I’d like to open this issue by remembering a date — 2 January, 1988. It won’t mean anything to you, but that was the day that I started my career as a fresh-faced young nursing recruit (how times have changed...). I remember being excited and nervous, but also looking forward to being part of something important. Do you remember why you became a nurse? Was it the money (unlikely)? The job security? The flexible hours? Or did you have a sense that you were contributing to society in a positive way?

I ask because we have two articles in this issue that look at what motivates people to take up nursing and whether — in an age of rising job insecurity and stagnating wages — relying on people’s sense of vocation is still enough. In his editorial (pp. 10) Alex Munro relates how nursing for him was essentially a ‘calling’ and so much more than a job or a career; while in our regular ‘Community matters’ (pp. 24), we ask whether the recent pay rise for public sector workers is enough at a time when, community staff in particular, are being asked to transform services and the way that care is provided.

As ever, we have our usual selection of practice-based articles to keep you up to date. Highlights in this issue include a look at five steps to successful wound healing in the community (pp. 30); a refresher on providing home-based oxygen therapy (pp. 55); and how to troubleshoot indwelling catheters (pp. 67). If you want a little bit of help with your CPD, don’t forget our regular Learning Zone feature, which this time focuses on how to remove slough from wounds — why not have a read and take the online test afterwards (pp. 79).

As well as the journal itself, we also have a couple of giveaways with this issue — an online supplement looking at the growing incidence of chronic and acute wounds (visit www.jcn.co.uk/journal-reader to look at all of our latest supplements); there is also our latest online survey where you have the chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher for answering some questions on the JCN Roadshows — tell us what works and what doesn’t (www.jcn.co.uk/survey). Finally, I hope you enjoy reading and do pop along to one of the Roadshows to say hello (www.jcn.co.uk/events) — we’d love to see you there.

Jason Beckford-Ball, editor, JCN

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
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Date of Revision: 10/2012.

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I am really pleased to be part of the editorial board of the JCN. The cascade of policy and change that nursing is charged with turning into good practice might sometimes feel like an assault, but there is no doubt that nurses have often turned policy into clinical opportunity. This very well-designed journal offers an opportunity to spread some good practice and share ideas.

Mark Radcliffe

As a senior nurse researcher, I am passionate about the translation of research into practice to ensure that patients receive quality evidence-based care. I am delighted to be a part of the JCN editorial board because the journal helps to bridge the research-practice gap in community care. JCN is a well-recognised and established journal that keeps clinicians abreast of policy, practice and research in community care.

Janelle Yorke

As nurses we need to demonstrate a critical approach to the care we give, something the JCN can help us to do. As a tissue viability clinical nurse specialist, educator and researcher I love being able to take research and examine its impact on my own practice, then share this with colleagues. I am so pleased to be a member of this team and share my passion for evidence-based practice, with my own little spin on skin and wound care.

Mike Ellis

I want to highlight the benefits of social media tools such as Twitter in our professional roles. Twitter provides great opportunities to network across local, national and international boundaries, to share evidence-based practice and influence the direction of community nursing. Select carefully the individuals and organisations you wish to follow — including @jcnreport — and your twitter feed will be full of useful bite-size information. You can also instigate asynchronous and synchronous chats using #districtnursing where practitioners across the UK share discussions.

Please access the NMC guidance on the use of social media before you begin, but I encourage you to start tweeting @heatherbain9.

Heather Bain
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**References:**