Event Programme

ASPECTS OF AGE

Spring/Summer 2019
Aspects of Age
Temporary Exhibition and Event Series co-ordinated by the RCN Older People’s Forum and History of Nursing Society

Library Lower Ground Floor
11 April 2019 – 30 September 2019

In 1916, nursing was a fragmented profession. It struggled to come to terms with the huge increase in need that the First World War generated. Working conditions for most nurses were poor, and they were often voiceless and of low social status. To celebrate the centenary of the Royal College of Nursing, this exhibition tells the story of how this has changed, alongside wider changes in society: the changing role of women, immigration and cultural diversity, the NHS and employment rights.

As life expectancy has increased, so too have our opportunities to do more for longer: today many people travel, engage in sport, find new relationships, volunteer for charities and more well into their 80s and beyond.

This exhibition and event series explores the shift from institutional to home care over two centuries of older people’s nursing, from the workhouse and asylums of the Victorian era to the hospital and care home and beyond.

Technology and public health initiatives have improved the support available to older people, and changed our lives significantly. As our population ages, we ask how nursing as a profession can continue to improve the lives of those over 75?
Events

Wanted: Educated Women of Culture
The Recruitment of British Nurse Superintendents to Philadelphia, 1870 – 1920
LS
RCN History of Nursing Society Lecture

Thursday 14 March 2019, 6-8pm

During the late nineteenth century, hospital trustees in Philadelphia actively recruited British nurse superintendents to administer their newly established hospitals and nurse training schools, in an attempt to raise the status of their institutions. The British nurses who responded varied in both the experiences they encountered and the degree to which they achieved success. Through the presentation of biographies of some of the British nurses recruited to Philadelphia, Karen Egenes describes the nurses’ motivations, challenges faced, tactics employed, and legacy. The talk will be followed by a drinks reception from 8-9pm.

The Pandemic Century: Book Launch

Wednesday 3 April, 5.30-7pm

Join us for a talk by medical historian Mark Honigsbaum, at the launch of his new book The Pandemic Century. From the Spanish flu to the 1924 outbreak of pneumonic plague in Los Angeles to the 1930 ‘parrot fever’ pandemic, through the more recent SARS, Ebola, and Zika epidemics, the last one hundred years have been marked by a succession of unanticipated pandemic alarms. The talk will be followed by a drinks reception and book signing.

Exploring Ageing in History: Exhibition Launch

Thursday 11 April 2019, 5.30-8pm

Join us for an evening of talks and activities to launch our new exhibition on the health care of older people throughout history. Experiment with the Royal College of Pathologists for Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, pimp a zimmer frame and try a virtual walk through dementia. Talks (from 6pm) include Pat Thane on getting old in English history, Dawne Garrett on older people’s care today and Nola Ishmael’s personal reflections on ageing.

A Voice for Nursing: Tour London’s Nursing History
MED+ Festival, London 2019

Friday 10 May, Tours at 11-12 and 3-4pm

Take a behind-the-scenes guided tour around the 1920s College of Nursing, and find out about the century of women (and some men) who shaped the profession in the UK. On the way, you’ll see a Georgian townhouse, meet a fairy godmother of nursing and a group of suffragettes, and discover Queen Mary’s favourite cake.

Book tour tickets at www.medlondon.org

Dying Matters and Death Doulas
Panel Discussion followed by Death Café

Thursday 16 May, 5.30-8pm

A panel discussion on dealing with death, with speakers from End of Life Doula UK, the British Geriatric Society, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Nursing. To help us all be more open about the subject, the panel will be followed by a Death Café: tea, cake and conversations about death. The Death Café will be a facilitated discussion, creating a safe atmosphere to talk about death and dying. In the Death Café there are no hierarchies. We all meet simply as people who are going to die.

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

Advertised start times are when the doors open. Talks usually start 30 minutes later. Check our website for the full programme
Three Things About Ageing: Empathy, Literature and Dementia
Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1DG
Wednesday 22 May 2019, 6-8pm
Join author and former psychiatrist Joanna Cannon (Three Things About Elsie) and author and nurse Molly Case (How to Treat People) in conversation about literature, empathy and depictions of ageing and care in fiction.

The Rules of Health and Comfort: A History of Care at Home
Joint event with the Queen’s Nursing Institute
Wednesday 17 July, 5-7pm
Carpenter Room, Sheffield Central Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield S1 1XZ
District and community nursing is vital for many older people who need care in their own homes. The history of district nursing in England dates back to 1859, when the Liverpool philanthropist, William Rathbone VI, re-employed Mrs Robinson, the nurse who had looked after his dying wife, and set up a trial in home nursing for the sick poor in the city. This ‘experiment’ led to the establishment, under Royal Charter, in 1889, of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, now the Queen’s Nursing Institute, and a system that has been copied around the world.

The Joy of Sex Beyond 70
Joint event with the RCN Foundation
Monday 23 September 2019, 6-8pm
Alex Comfort, gerontologist and author of the 1972 bestseller ‘The Joy of Sex’, emphasised that growing old does not mean desire will diminish. Older age can be an opportunity for new and different intimate relationships, with sexual health advice high on the agenda. But does society still stigmatise sex in the over 70s? What barriers might older people face in continuing a romantic life? And how can nursing staff support safe sexual expression and intimacy? Join a frank and honest panel discussion where we talk sex and romance in an ageing population.

Open House London
Saturday 21 September, 10am-4.30pm
RCN HQ is an innovative mix of architecture old and new. In this rare opportunity to see ‘behind the scenes’, tours will encompass the unique Italian Baroque painted staircase and other features from the 1700s, the 1926 purpose-built College of Nursing and later architectural solutions to the integration of these spaces. Admission by regular guided tours only.

Insights into nursing workforce challenges: RCN Strategic Research Alliance Event
Wednesday 12 June 2019, 5-8pm
Join us for a small, discussion-focused event led by Tony Ryan, Professor in Older People, Care and the Family at the University of Sheffield. Hear about early results from University of Sheffield researchers looking at advanced level nurse practitioners, trainee nursing associates and examples of missed care. Discuss the implications of the findings and share your ideas on what future research might be needed.

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
ExpertTeas: Drop-in Sessions

Drop in any time between 2 and 4pm to discover more about our ExpertTeas theme for that month. Talk to experts in an informal environment and enjoy free refreshments.

- Wednesday 1 May, 2-4pm – Are you glove aware?
  One in five nurses develop hand dermatitis, which can be prevented by proper use of gloves. Find out from infection control expert Rose Gallagher when you should and shouldn’t wear gloves.

- Wednesday 5 June, 2-4pm – Study skills
  Support for students from literature searching to dissertation writing.

- Wednesday 4 September, 2-4pm – Fake News!
  Overwhelmed by the internet? Not sure what to trust? Discover resources that will help you get to grips with evaluating evidence.

Royal College of Nursing
Library and Heritage Centre
20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN
(Entrance via Henrietta Place)

RCN Wales Events

All events take place at RCN Wales, Ty Maeth, King George V Drive E, Cardiff CF14 4XZ

The Wandering Womb: Women’s health nursing past and present
Pop-up banner exhibition

- Friday 8 March – Friday 29 June 2019

Women have long been viewed as at the mercy of their biology. In the ancient medical world it was believed that a “wandering womb” could cause suffocation and death. Menstruation and childbearing were thought to make women weaker and less rational than men. Rising above these challenges, 100 years ago, women secured the right to vote in the UK. At the same time, nursing was formalised as a largely female profession. This exhibition addresses what has been seen as “normal” for women, past and present, and why women’s health has long been considered “dirty” nursing.

The Technology of Ageing

- Thursday 20 June, 5-7pm

Increased life expectancy in the modern era is certainly a positive development. Older people today are more connected, staying active for longer, and finding support in technologies from Skype to stair lifts and digital ‘companions’. Join us to explore the ways in which new technology has helped us manage the ageing process, from innovations for sight or hearing loss to multi-sensory dementia rooms.

Book online at www.rcn.org.uk/whatson
The Wandering Womb: Women’s health nursing past and present
Exhibition at RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH
8 May–30 October 2019
Open to the public
Mon, Tues, Fri 10am–4pm

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Exhibition Launch:
A Woman’s Disease?
Gender and Gynaecology
RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH

Join us for an evening of talks and activities to launch the Women’s Health exhibition. Hear more about the so-called “dirty nursing” undertaken by professionals in gynaecology today, and the history of treatments for women’s cancers. Refreshments provided.

RCN Debate: My Right to Nursing, Dementia as a Health and Social Care Issue
The Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling FK8 1DE
Thursday 6 June 2019, 6-9pm

What health care and social care would you or could you expect to be available for people living with dementia and their families? And how can access to appropriate nursing care be ensured? Join us for an evening of discussion and debate on current and future approaches to dementia care in Scotland, and the key role nursing plays in hospitals and our communities. Refreshments provided.

Menopause Café
Glasgow Women’s Library, 23 Landressy St, Glasgow G40 1BP
Thursday 1 August 2019, 5-7pm

The world’s first Menopause Café was held in Perth in June 2017. A year later the Menopause Café became a registered charity, with cafés held around the UK and beyond. Kirsty Wark, whose BBC programme “Menopause and Me” inspired the café, is the patron. Join us for tea, cake and to talk all things menopause.

Power to the Womb’ian: From period parables to menopause mysteries
Thistle Foundation, 13 Queen’s Walk, Edinburgh EH16 4EA
Tuesday 8 October 2019, 2–4pm

Join us for an afternoon of world café discussions on women’s health, busting myths and sharing experiences on Scotland’s progress to being a period positive nation.
Visitor information

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.

Advertised start times are when the doors open. Talks usually start 30 minutes later. Check our website for the full programme.

Visit
Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre
20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN
(Entrance via Henrietta Place)

Monday - Friday: 9am-7pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm

Contact
0345 337 3368
rcn.library@rcn.org.uk
@RCNlibraries

Access
All our venues are wheelchair accessible.
Events marked LS are live subtitled
Events marked BSL have a BSL interpreter
Contact us if you have any access enquiries

Info Expert
Events marked with this symbol are attended by a Library Information Expert to answer your queries

www.rcn.org.uk/whatson

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