

The Lamp

For the nursing profession - past, present and future



Newsletter of The Company of Nurses

Edition 11 | Spring 2021

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. I was delighted to be reinstalled as Master on the 5th May 2021, making my declaration in the virtual presence of Alderman Vincent Keaveny and his wife and Freeman, Amanda Keaveny. It was wonderful to see so many of you joining us for this event and at the Annual Assembly held just before.

The focus for this coming year will be to continue to build a sustainable and thriving Company in anticipation of attaining Worshipful Company status as soon as we are in a position to do so.

The membership initiative we launched last year to celebrate the Bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's birth has been extremely successful. I am now asking you to continue to support our growth by encouraging you to speak to friends and colleagues about the Company. Expanding our membership will enable us to establish a strong foundation and demonstrate commitment that will leave a lasting legacy. A membership form is enclosed with this Newsletter for you to share.

We encourage you to make a regular donation to the Company of Nurses Charitable Trust as we are really making a difference (please see page 3). Regular donations, however small, are a very important aspect of our application for our progression to becoming a Worshipful Company so please consider completing the standing order form which is enclosed if you have not done so already.

Finally, we are asking for your help in ensuring we have the correct information about you on our upgraded database. We are aiming to demonstrate the diversity of all of our Freeman regarding their wealth of nursing experience so I would encourage you to complete and return the enclosed form, even if none of your details have changed since you joined the Company. We are also asking, for the first time, for further monitoring data in line with the type of information gathered by many organisations. This separate form can be completed without disclosing your name and any information you give us will be retained anonymously and treated in confidence. These two forms can be returned by post or alternatively, can be completed online. You will be receiving an email with further detail and links to complete the forms electronically, which you may find more convenient than posting.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for your continued support of our Company. The fellowship and fun that we share when we meet is unique and together, we can ensure that this continues for many years to come.

With best wishes

Frances Davies Master, The Company of Nurses



The Master says:

"We are striving to build a sustainable and thriving Company of Nurses"

Thank you to our Bicentennial Freeman

"Thank you to all of you who have made this venture such a success and I look forward to seeing many of you soon." Liz Turnbull Immediate Past Master and Bicentennial Freeman



Last year was to be a time of celebration for the nursing profession, with many plans for us all to come together and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale and the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

Our own celebrations included a new limited category of membership - 'Bicentennial Freeman' - to mark 2020 and our progression to Company status. We had a wonderful response to this and we now have over 140 Bicentennial Freeman who have demonstrated their commitment and support to the progress of the Company for the next phase of the journey. The monies raised will help to ensure that the Company has the necessary reserves to qualify for a Grant of Livery. We must satisfy the Court of Aldermen that the Company is financially sustainable and has sufficient means to foster our profession effectively. The Bicentennial Freeman have had several lively and most enjoyable Zoom meetings. The energy and goodwill towards the Company is wonderful to see and hear.



The Road to Livery

Our Court has much to do in preparing for the next step. There are several ways Freemen can assist, continuing to recruit new members, giving regularly to our Charitable Trust, supporting events, and promoting nursing as a career.

The road beyond will become steeper as we seek to achieve our goal of obtaining a Grant of Livery. Our Honorary Clerk, John Allen is vital in guiding and supporting the Master, Court and Company through this process. We asked John to tell us more about being a Clerk and where his love of Livery comes from.



Our Honorary Clerk John Allen

"Having the opportunity in retirement to use my skills and experience helping to establish a vibrant new Livery Company for the nursing profession is what motivates me."

What is the role of a Clerk?

The office of Clerk is common to all Livery Companies and evolved from the need for having an officer who could write and who had some knowledge of law to protect the Company's interests. Today the role is effectively that of Chief Operating Officer with responsibility for the day-to-day administration and operation of the Company.

What are some of the things you do?

The role necessitates being something of a jack-of-all-trades. I support the Master; provide secretarial support to the Court and the Board of Trustees; officiate at Freedom Ceremonies; plan and organise major Company events; maintain the accounts and membership records; liaise with the Company's professional advisers; ensure the Company and Charitable Trust are compliant with their statutory obligations; safeguard the treasures; preserve the records and archives, with the assistance of our Archivist; and represent and promote the Company within the City of London and elsewhere.

What is an Honorary Clerk?

Clerks of Livery Companies are generally paid employees. The title Honorary Clerk signifies that I perform the role in a voluntary capacity and provide my services pro bono.

What did you do before you became Clerk to the Company of Nurses?

I served with the Metropolitan Police for over 30 years and was latterly a senior manager within the team responsible for the provision of protection to the Royal Family and security at the Royal Palaces. I then embarked on a second career as a City Clerk, firstly to the Cutlers' Company and latterly to the Gunmakers' Company.

How did you get involved with Livery?

I was introduced by my late father who was a Past Master of the Fan Makers' Company. I was particularly attracted by the display of traditional values and close fellowship which are the hallmarks of every Livery Company. I was admitted as a Liveryman of the Fan Makers' Company in 1971. I am also an Honorary Liveryman of the Cutlers' Company and the Gunmakers' Company.

Have you got a Livery highlight?

Over a period of 50 years there have been many, but the highest point for my wife and me, was in 1998 when I was privileged to be appointed Master of the Fan Makers' Company.

Freedom of the City of London

Freemen of The Company of Nurses are eligible to apply to become Free of the City as a nurse. To become a Liveryman in their Worshipful Company, Freemen must become Free of the City of London first. Many of the Freemen of the Company of Nurses are Free of the City of London and there is more information on our website if you would like to do this yourself.



Maureen Rodgers made her declaration to become a Freeman of the City of London on 5th March in an online ceremony conducted by Murray Craig, Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court. Maureen is an active member of King's College Hospital Nurses' League and is a Bicentennial Freeman of the Company.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 9 June 7pm

"Around the River Thames"
A blue badge guided walk via Zoom.
Booking form available on the website.

Wednesday 23 June

Education and Professional Development Event - The impact of COVID-19 on A&E attendances

Saturday 10 July

Florence Nightingale themed walk

Wednesday 21 July

A virtual magic show brought into your homes via Zoom.

Wednesday 1 September

Visit to West Norwood Cemetery, one of the most magnificent in London

Saturday 18th September

Gin tasting - another exciting virtual event.

Wednesday 6 October

Education and Professional Development Event

Wednesday 13 October

The Company of Nurses Annual Church Service

The Company of Nurses

CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity: 1170982

Charitable giving is integral to being a Livery Company and as a Company we need to maintain and grow our Charitable funds so we can support nurses year after year. The Trust can only deliver this support with regular income. In addition to the funds donated by our Freemen, the Company of Nurses Charitable Trust offers a safe home for existing funds including the Ann Campbell Memorial Fund and the Chantry Robinson Fund. We asked Brenda Griffiths, Chair of the Company of Nurses' Charitable Trust for an update on activities.



"I would like to thank all those who donate so generously to the Trust."

Brenda Griffiths, Chair,
Company of Nurses Charitable Trust

The Charitable Trust has been busy in recent months and I am grateful to my fellow Trustees and our Secretary John Allen who enable us to respond to requests for support very quickly. When nurses are in need, they may require assistance immediately and our aim is to deliver what we can, as soon as we can.

We have a growing number of partners who share our values and desire to give

assistance when and where it is needed and we are very grateful for their expertise and support.

In recent months, we have supported a nurse with two young children who despite four attempts to return to shifts is unable to work due to Post Acute Covid-19 (Long Covid). Another recipient is a nurse whose husband died unexpectedly, aged 41. The couple have two teenage children but because she had been at her current workplace for less than 12 months she had no entitlement to paid leave whilst off work after the death of her husband.

Our educational funds continue to support a range of educational activities. Two more nurses have completed the Homeless and Inclusion module at University College London and in conjunction with the Queen's Nursing Institute, we have identified three more nurses to undertake the module, which now has a waiting list. The Trust is very pleased that we have, in some small way helped get this module off the ground and it is gratifying that professional development within this often-neglected area of care is gaining such credibility.

We continue to support our Scholars – one with the Leadership Programme run by the Florence Nightingale Foundation and another on the Pre-Hospital MSc course with the London Air Ambulance and Queen Mary University of London.

None of this would be possible without the support of our benefactors and most importantly, without our Freemen who donate on a regular basis, so allowing us to budget efficiently and effectively. A huge thank you to you all.



Ann Campbell RBNA Memorial Fund

Henrietta Millicent Campbell ("Ann"), arrived in the UK from Jamaica in August 1951. She started general nurse training and later trained as a midwife. Ann had a number of senior roles and in the 1960s became a clinical nurse tutor in Camden and Islington Health Authority to develop the training of family planning nurses; create and organise family planning clinics; reduce teenage pregnancy rates, and reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates.

Ann was a founder member of the British Caribbean Association (BCA), formed in 1958 in the aftermath of the Notting Hill riots and she joined the Royal British Nurses' Association (RBNA) in the early 1970s, later becoming its Vice President.

In July 2012, Ann was awarded the Windrush and Beyond Foundation Nurses' award by Her Majesty the Queen. The Foundation's awards recognise the individual journeys of nurses and allied health professionals from the Caribbean and African continent who made a decision to respond to the call and embark on a mutually beneficial career journey to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the NHS. In September 2013 Ann was awarded a BCA award for Outstanding Services to the Community. Shortly before Ann's death she was awarded the British Empire Medal for her 'outstanding contribution to nursing and dedication to making continuing innovative changes to the NHS over a 60 year period'.

Ann administered four charitable funds with the RBNA and continued as Chairman of the RBNA and worked voluntarily for the organisation until her death in 2017.



9th March 2021
Freedom Ceremony

We welcomed 11 new Freemen at this virtual ceremony. Following the formal part of the afternoon, all enjoyed a splendid cream tea wonderfully organised by Freeman Vicki Garratt. The cream and jam were kindly donated by the Cream Tea Alliance of Roddas cream and Tiptree jam.



Brian Boag, Gary Caughey, Catriona Jamieson, Carol Jenner, Robin McMahon, Morag Olsen, Angela Robinson, Joanne Ross, Josephine Studham, Alan Young and Stuart Young photographed with the Master, Honorary Clerk and other members of the Company.

24th March 2021
Education & Professional Development Event

We heard from Dr Jemell Geraghty and Cathy Knox, the two Chantry Robinson Scholarship award winners who both undertook the Homeless and Inclusion Module at University College London.

This was followed with a talk from a number of Freemen from the Company of Nurses who had contributed to the development and running of the Nightingale Hospital London; the build, operations, critical care, family liaison and staff wellbeing.

The reports of all our Social and Educational Events are available on our website.



Talks

We enjoyed a variety of talks earlier this year. A blue badge guided walk, 'The Lady with the Lamp - The Florence Nightingale Story' and a wonderful talk by Shrieval Consort Alexandra Hayward who spoke of her life 'From Barts to the Old Bailey'. Alex is a Freeman of the Company and currently living in the Old Bailey as Consort to Sheriff Christopher Hayward



Sheriff Christopher Hayward, Alex Hayward and Nick, their Footman

Members News

New Year's Honours

Congratulations to Company Freeman Greta Westwood CEO of the Florence Nightingale Foundation who was awarded a CBE and Deirdre Barr who was awarded a BEM.

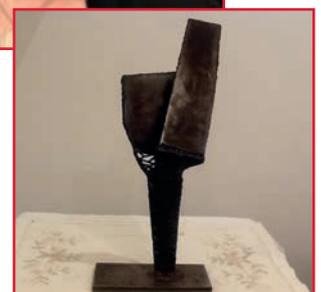


A friendship never forgotten

Freeman Ann Chantry Price has written a wonderful article about the Sculptor John Hoskin who was resident sculptor at Lancaster University in 1969 where Ann was living and working as a Junior Sister living in the flat below him. On one occasion, Ann nursed him in her lounge and in return John gave Ann a beautiful metal sculpture which is now treasured by the whole family.

His works can also be found in the Tate Gallery and all around the world.

The full article is in the Freemen's news section of our website.



Livery Snippet

"I shall keep it under my hat"

A regular saying linked to the City of London!

At the Silent Ceremony, the occasion when the incoming Lord Mayor is sworn into office, the outgoing Lord Mayor passes the key of the safe to the incoming Lord Mayor. The key is passed to the Swordbearer who says 'I shall keep it under my hat', whereupon he places key into the pocket in the underside of his Muscovy Hat for safekeeping and places the hat back on his head.

