

Honorary Secretary Report 2025

Carolyn Swash



This is sadly my last report as Honorary Secretary and when I reflect on the past four years and the changes that we have gone through they are profound. My first conference- Harrogate was the first one ASCN UK held following covid, it was still a scary time. Conference 2024- a collaborative conference with WCET/ASCN UK was amazing with so many international nurses present representing our profession and willing sharing their knowledge and skills to help us help our patients. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at ICC Wales and catching up.

This year has been a busy one. The ASCN UK Area Representatives remain crucial to ensure that we remain current and credible with our members. Gill Skipper has announced her retirement from the role, and we thank her for all her hard work over the years- she has been a true advocate for our profession. Gill has handed over to Toni Johnson who is an experienced stoma care nurse, and we welcome her to ASCN UK. Sandra Cheetham retired from both stoma care nursing as well as being an ASCN UK Area Representative. We send her very best wishes for the future. In addition to welcoming Toni, we welcome Isla Ramsay, again a very experienced stoma care nurse, who will be representing the Scottish voice as an ASCN UK Area Representative.

To date, this year we have held two area representative meetings, one in person and one via TEAMS. Both well represented, please do get to know your area representatives, they and you are the key to the growth and strength of our profession as well as ensuring that your voice is heard at all times. If there is anyone that would like more information in joining ASCN UK as an area representative please do contact me.

Along with Natasha Rolls I attended the All Party Parliamentary Committee, bowel and bladder at the House of Commons. We left knowing that they had heard about our worries and concerns as well as the amazing roles that you all do daily. Again, along with Natasha I have been able to join the Scottish Stoma Forum meetings.

I wish to thank all the area representative and trustee for their support at this year's conference- they play such a crucial role in making this so successful. In addition, I wish to thank my other committee members and ASCN UK Trustees for their support and guidance over my time as honorary secretary- your support has been invaluable. For the incoming Honorary Secretary, I send you all my very best wishes for your tenure and know that you will enjoy the role

Carolyn Swash
Honorary Secretary