

OUTER SW LONDON RCN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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Branch AGM brings insight

Alyson Bunn, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer & Low vision therapist gave the Branch a very hands on session about 'Caring for sight impaired patients', along with a colleague from the Sutton Sight charity. Several members commented that they found it a helpful presentation with some practical demonstration through special spectacles which mimicked conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and cataracts. For local practical help go to www.suttonvision.org.uk or sightforsurrey.org.uk



Branch AGM election results

Chair - Mike Smith
Secretary - Lynette Drakes
Treasurer - Gerry Cotter

Recruitment - Joan Chappell
Learning & Development - Sheila Gooljar

Employment relations update



Josie Irwin, head of the employment relations department at the RCN gave the recent Belfast Activist conference a fairly bleak outlook for nurses pay, terms and conditions. Given the NHS financial challenges the Government have said they have a 1% limit set over the next five years for health staff pay. This is set against an average pay increases of around 3.5% in the private sector last year. This is set against reduced food and energy costs, but nurses pay have reduced by 10% over the past five years. In a recent member survey 30% of respondents said they have struggled to pay their fuel bills. 14% report missing meals because of financial difficulties. 53% have worked extra hours to make ends meet. 9% don't belong to a pension scheme because they feel they can't afford it. Most of these were aged 45+ years old. 70% work extra hours at least once a week. 59% say they are too busy to give the care they would like to give.

Agenda for change terms and conditions continue to be examined but no firm proposals have yet been made. Non European nurses had faced deportation if they didn't earn £35k despite record levels of vacancies and temporary staff spends, but that has now been retracted after lobbying. Agency spend of £1 billion last year is being focused on by the Government but they appear to be ignoring the £2 billion cost of employing NHS locum doctors.

On a positive note the joint Unions Staffside have a good relationship with the pay review body and each other and this gives strength in these negotiations with the current administration. A four country approach to pay and terms and conditions negotiations, to avoid divide and rule strategies by Government will continue to be promoted.

Important Registration News

The RCN is urging all nurse and midwife members to keep on top of their registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as new rules come into force next month. Previously, members who failed to retain their registration before it expired could take advantage of an administrative window which allowed late submissions to be processed within a couple of days.



However, from November anyone who allows their registration to lapse will be taken off the register immediately. There is no longer a grace period for late payment.

Readmission to the register may take between two to six weeks and in most cases will lead to suspension from work.

Continuing to work as a nurse or midwife while not on the NMC register contravenes the code and is illegal. It could result in suspension from work and difficulties with your employer.

Alison Sansome, NMC Director of Registration, told the RCN: "In preparation for the introduction of payment by instalment in spring 2016, we are urging nurses and midwives to take care to maintain their registration. From November this year there will be no opportunity for registrants to submit their documentation or pay their fee after their registration expiry date."

Branch Chair Mike Smith said that 'I have had to represent a number of members locally with lapsed NMC registrations and it has caused the members concerned no end of problems so I hope nurses and midwives take note of this change as they could end up suspended and in disciplinary procedures if they don't.

Free Study Day for all Branch members - numbers limited to 60
Book now by contacting zoe.ammeh@rcn.org.uk with your name, place of work,
RCN membership number (if member) and any dietary requirements



South West London Branches: Autumn of Learning Seminar

“Learning for Better Practice”

27 November 2015

St. George’s Medical School, Hunter Wing, Level 2, Boardroom H2.6

St Georges Hospital, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, London, SW17 0QT

- 9.30 Registration and Refreshments
- 10.00 Welcome and housekeeping (Chair)
- 10.05 RCN - – opportunities and benefits of membership
- 10.20 Revalidation - Richard Ridings, Practice Educator at St. George’s
- 10.45 Best Care for People with Learning Disabilities - Padraic Costello, Clinical Nurse Specialist Learning Disabilities & Rebecca Brown, Learning Disability Nurse
- 11.30 Break
- 12.00 Shape of Caring, speaker to be confirmed
- 12.45 Lunch
- 13.45 Putting the technology into learning- Adele Atkinson and Jo Gregory Associate Professors, FHSCE
- 14.30 Mindfulness – Kevin Ascot, Senior Lecturer, Mental Health, FHSCE
- 15.15 Closing words from the Chair
- 15.30 Close

For bookings or more information visit www.rcn.org.uk/autumnoflearning

#autumnoflearning

Minutes of our Branch AGM held in the Nonsuch Room, St Helier PGMC 15 September 2015

4 apologies were received and 17 members were in attendance.

Mike Smith Branch chair welcomed members to the meeting.

The notes from the 2014 meeting were read and agreed by those who were present last year.

Mike reported that the Branch had continued to grow and thrive across outer SW London. Activities over the last 12 months had included participation in the London fair pay march and rally alongside Russell Brand. Tens of thousands of people supported the TUC organised event and over 1000 RCN members took part including several from our branch. In March the Branch were delighted to welcome the then current Nursing Standard Nurse of the Year Sarah Lewis to Epsom. Sarah, who is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Pain Management. Sarah gave us an overview of her work at Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, looking after severely injured and traumatised military personnel.

The Branch supported ESH Nurses day events and the nurse and HCA of the year awards. Around 50 members attended the nurses day event and 120 cakes and other goodies were taken around the wards. We also supported two well-being days at ESH. In July 2015 we had our annual pilgrimage to Croydon where 25 members joined us for the superb curry evening where RCN Foundation member Chris Wingrove spoke about the good work the Foundation is doing in supporting vulnerable nurses as well as providing bursaries and scholarships throughout the UK.

We had around 10 Branch members at Congress down in Bournemouth this year and I in my role as National stewards committee member for London proposed the debate about the lack of workforce planning which got 98% support and seconded the debate about A&E pressures being addressed. Members of the Branch were also involved in political hustings prior to the election at HQ. Sadly we had a few goodbyes this year - Pippa Hart our former director of Nursing at ESH moved on to a more strategic role. Maureen Carter a H&S rep retired earlier this year. We were also saddened to hear of the recent death of one of our former health and safety reps Janice Nicholls who worked in St Helier theatre died unexpectedly.

On a more positive note we continue to see a rise in Branch members numbers to above 3,230

- some 219 members up on previous year and 4.5x more than our annual target.

Finances - the Branch was solvent and was challenged to spend historical funds before the end of the year in order not to lose them after changes to the College's charitable status and financial obligations with the charity commission. We currently have £2033 in our Branch account held centrally by the RCN.

London region highlights

Five autumn of learning conferences have been planned across the 10 London branches. Ours is on the 27 November (see p3)

Currently we have campaigns about the cost of living in London for example transport and housing costs and the impact they are having on recruitment and retention of nurses in London. A Freedom of information request for the number of overseas nurses working in London that will be affected by the £35,000 bar the government has introduced, has been requested. The regional director has written to all directors of nursing asking for their support and making them aware of the potential situation. Our communication officer has also written to all London and regional newspapers and MPs making them aware of these issues.

Nationally public-health cuts of £200 million have been announced, £40 million of those will be in London which is very challenging and proportionally unfair.

To celebrate the RCNs centenary, we have apparently been allocated £5000 to put on local events in London so we are beginning the planning process to use this money and to promote the RCN in 2016.

Selven Armon gave an update from Croydon Hospital and the London Board, covering recruitment successes at Croydon and detailing some of the work the Board is currently engaged in.

Norah Flanagan, MBE from RCN London briefed the meeting on some of the other London regions work and thanked the Branch committee and Activists for all their hard work undertaken in the previous twelve months.

Elections of Branch officials - Mike indicated that he thought he had reached the end of his allowed term as Chair of the Branch. Nora stated that if nobody else was willing to take the role on then the Branch could collectively decide that he could stay, if willing in that position.

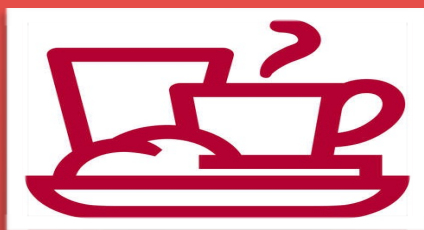


Mike Smith, Branch chair (centre) is also the national RCN stewards committee member from London and is pictured here with Carl Adams, health and safety lead and Karen Sanders, learning representatives for London

**Outer South West London RCN
Branch meeting & Social event**

**Monday 16th November
Nonsuch Room**

**St Helier Hospital PGMC at 7pm.
Followed by subsidised meal**



**To book a place for the meal please
email Sally Suavageot
msauvage@globalnet.co.uk
by Saturday 14th November**

Here to Help ~ Useful Names + Numbers

The Branch is run by volunteer local nurses and the current branch team are:

Chair - Mike Smith (07930 410386)
Secretary - Lynette Drakes (Day Case Unit Epsom)
Treasurer - Gerry Cotter (01372 735279)
Recruitment - Joan Chappell
Learning & Development - Sheila Gooljar

Local RCN Stewards

Mike Smith (ESH)* 07930 410386 Gerry Cotter (ESH) (01372 735279)
David Simpson (Independent Sector) Selven Armon (CUH)
GayAnn Arthur (St Helier A&E)

Health & Safety Reps

Sheila Gooljar (Independent sector) Mike Smith (ESH)
David Simpson (Independent Sector)

Learning Reps

Debbie Broom (ESH)

Full time officers

Paula Delaney, Judith Janes, Trish Davis & Julie Mulvey based in London Regional Office covering Merton & Sutton, Croydon & SW London

RCN Council Members for London Ian Norris,
Regional Board Member Selven Armon

*CUH - Croydon University Hospital *ESH - Epsom and St Helier
*Community CCG's - covering Merton & Sutton, Surrey Downs

RCN London Region, 5th Floor, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN Tel. 0345 458 6968

Director of London Region Mr Bernell Bussue
Raising concerns, raising standards (Whistleblowing) helpline for RCN members:
0345 772 6300

RCN Member Support Services 0345 408 4391.

The service offers guidance on benefit entitlement, money advice, counselling and careers.

RCN Foundation - bursaries, project grants and help for times of need or hardship - go to
www.rcnfoundation.org.uk 0207 647 3645

2015 Branch meeting dates

16th November St Helier 7pm Branch Social event

**27th November SW London Branches Autumn Conference @ St George's Hospital SW17
0QT - 9.30 - 4.00pm**

We welcome feedback from local members and the contribution of short articles for this quarterly newsletter. Please contact Mike Smith, Branch chair on his e-mail address
michael.smith@esth.nhs.uk