

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum:

There were five vacancies for 2024. Three applications were received and all three members were shortlisted and appointed to serve until December 2027. We welcome Vari Drennan, Janet Hargreaves and Dianne Yarwood, who bring a wealth of experience to the committee.

#### Membership of the Forum:

Membership has stagnated and now stands at 2,349 members with 601 who have chosen HoNF as their first choice. This represents an increase of one more member than last year and nine less choosing HoNF as their first-choice forum, as compared to last year. This still entitles the forum to have one delegate at Congress. This is disappointing and the committee

nurse, Alan Parish, is included in the dictionary and roughly half of the nurses have a direct association with the Royal College of Nursing. The majority will be published in early 2024 along with an introduction written by Stuart Wildman. The biography of Daphne Steele, the first black nurse to be appointed a matron in the NHS and written by Claire Chatterton, was published in October 2023 as part of Black History Month. This initiative will increase the numbers of nurses in the Dictionary to over eighty. The Oxford DNB can be accessed in most local and academic libraries online.

British Library Web Archive: Nursing Collection in the UK [8 92 82 reWñBTf2 reWñBTf1 Tf10 0 2429 8 m](#)

Follow-up meetings occur monthly via 'Teams.' The group have been surprised at the lack of nurses, especially past matrons, mentioned on hospital history sites and plan to slowly rectify this and also upload biographies of deceased RCN Fellows and other significant nurses. In addition, the correction of inaccurate information is also a priority. This is a very

Attendance at hybrid events, that is simultaneously online and in person, continues. The launch of the 'Unmasked' and 'Children and Young People' exhibitions followed this format. This enables the forum to invite international speakers to present their research and to involve an international audience in our programme. The forum annual lecture by Mary Seacole was, to date, the most successful presentation of 2023. All events have been attended by members and non-members. Members of the Steering Committee have chaired some of these events:

Event	Date	Attendees	% Member Attendees	% Public Attendees
History of Nursing Annual Lecture: Mary Seacole	29/3/2023	189	50%	50%
Nursing Beyond Borders: Mary Abbott Launch	28/4/2023	24	43%	57%
Unmasked Exhibition launch	11/5/2023	60	37%	63%
A Duty to Care	7/6/2023	72	63%	37%
In Conversation with Nursing Pioneers: Children's Health	28/6/2023	34	63%	37%
At the Heart of the Nation: Migration and the NHS	4/7/2023	87	28%	72%
Medicine, Politics, Emotions	20/7/2023	50	52%	48%

Following discussions between Sally Bassett, Chair of the Forums Chairs Committee, Sarah Chaney, Events and Exhibition Manager and Stuart Wildman a bid has been submitted to the Arts Council to create an exhibition around the theme of 'What is a Nurse?' If successful, this will be staged in the main exhibition space in the College Library. Members from a number of forum committees have expressed an interest in being involved.

#### Social Media:



HoNF continues to have a social media presence on X (Twitter) using [#histnursing](#) and a [Facebook](#) group. The Facebook group stands at 183 members, up 8% on the previous year. We have 292 followers on X. The Facebook page has been maintained by members of the committee (Stuart Wildman and Dionne Daniel). Dionne coordinates our presence on X (Twitter). As well as this, there are regular blogs relating to wider history events and issues, which can be accessed from the [HoNF Webpage](#) again these blogs are maintained by the

HoNF committee and each member is expected to write one blog during the year. There have been four blogs published this year, so far. The committee would like to thank Liz Williams for coordinating this aspect of our work over the last year.

Plans for 2024:

The submission date for this report has come before committee members could discuss and finalise plans for 2024 at the annual strategy day. Actions and plans will be discussed and agreed on 30/11/23. These will address the forthcoming exhibitions concerned with support workers and prison nursing as well as the resumption of the oral history project, the expansion of the Wikipedia project, further articles for the RCN Bulletin and blogs on the HoNF web pages. In addition the committee will seek to increase the involvement of forum members in the coming year.