

June 2018

Issue 107

# The Swimming Pool



**Newsletter for the  
SWIMS Network**

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## **Inside this issue**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>The Living Library</b>                                   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Knowvember 2018</b>                                      | <b>3</b> |
| <b>A Stitch in Time</b>                                     | <b>4</b> |
| <b>#UKMedLibs</b>   | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Doctor, doctor! A medic's view of historical objects</b> | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Is this the end of the road for Secret Squirrel?</b>     | <b>7</b> |
| <b>Network News</b>   | <b>7</b> |

## The Living Library – a UWE and AWP event

Come to our Living Library event, said Caroline Plaice and Helen Watts – how intriguing, and how could anyone refuse ...

Living Libraries work just like normal libraries – visitors browse the catalogue, choose titles they are interested in, and borrow them for a defined amount of time. The difference is that the books are people, and reading consists of a conversation. Living Libraries originated in Denmark and have spread around the world – their aim is to challenge stereotypes, breakdown barriers, and encourage integration.



All the signs were good for this Living Library Event – a beautiful sunny afternoon in May, an inviting room with doors thrown open to the leafy grounds of UWE's Glenside campus, and a table laden with the most scrumptious looking tea and cakes – I'm still dreaming about Caroline's blueberry and lemon cake – it even had edible flowers on top.

But back to the human books – the idea of the event was to let people find out what it's really like to work in or experience mental healthcare. So library visitors could choose to "borrow" a chaplain, a psychologist, a social worker, a service user, a lecturer, a

psychiatrist, or a safe wards worker, for a 30 minute loan period. The human books were placed around a couple of rooms, well spread out, sitting around comfy chairs and tables, so we could talk to each other in relative privacy.

There was an agreeable buzz of conversation in the air. I borrowed a chaplain, a head of psychology, and a safe wards worker. I listened to their stories and I asked questions. As you don't know your human book, and probably will never meet them again, it feels quite liberating to be able to ask things you've always wondered about but seemed too silly to ask ... so I found out that chaplains don't always feel kindly disposed to patients, and that no, psychological interventions aren't always expected to work, but they have to be done anyway. The anonymity of the situation allows for quite a lot of openness.



We all learned something new and had first-hand accounts of what working in a certain role or suffering from a certain illness is like. The Living Library really is a great way to break down barriers, share experience, and further your knowledge, so if you see a chance to set one up, I would say go and do it!

**Jackie Webb**  
**Library Services Manager**  
**Together NHS Foundation Trust (WOT)**

## Knowvember 2018

Have you seen this excellent Knowledge for Healthcare [blogpost](#) about the Knowvember 2018 campaign? [Knowvember](#) is all about promoting great knowledge management practice in your organisations, and this blogpost is a great introduction.

Library colleagues are already making [pledges](#) to run knowledge management initiatives in November, as part of the [#Knowvember18](#) campaign.

If you'd like to find out more about what KM initiatives you could try out in your own organisation, book on to one of our free events happening in September (details in the blogpost). These are your opportunity to see what has worked in other organisations, try out some new KM ideas and get inspiration for your own.

This is the direct link to book on to the Knowvember events:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZF8YZR2>

Thank you from the Knowvember project group members:

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## A Stitch in Time

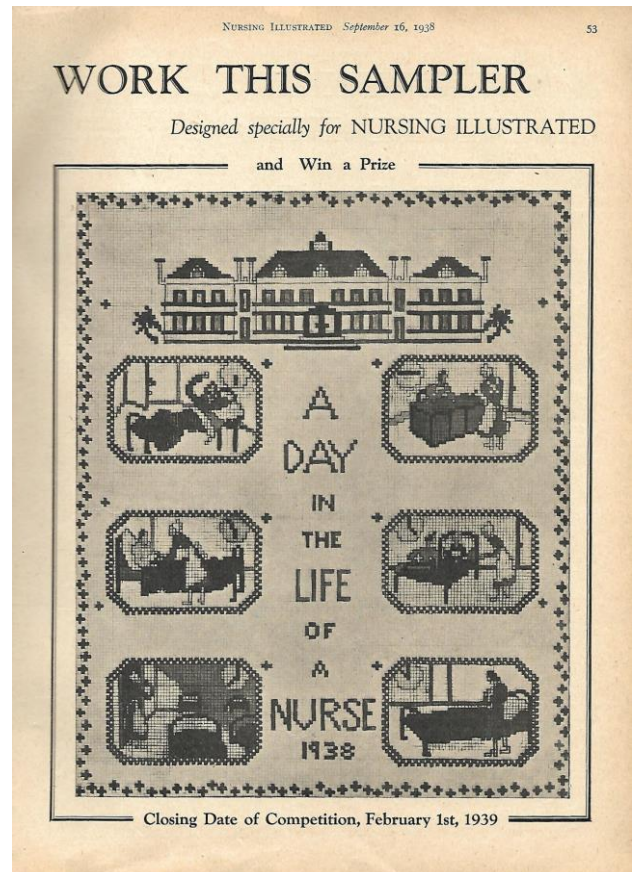
Cross-stitch, if you had asked me a month ago, would have definitely been on the unwritten and unimaginatively-named list of 'things I thought I'd never do'. Nothing against cross-stitch, just that it was never something that I had time, reason or compulsion of any sort to commit my time towards. The list of 'things that need doing' always taking the priority and well, cross-stitch just never made it on there...until now!

To coincide with **70 years of the NHS** this year, library manager Carol-Ann Regan showed me the library's copy of '*Nursing Illustrated*'. Published as a series of magazines in 1938 (that's right, 10 years before the NHS), it features research articles, news stories, letters, advertisements, tips, and activities relevant to the nursing profession of the time. Coming from an art background I was drawn to a feature it published inviting nursing staff to produce a sampler, titled '*A Day in the Life of a Nurse*'. The sampler, serialised in eight parts gave pattern designs for cross-stitch scenes depicting nursing activities such as '*an interview with matron*' and '*visitors' hour*'. The sampler also ran as a competition in which the winning first prize sampler could win 10 guineas\*!

The seed of an idea has been planted and I thought it would be really interesting if these designs could be seen and brought to life again, made by the next generation of nursing professionals and even opening it up wider to everyone who works within the NHS today (even patients potentially), reflecting the breadth and diversity of the roles within the organisation. These patterns are likely to have been unmade by anyone for quite some years and so it is exciting to reveal something from the past.

Inevitably times change and what was in 1938 a sampler design inside a nursing journal, perhaps intended as something to be made in-between caring for patients on wards, is now something that is more likely to be regarded as a spare-time leisure activity. In part it reflects just how time pressures and 'the role' of nursing has changed over the years. How many nurses still find time to create and make things whilst at work? And, what are the benefits to creative projects on wellbeing in relation to current day working within the NHS? It raises important questions and discussions around these issues as well as more broad ones in getting people to talk about 'how things have changed' and what the future may hold in store. If I have time I would like to talk to nursing staff and create new scenes that depict the modern-day counterpart to the 1938 one! What would be similar? What would have changed?

Under the current and topical NHS initiative of 'Wellbeing through Creativity', earlier this month we sent a call-out to employees at the trust I work for inviting them to participate in the challenge of recreating this sampler. I have so far been met with a positive response with





seven staff taking part on the first sampler and the possibility of completing a second as well! As someone who artistically has mostly ever worked alone in the 'making' of art work it is humbling and encouraging to be working on a project collaboratively with a variety of people whose individual professions and experiences will hopefully add to the 'story-telling' element of how the whole sampler comes together. In some cases, parts of the sampler will have been made by employees in different parts of the hospital, the trust (Somerset Partnership) and possibly even by patients; I am hoping

that the remote ways people now work within the NHS but come together as a team for the combined whole (visualised in the sampler through a variety of different sizes and colours) will celebrate the variety within the organisation that shares the same overall cause and values. That's the bigger ambition, but I mean it when I say that I am genuinely inspired by the enthusiasm of those taking part which has led to even me being encouraged to having a go at cross-stitch! Something, as I said, I thought I would never really try.

At the very least if this project gets people making, talking and feeling good through the act of making, then it will have achieved what I hope it set out to do. I will keep you posted how things materialise!

\*Disclaimer - No prizes, other than the saccharine satisfaction of taking part, will be awarded to entrants participating in the 2018 version.

**Natalie Parsley**  
**Library Assistant**  
**Musgrove Park Hospital Library Service (TAU)**



## #UKMedLibs

Ahead of Health Information Week (HIW), the next #ukmedlibs chat on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June (usual time of 8pm) will be focusing on HIW and offers you an opportunity to share your experiences, learn from others and perhaps plan events for early July. Find out more on the #ukmedlibs blog (<https://ukmedlibs.wordpress.com/>) and come and chat with us!

## Doctor, doctor! A medic's view of historical objects

Over the last few years we have acquired some interesting pieces of old medical equipment which Des has been displaying in the library. This caught the eye of staff from the University of Exeter Medical School who suggested that we offer a Medical Humanities project based around historical objects. For their Humanities Special Study Unit, 4<sup>th</sup> year students can choose from a wide variety of projects including, pottery, creative writing, theatre, and anthropology.

After some very useful discussions with Tom Arnold in Plymouth who runs something similar, we agreed and advertised our project in the students' catalogue. We also approached the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro to tap into their expertise at curating objects and communicating a story around them.

The project evolved as it went along but in the end we asked the students to choose an object from either our collection or something at the Museum. After researching it, they would take part in a show and tell event at the Museum, spending time discussing their interpretation of the object with members of the public. They had to write a reflection on the whole experience and finally present their project at a conference with all the other students in the year.



Four students signed up for the project and enthusiastically engaged with our sessions in the library and at the Museum. They all chose objects from the Museum and presented projects on mummification, The Cornish Giant and gigantism, Richard Lander's medicine chest, and bloodletting. The show and tell event worked well as it gave the students the chance to communicate with a variety of people with varying medical knowledge – a good transferable skill for their medical careers.

Although we hadn't had much experience of marking presentations and reflections, it was easier than expected after working with the students over a number of months. Overall this was a very rewarding project for us (and we hope for the students). We have made useful connections with the Museum as well as the Medical School and plan to offer it again next academic year.

**Catriona Organ, Subject Librarian**  
**Des Mogg, Library Assistant**  
**Cornwall Health Library (RCH)**

## Is this the end of the road for Secret Squirrel?

Once upon a time, in the world of Hanna-Barbera, there lived a squirrel by the name of 000. This trusty, fluffy-tailed James Bond of the rodent world followed orders from Double Q of the International Sneaky Service. With his arsenal of weapons hidden within the folds of his bullet proof trench coat, this intrepid investigator would access the inner workings of the SWIMS community, manipulating JISCmail lists and sending out messages for selected eyes only. One day, our trusty agent was stopped in his tracks by the General Dreary Policy Rabbit (GDPR) who put an end to his dabbling.

There is a moral to this sorry tale. Secret Squirrel can no longer remove someone temporarily from a list without their knowledge in order to let the network know about a leaving gift, party etc. But this is not the end: perhaps you might try distributing the message on a different list to which the leaver isn't subscribed or using email contact addresses (not a list). If all else fails, you could still post to the list but with the full awareness of the leaver. Who knows, Secret Squirrel might just enjoy being out in the open for a while.



**Stella Rogers**  
Senior Library Assistant  
GWH Academy Library (W01)

## Network News

### Bennet Jones – Movin' on Up

Almost exactly eight years ago Bennet Jones arrived in Bristol to join the NHS, as Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership's first (unofficial) graduate trainee library assistant. Since that time he has been steadily rising through the ranks, working his way through the majority of public sector library services in the city. We were delighted when he took up his first professional post at University Hospitals Bristol, before giving higher education a try at the University of the West of England.

Having kept an eye on Bennet's career I was sure the NHS could entice him back, and two years ago was delighted when we did indeed lure him back to help establish North Bristol Trust's clinical librarian service in 2016. During his time here he helped transform our training programme, introduced the world to Piktochart (Nurse Norman posters anyone?), tackled some wacky literature searches (including some horrendous systematic reviews), and gained a faithful following of library users.



He is staying with the public sector and taken up a post at the University of Bristol as a library skills trainer and developer. Anyone who has been an audience member for one of Bennet's presentations or teaching sessions will know how excellent he will be in this role.

We are very sad to lose him, but quite understand that a ten minute flat stroll to work is hard to beat in a very hilly city. All being well we can lure him back again to the NHS in a few years' time.

**John Loy and Katie Barnard  
North Bristol Trust (SMD)**

### **D01 and D02 welcome two new members of staff!**

Lola Randall is the newest member of D01, and she joined back in November 2017. Lola was recruited as a Level 2 Business and Administration Apprentice in the Learning Resource Centre at Poole General Hospital. Lola's role includes supplying books and article requests and queries from library users on the enquiries desk, by phone and by email. Lola previously worked at Bournemouth Central Library as a Saturday Assistant while she was completing her A-Level Education at St Edwards School. Lola says, "I enjoy working for the Library, knowing that my work can impact someone's life by providing health professionals with the knowledge they need in improving patient care is just extraordinary." Lola is looking forward to finishing her apprenticeship by the end of November this year and continuing developing her role within the Library.

Lisa Stooks is the newest member of D02, joining in April this year. Lisa is D02's new Library Assistant and is enjoying her new role sourcing and supplying interlibrary loans, helping library users at the enquiries desk and everything else in between! Lisa has previously worked in libraries; having worked at Bournemouth University Library. Now following a career break to raise her family she is happy being back in a library environment.

**Lisa Stooks  
Library Assistant  
Library, Education Centre, RBCH (D02)**

### **Rachael Hoare**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 our lovely Library Assistant Rachael Hoare And her husband Will welcomed the arrival of twin girls Lilly and Megan. Big brother James is taking it in his stride and all are adjusting well to their new family of 5. Travelling with 3 small people might be a challenge but a good old SWIMS bag still has more uses than originally intended. Congratulations and (lots of hugs) from the Discovery Library Team.

**Benita Beeson  
Library Assistant  
Discovery Library (PLY)**





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