

## A day in the life of... a Jubilee Midwife

The Jubilee Team was established in June 2012. One of the main roles of the Jubilee Team is supporting women to give birth at home, by providing a dedicated [Home Birth Service](#). Here a Jubilee Midwife shares an account of 'a day in the life of' a Jubilee Midwife.

### Thursday

#### 21:00

Received a phone call from a fellow Jubilee colleague "May need you tonight, got a lady in Cornwall niggling. Where she lives is quite tricky, no mobile signal, so thought I would let you know now and maybe we could meet at the Saltash roundabout?" In other words, in the middle of nowhere, no streets just a postcode and a named house, Oh! And great fog is forecast!

#### 23:15

On my way to Saltash roundabout for my mystery tour into deepest, darkest Cornwall. Well at least the fog has stayed away and the flood water has resided, should have checked the tide times!

### Friday

#### 00:01(approx.)

Arrive in car park, note very deep puddles, avoided these, shame my colleague didn't! Water to my left looks far enough away. Unload car and trundle over the cobbles, seems a long way when carrying lots of homebirth equipment, arrive at named cottage. As suspected no street names, numbers or lights. However, can still see the sky and the stars are shining, so maybe the fog won't appear after all.

#### 02:54

Awesome mother gives birth to a gorgeous baby supported my totally besotted Father, who not only makes loads of cups of tea also played some lovely tunes on his guitar.

#### 04:30

Leaves house, my role as second midwife done. Find car and begin journey home full of the hope of new life.

#### 04:45

FOG! Drive at 20 miles per hour, eventually reaching home, eyes on stalks.

#### 11:00

Up and about, very hard to sleep after being up in the night. Decide to get on with my two visits, plus I have a very special passenger with me today..... An exchange midwife from Japan organised through partnership with the University of Plymouth. Luckily she speaks excellent English, as I know absolutely no Japanese.

#### 11:30

Introductions made and head off for first visit. Appointment with a lady who is 16 weeks pregnant whose previous baby I delivered at home in July 2013! Japanese midwife is so keen to learn about homebirth, something not practised in modern day Japan. Lots of discussion with family around homebirth and the planning of another waterbirth, whilst I hold baby now aged 7months.

#### 12:30

Next visit, first time mum on day 3. This lady who I had delivered previously in hospital was planning

a homebirth but baby was showing signs of inadequate growth so plans changed late in pregnancy and an Induction of labour was recommended. Sad that she didn't achieve her homebirth, but glowing with her accomplishment and is adapting wonderfully to motherhood. Baby weighed, checked over, breast feeding well and no concerns reported.

**13:15**

Dropped Japanese midwife back to University. She is happy to have met some UK midwives and families. Is in total awe of our autonomy as midwives and how we can support women to birth at home, particularly enjoying the home visits and loved seeing the fathers so involved with their partner's pregnancy and their new families.

**14:00**

Starting to wilt now. Head for home and a little siesta. Never sure when my phone is going to ring again and when my next 24 hours begins!