**Presidential Welcome to Anniversary Tea Party (2023)**

Hallo, my name is Professor Bernie Carter, I’m Professor of Children’s Nursing at Edge Hill University and I’m President of the ABPN.

I am delighted to welcome everyone to the Association of British Paediatric Nurses’ (ABPNs) Anniversary Tea Party. As the oldest children’s nursing association in the world we can be rightly proud of the work we have achieved over the past 85 years and we’re glad to have you with us.

It seems apt for a children’s nursing association to have a tea party as the start of its celebrations; and although we don’t have a dormouse or the Mad Hatter as guests (or at least I don’t think we do!), we do have a sparkling list of guests including:

* The Deputy Lord Lt of the West Midlands, Colonel Doctor Heidi Doughty
* The Worshipful Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Maureen Cornish
* Our newly appointed Fellows
* Lisa Johnstone from Sage, who publishes the Journal of Child Health Care
* Leaders, past and present, in children’s nursing

We are also delighted to welcome so many friends and past Officers of the Association.

For those of you who don’t know the Association, it started in 1938 and was formed because of:

**…..the need for an association that could further the interests of sick children’s hospital nurses, to enable them to discuss matters pertaining to the nursing of sick children and to encourage social activities and stimulate good will and friendship**

Our remit is now wider than hospital nurses and children’s nurses now work in pretty much every setting you can imagine, schools, children’s homes, children’s centres, GP surgeries, research laboratories, government, local authorities, refugee camps…… and their roles have changed, and opportunities expanded.

However, at the heart of it, the ABPN is still focused on improving the education of nurses working with children and young people.

And, as you can see from the fact that we are gathering for a tea party, it means that we are still as committed as the original **79 ladies** who attended the first meeting to **encouraging social activities, good will and friendship.**

I wish you all well and hope you enjoy the tea and friendship.

**Professor Bernie Carter**

**Professor of Children’s Nursing, Edge Hill University**

**President, ABPN.**

**27th April 2023**