

***SOUTH WEST NEWS***

25th March 2021



Dear All,

By now all members should have been offered a vaccination and I hope that for those who took it up it all went well. Do get in touch if for some reason you are still waiting.

Every household should be now have filled in their 2021 census reply. Again, if you are having any problems with this then please do get in touch.



Back to birds I did manage to get a photo of the Egyptian geese but not a very good one. If your eyes are good you will just about be able to make out the distinctive yellow marking around the top of their heads and down their necks. The other distinctive thing about them is that they will quite happily perch up a tree. Whether they use them for roosting or not I do not know.

On a different subject, does anyone belong to or know of any Facebook groups for retired members of particular NHS Trusts? They could be another way of spreading the word about our Fellowship.

Staying with Facebook, did you know that our own NHS Retirement Fellowship page now has more than 1,500 members. If you haven't had a look please do.

It has been a trying year for all for general and individual reasons. Many committees and members have been exemplary in helping each other stay connected and well. Would anyone like to nominate their branch for an award for the way they have demonstrated their fellowship during the lockdowns?

If things stay on track we can now look forward to meetings again later in the year.

Best wishes,

Paul

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Accord Legal Services are proud to be offering FREE WILLS for NHS, Police, Fire Service staff and all other Key Workers as our way of saying thank you for their hard work throughout this pandemic.

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MEMBER

APPROVED CODE
STANDARD

PLEASE NOTE

For the Cartridge World Offer you need to sign in as a member not as a guest then use the codes highlighted in pink above.

For the Accord offer, please quote NHSRF2021 when contacting them.

PROGRESS



AN AMAZING LOCKDOWN PROJECT

Do you enjoy reading social history stories, then this book is for you!

Valerie: the Whirlwind tells of her family background and of her Mother working at Bletchley Park during the war, of Bletchley in the 1960s and her nurse training at the world famous Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Working in the Mental Health field, she provides tales of experiences, as a Community Psychiatric Nurse for 26 years, of interesting patients and difficult situations.

It tells of the many adventures volunteering in St John Ambulance and later when free of family commitments, she is able to become a volunteer nurse abroad in Jerusalem, Cape Town and Malaysia.

Spending six months and many other visits to Jerusalem, Valerie is able to give an insight into places away from the tourist sites, with the proceeds of the books going to the St John Eye Hospital

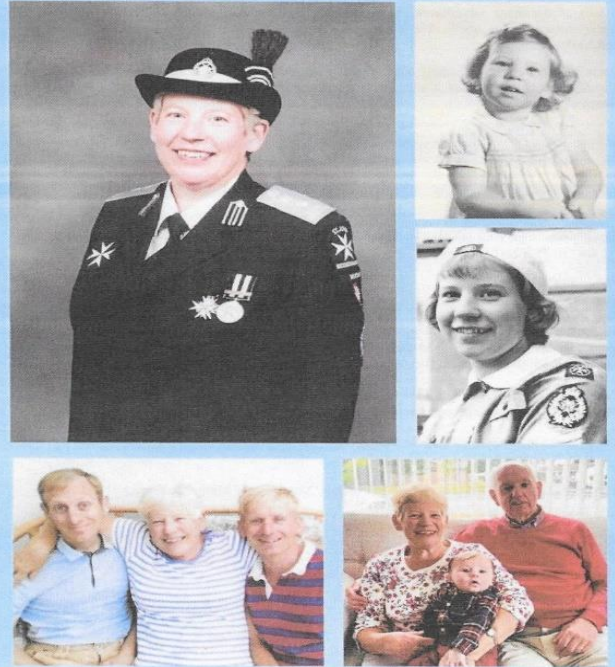


Please can you encourage your relatives, friends and associates to purchase this book, as the proceeds are for the St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem, a charity dear to my heart.

Please order from:

Mrs Valerie Young OstJ
23 Smugglers Wood Road
Christchurch
Dorset BH23 4PJ
Tel 01425-501005
M 07958680718
Email: theyoungteam2001@hotmail.com

VALERIE: THE WHIRLWIND My Life & Adventures



Valerie Young

Colour copies £22 Black and White copies £12
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Please send me ----- copies of Valerie The Whirlwind
I enclose £----- for ----- copies and cheque for -----

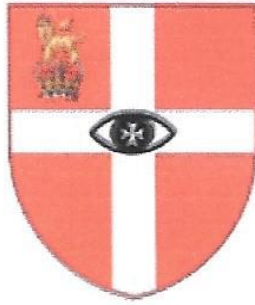
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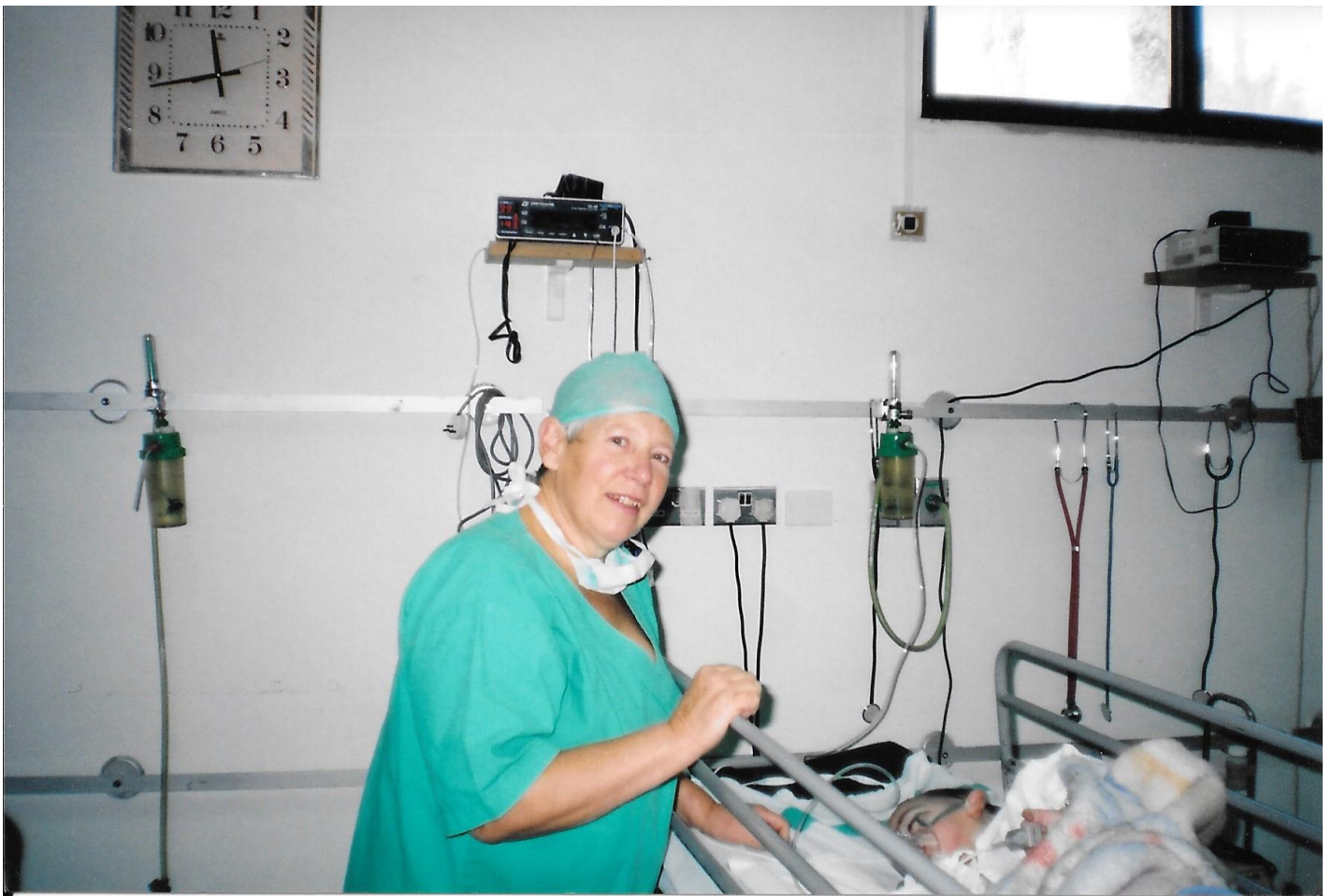
Cheques made payable to Valerie Young
For BACS payment my details are as follows-

Mrs Valerie Young
Sort code 40-47-84
Account no 91849956

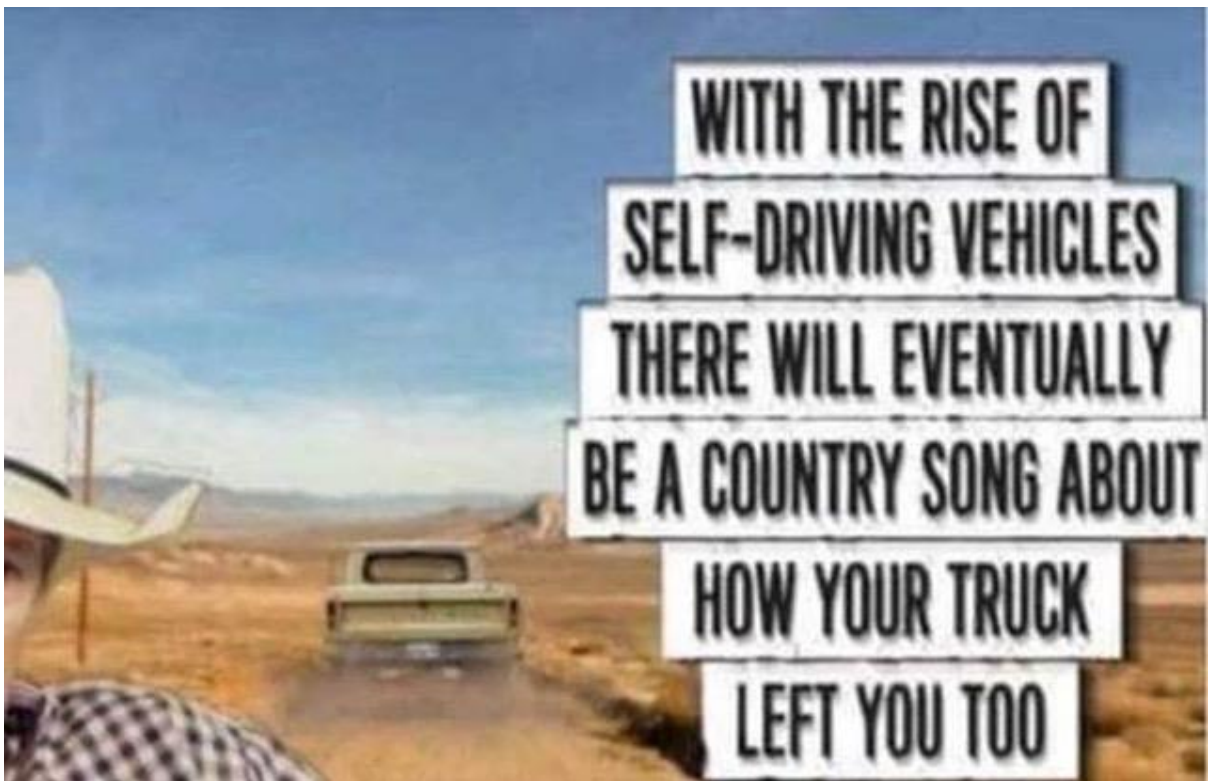


St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of expert eye care in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. Our aim is to end preventable blindness throughout Palestine. We have been treating patients in the region regardless of their ethnicity, religion, social class or ability to pay for over 135 years.

Our sight saving work is carried out against challenging odds to the highest international standards.



MORE PROGRESS



A LITTLE NHS STORY OF MY OWN

This happened many moons ago, when my son, Bertie, was 30 months old and still frequently attending hospital (he has Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome). At the time I wore army uniform to work but because of the existing threat from the IRA, if I was leaving the camp I was required to be in civilian clothes. If I was attending a meeting I was very smartly booted and suited, the relevance of this will become apparent later.

For one of Bertie's pm appointments with a consultant pediatrician I was too short of time to change from work and so just grabbed him from home and sped off to the hospital arriving without a minute to spare and checked in.

We waited a bit, a couple of heads briefly popped round the door and we waited a bit more. Eventually a registrar came in and introduced himself and with profuse apologies explained that the consultant was not there, he couldn't find Bertie's notes and that anyway I could probably tell him more about Bertie than he could me. But, he explained that he would hate for me to have had a wasted journey and he was mentoring four junior doctors who had their registrar's exams later that week and it would be very beneficial to them to be able to examine Bertie and see what they made of him.

This seemed fair enough to me and on the proviso that if Bertie became distressed we were leaving, I agreed. He went off to round up his budding pediatricians and we were called into a room where the registrar introduced me as Mr Pople and Bertie as an interesting case. They were told to examine Bertie and say all they could about him and that "Mr Pople" will tell you if you are correct.

They were surprisingly casual in their conversation as they tossed a few ideas around amongst themselves and then turned to me and said they couldn't see much other than he seemed a bit frail. I was really surprised. Firstly because they didn't notice anything and secondly that they were so casual about it with me. I suggested they look again at his chest (he had undergone a 4 hr heart operation within the previous 12 months and the scars were plainly there). I teased that out of them and then suggested they look closely at his left eye. They all saw it then and one was actually hopping up and down saying "I know it. I know it. Its an, ah, umm, coloboma."

I confirmed this and offered that they might look at the placement of his ears.

Well, I had never seen doctors behaving like this and it slowly dawned on me that because of the way the registrar (who had a cheeky grin on his face at their antics) had introduced us and because of my age and attire they had assumed that I was in fact one of them, maybe a visiting registrar or young consultant, rather than a hapless parent for whom the usual confident "bedside" manner was required.

It went on a little longer and I explained what I could for them about things to look out for to spot children with genetic abnormalities and then the registrar wrapped it up and said "Thank you Mr Pople. You can take your son home now".

Instantly the penny dropped with all of them and to say their chins hit the floor was an understatement as they realized they had been behaving so casually with a member of the public.

As ever, contributions and feedback are extremely welcome.

Best wishes,

Paul