

## Creative writing challenge: painting of a matron

Here's a picture of a framed painting (oil on board) in the museum's collection. The painting shows a Matron of Newbury Community Hospital. It was painted by artist Marjorie Kate Heather (1904-1989). Marjorie was born in Newbury and attended Newbury Girls' High School and much later, the Ruskin School of Drawing in Oxford, where she obtained a certificate of Fine Art. During her adult years, she was an active member of Newbury Art Society.

Imagine you're the artist, Marjorie Kate Heather, and explain in a letter to a friend why you chose to paint a hospital matron and what the experience and sitter were like. To help you with this, you can research online about the role of a hospital matron in a mid to late twentieth century hospital (1950s onwards), and nursing in general during that time.

