**Chair’s Address (Caron Eyre)**

**85th Anniversary celebrations**

Good afternoon, I am Caron Eyre and I am happy to tell you I am the Chair of the ABPN.

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our guests this afternoon.

I'd like to especially thank the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Colonel Doctor Heidi Doughty and the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor Birmingham, Councillor Maureen Cornish for supporting our event and being here this afternoon.

Before I proceed, I’d like to ask Prof Bernie Carter, ABPN President to address you.

[Address by Prof Bernie Carter, ABPN President]

Thank you, Bernie.

In due course I will explain the afternoon's proceedings but first I'd like to ask Madam Mayor to address the audience.

[Address by Lady Mayor Maureen Cornish]

I'm going to explain our plan for this afternoon we've got about short speeches from our President and me, then we will invite you to go table by table to collect your tea party goodies. Tea and coffee is available. We’d like this afternoon to be very informal so please do mingle. We have our singer Barratt who will be accompanying the afternoon. Our photographer Jon will also be taking photographs throughout the afternoon so that we can have some memories to look back on.

We've had a busy and successful 84th year.

We have reflected on the Association’s past, and we were successful in a bid to the National Lottery, to deliver an Oral History Project. Our plan is to collect the oral history, stories and the nursing journeys of our members and from as many children and young people's nurses as we can. You'll notice on your tables there are notebooks and postcards. If you'd like to help us with the oral history project, can I ask you to put your contact details, name e-mail and phone number in the book so that we can contact you later. The notebooks are also there for any messages you’d like to leave too, such as requests for more information about our plans; updating your personal details etc.

This reflection on our past and the Oral History Project prompted us to review The Blue Book, which is a chronology of our history. I read it for the first time after becoming the Chair, it was fascinating. The Blue Book is now on our website and is a live document and easy to access. I’d like to invite you to help us add to it (so you can use the notebook for any suggestions for changes too).

On the tables are postcards. There are two per person, on one we would like you to tell us what you think the most important thing has been for children’s nursing and on the other for you to tell us of your hopes for children and young people's nursing and nurses. We will gather these to include in the Oral History Project launch next year.

We're very lucky to have five children and young people's student nurses with us this afternoon. They will help us to collect the postcards and notebooks and prompt you to complete them should you have got distracted by the cakes or your friends. They’ll collect them at the end of the afternoon.

I’d like to invite you to look at our ABPN memorabilia table, special thanks to our member Margaret Gwilliams for her help in setting this and the tombola table up today. The proceeds from the tombola will be used to progress the ABPN’s vision in 2024.

In the past year we have re-established our partnerships with the ACCN and the CYPANUK. I am delighted to tell you that the chairs of both associations are here today.

We have our colleagues from SAGE here who publish our journal (the Journal of Child Health Care) which will be moving to an electronic version over the next couple of years – we will share more information with members shortly

I’d also like to thank colleagues from Kyowa Kirin who have kindly sponsored this afternoon’s event. We have worked with them in year to support their clinical educational programme and webinar about rare diseases. Unfortunately, they are unable to attend today due to an organisational change process. I am sure we can all sympathise and remember how totally consuming organisational changes are!!

This year we relaunched ABPN Fellows Award.

We will now take some time to recognise our 2023 Fellows

This year we made 8 awards. I will announce the fellowships and ask Professor Bernie Carter, ABPN President to present the awards.

The ABPN fellows for 2023 are,

1. Ann Bisbrown Lee.

Ann is awarded the Fellowship of the ABPN for services to the association. Anne is hard working, loyal and committed member of the ABPN, known to many for her work at conferences and leading the marketing activity of the association.

1. Steven Campbell.

Steven is awarded the fellowship of the ABPN for services to the association. Stephen was the first editor of the journal of child health care and provided considerable support to the ABPN in a variety of roles during the 80s and 90s. Steven is unfortunately not able to attend today to pick to collect his awarded fellowship. I think we can we can forgive him as he lives in Tasmania

1. Rachel Cooke.

Rachel is awarded the fellowship of the ABPN for contribution to nursing care of children and young people. Rachel has made a significant contribution to the palliative care of children and young people in the UK and abroad noticeably Romania and Ukraine and has led changes to care at the time of the child's death and bereavement support in London.

1. Norman Long.

Norman is awarded the fellowship of the ABPN and for services to the association. Norman has been a longstanding member of the governance and development group of the association most notably as the finance officer over many, many years.

1. Professor Bertha Ochieng.

Professor Ochieng is awarded the fellowship of the ABPN for services to the healthcare of children young people. Bertha is a children's nurse and some of her work focuses on community empowerment and engagement of socially disadvantaged populations.

1. Gerri Sefton

Gerri is awarded the fellowship of the ABPN for services to the nursing care of CYP. Gerri is an Consultant Nurse, working in children’s critical care and is an expert on paediatric early warning systems.

1. Fiona Smith

Fiona following a career in children's nursing Fiona became the CYP advisor at the RCN, personally supporting and mentoring many children's nurses. Fiona played a key role in establishing the European Paediatric Nursing Network.

1. Michael Tatterton

Michael is awarded fellowship the ABPN Michael is a clinical academic and currently professional lead for the CYP nursing at Bradford and Clinical Director for a children's Hospice. Michael has led a number of developments in children community services, children's hospices and children's palliative care.

To our members we would like to thank you for your affiliation to us. To our guests who are not yet members we’d very much like you to consider joining us and sharing your expertise with us. Can I ask you to speak to one of the G&D members this afternoon who will further entice you to join us.

Now it is time to enjoy the Tea Party, starting with the President’s and Chair’s tables. Can you please make your way to the other room and collect your food and drink.

**Closing Address**

On behalf of the Officers of the ABPN I’d like to thank you for attending and sharing this afternoon’s celebrations with us. It’s been lovely to see so many friends and colleagues together.

Once again thank you to Kyowa Kirin for support our Tea Party.

I am sure you will join me in wishing the Association another very successful 85 years.