



Jayne Tetik



"I started training in 1974 at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. You were supposed to be turned 17 but I wasn't 17 until after the course had started. I was 20 months in Bath and it was very good training. The structures were so hierarchical, and it was very task orientated. The sister was very strict about time keeping and how you made the beds. You worked for eight nights on and six nights off. The doors to the nurses' home were locked at 11pm and if you were late you had to go past the night sister's office. If you were late three times you had to go and see the matron and of course there were no boys allowed in the nurses' home! The night sister used to have to go on a bicycle as she covered two hospitals. On Christmas Day we would serve the patients then have our lunch in the dining room. The consultants would carve the turkey and serve us, it was a tradition.

"I remember that if a woman was having a hysterectomy, her husband had to sign the consent form.....The gynae ward could be very difficult. You would be dealing with women who were in the process of losing a baby and you would just have to deal with it. There was no support, you just had to get on with it but I was very young and I found that very hard.

"A lot of the patients were there for the long term so you really got to know them very well. Visiting was very restricted on the children's wards. I was a nurse for four decades and parents living on the wards was something that only started in my last years although one parent was allowed to stay on a camp bed from the 1980s. It went from being very task orientated to very family centred and that was good.

"We had some auxiliaries who were very good and very experienced and would help you out.

"I worked in the NHS for 46 years and there were many changes. It definitely became less hierarchical which was good. In the early days you would very rarely see the doctor and it was all left to us. If we didn't have enough beds, we just made up cots in the playroom. It changed from looking after lots of people with tasks to looking after smaller groups of people, in more depth. I loved nursing all my career despite the ups and downs, the hard work and the changes I experienced over five decades."