

# THE MURAL PROJECT

Improving the recovery environment at The Pilgrim Hospital, Lincolnshire

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It was reading an article in *Anaesthetic & Recovery Nurse* (Vol. 4 – No. 4 – ‘Creating a Separate Themed Children’s area in the recovery unit’) that stimulated my thoughts about improving the environment in one of our recovery rooms.

Most of the staff were enthusiastic about what became – ‘the Mural Project’. Different ways of proceeding were investigated – for example, our initial attempts to utilise the talent of the local art college was thwarted by the demands of the infections control team. Also, student’s free time did not coincide with the absence of patients, which might have jeopardised patient confidentiality.

Eventually, a local artist was commissioned to do a mural. Next, funds were raised from the local Health Authority and from Boston Borough Council Arts Development Fund. B&Q donated the paint. Just as Catherine Heap found, some of the charitable organisations who were approached commented that the money would be better spent elsewhere. Some did not know that patients spent any time at all in the theatres after their operations.

Over the course of a few Sundays a tree grew, prompting remarks about tramps needing shelter in the woods...But the comments softened, as did the landscape, as the birds, flowers and grasses emerged in the foreground.

We think it has been a worthwhile project, since it has improved the blank wall, not just for the children, but for the adults and the many staff who come to theatres. Thanks Catherine Heap and BARNA for giving us the idea.



Picture from left to right: Sr. Chris Holliday, SN Sylvia Earl (Author), the artist Bridget Askew, on the steps giving the mural the finishing touch. Barrie Higham, Boston Council's Arts and Tourism Manager, Charge Nurse Chris Chesson.

## BARNA MEMBERSHIP NEWS



### Membership Card Review

Many of you will still not have received membership cards for 2000. These are still under review and we hope to replace the current card ones shortly with something a little trendier. Please bear with us, I apologise for the lengthy delay but resolving these simple issues is a voyage of discovery for us all.

### Membership Fees Increase

Our current membership fees are unfortunately hardly covering our journal costs alone at present

and so at conference this year, an open discussion was held at the AGM in order that members could put forward their views and listen to ours on a proposed increase in fees. A resolution was passed to raise annual subscription fees with immediate effect to £20.00 for nurse members and £30.00 for associate members.

### Subscription Payments

There are still many unpaid subscriptions outstanding, whilst I am trying to write to you all individually, this is a lengthy process. If you think you may not have renewed your subscription, then please do contact me at the address found at the front of the journal.

I am also introducing an annual renewal date from date of joining for all new members to ease