WAKE UP, SLACKERS!
The great nursing registration controversy

Event Programme
Autumn/Winter 2019/20
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?
The Heartland: Finding and Losing Schizophrenia
The RCN Foundation Annual Lecture
Thursday 10 October
5.30-8.30pm
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.

Fighting for Recognition: The History of a Health Profession
Exhibition Launch
Thursday 17 October
5.30-8.30pm
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
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.

From Maggots to Matrons: Rituals and Myths in Nursing
Wednesday 6 November
5.30-7.30pm
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.

Activism, Nursing and Women’s Rights: Then and Now
Tuesday 26 November
5.30-7.30pm
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.

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

Book online at rcn.org.uk/whatson
The value of care: Women's work and emotional labour

Wednesday 29 January 2020 | London

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

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.

A Natural History of Raising Concerns

Wednesday 4 March 2020 | London

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

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.

Country Mile Comedy Club
Comedians Talk About Their Feelings

Thursday 26 March 2020 | London

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.

Valentine’s Late: Open Hearts, Racing Pulses

Wednesday 12 February 2020 | London

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.

Book online at rcn.org.uk/whatson

RCN History of Nursing Society Annual Lecture

Wednesday 1 April 2020 | Worcester

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.

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Expert Teas: 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 for more details on each theme.

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

- 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

**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**
- 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**
- 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.

Book online at rcn.org.uk/whatson

Contact library.belfast@rcn.org.uk
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?

**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

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.

**Exploring Ageing: perspectives on older people’s care**

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

- **Wednesday 13 November 2019, 5-7.30pm**

**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**

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**

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 Café there are no hierarchies. We all meet simply as people who are going to die.

Book online at rcn.org.uk/whatson
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.

rcn.org.uk/whatson