



Secretary's Report – Jackie McPhail

2020 is the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, as the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale is remembered. Earlier this year I reflected to the Area Reps that she concentrated on the prevention of infection to aid her patients and it is totally ironic we are doing that now.

The Area Reps worked hard at our Annual Conference in Wales last year at the wonderful new International Conference Centre Wales at Newport. They have continued to represent their members and attended a face to face meeting in Birmingham in November. Little did we know that the 24th March 2020 Area Rep meeting would be cancelled due to the first day of lock down! However updates were sent in from the Areas. In July we had our first Zoom Virtual Area Reps meeting with fantastic attendance. Further to the feedback from the Areas we acknowledge that some of you had to be redeployed to other areas within the NHS during the Pandemic. Whilst some were busy with stoma due to the Cancer Hubs set up to maintain surgery for those patients with cancer that required surgery. In addition the Colorectal surgeons being encouraged to form stomas rather than anastomosis to reduce the risks. It felt strange seeing all the ostomy patients having laparotomy wounds as the norm. Community Stoma Care became even more challenging. The ASCN UK Committee ensured that any changes to colorectal surgery or Stoma Care were posted on our new website. The traffic light system in the hospitals set up during the Pandemic, have now been replaced with green and blue zones for nurses to accommodate in their daily work with elective surgery and those requiring treatment having not previously self-isolated. Although some hospitals have additional purple zones.

We will be holding the next Area Rep meeting on 12th November 2020 prior to the AGM when we will be embracing a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams.

My four years are nearly up! It has flown by, it has been a challenge but a real privilege to work with both the hard working and knowledgeable Committee members and the very supportive and active Area Reps. I have much more knowledge now of the background work that goes into the annual Conference that the Committee undertake each year and wish to thank my colleagues. The role of Secretary will be advertised next year and voted on, if necessary, at Conference 2021. I look forward to 'seeing' members at conference in 2021.

Jackie McPhail, Secretary, ASCN UK