HALF a century is a milestone in any aspect of life – but for Larry Petterson it means a remarkable fifty years of service to the NHS in Wales.

It was April 21 1961 when a bright eyed 17-year-old Larry started work in the administration team in Llandough Hospital.

Fifty years to the day he was back on hospital grounds for a farewell tea party and a well deserved round of applause from colleagues.

The 67-year-old from Llandaff said: “I really have enjoyed my time in the NHS, it has been like a hobby for me.

“I think it is the greatest organisation in the world, where people work miracles every day.”

Jan Williams, Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, organised the thank you to Larry.

She said: “This is a unique thing that Larry has achieved celebrating 50 years in NHS Wales.

“He has made a huge contribution to the NHS during his time. He has developed innovative approaches to procurement improving care for patients by helping to make the NHS more efficient.

“There has been no sign of Larry’s passion or commitment to the NHS diminishing during those 50 years and I know that his drive and dedication has made a difference to health in Wales, not only through his working life but outside in his professional life too.”

Larry was awarded the MBE in 2003 for Services to Health and Charity. It was a reflection of his tireless work in the community.

During 24 years working with CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children in Wales he raised an impressive £250,000.
As well as bringing in the cash in recent years he’s become just as big a success in shedding the pounds too.

In 2009 he was named Slimming World’s Man of the Year Wales after becoming a picture of health himself. He joined Slimming World in July 2008 weighing 25st 8.5lbs. By the following April he had cut his weight to 13st 12lbs – almost 13 stone in 10 months.

His achievements were even used as a case study by health colleagues to help inspire others.

It all added up to a successful life in Welsh Health.

After joining in 1961 he rose through the ranks holding a variety of senior managerial positions earning him the title of ‘Mr NHS Wales Supplies’ by colleagues – finding the best deals, bagging bargains and saving the NHS in Wales tens of thousands of pounds.

By 1991 he was named Head of Procurement & Commercial Development University Hospital of Wales Healthcare NHS Trust.

In 1995 became Head of Procurement & Commercial Development University Hospital of Wales Healthcare NHS Trust. By 2009 he was Assistant Director of Finance for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

He has chaired the CIPS UK Public Sector Group and was a Trustee of the CIPS Pension Fund. He has been a member of the Welsh Assembly Government’s Business Procurement Task Force and has been a keen supporter of the use of the third sector and Supported Business Organisations such as Remploy. He is also a past Chairman of the Health Care Supply Association.

He has continued his work helping the NHS in Wales on secondment to the Assembly.

Paul Williams, Director General of NHS Wales, said: “Larry has had a remarkable NHS career spanning 50 years. He has been at the top of his profession since 1974. During this time he has made a huge contribution to improving patient care through his passion for securing high quality products at best value.”

-end-

Notes for editors

Picture captions

LP1 – l to r Jan Williams, chief executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, David Francis, Chairman of Cardiff and Vale UHB, Larry Petterson and Paul Williams, Director General of NHS Wales.
For more information contact:

Chris Davies
Senior Journalist
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
T: 029 2074 6381
E: chris.davies5@wales.nhs.uk