

CONTACT

MRS. F. TURNER
Physiotherapy

Leavesden Hospital Newsheet

EDITOR OF THIS ISSUE

The Revd. J.W. Pragnell

ISSUE 11

March, 1983

From The Unit Administrator - Mr. H. Dulley

Communication, or the giving of information, is important in all organisations; however, in a large organisation such as Leavesden Hospital, the problem of keeping everyone informed of what is happening in all parts of the hospital is more difficult. A hospital journal such as "Contact" can, therefore, play a valuable part in assisting in keeping people informed of what is happening in the hospital.

In order to do this, it has been decided that "Contact" should come out more frequently, i.e. every other month, and should concentrate on news items regarding people and events, and also provide information about future events, e.g. sports and social functions. I am very pleased to be able to say that the Revd. J. Pragnell will continue producing "Contact", and has been joined by a group of volunteers specially selected for their journalistic talents. Details of their names and how they will operate are given in this issue.

I and they hope that you will like the changes that have been made to "Contact". If there are any things that you feel ought to be included in future additions, then please contact your liaison representative. It is only with your contributions that "Contact" will thrive.

SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY - LEAVESDEN HOSPITAL

Notes of a meeting held to discuss the future development of a staff magazine at Leavesden Hospital, held in Committee Room 2, Leavesden Hospital at 12.30pm on Thursday the 17th of February, 1983.

Those present: Revd. J. Pragnell
 Mr. H.P. Dulley
 Mr. J. Edwards
 Mr. A. Jackson
 Mrs. K. McLoughlin
 Mr. J. O'Neil
 Mrs. C. Spanswick
 Mr. H.V. Turner

1. After discussion it was generally agreed that some form of staff magazine be circulated on a regular basis along the lines of 'Contact' and 'Insight' at intervals of approximately six weeks.
2. With regard to content it was noted that the publication could be used as a general means of communication to wards and departments if the matter was not of pressing urgency. Each person present agreed to liaise with designated departments to obtain information for publication as follows:-

Continuing

Continuing Notes of meeting held on 17th February, 1983

| | |
|---|--|
| Medical and Nursing Paramedics, Social Club and Patients Training | Mr. A. Jackson 7219 Mr. J. Edwards 7206 |
| School of Nursing and Springfield School | Mr. J. O'Neil (and wife) 7135 |
| Social Work and Psychology | Revd. J. Pragnell 7190 |
| Advertisements and Voluntary Services | Mrs K. McLoughlin 7230 |
| Staff 'Movement' (involving liaison with Domestic and Catering) | Mrs. C. Spanswick 7169 |
| Administration, Supplies, Transport, Works, Laundry, Fire Brigade | Mr. H.V. Turner 7163 |

3. The possibility of reproducing photographs was discussed and Mrs. Spanswick and Mr. Turner agreed to explore the printing aspects together with the cost.

4. The next meeting will be held at 12.30pm on Monday the 7th March, 1983 in Dr. Finn's Office. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S are due to Mr. John Harris who has now been officially appointed as the Deputy Unit Administrator under the Reorganisation of the NHS. John has worked at Leavesden for many years and we are very glad his long experience will not be lost to us.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING

Finance Department

Ward Clerk Mrs. Anne Hodder transferred from the Domestic Department to join the team of Ward Clerks in January. She first started at the Hospital in 1979 and replaces Mrs. Angela Vaux who left at Christmas.

Pay Clerk Mrs. Mary Wentworth also joined the Department in January.

Hospital Shop

Mrs. Elizabeth Tanner joined the staff of the Hospital Shop at the beginning of the new year.

Telephone Exchange

Mrs. Elizabeth Clifton started in February as weekend-telephonist and replaces Mrs. Nora Sheridan who left after five years service.

Mrs. M. Barker, started on 14th February, 1983; this is Mrs. Barker's second employment with us, and we are pleased to welcome her back; Mr. P. Brazil, started on 22nd February, 1983; Miss J. Tierney on 28th February, 1983 and Mrs. P. Parsons, on 28th February, 1983.

Nursing

Miss D. Hulme, Mrs. J. Baker and Miss V. Graham have joined the Patient Training Division this month.

FAREWELL TO

Fay Lodge who left at the end of February after eight years service, the last four in the Patients Training Division. She has been appointed Sister-in-Charge of a hostel for twenty-four people at Blackheath;

David Lewis Charge Nurse Oak House, moved to be Charge Nurse of Lanthorne House, Broadstairs, Kent.

Mrs. B. Bordley, who had been at Leavesden Hospital for one year and ten months leave to have her baby: Miss S. Smith, employed for 2 years, 3 months, has married and moved into a different Health District; and Mrs. D. Doyle, Domestic Assistant who was with us for 2 years and 11 months.

Forthcoming Retirements

Sheila Jones retires

Mrs. Jones has been at Leavesden for 'a considerable time' She began training at Leavesden hospital in July, 1945 and qualified as a nurse (RMPA) in May, 1948. She subsequently gained the R.N.M.D. Qualification in July, 1949.

Sheila has worked in many wards throughout the hospital, both as a staff nurse and deputy sister/ward sister, but I remember her particularly as ward sister in the home management unit, Heather Ward. She has lately been Nursing Officer Patient Training and since April 1980, has been Senior Nursing Officer for the Patient Training division.

You can see that Sheila's experiences are varied and far-reaching and have touched the lives of many patients and staff at Leavesden.

She has, through her work in Heather ward and the training areas, developed a fine sense of the needs of people and what can be done to help them overcome their problems.

I would like to take this opportunity of saying thank-you personally, and on behalf of the staff at Leavesden, extend to you our wishes that you may enjoy a long and happy retirement.

A. Jackson,
Director of Nursing Services

Catering Department

Mrs. Sheehy retires this week (week ending 11th March, 1983) from her post of Assistant Cook. She originally joined the Hospital in 1963 and after a break in service returned in 1975.

Hospital Shop

After ten years service in the Hospital Shop, Mrs. Hannacher retires in April. Always cheerful and helpful Mrs. Hannacher will be missed by her colleagues and customers. She is looking

Continuing Forthcoming Retirements

Mrs. Hannacher - forward to her retirement and intends to try out gardening - something she does not usually have time for and to visit her grandchildren more often.

Industrial Carpenters

Mr. Bill Lyon joined the Hospital as an Instructor Carpenter in March 1953. He had intended to stay just for a short time, but when he retires at the end of this March he will have completed 30 years' service.

When Mr. Lyon first joined, the Hospital's only heating was open fires and a shoemaker was employed to make 'all the patients' shoes. Bill was promoted to his current post of Foreman, Industrial Carpenters in 1973.

Mr. Lyon has made a great contribution over the years including the training of patients, designing a special invalid chair and construction of the glazed partition in the General Office. His first piece of work at Leavesden, a wooden cabinet is still used by the Administration Department for storing stationery.

Supplies

Mr. Batten retires after Easter for a second time: He originally retired from the B.B.C. after 22 years and came to Leavesden for a part-time job in 1978. He was asked to come in full-time on his first day and in fact this arrangement was never changed:

He looks forward to an active retirement and spending more time with his wife and five grandchildren.

Engineering

Mr. R. Batholomew is leaving after thirty years with the electrical engineers at Leavesden.

Miss P.P. McLoughlin, Night Nursing Officer, Retires

After 40 years of loyal service at Leavesden Hospital, Miss McLoughlin (affectionately known as 'Shower Mac') retires to a well earned rest. Truly one of the longest serving members of the nursing staff.

Her career goes back to 1943 when she commenced at Leavesden Hospital as a Nurse Probationer. She then went on to acquire several qualifications R.M.P.A. in 1949, R.N.M.D. in 1952 and S.R.N. in 1954 at the Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

She worked as a staff nurse and deputy ward sister and was promoted to ward sister in 1954, most of this in Azalea ward. In 1962 she was appointed Night Superintendent, and when the Salmon structure was implemented in 1972 she became Night Nursing Officer, the post from which she is now retiring, that makes 20 years' service on night alone.

Most of her working life she has lived in the staff residences at Leavesden, until 1977 when she went to live in her cottage at Bedmond. Her love of plants and gardening will occupy most of her time, and not forgetting 'Toby' her dog, who will doubtless like this new arrangement. I am sure there will also be some time left to watch television which she also enjoys.

Continuing Miss P.P. McLoughlin Retires

A shy but very competent person, always alert to the patients needs and loyal to her colleagues, I know 'Sister Mac' will be missed by all who came into contact with her. We all wish her a long and happy retirement, so well deserved after a lifetime spent in the care of others.

Best Wishes To The Following Staff Who Are Ill

Sr. Ann Duncan, Mrs. Daphne Hubery, Mrs. Joyce Grant, Mrs. Beesley, Sr. B. Powders and Mrs. Pearlene McFarlane. We wish them a speedy return to good health.

Sympathy To:

To the Family of Mrs. C. Singletary, Domestic Assistant. Mrs. Singletary was 36 years old and had been employed by us for two years. She was a well liked member of staff, and will be greatly missed by her colleagues.

New way of receiving Sickness Benefit - Statutory Sick Pay

The Statutory Sick Pay Scheme comes into effect on 6th April, 1983 as part of a new Act of Parliament. Under this scheme, employers are made responsible for paying Sickness Benefit to the majority of their employees for up to eight weeks in any tax year - sickness benefit when paid in this way will be known as Statutory Sick Pay or SSP. In practice, the new scheme means that instead of receiving sickness benefit in the form of giro cheques from your local DHSS office, you will receive SSP from your employer in the normal way in which you are paid, that is, in your wages or salary.

There are however, certain categories of staff who are excluded from the SSP Scheme and who will continue to claim sickness benefit from the DHSS office. The majority of these will fall into the following categories.

1. Women over age 60 and men over age 65
11. Those who have already received a total of 8 weeks SSP in the current tax year.
111. Those who earn less than the amount on which National Insurance contributions are payable, currently £32.50 per week

There are other circumstances in which SSP will not be payable, but these will apply in a minority of cases and will be fully explained to anyone, if necessary;

You may already have received a letter from the DHSS informing you that you will not be eligible for SSP for a certain period; if this is so, it will be because you have recently received Sickness Benefit or another State Benefit, and you should hand the letter to your Manager as soon as possible.

Another change being introduced at this time is a new self certification form - this is our own form which replaces the DHSS Self Certification form introduced last June. The new form will be available from your Manager who will explain how and when to use it. Also to be introduced is a new procedure for notification and certification of sickness for all non-Nursing staff (nurses already have their own written procedure) you will be given details of this very soon.

Contact Issue 11 March 1983

Continuing

Croxley Green Methodist Church

Just before Christmas 1982, Mr. Alan Davis contacted me, offering us a Wendy House built by the young people of the Church. Mr. Bill Lyon came with me to view this 'desirable residence' and suggested a few modifications to make it more suitable for our patients.

The finished house was delivered to the Playgroup on Sunday 13 February. Sister Jarvis and some of the staff and patients were there, and we all spent a very pleasant hour drinking coffee and watching the Wendy House taking shape. After a few problems finding the right way to put the roof on, the house was considered ready and Martin Garrad from Ash Ward was all set to spring clean.

I am sure it will provide hours of pleasure to those in the Playgroup and we thank all at Croxley Green for their very hard work.

The Social Work Department writes:-

" I would like to remind readers of the Give a Child a Break Appeal mentioned in Contact last June, when I asked anyone willing to collect Kit Kat wrappers and send them to me C/o Social Work Department. If you recall, the manufacturers of Kit Kat were prepared to donate 3 pence per wrapper to the Break Charity which provides holidays and residential care for handicapped and deprived children.

I am now able to report that between Leavesden and a hospital in Berkshire, the grand total of 1,962 wrappers were collected. Leavesden alone contributed nearly 1,200 wrappers from amongst both staff and patients. I would therefore like to express my personal thanks to all who helped towards such a magnificent figure which means the Directors of Rowntree McIntosh have agreed to donate £58.86 to the Break Charity. The Company have sent a certificate of confirmation undertaking to pay this sum and wish to extend their appreciation to all who responded to the appeal. (A total figure of £50,000 will now be paid over to the Break Charity by cheque later this year.)

Kathryn's Tale Of The Hospital Fire Brigade

Passing the Main Notice Board I stopped to have a look at the advertisements etc. and came across the Voluntary Fire-Men's Notice asking for two prospective voluntary firemen Well!

However, I did not really give it a great deal more thought until I accosted Mr. Bagley the Chief Fire Officer for Leavesden Hospital in the local pub. I said I felt it was rather discriminating to ask for firemen and what on earth was wrong with firewomen. It was decided then that on the following Tuesday evening I would join the Firemen one of their manouvres at 7.30pm prompt.

I had great difficulty climbing into the firemans kit which is extremely cumbersome. It was all very large and the wellingtons at least five sizes too big.

We mounted the fire engine and we were off. At this point it was all great fun riding along on the fire-engine, but when we pulled up and I saw the manhole cover, and the shaft I was supposed to climb down, I began to wish I could creep away and forget about the principles at stake.

Continuing

Continuing Miss P.P. McLoughlin Retires

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A Tale of Kathryn - D. Bagley

On Tuesday evening 11th January, 1983 at 19.30hours Miss Jarvis reported to the fire station with the crew. That night the drill was search and rescue procedures in a disused underground water tank. The tank is approximately 25' underground; about 30' wide and 50' long. It is dark and damp with approximately 3 to 4 inches of oily muddy water. The drill was to carry out a search of the area; locate a casualty, and remove to safety by whatever method would be required. Kathryn was dressed up in firemans kit.

After a search lasting approximately 15 minutes the casualty was located and removed from the tank with a rescue sling and line, Kathryn assisting where she could. After approximately 25 minutes the rest of the crew with Kathryn came out.

Kathryn had stood up well to a test which some men find daunting, i.e. a damp dark place in which to carry out hard physical work, but she did not really like being underground, which is understandable, on one really likes it, when we got back to the station. Kathryn decided that she did not want to join the Fire Service after all.

I must pay tribute to Kathryn; she did everything the men did and as well as them within her capabilities. It does not alter my view that the Fire Service, or more properly the fire ground, is not the place for a woman, not because they in most cases are not as strong as the men, but what I can only term as a gut reaction. But she did very well on what is a standard test for all persons joining the fire service.

Sponsored Run

Mr. Paul Beasley is running in the London Marathon and all his sponsor money will be going into voluntary funds to help buy the extra comforts we do our best to supply. Last year he ran solo from Watford to Hemel Hempstead and back, and the money he raised bought two badly needed specialized wheelchairs. Please support him in this splendid effort. Sponsor forms are in Voluntary Services office or you can telephone 7230/7229. Thank you.

Our Annual Fete will be held again this year in the Pets Corner area 2 - 4.30 pm on 9th July. We shall combine the Fete and Pets corner Open Day this year.

The Decorated Wheelchair Competition was such a success last year that we are holding the event again. Please support this competition as the Patients got such pleasure from it. Let us see if we can have an even bigger entry this year. The usual stalls will be there, and we hope the weather will be kind to us.

Any help will be gratefully received, either donations to the stalls or help of a more practical nature.

A D V E R T S

Ladies Folding Bicycle Maroon colour in good condition £25. o.n.o
Contact Carol Field Ext. 7217 Brambles.

Continuing Kathryn's Tale

This was not to be, and I was then instructed to put my breathing apparatus on my back. I now felt extremely uncomfortable and weighed down and was having great difficulty imagining how on earth I was going to climb down the iron rungs protruding from the side of the shaft. Praying wildly, I sat on the edge and lowered myself onto the first rung. Previously two other firemen had descended and were waiting for me at the bottom. I reached the last rung and breathed a sign of relief - not for long - we now had to simulate the situation - so no lights! At this point I began to feel claustrophobic, but before I could panic I was told to place myself behind the fireman and hold onto his jacket and we were off. It is very difficult to explain what it was like, it was so dark you could not see your hand in front of you.

It echoed and smelt of oil and damp and was extremely muddy and dirty. We began by feeling our way around the walls with our hands and feet and then arrived back at the starting point.

The next part of the manoeuvre was to remove the casualty to the surface and this for me basically consisted of keeping the body steady and holding the torch.

The next exercise was even dirtier and more frightening, we had to crawl about the floor and keep our hands in front of us and search for bodies. This is very exhausting as you do not know what you are going to find (rats being my main fear) and you are trying to avoid holes, bearing in mind it was still pitch black. I was just getting adjusted to the camaraderie of the situation when it was time to finish. My shoulders were now aching as I still had the breathing apparatus on. If I thought the descent was difficult, the ascent was just plain hard work. I was finally hauled out of the top and my equipment removed - Thank goodness!

Later collapsing in the Fire Station, having replaced my outfit and washed all the dirt off, everyone was very nice and complimented me on my efforts.

I feel that everyone should be aware of just how difficult and hard the Fireman's lot is and let me add, for very little monetary reward. They were very professional in their approach and were very kind and helpful to me. In fact a group of men to be admired and I would not do their job for a £1000 a week.

A Tale of Kathryn Mr. D. Bagley, Chief Fire Officer

A few weeks ago in a local public house I was accosted by a young lady whom I now know to be Miss Kathryn Jarvis, a sister at the Playgroup who wanted to join the Hospital Fire Service, my first reaction to any lady wanting to join is "No Way" as I do not believe that a woman's place is in an operational fire service, also I happen to be a first rate M.C.P. i.e. Male Chauvinist Pig.

We began to discuss the subject, and my objections are just a basic feeling that fire-fighting is not a woman's job.

After Kathryn had told me what she gets up to in her spare time, i.e., Outdoor pursuits, rock climbing etc, I agreed that she should take part in a practice on our next drill night. Kathryn wanted to see if she could do as well as the men. I told her that no concessions would be made for her on account of her sex but that I would not ask her to do anything more than the men.

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Contact Carol Field Ext. 7217 Brambles.

Continuing ADVERTS

One pair roller boots in good condition hardly used size 6 £5.
Contact Mrs. C. Field Ext. 7217 Brambles

Fish Tank Water Heater in built thermostat as new £5.
Contact Ext 6152 Playgroup

HOLIDAY APARTMENT

In Mallorca Spain The following dates still available in 1983

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------|
| April | : | Last two weeks |
| June | : | Free |
| July | : | First 3 weeks |

October, November, December All Available
Rates £6 per day inclusive Ideal for two persons - beautiful
flat with large terrace with panoramic view of sea - 4 miles from
Palma - 5 minutes from local beach - photos can be viewed

Contact Arthur Baker - Secretary - Voluntary Services

Photographic Competition

Watford Museum is planning to hold a photographic competition on Watford at Work
Entries are invited from amateur photographers living or working in the Watford
area.

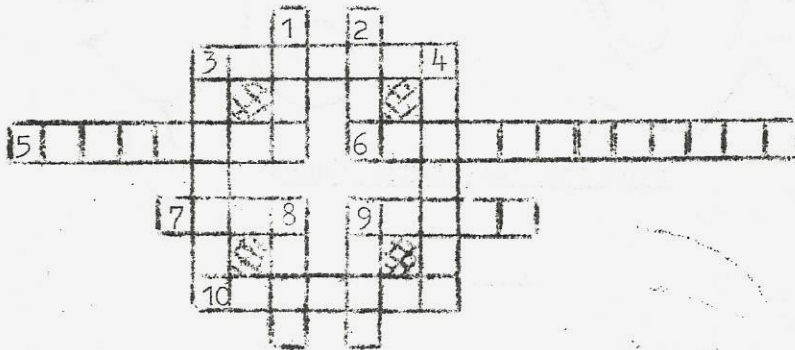
The entries should attempt to show the special nature or characteristics of the
type of work involved.

An exhibition of the winning works will be displayed in the museum's main
gallery from April 28 to May 14.

If anyone is interested in entering this competition, would they please contact
Mr. Dulley on 7162

P U Z Z L E S

Crossword



Across

- 3a - Carriage in film runners (7)
- 5a - Remove the vegetable and use the fruit - then let it fall to make a sweet
BEAPCAGARBE (8)
- 6a - not mended in nursery ryme (6,6)
- 7a - used in knots (4)
- 9a - Politely describes this crossword (5)
- 10a - preview of film and can be towed (7)

Down

- 1d - Sharp Beer (4)
- 2d - Golden Fair prize (4)
- 3d - as in air for use for automobiles (7)
- 4d - Drinking Recepticle (7)
- 8d - Transport for baby (4)
- 9d - Fishy part of shoe (4)

Answers to be published in next edition.

Whats my Line ?



Find the Job in the Faces

An Early Reminder.

Hunt the Haggis Competition.

Haggis have been seen around Leavesden Grounds causing a disturbance of the peace.

Prizes will be given to Staff capturing Haggis and there will be a Haggis Lunch served in the Cafeteria the following day.

Haggis detectors can be obtained from -
Mr. Mickey. Taker.

This Competition is to be held on 1st April 1983.