

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

JACKIE PARKIN RM, RGN, ENG – MIDWIFE

Jackie Parkin from Smalley has been a midwife at the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham for just over 3 years. In that time she has delivered around 150 babies, 40 of whom she delivered as a requirement of her training. Midwifery is a profession that has always interested Jackie and she knew she wanted to go into nursing since she was just 4 years old.

Jackie explains a typical day in her role: "If I am working on the antenatal/postnatal ward, my day starts at 7am. We have a handover and then depending on whether or not I am running the ward, the work gets allocated between me and my colleagues. This may include preparing the ladies who are having elective caesarean sections and then subsequently going to theatre for their operation and then looking after them post-operatively with their babies (this also includes looking after the partner). If I'm not going to theatre, I may be allocated to check the emergency equipment and then do the drugs round, or Dr's round. The care I have to give depends on whether I have antenatal or postnatal women. If the ladies would like to go home I ensure that the appropriate healthcare checks are done and that the respective healthcare professional has been contacted. It may mean admitting ladies to the ward directly from the labour suite after they have had their babies."

Depending on staffing levels, Jackie may even be asked to go to another ward or labour suite to help for a short time during busy spells.

Jackie finishes her shift at 7.30pm. I asked Jackie a few questions:

What is the best moment and most rewarding thing about your role?

Finishing at the end of every shift and really feeling that I've cared for my women 100% and provided the standard of care that they expect and deserve as individuals whether they've had their baby or not. Every delivery and every person is an individual and should be treated that way – including partners. As a midwife, I feel very privileged to be a part of something so special and I can share something so amazing with the people I look after. No two deliveries are ever the same.

What do you least like about your role?

The paperwork, but this has to be done!

What is the weight of the heaviest baby that you've ever delivered?

10lb 4oz

Describe one of the funniest moments you've experienced in your job?

Trying to fold a real nappy and making it fit the baby! Most people use disposables these days but I'm really good at it now!

Jackie likes to relax and unwind by socialising with her family and friends - she loves walking her two dogs with her husband, going to concerts, listening to music, gardening and reading. Her favourite holiday destination is Cyprus although she loves Costa Adeje in Tenerife and has been there several times.

Jackie enjoys anything 'crafty' and 12 months ago started a small business doing hand-made stationery, wedding favours as well as offering a venue dressing service and chair cover hire. She spends a lot of her free time preparing for weddings and attending wedding fayres. If you or anyone you know is getting married turn to page 29 for details about Jackie's business – Your Perfect Setting East Midlands.

