



Val Notman



"I trained at the Queen Elizabeth School of Nursing in Birmingham, between 1964 and 1968.

During the first two years of training, it was compulsory to live in the nurses' home and it was in this environment that great friendships were formed. We were a large group and many of us are still in contact today.

Following Registration, I worked as a Staff Nurse and Senior Staff Nurse on a General Surgery/Colo-Rectal ward at the Queen Elizabeth hospital. I loved the uniforms that we wore – they fitted well and looked smart, which made us feel very special and proud. The different style caps denoted seniority within the profession. The most notable change was when the short cap changed to a long cap. There was always great excitement on the finals results day when we all looked around the dining room for all the new "long caps".

In 1970 I moved to North Wales for a short period. I had a short break and then secured a Staff Nurse position at Chester Royal Infirmary. I worked on General Surgical and Mixed Speciality Private patients wards, progressing to Ward Sister level.

In 1974 I moved to Gloucestershire and subsequently joined the Surgical unit as a Junior Sister at Cheltenham General Hospital. This was the start of an enjoyable thirty-nine years at Cheltenham General.

Retirement from the wards gave me an opportunity to work, once again, as a Staff Nurse. I started to work part time in the Oncology/Chemotherapy Outpatients unit and practiced the "hands-on nursing" that I had always enjoyed the most.

I enjoyed working for the NHS. It was a privilege to do so, and I never wanted to do anything else. My colleagues in the ward team enjoyed working together to provide the best possible care for patients. We were like a family to me and some of us are friends today."