

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League

83rd Annual Reunion

Charity registration number 290546

The Annual Service preceded the 83rd Annual General Meeting and Reunion of The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Nurses League in the Benjamin Gooch Hall at the hospital on **Saturday 11th May 2013** at 1.45pm. This year it was taken by Reverend Pauline Greasley with Reverend Canon Patricia Atkinson MBE giving the Address on Nursing the Untouchables in India. Winifred Rogers read the Gospel and the pianist was Keith Lilley.

The President, Mrs Lavinia Gordon-Gray, chaired the meeting welcoming about 108 Members on a bright sunny day. She introduced **Sister Liz Hogbin** to speak to the Members on her work at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital based on the standards of the **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** - the regulator for hospitals and social care in England. A detailed report of her speech will be printed in the Journal 2014. The presentation was well received by Members who asked several interesting questions. Mrs Lavinia Gordon-Gray thanked Sister Liz Hogbin for her very informative and detailed talk.

The business of the AGM then commenced.

Apologies for absence 84 apologies had been received from absent Members.

Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated with the 2013 Journal, were confirmed and signed by the President. There were no matters arising.

Trustees/Executive Committee Elections.

There had been one unopposed nomination for the vacant position of Secretary – Mrs Ruth McNamara. Existing Trustees Miss Vivien Aldridge, Mrs Pat LeGrice and Mrs Elizabeth Blaxell were nominated to continue as Trustees. All were re-elected from the floor with full support to serve as Trustees of the League for a period of three years.

The Treasurer, Mary Dolding, commented on the Financial Statement copies of which were available for perusal. She pointed out a few highlights occurring during the last financial year. Although income from subscriptions is slightly down we have received some helpful and generous donations from Members.

We continued to be successful in claiming Gift Aid tax relief for past subscriptions and donations (£308.37p) and thank those who are able to support this process. Some income has also come from the sale of our surplus celebration mugs and even investment income is slightly higher at £683.42p. Journal costs were less this year but expenditure in relation to the heritage work has increased, this includes travel expenses. The same level was spent on Christmas Benevolent expenditure. The result is a surplus of £459.93p in our income/expenditure for 2011-12. Our savings and community accounts remain untouched. Mary reminded Members that there was financial assistance available and encouraged Members to apply. She thanked our President and Trustee colleagues for their support. Thanks were also given to Brian Allerton who independently examined our books and for the continued support of Chris Rengert as our financial advisor. Douglas Beattie proposed thanks to our Treasurer and stated it was important that money was available for the Members' benefit when in need.

The Membership Secretary Miss Ann Copsey thanked Members for their lovely letters especially about the Journal. She reported we now had 394 members with four new members recently. Unfortunately Pat Dunham (Massey) 1952-5, Elizabeth Kettle (Leeds) 1952-5, Elizabeth Colborne (Oakes) 1946-9, Dorothy Piper (Sweet) 1941-5, Mary Richardson (Comyn) 1938-42 and Catherine Edwards (Kelly) 1943-6 have all died in the last year.

Joint Editors Mrs Doreen Betts speaking on behalf of them both (Mrs Elizabeth Blaxell) reported that they had enjoyed compiling the 2013 Journal but had had some difficulties, especially with the obituaries

of Members. They thanked everyone who had contributed. Even snippets of information are interesting for enclosure. Both will continue as Journal Editors.

President's Report:

The President Mrs Lavinia Gordon-Gray thanked everyone for coming and reported that she was pleased Elsing Ward had used last year's Chapel Collection to purchase safety rail covers for use on the ward. The collection this year had raised £342.62p for the Hospital Chapel funds. She thanked Reverend Pauline Greasley and Reverend Canon Pat Atkinson for leading the Service, Ann Copsey for arranging the Chapel flowers, Keith Lilley for playing the piano and Winifred Rogers for reading the Lesson. Thanks were given to Ruth McNamara who had continued as our Secretary, the Heritage Committee and all the Trustees for their hard work for the League for a successful day. The remaining United badge had found a new owner today with the receipt of a donation to our funds.

Heritage Sub-Committee:

Miss Vivien Aldridge gave the Members an update on the Heritage Committee's progress. They had 5-800 items in the collection to be catalogued. Photographs had been made of all the labelled badges. Members of the Sub-Committee had visited Stamford Hospital Museum but found the hospital maintained their artifacts whereas there is no prospect of this happening with the collection belonging to our League. Norfolk Record Office had viewed the collection of memorabilia and were very interested in photographs, papers and scrapbooks. Norwich Costume Museum would be interested in the uniforms but the Sub-Committee felt the badges and certificates should remain together. The Record Office, unlike Museums, except deposits as well as donations. With deposits we will retain ownership but a donation is a gift to the archives: all are cared for as appropriate by the R/O. We could use our deposits as we require with no charge and all would be available to be viewed by interested parties. The photographs would need preserving stored in special, unfortunately costly, albums purchased from League funds. Serious thought would be given to cataloguing all items and preserving the photographs.

Betty Lee had made contact with the architects responsible for the final conversions at the old hospital site but work has been slow and no final decision will be made about how the Chapel will be used until late 2013.

Margaret Allcock will be a grateful recipient of anything relating to the to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.

The Sub-Committee were thanked for their hard work involving the League's memorabilia.

Revision of Nurses League Objectives:

Lavinia Gordon-Gray asked the Members present for their support to change the League's Objectives in the Declaration of Trust. '*The League maintains an independent collection of records, photographs and other memorabilia connected with nurses and nursing at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital(s)*' This was passed by a unanimous show of hands.

Any other business:

Lavinia Gordon-Gray informed Members that they could e-mail others via the League website after Members had enquired about keeping in contact possibly by e-mail. E-mail addresses had been requested on this year's subscription form and Ann Copsey had made note of those she could read! The space would be made larger next year. Members were asked how many used 'Facebook' on the internet? About 10 Members present did.

Mary Dolding informed the Members of the recent Nurses International Event at the hospital where the League had been represented. It was hoped to advertise the League more at these events.

Lavinia then gave the Members two questions to answer by the end of tea for a prize voucher.

- i. Who wrote Downtown Abbey? Julian Fellowes
- ii. Who played Jenny in 'Call the Midwife'? Jessica Raine

The voucher was won by Joy Burton (Rush) 1957-60

Chapel flowers were sent to Miss Pricilla Cooper and Mrs Christine Bush.

Tea was served in the Deli restaurant at the hospital.

Dates of next 84rd AGM & Reunion: Saturday 10th May 2014 & 85th AGM Saturday 16th May 2015.

Signed.

Date.