

Anne's Story

I was in Ebbw Vale at the time, that's my home, that's where I was with the St John's Ambulance. So they let me stay in, in case I wanted to join down here.

After the St John's Ambulance I went onto home nursing, so I did a bit of home nursing as well. I passed one exam, I passed about three in St John. I got the badges in the house somewhere, but where I don't know. I got the badge for passing and certificates and that. Oh I really enjoyed it. And we done our bit during the war. When the sirens went the nurses had to go out; well not all of them, some of them, it was just a bare staff in. Well we had to go in to help especially on nights, we had to go in to help. You know we didn't have to give medicine nothing like that just help if they needed toileting and that you know. But yes I really enjoyed it.

Apparently you don't do the same now as we used to do, for example burns and scalds we used to exclude all air, but now it's hold it under the tap isn't it, but with us it was burns and scalds cover it in bandage until you had proper attention.

Oh I enjoyed it I wouldn't have left there only I got married and moved down here about '24 I think. I had about 11 cadets, well not only me, there was one higher up than me you know, I was helping her more or less. We had 11 little cadets yeah. Yes I had a photo in the house of me taken with my cadets, oh I enjoyed it, I enjoyed it, very much. And the exams, the little black book was out, stick to it. It is lovely it's very interesting, especially when I had the little ones you know, oh they were lovely love em, I loved them to bits. And they'd learn and they'd listen. How many times I've been bandaged up my arms and my legs I don't know.

Treatments today are not the same. I think the treatment today is better than what we had yeah. 1914 and the last war. I wasn't in the 1914 war mind, I was in school then but I went all through the last war. We had to black out all our windows and all that. Even when the siren went and I was going to the station I wasn't really frightened, no you could see people running here, running there you know, no it didn't frighten me one bit no not at all.

Don't wish you were my age now, I'm getting older. That's with the badge at the front and the top coat with buttons down. Girls I had. They were nice, and especially when we had a parade, if there was anything on St John Ambulance and the little

ones, you know, I used to say be smart now you've got to be smart because there will be a lot of people up on that hill, and they'd be aahh. I loved my kids to bits, they were lovely, lovely kids. Gas Masks in case ... they had the bigger ones then the ones in the cardboard box, remember? We had the bigger ones, we carried those. Those were the days.....

Digital story made by Beth and Kate Abbott, Clydach Division