

<i>Name</i>	Rachel Lawrence
<i>How long have you been a nurse?</i>	33 years
<i>What inspired you to be a nurse?</i>	My mother was a nurse and my great aunt was a nurse with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in the Second World War. I loved biology at school and wanted a career where I make a difference.
<i>How did you get into this career? What steps did it take since leaving school?</i>	I applied for RGN courses straight from school and after a year out I started my training at the age of 19.
<i>Can you tell us a bit about the training you undertook for your role?</i>	Three years training in London and then 18 months on a staff nurse rotation before moving to Bristol and starting my career in primary care and doing my health visiting training in 1992. I moved from health visiting to community paediatrics in 2010 and I love this specialty.
<i>What's been the highlight of your career so far?</i>	I won an all-expenses scholarship to the USA in 1988. A three-week wonderful trip to explore the American Healthcare system. A real highlight.
<i>What do you like most about being a nurse?</i>	The variety and the sense that every patient is different. Meeting their needs and empowering them to make a difference to their health and their outcomes.
<i>What's the most challenging part of being a nurse?</i>	Managing limited resources and having to make decisions about how to apportion these is the greatest challenge.

<i>What are the main skills needed to do your role?</i>	Compassion and clinical knowledge go hand in hand.
<i>Do you have any advice for the next generation of nurses?</i>	Keep care and compassion at the heart of all you do.
<i>My wish for the future of nursing is...</i>	To keep the training as practical as possible. To teach the next generation of being caring and compassionate alongside really good clinical knowledge.