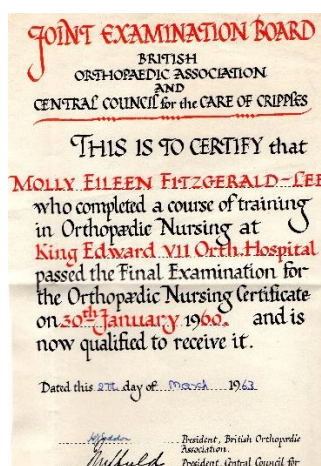


Molly Gibson



"I trained at University College in London between 1960 and 1963. I started when I was 18. I left school when I was 16 and the two avenues for pre nursing then either to be a cadet nurses or to do an orthopaedic nursing certificate which I chose to do in Sheffield. I'd only come to England from Africa the year before and I made such good friends - the camaraderie was lovely. Some of those girls are life long friends. Our training allowance was £285 per year which left you with about £2 and seven shillings a week for yourself. They looked after us well though.



"They encouraged 'mental and physical recreation' for student nurses so we did a lot of swimming and tennis and had inter hospital competitions. We used to get free tickets to things like the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

"I then trained as a midwife but my father died and my mother wasn't coping so I moved back home. I worked for British Nuclear Fuels in the occupational health team. Then I got married and my husband was in the civil service and we lived in Wiltshire when the children were small. I worked evenings in the family planning clinic until 1985 when my husband was relocated to Blackpool. I did a health visiting course as my mother had been a local health visitor and I worked as a Community Practice Teacher in Blackpool until I retired in 2005

"It has been a very satisfactory career and I have enjoyed it."

