

Haddenham Health News



October 2008

Goodbye to Gillian



It is with very mixed feelings that I leave my Health Visiting career. I started work in the NHS in 1965 as a student nurse. After I qualified as a State Registered Nurse with a few months experience, I completed my State Certified Midwifery training. Two years later I became a sister in Durham City Hospital Outpatient Department.

In 1972 I resigned my post to become a full time mother. However, one never knows what is around the corner, and I returned to nursing and attended a Post Grad course in New College Durham and became a Health Visitor in 1974, training during that year in the same place Billy Elliott was filmed, I remember parking my car in the street he danced down.

After working in the small town of Stanley in a team of 11 Health Visitors. I felt it was time for a change. What a change it was! I almost chose to work in Maldon, Essex where we have friends and relatives but my daughter, always wiser than me, liked the Aylesbury area. I moved, along with my mother (Fay Featherstone) and daughter with two dogs, fish and a hamster to a small bungalow at Stoke Mandeville, which was owned by Bucks Health but kept my home in Durham City, just in case!

Well, it all worked out well and we eventually made our home in Haddenham and 27 years later I am still here!

The lesson I have learnt is that you should always do your best as the past frequently jumps up to greet you. From almost 300 miles away it was my pleasure to visit the granddaughter of the Obstetric Surgeon who delivered me!, with her two children, and also someone who is sure I was present at the birth of

her son in Darlington Maternity Hospital. I now am visiting the babies of the children who I visited!

I will never forget the many pleasures I gained from these children, one who wanted my red shoes, the one who stood at the gate to watch my pony go by, the only two children ever born on my own birthday at 40 and 60 and many more other special times. My thanks to you all for the privilege of visiting in your homes.

I have enjoyed my time working as the Haddenham Health Visitor and gaining my new skills as a Practice Teacher and Assessor, working with CONI family (those with previous cot deaths) all over Aylesbury Vale and working in Sexual Health (family Planning).

Times are changing but I am not worried about change. I had forgotten all the fun that goes with working in a large team. The Health visitors now works as a corporate team sharing visits to home, clinics and groups and are called the Ridgeway Team. In this team we are not in one small office but spread over, Haddenham, Long Crendon, Brill, Thame, Chinnor, Princes Risborough and Hughendon and I am no longer the youngest Health Visitor but the oldest in the group of Health Visitors.

What am I to do everyone asks! Well I shall have more time for my friends, close family and horse, as well as time for me! I intend to gain new skills and hobbies (not related to work) learn to ride correctly, who knows 2012 Olympics! Forty Three years full time with only 11/2 years out, if having a baby counts as time out, is enough time to work for good health care in the NHS!

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