

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League

88th AGM & Reunion

Charity registration number 290546

The Annual Service preceded the 88th Annual General Meeting and Reunion of The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League in the Benjamin Gooch Hall on **Saturday 12th May 2018** at 1.45pm. This year led by the Hospital Chaplain Reverend Eleanor Langan. Father Ivan Weston read the Gospel, pianist was Annette Jude & Pat LeGrice donated flowers which later went into the Chapel.

Mary Dolding, our President, welcomed 100 Members to the 88th anniversary of the Nurses League on International Nurses Day & NHS 70th anniversary. She introduced our speaker **Vivien Aldridge** a fellow Trustee and a retired Diabetic Nurse specialist '*The NHS – a celebration of 70 years*'. She noted medical events from 5th July 1948 until the present and memories of seven League Members who had trained each decade during this time. A summary of her talk will be in the 2019 Journal. A folder has been put together with information she received from nurses – far too much for her short presentation but included photographs & a state final exam paper! These can be seen by Member's & eventually sent to the Norwich Record Office for safe keeping. The talk was well received by Members with happy & sad memories themselves. *Mike Surkitt-Parr* gave a vote of thanks for her thought provoking talk. In the hospital prayer it says we should be inspired to pass on the rich heritage we have enjoyed which Vivien and her colleagues have been able to portray. None of the things mentioned could have happened without the input of nurses which should make us very proud of our profession.

Mary mentioned she was at the launch of a book by Christie Watson 'The language of kindness – a nurse's story'. The event was very moving & she can recommend the book (raffle prize). Christie speaks about being a nurse experiencing emotion & trauma everyday of their working lives and carry memories forever.

The business of the AGM then commenced: The meeting was chaired by **Mary Dolding**.

Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from absent Members.

Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated with the 2018 Journal, were confirmed and signed.

Sheilah asked for her name to be spelt correctly-apologies. Proposed: Ann Copsey Seconded: Doreen Betts

Trustees/Executive Committee Elections. Three Trustees up for re-election were *Ruth McNamara (Secretary)*, *Elizabeth Blaxell (Editor)*, *Vivien Aldridge (Heritage)* are willing to stand again & serve a further three years. Proposed: Hilary Last, Seconded: Jan Beart. Pat LeGrice retired for health reasons after serving as a Trustee since 2010 & a League Member from 1960. This morning a gift was given to her showing our appreciation. Applause from Members. Two nominations for new Trustees were received: *Sondra Gorick (Scarfe) 1982-5* & *Christine Parfitt (Bramble) 1980-3*. Mary asked for Members support to recommend accepting both nominations as the work load is great & we are lucky with the Trustees we have but an extra two would be very helpful. Accepted by show of hands. New Trustees welcomed - fun but hard work. Proposed Kay Marrison Seconded: Jill Greengrass.

The President's Address **Mary Dolding** in her fourth year as President was proud to be representing nurses & the League at every opportunity. Welcoming Vice-Presidents Sheilah Rengert, Ivan Weston & Betty Lee, thanking them for their support. Apologies received: Douglas Beattie & Lavinia Gordon-Gray. Trustees thanked who again had done lots of work & supporting her for which she was very grateful. Francis Boulger interim Dir Nursing helped secure monies for funding tea from the Nurses Endowment Fund & SERCO the other half. Grateful thanks to both. We are lucky that the Trust continues to support us. Special thanks to Claire, who works for SERCO, setting up tables and serving tea for us.

We face challenges especially around attracting new Members. You are all Members who must know colleagues/ friends who trained or worked here in the hospital. Help is needed to promote the League to get new Members or any ideas how this can be done? We now have a good website where ideas can be sent or get information about the League. We need to keep our League going as there are very few in existence in the country & we are in our 88th year will we get to 100?

The Chapel collection raised £292.32p for Eye Dept NNUH.

Treasurer: Hilary Barker – Financial report April 2017-8 independently audited/examined – no charge by *Charlotte Ayres*. Subscriptions/donations income (£1884) we have been working hard to recruit new Members. Gift Aid Tax relief (£172.50) Thank you for generous donations – much appreciated and the Members who have already paid subscriptions. If easier to pay by standing order - now possible via the new website or continue with a cheque as before. Expenditure (£3533.01) slightly more than income (£3339.28). Cost of printing the Journal (£1671) is our biggest outlay but is the highlight of the year for many Members & is something we will keep doing. Again, we managed to secure cheaper local postage via the hospital postage service – not in this year's a/c. Last Christmas we sent gifts/cards (£401) to 54 Senior Members

who appreciate a chat/update with Trustees over the festive period. Investments (£718.19) managed by *Chris Rengert* who is happy with them and for this we thank him. Money was spent on our heritage keeping memories of our nursing days for everyone in the future to see & learn from later deposited in the Norwich Record Office.

We have enough funds to survive for the foreseeable future & there is no need to increase subscriptions so use our funds to benefit Members. Reports were available for inspection. Appreciation was shown.

Proposed: Tony Barber Seconded: Sheila Rengert

Membership Secretary Ann Copsey thanked those for interesting letters/appreciation of the Journal and Editors for a job well done. Editors are pleased when she can forward something for their new edition. Membership now 338 – 2 new Members since the Journal Mary Aston 1944-7 & Teresa Cleary 1970-3 with Ros Cogman & Margaret Spray found – thank you. Sadly, Journals returned deceased Geraldine Larman (Mills) 1952-5 & Delores Revell (Aldred) 1954-7. Resigned Susan Morgan (Service), Pat White (Turner) 1949-52 who wrote an e-mail - she loved the Journal but was time to 'stop' & J Morley (Hook) 1949-52 both Australia. Thank you to those who renew their subscriptions when receiving their Journal & the very generous donations – saving enormous amounts of work & postage in October.

We responded to a request to pay on-line but we do lose money by this method. 49 Members still have subscriptions outstanding, but many pay at the reunion. New membership information is in the NNUH display cabinet. Every Member needs reminding to get new Members for the League if it is to continue. When Members e-mail to request the password (changes 31st March annually) Ann tries to give a prompt reply. This year's website password: *league2019 green-dog* Thanks given to Ann for her hard work.

Proposed: Sondra Gorick Seconded: Ivan Weston

Joint Editors. Doreen Betts thanked Elizabeth as she deals with all the problems involving the printers as she she lives in the town. This year articles were on time & much less stress was involved. Both pleased about the messages saying how much the Journal was appreciated. It is hard work & though they enjoy doing it but still need Members (or with help from others) to send poems, articles/memories or photos.

Elizabeth Blaxell requested, if possible, can these be in 'e-mail attachment' easier & also prevents re-typing. Appreciation shown from the floor. Proposed: Heather Parle, Seconded: Yvonne Archer.

Heritage Sub-Committee: Vivien Aldridge reported the committee had met regularly and have changed the hospital display cabinet several times; an interesting place to visit if ever attending the hospital – the next one West Norwich Hospital so any extra information gratefully received. As agreed at last year's meeting our uniform collection has been donated to the Norwich Costume Museum in Shire Hall. It was very well received especially the Alice Ottaway's 1920 uniform with its proven provenance. Sad moment but they can protect & store fabrics/garments correctly. Later Margaret was approached to help with a Norwich WW1 public display October 2018. Some Chapel hassocks have been moved back to the 'old site' Chapel used as a community base. We are hoping to be given an area to display League memorabilia – ongoing. 33 dedicated hassocks remain used in NNUH Chapel & full names are sought for hassock makers from 1970 – records. Indexing the Journals & depositing folders in the Norwich Record Office continues for all to see in the future. The most expensive League activity. Alice Long & Jock Carruther medals folder also N&N 1920 records rescued by a researcher from a skip & later given to the League are on display in the foyer today. Proposed: Ruby Rayner, Seconded: Mary Clarke.

Betty Lee Annual Lecture Thursday 11th October 2018 Benjamin Gooch Hall 6-8pm. Mike Surkitt-Parr told Members of a new event planned in the League diary with Betty's full support & encouragement we hope to acknowledge her huge contribution to nursing/training at the hospital. Work in progress around the contribution nurses have made over 70 years of NHS towards safety of patients. This is a free event where we hope to attract nurses still in practice as well as League Members. Flyers available reminding Members. Approval was given from the floor – idea feedback from those currently working especially weekends.

AOB i 'Fill a Basket' competition judged by Rev Eleanor – to be used on Nurses League stall at NNUH Fete in June - proceeds for our funds. Bobbie Weston won a voucher for her prize basket. (see Journal)

ii. **Raffle prize winners:** Vouchers - Sondra Gorick, Anne MacGruer & Marlene Chettleburgh.

Book - Ann Copsey. Some prizes were donated by Trustees. Raffle raised £130 for our funds.

Betty Lee thanked the League for honouring her. Wondering how many in the room nursed before NHS? 2.

Celebration cake cut by Ruby Rayner & Sondra Gorick as the meeting ended. Photographs taken.

89th AGM & Reunion: Saturday 11th May 2019 90th AGM & Reunion: Saturday 9th May 2020.

Signed.

Date.