

RCN Library and Archives Handling Collection

“The variety of form and brilliancy of colour in the objects presented to patients are an actual means of recovery”

Florence Nightingale

What is it?

A collection of historical items, sourced from our own archive, donated to or made for this handling collection. The items tell the story of the RCN and give an insight into how nursing has changed (and how it's still the same!) through pieces of nursing equipment, journal articles and RCN paraphernalia.

Everything in the box can be touched, tried on and pages can be turned for a good read! Sessions will be facilitated by a member of Library and Archive Services staff. Sessions are relaxed and exploratory, leaving members free to discover things for themselves. As facilitator, it's your job to encourage discussion and highlight particular objects, pages and offer more info.



What's inside?

Objects and badges

- Nurse's Chatelaine, 1800s replica
- Nurse's Chatelaine, 1880 – 1910 replica
- Ceramic urinal, Boots, c.1960-70
- Net bag and spring scale for weighing babies c.1920 - 1930
- St John's Ambulance Association triangle bandage c.1910
- Bone tongue depressor 19th C
- RCN hands badges 1980s
 - Blue/red
 - Blue/blue
- RCN of the UK badge
- RCN Student Nurses Association badge
- RCN 'blue hands' badge, c.1970-80
- General Nursing Council badge
- Membership cards x3 1960s

Paper documents

- *The History and Architecture of 20 Cavendish Square* book
- *Sue Barton Senior Nurse*, Helen Dore Boylston
- *Salt in the Wound* graphic novel
- *Dr Brad's Nurse* short story
- *Nursing Times*
 - 1905 (Vol 1 No 1)
 - 1939
 - 1966
 - 1980
- *Nursing Mirror and Midwives Journal*
 - 1914
 - 1982
- RCN Annual Report
 - 1923
 - 1960