Event Programme

Autumn/Winter 2016
In 1916, nursing was a fragmented profession, struggling to come to terms with the huge increase in need that the First World War had generated. Working conditions for most nurses were poor. At a time when no woman in the UK could vote, many were voiceless and had low social status.

To celebrate the centenary of the Royal College of Nursing, this exhibition tells the story of how the nursing profession has changed, alongside wider changes in society: gender equality, immigration and cultural diversity, the foundation of the NHS and the trade union movement.
Public health nursing has its origins in the 1800s with the rise of social reform and efforts to improve the health of the poorest in society. Through five overlapping waves of public health intervention, this exhibition highlights the development of public health nursing and the roles nurses have played in improving public health from the 19th century to the present day. The exhibition considers vaccination programmes – once within the medical field and now primarily a nursing role – alongside sanitary and welfare reforms, the development of health visiting, and recent interventions into social inequalities. By recognising the role of nurses in public health’s past, we aim to inspire a future in which public health is everyone’s business.
Exhibition Launch: Vaccination past and present
4 October 2016, 6-9pm
London

Join us for a panel discussion looking at vaccination’s controversial history for the opening of the RCN’s new public health nursing exhibition. Expert speakers include RCN Professional Lead for Public Health Helen Donovan, nurse Dr Helen Bedford (UCL Institute of Child Health), consultant community paediatrician Dr David Elliman, historian Professor Sally Shuttleworth (University of Oxford), and paediatric infectious disease consultant Professor Paul Heath (St George’s Hospital). The panel will be followed by a drinks reception and a first look at the exhibition.

History of Public Health Walk
9 October 2016, 2-4pm
Liverpool

In the 19th century Liverpool’s public health profile was catastrophic. In some areas, average life expectancy was as low as ten years, mainly due to high infant mortality. This led to new and radical initiatives which were imitated around the world. Join Chris Jones (former senior lecturer, Faculty of Health and Social Care, Edge Hill University) for a walk through the city to illustrate some of the main events in Liverpool’s turbulent public health history.

Meet outside the Pump House pub on the Albert Dock, Liverpool.

Who needs doctors anyway?
20 October, 2-4.30pm
London

From sewers to vaccines, swimming baths to cold storage, healthy eating to smoke free heating, this is the story of public health and the pioneers that helped create a healthier environment. This guided walking tour by Discover Medical London suggests that some of the biggest life savers in the story of human health weren’t medics at all.

Reserve a place for free online at www.discovermedicalondon.com and pay the guide on the day. Further dates to be announced in 2016/17.
The Genital Touch: Understanding male cancers past and present
23 November, 5.30-7pm
Manchester Central Library, St Peters Square, M2 5PD

Today, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, although this has not always been the case. For International Men’s Day on 19 November, join two expert speakers to find out more about the diagnosis and treatment of male cancers past and present. Agnes Arnold-Forster (Kings College London) explains the connections made between cancers and manhood in the 19th century, while Dr Ian Banks (President of the European Men’s Health Forum) will look at how understanding male cancer is a public health concern today.

Pre-Wolfenden to PrEP: HIV and sexual health services then and now
28 November, 5.30-7pm

In the lead-up to World AIDS Day on 1 December, we look at the experiences of patients, nurses, and other sexual health care workers in an event chaired by Simon Dowe, Chief Executive of The Sussex Beacon. Richard McKay (University of Cambridge) will discuss ongoing research into the pre-AIDS history of sexual health among men who had sex with men. HIV specialist nurse Jason Warriner (Chair of the RCN Public Health Forum) will expand on HIV services today. What lessons for the future can we learn from the past and present of public health?

The Journey of Childhood Public Health: From the Victorian Age to the present day
25 January 2017, 5.30-7pm

The health issues facing children in the UK have changed dramatically since the emphasis on child labour in Charles Kingsley’s The Water Babies (1863): Florence Nightingale’s personal copy of this text features in our exhibition. Dr Jane K. Seymour (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) explores the role of public health doctors and their teams, which included school nurses and health visitors, in the inter-war period, while Professor Viv Bennett CBE (Chief Nurse, Public Health England) will reflect on later developments in child health. How do we ensure that every child gets the best start in life?

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
Nursing the Tropics: The history of travel health

15 February 2017, 5.30-7pm  London

Travel medicine is a relatively new branch of medicine, offering advice to people travelling across the world for work or pleasure. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, nursing abroad was largely associated with Britain’s colonies. Dr Rosemary Wall (University of Hull) talks about this history, in which nurses could be seen as agents of imperial hygiene. Dr Jon Cossar, former Foundation Vice Dean of the Faculty of Travel Medicine, and travel health specialist nurse Jane Chiodini will offer personal reflections on the development of travel medicine from the 1980s. A panel discussion, chaired by RCN Public Health Forum committee member Sandra Grieve, will consider what the future holds for travel health.

Health visiting past to present

8 March 2017, 5.30-7pm  London

Health visiting in the UK arose as a public health profession in the Victorian era. Health visitors supported and supervised mothers, teaching them hygiene, infant feeding and diet. Theirs was a multi-faceted role, which required nursing skills, sanitary knowledge and training in law and disease-control. Dr Jane Brooks (University of Manchester) looks at the changing role of health visitors in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, while Dr Cheryll Adams and Professor Dame Sarah Cowley (Institute of Health Visiting) will explain later changes, and the impact health visitors have on the health of the public today.

Mengo Hospital, Wellcome Library London

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
From patient to person: changing the way we think about growing older: RCN Scotland Centenary Public Debate

5 October 2016, 6-9pm
Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh EH1 2ED

Scotland’s first life-long members of the NHS have high expectations and are transforming the care that they and future generations of older people will receive. But how are services adapting to meet the growing demands being placed on them? Join our panel of expert speakers to explore how a generation has turned the way we think about growing old from predictable to positive and discuss the challenges of transforming care for older people.

Mental Cases: Nurses, Doctors, Poets and War Trauma at Craiglockhart Hospital

11 October 2016, 4-6pm
RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH

In October 1916, the Craiglockhart Hydropathic Hospital was requisitioned as a war hospital for the British army. The hospital treated officers suffering from psychological trauma: most famously poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. Catherine Walker, curator of the War Poets Collection (Edinburgh Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus) will give a history of the hospital for the centenary of its founding. Following on from this, Dr Alison O’Donnell (RCN History of Nursing Society) will explore the key role which the nursing staff of Craiglockhart undertook whilst caring for their patients, with Dr Claire Chatterton offering an insight into the impact that the effects of the First World War had on the men who served.
October

‘The Right Sort of Women’: Founding the Royal College of Nursing

27 October 2016, 4-6pm
RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH

The RCN Scottish Board first met on 1 November 1916. To commemorate this historic event, join Dr Alison O’Donnell from the RCN History of Nursing Society to find out about the Scottish founders of the RCN and RCN Scotland past and present. Hospital matrons from around the UK, such as Annie Warren Gill of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, were vital in realising the shared vision of a College of Nursing. The talk will be followed by an archive show and tell which will include documents from the 1916 board meeting.

February

Out In the District: The history of community nursing in Scotland

13 February 2017, 4-6pm
RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH

In 1859 philanthropist William Rathbone pioneered the provision of nursing within poorer communities, leading to the establishment of the Queen’s Nurses in 1887, with a training institute being set up in Edinburgh in 1889. For over 100 years, they have promoted health and wellbeing in the communities of Scotland. Today, the Queen’s Nursing Institute Scotland still promotes excellence in community nursing. Dr Alison O’Donnell (RCN History of Nursing Society) and Clare Cable (QNIS Chief Executive and Nurse Director) will explore the fascinating history of the QNIS and the role they adopted in health promotion, drawing on materials from the QNIS Archive, maintained by the RCN.

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
Dangerous liaisons?  
The myth of mental illness and risk

10 October 2016, 6-9pm  
Winifred Raphael  
Memorial Lecture Nottingham  
Contemporary, Weekday Cross, NG1 2GB

The myth of the mentally ill as dangerous and menacing persists despite evidence to the contrary. Risk assessment is pervasive in mental health practice. This continuing focus on risk, well intentioned as it is in reducing harm and increasing people’s safety, has a stigmatising, and, in some cases, traumatic effect on people using mental health services. In the RCN Research Society’s annual lecture, Professor Patrick Callaghan (University of Nottingham) will argue that it is the often unquestioned acceptance of the effectiveness of risk assessment and the unconscious bias that emerges from this narrative that poses the biggest risk of all.

Desert Island Discs:  
Professor Elizabeth Anionwu  
Black History Month at the RCN

5 October 2016, 6-9pm  
London

Awarded a CBE in 2001, and a Fellowship of the RCN in 2004, Professor Anionwu has made countless contributions to nursing throughout her career. Interviewed by the RCN’s Wendy Irwin, Professor Anionwu will describe the eight songs that have shaped her life in nursing, from her childhood in Birmingham to her appointment as Professor of Nursing at the University of West London.

There will also be a signing of Professor Anionwu’s newly published memoir, *Mixed Blessings from a Cambridge Union*, available for sale.

Disability History Month at the RCN

8 December 2016, 6-9pm  
London

One of the goals of the RCN’s founders in 1916 was for the new College of Nursing to offer support for the general welfare of all their members. Many nurses had sustained injuries during service in the war, both physical and psychological. Among other things, the College established rest homes where members could relax, rejuvenate and recover. Nursing today remains a wide-ranging and sometimes risky profession where the potential for developing an illness or disability through work can be high. For the RCN’s centenary, we look at the achievements of nurses and health care workers with disabilities over the last 100 years.

March

Nurse veterans of the Great War in 1920s France, Belgium and Britain  
RCN History of Nursing Society Annual Lecture

30 March 2017, 6-9pm  
London

Professor Alison Fell (University of Leeds) will look at associations of former war nurses – trained and volunteers - in France, Belgium and Britain in the 1920s. These groups of female ‘war veterans’ had both public and private functions. They served on the one hand as pressure groups that lobbied governments for improved rights and increased recognition of former nurses and, on the other, as social networks and mutually supportive communities through which women of different social backgrounds were able to articulate a common identity predicated on their war service.

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
Marvellous Medical Museums

26 October 2016, 6.45-9.30pm
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD

Explore gems from the London Museums of Health and Medicine Collection in this free event for adults taking place at Science Museum Lates. Come and marvel at a selection of fascinating objects brought straight from the stores of London’s finest medical museums, including the Royal College of Nursing. This is a free, drop in event alongside other activities. Find out more at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/lates

Museums at Night: Connect!

With Peter Liversidge

29 October 2016, 6-9pm

Exactly a century ago, proposals were realised for a new College of Nursing. These shaped the nursing profession and drive the work of the RCN today. On our 100th birthday, artist Peter Liversidge will invite after-hours visitors to be part of a creative response to the network of RCN nursing and the hidden histories of the RCN building through the ages. Join us for a celebration of our a haunted 1700s townhouse, once home to Prime Minister H.H. Asquith and visited by suffragettes, and the 1920s college and women’s club.

Science Showoff: Are you being nursed?

9 November 2016, 7–10pm
Michaelhouse Café, St Michaels Church, Trinity St, CB2 1SU

This special edition of Science Showoff will be a night of chaotic cabaret themed around nursing. Nurses, social researchers, students and more will perform in this open mic event, compered by science comedian, nerd and troublemaker Steve Cross. Expect storytelling, stand-up comedy, interactive games, songs – anything and everything in 9-minute bursts. Find out more about Science Showoff at www.scienceshowoff.org

CenTEAnary Parties

The RCN Library & Heritage Centre hosts monthly afternoon teas. Drop in to hear from specialists about cutting edge research and practice innovations, and enjoy free refreshments.

See www.rcn.org.uk/whatson for details. Open to all.

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
Other Events

February

‘Rekindling the Desire to Live’?
Nursing men following facial injury and surgery during the First World War

1 February 2017, 4-5.30pm
Chester University of Chester,
Riverside Campus, Castle Drive, CH1 1SL

Although much has been written about the pioneering work that was done during World War One in the field of plastic surgery (most famously by Dr Harold Gillies, and his team) less is known about the nurses who worked alongside him. Dr Claire Chatterton (Open University and RCN History of Nursing Society) will highlight how nurses working in this specialty improved their patients’ psychological wounds as well as their physical ones. This event is hosted by the University of Chester’s Faculty of Health and Social Care (FHSC) Historical Society with a chance to visit the Riverside Museum beforehand. Visit: www.chester.ac.uk/health/historical-society for details and to book in advance.

The Psyche on the Skin:
A History of Self-Harm

23 February 2017, 6-8pm
London

Self-harm is often thought to be a modern epidemic, associated with new understandings of selfhood and identity, mass media and the internet and the challenges of adolescence. But what can we learn from the history of a phenomenon that was first categorised over 150 years ago? Join a panel of speakers to debate their historical, social, political and personal views of self-harm for the launch of ‘Psyche on the Skin: A History of Self-Harm’ by Dr Sarah Chaney.

March

Founding the RCN:
Nursing in Northern Ireland from 1916

2 March 2017, 5.30 – 7pm
RCN Northern Ireland,
17 Windsor Avenue, BT9 6EE

From its early days, leading nurses working in Ireland were involved in the Royal College of Nursing. This included some Belfast matrons. To commemorate the RCN’s Centenary, Margaret Graham of the RCN History of Nursing Society will explore the early days of the RCN and its founding members including those who established the RCN presence in Northern Ireland.

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
The Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre is home to Europe’s largest nursing specific collection.

Located just off Oxford Street, our venue includes public exhibitions, a café and a shop within the Library space. Our events take place at varied locations around the UK: please check the listings for details. If not otherwise specified, events are held at the address below.

All events are free and open to all unless specified. Advance booking usually required. Unless otherwise specified, book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson

Open
Monday - Friday: 9am-7pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm
NB: Exhibitions may be closed on Thursday afternoons.
Please check in advance of your visit.

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