

Havant War Memorial Hospital and the Royal Doulton Nursery Rhyme Tiles



Proposed Havant War Memorial Hospital

G.C. VERNON-INKPEN, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., & E. A. ROGERS, P.A.S.I., L.S.A.,
Architects, 40 Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

Ralph Cousins
October 2011

Including
The History of Havant War Memorial Hospital
by Dr. Giles Maskell. September 1971

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Little Miss Muffet
sat on a tuffet



Old Mother Hubbard
went to the Cupboard



Old King Cole
was a merry old Soul



Here we go gathering
Nuts in May

The Havant Joint District Hospital (Infectious Diseases Hospital)



Rear View, Havant Joint District Hospital.

This was an isolation hospital built in Potash Terrace in 1892 for patients with '*contagious or infectious*' diseases these mainly being diphtheria and scarlet fever. At that time others needing medical or surgical treatment had to travel to the Portsmouth or Emsworth hospitals. From the outset the hospital accommodated 16 patients but was extended for 36 patients in 1935. A hard standing was laid out close by on which tents could be erected in the event of an epidemic. The medical staff were accommodated in a nearby building.

With the advance of vaccines from the 1920s the demand on the hospital was much reduced and it closed in 1939. The site was then used as the council's main depot until their new depot was built in Harts Farm Way in the 1970s. The buildings were then demolished and the area was used as a car park until the whole of the Potash Terrace area was developed. The Wickes store now stands almost entirely where the hospital was situated.

The other establishment in the town that provided for the sick and infirm was the dreaded '*Union Workhouse*' situated at the corner of West Street and Union Road. Built in the 1700s it did not close until 1935. The 1851 census recorded there were 98 inmates although it could accommodate up to 200 men, women and children. A number of medical orderlies were employed and one of the town's doctors was appointed as surgeon.



Miss Bannister turning the first sod on November 16, 1927.



Major General the Right Honourable J. R. B. Seely laying the foundation stone on January 11, 1928.

Havant War Memorial Hospital

The First 50 Years (as written in 1979, *author unknown*)

Havant War Memorial Hospital is a tribute to the people of Havant because through their efforts it was built as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the 1914 - 18 War.

Until the National Health Service Act came into effect in 1948, there were two kinds of hospital; '*Voluntary*', of which Havant was one, and '*Municipal*', which were those supported by local government. The voluntary hospitals were supported entirely by public contributions and were usually very short of funds.

The planning of Havant Hospital started at a public meeting held in the Town Hall on March 7, 1919 when it was decided that the most suitable form of memorial was a cottage hospital and it was proposed that a properly equipped modern hospital should be erected as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Langstone Towers was acquired as a temporary hospital. A hospital in Havant would save people the long journey to Portsmouth, and reduce pressure on the Emsworth and Portsmouth hospitals. The four doctors practising at that time were Dr A. S. Norman, Dr N. B. Norman, Dr Gedge and Dr Levick and they would be able to perform surgery.

The first £1,000 was quickly reached but after that the total increased slowly. Dances, competitions, fêtes, concerts, whist drives etc., by the efforts of Mrs Burchell and others kept the interest alive, plus house to house collecting of pennies, a penny being the price of a brick at that time.

The building started in 1927, and the first sod was cut on November 16, 1927 by Miss Bannister, the 100 year old daughter of a former Havant Doctor, and on January 11, 1928 the foundation stone was laid by Major General the Right Honourable J. R. B. Seely, Lord Lieutenant of the County.

In February 1929 the building of the hospital was completed. The furniture from Langstone Towers obtained from the British Red Cross, by Mrs Lucy C. Paxton, Commandant of Langstone Towers Military Hospital during the war, was installed at Havant Hospital. Mrs Paxton also presented the equipment for the Operating Theatre in memory of her son 2nd Lieut. Archibald Francis Campbell Paxton who was killed on the Somme in 1916.

On July 27, 1929 the dedication of the hospital took place. This was performed by Archdeacon Harold Rodgers, a former Rector of Havant. Amongst those present was Miss Bannister, now 102 years old.

In the early days there were many schemes to help pay the running costs of the hospital the following being two examples:

There was an insurance scheme by which a certain amount was paid per week and in return free treatment as required was guaranteed.

A Linen League was organised by Mrs Paxton and ladies met once a week to supply new linen and do repairs as required.

At the opening of the hospital, there were only 12 to 14 beds and no residential staff quarters. The first enlargements were made in 1933 when two wings were added, their construction being 'thoroughly carried out' by Messrs G. & R. Carrell. In 1936 to honour the Silver Jubilee of King George V a children's ward was added, the builder being Messrs A. W. H. Le Santo. Above each of the 10 cots was incorporated a panel of Royal Doulton tiles depicting nursery rhymes to the design of William Rowe who worked for the company for some 56 years.

In 1939 the hospital was further extended and an anaesthetic room added, paid for by public subscription in memory of Dr A. S. Norman, and at this time the hospital contained about 25 beds and was in full use throughout the war.

In July 1948, the National Health Service Act came into effect and the building was taken over by the state, free of debt, with equipment worth £8-10,000 and a credit balance of £5,000 in the bank. In June 1957, a casualty department paid for entirely by legacy funds was opened.

At the instigation of Mr Bernard Powell in 1962 the League of Friends of Havant War Memorial Hospital was formed. At the first meeting Mrs Vera Aplin was elected Treasurer. The cost of £2,005 to modernise the Operating Theatre in 1962 was shared by the League and the Health Service.

In 1966, the Bernard Powell Memorial Annexe was added. This consisted of three rooms namely a waiting room for relatives of patients and for casualties awaiting treatment, a nurses changing room and a kitchen staff room. The cost of £2,600 was again met by the League and Health Service. Bentley's of Havant provided all the electrical work free of charge.

A crisis occurred in August 1968, when the Ministry of Health proposed to change the function of the hospital. This was to transfer the Northlands

Maternity Hospital at Emsworth to Havant leaving only Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital to cater for the whole of the district, with the total loss of 23 beds. This aroused tremendous public feelings in Havant, but it was left to our League of Friends to call a public meeting and to which all sectors of the public were invited. This was held on October 15, and a fully representative party from the Wessex Regional Hospital Board was on the platform to answer questions. As a result of this meeting, a petition was started, and was signed by over 2000 residents, to be taken to the board.

Mr Ian Lloyd, the Constituency M.P., was consulted and the matter was discussed by him with the Minister. Many other local officials were contacted. Finally, a deputation from the league was invited to appear at Winchester before the board, to put the case of retention of the hospital. This meeting took place on January 1, 1969 and the plan to change the function of the hospital eventually scrapped. It had been made very plain to the Ministry of Health that Havant did not intend to just hand over the hospital that so many had worked so hard to build.

The hospital now has a Casualty and Outpatients Department and Gynaecological and General Surgical Clinics are held weekly. The operating theatre has now been turned into a waiting room and the Bernard Powell room turned into a sitting room with colour television for the patients. There are 23 beds and 6 wards. The cases taken are some post-operative long stay patients and terminal cases. Some beds are kept for patients who are usually nursed at home. This allows relatives to have a short holiday of a few weeks and the patient then returns home.

Since its inception, the League of Friends has raised £10,000 and has helped the hospital by providing furnishings and equipment for the hospital and amenities for the patients and staff. The support and excellent work by Matron and her staff must be acknowledged. Due to their good work at the hospital, many donations are received from grateful patients and their families.

When the hospital was built, it had to rely on voluntary assistance as its sole means of support. Now the League of Friends is a supplementary source of help and enables local people to continue their interest and pride in their own hospital.

Membership of the league costs a minimum of 15p per year or £1 for life membership. Added to these contributions, the funds raised from several money raising efforts during each year, we are confident we can continue to support our hospital with our time and money into the next 50 years.

The Final Days (*Ralph Cousins*)

Regrettably the optimism expressed for another 50 years will not be achieved as the hospital has now closed, the last patient being discharged on September 27, 2011. However it has achieved over 80 years of dedicated and devoted service to local residents and has been a testament to the foresight those who met in 1919 to campaign for its creation. Although the building may be lost the money realised from their investment will be reinvested in the new hospital so the connection will remain and hopefully will be commemorated. No doubt the staff at Oak Park will do their utmost to deliver the same high standard of care and attention that over the years thousands of patients have been used to receiving. At least their working conditions will be far superior than could be achieved in the old building. For many the Havant War Memorial Hospital has been a place where patients have been treated and been able to return home but for others it has been a place of comfort for them to pass their last days.

For myself my first visit there was in 1938 when I took off the top of one of my fingers, the one I am typing this with, in my mother's mangle. It was successfully stitched back on by Dr Jim Ricketts, who later saw war service with Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia. Other visits were for broken arms, scalding and severe cuts. My mother was carefully nursed before she died and my father spent much time there. Notably it was here in the early 1930s when my father was recovering from having his appendix out my mother first kissed him – the rest as they say is history.

The League of Friends has continued and been able to contribute many more thousands of pounds for equipment and patient and staff comforts. This money has been raised by holding various events and from the generous legacies left by grateful patients. Typical of this generosity was the wish of the late Betty Marshall, a lifelong supporter of the hospital who may well have attended its opening, that donations in her memory should be made to the League of Friends instead of flowers.

Fearing the demolition of the building would result in the loss of the nursery rhyme tiles every effort is being made to ensure survival and display within the town. Due to their delicate state this will be very expensive operation without any guarantee of success. Hopefully their reproduction here will ensure that their memory and the pleasure they have given over the years will not be entirely lost.

We have been promised that every effort will be made to relocate the original foundation stone, hopefully in to the new hospital building.

The History of Havant War Memorial Hospital

An illustration of social and medical change
during the past 50 years.

Dr. Giles Maskell
September 1971

This article has been reproduced by kind permission of Dr. Giles Maskell whose father was a General Practitioner in Havant from 1956 to 1989. Giles is at present a Consultant Radiologist at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro.

Havant War Memorial Committee

Chairman – Mr Thorburn A. Stallard

Hon Secretary Mr Edgar S. Butler
"Thirlmere" Langstone Avenue, Havant

Joint Treasurers Mr W.H. Wintle (Lloyds Bank)
Mr E. Trevett (Barclays Bank)

April 1919

Dear Sir or Madam

At a Public Meeting, held in the Town Hall, Havant, on Friday, 21st March, 1919, it was decided that a fund for the purpose of providing a War Memorial should be opened.

The form of the Memorial considered most suitable was a Cottage hospital, and it was proposed that a Properly Equipped Modern Hospital should be erected as soon as possible, and in the meanwhile Langstone Towers be acquired as a temporary hospital and altered in accordance with the requirements of the Medical Practitioners of the district.

We are, therefore, making an appeal to every resident in Havant to contribute according to their ability for this good cause. The subscriptions promised up to date (see list overleaf) lead us to believe that the action proposed and adopted at the Public Meeting, meets with the general support of the inhabitants.

The cost of acquiring Langstone Towers and altering it in accordance with the wishes of the doctors, will mount approximately to £2,500. It should be understood that in addition to the premises there are 3 acres of freehold land, which is included in the purchase price.

The capital sum it is proposed to raise is at least £5,000. The balance, after the purchase and equipment of Langstone Towers, will be invested: capital and interest being reserved for the building of the new hospital.

The alterations to be made will not interfere with the future site of Langstone Towers as a residence, when the time is opportune to erect the up-to-date hospital embodied in the scheme. The British Red Cross Society have kindly promised to present to the hospital the equipment which has been used by them at Langstone Towers.

We feel sure that this scheme will commend itself to you, and that you will agree that no more fitting memorial to the gallant men who fought and died for their country, or have been wounded in the cause, could be provided such as is proposed, which will minister to the needs of the sick and make real endeavour to save life.

Finally, may we appeal to you to contribute as generously as possible to this worthy object. A form is enclosed herewith, which we shall be glad if you will fill up as soon as possible in order that we may proceed with the temporary arrangements. The Committee will be glad to hear from you within 14 days of the receipt of this appeal.

The case is urgent; the doctors state that there is an immediate call for additional hospital accommodation in the district, and to meet the need of wounded men who are being discharged from Military Hospitals who require further treatment.

The Local Bank Managers have kindly agreed to act as Joint Treasurers, Subscribers are therefore invited to hand donations to either Mr W. H. Wintle (Lloyds Bank) or Mr E. Trevett (Barclays Bank) or send direct to the secretary.

We remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) THORBURN A. STALLARD Chairman,
EDGAR S.BUTLER, Hon. Secretary

List of Subscriptions to date:

		£.	s.	d.
Mr L. Paxton		5	0	0
Per Miss Lewis				
Mrs Lewin	3 3 0			
Mrs Miller	1 1 0			
Miss Lewis	1 1 0			
Miss K. Lewis	1 1 0			
Miss N. Lewis	5 5 0			
Collected in small sums	6 9 0	18	0	0
Mr F. Stent		100	0	0
Mr A. L. Stent		100	0	0
Mr Stirling Stent		100	0	0
Mr W. Fletcher		25	0	0
Mr Percival P. Davies		25	0	0
Local Tent Independent Order of Rechabites		3	0	0
Portsea Island Co-operative Society		5	0	0
Mr W. Edney		5	0	0
Mr J. Matson		5	0	0
Mr W. Fletcher, jnr.		10	0	0
Mr W. L. Lasseter		5	0	0
Rev E. T. Kirby		5	0	0
Mr Whittington		5	0	0
Mrs Whittington		5	0	0
Mr C. S. Davies		10	0	0
Mr A. J. Pratt		1	0	0
Rev H. N. Rogers		5	5	0
The Very Rev Canon Daly		5	5	0
Mr W. Tolcher		5	0	0
Mr E. E. Brown		3	0	0
Mr F. Bone		1	0	0
Mr and Mrs Hazell		0	10	0
Mr W. Rutter		0	5	0
Mr W. L. Hibberd		2	2	0
Mrs Hibberd		2	0	0

Messrs Alfred Stent & Sons have also promised £100 per year for five years towards maintenance.

Introduction

Havant, just after the First World War, was a small market town on the south coast of England. It was widely known for its parchment-making factory, producing some of the best parchment in the world. Its population was a mere 7,000. Since that time, Havant has grown to an incredible extent. After the Second World War, the Portsmouth Corporation built a vast housing estate on the edge of Havant in which its overflow population, after the bombing, could live. Havant has also been affected by the general drift to the South East in the last few years. There is now a large industrial estate due to the proximity of its situation to Portsmouth and Southampton. The population of Havant today is estimated at 112,000.

Havant Hospital was built as a War Memorial to those killed in the 1914-1918 war. Until the National Health Service Act came in to effect in 1948, there were two kinds of hospitals – voluntary hospitals, of which Havant Hospital was one, and municipal hospitals. Municipal hospitals were supported by local governments, while voluntary hospitals were supported entirely by public contributions and were therefore normally hopelessly short of funds. In both types of hospital, prior to the National Health Service, the medical staff played a leading part in the planning of additions and improvements, whereas since 1948 the administration has been taken over by professional administrators, and the doctors' role has been increasingly confined to medicine. At the same time medicine itself has become more complex, specialised and costly: communications have greatly improved and therefore the trend has been to centralise hospital facilities in large units. Although much of the work done at Havant Hospital in the early days might seem humdrum by modern standards, there are people in Havant today who owe their lives or health to dramatic cures or operations performed there. Some of those concerned with the early years of the hospital are still alive and they and their families have been a great help in the compilation of this history.

Havant Hospital came in to being as a local enterprise to meet the local need for the practice of acute hospital medicine; as this has become confined to large centres, the character of Havant Hospital has gradually change, and its history mirrors, in a small way, many of the social and medical changes which have taken place during the past 50 years.

Planning

The beginning of the planning of the hospital can be traced to a Public Meeting held at the Town Hall at Havant on March 7, 1919. At this meeting, the Havant War Memorial Committee was set up to discuss what form Havant's War Memorial should take. Mr Thorburn Stallard, the Chairman of the Council and, at that time, the proprietor of the parchment works, was appointed Chairman. It was decided that a hospital would be the most suitable type of memorial, and the committee was asked to draw up a scheme for the provision of such a hospital. Everybody eagerly awaited the report of this committee and most were in favour of the proposed hospital. The *Hampshire Telegraph* of March 21, 1919 says:

... the arguments in favour of the establishment of a hospital in Havant, to serve not only the town but also the neighbouring villages, are many, and the idea that it should be set up as 'the poor man's nursing home' has undoubtedly appealed to many residents. The fact that hospital accommodation could be obtained in the town, and that sufferers would not need to undertake a journey to Portsmouth, is also held to be a strong argument in support of the proposal.

At a second meeting held on March 21, the committee gave its report, and it was decided to push forward the plans for a hospital. A Finance Committee was appointed to organise collections. The report and appeal later issued by the Havant War Memorial Committee state:

The form of memorial considered most suitable was a Cottage Hospital, and it was proposed that a Properly Equipped Modern Hospital should be erected as soon as possible, and in the meantime Langstone Towers be acquired as a temporary hospital and altered in accordance with the requirements of the Medical Practitioners of the district.

Langstone Towers was a large house in Langstone High Street belonging to the Stent brothers who owned the local tannery. During the First World War it had been used as a military hospital by the British Red Cross Society who promised to present to the new hospital all the equipment that they had used at Langstone Towers.

However, although almost everybody thought that a hospital was the most suitable form of memorial, not all were in favour of the proposed arrangements. Mr Ralph Cousins [senior], a local historian, says in his History of Havant:

When Havant War memorial Hospital was first proposed, a certain section of Havant people were opposed and thought it would be a better idea to enlarge Emsworth Hospital, but local opinion became so strong that they were overruled; the people decided they were going to have their own hospital and we made an all out effort to find the money on a voluntary basis.

Emsworth already had a hospital very similar to that proposed at Havant, built to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

Others thought that Langstone Towers would not make a suitable temporary hospital and so the 'Amalgamated Friendly Societies Hospital Demonstrations Committee' obtained permission for Langstone Towers to be opened to the public one afternoon so that they might judge for themselves its suitability. No chance of raising money was to be lost and so the public, having been invited to come along and give their opinion, were first charged for admission and then a lot more at a fête held in the back garden! In all, that afternoon's work raised £50.

A word must be said here about why Havant needed a hospital. Havant was the local centre for all the many villages around: however, anybody who required an operation of any kind, from the removal of tonsils and appendices to major amputations, was taken all the way to Portsmouth. Emsworth Hospital was used for minor surgery, but being a very small institution, it was reserved mostly for the inhabitants of Emsworth, although just before the opening of Havant Hospital, four of the five inmates of Emsworth Hospital were from Havant. So a hospital in Havant would save people a long journey down to Portsmouth: it would reduce the pressure on the Emsworth and Portsmouth hospitals and it would complete Havant as the centre of the surrounding district. The four doctors practising at that time in Havant, Drs. A.S. Norman and N.B. Norman, Dr. Gedge and Dr. Levick, would be able to perform all the minor surgery for the district there. Infections were treated at the Fever Hospital, which Havant had had for a long time.

It was obviously fitting to build a hospital as a War Memorial as the committee stated in their appeal:

We feel that this scheme will commend itself to you and that you will agree that no more fitting memorial - to the gallant men who fought and died for their country, or have been wounded in the cause - could be provided than an institution such as is proposed, which will minister to the needs of the sick and make a real endeavour to save life.

The appeal made rapid progress and by mid-May 1919, the £1,000 mark was reached. The appeal and the response to it received much praise, if little financial help, from the people of the neighbouring towns. The Revd H.G. Sprigg, Rector of Emsworth, wrote in the Parish Magazine of April 10, 1919:

As one of their next door neighbours, I would ask to be allowed to congratulate the Havant people at their splendid courage at such a time in launching a scheme to build and support a Cottage Hospital for twelve beds at a cost estimated at £5,000 for the building and £1,000 a year for maintenance.

The last sentence of his article is on a less cheerful and somewhat prophetic note:

If, as seems likely, the Labour demand for State hospitals in which all workmen's families shall have a right to free insurance and treatment, takes shape, all voluntary hospitals, such as our own at Emsworth and that proposed for Havant, will be closed.

After the initial success of the Finance Committee and their secretary, Miss Kate Standing, things slowed down rapidly. Despite dances, competitions, fêtes, concerts, whist-drives and the efforts of Mrs Burchell and others, who went from house to house collecting pennies (a penny being the price of a brick at that time), the total only increased very slowly and building did not start until 1927.

In the first thirteen years after the first meetings, Mrs Burchell collected £1,000. There is now a plaque on the wall of one of the wards in the hospital commemorating her splendid achievement. By the time sufficient money was raised it was no longer possible to buy Langstone Towers and therefore the only available piece of ground near the centre of Havant was bought and building began in 1927.

Havant War Memorial Hospital Committee.

President: Mr E. S. Butler, M.B.E.
Chairman: Mr A. J. Pratt.
Hon. Secretary: Miss Standing.

Joint Hon. Treasurers:
Mr R. L. Chuter (Lloyds Bank).
Mr K. A. Walford (Barclays Bank).

Finance Committee:
Mrs Paxton. Mr D. MacMureay.
Canon J. J. Daly. Mr G. R. Standing J. P.

18, North Street
Havant.
June, 1925.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

The Havant War Memorial Hospital Committee consider the time opportune to make an intensive appeal for funds towards the completion of the scheme.

Quite recently the Committee have acquired a site on very reasonable terms, situated in the Cross Way Road, with a delightful south aspect.

Messrs G. C. Vernon-Inkpen and Rogers have prepared plans for the erection of the Cottage Hospital, who after consultation with the Medical Profession, we have pleasure in submitting herewith. The cost of building will be approximately £5,000, and towards this amount we have in subscriptions and promises £1,600

In bringing these facts to your notice the committee feel sure there will be a ready response from the generous public of Havant, Hayling, North Havant and Bedhampton.

The need of the hospital was never greater than today, and it will be entirely at the service and under the direction of people of this district.

Will you therefore seriously consider what financial support you can render and fill up the enclosed promise form and return it to the Honorary Secretary or to one of the Collectors who will shortly wait upon you.

Yours in the service of the Sick and those in need of Hospital Treatment.

E. S. BUTLER, President.

A. J. PRATT, Chairman.

KATE STANDING, Hon. Sec.

The Building and Early Years

On November 16, 1927 Miss Bannister, 100 years old and the daughter of a former Havant doctor, turned the first sod on the site of the future hospital. The *Hampshire Telegraph* said:

Miss Bannister, her slightly wrinkled face wreathed in smiles, turned the first sod of Havant's new hospital with a vigour which belied her years.

There was a large number present at the ceremony, which was the climax to years of endeavour by Miss Standing and an energetic committee. Again no chance of raising money was to be missed and so:

After the ceremony the public were invited to turn other sods at the price of a contribution to the hospital fund. Over 30 people availed themselves of this offer and the sum of £5 was collected in this way.

After the ceremony the building began and made rapid progress. On January 20, 1928 the foundation stone was laid by Major General the Right Honourable J. E. B. Seely, Lord Lieutenant of the County. There followed a general vote of thanks to Miss Kate Standing, the committee, the architects, Messrs Vernon-Inkpen and Rogers, the builders, Messrs Godwin and Vince, and all who had enabled the hospital to reach this stage. Everyone were reminded that although the building had been paid for, the running costs of the hospital, estimated at £1,200 per year, would also have to be paid for by voluntary contributions.

At a meeting of the Hospital Committee in February 1929 it was announced at last that the building of the hospital was completed and that the furniture from Langstone Towers, obtained from the British Red Cross Society by Mrs Lucy C. Paxton, the commandant of Langstone Military Hospital during the war, was being installed at Havant Hospital. Mrs Paxton also presented the equipment for the operating theatre to perpetuate the memory of her son, Archibald Francis Campbell Paxton, 2nd Lieutenant, Middlesex Regiment, who was killed on the Somme in 1916.

On July 27, 1929 the dedication of the hospital took place. This was performed by Archdeacon Harold Rogers, formerly Rector of Havant, and the ceremony was attended by many people, amongst them, Miss Bannister, now 102 years old. The date of the opening ceremony is uncertain, but a later document concerning the removal and appointment of trustees of the hospital states that the records of Havant Hospital date

from July 29, 1929, probably implying that the first patient was received on this day.

When opened the hospital had 12 to 14 beds and one of its earliest patients was a boy of 10 who had been involved in a road accident with severe injuries to his right leg. He was taken there unconscious and on regaining consciousness ten days later, he complained to a nurse that his jaw was stiff. She sent for Dr. Burford Norman who at once diagnosed a case of tetanus, a disease usually fatal. The boy was given injections and looked after carefully and gradually he got better. After ten weeks in hospital he was discharged, but for months afterwards he was unable to get around. However he was eventually cured completely and works in Havant today. This was one of the hospital's greatest successes in its early days. Dr. Burford Norman is also said to have performed more than one skin grafting operation successfully. I have been unable to confirm a story that he once arranged for the butcher to slaughter a sheep at 10.30 one morning and at 10.45 he was attempting to transplant the sheep's thyroid gland, a necessary organ for life, in to one of his patients.

In these early days there were many schemes to help pay the running costs of the hospital. There was an insurance system by which one paid a certain amount per week and in return one was guaranteed free treatment at the hospital when one was ill. If one did not participate in this, one had to pay a certain amount for every night spent in the hospital when one was ill. Another voluntary assistance scheme, this one organised by Mrs Paxton, is explained in its letter of introduction:

The objects of the Linen League are to supply the Havant War Memorial Hospital with the linen required for the 23 beds and cots and the residential staff quarters, and, by means of working parties on Friday afternoons, keeping it in the necessary repairs. Members undertake to subscribe 1/6d. [7½p] per annum and to give two pieces of linen, ranging from sheets to dusters, according to their means and inclinations. Sizes of sheets, pillow-slips etc. required may be had on application to the Matron.

This League was set up about 1933 when two extensions with 15 beds were added by Messrs G. & R. Carrell. At the same time the original wards on the first floor were converted in to staff bedrooms. In 1935, to honour the Silver Jubilee of King George V, a children's ward was added. The architect was Mr Rogers, Mr Vernon-Inkpen having died in 1926, and the builders were Messrs Le Santo. The extension was modelled on the paediatric ward of St Thomas' Hospital in London, with ten panels of Royal

Doulton tiles, designed by William Rowe, depicting nursery rhymes on the walls.

The *Hampshire Telegraph* reporting on the opening of the annual bazaar in aid of Havant Hospital in the summer of 1936 said:

Mr C. E. B. Longcroft, (Chairman of the Hospital Committee) presided andreminded them that since the last year's bazaar the new extension had been opened, and was working very satisfactorily. Since the re-opening of the hospital there had been 109 in-patients and before that there had been from January 1st to the middle of June fewer than 100 in-patients. They would judge by that increase how the work and expenditure had increased, and how justified the new extension had been.

In 1939, the hospital was further extended, and an anaesthetics room was added 'by public subscription to the memory of the late Dr. Alexander Stewart Norman, honorary consulting surgeon' as the plaque tells us. Dr. Stewart Norman was one of the great characters of Havant. He was known affectionately as 'the little doctor' and he used to address everybody as 'my boy' or 'my girl' irrespective of age. He was the father of Dr. Burford Norman. By the time war came in 1939 Havant Hospital contained 23 to 25 beds and employed a staff of about nine regular nurses with many voluntary assistants. It was in full use throughout the war and numbered many service personnel amongst its patients. After the war, immediately prior to the National Health Service, a patient in a public ward would pay £3 per week for treatment and care.

1948 and After

The National Health Service Act of 1946 was not a sudden, fatal blow to voluntary hospitals by a hard-hearted, severely practical government. The whole period between the two wars was spent paving the way for it. The key word in this system of preparation was co-operation. Prior to the National Health Service the hospital scene in Britain was one of thousands of small hospitals working independently of one another where the local general practitioners performed all sorts of operations and next to nothing was provided in the way of specialist treatment.

In 1921 the Voluntary Hospitals Commission was set up. This divided England into 46 areas. Voluntary Hospital Committees were appointed in 36 of these to encourage co-operation between hospitals, to organise contributory schemes and to investigate the needs of the hospitals in their areas. In 1929 the Local Government Act gave authorities wider powers to

provide hospitals. It encouraged them to co-operate with the Voluntary Hospital Committees and this led to great improvements in many areas. These reforms were applauded in many magazines and newspapers including a survey of the British Health Services by the Political and Economic Planning think tank, which drew attention to the large number of different agencies which had:

come into being as a patchy improvisation without regard to any general scheme and bringing in its train overlapping, competition, S.O.S.s for funds and other evils with the result that the public is bewildered in a haze of services each working independently of the other.

In 1938 the Emergency Medical Services were set up due to the threat of war, involving more co-operation between hospitals. In 1941 the report of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust stated:

The distribution of consultants and specialists has been extremely unequal, in some areas there are many, if not enough, and in others few or none.

So on July 5, 1948 the National Health Services Act, passed in 1946, came in to effect, transferring 2,800 hospitals (450,000) beds) to the control of the Minister of Health, Aneurin Bevan. The National Health Service was, in fact, despite all gloomy predictions, an immediate success. The Portsmouth Group Hospital Management Committee's report for the 1948-1958 period begins:

The fifth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight. For most of the people this was just another day: to some it was the day after the 172nd Anniversary of American independence. But for those concerned with the hospitals, it was a day of portent. Was it to be the first day of independence: or were hospitals to be henceforth governed by bureaucrats in remote control? Would there be a reduction in the standard of service; what would happen to the voluntary spirit so much a part of the hospital tradition of the country. The first ten years of the service have provided an adequate answer to all these questions, Despite completely new patterns of organisation, greatly expanded demands from the public, and the necessary of having to make-do-and-mend, a capable and enlightened service has been built up providing treatment of an excellence and scope barely contemplated in July 1948.

Havant Hospital itself was handed over to the state free of debt, with equipment worth between £8,000 and £10,000 and a credit balance of £5,000 at the bank. At the last annual meeting of the committee, speeches of thanks were given to all who have contributed to the hospital, and it was announced that 6,000 patients had passed through the hospital since opening. It was at this time a hospital solely used for general practice and minor operations. Since then it has been used for gynaecology and, more recently for geriatrics. There were twenty-five beds including three private beds and amenity beds. In 1949 510 inpatients and 637 outpatients were treated at Havant, although as yet no outpatient specialist clinic sessions were held there. In 1950 the Group Hospital Management Committee decided that this must be provided, and in 1951, 98 clinics were held. At this time, the hospital had a nursing staff of thirteen and domestic staff of six.

In June 1957 a casualty department, paid for entirely from legacy funds, was opened. This was staffed by General Practitioners on call. However, there was no X-ray department and patients requiring X-rays had to go to Emsworth or Portsmouth. 113 clinic sessions were held in this year and 573 in patients passed through the hospital. By 1958 the total number of beds had decreased to 23 while the staffing remained the same. In 1962 the operating theatre had to be modernised. This cost £2,005 of which the League of Friends paid half. In 1966 the Bernard Powell Memorial Annexe was added to the hospital in memory of Councillor Bernard Powell, a railway man and trade unionist and first Labour Chairman of the Havant and Waterloo Urban District Council. This addition consisted of a waiting room for relations of patients and for casualties awaiting treatment, and cost £2,600 of which the Regional Hospital Board paid half and the League of Friends paid the other half. Bentley's Ltd. of Havant agreed to do the electrical work free of charge as their contribution.

In 1968 the Ministry of Health proposed to discontinue the use of Havant Hospital for general hospital purposes on the grounds that it was becoming uneconomical to maintain small hospitals, and therefore everything should be concentrated on large centres and small hospitals should be closed down. This proposal aroused tremendous public feeling in Havant and a public meeting was called on Tuesday October 15, 1968 at the Town Hall to discuss the problem. The result of this meeting was that a letter signed by numerous residents was sent to the Ministry of Health and the plan was dismissed.

Today there are 25 beds in Havant Hospital. Three of these are private or amenity beds, four are officially gynaecological and post-operative beds, while the rest are still allocated to general practice. Between 1950 and a few years ago, surgeons and consultants came up from Portsmouth once a week and four or five beds were allocated them, but now no operating is done at Havant except minor operations such as stitching cuts. The general practitioners of the area operate a duty rota for the casualty department.

Personalities

This final chapter will be devoted to taking a closer look at some of the characters featured in this story. Miss Kate Standing, Honorary Secretary of the Hospital Committee until nationalisation was the daughter of Mr and Mrs George Standing. Mr Standing was a grocer who came originally from Steyning. Mrs Standing was a well-known philanthropist who, before the hospital project was started, used to visit the workhouse in Havant every Sunday afternoon taking groceries from their shop to the poor people. They were both ardent Methodists and were founder members of the Methodist Church in Bedhampton. Miss Standing's brother was the Revd George Standing, D.S.O., M.C., Chaplain to King George V and the Royal Household. He visited Havant regularly until his death and was a well-known figure at the Christmas parties, which the hospital gave for the families of all the staff. His family retained their grocer and pork butcher's business in North Street, Havant until the end of the 1960s.

When the Red Cross was formed in 1909, Mrs Lucy C. Paxton became Quartermaster and, soon after Commandant, a position which she held until 1925. She was in command of Langstone Towers Auxiliary Hospital from its opening in December 1914 to its closure in January 1919. At the closing of Langstone Towers, Mrs Paxton obtained permission to keep much of equipment and furniture which had been used in the hospital. She then wrote to the council proposing a cottage hospital as the town's war memorial. This proposal was put to the War Memorial Committee who voted in favour of it and the result was the War Memorial Hospital, which we see today. She presented the equipment in memory of her son. She was on the Hospital Committee from the very beginning until a year before her death in 1962 and was at the hospital for the presentation to a retiring porter just a few weeks before her fatal accident. Her son and daughter are still living in Havant. Miss Paxton has kept records of many of the events described in this history and still retains vivid memories of them.

Dr. Burford Norman, son of Dr. A.S. Norman died in 1954 in Kenya having left Havant not long before. Dr. M. Dewhurst, who joined the practice in 1927, is still living in retirement in Havant and the practice is now carried on by Dr. O'Flynn and his partners. The late Dr. J.R. Rickett had many connections with Havant Hospital and his practice is continued by Dr P.J. Fawkner-Corbett and his partners. When Miss Sarah L. Bannister, who turned the first sod on the site of the hospital, died shortly before her 104th birthday she was still writing her own Christmas cards.

Conclusion

The story of Havant War Memorial Hospital is the story of the great generosity of the people of Havant, once a small market town, now a large area of housing and industrial estates. The general view among the older members of the community is that this generosity is a thing of the past, but there is evidence to show that this is not the case. The League of Friends, founded in 1962 by Mr Bernard Powell, has continued to provide equipment for the hospital and extra comforts for the patients. It has a present membership of about 200 and raises money by an annual subscription, jumble sales, wine and cheese parties, whist drives and an annual ball. As recently as August 1971 the Havant Lions Club raised £110 to buy an ambulift trolley for the hospital by collecting bottles for a bottle stall at the Brighton Carnival. They said afterwards that the response from the public was '*tremendous*'. When Havant Hospital was opened voluntary assistance was the sole means of support. Now it continues as a supplementary source of support, and enables the local people to continue their interest and pride in their own hospital.

Inevitably the National Health Service has altered the role of Havant Hospital since the existence of small general hospitals is incompatible with present-day medicine. However, Havant Hospital is still doing a valuable job in that it is a place where the general practitioners can keep their elderly patients for nursing and care. This role is becoming more and more important as life expectancy increases and elderly people no longer tend to live with their families.

Traditionally the Churches have been concerned with hospitals and the care of the sick and it is interesting that many of the people who have played a prominent part in the history of this hospital have been active members of local Churches. In the early years, the Standing family were prominent Methodists and more recently Mr Bernard Powell was a well-known Roman Catholic.

The future of Havant Hospital has been uncertain since the outcry in 1968. It is becoming very uneconomical to keep Havant hospital in its present form. The cost at present is about £35,000 per year. However I do not think that Havant Hospital should be closed. It is my personal opinion that this great memorial to those who died in the First World War and to the generosity of the people of Havant should stand as a monument for future generations, performing its intended function and making a real endeavour to save life.

Acknowledgements

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Addendum

Impressions on the collection of information for this history.

It has greatly surprised me during my research that although the life of Havant War Memorial hospital has taken place roughly within the last 50 years, there are no continuous records available. Although detailed records have been kept by the Group Hospital Management Committee Records Office since the inception of the National Health Service, they have no information about the years before 1948. The only records in the hospital itself are the small commemorative plaques in some rooms. The information which I have obtained has largely come from old newspapers, and the memories and scrapbooks of the people concerned in the story and their descendants. I was interested that although the newspaper offices have kept copies it has not been possible to index all copies, and particular stories can only be found by knowing approximate dates and searching through all issues.

The New Oak Park Hospital

Following considerable discussion with the local community NHS Hampshire has been working with local General Practitioners and NHS service providers to develop exciting plans for providing healthcare services in Havant and east Hampshire, which include the closure of Havant War Memorial Hospital.

The plans for the Oak Park site include jointly commissioning an Oak Park Health and Wellbeing Campus with Hampshire County Council. This development will include a new 60 bed nursing centre with 20 of these beds commissioned for reablement/intermediate care providing support for patients to regain independence.

Local General Practitioners and clinicians are working together to develop a new model of care for reablement/intermediate care. Instead of waiting until the new nursing centre facility is ready in 2014 we will jointly commission with Hampshire County Council a total of 20 reablement/intermediate care beds in nursing homes in the Havant area. These beds will replace the beds at Havant War Memorial Hospital which will close and means we can introduce the new model of care much sooner.

As part of our discussions about Havant War Memorial Hospital we have been considering the future for the nursery rhyme tiles and of the original foundation stone, which are highly valued by local residents. We have been discussing the relocation of the stone and will ensure it is included in the plans following the closure of the hospital if the building is to be demolished.

We have also been discussing the different options for moving the tiles with local residents including the League of Friends, Over 50s Forum, Hampshire Local Improvement Network (LINK) and local councillors. There are two issues that need careful consideration in potentially moving the tiles. The first is the cost of removing them, particularly at a time when the NHS must be cautious in its expenditure. We have asked a specialist company for an estimate on removing the tiles from the wall and this is in the region of £20,000 for removal, restoration, mounting and framing. The second issue is the size of the panels as they are very big and would require a large amount of free space to display. There are 10 panels and each one measures 39½ by 23½ inches and contains 24 tiles.

The Steering Group, which has representation from local councillors, Hampshire LINK, Havant War Memorial Hospital League of Friends and Emsworth Cottage Hospital League of Friends, welcomes any suggestions as to the future of the tiles, which would be carefully considered. In addition we are also working with Hampshire County Council to include the requirement to place one of the panels as part of the wider Oak Park development plans once we have a preferred bidder.

Inger Hebden

Director of Capital Planning. NHS Hampshire.



Nursing Staff at the Langstone Towers Red Cross Military Hospital.



Nursing Staff at the Havant War Memorial Hospital, Christmas 1945.



Lorna, Countess Howe, opening a hospital fête with Major Lane, Mr Charles Longcroft and Mrs Lucy Paxton.

Our hospital must be maintained

Mrs. Burchell is within reach of her £1,000.0.0. collection.



Wartime poster mimicking Lord Haw-Haw drawn by Basil Cousins to advertise Mrs Burchell's Hospital Whist Drives. Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) broadcast anti-British propoganda from Germany. Before the war he was the Marquis of Tavistock's secretary at Warblington House.

Havant Sports Committee Hospital Fundraising Events



A Boxing Day 'Top Hat' Old Fashioned Cricket Match
Frank Stockley, J. Carpenter, Bill Monk, Basil Cousins, M. Parvin,
A. Dridge, Mr Bateman (umpire), J. Peters (batting).



Fancy Dress Football Match.

Early Havant Ambulances



Renault purchased Second Hand from the Metropolitan Asylums Board in May 1927. Driver Harry Beach was Mrs Paxton's chauffeur.



Sunbeam Red Cross Ambulance with Bert Combes and Harry Beach, October 1933.

Before the War Memorial Hospital was built, Sunday Fundraising Parades by Friendly Societies were held to support the Emsworth and Portsmouth Hospitals. This Parade was held on Sunday August 5, 1906.



Parade passing the Workhouse in West Street.



Parade at Bedhampton Railway Crossing.



See - Saw
Margery Daw



Little Boy Blue
Come blow up your horn



Little Jack Horner
sat in a Corner



Ding Dong Bell
Pussy's in the Well



Mary, Mary,
quite contrary



Little Bo-Peep
has lost her Sheep

**THIS STONE WAS LAID BY
MAJOR-GENERAL
THE RIGHT HON. J.E.B. SEELY
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
HIS MAJESTY'S LIEUTENANT
OF THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON
11th JANUARY 1928.**

War Memorial Hospital Foundation Stone.

One of a series of booklets on local history in the
Borough of Havant.
See the full set at www.havant.gov.uk/havant-10979