

The big picture



Stuart McLauchlan snapped this picture of Yvonne Notman and Patsy Eccles from Lothian branch at Edinburgh Pride. Pride events happen across the UK throughout the summer. Find out where the RCN will be at www.rcn.org.uk/proud

PATIENT PERSPECTIVE



Sara Sheppard has been undergoing treatment for cancer

“ Chemotherapy can feel a bit like the processing element of a factory – or that you’re waiting in an airport lounge. You’re plugged up and then people come and go, doing various things with machines while you sit there trying your best to stay calm.

It’s easy to feel like a number, but when I had chemo a few months ago, the nursing staff at the Whittington Hospital were excellent. I was put at ease from day one and always treated as an individual.

There is a fear factor with chemo, yet everyone was so soft and gentle – they

gave the feeling they really understood that many of us were traumatised to varying degrees, and they would do everything in their power to make us feel OK. The staff had a kindness, empathy and sensitivity that you crave when you’re feeling vulnerable.

It amazed me how focused and cheerful the staff remained day in, day out, despite doing a difficult job. As an outpatient, I was grateful to be able to speak to the same nurses from the unit when at home between treatments. Any issues, and there was always help over the phone. It’s incredible they look after so many people so well.

The positive difference they make cannot be underestimated.

MEET THE MEMBER



Each month in Bulletin we’ll be asking a member to share a little bit about themselves.

Name: Emmaline Barley

Role: Trainee assistant practitioner, Doncaster Royal Infirmary

Describe your job in three words: Hectic, rewarding, frustrating.

If you didn’t work in health care, what would you be: I can’t imagine being anything else. I’ve always wanted to be a nurse since I was a toddler.

What item can’t you do without at work? A fob watch or a pen. There are clocks on the walls so I’ll say pen!

If you could have a superpower what would it be? The ability to be in two places at once at work.

If you could go back in time, which era would you live in? The 1950s. The clothes, the lifestyle, the music – I grew up with that because of my parents.

Why did you choose this profession? It’s something I’ve always wanted to do. When I was a teenager I had a relative with cancer, which was also something that steered me towards health care.

What is your dream holiday destination? An American road trip.

www.rcn.org.uk/myrcn

