

19 June 2020

Dear Member

I hope this letter finds you safe and well?

You will know that Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July is the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the NHS and the NHS invites everyone to say a big thank you for all those who have and are helping to get through this difficult time. The NHS is keen to not only show gratitude to all NHS staff but also give thanks to all those other keyworkers who kept the country going. It is intended that on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July people will be asked to do a final doorstep clap along the lines of those that were held for ten Thursdays in a row to show appreciation for NHS staff and other keyworkers and I hope you, your family, friends and neighbours will be able to join in that applause. It is also likely that there will be a minute to remember sometime on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July. By the time you receive this letter the actual details should be available in the media.

Who can forget the wonderful celebration that took place two years ago when the NHS celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Many of our members played a huge part in those celebrations in particular our Patron, Ethel Armstrong MBE who was interviewed by the media on countless occasions. We also had contributions from Olive Belfield, South Manchester Branch and Maisie Saunders, Sutton Coldfield Good Hope Branch who were part of the ceremonies at Westminster Abbey and York Cathedral respectively.

My last letter led to dozens of members giving Central Office permission to use their email address and I can't emphasize enough how much that can make a difference as we move towards trying to send more communications by email. Sending letters in the current circumstances means that there is a time lag of at least a week from it being typed to you receiving it whereas an email is instantaneous. If you have an email address and it is not known to Central Office please give it to us and permission to use it.



I am delighted that the free talks given to us by Mirthy are becoming so popular. At the last event on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June there were 390 of our members across England, Scotland and Wales participating. I am told that this was a record virtual audience for any of Mirthy's events and we are hoping to increase that number. It has been an amazing response and thanks go to Sally Bundock for organising it for us. The talks will continue on alternate Tuesdays until near normality returns. As I explained in my last letter all you have to do to is to register by going to [www.mirthy.co.uk/NHSRF](http://www.mirthy.co.uk/NHSRF) although it is surprisingly easy to register if you have any difficulty with this at all please contact a member of the Fellowship's staff.

Forthcoming talks:-

30 June	11.00 am	My Poisons - a darkly humorous look at 19 <sup>th</sup> century medicine
14 July	11.00 am	Travels with a Penguin to Antarctica
28 July	11.00 am	History and Mystery of Hypnosis
11 August	11.00 am	A Tibetan Journey

I am also pleased that more members are making use of Facebook which is another good way of communicating and our Facebook Group now has over 1,200 members.

Further unsurprisingly the details that have been circulated about Zoom meetings was also favourably received and I know that the Banbury Branch is going to have fortnightly Zoom meetings and I am sure that other branches will follow suit as they become more familiar with the process.

I know it is frustrating that the relaxation of the lockdown rules is cautious but necessary. It demonstrates that it was easy to close down but more difficult to ease the rules and I continue to emphasise that our paramount concern is to keep members and staff safe. Therefore, I am not able at this stage to give any indication when branch meetings can restart. There are however, opportunities for small groups of people to meet as long as they comply with social distancing.

Whilst we are doing our best to keep our members informed if there is anything you would particularly like included in future letters please get in touch?

If you are over 75 are you worried about having your TV Licence concession withdrawn from 1<sup>st</sup> August? If you are please let me know?

Finally we continue to want to engage with all our members and if there is anybody who would like to talk to someone from the Fellowship please get in touch by email, phone or letter.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



John Rostill OBE  
Chief Executive