Worcester Royal Infirmary Nurses’ League – Newsletter 2013

WORCESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES LEAGUE
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HOME AFTER A DECADE

On May 19th 2012 - the Worcester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League Annual General Meeting was once more held at "W. R. I.", now the City Campus of the University of Worcester. We were made very welcome by the University who assisted in many ways to facilitate the event.

Apart from a few hiccoughs (sound projection!), all went well. The Committee heaved a sigh of relief that "it all came together". Lunch was served in Wheeleys. Accommodating 122 people was a logistical challenge, but we all had a seat at a table.

The WINDOW of course excited a lot of comment. All members can share a sense of pride for helping to raise the £18,000 needed for this commemorative addition to the Jenny Lind Chapel. Every one acknowledged how sympathetically the building has been restored by the University. When given the choice to return in 2013 there was an overwhelming positive response.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear League members,

I hope you are all well and will have as good a Christmas as you can in these troubled times.

My thanks and I'm sure all of yours, to Miriam for all the years she has produced our magazine. Congratulations also for writing and getting your book published. I hope it is being successful.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Sincerely,

Muriel Ballinger

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NEWS OF THE BOARD ROOM AND JENNY LIND CHAPEL, CITY CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER

Members may be interested to know the Board Room is now licensed for Weddings. A couple who met whilst students at the University, were the first to tie the knot on 1st September 2012. A red carpet down the centre with chairs on either side created a unique setting for this very personal Ceremony. (Source: 2012 Spirit Issue 8, Alumni Magazine U. of W.)

The Chapel provides an intimate space for small tutor groups and I know the Dynamics of Domestic Violence course (the first of which I completed in 2006) is held here which I think is rather appropriate.
CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Welcome to the 2012/3 Magazine and to our new Editor Muriel Clayson who has pulled together a great read.

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to outgoing Chairman Eric White who has very successfully guided us through the last decade, and continues to offer his experience and wise counsel as Vice-Chair. Thank you Eric.

Thanks also to Miriam Harvey for her Editorial skills. Until the advent of the internet and our website, the magazine has been the principal conduit throughout the last 61 years, keeping us all in touch with events both in Worcester and of each other. Whilst the website enables us to communicate more quickly, not everyone is ‘computer literate’ or has access, so it is still important to have something to hold, dip into and in which we record our own history.

Following the A.G.M., we received the resignation of Eileen Thomas. As a committee member and previous Treasurer we thank Eileen for her valuable contribution to the League.

On your behalf I would also like to thank our President, the Vice-Presidents and committee for their various skills which contribute to keeping the League thriving.

The last year has been quieter with the installation of the window in 2011, although there has still been some work to do in completing the Memorial Book and finding a suitable location for it.

We continue to hold committee meetings in the former Board Room thanks to the University of Worcester. Indeed, our return to ‘Castle St.’ for our A.G.M. was extremely well supported. We know there were a few teething problems, which will be addressed for 2013, but University staff did their utmost to accommodate our needs and we thank them for that. It was a learning curve for us all!

I had never dreamed of being Chair of the League, especially when recalling my predecessors. I thank you all for your confidence and hope I can meet your expectations. My contact details are here in the magazine and our website, so feel free to get in touch. Whilst many Leagues have ceased to exist, we still have a membership of 220. Our challenge is to continue recruitment and I would like to challenge you all to try and recruit one member each this year. Contributing to the magazine and attending the A.G.M. are two practicalities which underpin the principles of the League.

I hope to meet as many of you as can attend the A.G.M. and send you all seasonal greetings. May I commend this edition to you all. Enjoy.

Elizabeth A.Hill
Chair
NOTICE TO MEMBERS
THE 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
WORCESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES LEAGUE
will take place on SATURDAY
18th MAY 2013.

TIME TABLE

12.00 noon Thanksgiving Service in The Jenny Lind Chapel.
1.00 pm Finger Buffet Lunch with wine in Wheeley Lea.
3.00 pm A.G.M in Wheeley Lea. 4.00 pm Tea and biscuits in Wheeley Lea

PLEASE - arrive in good time. It will be possible to view the rest of the Hospital buildings during the day. Raffle as usual (donations for raffle appreciated).

PARKING - There is plenty of parking on Pitchcroft and there is an excellent Park & Ride Bus Service situated on the A3 8 approximately 2 miles North of Worcester and also at Sixways - junction 6 on the M5 - the bus will drop you off at Foregate Street Station.

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WORCESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES LEAGUE AGM
Minutes of the 61st AGM
19th May 2012 at Worcester University, City Campus, Castle Street.

12.5.12 Message from Hilary.
Joan Sheppard, treasurer, Eric White, chair, Hilary and Muriel Clayson had a meeting with Ann Massey, accountant. All accounts were correct. There were 122 acceptances for the AGM.

Annual General Meeting
The day started with a service in the chapel led by Revd Dr Fiona Haworth, University Chaplain. Only 60 members were allowed in the chapel due to fire regulations, the overflow were seated in the Boardroom. Following the service the members retired to the former Wheeley Lea Ward for a lovely buffet lunch, courtesy of the University Caterers. Before and during the lunch raffle tickets were sold; Muriel was selling copies of the memorial book and Miriam copies of her book.

The meeting commenced at 3pm Mr Eric White welcomed the members.
The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as correct. Eric stated that he was standing down as Chair. Elizabeth Hill was nominated as the new Chair. This was seconded by Alison Thomas and Margaret Fenn. Alison Thomas nominated Eric to support Elizabeth as Vice Chair.
Correspondence
Hilary had letters of apology in a folder for the members to read. Bishops Catering had sent a letter wishing the League, all the best. Also included was a letter from Miss Ballinger thanking the League and the window committee for all their hard work over the past year.

Treasurer’s report
There was a copy of the receipts and payments for the year ending 31st March 2012.

WRINL: £3,556
Window fund: £1,845

There are still outstanding bills for the window - the donation book needs a stand. When all is paid the remainder of the moneys will go into the general fund.

Election of officers.
Muriel Clayson will replace Miriam as Editor of the League magazine. Miriam is retiring from the committee. Rona Mackenzie was nominated to the committee by Dinah Wheatley, seconded by Joy Gill.

Any Other Business.
Jane Young gave thanks to Miss Ballinger for her original idea for the window and for the members of both committees for making it happen. Jane also praised the quality of the buffet lunch.

Hilary asked if anyone wished to be back at Old St Martin, the answer was NO. Would they like to be back at Castle Street next year, a resounding YES.

We thanked the university staff for being so welcoming and accommodating, for the window and for the day.

Thanks to Muriel and Hilary for working with the staff to achieve the smooth running of the AGM.

Our new Chair, Liz Hill, gave tribute to the fact that the League had raised £18,000 in a year for the Window and commented on the rainbow affect of the window when the sun shone.

She also commented on the fact that WRI NURSES LEAGUE was "alive and kicking" but always needed new members.

Thanks to Muriel CJayson for the hard work in putting together the commemoration book, the main copy and the smaller copies that were on sale at the AGM. These have been sold, but more will be ordered.
Liz also wished Miriam best wishes with her book, also on sale today.

The chapel collection raised over £200 and so did the raffle.

Liz told the members of the 'Buy a Brick campaign' which is being run by the University for their new sports arena. This is a state of the art building for professional and local sports people of all ages and for people with disabilities and part of a rehabilitation program for injured service personnel. The bricks are £50 each and would have the League's name on it. A member also suggested that some of the collection is given to the Acorns.

Miss Francis, one of our founder members is 100 yrs old in July, the League will send her a card with all of our best wishes.

There were 'thank you' gifts for Eric, retiring following 10 yrs as Chairman of the League and for Miriam who edited the magazine for the past 18 yrs.

**Presidents Remarks**

Miss Ballinger remarked on the good organisation of the day. She thanked all the members for being there and how great it was to be back at Castle Street. She also said how much she enjoyed the chapel service. Finally she gave thanks to both committees for their hard work during the year and to Eric for keeping us all in order.

She also said that in keeping with the Queen's Jubilee that the committee had sent a card to the Queen on the League's behalf. The picture on the card was a copy of the one painted by Nick Upton.

She hoped that everyone was enjoying their day and to let the committee know if they thought of any way that the day could be improved.
More Chat

Miss Cunningham - Miss Ballinger - Mrs Hall

Drawing the raffle Hilary Rowberry, Liz Hill and Dinah Wheatley

Back Row left to right - Betty Whitely (nee Davies) and Christine Van Steenis (nee Hopkins)

Front row left to right - Sylvia Dawson (nee Watts), Grace Price (nee Anstey) and Doreen Ford (nee Evans)

Five WRINL members, who qualified in 1962, celebrating their 50th Anniversary
Editor’s Letter

I was proud to be asked to become the new editor and accepted after explaining my limited computer skills.!!

Miriam’s is a hard act to follow, but with considerable help, here is Newsletter 2013. Thank you to all contributors. Please forgive any omissions.

You will be pleased to find the 'memorial' book of donations for the window is now in place in the Chapel near the window.

Muriel Clay son
Editor

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WORCESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES LEAGUE Web Site & Membership database

www.wrinl.org.uk

The website has continued to attract visitors throughout 2012. We have made contact with the curators of the George Marshall Museum in the Charles Hastings Education Centre and the Infirmary museum in the former Rushout Ward on the Worcester University City Campus and now have links to their websites from our home page. This will help to share information about events being held and widen the scope for researchers looking for historical details about WRI and former staff.

There have been 2,201 visits to the site and 9,135 pages viewed in the 12 months Jan -Dec 2012, very similar figures as the previous year. As usual most of our visitors, 70% were from the UK, from around the world.

Following the 2011 ASM, Brian and I agreed with the committee to transfer details from the many paper lists and index cards holding the League membership, on to an electronic database. This was completed by October 2011 and at that time had 310 named members, comprising of 184 life members and 136 annual members. 50% of these members had not responded to the invitation letter to attend the ASM in 2011.

So for 2012 we redesigned the invitation letter and emphasised the need for members to contact us to confirm their details and for annual members to pay their membership fee, so that the League could continue to send them invitations and information.

In March 2012 invitations were sent to 320 members, several new members had joined in the previous six months. 216 members (67.57o) returned their form, which is a far better response than the previous year. 7 letters were returned as unknown at that address. Those details were emailed out to members and we found the new address of one member and that another member had died and we were not aware. We entered all the newly provided details onto the membership database and archived the details of 78 members who had not been in contact.
with the League for more than two years. These records are still held so individuals can easily be reinstated on the active database if they wish.

The updated members email list is proving invaluable, as it allows me to quickly let people know of changes or additions to the website. We saw this with the massive increase of visitors to the site following the posting of the ASM pictures in July 2012.

We will be sending out 220 invitations this year. If you have friends or colleagues who are League members but don’t get an invitation, please ask them to let us know their details. They may be in the group of non-responders whose details have been archived.

In the meantime, if there are any changes or additions to your information please let me know by email at rona@wrinl.org.uk or by telephone or post, details are inside the magazine front cover as I am now a committee member.

I will be attending the reunion this year, so look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Best wishes
Rona Mackenzie nee Clark

We were pleased that Hazel Nash could join us for the 2012 AGM. She agreed to give us a glimpse of her work in West Africa

MY LIFE IN COTE D'IVOIRE
1971-1980

From about the age of fourteen I realised that I wanted to be a nurse. After several years of nursing and midwifery training, I ended up as ward sister on a children’s ward in Worcester Royal Infirmary. It was there that the desire to be a missionary was kindled. I discovered that all the training and experience that I had gained was preparation for working overseas. I spent a year at missionary training college to complete my preparation. From there in 1971, I was sent to the Ivory Coast, West Africa, a French speaking country.

Once in the Ivory Coast, I went to work in a mission hospital in a small town called DABOU. I will never forget how hot and humid it was when I first arrived in Africa. And Oh dear, the flies and the mosquitoes! Would I ever survive in this place?

The hospital was quite new. It had only been built about three years prior to my arrival. It was staffed by doctors and nurses from different parts of Europe, France, Belgium, Switzerland, America and of course Britain. At that time we had no trained African staff, but we had student nurses and other staff in training.
At first I was assigned to work in the outpatients department. Now this bears very little resemblance to out patients clinics in Britain. For a start, we missionary nurses were expected to do the work of a junior doctor, treating patients, prescribing medicines etc. Serious cases and problems were passed on to the real doctors.

Patients would come long distances to be treated at the hospital because medical care in the country was scarce. We would receive between 5 and 6 hundred patients a day, even though they had to pay for their treatment (except children).

We worked very long hours. The working day would start with prayers at 7am in the outpatient reception hall. We would then work through the day with a break for lunch until we had seen all the really desperate patients.

As well as the work in the clinics we had to take our turn at being 'on call' at night and at the weekends in the main hospital wards. Looking back it is hard to imagine how we coped. But we found that GOD was faithful and gave us the strength we needed to do his work.

Because patients came from different parts of the country and from different tribal groups, most of them couldn't speak French, so we had interpreters to translate for us. These interpreters were valuable members of staff; some of them could speak several dialects and languages.

Many, many of the people who came to the hospital were very, very ill and would need to be kept in hospital. Sometimes patients would have to sleep on mattresses on the floor because the demand for beds exceeded the number of places available, particularly in the children's wards.

People came to be treated for all sorts of serious conditions such as Malaria, and T.B, as well as the many diseases we get in Europe. Children in particular were at risk. Illnesses such as measles, chicken pox, tetanus, meningitis were often life threatening, especially when associated with malnutrition. Malnutrition itself was a major problem, not necessarily because food was scarce but because of the many taboos which meant that children were not given important items such as meat, eggs or fish in their diet.

Sometimes patients would have been ill for some time before they were brought to the hospital. Perhaps they had been treated by the local medicine man or witch doctor to no avail. Or, it may be that the head of the family was away from the village (for work etc) and the wife or mother would have neither the authority, the finances nor the transport to take a child to hospital.

Although the work was hard there were some amusing incidents. For example on one occasion a woman arrived at the outpatients department carrying a large enamel bowl on her head. When she put the bowl down there was a new-born baby inside. The woman had given birth in the field early in the morning. She then walked to the hospital to get her baby registered and cared for.
After working for several months in the outpatients department I was assigned to a new branch of the hospital's work - taking care into the community: a mobile clinic. With a team of African personnel we went into the villages on a regular basis to treat mainly children under five years of age and pregnant women. A lot of our work was concerned with prevention. We carried out major vaccination programmes and did a great amount of health and hygiene training and teaching about nutrition. It was very encouraging to see real improvements in the health of people over the years. I did this work for several years and really enjoyed it.

My next move was up country to set up a health care programme at a village maternity. The building was built by the villagers on land provided by the Catholic Church, to be run by Protestant midwives. The drugs and equipment were provided by the Ivorian government. The ex-matron of the hospital was in charge and I was her deputy.

But that as they say is another story.

(Maybe Hazel could be persuaded to contribute "another story" next year!)

WHEEZE AND SNEEZE: A SPECIALIST NURSE APPROACH

I was standing in front of a class of medical students the other day and the first thing that came to mind was "Don't they look young"! I suspect that this is the traditional view of nurses of my age: that the doctors get younger, while we stay the same. Except, of course, we don't. Everything changes and, in health care these days, things can sometimes change very fast. A nurse delivering a two hour lecture to thirty or so medical students is, for example, something that wouldn't have been common in years gone past!

So how did I end up here?

Having survived my nurse training and spent a year or so dabbling in different specialties, I finally ended up on the medical wards, where I became increasingly interested in the needs of people struggling with chronic illness. There seemed to be so little support for this group of people, unlike the support available for those with cancer for example. So when the opportunity arose to apply for the first respiratory nurse specialist post at Worcester, I saw it as my chance to make a real difference to people with chronic respiratory disease.

I had already completed my nursing degree and I went on to complete specialist courses in the respiratory and allergy field. Though the courses had many technical aspects to them, the strongest messages were the old mantras of "get the basics right", something that remains a key feature of my practice today. In respiratory care, the basics are often simple things, like ensuring that people can use their inhalers properly, and helping people understand their disease and its management. It still surprises me, even now, how little attention is paid to these basics. The number of times I have spent half an hour chatting with someone who has experienced a lifetime of asthma, and yet no-one has ever told them how their medicines work and how to spot when their disease is deteriorating.
Of course, there is more to respiratory care than inhalers. I see patients with a range of respiratory diseases, from the common (such as emphysema) to the unusual (Churg-Strauss syndrome) and work with people from diagnosis to end of life. My team and I offer a range of nurse led clinics where we see patients to discuss treatment options and assess them to see which options are best suited to their needs. We currently run over 20 nurse led clinics a week, looking at everything from overnight ventilation, allergy desensitisation, home oxygen needs and initial lung transplant assessment.

One of my most important qualifications is that of being a nurse prescriber. I was in the first group of non-medical prescribers at Worcester and have found this a very useful addition to my skills. When I am with patients, I have the opportunity to find out how their disease impacts on their daily life, help them identify strategies to help them cope with their symptoms and adjust their medical treatment if they need it. Taking on what has traditionally been seen as a medical task doesn't make me some sort of "para" medic. It just allows me to use my nursing skills in a different way. Sometimes, little tips such as using a towelling dressing gown to dry ones back after a shower, can be as important as reaching for a prescription pad!

I am not the only person involved in these peoples' care and I work very closely with the consultant medical team and with other health care professionals, e.g. physiotherapists. There are also community teams to link into, for example, Worcestershire has a community COPD team, a group of expert nurses and physios, who can support people at home, reducing the need for people to come into hospital.

I am in a very privileged position. I am lucky enough to work in a role that I enjoy, caring for a group of people who have difficult diseases, but who still manage to carry on living their lives to the maximum. If I am able to help them to achieve that in any small measure, then I am happy indeed.

Sarah Austin (Wooley)
RON, B.Sc.(Hons), PG(Dip).
A PROUD EXPERIENCE:
As recalled by Pauline Arksey. November 2012.

From 1980 until 1987 I was the senior nurse tutor for the Worcester School of Nursing. We were very ambitious for the School and were proud of the quality of the students and staff who worked hard alongside me.

There was, at that time, an annual School of Nursing competition. Worcester had never before entered for this prestigious award - it being mainly London and big city hospitals who were involved.

The competition required going to London to be interviewed and being asked many questions on anatomy, physiology and topics related to nursing care. When I suggested to the staff that we enter, some thought me to be over ambitious and did not wish to enter into the extra work which involved devising questions and testing the four chosen - "volunteer" students! Muriel Clay son spent many hours with me and the girls in preparation for the event.

The great day arrived, Diana Sharpe, Muriel and I went with the four girls - three from General Nursing and one from Mental Health. Sadly my memory is no longer good on detail. Unfortunately, names of the proud four with Michael Aspel are not recorded on the photo. But, I do remember the twins and occasionally meet one of them in Tesco's. The delightful lady from mental health later cared for my son. The smiling, dark haired student's parents, I remember owned a pub. So - why the photo with Michael Aspel? Well, we were runners up to Charing Cross. We were all thrilled. I believe that Worcester can be proud of the nursing standards at that time!

On more recent occasions when my husband and I have had to visit the Royal, we have received care from some of my ex-students (now middle-aged and with teenage children of their own). Their care and concern has been excellent. Two of my ex-staff now teach at the University in Worcester.
My grand-daughter, Fiona, is a nurse student at Edinburgh University, so I am kept in touch with training and her experiences; my knowledge has not entirely disappeared. Many thanks to Muriel for all her help and support.

Pauline Arksey MBE

PS. Somewhere, there must be a certificate recording our place. I wonder what happened to it?

Answer. We haven't found a certificate, but have traced some members of the team to test their memories.

Angela Grinnell (nee Faccinetti), now a midwife at Worcestershire Royal Hospital provided the newspaper cutting and photograph.

Also, Eve Green, became a Community Psychiatric Nurse working mainly in Droitwich. Eve had a firm memory of the final question of the competition when we became runners up. She said we'd have won if my answer had been accepted!

Question Master: What do whales eat?

Eve - KRILL.

QM: No, SHRIMP AND PLANKTON.

The QM's decision of course was final, but Eve maintains her answer was accurate!!

Agreed.

It would be good to have news of Sarah and Karen.

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COLLECTION MONEY DONATION

Following the 2012 AGM, £250 was donated to Acorns Children's Hospice. Also, this year £250 was donated to buy two large and one small brick for the University of Worcester's latest £15 million sporting development built on the old fruit and vegetable market and car showroom site in Hylton Road. The rationale was because it would provide the largest purpose built sports facility for wheelchair users outside Stoke Mandeville and sporting rehabilitation for injured soldiers from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as nurses we could support them in a small way.

The three bricks will have our name on and were part of a fundraising campaign to achieve the build called 'Riverside'. Clad in gold aluminium to match 'The Hive Library and History Centre' opened by HM The Queen in July 2012, it too looks stunning. Further details on the development can be found by 'googling' <the arena Worcester university> to bring up a series of web pages.

E.A.H.
QUEEN'S NURSE AWARD

The 'Queen's Nurse' title was presented to me by Kate Billingham, Chair of the Queen's Nursing Institute, at the Commonwealth Club in London on 12th November. I received a certificate and a Queens Nurse badge.

The Queen's Nurse title is awarded by the Queen's Nursing Institute in recognition of a community nurse's contribution and commitment to patient-centred values and continually improving practice. The application process includes an independent panel scrutinising supporting information from the nurse, employer, patients and carers.

I feel honoured to have received this title and the support from patients and carers make it more meaningful.

The title was awarded to a range of community nurses from across England and Wales. The QN title enables me to join a network of community nurses across the UK and use this to develop ideas to improve community nursing care.

I am passionate about District Nursing and strive to develop District Nursing which ensures patients receive the best nursing care possible in their own home. I have been a District Nurse team leader in Worcestershire for 24 years.

In October 2012, I gained the full time position of Professional Practice Facilitator for District Nursing with Worcester Health and NHS Care Trust.

In September 2012, I completed a Post Graduate Diploma in 'Social innovation (for community health care professionals)' and plan to complete a Masters degree in the next 12 months.

Carole Roberson (nee Cooke),
PLEASED TO BE BACK

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed the Nurses' League A.G.M. this year. To be back in Castle St. made one feel very much at home.

It was so nice to see the chapel again with our new window and the other refurbishments to such a high standard.

The in house catering provided us with a super buffet which was enjoyed by all in 'Wheeley Lea'.

"With many thanks for all the hard work put into organising a very successful day." Olive Hall.

"Good to be back. It was like coming home." Gwyneth Biddle

"Light and airy venue. Building sympathetically restored." Hilary Rowberry

Between 1981 and 1987 I was a Night Sister at Castle Street branch W.R.I. At times when we had very busy, challenging and stressful nights, I would try to find time to visit the chapel. I found a sense of peace and tranquillity pervaded my mind, giving me strength and determination to weather whatever trauma was to test us during the rest of the night.

It was wonderful to go back to our "spiritual home" for this year's Nurses' League meeting and to see how well the University had combined the history of the hospital within the modern setting of this excellent learning centre.

During the time of the meeting we were able to visit the chapel and view the new window that had been dedicated in 2011, a wonderful tribute to all who dedicated themselves to the service of patients. As I stood looking at this fine refurbishment, my mind returned to those nights when I prayed there and took much comfort in those surroundings.

"My thanks to the committee for your endeavours to enable us to meet yet again in our spiritual home" Sue Llewellyn (nee Goulden)

"It was good to meet up with old friends and link up with the University."

Judy Smith
NURSING IN WORCESTER 1907

The following account was found attached to a copy of History of Worcester Royal Infirmary by W. H. McMenemey, owned by Miss Marjorie Tarran.

Miss Mary Herbert was matron at Worcester Infirmary from 1894 until her retirement in 1917.

In August 1907 a reporter from the Nursing Mirror came to Worcester and interviewed Miss Herbert. Her questions related to different aspects of nurse education.

**Scheme of Training**
Miss Herbert explained a three year training had been in force since her arrival. Probationers are received from 21yrs to 35yrs.

"Large numbers apply but a good many prove unsuitable or are easily deterred from following the nursing profession when they understand all that it involves."

**Uniform**
Indoor uniform is provided and nurses can also wear a cloak and bonnet if they choose. She added that she was in favour of a change from professional to private dress for off duty time and out of doors.

"The mere removal of the work-a-day gown is in itself refreshing."

**Salary and Staffing**
Nurses receive no salary for the first year, then £10 for the second year and £15 for the third year. Sisters receive £25 to £27 per annum. Theatre nurse £25 to £27 (12 to 18 operations per week).

In 1907 there were 27 nursing staff:

- 7 staff nurses, 10 probationers, 10 Sisters comprising 1 Out Patient Sister, 1 Night Superintendent, 1 in charge of the Eye Hospital and 7 general Sisters

The Out Patient Sister and Night Superintendent share the duties of Assistant Matron.

The reporter was shown the Nurses Home (Mulberry House), built in 1897. There were 2 sitting rooms, one for Sisters and one for nurses. The nurses' bedrooms were pleasantly furnished, a few double rooms, but otherwise single occupancy.

Below was a commodious bicycle house with 2 or 3 perambulators for convalescent babies. A garden and tennis court completed the residence.
Hours of Duty
The Nurses’ day began with breakfast at 6.30am then on duty from 7am until 8.15pm with prayers in the Chapel every evening.

Off Duty

- 3 hours off twice a week
- 2 hours off twice a week
- 1.5 hours off twice a week

(Complicated rota!)

Night duty starts after 6 months employment. Nurses work 4 month stretches with no nights off, just one day’s holiday at the end.

Miss Herbert commented, "I do not think nurses find night duty very trying. They are not difficult to feed, but perhaps a little hungrier than the day nurses!"

To summon help at night the nurse need not leave her patients. She rings a bell outside the ward which at once brings assistance.

Off each ward is a small Sisters’ sitting room looking out over the ward so she can monitor ward activity.

Miss Herbert concluded with the information that nurses are able to join the National Pension Fund and the Hospital Committee would assist with the premiums.

21st Century Comment
In the 105 years since this interview took place, there have been many changes and of course many improvements. Not least the off duty arrangements and salaries.

However there are similarities to 21st century nurse training (education).

As Miss Herbert had many applicants, she contrived to choose those most suitable who understood what nursing involved. Aspiring student nurses in 2012 are sometimes advised to gain experience in a nursing home to acquire that understanding.

Miss Herbert’s opinion that nurses should change out of uniform when off duty is still frequently voiced if not enforced for many reasons.

I have no evidence to confirm Miss Herbert’s comparison between the appetites of day and night nurses! But perhaps you know differently.

Muriel Clayson.
THE INFIRMARY MUSEUM IS OPEN

After countless hours of research, meetings, phone calls, text writing, moving objects, and deadlines, the staff of The Infirmary and the George Marshall Medical Museum are very proud to announce that the exhibition is now officially open for visitors.

The exhibition has transformed the former Rushout Ward into a celebration of the history of the former Worcester Royal Infirmary. Seen through the personal artefacts of the doctors, nurses, volunteers, patients and clergy who walked these former wards. The Infirmary showcases 250 years of medical care in Worcester, for the people of the city today to enjoy and share.

The exhibition features 'storybooks' for a selection of well-known and lesser-known characters from the Infirmary's history, exploring individuals in more detail with photographs, information and quotations. The Science and Technology area has 7 activities that visitors (of all ages) can try their hand at - including keyhole surgery (with laparoscopic instruments generously donated by Theatres at Worcestershire Royal Hospital). We also display information about Powick Asylum, benefitting greatly from the years of research carried out by Dr Frank Crompton, and visitors can listen to memories of the Infirmary from former staff including Marjorie Tarran and Miriam Harvey.

The Infirmary would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment kindly given by so many volunteers (many of whom members of the WRINL), who have dedicated their time, expertise and stories to this museum and the George Marshall Medical Museum over many years. The team would like to thank our volunteers, including those who have recently joined us, for their continued support.

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, and is FREE to enter. The George Marshall Medical Museum will remain open at Worcestershire Royal Hospital. Call the team on 01905 542373 or 01905 54 2540 for more information.

**Catriona Smellie**  
Museum Curator, The Infirmary

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VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUMS

During the year, the curators: Catriona Smellie (University of Worcester) and Louise Price (George Marshall) invited League members to help with events.

July 14th 2012. Following the transfer of all the books from the City Library to The Hive', an empty space was left on the ground floor.

As a nod to the idea of ‘Fourth Plinth' in Trafalgar Square, the space was offered as a platform for local groups to display their activities, one hour per group. Catriona chose the theme 'knitting'. Miriam Harvey had given her a folder of wartime patterns.
"Hospital Woollies, extra comforts as well as essentials for our men in the wards".

We were invited to sit on the plinth, knit, meet the public and encourage people to leave memories of their time at the infirmary.

One relatively simple pattern was for 'operation stockings'. This prompted much discussion as we 'purled' and 'plained'. Curators and the more recently qualified asked who wore them, when and why? Those who qualified 'longer ago' remembered night duty on surgical wards and 'packs' prepared for next day's operation patients. Along with canvas, gown etc, were a pair of long, thick, woolly, white stockings. Why did the practice cease? Theories ranged from supply never matched demand, laundry moved away or possible infection risk. No record of any scientific research. Legs were bare, presumably, until TED stockings the use of which is based on research.

July 19th 2012. Volunteers were invited to the preview of the exhibition in Rushout, to become the 'Infirmary' (Museum).

July 16th 2012. The George Marshall Medical Museum held a family ‘open day’ at which we helped. Entitled the Art of Medicine, University of Worcester artists created art work relating to the history of medicine. On display, rarely seen, were some of the museum’s amazing skin disease and anatomy atlases.

August 21-23rd 2012. Worcester Festival. The Exhibition was completed and the first open day held. Volunteers conducted guided tours. Although familiar with the building, there was a feeling of disorientation in the basement corridor. Recalling heading towards Casualty and OPD with Porter's lodge on the left, we had to readjust and point out the brew house (in 1861, 6,436 gals beer brewed) and possible tunnel joining us to the prison. In 1854, nurse’s beer rationed to three pints per day!

October 31st 2012. Halloween was a public open day at the 'Infirmary'. Volunteers helped with guided tours, children's activities and spooky story telling. Museums open Mon - Fri., 9.00am - 5.00pm.
SHEPPING LIGHT ON MEDALS AND PRIZES

For some years there has been a Bates Gold medal displayed in the glass case outside the George Marshall Medical Museum. Louise Price (curator) was interested in its history. I gave her a copy of a 1970's newsletter showing the prize giving details, with names of medal and prize winners and explained the 'Bates' connection. We then wondered about the Silver medal. Since all nurses received a Silver hospital badge, how different was the Silver 'medal'?

Eventually after extensive questioning of colleagues, memories clicked in and it was of course a Silver badge on a bar! This can be clearly seen in prize giving photos! But, some nurses won a George Hooper prize, one for medicine and medical nursing and one for surgery and surgical nursing.

Who was George Hooper? Further questioning drew a blank. We now thank Louise who researched the George Marshall Medical Museum files to discover the following facts. "George Francis Hooper, Clerk in Holy Orders, Resident Chaplain at St. Oswald's Almshouses, The Tything, Worcester, died on 4th September 1934 and in his will dated 24/12/1931, he made a bequest. In summary: The George Hooper Prize Fund originated in a bequest of £100 in the will of the Rev. George Francis Hooper. This money was left to Mr. Tom Bates, the younger, for use in the Worcester Royal Infirmary and Mr. Bates in agreement with the then Hospital Committee in 1935 decided that it should provide prizes for Nurses at an annual competitive examination. This lapsed in ten years and no further competitive examination was held.

In 1964 the fund was brought into use again to provide Nurses prizes and now two named George Hooper Prizes were awarded annually.

As far as I can see from past magazines, the last prize giving ceremony with medals and prizes was 1985 (held at the Worcester District School of Nursing). In 1986 there was a presentation of certificates only at the Worcester College of Higher Education (now University of Worcester). The certificates were presented by Miss Diana Sharpe who had retired the year before as Director of Nurse Education.

Muriel Clayson.

George Francis Hooper Photograph supplied by George Marshall Medical Museum
MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

I had the great honour of ‘giving away’ my youngest daughter last year. This also meant giving the opening speech. Where to start, what to say? Well after much deliberation, and having always being a fan of Sir Cliff Richard, my sister suggested incorporating some of his songs in the speech AND here is the result.

Tina & Alex, Wedding Speech 22.10.11

I would like to give you all a warm welcome and thank you, family and friends for helping to make this day very special for Alex and Tina. To prove how special this day is for Me... I haven't given a second thought to the fact that Sir Cliff is in concert at the NEC this weekend and I am here.

Today is dedicated to The Young Ones Tina & Alex.

Alex, you are no longer a Bachelor Boy, having found True Love Ways with Tina, your very own crying, talking, sleeping... talking about sleeping, Tina seems to be either out training or in complete contrast, is fast asleep on the settee, whatever the time of day. But before Tina says Please Don't Tease Me... where was I, oh yes, sleeping, walking Living Doll. Tina has enjoyed her sport from a very early age, she joined Worcester swimming club at the age of 4yrs and reached county standard and has a box of medals and certificates to show for it. She also enjoyed dancing and later netball and the trampoline. Tina decided at secondary school that she wanted to teach sport and following 6th form came to Brighton University where she obtained her degree. Tina started teaching in Bracknell then back to Brighton where she is teaching sports science to A level students. AND it is here in Brighton that she met Alex. Tina and Alex both enjoy their sport, this year they have completed the Brighton Marathon, the Great South run and a Duathlon, running and cycling in London. They are usually Travelling Light and you rarely see them out running without their music, they're Wired for Sound.

Alex and Tina have taken on new roles today, husband and wife, and titles Mr and Mrs. I too have taken on a new role today, that of ‘Mother in Law’, not wishing to be the Devil Woman, I will be looking on From a Distance (Worcester to Brighton 183 miles) but occasionally you will hear someone knocking on your door It'll Be Me and I'll be looking for you. On Monday Tina & Alex are off for a late Summer Holiday, the destination is a surprise but we
hope it’s somewhere warm so they will be able go On the Beach. AND The Minute you’re Gone we can all put our feet up and relax.

Vicky suggested I did this for the royal wedding earlier in the year but I said it would have to wait until The Next Time but since then, well for a bit of fun Tina and Alex, here are your very own High Class Babies.

So although it’s a little early for Mistletoe, we can enjoy the Wine. Now as Congratulations are in order, I would like you to raise your glasses to the New Mr and Mrs Lyon, Alex and Tina and wish them good health and happiness. When the formalities have been complete we Hope that Alex will be the first one to say.... to Tina, Do You Wanna Dance and I hope you will join them by Putting on your Dancing Shoes.

Dinah Wheatley (Cole)

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JENNY LIND

Worcester Royal Infirmary is not the only hospital to claim a connection to Jenny Lind.

When on holiday in Norwich, Muriel Ballinger heard of the ‘Jenny Lind Children’s Hospital’ at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

Jenny Lind gave concerts in Norwich in 1847 and 1849. The money raised was for "an infirmary for sick children".

Norwich was only the second city in the country to have a children’s hospital. Hereford County hospital also has a Jenny Lind connection, with a psychiatric ward named for her. Johanna Maria Lind, better known as Jenny Lind and often known as the ‘Swedish Nightingale’, was born in 1820. She was the protegee of Felix Mendelssohn and known for opera roles in Sweden and across Europe. Johanna married Otto Goldschmidt and had three children.

She settled in England in 1855 and lived her final years at Wynds Point, Herefordshire, on the Malvern Hills, near British Camp. Her last public appearance was at a charity concert at Malvern Spa in 1883. She died aged 67 on November 2nd 1887 and is buried in the Great Malvern Cemetery. On November 2nd 2012, 125 years after her death, members of the Malvern Civic Society visited her grave, laid flowers and held a simple service.

In Malvern Civic week, July 13-20th 2013, there are plans to celebrate her dedication to music and charitable causes. There will be music, lectures and displays to celebrate Jenny Lind’s legacy.

Research by Judy Willoughby.
LEAGUE MEMBER CELEBRATES HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

Grace Abigail Lilwall Francis was born on 13th July 1912 into a Herefordshire farming family.

She celebrated her 100th birthday in July last year in the company of her family and friends. Miss Francis was an early member of the League and still enjoys our magazine, visits from members and took a lively interest in the Memorial Window’s progress.

Two members visited her and gave her our best wishes and flowers to celebrate her centenary.

During our visit she told us a little about her nursing career. Prior to the war she completed her training in London, Oxford and Reading. Then during the war she was caring for soldiers in Epsom.

Following the war she moved to Worcester and worked at the Royal during the inception of the National Health Service in 1948. The NHS made quite a change and gave the hospital financial security. This allowed Ronkswood Hospital to become a nurses’ training school.

Miss Francis held various posts at the W.R.I, and Ronkswood. In 1961 she was appointed Matron of Malvern General Hospital and was responsible for the entire hospital. This was a task that required a commitment of 12 hours a day for 6 days per week. Also, there was a requirement to be ‘on call’ for 4 nights per week. She retired in 1972, this allowed her to enjoy her large family and pursue her hobbies.

Hilary Rowberry

THE MAKING OF "TALES FROM WORCESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY"
BY MIRIAM HARVEY S.R.N.

Interest in the history of Worcester Royal Infirmary has grown since the hospital closed just ten years ago. It is very surprising that so little is known about the characters who established and struggled to create the Infirmary.

In my research into the history of the Infirmary I discovered so many fascinating tales of how involved the Infirmary was in the life of the City and its’ citizens. So when I became Editor of the WRI Nurses League magazine nearly 20 years ago I decided to write an article about the Hospital each year, for the magazine.

People have often, suggested that I put them all together in a collection and make a book. It seemed a good idea but there was not really enough material. So I started writing a few extra pieces to add to the existing material, and searching for suitable images. This is where the difficulties started.
Copyright Laws are very strict, so I had to try to obtain permission from the owners of the copyright of all the pictures used. Some people, like Worcester Museum & Library Managers did not even bother to reply. So I had to write to them again and let them know that I was using the images, unless I heard anything to the contrary. They did not reply yet again. The same thing happened with the Worcester News, so I had to take the risk using photos belonging to them. On the other hand the Daily Telegraph wrote me a very nice letter informing me I could take any information from an article so long as I did not repeat it word for word.

My greatest coup was obtaining the permission of David Birtwhistle, a very well-known local artist, to use his wonderful painting of the Infirmary on the cover. His painting now hangs in the George Marshall Museum.

David Birtwhistle came up to the Museum and took the painting out of its frame, so that the photographer - Jim Silk could take a perfect copy. It was so good of him and I really appreciated his generosity.

At this stage I needed someone to do some "proof reading" as I could not trust my grammar, spelling or punctuation to be good enough. My good neighbours Molly and John Pringle and also Roger Tapping were excellent, and went over and over each sentence until everything was correct.

The next problem was getting all this material onto the computer in order to be suitable for publishing. Fortunately I am a member of the Worcester Industrial, Archaeological & Local History Society and they offered to help me. Their Vice Chairman - John Beale is a real wiz with this sort of thing and did all that was necessary to sort it all out.

The next thing was getting all the chapters in a sensible order. As it stood, it did not flow and was very bitty. So, eventually after shuffling all the material around it was sorted. Again John Beale took over and was a real godsend.

A Printer / Publisher was the next item and these days there are several different ways of publishing a book, but with digital publishing it is much more possible for an individual with no experience to succeed. This is because you only need to have a few copies printed at a time. I decided on 300 to start with.

After looking around the many printers and publishers we decided on ‘Aspect Design’ a small firm in Maivern. They obtained the I.S.B.N. for me. This is a number that every book has to have in order to be sold in any retail book shop. A copy of the book has to be given to the British Library, the National Libraries of Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland and a couple more. They will also put it on Amazon.

The order for 300 copies was given to the printer, asking that they be ready for the WRINL AGM in May 2012. These were nearly all sold in the first few weeks, and since then I have had another 300 printed, most of which have been sold in "Waterstones" in Worcester.
On the evening of May 19th 2012, I had my 'book launch' at the Boardroom WRI, to which I invited all the many people who had helped me with the book - about 80 people altogether, it seemed a very fitting venue. I had offered the books for sale to Nurses League members first, at the AGM that same day.

Since I wrote the book, I realize there are other stories to tell, so I have started writing again, however, there is, not nearly enough material for another book. Maybe some League members could write down some memories of their time at the WRI - to be included in this new collection. So now is your chance, please let me have any stories of any kind connected to the Infirmary. Contact me on 01905 453832 - thank you.

I do hope all of those who bought my book enjoyed reading it, and that you will enjoy reading a second if it ever happens. Writing a book is a bit like having a baby with a long gestation period. The writing is the easy part really, it's all the rest that goes with it that causes the problems - you work hard for months and years, then at the end of it all you produce a 'book' - your baby!

Miriam Harvey.

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A CARD FROM THE PALACE

As the Queen's Diamond Jubilee coincided with the 60th year of the Nurses' League, Miss Ballinger suggested we send her our congratulations.

A card depicting the Infirmary and the hospital badge was sent to Buckingham Palace.

"Worcester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League send Loyal Greetings and Warmest Congratulations to Your Majesty on the wonderful occasion of your Diamond Jubilee 2012."

Miss Ballinger received acknowledgement from the Palace with a splendid card showing six photographs of the Queen during her reign. They covered the Coronation through to the Jubilee.

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Ronkswood Hospital site

Latimer Court Care Home now occupies a small part of the site (the old nurses' home end).

This 80 bed Home includes a specialist unit for people with dementia and will be officially opened in February 2013.
In Memory of Marjorie Tarran (League President 1988 to 2004)

Following Marjorie's death in 2008, her various needlework projects were passed to Miss Ballinger. Among them was a proposed tapestry church kneeler. The project was in its infancy (only a few stitches by Marjorie!)

From these humble beginnings, this summer there emerged a completed kneeler, expertly stitched by Muriel Ballinger. She overcame obstacles, not least of which was that the original wools were no longer in production.

The intention was to donate the kneeler to the church in Broughton Hackett where Marjorie grew up and her mother was church organist. The Church Wardens and the Vicar Miss Lynne Busfield were delighted to accept it. A service of dedication was arranged for September 23rd. Muriel Ballinger, Hilary Rowberry and I joined the congregation at Evensong, seated in the Tarran family pew.

The Vicar's address highlighted Marjorie's career and village connections. She dedicated the kneeler and explained Muriel's design. The four blue corners or "blocks" represented the time each year the student nurses spent in the School of Nursing. The uneven, unfinished lines across the top equalled the journey through life and the ears of corn decorating the sides recall her farming background.

It was a very warm experience sharing the evening with the Broughton Hackett congregation. We were welcomed afterwards to coffee in a nearby old, beamed cottage and enjoyed a chat with folks who had known Marjorie well.

Muriel Clayson

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MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS 135  ANNUAL MEMBERS 85
Total Active Members 220

Welcome to new members

PATRICIA SWEETLOVE nee MAY 1999
PAMELA CLARKE-MORRIS nee CLAYTON 1965
ELAINE HARBISON nee BEARD 1991 JANICE
WOODS nee ALLBRIGHTON 1969

TRACING MEMBERS

2012 correspondence returned "unknown":

MEGAN BARNETT nee HOWARD DAVIS CAROLE HILL
JUDITH HUNTER C.M. THOMAS nee ARMSTRONG

Information regarding members may be obtained from the website, www.wrinl.org.uk
OBITUARIES

ANNE SMITH nee LAVENDER

CHRIS ELLIS nee PEARS ALL  October 2011  Tasmania Australia

JANETTE BACK  Sister Wheeley Lea

MAUREEN (MO) BURROWS S.E.N. Nights

LORNA FULLER Midwife

LORRAINE BOLTON Midwife

ELIZABETH MARY HOWARD MATTHEWS  March 1918 to October 2012

DR. GEORGE WILSON  G.P. Upton upon Severn  Clinical Assistant A&E 1960's and 1970's

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JANETTE BACK

24-7-1941 - 5-10-2012

She was known as Jan by her family, friends and colleagues. When I was asked to write something about Jan, my first thought was ‘where do I start’? In order to fill in some of the gaps and dates I contacted her husband for this information. Mike very kindly responded to this request.

Jan trained between 1959 - 1962 at the Queen Elizabeth School of Nursing, Birmingham. She then worked as a Staff Nurse at Birmingham General Hospital. In 1963, after completing her Part 1 of the Central Midwives Board at Worcester Maternity Unit, she decided that Midwifery was not for her. In 1965 Jan married Mike whom she met whilst doing her Part 1 Midwifery. After her marriage Jan worked as a Sister at Highfield Hospital, Droitwich.

Following the arrival of her first daughter, Jan left the NHS, she then had another daughter and a son. Jan and her family moved to Germany in 1973, when her Husband was appointed Headmaster of Gloucester School in Hohne, equivalent to a Commanding Officer in the Army. Whilst in Germany Jan went from being a part time Sister to being Nurse in Charge in the 'Family Medical Centre', a kind of forerunner to the Practice Nurse. On one occasion at a Mess Function, an Officer collapsed with a heart attack and Jan's quick reaction contributed to him making a full recovery. Jan also supported her husband in the role of Headmaster's Wife. Mike said she was a very good hostess. 1982 saw the return of Jan and her family to Worcester. She returned to Highfield Hospital, Droitwich as a Staff Nurse, but went on to be a Sister.

Jan came to W.R.I, as Sister on Bonaker Ward in 1987, then Wheeley Lea ward following reorganisation of the wards. Prior to moving to the new hospital, Jan took the decision to retire in 2001. Although she did not move to the new Orthopaedic Unit, Jan was involved in the plans for it.

Jan came from a medical background. Her Father was a Doctor, Psychiatrist and her mother was a Nurse. Her Grandfather, who came from a line of Doctors in the Aberdeen area, was awarded an OBE for the development of psychiatric services in Lebanon. Diane, her daughter has followed in their footsteps and is an Orthopaedic Consultant in a well known Hospital in London.

Jan was diagnosed with Lymphoma at the beginning of 2012, but despite treatment died at home. Jan was passionate that her ward staff gave the best care and could remember patient's names, where
plus their relatives. As a coLeague and friend of Jan, her presence will be greatly missed by the 'Wheeley Lea Ladies' or 'Castle Street Ladies' as she called us, when we meet for our regular night out. I feel privileged to have known and worked with her.

Jane Young (also a Janette)

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PRACTICAL SKILLS EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY STUDENT NURSE

At the 2012 A.G.M. held in the beautifully restored and adapted Worcester Royal Infirmary, Castle St Branch, now regenerated as the Charles Hastings building of the University of Worcester, it became clear that the manner in which the nurses of the 21st century were prepared for practice was all but unknown!

My coLeague Jacqui Fernell and I were part of what became known as the "bulk transfer" of staff and students from a traditional school of nursing based on a hospital site (N.H.S.) to a Higher Education Institution (then the Worcester College of Higher Education) in 1995.

In stating that nurse preparation now takes place within a university setting, the media have failed to mention for 50% of the course the students leave the ivory towers and engage in the life experience of being a health care professional.

The students now have supernumerary status, but this does not mean they stand and watch. Their ability to deliver hands on care with varying levels of supervision is assessed on each practical placement they undertake. So, how do they learn these many and varied clinical skills? The traditional view of a university with lecture theatres and libraries does not adequately represent the facilities available at the University of Worcester; to ensure the students gain competence in the key skills needed to deliver appropriate care.

On November 5th, eight League members visited the "skills laboratories" at the university. In addition to the underpinning theory, the students have the opportunity to practise practical skills such as injections, not using oranges but on specialist manikins. Technological innovations have resulted in a range of manikins whose pulse rates and blood pressure
levels can be altered as required and who can respond to and ask questions. Ah, the wonders of having a control room separated by one way glass! Having gained competence in a range of practical skills the students can then practice them in a simulated scenario based on a fictitious individual complete with hospital notes and medications chart. Before the student goes on placement about eight weeks after the start of the course, they will have undertaken and passed a number of practical assessments within the University (very like the old parts A and B, these are known as O.S.C.E.s (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations)). One of the vital criteria for a pass is that the person is treated with respect and their dignity maintained. These skills and scenarios take on greater complexity as the course progresses and it is possible to identify components of the old parts C and D.

The visit concluded with afternoon tea, the provision of appropriate diet and fluids being another key skill! Many thanks to my colleagues Jacqui Fernell and Sandra Sutton without whom the event could not have happened and to Dr Jan Quallington (Head of the Institute of Health and Society) and Robert Dudley (Head of Nursing and Paramedic Science) for permission to access the facilities. Dot Morrison (League Member).

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UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER VISIT - THE VISITOR'S VIEW

On Monday November 5th, some of the Committee were invited to the Henwick Road campus of University of Worcester to see the Nursing and Allied Services department. We were taken to a practical room with three bed spaces, one of which had the curtains closed. After a short period a conversation started from behind the closed curtains and when the curtains were opened, the Tutor and the dummy were having a conversation!! (Jacqui Fernell - Tutor and Dot Morrison - voice from patient)

The dummies in the other beds all had various functions such as: monitoring pulse, heartbeat and respirations, or could simulate a cardiac arrest, provide an injection site or receive an N.G. tube.

Next door, the office had a one way mirror into the practical room for discreet observation by tutors.

In a further room, a pregnant model was available; this was able to simulate membranes rupturing and labour commencing!! There was also paramedic training equipment and facilities.

It was fascinating to see how all the practical side of training has changed using models and not each other as we had to do.

Our thanks to the University staff for arranging the visit and the welcome cup of tea.

Eric White (Vice Chairman Nurses' League).
HOSPITAL CATERING

Thirty years ago, at a National Conference, George Clew, director of Leeds University Catering Research Unit, claimed:

"Hospitals were supplied with food which manufacturers would not dare sell to the housewife."

This was hotly contested by Mr A. J. Brand (W.R.I.), secretary to the South Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee at that time. Quick to defend Worcestershire Hospital caterers, he said:

"We think the standard of food in our hospitals on the whole is very good indeed. A recent patient satisfaction study showed the food was particularly liked, and many went out of their way to comment on the excellence and variety of the food. Of course it would be wrong to suggest that every meal served to our 2000 patients is 5 star quality but by and large the standard is high."

Extract Worcester News 07/01/13

This was a comforting recommendation in 1972, but probably not all Worcester patients in 2012 would agree with Mr Brand. Various initiatives from prestigious chefs have attempted to improve hospital fare.

Television chef James Martin presented a B.B.C. documentary in 2012 called Operation Hospital Food.

After visiting a relative in hospital he was worried about the quality of food she was given. So he offered to improve the meals and menu. He joined the cooks to produce food more acceptable to the patients. The budget at the time was £3.49 a day (three meals and snacks). His premise was ‘food is a medicine’.

The latest initiative (October 2012) is from the new Health Minister, Jeremy Hunt, who has announced an investigation to see if there is a link between what is spent and the quality of food delivered. Some hospitals apparently spend more than others. The Hospital Caterers Association said the average cost spent on food by N.H.S. hospitals was around £3 per day per patient.

Mr. Hunt has decreed that hospitals will be marked down if food is of poor quality and menus do not have suitable options for patients. Assessments are planned to start in April 2013. Teams of inspectors, half of whom will be patients, have started pilot inspections across the country.

So, the subject of hospital food returns to the agenda. Still, it makes a topic of conversation, even sometimes a letter to the local paper!
NEWS FROM THE WORCESTERSHIRE ROYAL HOSPITAL

RADIOThERAPY Centre LOAN APPROVED
The Department of Health has approved in principle a £22 Am loan to help fund plans to build Worcestershire's first radiotherapy centre. The centre will enable 95% of radiotherapy to be delivered in Worcestershire. Plans are in place for the centre to open in 2014.

ELIMINATING PRESSure Ulcers
Great improvements have been made across the Trust since May 2012 following the setting up of a Pressure Ulcer Prevention team to eliminate hospital acquired pressure ulcers. There were ZERO new avoidable hospital acquired pressure ulcers at grade three or four in November 2012.

AROUND THE CLOCK CARE FOR HEART ATTACK PATIENTS
A 24 hour Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI) service is now available providing lifesaving angioplasty treatment for additional 200 - 250 patients per year. The service is in addition to the weekday PPCI service opened in January 2011, which operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm.

SUPPORTING NURSES IN TRAINING
Nurses, midwives and staff across Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have been congratulated for their role in helping to make nursing students in Worcestershire among the most satisfied in the country.

Students on the University of Worcester's first degree nursing programme spend 50% of their course in clinical practice and all student nurses spend part of their time at hospitals across the county including Worcestershire Royal.

The benefit of working alongside experienced qualified nursing staff is essential in helping the next generation of nurses to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to succeed.

MRSA
Rigorous screening programme success. In patients identified with the infection 2012-3, compared with 2010/11 - 8 and 2006/7 - 33!

AAA SCREENING SUCCESS
The number of men in Herefordshire and Worcestershire coming forward for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening has seen an eight-fold increase following a national appeal during men's health week in June 2012. Altogether, the AAA screening team has identified 16 small aneurysms since June and they will continue to monitor these men on a regular basis.

NEW MRI SCANNER FOR WORCESTER
A new £750,000 MRI scanner has been installed at Worcestershire Royal Hospital which will improve imaging services for 6,000 patients per year. The average MRI scan time will be reduced, which in turn will increase patient throughput by up to 30%.

To find out more about what is happening at Worcestershire Royal Hospital visit: www.worcscute.nhs.uk.
Information supplied by Janet M Clarke.
## WORCESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES LEAGUE Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 March 2010

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### TOTAL RECEIPTS

- **Newsletter**: £472
- **Printing, Stationery and Postage**: £82
- **Donations**: £382
- **Sundry Expenses**: £130
- **AGM and Buffet Lunch (Net Cost)**: £2040
- **Web-site**: £135
- **Fund Raising - General**: £247
- **Fund Raising - Chapel Window Fund**: £749
- **Chapel Window - Balance & Brass Plate**: £7658
- **Unveiling and Dedication**: £953

### TOTAL PAYMENTS

- **Newsletter**: £472
- **Printing, Stationery and Postage**: £82
- **Donations**: £382
- **Sundry Expenses**: £130
- **AGM and Buffet Lunch (Net Cost)**: £2258
- **Web-site**: £60
- **Fund Raising Costs - Chapel Window Fund**: £140
- **Chapel Window - Balance & Brass Plate**: £140
- **Unveiling and Dedication**: £83

### TOTAL PAYMENTS DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£4850</td>
<td></td>
<td>£4676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PAYMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>£4850</strong></td>
<td><strong>£4676</strong></td>
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### BALANCE - 1 April 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lloyds Bank PLC - Treasurers Account</td>
<td>£9076</td>
<td>£3610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£3610 - Chapel Window Fund</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>£12686</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3610</strong></td>
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### BALANCE - 31 March 2012

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Lloyds Bank PLC - Treasurers Account</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>£9076</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### Ann Massey - FCA, Chartered Accountant.

The above Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared from the Books, Documents and Information given to me and I certify this is correct in accordance therewith.

Worcester WR3 7BY

May 2012