



Doreen Mundy



"I was 17 when I started as a cadet nurse. I began my training at City Hospital in Nottingham in 1954. My grandparents were both nurses - my grandfather was the head of the mental health hospital - he was called the matron. When my grandmother died, he married her sister and she was a Red Cross nurse. I announced at the age of three I was going to be a nurse.

"It was an apprenticeship style of training and we all lived in. We didn't pay for anything. You did a few weeks on the ward and then went to the classroom to learn some more and then back on the ward. Later on I trained to be a health visitor and I had to go to university for that but I didn't learn anything there. The real learning took place out on the job.

"I enjoyed my nursing very much. I remember nursing a child with polio, his parents didn't want him back home and he was in hospital for a long time. He wanted to go to the park so I asked the matron but she said no.

"I was 25 when I got married and I finished my training and went on to do midwifery training. I went part time after I had the children until 1976 when I became a health visitor. I was also an infant feeding specialist, making sure that premature babies could get enough breast milk otherwise they would die. I was working 8am - midnight shifts

and one night my car was stolen and I re-looked at what I was doing. The scheme was at Kingston Hospital in Surrey and it won a Unicef awards."