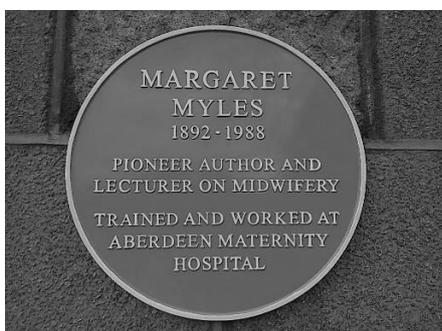


NHS Grampian Archives has taken part in both the International Day of the Midwife (5th May) and International Nurses Day (12th May). Both are opportunities to celebrate and highlight the work carried out each day, but they are also a chance to reflect on the many changes which have taken place over the years.

The first qualified midwives were appointed in Aberdeen in 1892, though of course they had been assisting pregnant women for many years prior to this! In 1900, a dedicated maternity hospital was established on Castle Street, before moving to Foresterhill in 1937. You can see a video showing a brief history of [Aberdeen Maternity Hospital](#) produced by NHS Grampian Archives and GHAT as part of their Amplify project.



You can see this plaque dedicated to Maggie Myles at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital.

Aberdeen has a rich history in this area. Margaret Fraser Findlay - better known as Maggie Myles - author of "A Textbook for Midwives", published in 1952 and still used today, was born in Aberdeen in 1892. She trained as a pupil midwife at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital - at that point, situated on Castle Terrace - in 1922 and passed her Central Midwives Board exam in May 1923. She later became the first Principal Midwifery Tutor at the Simpson Memorial Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh in 1939, before retiring in 1952. Maggie passed away in Banchory in 1988.

The north east of Scotland has a rich history in nurse training, not only in Aberdeen. Chalmers Hospital in Banff was also a training hospital, and the 1896 hospital brochure commented that "The nurses of whom there are now six are all trained both in the wards and in classes by the Matron while the assistant Surgeon also delivers lectures to the nursing staff. The training lasts for three years, during one of which the nurse is regarded as a probationer. During the last fifteen years, 26 nurses have been trained in Chalmers' Hospital who now hold responsible positions in many of the largest infirmaries in London and the provinces and as Queen's nurses." You can see some images of nurses at Chalmers Hospital over the years on the [Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership Facebook](#) page.

So many nurses have been trained in the north east of Scotland, across lots of hospitals and continue to do sterling work today. While uniforms and practices have changed, dedication and passion remain the same.

