

# WAKE UP, SLACKERS!

The great nursing  
registration  
controversy



Event Programme  
Autumn/Winter 2019/20

# Who Cares?

A history of Emotions in Nursing



Library Ground Floor  
2 January 2020 – 30 June 2021

From birth to death and everything in between, health is closely associated with a range of emotions.

This exhibition explores how the emotions attached to nursing, and the assumptions underlying these feelings, have changed throughout history. During the last 150 years, nursing has been shaped by ideas about class, race and gender, as well as shifts in practice and politics. We move from the icons of nursing, via Florence Nightingale's bible and the death of Edith Cavell, to changing depictions of the ideal nurse over the past 150 years. Why, we ask, are the people-managing elements of care still viewed as a lesser skill than catheterisation or injections? And who cares for the carers?



**EXHIBITIONS:** Our exhibitions are compact and a visit lasts up to 30 minutes. Why not visit before an event?

# “Wake Up Slackers!” The Great Nursing Registration Controversy

Library Lower Ground Floor  
17 October 2019 – 20 March 2020

After decades of campaigning by nurses, the Nurses Registration Act was finally passed in December 1919. It marked the recognition of nursing as a profession. But registration was not without controversy. Different nursing organisations clashed over stridently opposed ideas, while anti-registration views remained strong. The College of Nursing called for its members to get involved in politics by demanding: “wake up slackers”!

This exhibition commemorates 100 years of nursing registration in the UK by delving into the heated arguments that characterised the registration debate. Antagonistic and often entertaining, the theme also encourages us to reflect on the future of nursing. Is a nurse born or made, Edwardian campaigners wondered. How do we teach or examine care? And is compassion an innate trait or something that can be taught?



# EVENTS

## The Heartland: Finding and Losing Schizophrenia

The RCN Foundation Annual Lecture **LS**

📅 Thursday 10 October  
5.30-8.30pm

**London**

For World Mental Health Day Nathan Filer, mental health nurse and award-winning writer, will take us on a journey into the psychiatric wards he once worked on. In conversation with nurse consultant and voice hearer Jonathon Slater, Nathan will share the stories of some extraordinary people on their experiences of living with the strange and misunderstood condition we call schizophrenia. Filer's new book *The Heartland* (Faber, 2019) debunks myths, challenges assumptions and offers fresh insight into what it means to be mad - and what it means to be human. The talk will be followed by a drinks reception and book signing.

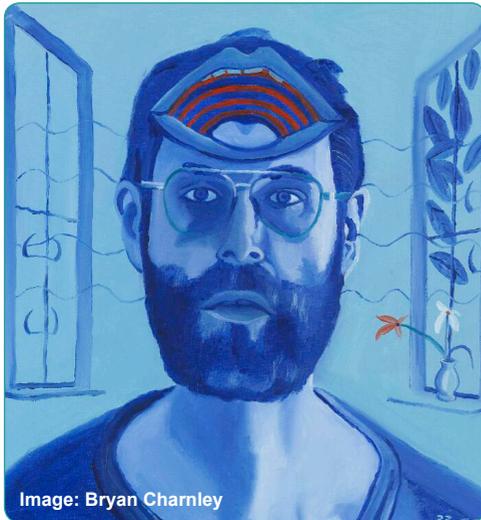


Image: Bryan Charnley

## Fighting for Recognition: The History of a Health Profession

Exhibition Launch **LS**

Info Expert

📅 Thursday 17 October  
5.30-8.30pm

**London**

Join us for the launch of our new exhibition celebrating 100 years of nursing registration. Find out about the fiery characters who fought for nursing registration, view original nursing registers from the General Nursing Council (now Nursing and Midwifery Council) and trim your own hat to emulate a matron from 1919. Talks and displays will explore the very different histories of health and medical Royal Colleges, from midwifery to physiotherapy; anaesthesia to optometry.

## Pioneering Women for a Pioneering Act

RCN Fellows Lecture

📅 Tuesday 5 November  
5.30-7.30pm

**London**

Dr Alison O'Donnell explores the Royal College of Nursing archive to give a history of the pioneering women involved in the passing of the Registration Act in 1919, including College secretary Mary Rundle, co-founder Sarah Swift and founding member Rachael Cox-Davies. These women knew why the Registration Bill was vital for nursing as a profession: improving education, status, working conditions and moving towards fair and equal pay. However, a century later, some of these issues remain pertinent: safe staffing, education and the status of nursing as a profession.

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

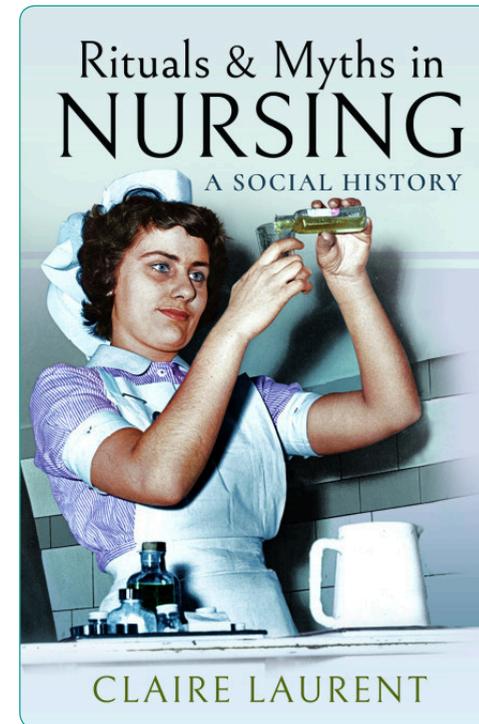
# EVENTS

## From Maggots to Matrons: Rituals and Myths in Nursing

📅 Wednesday 6 November  
5.30-7.30pm

**London**

From maggots to matrons, enemas to egg white and oxygen, generations of nurses reminisce about a profession steeped in tradition. Claire Laurent's *Rituals & Myths in Nursing: A Social History*, (Pen & Sword, 2019) explores the history behind those rituals, challenges the more absurd and celebrates the increasing complexity of the job that is nursing. The talk will be followed by a drinks reception and book signing.



## Aspects of Age Pop-Up Exhibition

RCN Wales Library, Ty Maeth, King George V Drive East, Cardiff CF 14 4XZ

📅 Monday 2 September –  
Friday 20 December

**Cardiff**

This exhibition 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.



## Activism, Nursing and Women's Rights: Then and Now **LS**

📅 Tuesday 26 November  
5.30-7.30pm

**London**

The early twentieth century was an important time for nursing activism. Nurses were involved in the campaign for women's suffrage in 1918, and the introduction of nursing registration in 1919. For the 100th anniversary of registration, hear from two experts on the history of women's rights. RCN President Anne Marie Rafferty explores the history of nursing activism, focusing on those nurses involved in the suffrage campaign. Helen Pankhurst – great-granddaughter of suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst and a leading women's rights campaigner – charts how women's lives have changed over the last century and offers a powerful and positive argument for a new way forward.

Image: Wellcome Library, London

# EVENTS

## The value of care: Women's work and emotional labour

Wednesday 29 January 2020 **London**  
5-7pm

Nursing "is essentially women's work" wrote a journalist in the Yorkshire Observer in 1919, just before the introduction of registration. "It is truly a labour of love, for their hours are long and their work demands the best that is in them, while the remuneration is comparatively low." This link between low pay, vocation and women's work has dogged nursing for over a century. Join a panel of historians, nurses and social scientists to explore why care remains undervalued in status and pay, and how we can change this for future generations of health workers.

## Struck Off! The GNC Disciplinary Committee 1922-36

Riverside Museum, University of Chester,  
Castle Drive CH1 1SL

Wednesday 5 February 2020 **Chester**  
4-5.30pm

When the General Nursing Council was formed after the Nurses Registration Act, one of their roles was to determine when and why a nurse might be removed from the register. This turned out not to be an easy matter, and the discussions of the committee reveal how essential personal and moral traits were thought to be to nursing practice in this era. From divorce courts to gambling shops, Sarah Chaney explores the aim of a small number of matrons to "purify the profession" in this era.

## Valentine's Late: Open Hearts, Racing Pulses

Wednesday  
12 February 2020 **London**  
6-9pm

For Valentine's Day we team up with the Surgery & Emotion project at the University of Roehampton in a Lates event. Join us to explore the rich feelings associated with the operating theatre, from compassion and romance, to anxiety and fear. Make your own medical Mills & Boon cover, play surgical Top Trumps, join a mystery treasure hunt, and hear short talks on the often surprising history of emotions in surgical care. For full details of activities visit our website.



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Book online at [rcn.org.uk/whatson](http://rcn.org.uk/whatson)

# EVENTS

## A Natural History of Raising Concerns

Wednesday 4 March 2020 **London**  
5-7pm

Nurses in the early twentieth century were told to practice "unquestioning loyalty and obedience" to their "superior officers" and the hospitals they worked in. But what happened to those nurses who raised concerns about such things as safety, conditions or staffing? An expert panel explores landmark events in the history of whistleblowing, from early trade unions to the Francis Report. The event will bring us up to date with a look at recent research at Cardiff University and the RCN's work on safe staffing.

## Black Nurses in Britain before Windrush

Tuesday 10 March, 5-7pm **London**

Black nurses trained and worked in Britain well before registration began. Stephen Bourne gives an illustrated talk about the lives of some of these women from the 1880s to the 1940s including Annie Brewster, Eva Lowe and Princess Ademola.

Admitido em território nacional em caráter temporário-cultural.  
(temporário ou permanente)  
Nos termos do art. 7. letra B do dec. n. 7.967, de 1945  
Lugar e data de nascimento Jamaica, 28 / abril / 1912  
Nacionalidade britânica Estado civil solteira  
Filiação (nome do Pai e da Mãe) Arthur Benjamin Lowe e Lillian Emily Lowe Profissão enfermeira  
Residência no país de origem 16, Retirement Road, Cross Roads, Jamaica, B.W.I.

FILHOS MENORES DE 18 ANOS	IDADE	SEXO	SÉL CON



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## Country Mile Comedy Club Comedians Talk About Their Feelings

Thursday 26 March 2020 **London**  
6-9pm

Our experiences with health care – from birth to death and everything in between – can provoke strong feelings. In the second Country Mile Comedy Club at the RCN, an exciting line-up of comedians explore their emotional encounters with health and illness. See website for full line-up.



Tickets cost £11. Proceeds donated to the RCN Foundation [www.rcnfoundation.org.uk](http://www.rcnfoundation.org.uk)

## RCN History of Nursing Society Annual Lecture

University of Worcester, City Campus,  
Castle Street, Worcester WR1 3AS

Wednesday 1 April 2020 **Worcester**  
5.30-7.30pm

Join us in the historic chapel of Worcester Royal Infirmary for the RCN's annual History of Nursing Society lecture. At this year's event, Professor Christine Hallett from the University of Huddersfield will explore the centenary of nursing registration. The talk will be followed by a drinks reception.

# ExpertTeas: Drop-in Sessions

Drop in at one of our daytime sessions and learn something new. Turn up at any point to find out more about the month's theme, ask our experts your questions in an informal setting and enjoy free refreshments. See [rcn.org.uk/whatson](http://rcn.org.uk/whatson) for more details on each theme.

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

**Info  
Expert**

- **Wednesday 27 November, 2-4pm**  
**Using Social Media**  
Discuss how to get the best from social media for healthcare professionals and the pitfalls to avoid.
- **Thursday 23 January, 2-4pm**  
**Evaluating healthcare information**  
Tools and tips to help with critical appraisal and evaluation.
- **Wednesday 26 February, 2-4pm**  
**Preparing a poster presentation**  
Get advice on making a poster, discuss your ideas and view examples. Bring a draft poster for feedback.



# RCN Northern Ireland Events

All events take place at RCN Northern Ireland, 17 Windsor Avenue, Belfast BT9 6EE.  
Contact [library.belfast@rcn.org.uk](mailto:library.belfast@rcn.org.uk)

## The RCN Student Debate

📅 *Tuesday 8 October, 6.30-8.30pm*

The annual debate organised by the RCN Students Committee will see a panel of guest speakers debate: This House believes we must put the 'national' back in the National Health Service. Free and open to all.

## Aspects of Age Pop-Up Exhibition

RCN NI Library

📅 *Monday 4 November 2019 –  
Friday 28 February 2020*

This exhibition 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.

## Expert Teas: Study Skills

RCN NI Library

📅 *Monday 10 February 2020,  
11am-12pm*

The RCN NI Library's first ever Expert Teas event will see Ciarán O'Neill, Learning Development Tutor from Queen's University's Learning Development Department, talk to members about study skills. If you are a student or undertaking your own research, don't miss this chance to ask questions. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided in the library space. This is a free and informal session, open to all.



# RCN Scotland Events

## Aspects of Age: Exhibition

RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road,  
Edinburgh EH9 2HH

↘ 13 November 2018  
– 30 April 2019  
Open to the public Monday-Friday  
10am-4pm

Edinburgh

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 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?

## Exploring Ageing: perspectives on older people's care

Exhibition Launch  
RCN Scotland, 42 South Oswald Road,  
Edinburgh EH9 2HH

↘ Wednesday  
13 November 2019,  
5-7.30pm

Edinburgh

Join us for an evening of talks and activities to launch our exhibition on the health care of older people throughout history. In our later years, some of us will need more support than others, whether from friends and family or nurses, health care support workers and social care workers. Talks (from 5.30pm) include Yvonne Manson, RCNi Leadership Award winner on innovations in care home nursing and Professor Jan Dewing, Sue Pembrey Chair in Nursing and Director of The Centre for Person-centred Practice Research at Queen Margaret University. Experiment with vision impairment activities with Royal Blind, pimp a zimmer frame and view our exhibition. Refreshments provided.

# RCN Scotland Events

## Living Longer, Living Better

Room N345, Sir Ian Wood Building,  
Robert Gordon University, Garthdee Road,  
Aberdeen, AB10 7GJ

↘ Thursday 13 February 2020,  
5.30-7.30pm

Aberdeen

In the twenty-first century, our later years can be as dynamic and productive as our younger years. For many, age really is just a number. How do we ensure that society can look forward to the rewards of ageing? And how can nurses pioneer the best support, whether for those who need 24-hour care, or others who simply wish to grow old (dis)gracefully? Hear from Dawne Garrett, RCN UK Professional Lead for Older People and Dementia on positive ageing followed by conversations with our panel chaired by Professor Debbie Tolson, RCN Fellow and Alzheimer Scotland Professor of Dementia & Director of the Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice. Refreshments provided.

## Death Café

Glasgow Women's Library, 23 Landressy St,  
Glasgow G40 1BP

↘ Thursday 26 March 2020,  
5.30-7.30pm

Glasgow

Join us for a Death Café to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death, with Professor Bridget Johnston, RCN Fellow and Florence Nightingale Foundation Clinical Professor of Nursing. The Death Café will be a facilitated discussion, creating a safe atmosphere to talk about death and dying. In the Death Cafe there are no hierarchies. We all meet simply as people who are going to die.



Book online at [rcn.org.uk/whatson](http://rcn.org.uk/whatson)

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# 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.

## 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

**Advertised start times are when the doors open. Talks usually start 30 minutes later.**

Check our website for the full programme.

