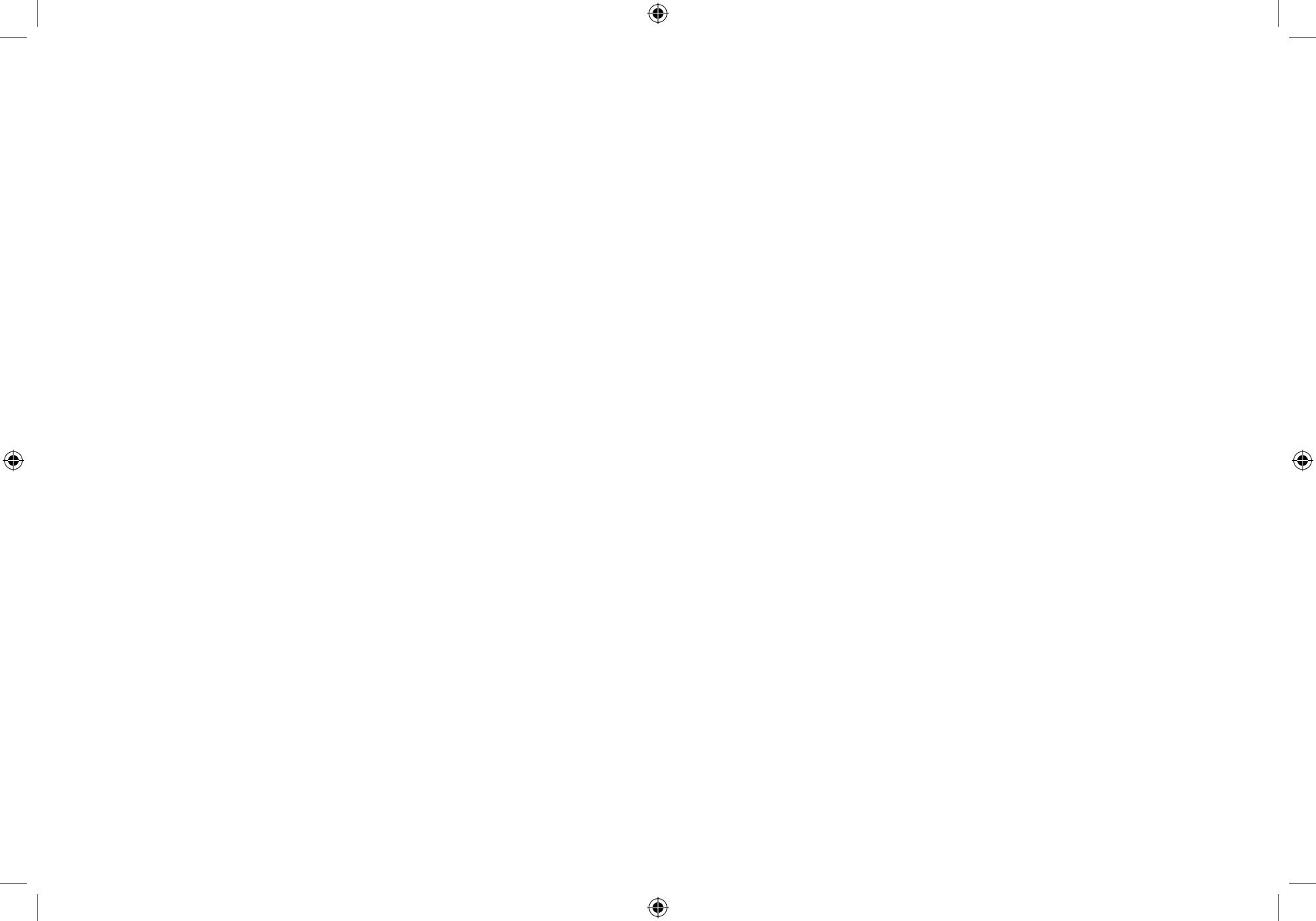


GOOD HEALTH

a pictorial celebration of
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

GARRY SWANN



Foreword

As Chair of the Board and Council of Governors at the Trust, it is with great pride that I present to you this short pictorial story of our long history of providing hospital services in Doncaster, Bassetlaw and surrounding areas.



We are privileged that Garry Swann has used his extensive knowledge and access to our archives to bring this picture book into existence, all proceeds from which will be donated to our charity. As you will read, charitable funds have always played a key role in developing services for the local NHS and today those funds allow us to go 'Above and Beyond' NHS-funded care to make our patients' time with us that little bit more comfortable.

On behalf of the entire Trust, I want to thank you for supporting Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity and wish you good health in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Suzy Brain England OBE'.

Suzy Brain England OBE

Chair of the Board
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



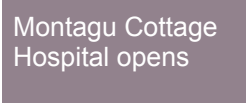
1868

Doncaster General Infirmary and Dispensary Wood Street opens



1890

Montagu Cottage Hospital opens



1902

Kilton Hospital Workshop opens



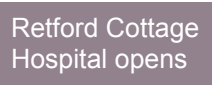
1923

New Retford Hospital opens



1887

Retford Cottage Hospital opens



1900

Victoria Hospital Workshop opens



1906

Princess Christian visits Wood Street Infirmary. 'Royal' title conferred

1926

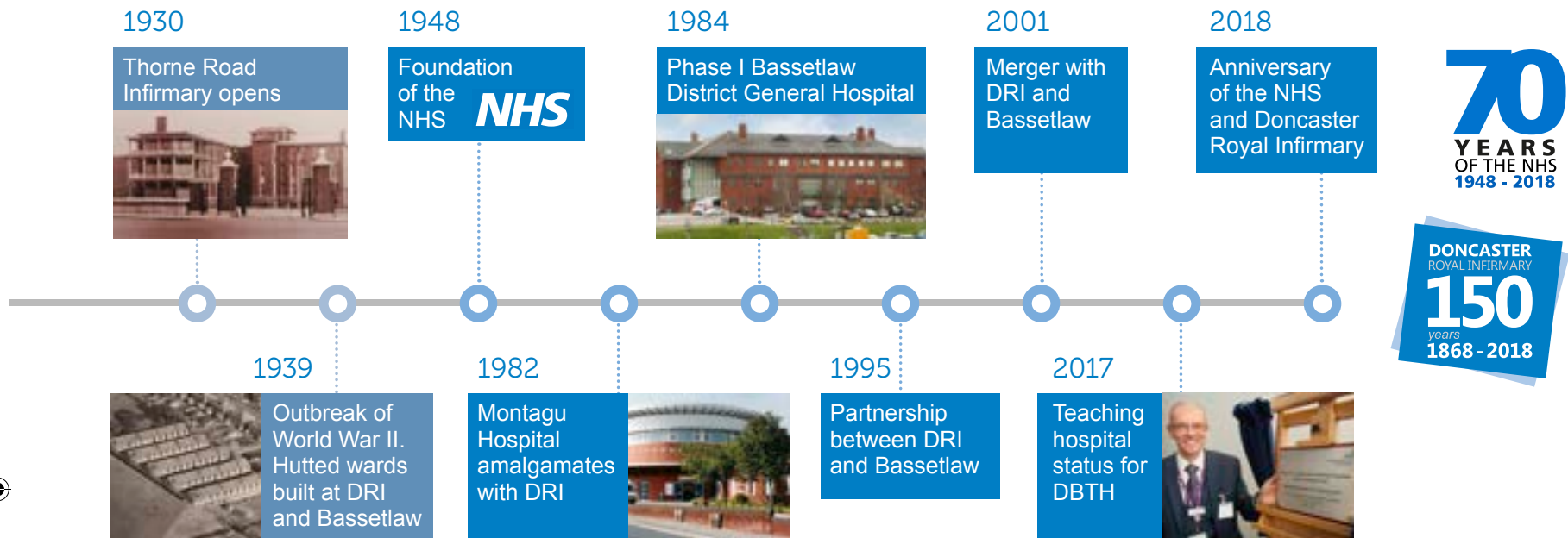
Edward, Prince of Wales, lays foundation stone, Thorne Road Infirmary

2018 – A Year of Anniversaries

2018 is a year of anniversaries for Doncaster Royal Infirmary. One hundred and fifty years ago, on 1 July 1868, the Doncaster General Infirmary and Dispensary in Wood Street opened to receive its first patients. Originally, the hospital provided 23 beds on two floors. Funding was secured entirely from local subscribers.

Fifty years later the town's population had grown to some 28,000 persons, due largely to the industrial development, particularly railways, that had taken place during that time. The sinking of mineshafts all around Doncaster during the early 1900s created many new villages, swelling the population still further. It was universally

agreed that a bigger hospital was needed, but following the Great War of 1914-1918 a long and bitter debate, known as the 'Battle of the Sites', took place over where the new hospital should be built. Finally, after considerable pressure from colliery and railway companies, all owned privately at that time, a large tract of land in Thorne Road was



settled upon. Building began in 1928, but money rapidly ran out. Funding still relied wholly on local efforts and the precarious state of finances prevented much of the architect's rather grandiose scheme from being carried out. A much smaller building than that originally envisaged opened in 1930.

The hospital struggled on as best it could during the lean years of the 1930s. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, 200 additional beds were provided in hutted accommodation in the grounds for the reception of war wounded. An extension to the nurses' home was built to house the additional nurses required to staff the five huts.

Towards the end of the war HM Government published its plan for a post-war Welfare State, which included a proposal that the country's haphazard health service provision be amalgamated under one banner, to be called the National Health Service (NHS), funded through taxation and providing a uniform standard of care throughout the country.

The NHS came into being on 5 July 1948. Doncaster Area Health Authority was established, encompassing Loversall Hospital, Tickhill Road Hospital, St Catherine's Hospital and Western Hospital, all in fairly close proximity on the western side of town, together with Conisbrough Hospital and Fullerton Hospital, Denaby, Doncaster Royal Infirmary serving as the hub. Some administrative departments were based at York House, Cleveland Street, in the centre of town. Fortunately, Doncaster Royal Infirmary (so called after Royal patronage was granted in 1906) had been built on a site of substantial size to allow for expansion.

A larger hospital for the town was clearly needed, a proposal having been mooted as early as 1951. It was to be another ten years, however, before building commenced. The concept of district general hospitals, where a comprehensive

development providing a full range of services, including maternity and psychiatric care, to a large regional population, was deemed the answer to the country's needs. Doncaster, with its extensive available site and excellent communications by both road and rail, was chosen as one of the scheme's pioneers, and Doncaster Royal Infirmary became the country's first district general hospital to be completed. During the 1960s the building opened in stages: early developments were doctors' residential accommodation, a nurse teaching unit, and a sorely-needed new chest clinic.

The hospital's most significant feature was the 390-bed East Ward Block which opened in 1968, as did another important and innovative facility, the Post-Graduate Medical Teaching Centre, which recognised the need for doctors to continually keep up to date with their knowledge and skills. Most of the new building extended along Armthorpe Road, at

whose junction with Thorne Road the 1930s building stood. It included a Psychiatric Hospital, Outpatients Department, Maternity Hospital and Operating Theatre Block, together with the many support facilities necessary for such an institution. Also in 1968, the Doncaster Nurse Training School was for the first time given official recognition to confer State Enrolled (SEN) status on nurses who had trained for this qualification entirely in Doncaster (State Registered Nurses (SRN), had been trained in Doncaster since 1924). This 70th Anniversary year of the NHS is also, therefore, an important year of anniversaries for Doncaster Royal Infirmary. This publication has been compiled in recognition of, and as a tribute to, a great local institution which has served the people of Doncaster and district so well throughout its 150-year history and which, it is hoped, will continue to do so for many years to come.

Introduction

It is now 45 years since a history of Doncaster Royal Infirmary was written*. Many changes in healthcare provision have taken place in the intervening years and these are reflected in the numerous additions and modifications to the building that seem now to be a never-ending programme. Administratively too, local healthcare has altered; in 1991 mental health care was transferred to Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) and the Psychiatric Hospital on the DRI site re-developed to provide accommodation for other expanding services. At the same time Doncaster merged its acute services with those of Montagu Hospital, nine miles away in Mexborough.

In 1989 HM Government introduced the concept of NHS Trusts, inviting hospitals to apply for Trust status. Two years later Doncaster Royal and Montagu Hospital became one of the first ten authorities to be awarded

Trust status. In 1998 Doncaster Royal Infirmary, jointly with Bassetlaw District General Hospital, Worksop, achieved recognition as a Cancer Unit, and two years later the Secretary of State approved full merger of the two authorities, creating Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust. In merging with Bassetlaw Hospital, the Trust also acquired responsibility for Retford and District Hospital, north Nottinghamshire. Foundation Trust status was achieved in 2004.

While for reasons of brevity its name no longer appears in the Trust's title, Montagu Hospital performs an important role; extensive building work has taken place there, and in addition to offering a wide range of care, the hospital is now the Trust's main centre for oral health, podiatry and rehabilitation services. Retford Hospital, too, continues to offer an extensive range of services. In 2017 the Trust was granted 'teaching'

status, linking it with the medical faculty of the University of Sheffield and creating yet another new title, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

With an ageing population, increasing demand and an expansion of services, the NHS faces many challenges in the years to come. Nevertheless, Britain's National Health Service remains the envy of the world, and doubtless Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will continue to play its part in keeping it so.

This book's sections on Bassetlaw, Montagu and Retford hospitals offer no more than a backward glance at their origins, together with some developments that have taken place since they joined with Doncaster Royal Infirmary to form the present Trust. Their own full histories are yet to be written.

**Garry Swann The Doncaster Royal Infirmary, 1792-1972. (1973).*

Doncaster Royal Infirmary - the early years

Until the eighteenth century, hospital treatment in Britain was largely unavailable. The growth of the population, however, particularly of the poorer classes, and an increasing awareness of their plight when sick, caused doctors and other wealthy citizens to urge the founding of hospitals, and especially dispensaries, where the 'sick poor' could obtain treatment. At that time little was known about the causes of disease, and many forms of treatment were ineffectual, sometimes dangerous. Though not the first, Doncaster was one of the earlier towns to establish a dispensary from where its inhabitants could obtain relief from their ills.

At the instigation of a Doncaster surgeon, John Branson, MD, a new charity, the Doncaster Dispensary, was founded in 1792.

The Corporation built a house for the purpose in French Gate, on the northern side of town. For the next 60 years the Dispensary continued to treat patients (mainly out-patients, but a bed was provided upstairs for in-patients). During this time industrial activity such as the building of canals and railways made its mark on the town and by 1850 the population had more than doubled. Industry invariably brings accidents, and by the mid-19th century a hospital was badly needed. The nearest hospitals were in Sheffield: the Royal Infirmary, opened in 1795, and the Royal Hospital, built in 1832. In 1853 a local doctor, Dr George Dunn, MD, who practised homoeopathic medicine, had caused his own 8-bed hospital to be erected on St Sepulchre Gate. Though valued by the townsfolk, Dunn's methods were not approved of by his more conventional professional

colleagues, who refused to be associated with his establishment. A solution for the town's predicament had to be found.

In 1862 a bequest of £500 by a former doctor in the town, Henry Bainbridge, MD, was left for the specific purpose of helping to fund a new hospital. This led to the forming of a new charity, the Doncaster General Infirmary, its committee led by the Vicar of Doncaster, the Rev. Dr C J Vaughan. Doncaster Corporation agreed to match Dr Bainbridge's bequest, and further fundraising efforts enabled the committee to appoint a local firm of architects, Messrs Brundell and Arnold, to draw up plans for the building. A piece of land at the corner of Whitaker Street and Wood Street, close to the town centre, was selected and the foundation stone of the Doncaster General Infirmary and Dispensary



Rev. Dr C. J. Vaughan, Vicar of Doncaster (1860-1869).

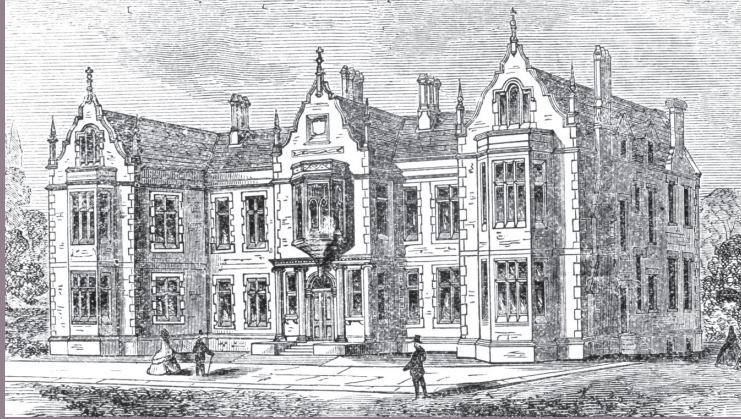
In 1863 Rev. Dr Vaughan grasped the opportunity offered by a £500 legacy from former local doctor Henry Bainbridge, to found a new hospital in Doncaster.

was laid on 13 July 1865. Inside a cavity in the stone was placed a lead box containing numerous items relating to the new building, together with pictures of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and other eminent persons. No less an authority than Florence Nightingale examined the plans and suggested improvements, which were put into effect. The building was of red local brick, with stonework – again locally sourced – to the front-facing windows, main doorway and decorative features.

The hospital was ready for occupancy by December 1866, but lack of funds restricted the number of in-patient beds. The Dispensary was able to move in, however, and did so on 1 May 1867, leaving, no doubt with some joy, their old accommodation in French Gate. At first the two charities, the Doncaster Dispensary and Doncaster General Infirmary, operated independently, but it soon

became clear that greater efficiency would result if the two were amalgamated, and this took place in May 1868, thus forming a single charity, Doncaster General Infirmary and Dispensary.

The building, offering a total of 23 beds in five wards, opened its doors to the public on 1 July 1868, though it was several months before all the wards could be properly furnished. Within the first three months, 20 in-patients had been treated “...with satisfactory results”. At this time, and for many years thereafter, the charity relied for its funding entirely upon regular subscriptions from the Corporation and the wealthier townspeople, and on fundraising events such as bazaars and local collections.



Doncaster General Infirmary and Dispensary, Wood Street, shortly after it was built.

Image taken from a bazaar poster.



The infirmary before the 1905 additions to the rear of the building.

The asymmetry of the frontage to the right of the main entrance resulted from Matron Josephine Gelston's request in 1891 for an enlarged sitting room.

Compare this with the picture on p14.



The entire medical and nursing staff in the garden of Wood Street Infirmary, about 1900.

From left to right: Back row: Dr Battersby, Dr Christy Wilson, Dr Whaley, Dr Selby, Dr Reginald Wilson (Christy Wilson's son). Front row: Seated Left, Head Nurse Annie Wheller; Matron Florence Longrigg in centre, with Nurse Jagger on her left. The names of the other nurses are not known.



Doncaster's first nurses were trained and supplied by the Liverpool Training School for Nurses, one of the first such establishments.

In 1870 a new arrangement for the supply of nurses was made with the Mildmay Nursing Institution in Stoke Newington, London. In 1896 Florence Longrigg, left, who through Mildmay had been Lady Superintendent at Blandford Cottage Hospital, Dorset, replaced Josephine Gelston as Matron. When in 1899 Mildmay, under new management, withdrew from its contract 'Sister Florence', as she was universally known, stayed on as Matron until September 1907.



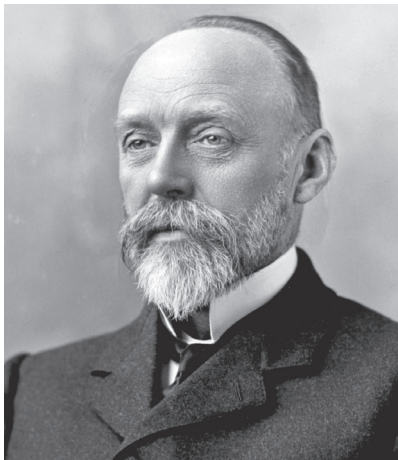
Annie Wheller, who had served as a District Nurse for some five years, was appointed Head Nurse at the Infirmary in 1900. She suffered a break-down in health in 1906 and left the following year.



Princess Christian.

Helena, Queen Victoria's fifth child, known as Princess Christian after her marriage, was keenly interested in nursing, helping to found the College (later Royal College) of Nursing.

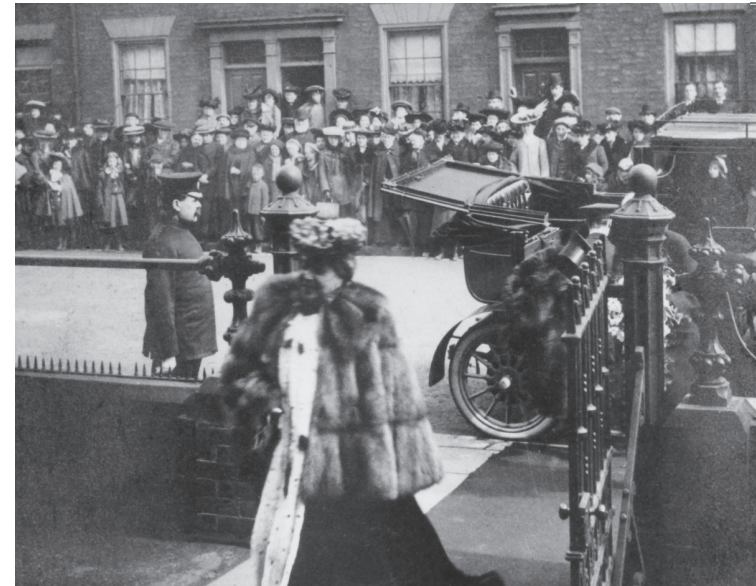
In 1906 she visited the Infirmary and opened a bazaar at the Mansion House, held to raise funds to pay for recently-built extensions (see p14). The Infirmary's Management Committee asked Her Royal Highness if she would agree to become the institution's Royal Patron. She did so, and subsequently application was made for the hospital in future to be styled 'Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Dispensary'. The word Dispensary fell into disuse in later years.



Dr A Christy Wilson.

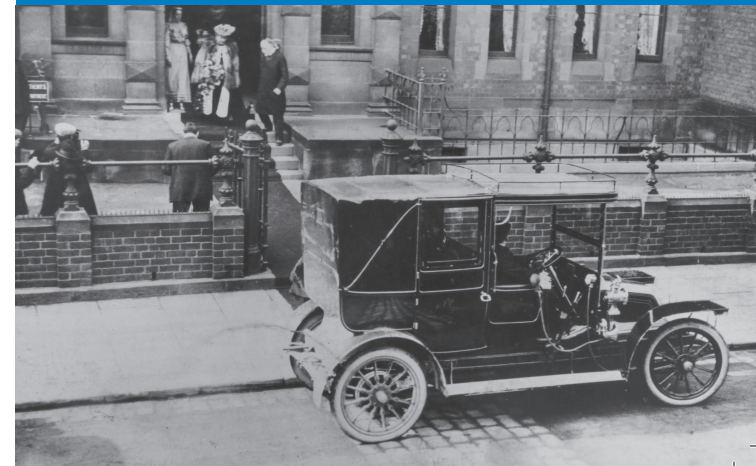
The senior honorary consulting surgeon to the Infirmary, photographed about 1905. A life-size portrait of Dr Wilson, painted by Ernest Moore and funded by the townspeople, was presented to the Infirmary on his retirement in 1914.

The painting was damaged during the building work in the 1960s and subsequently destroyed.



Above: HRH Princess Christian, made late by a punctured tyre, enters the Infirmary, 26th April 1906.

Below: Her Royal Highness leaves the Infirmary before travelling to the Mansion House.





The extensions built in 1905 can be seen to the rear of the building.

The doorway and stone steps on the near side were removed in later years.

The X-ray department in the basement of Wood Street Infirmary, 1911.

This is probably the equipment donated by the Misses Jackson in 1910. The first X-ray photographs to be taken in Doncaster were supplied by Mr T Cuttriss in 1898, using equipment he had built himself. X-ray techniques were employed in both diagnosis and treatment, though the dangers of the radiations used were little understood in early years. Charges for radiotherapy were made according to the means of the patients.





'Infirmary Saturday', 6th May 1911.

While a nurse looks on from an infirmary window, a hospital bed has been borrowed for the float. Boy Scouts feature in the group of collectors.



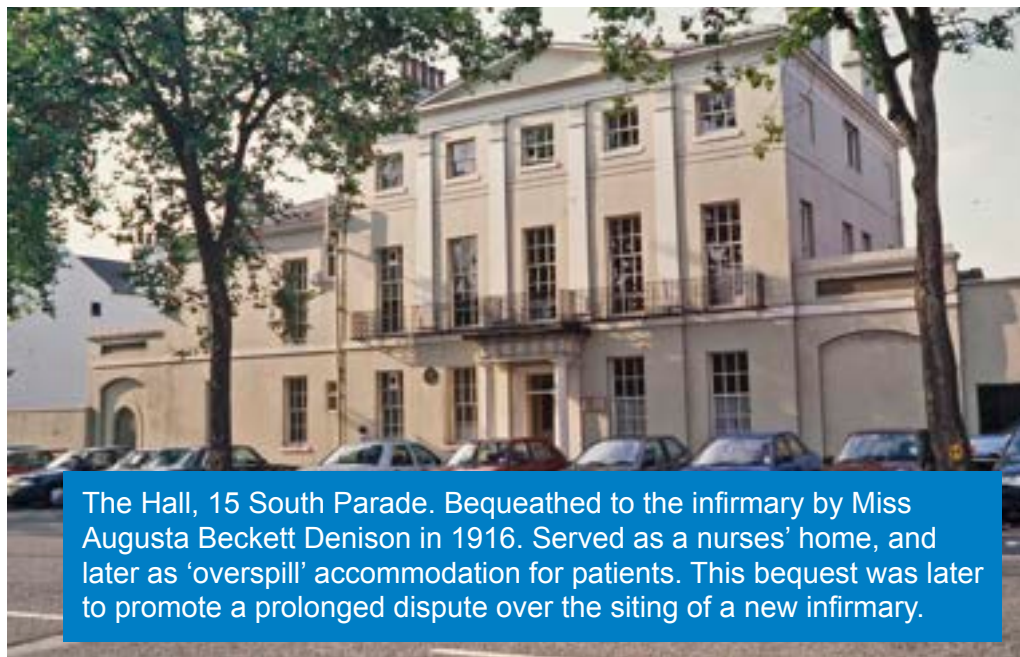
Fundraisers.

Collectors in fancy dress about to take part in an 'Infirmary Saturday' parade, about 1900. Note the old-style collecting boxes, i.e., before the Infirmary became 'Royal'.



Sydney House, 25 Thorne Road.

Eventually, after several temporary arrangements, Sydney House was purchased in 1916 to provide a Nurses' Home.



The Hall, 15 South Parade. Bequeathed to the infirmary by Miss Augusta Beckett Denison in 1916. Served as a nurses' home, and later as 'overspill' accommodation for patients. This bequest was later to promote a prolonged dispute over the siting of a new infirmary.

Due to the large number of eye injuries being experienced in the district's coal industry, local mineworkers in 1925 demanded the immediate establishment of an Eye Department. There being no available space in the Wood Street building, the committee set up a specialist eye department at Springfield House, No.1 Albion Place, South Parade, right. Twelve beds were provided, Dr M. D. Thakore being appointed ophthalmic surgeon.





Wood Street Infirmary ward.

There is little cheer in this view of one of the ground-floor wards at Wood Street Infirmary, taken about 1930. The décor is dull and dreary, the flowers wilting. No wonder that staff and patients alike look so morose.



Operating Theatre.

By 1930 the building was showing its age – note the cracked floors of the operating theatre.

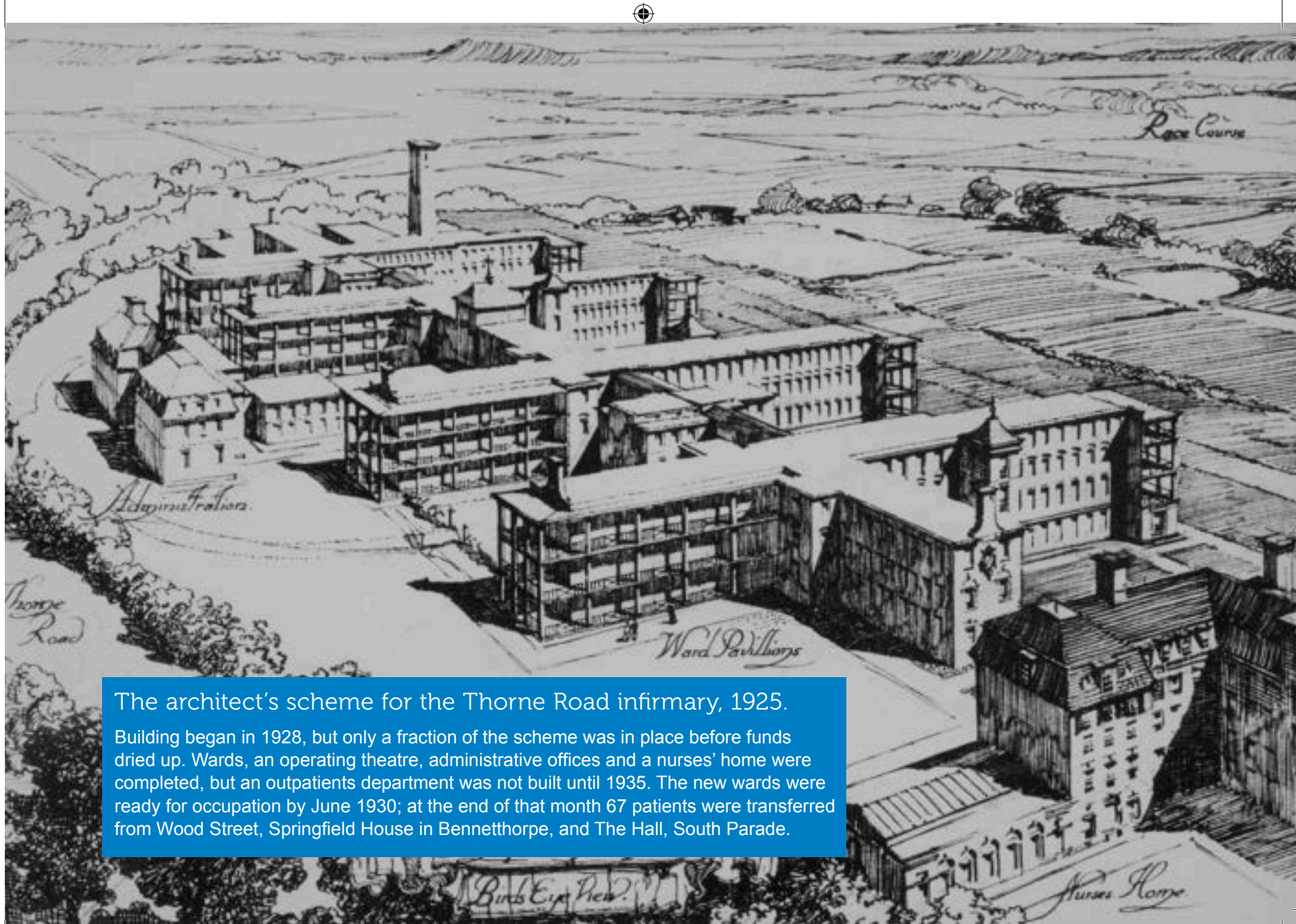


When the Thorne Road infirmary, opened in 1930, was built only inpatient care could be offered. Outpatients were treated at Wood Street for a further five years.



The overcrowded outpatient waiting area in the basement of Wood Street infirmary, 1934. Signs appeal for patients to: "STOP, and think of the benefit you have received, and then be READY, with your donation as a thank offering, and GO, give generously as possible".

A corner of the Wood Street consulting room showing the entrance to the only examination and dressing room, 1934.



The architect's scheme for the Thorne Road infirmary, 1925.

Building began in 1928, but only a fraction of the scheme was in place before funds dried up. Wards, an operating theatre, administrative offices and a nurses' home were completed, but an outpatients department was not built until 1935. The new wards were ready for occupation by June 1930; at the end of that month 67 patients were transferred from Wood Street, Springfield House in Bennetthorpe, and The Hall, South Parade.



HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, laid the Thorne Road infirmary's foundation stone on 12 October 1926. Oddly, the stone was not incorporated into the building until about 1970, when it was placed at ground level in the brickwork of the old ward block, to the right of the Fracture Clinic entrance.



Thorne Road infirmary's foundation stone.



The souvenir programme from the ceremony.



The first patient (A. Quigley) enters the new infirmary – left to right, Mr W. Temperton, Mr W. Smith, (Secretary/Superintendent), Mr A. B. Dodds, Mr A. A. Bell (Chairman), Mr A Clarke, Miss M Duesbury (Matron), Dr Crossley (House Surgeon), Ald. W. J. Crookes (Mayor), Mr E. Phillips (Vice Chairman).



A few weeks later, on Thursday 21 August 1930, Lord Lonsdale officially opened the new building before a large crowd.



The new Infirmary, Thorne Road, 1930, with Nurses' Home on right.



The Consultant Medical Staff with the entire complement of nurses, 1930.



The Consultant Medical Staff and Senior Nursing Staff, 1930.



Stamp Scheme Organisers.

Financed entirely by public subscriptions, local fundraising was vital. Here, Stamp Scheme organisers hand over a cheque to the DRI Committee Chairman. The Stamp Scheme began as the Women's Voluntary Effort in 1926, and by 1946 had raised over £11,000 in twopenny donations. The lady holding the cheque wears the Women's Effort brooch (right).



Luncheon Club Bed Endowment.

For larger contributions, beds could be endowed. £1,000 would endow an adult bed, and £600 a child's. Here, the Archdeacon of Doncaster dedicates a child's cot endowed by the Doncaster Women's Luncheon Club in 1937. Matron Janet Hunter is third from the left. On the right next to the cot is the archdeacon's wife; beside her is Mrs Phillips, president of the Club and wife of the Editor of the *Doncaster Chronicle*, who sits next to her. Robert Lancaster, Hospital Secretary (ie the principal administrator), 1936-1946, can just be seen at the extreme right. Numerous beds were endowed, each one furnished with a plaque naming the donor of the endowment; sadly, none of these commemorative plaques has survived.



Nurse Phyllis Wishart with a young patient, 1930s.



A regular event on the Children's Ward at Christmas time was the visit by the Mayor and Mayoress of Doncaster; seen here in 1945 is a child receiving a gift from Santa Claus as Hospital Secretary Robert Lancaster and Matron Janet Hunter look on (right).



Sister Jean Holdsworth offers an apparently over-ripe banana to 17-months-old Jean Walmsley, after an appeal in the local press for bananas to complement the child's coeliac diet had resulted in several donations of the fruit.



This rare view of the interior of one of the huts clearly shows the coal stoves which provided a somewhat patchy warmth for inmates.

Wartime.

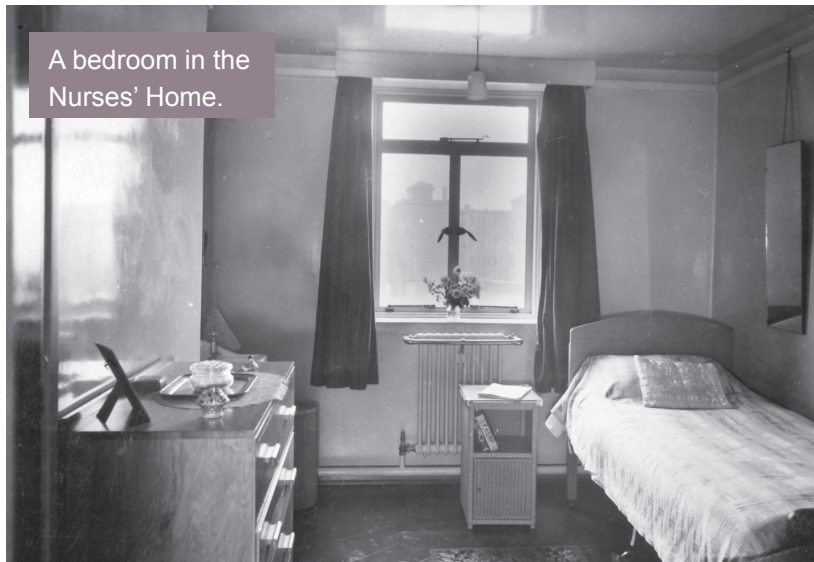
Volunteers filled and stacked 100,000 sandbags around the ground floor walls after war was declared on 3 September 1939. Air-raid shelters were built in the grounds and an observation post was sited on the roof.



In 1939 the Ministry of Health caused five huts to be erected to the south of the main building for the reception of war wounded. Intended as temporary accommodation for the duration of the war, they stood for many years afterwards. Local people were generous with their time in visiting war casualties, who were often far from home, and also in providing such additions to their diet as they could afford. Miss Kay Baker, who lived in St. Patrick's Road behind the infirmary, began a life-long association with the hospital by visiting war casualties, mainly housed in the huts. She is seen here with some of them, together with her parents, who invited forces personnel into their home for meals.



The nurses' sitting room,
Nurses' Home, 1940s.



A bedroom in the
Nurses' Home.



Matron Janet Hunter (right) takes delivery of the first television set
for the Nurses' Home.



Right: Aerial view of the Infirmary, 1958.

The five huts built for the reception of war wounded can clearly be seen. Each was heated by four coal-fired stoves: their scorch-marks can be detected on the asbestos roofs. The extension to the Nurses' Home, lower right and at right angles to the original home, was built to house the extra nurses required to care for war casualties. The block at upper left is the Outpatients Department, opened in 1935, and between this and the original ward unit is the operating theatre block opened in 1950.

After their operation, hut inmates were wheeled on trolleys along the open-sided walkway visible alongside the south-facing ward block, with a sharp right turn to gain access to the hutted wards. In inclement weather canvas sheets were hung along the open sides of the walkway to protect the patients from the elements.



Thorne Road infirmary from the west, 1952.

Nurses can be seen returning to their accommodation in the Nurses' Home.



The Children's Ward, 1952.

Note the tiled fireplace and open fire with coal scuttle. The rocking horse no doubt brought patients pleasure but a later, much larger, one was deemed dangerous and put out to grass – a sign of changing times.



A ward unit at Thorne Road Infirmary in 1952.

Known as 'Nightingale style' wards, the beds, each with its own lamp and locker, are arranged around the perimeter of the large, well-lit rooms, with plenty of circulation space between. The nurse's station, merely a desk, is centrally placed to allow good observation of all the patients. Movable screens on wheels would be pulled around the beds if privacy was required.





The laboratory of 1952 is a far cry from those of today - equipment shown is little more than a simple microscope and a Bunsen burner, with accompanying flasks and test tubes. After 1 January 1931 the hospital provided Doncaster Corporation with a bacteriological service.



The Dispensary in 1952, although possessing modern lighting, still contained a multitude of traditional jars and bottles. Pills and other preparations were made up on the premises.



Matron Miss J. J. M. Hunter presents a watch to consultant Surgeon Mr. W. Moir Shepherd on the occasion of his retirement, July 1954.



Miss Alice McGowan, Outpatients and Casualty Sister 1924-1939 and Assistant Matron 1939-1957, seen on the occasion of her retirement with consultant medical staff. Standing, left to right: Mr H. B. Young, Senior Anaesthetist, Mr H. Petty, Oral Surgeon, Mr M. D. Thakore, Ophthalmic Surgeon (already retired), Mr, J. B. Hogarth, General Surgeon, Dr Henry Miller, Radiologist, Mr George Wigg, General Surgeon, Dr Peter Milligan, Physician, Mr W. Maitland Smith, Orthopaedic Surgeon. Seated: Mr J. P. Semple, Mr W. Moir Shepherd (already retired).



Miss Janet J. M. Hunter, Matron 1939-1961.



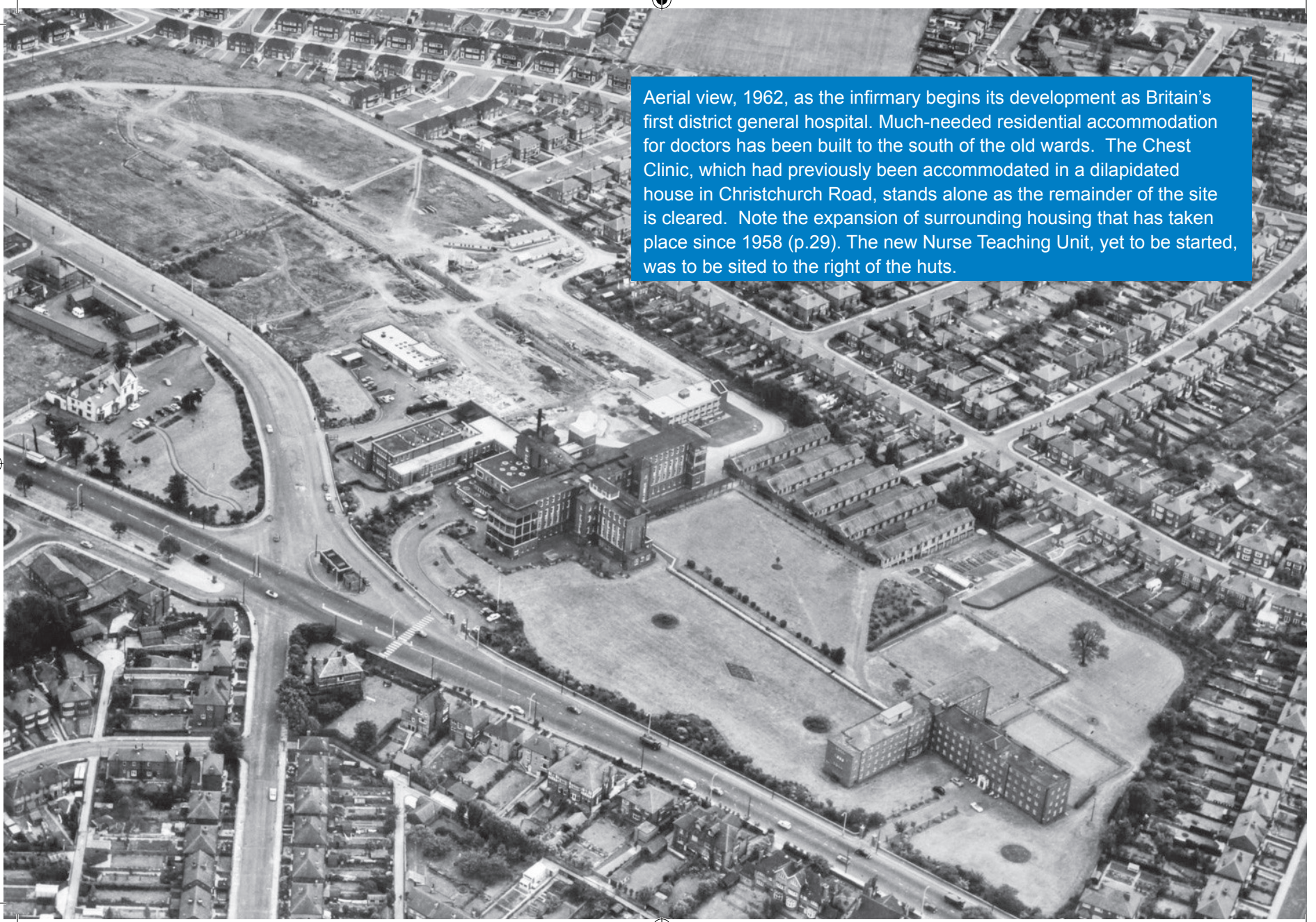
July 1961. Matron Janet J. M. Hunter being presented on her retirement with an embroidered tablecloth, the work of Mrs. Mason Humble, right. The cloth features the Doncaster Nurse Training School badge and traces in stitchwork the signatures of many nurses.



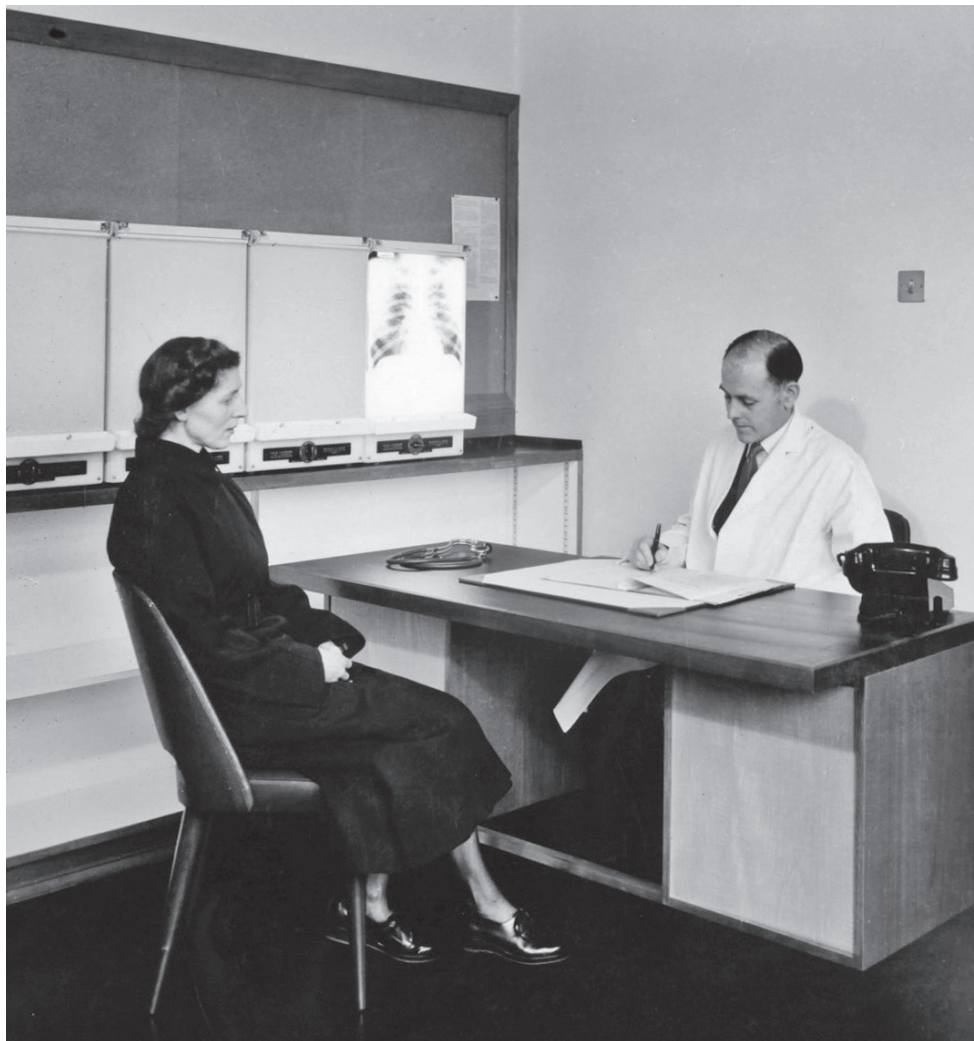
The Henry Joy Clarke Gold Medal, presented to the Best Nurse of the Year in the Training School examinations. Janet Hunter was the first winner, 1930.



Many organisations were involved in the construction of the new hospital, which took place in the 1960s.



Aerial view, 1962, as the infirmary begins its development as Britain's first district general hospital. Much-needed residential accommodation for doctors has been built to the south of the old wards. The Chest Clinic, which had previously been accommodated in a dilapidated house in Christchurch Road, stands alone as the remainder of the site is cleared. Note the expansion of surrounding housing that has taken place since 1958 (p.29). The new Nurse Teaching Unit, yet to be started, was to be sited to the right of the huts.



The new Chest Clinic, opened in March 1959, replaced the former one in Christchurch Road and was palatial in comparison. It included its own Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, shown here, a popular innovation in its time. Dr Patrick Holden, Consultant Chest Physician, takes notes, while a nursing sister poses as a patient.

The new building takes shape.





The Boiler House and chimney, January 1964.



Clearing the ground for the East Ward Block, with Dining Room under construction behind, March 1964.



The lower floors of the East Ward Block, looking west, with the 1930 infirmary in the distance, September 1964.



Another floor is added to the East Ward Block, January 1965.



Aerial view in 1967.

The Psychiatric Hospital and East Ward Block are nearly completed, while the Maternity Hospital, left foreground, is just begun.



Aerial view from the north-west, 1967.

The East Ward Block car park is still under construction, and the Psychiatric Day Hospital upper right, is yet to be started.

The East Ward Block,
Psychiatric Hospital and
Outpatients entrance
completed, 1968.





The Outpatients entrance and reception desk, 1968.

The Outpatients waiting area and buffet bar, 1972, below. In later years a large section of the ceiling was removed and replaced by glass (below right). The entire area has also been reconfigured.





The intricacies of the human brain, anatomy class, 1960s.

Doncaster Royal Infirmary Nurse Training School

The school was inaugurated in 1925, as work on the new hospital on Thorne Road was begun. Initially, lectures were presented in the Nurses' Home's badminton hall (above), practical training being given on the wards. A Preliminary Nurse Training School was founded in 1944, though these students were allowed to live at home. The large number of nurses under instruction made the necessity for better training accommodation more urgent, and a spacious Nurse Training Unit opened in 1966.



Doncaster Nurse Training School badge

Designed by Doncaster School of Art student Edith Hooper, 1930.



"George" offering the hand of friendship - this training skeleton is still in use.



Practising reading blood pressure (right) and splinting (below).





Practical instruction - bathing a baby.



Dr Hawkins, Consultant Paediatrician, instructs nurses on the Children's Ward.



Cadet Nurse Madeleine Fitzgerald reads to patient Ian Ripley. Teddy listens, too.



Teatime on the Children's Ward, with rocking horse in attendance.



Drugs instruction.



Nurses' Common Room, 1960s.



A nurse's bedroom.



The culmination of training - Nurses' Prizegiving, 8 June 1956. The Countess of Rosse (right) presents prizes; Mrs Dougal Callander, Mayor of Doncaster and wife of Dr L. Dougal Callander, on left. Henry Joy Clarke medal winner: Shirley Counce (next to Countess). J. P. Semple medal winner: Patricia Hughes (centre, front); Matron Hunter, 2nd row, left, looking up; Miss J. L. Lloyd, Principal Nurse Tutor, behind Shirley Counce.



Nurses Prizegiving, 28 June 1957. Lord Lonsdale (seated) presenter. Miss J. L. Lloyd on left, Matron Hunter on right, Chairman of Hospital Board, Mr Harvey Ford, standing extreme right, W. Maitland Smith, Orthopaedic Surgeon, behind.



A group of nurses attend a service at St. George's Parish Church (now Doncaster Minster), 1950s.



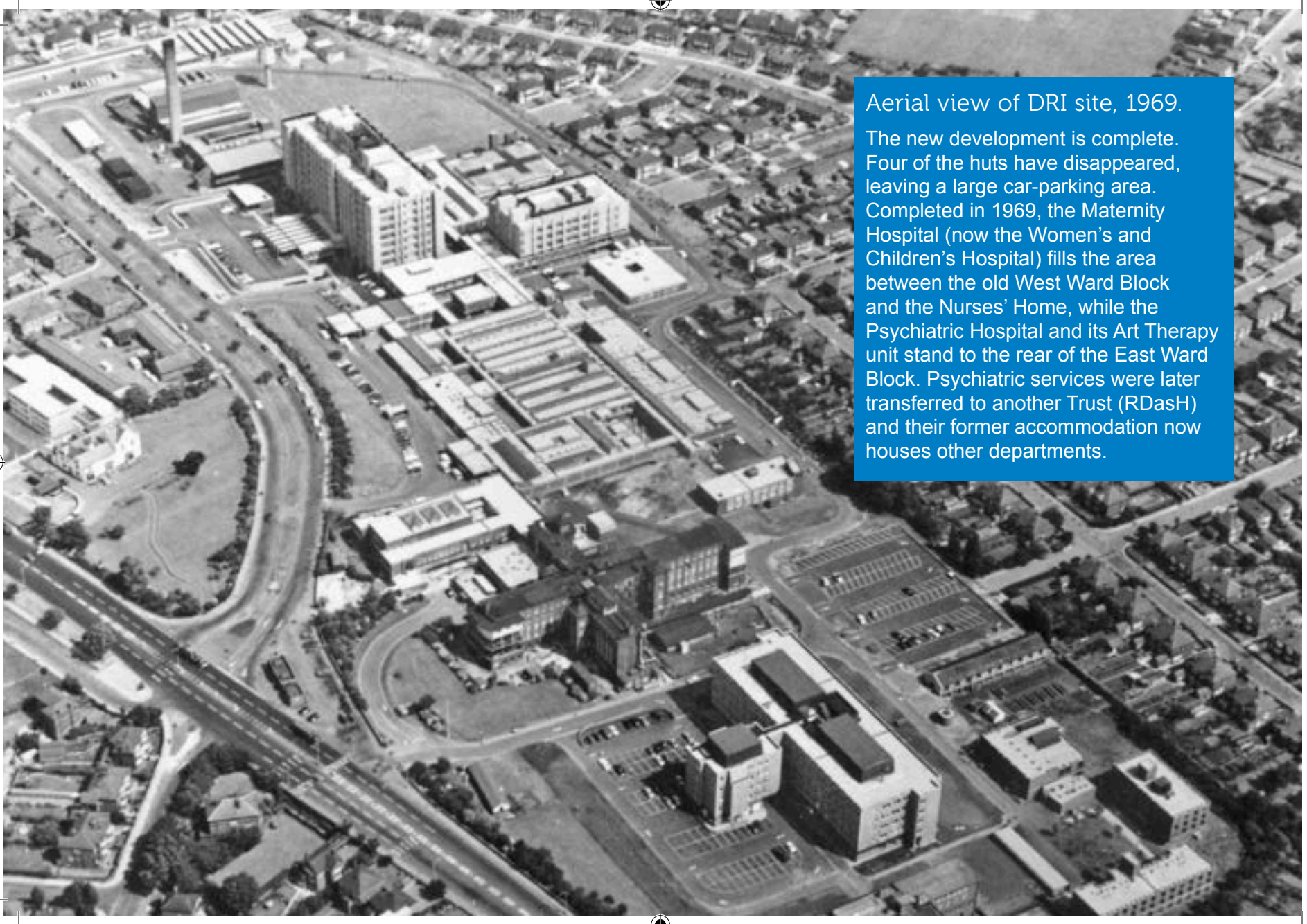
Nurses gather with lanterns to sing carols on the wards, Unit 1 West Ward Block, 1966/67.



Night duty, West Ward Block.



Using a perimeter in the Eye Department, 1960s.



Aerial view of DRI site, 1969.

The new development is complete. Four of the huts have disappeared, leaving a large car-parking area. Completed in 1969, the Maternity Hospital (now the Women's and Children's Hospital) fills the area between the old West Ward Block and the Nurses' Home, while the Psychiatric Hospital and its Art Therapy unit stand to the rear of the East Ward Block. Psychiatric services were later transferred to another Trust (RDash) and their former accommodation now houses other departments.



A four-bed area in the East Ward Block, showing the nurses' station and medicines trolley, right. Most of the five ward floors were similarly arranged, with a mixture of single and multiple bed areas. Administrative offices were on the ground floor.



One of the new operating theatres, 1972, with Mr M. H. Holden, Consultant Oral Surgeon, operating. Six identical theatres were originally available. Orthopaedics retained two theatres in the West Ward Block.

The new Central Sterile Supplies Department, right, provided all operating theatres, wards and departments with sterile equipment and materials, thus ensuring that standards of cleanliness were consistent and of the highest standard.



A corner of the Dispensary, 1972.
Most medicines were bought in.





The new staff dining room proved popular, 1968.



Bassetlaw Hospital

The foundation stone for Bassetlaw Hospital, situated on Kilton Hill on the north-eastern side of town, was laid on 1 January 1902. Then known as the Poor Law Infirmary, it was built on land adjacent to the 'Workhouse'. Hospital care was provided at the five-bed Victoria Hospital in Watson Road, opened

in 1900. A new block was added to the Kilton Infirmary in 1910 to treat phthisis (TB) patients. The administration block was extended and corridor wards added in 1930. As in other towns, including Doncaster, the anticipation in 1939 of large numbers of war wounded caused the Minister of Health

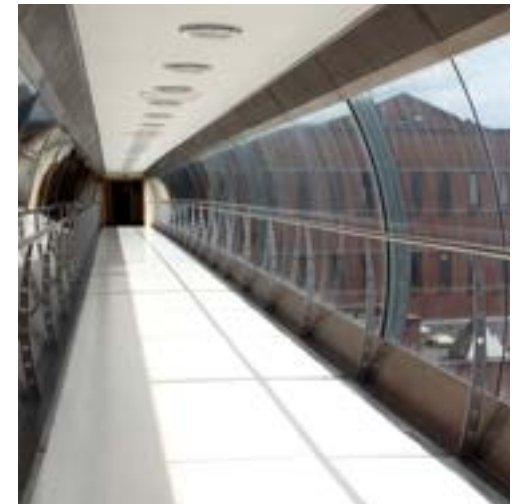
to authorise the construction of 'temporary' hutted accommodation. With an expected life of 15 years, six huts (five for wards and one for staff accommodation) were built. These huts remained in service until long after the war ended, and were finally demolished in 2002, having been unused by patients for several years.



Following this demolition, major redevelopment took place on the site with the purpose of providing the town with a District General Hospital, the first phase of which was opened on 26 March 1984.

In 1988 casualty and inpatient facilities at Retford Hospital, some eight miles distant, were transferred to Bassetlaw District General Hospital, though community and some other services were retained at Retford. Victoria Hospital was demolished in

1996. Trust status was conferred on Bassetlaw in 1992. A formal merger between Bassetlaw and Community Services NHS Trust and Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital NHS Trust was proposed in 1999, and after public consultation approval for the merger was given. Since then considerable new development has taken place on the Kilton Hill site.



Bassetlaw Hospital 2002





Bassetlaw Hospital 2012



Signing the Partnership Agreement between Doncaster and Bassetlaw, 16 October 1965.

Left to right:

Mrs V. A. Dickinson, Chairman, Bassetlaw,
Mr J. M. Donald, Chief Executive, Bassetlaw,
Mr R. Tonkinson, Chairman, Doncaster,
Mr D. Nicholson, Chief Executive, Doncaster.

Top: Nursing representatives Siobhan Hayes, Bassetlaw, and Gillian Small, Doncaster, help to seal the agreement.



Total patient care at Bassetlaw Hospital





Informal visit of HRH Diana, Princess of Wales, to Bassetlaw Hospital, 3 September 1987.



The old hutted wards at Bassetlaw Hospital



Mrs Margaret Cox, Trust Chairman, lends a hand to demolish the huts.



Retford Hospital

The market town of Retford, North Nottinghamshire, established a cottage hospital, annexed to its Dispensary at 40 Chapel Gate, in 1887, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Staffed by one resident nurse, it offered three beds and one child's cot, and was officially opened on 2 January 1888. This small building was soon deemed inadequate and in 1894 the Gylby family offered to the hospital governors at a nominal price a larger house, 'White Hall', on

Thrumpton Lane. Whitehall Hospital offered 8 beds and a cot, and opened on 18th October 1894.

Due to increasing demand, by 1900 Whitehall needed further modification and an accident ward, children's ward and operating theatre were provided in a new south wing. A new dispensary was added in 1909. After World War 1 ended a new hospital was built on a site on the Great North Road.

The foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Portland on 26 July 1922, and the hospital was officially opened by the Duchess of Portland on 10 August 1923. Whitehall Hospital was then closed. Estimated to cost £10,000 excluding furniture and fittings, funds were raised by public subscriptions and donations, with a contribution from the War Memorial Fund. The hospital contained eight male, eight female and six children's beds, but had no X-ray equipment. In July 1932 an extension, which included new wards, was opened by Lady Whitaker, whose family had donated an X-ray unit in July 1927.

In 1948 Retford Hospital was absorbed into the NHS; nevertheless, the League of Friends and local benefactors continued their support. In 1975 a major capital scheme provided rationalisation and modernisation of the hospital's facilities. Some services were transferred to Bassetlaw District General Hospital and thus Retford duly became part of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Retford Hospital 2004





Montagu Hospital

The growth of the coal mining industry in the Mexborough area prompted the foundation in 1890 of the Montagu Cottage hospital, housed in a former chapel schoolroom in Bank Street.

The building was donated for the purpose by local landowner Andrew Montagu – hence the hospital's name. It provided 14 beds.

By 1901 a larger hospital was needed, and land was obtained for a new building in Adwick Road. Again Andrew Montagu was generous in his support and the hospital was opened in 1905. A children's ward was opened in 1915; initially used for war wounded, it was finally occupied by children in 1920. In 1924 more land was purchased and extensions to the building were

added. Foundation stones were laid by representatives of the various industrial concerns that had given support, and 'time capsules' were placed in the stonework of the main entrance. These were rediscovered in 2002. A Nurses' Home was added in 1934 and four years later Montagu Hospital was approved as a Training School for nurses.

On the foundation of the National Health Service, Montagu Hospital was linked with Rotherham to form Rotherham and Mexborough Hospital Management Committee. In 1982 Montagu Hospital was amalgamated with Doncaster Royal infirmary and several new building schemes followed. In 1991 Doncaster Royal and Montagu Hospital became one of the UK's first-wave NHS Trusts. Four years later the Trust formed a partnership with Bassetlaw Hospital and Community Services NHS Trust.

In 1997 local businessman Fred Green left some £11.5 million to be used for the benefit of Mexborough people. This bequest has enabled the provision of many facilities that would otherwise have been impossible. In 2001 Bassetlaw NHS Trust merged fully with Doncaster and Montagu Hospitals NHS Trust.



Capt. F. J. O. Montagu lays his foundation stone for the extensions, 26 July 1924.

One of the mallets used at the ceremony.

Memory Lane: Montagu Hospital is proud of its heritage.





Time capsules have become a feature of new buildings at Montagu Hospital: Operating theatres 1987.



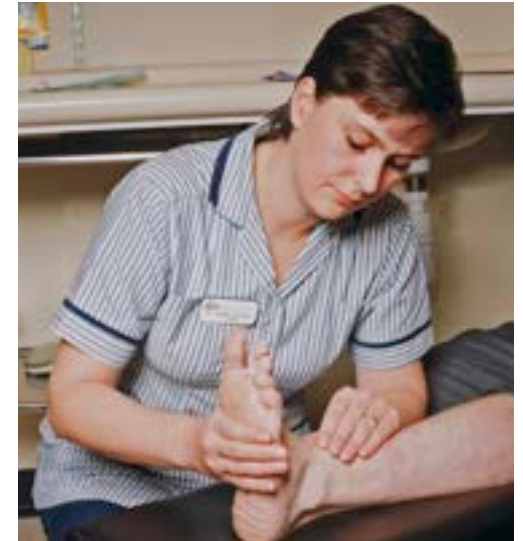
Time capsules from 1924 extensions, set within the bases of the main door pillars, rediscovered in 2002.



Patient care at Montagu Hospital



Complicated steelwork forms the roof of Montagu Hospital's new Outpatient Department.



Minor Injuries Unit,
Montagu Hospital
2000

Montagu Hospital 2002

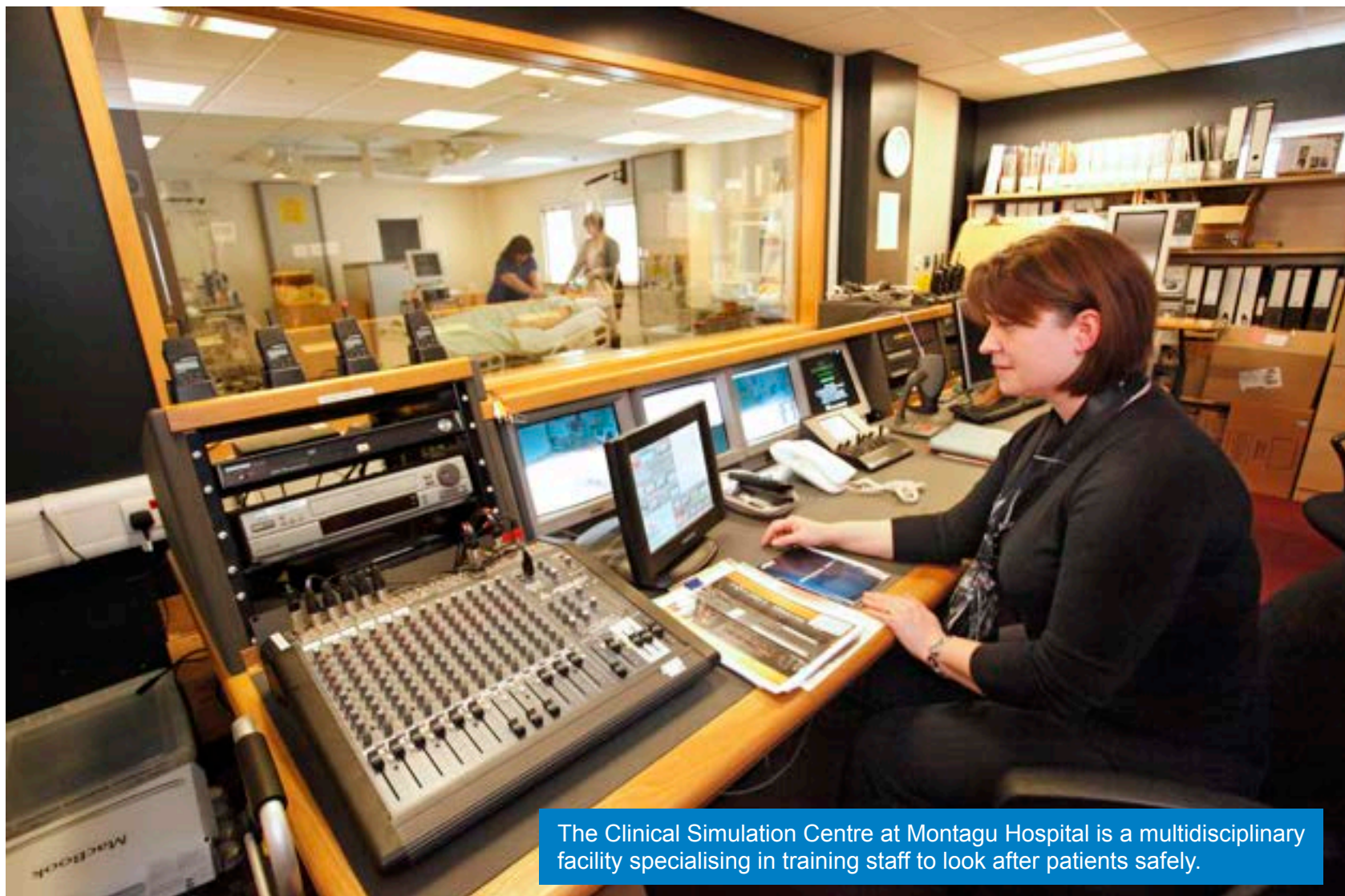




Montagu Hospital 2012



Members of Montagu Hospital's Comforts Fund with their new badge, 2018



The Clinical Simulation Centre at Montagu Hospital is a multidisciplinary facility specialising in training staff to look after patients safely.

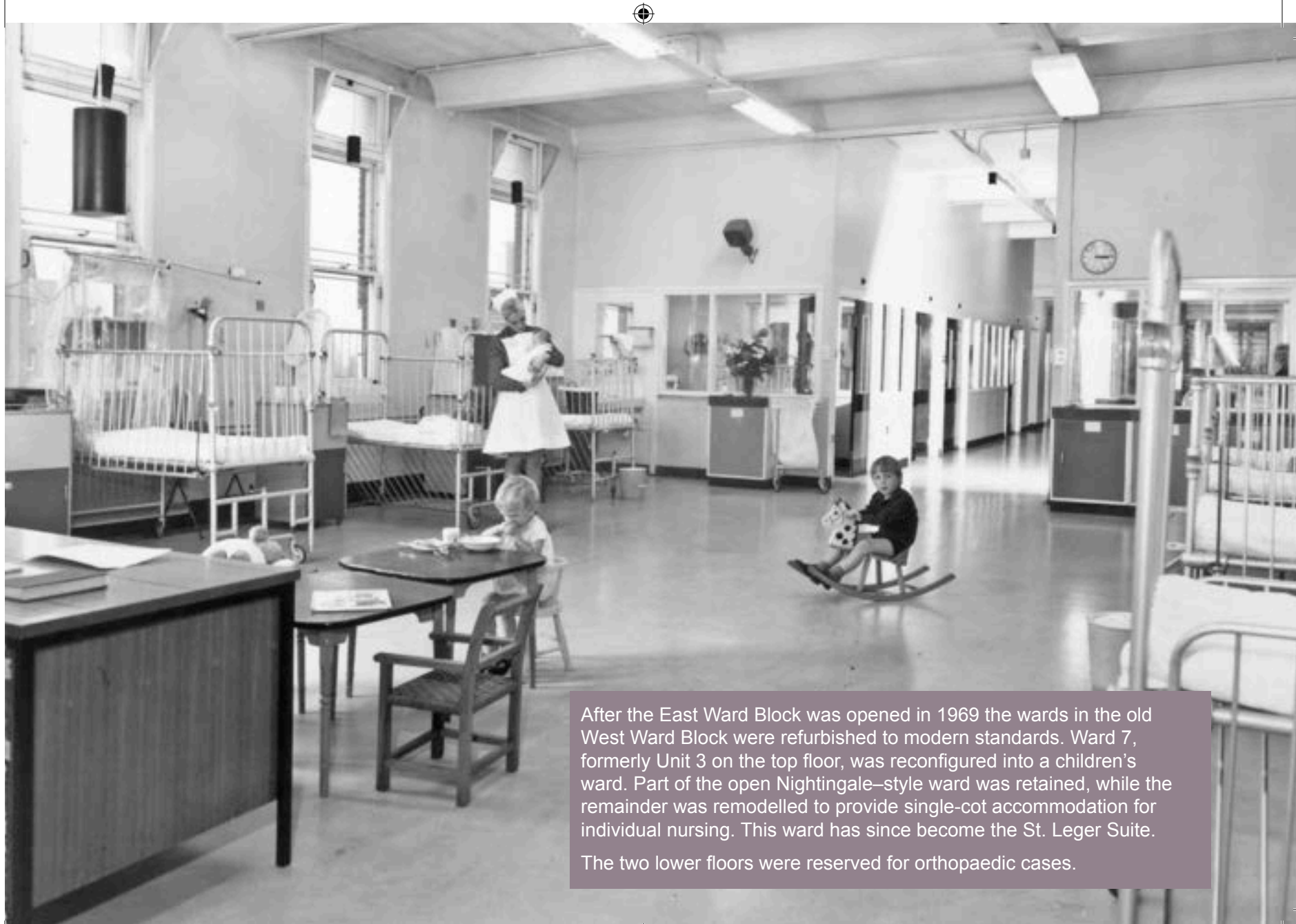


Women's Hospital

Originally intended purely as a maternity hospital, the Women's Hospital, opened in 1969, was the last major development of the 1960s scheme. Doncaster's main maternity unit at Western Hospital, Balby, then closed, itself having replaced a number of private nursing homes, for example Hamilton Lodge (right).

Hamilton Lodge, situated on Carr House Road, and formerly one of Doncaster's private maternity homes, was for some years the Staff Sports and Social Club. The house and its grounds are now given over to private flats.





After the East Ward Block was opened in 1969 the wards in the old West Ward Block were refurbished to modern standards. Ward 7, formerly Unit 3 on the top floor, was reconfigured into a children's ward. Part of the open Nightingale-style ward was retained, while the remainder was remodelled to provide single-cot accommodation for individual nursing. This ward has since become the St. Leger Suite. The two lower floors were reserved for orthopaedic cases.



A key feature of the new Women's Hospital was a Special Care Baby Unit (now called the Neonatal Unit), situated on the top floor (level 6), where premature babies and those requiring specialised care could be treated according to their individual needs.





Personal care at every stage in the Women's Hospital





The DRI site from the south east in 1969, showing the grassed area on which the new Children's Hospital was built (see right).



The Children's Hospital was built in 1989 providing in an imaginative layout three floors of specialised accommodation.

Meanwhile, the scope of the Maternity Hospital had widened to include the treatment of all women's health issues, and to reflect this the building was renamed the Women's Hospital. Specific facilities such as the Jasmine Centre, specialising in breast care, were introduced.

A further major change then took place. To have the Special Care Baby Unit at one end of the DRI site and the Children's Hospital at the other had always been less than satisfactory, and therefore a decision was made to reinstate the children's wards with the Women's Hospital, hence its present title - Women's and Children's Hospital.







Children's wards – designed to make our patients feel happy and safe.



Intensive Care Unit, DRI

(now known as Department of Critical Care)

An Intensive Care Unit, now deemed essential, seemed a luxury to some in the 1960s. Dr James Lapraik, Consultant Anaesthetist, was the moving force behind DRI's first ICU, a two-bedded unit converted from a former operating theatre on the ground floor of the old hospital.



The new East Ward Block provided eight intensive care beds on the fifth floor: Dr Lapraik stands by an inpatient bed.



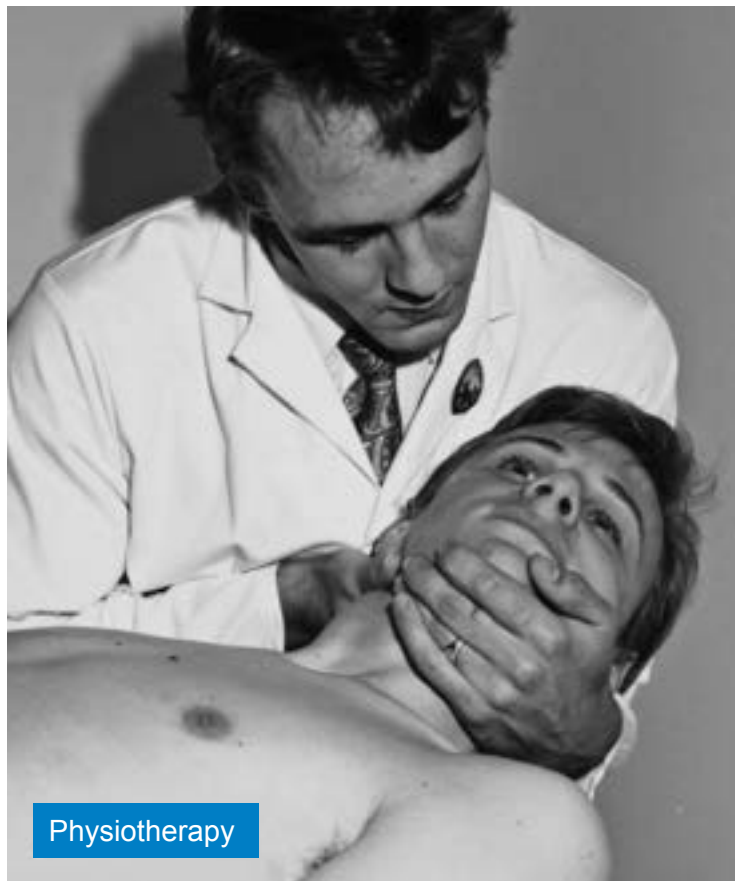


Top left: Individual patient monitoring is available at the nurses' station.

Bottom left: Regular checks by specially trained staff.

Above: The ICU in 1995, filled with sophisticated equipment to monitor the patient's every need.

In addition to the well-recognised work of doctors and nurses, many other occupations are involved in hospital care. Those featured here are just some of them.



Physiotherapy



Blood Bank



Pathology



Audiometry



Orthoptics



Dietetics

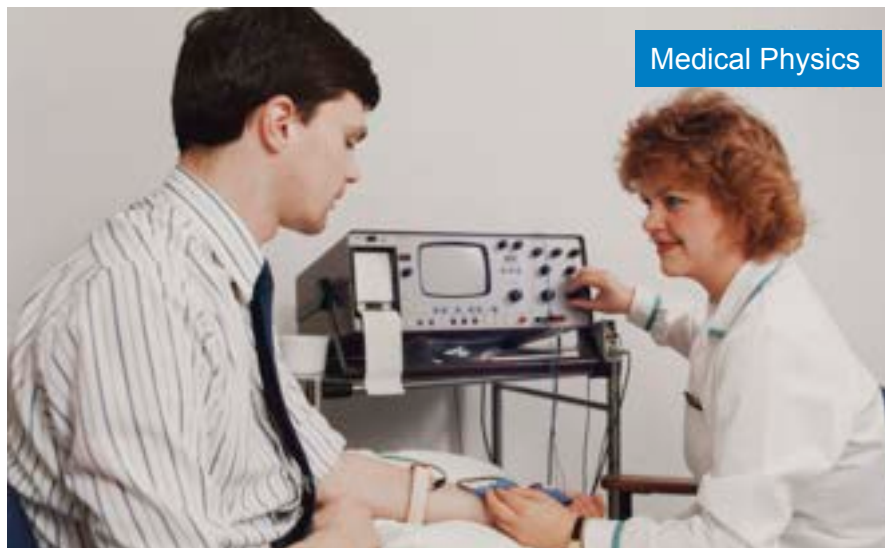


Radiography

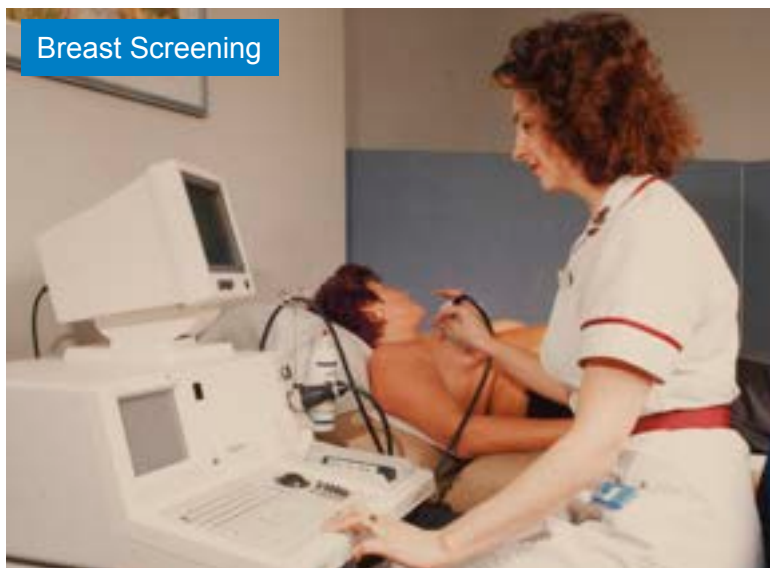
Medical Engineering



Medical Physics

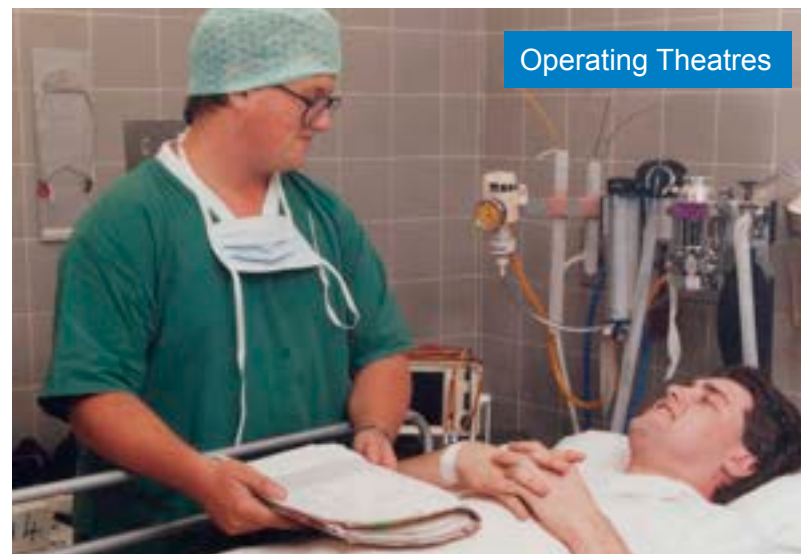


Breast Screening



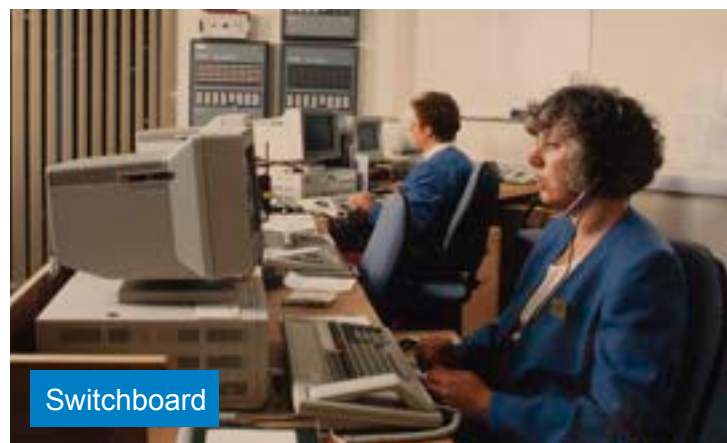
Pharmacy







Services



Switchboard



Estates



Treasurers



Chaplaincy



Administration (Hospital Board, 1971)

The care continues...





Department of Critical Care



Day Surgery



Rehabilitation, Montagu



Volunteers - an important role



Teaching status achieved 2017



ENT Masterclass 2017



Rosie Winterton
MP opens Fred
and Ann Green
Eye Centre 2016



New dining facilities 2018





Service assistants



Surgery team



Maternity services



Visiting doctors from China



Blood Bank



Neonatal team



Ward round

Special bequests

Over the years, our hospitals have been the recipients of many donations, both large and small, from local people. While each donation is truly appreciated, gratefully received and put to good use, two bequests in particular deserve special mention.

Fred and Ann Green Legacy

Fred and Ann Green were the proprietors of a Mexborough butchery business (right), later absorbed into supermarket giant ASDA. On his death in 1998, Fred left some £11.5 million to be used for the benefit of Mexborough people, in memory of their only child Alan, who was killed in a road accident in January 1943. This munificent bequest has enabled the Trust to fund many projects that would not otherwise have been possible. The Rehabilitation Department at Montagu Hospital, the shuttle buses that travel between the three hospitals and the Eye Department at DRI are but three examples.





The Allan Laughton bequest

Allan Laughton was born in 1920 in Bentley, and subsequently became an accomplished pianist, accompanist and inspirational music teacher. Unfortunately, he developed bilateral cataracts in his fifties and was forced to retire due to his failing eyesight.

In 1978 Mr Boucherat, Ophthalmic Surgeon at DRI, offered him one of the first lens replacement operations in Doncaster. As a result of this he fully regained his eyesight and was able to return to a life of musical activity, continuing to inspire many young people in Doncaster for more than 20 years. Allan died in 2009.

He was eternally grateful to Mr Boucherat for his new lease of life and also to the continued care and support that he received from the Ophthalmology Departments at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Montagu Hospital, Mexborough and the Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield.

Having no immediate family, Allan left all of these departments substantial legacies to be used for the benefit of local people. The Allan Laughton Treatment Centre at DRI commemorates his generosity.



Special Visitors



1. Duchess of Gloucester visits Montagu, 28 September 1989
2. Margaret Beckett MP, Minister of Health opens new Urology Department, DRI, 19 June 1995
3. HRH Princess Anne visits DRI, 8 December 2008
4. Jeremy Hunt MP, Minister of Health visits DRI 17 May 2018

In conclusion...

For over 150 years Doncaster Royal Infirmary has provided high standards of health care to local people, and for over a century Bassetlaw, Montagu and Retford hospitals have paralleled this in their own localities.

Since these institutions were founded, populations have grown and equipment, methods and demands on the service have changed almost out of recognition. The key element, however, has always been the professional care and well-being of the individual patient. Dedicated staff invariably go above and beyond the call of duty to provide a standard of care that patients have the right to expect.

Even now, in the twenty-first century, and seventy years after the foundation of a taxation-funded National Health Service, hospitals still benefit from, and sometimes rely on, gifts and bequests of money. All donations are gratefully received and put to good use for the benefit of patients by way of our Trust's new charity.

We hope that you enjoy this book; its purchase will help to continue the work that we do.

70
YEARS
OF THE NHS
1948 - 2018

DONCASTER
ROYAL INFIRMARY
150
years
1868 - 2018

For further information about our charity go to www.dbth.nhs.uk/charity

 **Doncaster & Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals**
Your local hospital charity

About the author



Trained in Sheffield, Garry Swann founded Doncaster Royal Infirmary's Department of Medical Photography in 1966.

He remained there for his entire career, winning numerous awards for his photographs. His interest in the organisation's history began early in his career and has led to the creation of an extensive archive. In 1973 Garry published a history of Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

On his retirement as Head of Medical Photography and Graphic Design in 2006, he was appointed Honorary Archivist to the Trust, the merges with Montagu and Bassetlaw hospitals having widened the focus of the collection.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours 2018 he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the NHS.

Garry is married to Anne, who for more than 40 years was the Trust's Head of Orthoptic Services. They have one daughter and two grandchildren.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the Chair of the Board Suzy Brain England OBE, Chief Executive Richard Parker and Emma Shaheen, Head of Communications and Engagement, for supporting the publication of this book. Adam Tingle, Communications Manager, has overseen its preparation and never lost confidence that it would become a reality. Linda Hamilton and Bonny Stevenson have typed the text and set out the book with skill and care.

Special thanks go to Lead Clinical Photographer Nick Exley and his assistant Holly Ridgeway-Bowyer who have painstakingly prepared all the pictures for publication – a mammoth task. Thanks are also due to all those people, too numerous to mention by name, who over the years have lent, given, taken, or appeared in, the pictures in these pages – without them our archive, and this book, would be much the poorer.

Finally, my thanks to Mark Shipley and his staff at Fenti, who have been responsible for the printing of this book.

G. S. July 2018