Spring Awards Ceremony welcomes 65 new QNs



Jane Cummings (centre) with Outstanding Service winners




NGS Chief Executive George Plumptre

Almost 220 community nurses and their guests gathered for an evening of celebration on International Nurses Day.

At the event, five nurses received the Queen Mother's Award for Outstanding Service. Fifteen nurses were presented with awards for completion of Fund for Innovation and Leadership projects during 2013, and 65 Queen's Nurses received their badges and certificates.

The Outstanding Service Awards were presented by Kate Billingham CBE, Chair of the QNI's Council. Julia Gibson-Cranch, Christine Madeley, Ruth Oshikanlu, Candice Pellet OBE and Claire Rowley were presented with their certificates, signed by the charity's Patron, HM The Queen. The award was founded in 1994 and is presented to nurses who have given exceptional service to patients.

The project leaders of the Fund for Innovation and Leadership were presented with their certificates by Lady Henrietta St George. Lady Henrietta is a trustee of the Burdett Trust for Nursing, which provides financial support to this key programme run by the QNI. The individual projects run for one year and were completed in December 2013. Together they improved the lives of hundreds of patients.

The Queen's Nurses were presented with their badges and certificates by Jane Cummings, CNO England. The title of Queen's Nurse (QN) indicates a commitment to the values of community nursing, to excellent patient care, and to a continuous process of learning and leadership. Locally, they are leading improvement projects and redesigning services to improve care for patients. Nationally, they have been in demand from a number of organizations including the Department of Health, for their expertise in and commitment to community nursing. Ms Cummings said that today's QNs embody the virtues of the theme for International Nurses Day 2014, which is: 'Nurses are a force for change and a vital resource for health'.

The audience also heard from George Plumptre, chief executive of The National Gardens Scheme (NGS), the QNI's long term partner and key funder. Mr Plumptre joined the other speakers in congratulating the award winners and QNs and paid tribute to the vital importance of the work that they do improving care for patients in their own homes and communities everywhere. Kate Billingham and the QNI's chief executive, Dr Crystal Oldman, together thanked the NGS and the thousands of garden owners who volunteer for it, for the vital funds that they raise for the QNI each year.