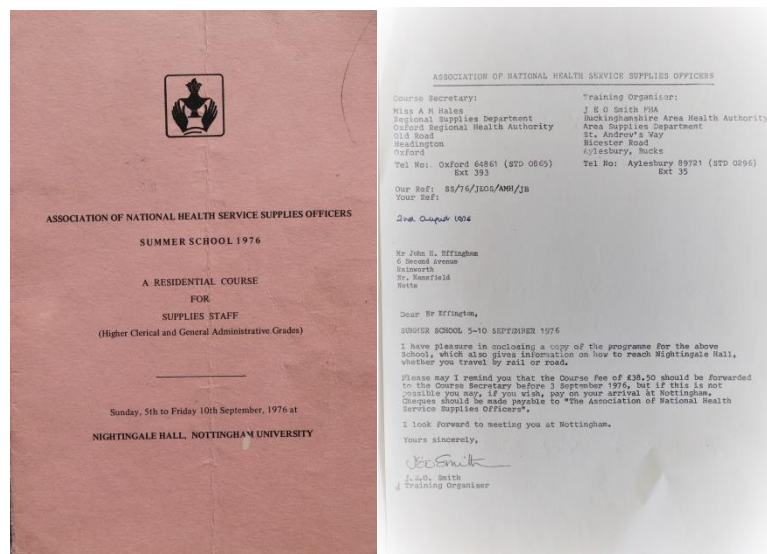


## My HCSA journey - John Effingham

In 1976 I was in my third year of NHS employment as a buyer at King's Mill Hospital in Nottinghamshire, reporting to the then District Supplies Officer, Peter Boyer. I was offered the chance of applying to attend the Annual Summer School (now the Procurement Development Programme) to be held at Nottingham University and run by the Association of National Health Service Supplies Officers (ANHSSO). Before securing my place I had to take part in competitive interviews chaired by the then Regional Supplies Officer, Mr Roy Tomlinson. Fortunately I was selected and attended the Summer School in September of that year. Speaking at the Summer School on the development of centralised stores was Don Greenslade who became Chairman of the Association and later Regional Supplies Manager for the Mersey Region, where he oversaw the development and commissioning of the Runcorn Regional Distribution Centre.



Copy of 1976 Summer School Programme and a letter from ANHSSO confirming my place at a cost for the week of £38.50



**Forty students attended the Association of National Health Service Supplies Officers' Summer School held at Nottingham University last month. The students divided into four groups and were set certain problems to evaluate. They heard many authoritative speakers, and also toured Boots Pure Drug Company.**

ber 1, 1976

The Summer School was my first experience of the work of ANHSSO (now known as HCSA) and it made a huge impact on me and my determination to progress my career within the Supplies field. Within two years of attending the Summer School I gained promotion to my first management post at Derby Royal Infirmary, working for the then District Supplies Officer, Keith Salisbury. At such an early stage in my career I was fortunate to have worked for both Peter and Keith as they encouraged me to become professionally qualified and within a short time I had attained the CIPS Diploma and also the Institute of Health Service Management Diploma. Their encouragement and mentoring were pivotal in me getting qualified and progressing within the NHS Supplies structure. Two years after leaving King's Mill in 1980 I got a further promotion to become Capital Equipping Manager (Scale 4) at Wolverhampton Health Authority. Capital equipping was a very satisfying part of my career. I recall even now the lecture provided at the 1976 Summer School by two members of the Regional Equipping Team from Trent Regional Health Authority.

Up until the 1980s, membership of ANHSSO was only available to Scale 9 officers and above, and so it wasn't until I was appointed as District Supplies Manager at King's College Hospital in 1983 that I was able to join the Association. Later that year I attended my first Annual Conference at Nottingham University.



ll to r) John Effingham, Stephen Bunnell, David Holmes, Terry Lever, Evan Sutherland, Alan Jones, Ian Clarke, at the Conference Dinner.

The Conference Dinner speaker was Sir Kenneth Clarke, the then Minister of State for Health. Don Greenslade was the ANHSSO Chairman at the time. Coleen Jones is pictured with Sir Kenneth and Don.

In 1984 and whilst still working in the South London Supplies Division I took on the role as Branch Secretary for the South East Thames Branch of what is now HCSA, supporting Branch Chairman, Horace Plummer, and also Divisional Supplies Manager. That was my first real experience of the internal workings of the Association.



Pictured with Horace Plummer at the Manchester Conference

From 1984 until the early 2000s I held a number of posts including Head of Procurement at Guy's and Lewisham Hospitals; Divisional Supplies Manager for Wiltshire; Director of HR for the South & West Division of the NHS Supplies Authority and SW Regional Liaison Manager for NHS PASA. Throughout that time I was able to continue attending Association Conferences and from 2002 until 2006 I held the position of HCSA Branch Coordinator for the South West Branch, alongside my role with NHS PASA. In 2004 I was selected as Chairman designate and became HCSA Chairman in 2006.



When I became Chairman of the Association in 2006, it had just 747 members. Council was made up of people who had largely retired but who had held the Association together through successive NHS supplies reorganisations; principally Don Greenslade, Tony Jobling and Coleen Jones, with support from Neil Argyle and John Smith. Without the commitment of those on Council at the time I became Chair the Association would probably not have survived. Regional NHS structures had been dismantled and Collaborative Procurement Hubs were emerging, leaving Trust based procurement networking fragmented and in some areas completely disconnected. HCSA Branch networking would prove to be of great importance to NHS procurement going forward.

My HCSA Chairmanship lasted for two years, but half way through my term John Smith stepped down as Executive Director so I picked up his duties, alongside mine as Chairman.



Presenting Coleen Jones with a gift in 2006, in recognition for her long and dedicated service to the Association.

From 2008 I retained the position of Executive Director, right up to 2018, during which time I supported and advised five different Chairs of the Association and two Presidents.

The ten years I was Executive Director saw immense change for the Association and I am now able to look back with immense pride with what was achieved and glad to have played such a key role. At the time I stepped down in 2018 the membership had grown to circa 1,900 and income was at record levels, providing the HCSA with a platform from which it could invest in the future development of the Association and the professionalism of NHS procurement staff.

The key changes I oversaw as Executive Director included the development of the inaugural HCSA Awards evening in 2008, which has since become a key part of the Annual Conference Gala Dinner; the introduction of HCSA Summer Conferences; the creation of the HCSA Corporate Partnership Programme in 2013, bringing in essential sponsorship income and perhaps the most significant achievement was the attainment of Charitable status for the HCSA as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Throughout my time as Executive Director I had excellent support from successive Chairs of the HCSA.

**The Past** has seen the creation and development of this great professional organisation; **The Present** is building on the foundations laid by those from the Past, and **The Future** belongs to those who will take it forward and adapt it in order to respond to the demands of the NHS and procurement landscape of future years.

It was a privilege to have worked from 1973 until 2018 in my varied roles, serving stakeholders in both the NHS/DH and the HCSA.

As this HCSA Jubilee year draws to a close I wish to pass on my best wishes to all HCSA members and sincerely hope that the organisation continues to play an important role for all those involved in NHS procurement over the next 60 years!