

29 September 2020

Dear Member

Firstly, I do hope you are coping with the present situation and again let me emphasise that Fellowship staff are always available for you to talk to should you need any information or advice and I know that a number of you have taken the opportunity of speaking with staff and thanking the Fellowship for its continued engagement and involvement with members. I am delighted that many of you find these monthly letters helpful and informative. The members who have provided central office with their email address and permission to use it will have received this letter by email. If you too would like to receive your copy by email please contact central office.

Regrettably, I have to start by ruling out any suggestion that branch meetings can re-start in the foreseeable future. I have recently written to branch officers explaining the “rule of 6” as it applies to meetings and that these new legal requirements are likely to be in force for at least 6 months. The Trustees have, therefore, decided that branch meetings should not take place until the restrictions are relaxed.

However, although it looks as though branch meetings won’t take place, we still need to collect the capitation fee for this year which has been reduced by 50% to £10 per member. Branch Officers will be making arrangements to collect this so that it can be paid into Central Office by 15 January 2021. I have also advised Branch Officers that exceptionally in this year, it is accepted that Annual General Meetings may not be held but I have given advice as to how these can be organised other than face to face meetings.

The Mirthy talks continue to be very popular and the last one attracted over 450 participants. These will continue to be provided by Mirthy at no cost until at least the new year and possible for longer. The next set of talks are:-

6 October	History of Witches	Sandy Leong
20 October	Sentenced to “Beyond the Seas”	David Clark
3 November	Goose Grease and Brown Paper	Kath Reynolds
17 November	We Can’t Let You Broadcast That!	David Clark

I look forward to the fortnightly talks and seeing the banter between our members in the “chat” facility. To register go to our website www.nhsrf.org.uk and follow the link or enter <http://mirthy.co.uk/NHSRF/> in your browser.

I am also pleased to see that our Facebook page has now increased to over 1300 followers and if you are not already a follower, I think you will find it interesting to see what other members are doing and you can also let your NHS friends and family know about this page. The current topics which appear to be generating interest are suggestions about books to read, the latest being by Aneira Thomas, who was the first baby to be born in the NHS just after midnight on 5 July 1948. The title of her book is "Hold on Edna" which is a reference to the midwives asking her mother to wait until the clock struck 12!

Another recent favourite topic is the television recommendations, with the latest one being The Singapore Grip, shown at 9 pm on Sundays on ITV. Before that it was the remake of All Creatures Great and Small.

A while ago I sought expressions of interest for Trustee vacancies and I make the same plea now. Although the AGM was deferred for this year, there will be vacancies for Trustees who have to be members of the Fellowship. If you would like to get involved in the running and organising of the Fellowship, don't hesitate to give me a ring. We are looking for people to take on this responsibility from the beginning of April 2021.

The weekend of 26/27th September was the big App download weekend and you will have seen that most of the newspapers had a cover page promoting the NHS Covid-19 app which quickly alerts you if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, anonymously notifying anyone you have been in contact with, if you enter a positive coronavirus test result. Informing you of the coronavirus risk level in your local area (based on the first part of your post code) allowing you to check in to venues using a QR scanner so you can be notified quickly and anonymously if there is an outbreak. No doubt you will also have seen adverts on the TV about the app which the government is asking us all to sign up to. I have downloaded it; it is really quite simple and only takes a couple of minutes.

It is also now the time of year when you will be reminded by your GP of the need to have a flu vaccination. My reminder was sent to me late last week and I am advised to ring the surgery to book an appointment but also to save reminders, if I don't want one, to let them know.

Finally we do appreciate your continued support and membership. We very much hope that you will continue with your membership during this very difficult year. It is crucial for the sustainability of the Fellowship that we can continue to keep our membership numbers.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



John Rostill OBE
Chief Executive