

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League

84th AGM & Reunion

Charity registration number 290546

The Annual Service preceded the 84th Annual General Meeting and Reunion of The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League in the Benjamin Gooch Hall at the Hospital on **Saturday 10th May 2014** at 1.45pm. This year it was taken by the Hospital Chaplain Reverend Eleanor Langan. Patricia LeGrice read the Gospel, the pianist was Annette Jude with Betty Lee arranging and donating the flowers.

Lavinia Gordon-Gray, our President, welcomed **Dr Nandu Thalange** who works at the Jenny Lind Hospital within the NNUH as a diabetes paediatrician who then gave the Members a talk on **'Modern Diabetes Care in Children'**. A detailed account of this will be printed in the 2015 Journal. The presentation was well received by Members who later asked interesting questions. Lavinia thanked Dr Thalange for giving up his afternoon to talk to us on the latest treatment and management of children with diabetes. There was loud applause in appreciation from the Members. The Chapel collection raised £335.52 towards the purchase of insulin pumps for paediatric patients.

The President's Address **Lavinia Gordon-Gray** chaired the meeting welcoming about 108 Members. She opened the meeting telling members that the Trustees had done a lot of work this year with the **Trust Document**, changing parts to include two more issues we needed to address. This was announced in the 2014 Journal about changing our Objects. No objections to this proposal had been received and none were given from the floor. A summary of these changes will be found in the 2015 Journal. Members agreed to this proposal with a show of hands. As this was approved Members were then asked to witness Trustees' signatures so that the completed document could be returned to the solicitor to be ratified and then sent on to the Charity Commission. A copy of the document will be kept by the solicitor at Clapham & Collinge All Saints Green Norwich NR1 3GA.

The business of the AGM then commenced:

Apologies for absence 83 apologies had been received from absent Members.

Minutes of the last meeting having been circulated with the 2014 Journal, were confirmed and signed by the President. There were no matters arising.

Trustees/Executive Committee Elections.

Lavinia Gordon-Gray after her 6 years as President thanked everyone on the committee who had worked tirelessly and gave unstinting support.

Doreen Betts and Margaret Allcock were both re-elected as Trustees to serve for a further three years.

Two new candidates were nominated for the two vacant positions as *Trustees* – *Dawn Collins* who works as Assistant Director of Nursing at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital and *Michael Surkitt-Parr* (1975-8) who works as Head of Patient Safety/Nursing Directorate for NHS England. Both were elected from the floor with full support to serve as Trustees of the League for a period of three years.

Lavinia thanked *Betty Lee*, who has been a Trustee since 1962, for her support of the Nurses League and Trustees proposed she be offered the post as *Vice-President*. This was supported by those present with much applause. Betty gave her thanks and said it was a great honour and much appreciated.

There had been one unopposed nomination for the vacant position of *President* – *Mrs Mary Dolding*. She was elected as President with a show of hands and applause from the Members. Mary had been a Trustee for many years and was passionate about nursing and the League. She hopes she will get many more members by next year and we wish her the best of luck in her new position. Lavinia thanked Mary for her support during her time as President.

New President Mary Dolding (Barker) 1965-70.

Mary thanked Members for giving her their support which was truly an honour and a privilege but also daunting while personally dedicating it to her mother and her sister, both nurses who some Members will remember. She likened the occasion to making a Brownie promise, rather proud but very nervous about making mistakes, asking for understanding and help to get through to the end of the afternoon.

She paid tribute to Lavinia, our outgoing President, who had been a Trustee/committee member since 1996, Editor of the Journal from 2004 and President since 2008. Lavinia had set herself a number of important challenges all of which and more she had achieved proving she was a strong leader, efficient, focused, committed and determined as she was when working for the NHS. Mary asked the Members to support her in asking *Lavinia Gordon-Gray* to become a *Vice-President* in recognition of her considerable contribution to the work of the League. A hard act to follow, but back to that Brownie: "I promise to do my best to do my duty" and to serve you well for my term as your President. Proposal agreed by all present.

The retiring 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. As a charity it is important to tell you where we have spent monies on your behalf. Income from subscriptions was up so thank you and well done to Ann Copsey our Membership Secretary. We have received some helpful and generous donations from Members and continue to be successful in claiming Gift Aid tax relief (£220) for subscriptions and donations and thanks to those who are able to support this process. Income has also come from the sale of our remaining 80th celebration mugs and a donation for the last badge. Investment income remained about the same £608.42. Journal costs remained the same but with postage inflation. Expenditure in relation to the heritage work and the Christmas Benevolent gifts had also increased. The result is a deficit of £10.72 in our income/expenditure for 2013-14. Our savings and community accounts remain untouched. Thanks were also given to Brian Allerton who independently examined our books and for the continued support of Chris Rengert as our financial advisor. She thanked our past President and Trustee colleagues for their support but now had to resign from the post of Treasurer. Hilary Barker was taking over the position but was unable to attend the AGM & Reunion.

The Membership Secretary Ann Copsey thanked Members for their lovely letters especially about the Journal. She reported we now had 382 Members with two resigning. Members who had died in the last year had been remembered in our Chapel service. Jean Grady had identified the scene in the 2014 Journal. The whereabouts of *Lyn Richards* from Barts Hospital 1983 is sought by a member – contact Ann Copsey.

Joint Editor Elizabeth Blaxell speaking on behalf of them both (Doreen Betts) reported that they had enjoyed compiling the 2014 Journal. They were hoping to make the 85th anniversary a special edition. They thanked everyone who had contributed and welcomed more items.

Heritage Sub-Committee:

Vivien Aldridge gave the Members an update on the Heritage Committee's progress. They had continued to meet during the past year. Following the decision to deposit some items at the Records Office in Norwich work started on organising the photographs, scrap books, newspaper articles, journals etc into specific subjects. Once done filing of all the items started and so far only one folder has been completed. All the photographs have been protected in special "acid free" sleeves; an index produced and as much information available is stored against each item and then catalogued before they can be deposited. Items continue to be donated and recently someone with no nursing connections donating a box which she had found under the floor boards while renovating her new home. It contained dressings, bandages and other items! Artefacts have been offered for display in the hospital corridors to help show its role in WWII. A record is now kept giving the condition of the article and where it is lent and by whom. The team were thanked for their hard work involving the League's memorabilia.

Betty Lee had made contact with builders at the old N&N site, asbestos had now been found in the old Hospital Chapel again slowing progress.

Any other business: **Doreen Betts** paid tribute to Betty Lee – see Journal 2015

Mary then gave the Members a question to answer by the end of tea for a prize voucher.

'Name the 2014 TV series about the lives of patients and staff in a field hospital in France during WW1'

Answer: *'The Crimson Field'* Voucher was won by Jenny Campling (Adams) 1955-58.

Tea was served in the East Atrium at the hospital.

Dates of next 85th AGM & Reunion: Saturday 16th May 2015 & 86th AGM Saturday 14th May 2016.

Signed.

Date.