New year is a new start for community nursing

So, here we are at the dawning of yet another year (is it me or are they whipping by quicker than ever?). With our resolutions firmly broken and the turkey sandwiches but a distant memory, all that remains is to welcome you to the first JCN of 2014.

Personally, I’m glad to see the back of 2013. What with the fall-out from the Francis report and constant drip-feed of stories in the press about poor care, last year felt like an annus horribilis for nursing and I for one am delighted that 2014 gives us a chance to start afresh.

This issue gets us off to a suitably positive start and rather than harking back to the mistakes of the past, here at JCN HQ we feel it’s time to take a look at the future of community nursing. Our wide-ranging interview with Viv Bennett, Director of Nursing at the Department of Health and Public Health England, covers a breadth of topics, not least population health and leadership. But most telling of all is her faith in community nurses as a force for good. Whether it is running immunisation projects, ensuring local dementia services are up to scratch or combatting tuberculosis in inner-city areas, Bennett is full of praise for the innovative work that you are doing all over the country. Sometimes it counts to have friends in high places.

As well as politics and strategy, we’ve also made sure there is plenty of excellent clinical content for you, with this issue covering dementia, continence, stoma care, nutrition and wound care, to name but a few. I would also like to remind you about our new Learning Zone (pp. 73–75), where, after reading the article, you can answer the online questions and contribute to your CPD portfolio — this issue features the management of hydration in community patients.

As ever, we hope you enjoy the journal and from all of the JCN team, here’s to a productive and positive 2014!

If you would like to comment on any of the articles in JCN, or indeed have ideas of your own for an article, please contact jason@jcn.co.uk