

6 July 2022

Dear Member

I hope you are having a good summer and are able to enjoy the better weather?

I would like to give a very warm welcome to you if you are one of our new members that joined the organisation directly or indirectly as a result of an invitation you received with your P60. I am delighted you have joined and hope that you soon find membership brings you fun, friendship and fellowship in your retirement.

Yesterday was the 74th anniversary of the NHS, which means of course, that next year will be the 75th anniversary coinciding with the 45th anniversary of the NHS Retirement Fellowship. It may seem quite a long way off, but time will go quickly and I know that we will be asked to participate in the NHS celebrations in July 2023 and I would welcome your thoughts and contributions on how best this may be achieved.

I am aware of how well branches can celebrate, demonstrated by the Facebook coverage relating to the platinum jubilee last month.

I am very pleased that the number of individuals joining our Facebook page has now gone over the 3000 mark - that is a tremendous achievement and is almost a tenfold increase from a few years ago.

I was particularly pleased to attend the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Edinburgh and Lothians branch. The branch was honoured that the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care in Scotland - Humza Yousef had accepted an invitation to attend the event. He spoke glowingly about the impact of the NHSRF in Scotland, made a delightful speech and presented honorary membership scrolls to 5 long serving members. There will be full coverage of that event - and many others - in the next issue of the Fellowship newsletter.

#### P60 campaign

All NHS pension holders in England, Scotland and Wales received their annual P60 statement during April and May. The envelope included an invitation to join the NHSRF and I am pleased to say that this generated considerable interest and has led so far to an increase in membership of some 2500.

#### Postal members

A large proportion of our new members have chosen to become postal members. I will be writing separately to postal members in the near future to understand how we can best meet your needs. I am always happy to chat with members so if you want to talk to me directly, please don't hesitate to make contact.

### Benefits on offer

It does seem that many of our members were attracted by some of the benefits that we offer, particularly the travel insurance deal with more than 120 people taking up the offer in the last three months. Membership of the Civil Service Club in London is also proving popular as is the opportunity to take up the Blue Light discount card into retirement. There are potentially huge savings from some of these benefits, which you can see on <https://nhsrf.org.uk/members-area/members-benefits>

### AGM and Conference 2022

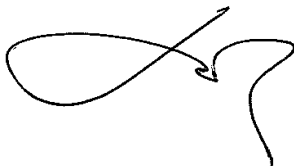
I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Conference and AGM in October - full details are available on our website and they have always been very sociable occasions with a chance to catch up with old friends and make new friends from other branches. I know many members look forward to this event but I have to say the take up so far has been disappointingly low so if you are proposing to attend please book soon. We have 52 entries for our first short story competition the winner of which will be announced at the conference. In addition, on Monday 24 October there is an opportunity to visit the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas by coach where the chair of the NHSRF will lay a wreath at the national nurses' memorial.

I emphasise that this trip is open to any member, not just conference delegates. The cost is £27 with coach and £19 without - full details have been sent to your Branch Secretary and you can find them on our website - [www.nhsrf.org.uk](http://www.nhsrf.org.uk) or contact IoW Tours for more information on 01983 405116 or [enquiries@lowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@lowtours.com)

Finally for all golf enthusiasts, or even anyone who likes hiking round a course, this year's golf tournament is to be held in Telford on Thursday 25 August. Again, there has been a very slow take up to this event but further details can be found on our website - [www.nhsrf.org.uk](http://www.nhsrf.org.uk) or by contacting IoW Tours on 01983 405116 or [enquiries@lowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@lowtours.com)

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



John Rostill OBE  
Chief Executive