asked interesting questions. Mike Surkitt-Parr thanked them for giving up their time to talk and reassure us on the latest treatment and management of strokes. The Chapel collection raised £330.20 for use in the unit. Appreciation was shown by the Members.

The business of the AGM then commenced:

Mary Dolding chaired the meeting welcoming our Vice-Presidents Douglas Beattie & Betty Lee.

Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from absent Members.

Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated with the 2016 Journal, were confirmed and signed by the President. There were no matters arising. Proposed: Proposed Jane Jackson Seconded: Tony Barber She thanked Ruth McNamara for recording the minutes for prosperity.

Trustees/Executive Committee Elections.

There were three Trustees up for re-election Hilary Barker Treasurer/ Trustee, Ann Copsey Membership Secretary/Trustee & Wendy Hobbs. All had agreed to stand again for a further three years and were elected to stand again by a show of hands from the floor. Proposed: Douglas Beattie Seconded: Jill Greengrass.

The President's Address. **Mary Dolding** thanked the committee who worked well together in a busy year and all the Members present for supporting the day. She was pleased they had enjoyed our excellent speakers and certificates of attendance were available for those still working.

This year Serco had provided & paid for the tea and she thanked them for their generous offer.

She pointed out to Members that we had been able to use the ash collection plate in our Service made especially for the League in memory of Miss Bee Taylor.

Mary spoke of her concerns for the future of the League and the challenges faced attracting new Members, maintaining & developing the website and maybe doing things a bit differently. At the heart of our organisation it continues to be about caring & supporting members whilst celebrating nursing & our rich history of 86years. Let us make sure we get to at least 100.

The Treasurer, Hilary Barker reported that the annual financial report 2015-16 had been independently audited & examined and all found to be in order. Copies of which were available for those interested. Our income was £3627.01 which included Gift Aid tax relief (£197.50) generous donations & income from our investments with annual subscriptions unchanged. Costs included two years Journals but postage was greatly reduced as many were distributed locally by the Trustees. Costs reduced from archive/heritage related work in preparation for deposited material at Norwich Record Office archives. Our Christmas Benevolent expenditure of gifts to Senior Members was also reduced & used successfully to track life Members. There was a deficit this year of £1514.84 in income/expenditure. Investments and savings accounts were untouched. Thought should be given to the possible increase of subscriptions with our higher running costs. Chris Rengert, our Financial Adviser had sent a report on our investments & was happy with the portfolio not recommending any changes. Its value on 30th April 2016 was £18,007 compared with £18,839 a year ago – a decline of 4.41% but FTSE had a decline of 9.01% our investments had held up well in comparison. Income is about the same as previous years with one fund being automatically re-invested. The League has been left a legacy of £710 from Bee Taylor who was our Treasurer for over 40years. As a committee we decided to buy a wooden plate which is engraved so that we will be able to use it every year at

the annual service as a reminder of all that the League meant to her. Remaining monies could go towards the League heritage work. Hilary thanked Members for the many letters of thanks & appreciation received.

Membership Secretary Ann Copsey thanked those who sent interesting letters and hoped she had kept up Betty Lee's good work. Membership now stood at 359 with seven new members since the Journal. 96 apologies were received. Members lost recently Noreen Cook 1942, Daphne Green 1947-50, Joan Smith 1940- 43 & Mary Chittock – Canada. Special thanks are given to Members who contacted her after reading names of 'lost' Members in the last Journal. Sadly two had died. Thanks also to those who sent in their subscriptions when receiving the Journal as this helps so much with postage and a huge thank you for donations. Responses in respect of the Alice Long Medal will be passed on to Margaret Allcock.

Joint Editors Doreen Betts & Elizabeth Blaxell thanked everyone for the nice words about the Journal and those who contributed. Articles/photographs are gladly accepted. They enjoy compiling it but it is hard work especially in January. The deadline for 2017 edition is 31st December please as failure to keep to this causes unnecessary stress at a very busy time. The reward is seeing the end product after receiving excellent help from the printers. Proposed: Douglas Beattie. Seconded: Annette Jude

Website Dawn Collins reported her local contact had been unsuccessful as it would cost £2000 to develop & set up a website. She had been in contact with four other Leagues who used Twitter or Facebook for contacts. All now had an exit strategy, required by the Charity Commission, as they were looking at a life span of 5-10 years as they too were having difficulty recruiting new Members with the nurse training now affiliated to university. She reminded Members that the RCN were having a Centenary Conference at the Great Hospital Norwich on Thursday 26th May 2016. All were welcome with a free lunch. There would be a walk from there to Edith Cavell's grave which had been remodelled by the Cavell Trust & would be re-consecrated by the Bishop of Norwich.

Heritage Sub-Committee: Elizabeth Blaxell reported for the group giving the Members an update on the Heritage Committee's progress. She thanked Margaret Allcock for allowing them to meet at her home. They had continued to meet during the past year sorting folders. In January 2016 our first deposits were made at Norwich Archive Centre County Hall. These included: 1930-48 League Minute Book (*Unfortunately others up to 1956 are missing*), 1929 staff photograph which the conservation team restored with no charge, an album of Royal visits 1932-2004, notebook recording theatre procedures/ops/needles ?1970 donated by Suzanne Johnson (Chate) & the orthopaedic folder on display outside as it is as complete as we are able to make it. Indexing of the Journals is nearly complete. On a visit to the Archives the team were delighted to find deposited already were more Journals. This leaves only those published during 1930's outstanding - 10 missing out of 86!

The Archive Centre have been asked for guidance as to whether there was ever students looking for a project to enhance their degree or post grad work who might be willing to help this worthwhile project?

In October 2015 some heritage items were very popular with the public stopping to share memories of the old hospital at the Edith Cavell Celebration in Norwich Forum. The next project is to photograph and date the uniforms we have & then offer them to the Costume Museum in Norwich for safe keeping. A folder is being kept with a record of all the items deposited which can be viewed at the Archive Centre by the public.

Any other business

i. Mary reported there was a new Deputy Director of Nursing Dr Patrick Luanaigh (Paddy) at the NNUH.
ii. Mary reported that unfortunately Mrs Doreen Green, wife of Mr Alan Green, had died suddenly March 2016. Trustees attended her Memorial Service in Norwich Cathedral. She had been a great help to the League when we contacted Mr Green for advice.

The winner of the Cavell Dragon raffle prize was Jean Cooke (Davy) & the two vouchers John Hayes & Mary Clarke (Kew). The raffle raised £104.1 for League funds.

87th AGM & Reunion: Saturday 13th May 2017

88th AGM & Reunion Saturday 12th May 2018

Signed.

Date.