



Vice Chairperson's Report 2016 – Gilly Tomsett

This has been my last year in post which again has been 'action packed', following the ASCN Conference in Birmingham. Birmingham proved to us again the popularity of a conference situated centrally in the country. Again it was really interesting and satisfying to read the feed-back from everyone who attended and particularly as membership keeps growing. All comments are reviewed and considered by the committee to make improvements for the next conference in Bournemouth, which hopefully will be evident. We also look forward to the presentation from the new ASCN Bursary award.

It was also taken into consideration this year the future changes required to have a transparent working relationship with Industry so hence asking members to pay for their own dinner tickets whilst the committee continue to provide a conference with a high educational content.

The ASCN committee members decided that ASCN required a clear direction and thus needed a strategy. I have been involved in writing this and up-dating it so that it is available on the web-page, along with other important information or newsflashes.

Following on from the strategy the ASCN committee decided we would like to involve our area representatives more in the delivery of projects. We therefore had several productive meetings with the area representatives who continue to be very enthusiastic and each writing National Clinical Guidelines for a stoma related conditions, which I was also involved in for the first publication and there is now a second wave for additional conditions. The second ASCN workshop for 'Parastomal Hernias' took place in Scotland this year and was a great success but I was unable to attend. The committee are now considering future topics for workshops to travel the country. One suggestion was Colostomy Irrigation which we have written the National Clinical Guidelines for and I was able to present recently at a Study Day held by B Braun in London.

Further general workshops were held at the London Nurse Show held over two days in February 2016 where all the committee members participated in promoting the practical skills of stoma care and how this would improve the patient experience.

In March 2016, Simon Turley and myself, attended the British Journal of Nursing Award Dinner, as there was a category for Stoma Care. It was at the Shakespeare Globe, London and we met many different Nurses from every speciality, all of us dressed up and sparkled. We were very proud to celebrate with the three nurses nominated and this included the winner Susan Moore.

The details of the ASCN for the Charity Commission need to be accurate so that we fit into their brief of being a Registered Charity, which I have been monitoring.

As this will be my last report before handing over to my successor I wish to express that I have learnt so much from being part of a National Committee. We have embarked on a new adventure to increase the educational content specific to stoma care and unite the stoma nurses nationally. This has led to an increase in its membership that has made the National Association for Stoma Care Nurses UK so successful and I have been very proud to have been part of this. I also wish to 'Thank' my fellow committee members who have made my experience so enjoyable.