



Royal College of
Occupational
Therapists



New Graduate Bulletin

Issue (8) August 2017

Welcome to our eighth New Graduates Bulletin, and I hope this finds you all well at the end of summer, looking forward the Autumn season and whatever that brings for you.

Our news is that Kelly, our former Education Liaison officer (and author of the last few bulletins) has moved on into a job in practice. We would like to wish Kelly all the very best in her future career as she continues on her new graduate journey. We are looking forward to welcoming our next officer in November and we'll let her introduce herself in the next edition of the bulletin – I'll keep you guessing until then!

As usual, the bulletin is packed with information, resources and links designed to bring you up to date with the work that's been going on here at RCOT, with you as our newest members in mind...

UPDATES

Congratulations to our New Graduates for 2017

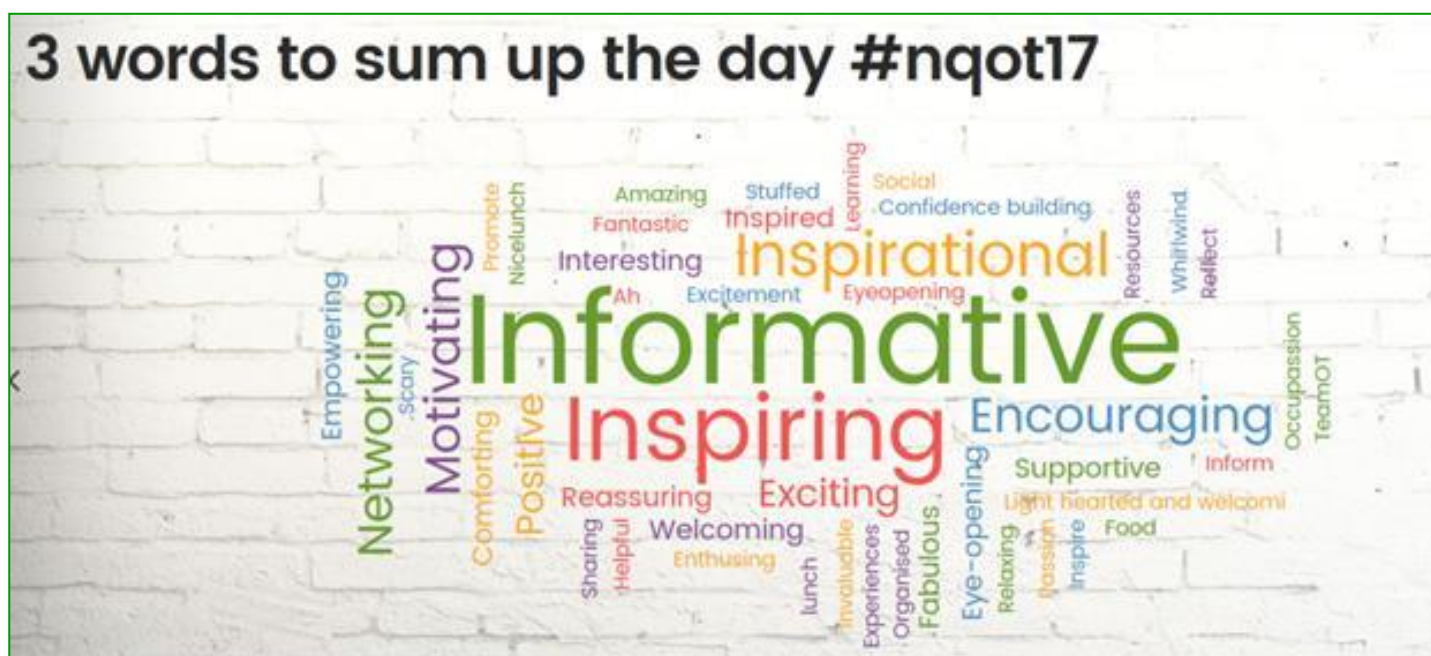


The first Occupational Therapy graduates from the University of Worcestershire who graduated in November 2016 (Photo Credit: @YvonnOT)

[Don't forget to logon to the website on 1st October to see your name in print.](#) The 2017 Graduate list will contain the names of successful candidates who have graduated between 10/09/16 and 09/09/17. The Royal College would like to wish you every success in your future career in occupational therapy.

New Graduate event, July 2017

We had our third annual New Graduate event recently in our London HQ, it was well attended and we had some terrific feedback. Using an electronic feedback tool, see what our attendees thought about the day.



We also received lots of great advice and encouragement for new graduates via Facebook and Twitter, and Daniela, one of our Digital team members at RCOT [has compiled this into a Storify story](#) for you to digest. The tips and thoughts are relevant for anyone, so feel free to share this link with your colleagues, even those who are not new graduates!

NEWS

RCOT Highlights dehumanising effect of some Social Care Services

A report released recently by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists calls for a shift from a 'high volume, low cost' approach to care to one which sees the whole person's overall wellbeing. Its publication is [accompanied by a moving film](#) showing the stark reality of being dependent on social care faced by many older and vulnerable people.



In its report: ['Living Not Existing: Putting Prevention at the Heart of care for older people'](#) the Royal College of Occupational Therapists seeks to show how doing the right thing for individuals can actually reduce their need for expensive care long-term. It calls for an end to the inequality of access to occupational therapy which is a barrier to people in need receiving high quality, person centred care that enables people to stay as active, independent and safe as possible.

In its report, the royal college, which represents 32,000 occupational therapists working across the health and social care sector in the UK, makes three recommendations:

- An end to the inequality of access to occupational therapy. There are pockets of best practice but too many people miss out on high quality proactive social care that promotes independence and self-determination.
- More occupational therapists employed within primary care proactively helping older people adapt to aging, increasing frailty and health problems. This can delay, reduce or prevent the need for expensive care and support.
- Occupational therapists to be employed to lead on the development of person and community centred services that care for older people's overall health and wellbeing to ensure they can live active independent lives in their communities for as long as possible.

Julia Scot, CEO of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists said:

“Too often, rather than seeing a whole person, social care services simply see a set of care needs which need to be addressed. Because of their unique set of skills, occupational therapists are perfectly placed to change this.

“In our report we set out clear, evidenced based recommendations that will deliver better care for service users that is more cost effective for taxpayers. For too long, we have collectively wrung our hands and exclaimed that something has to be done to “fix” the social care system. Now is that time.”



RESOURCES

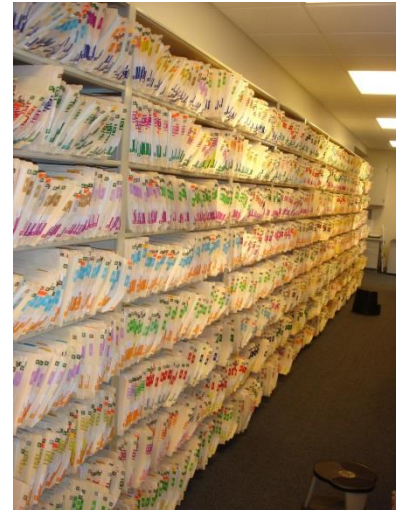
Tessa Fincham: RCOT Publications Manager

Hi! I'm the Publications Manager at RCOT and have been working here for over 11 years now. I love working for the College because the working environment is friendly and supportive, I get to work with a wide range of people in a variety of roles, and because it is highly motivating to be connected to a profession that not only does so much to help people in all walks of life, but also carries out this work with so much passion and commitment. Having worked previously on producing educational and professional publications, I am pleased to have been able to continue my career with RCOT, focusing on the production of guidance, guidelines and strategies covering a range of occupational-therapy specific topics.

You may well have already accessed RCOT publications to support your studies; whether or not this is the case I hope that you will find our range of titles invaluable in supporting you at all stages of your career. All our titles are free for BAOT members to [download from our website](#), and hard copies can be accessed at discounted member prices. If you have any questions or feedback I will do my best to help, [please email me](#).

Updated guidance from RCOT on record keeping

Keeping records is a necessary and integral part of practice in health, social and community care, education and research. It is an absolute requirement as part of a practitioner's duty of care, and must be completed in line with relevant legislation, the standards of registration and professional bodies, and local policy. Care records are legal documents and as such may be used as evidence in an enquiry or a court of law. Produced for occupational therapists working across the UK, this guidance is an essential reference point in ensuring that RCOT members keep care records that are fit for purpose and process them according to legislation. [Available as a free member download from the RCOT website](#), the guidance is accompanied by a checklist which can be saved to your computer to ensure that you are meeting the necessary requirements.



ENGAGE

Funding opportunity:

Your project and research skills – use them, don't lose them!



**NEED FUNDING FOR YOUR
EDUCATION, RESEARCH OR CPD?**

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists' Awards support education, research and CPD activities, and the opportunity to add to your portfolio in one or more of the four Pillars of Practice – Professional Practice; Facilitation of Learning; Leadership; and Evidence, Research and Development – in the forthcoming RCOT Career Development Framework.

The 2018 Awards scheme opens on 22nd August 2017 and offers an exciting funding opportunity – exclusive to RCOT members – towards activities commencing or taking place during the calendar year 1 January to 31 December 2018. Eight categories of award are available.

RCOT has recently published the call for applications for the 2018 round of funding opportunities from the RCOT annual awards for education, research and continuing professional development. Full details and application forms are available [from the RCOT website](#). The 2018 awards are to support activities commencing or taking place during 2018. Applicants must be RCOT members at the time of applying. Funding is available to support a range of activities including, for example, service development or innovation projects; dissemination of research or practice at international conferences; small research projects. Enquiries should be [emailed to Lesley Gleaves, our R&D Administrator](#).

Regional Committee Vacancies 2017/18

Contribute your skills and experience to your profession

RCOT Regions are branches of the professional body for occupational therapists, students and support workers. They are dedicated to supporting members regionally and locally, providing networking opportunities, learning and funding through Lifelong Learning Grants. Regions are run by members who volunteer to sit on committees. They are a great way to engage with and develop your professional networks and provide continuing professional development. Reach out and add to your professional profile, make a difference!

There are currently vacancies in all regions for a variety of roles. Regional committees also welcome up to 6 co-opted members which may include: higher education representatives, retired members, associate members, student members, Unison representatives and local group representatives.

New graduates are also welcome to sit on a committee or to join as a co-opted New Graduate Representative. Volunteer with your professional body and engage with other new graduates as well as other committee members and help to provide regional benefits and activates for all RCOT members. For more information please [click here](#) or to discuss the vacant roles in more detail please email [Stacey Abraham or Olivia Lokko](#).

It may be too late to apply for a position in this year by the time you read this, however please do get in touch with Stacey or Olivia at the email addresses above if you are interested in finding out more about becoming engaged in your region

And Finally...

Thank you for staying with us as you graduate and enter one of the most rewarding and exciting careers. I hope you have found some of the features in this bulletin useful and remember to share the word about our great profession wherever you can! If you have any comments or enquiries, you can [email me](#).

Maureen Shiells,

Pre-Registration Education Manager

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