



Royal College  
of Nursing

# YOU MEAN THE WORLD

**Nursing in a climate crisis**



Royal College of Nursing Library and Museum

**Events programme:  
Autumn/Winter 2024-25**



## Exhibitions

# Who Cares?

*A history of Emotions in Nursing*

22 January 2020-31 November 2024  
Ground Floor, Library and Museum



Last chance  
to visit!

From birth to death and everything in between, health is closely associated with a range of emotions. But who cares for the carers?



This exhibition explores how the emotions attached to nursing, and the assumptions underlying these feelings, have changed throughout history.

During the last 150 years, nursing has been shaped by ideas about class, race and gender, as well as shifts in practice and politics. Discover Florence Nightingale's bible, Edith Cavell's last letter and scrapbooks from conflict zones. The exhibition includes a stained-glass window by artist Rachel Mulligan, created in collaboration with nurses from around the UK, showing care at every stage of life.

Our exhibitions are compact and last around 30 minutes.  
Why not visit before an event?

## Exhibitions

# You Mean the World: Nursing in a climate crisis

14 November 2024-13 April 2025

Lower Ground Floor, Library and Museum

**Nursing staff are on the frontline of the climate crisis. They see its impact first hand – from diseases linked to air pollution to the damaging effects of extreme heat.**

The NHS has committed to being carbon neutral by 2045, but there is a long way to go. As the largest part of the health and care workforce, it is crucial that nursing becomes more sustainable.

This exhibition explores the history of air pollution and of recycling and re-use in nursing and shows how talented nursing teams are taking climate action today – from green social prescribing to developing sustainable nursing tools. Highlights include an art installation by Lisa Ward Morris, and designs from 'PPE Refashioned' – a project to create sustainable gowns for health care staff by Nottingham School of Art and Design.



'Gown of Care' created by Cunnington & Sanderson  
Stylists – Safia Ismail and Lottie Blankstone



# Events

## You Mean the World: Exhibition Launch

RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN and online

**Thursday 14 November, 5pm**  
(talks from 6pm)

Hybrid

Join us for the launch of our new exhibition about nursing in the climate crisis. Enjoy free refreshments and a chance to look around the exhibition, alongside arts activities and talks on the history and future of nursing in a climate crisis. The event will be opened by Professor Rupert Read, co-director of the Climate Majority Project.

## Gowns and Caps: The Past, Present and Future of Nursing Uniforms

Starting at Fitzrovia Chapel, 2 Pearson Square, London W1T 3BF

**Saturday 23 November, 11am, £5**

In person

Explore the history of nursing uniforms in a guided tour of exhibitions at the Fitzrovia Chapel (formerly part of Middlesex Hospital) and the Royal College of Nursing.

We will start at the Fitzrovia Chapel exhibition 'In Uniform: Stories of Nurses and their Clothing' at 11am, followed by a 10-minute walk to the RCN to explore 'PPE Refashioned', an innovative project to create reusable health care gowns. Limited space available, so book early.

## BSL The Story of Britain's Black Nurses LS

RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN

**Wednesday 27 November, 5.30pm**

In person

From ancient and medieval Africa, through colonisation and enslavement, wars and times of great change, to the creation of the NHS and beyond, the story of nursing has also been the story of Britain's Black nurses. Join author Kandace Chimbiri for a potted history of Black nurses in Britain, as she launches a new book exploring trailblazing women including Asarto Ward, Annie Brewster and Mary Seacole.



The Fitzrovia Chapel

# Events

## Time to Decorate! Make your Own Sustainable Festive Decorations

RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN

**Thursday 12 December, 2-3pm**

In person

Join Ruby Caldito, whose recycled Christmas decorations feature in our 'You Mean the World' exhibition, to create your own festive items from recycled health care materials. This session is aimed at adults.



## Killer Smog: The History of Air Pollution and Occupational Health

**Wednesday 22 January 2025, 8pm**

Online

Since the industrial revolution, rising air pollution has had a devastating effect on human health. Today, it contributes to 36,000 deaths a year in the UK. Join scientist Peter Brimblecombe and public health nurse Tracey Cooke to explore the history of air pollution from factories to the 'Great Smog of London', alongside the role industrial nurses have played in public health.



Wellcome Collection



# Events

## Shaping Climate History: Planetary Health and Climate Change

Wednesday 26 February 2025, 5.30pm

Online

Today, it's widely recognised that human health is intimately connected to planet health. But how has this understanding come about? Join historian Deborah Coen and nursing professor Teddie Potter from Planetary Health and Environmental Justice to explore the past, present and future of global climate change and planetary health.



©Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading

## Live Drawing Workshop: Nursing and the Climate Crisis

RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN and online

Friday 7 March 2025, 6.30-7.30pm (doors at 6pm)

Hybrid

Join artist Lisa Gornick for a live drawing show delving into nursing and the climate crisis. An innovative form of storytelling, Lisa's show will draw on material from workshops she's led with nurses. Using a mixture of gentle comedy and poignant storytelling, this is DIY cinema with a difference.



## In Conversation with Nursing Pioneers: 'Dirty Nursing' – Pioneers in Transforming Women's Health

RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN and online

Thursday 6 March 2025, 5.30pm

Hybrid

This event brings together a panel of RCN Fellows and women's health experts to explore how nurses have pioneered change in this field.

Nurses have been at the forefront of gynaecology, reproductive health, and women's health more generally, to improve clinical care and outcomes. They have pioneered improvements in practice, carried out cutting-edge research and advanced education for nurses.

## Going Green: The History of Gardens and Health

Thursday 20 March 2025, 5.30pm

Online

Green social prescribing has become increasingly popular in recent years, with a growing understanding of the therapeutic benefits for physical and mental health.

Join historian India Cole to learn about the history of botanical gardens, while nurses Carolyn Fleurat and Anna Redpath talk about delivering the NHS Green Plan and the value of green social prescribing.



©Carolyn Fleurat

## Nurses and All that Rubbish! Drop-in family event

RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN

Saturday 5 April 2025, 11am-3pm

In person

Join us for our Easter drop-in family event, themed around rubbish in health care. Families are invited to enjoy hands-on activities and have fun while thinking about the need to recycle and re-use our waste.

Activities range from storytelling to arts and crafts and are aimed at ages 4+, but all are welcome!



©Justine Desmond

## Group workshops online

From using databases to making better use of our online resources, we have a range of member-only workshops that can support you whether you are studying or need information for professional development or work.

- Know How to Search CINAHL
- Introduction to RCN Library Services
- Library Essentials: finding books and articles online
- Easy Referencing... in 45 minutes
- Know How to Evaluate Health Care Information

We also offer online and in person one-to-one training sessions for RCN members on using our library resources and literature searching. Find out more: [rcn.org.uk/library/support/literature-searching-and-training](https://rcn.org.uk/library/support/literature-searching-and-training)



RCN members only. Book online at [rcn.org.uk/whatson](https://rcn.org.uk/whatson)

## Royal Literary Fund Workshops



From improving your confidence to writing for publication, we run a range of practical online workshops to help improve your skills at every level.

All sessions are interactive and led by a published writer from the Royal Literary Fellows scheme. Spaces are limited and book quickly, so keep an eye on our events page for more information: [rcn.org.uk/library/Exhibitions-and-Events](https://rcn.org.uk/library/Exhibitions-and-Events)

- 24 October 2024: Writing Case Studies
- 19 November 2024: Boost Your Writing Confidence
- 13 January 2025: Editing and Proofreading
- 11 February 2025: Reflective Writing
- 3 March 2025: Writing for Publications
- 24 April 2025: Report Writing

RCN members only. Book online at [rcn.org.uk/whatson](https://rcn.org.uk/whatson)



# Wellbeing and RCN Libraries

**RCN Libraries are not just study spaces, we're here for your wellbeing too.**

All members are welcome to pop in and use our spaces in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast – you don't need to be studying to use our wellbeing areas.



## Take Time Out

**We run a range of interactive online sessions to help nursing staff take time out of their day-to-day and improve their wellbeing.**

From yoga to poetry writing, meditation to doodling, sign up to our free monthly sessions at [rcn.org.uk/whatson](https://rcn.org.uk/whatson)

## Time to Doodle



# RCN Scotland Events

All events take place at RCN Scotland,  
42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2HH.



## Shining a Light: A History of Nursing Support Work

**19 November 2024-29 May 2025,  
Monday to Thursday 10am-4pm**

Nursing support workers are the heart of health and social care, making up almost 40% of the NHS clinical workforce.

From Victorian asylums and wartime volunteers, to nursing assistants and care workers today, this exhibition uncovers the long history and diversity of nursing support work and shines a light on the personal stories of nursing support workers today.

## Shining a Light: Exhibition Launch

**19 November 2024,  
5.30-8pm/Online 6-7.30pm**

**Hybrid**

Join us for the launch of our new exhibition to discover the fascinating history of nursing support work and celebrate the contribution that nursing support workers continue to make today.

Enjoy free refreshments and a chance to look around the exhibition, while celebrating the incredible work of Scotland's nursing support workers, and hearing from finalists in the Nursing Support Worker category of our RCN Scotland Nurse of the Year Awards who have made an outstanding contribution to the care of patients or residents.

## Hidden Voices

**6 February 2025,  
2-4.30pm**

**Hybrid**

Join us for this interactive event for nursing support workers from all settings to share stories and have your voice heard. Take part in a hybrid learning session, have a chance to network and tell us what matters to you in your role.

## Stories from Hospitals Back Home during the First World War

**29 April 2025,  
5.30-8pm/Online 6-7.30pm**

**Hybrid**

An evening of talks exploring how in the First World War, volunteers provided nurses with vital support as they cared for sick and wounded soldiers in hospitals, including the rehabilitation of soldiers at Craiglockhart War Hospital.



RCN members only. Book at [rcn.org.uk/whatson](https://rcn.org.uk/whatson)

Book at [rcn.org.uk/scotland/news-and-events/events](https://rcn.org.uk/scotland/news-and-events/events)

# Visitor information

If not otherwise specified, events are held at the address below.

## Visit

### Royal College of Nursing Library and Museum

20 Cavendish Square,  
London W1G 0RN

(Entrance via Henrietta Place)

### Monday-Friday:

10am-7pm

### Saturday:

10am-5pm

(closed Saturdays  
in December – check  
website for latest  
opening times)

## Contact

0345 337 3368

[rcn.library@rcn.org.uk](mailto:rcn.library@rcn.org.uk)

X @RCNlibraries

[rcn.org.uk/whatson](https://rcn.org.uk/whatson)

**RCN Library  
and Museum**



## Access

**All our venues are wheelchair accessible.**

Events marked **LS** are live subtitled

Events marked **BSL** have a BSL interpreter

Contact us if you have any access enquiries



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