

LOST HOSPITALS OF LONDON (adapted from <http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/>)

Teddington Memorial Hospital
Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 OJL

Medical Dates: 1875 – current

Medical character: Acute. Later, community

The Teddington and Hampton Wick Cottage Hospital opened in 1875 in a house – Elfin Grove Villas – which had been donated for the purpose by Thomas Chappell, of the music publishing and piano manufacturing firm.

The Hospital had four beds. Its income, apart from subscriptions and donations, was raised by various activities, such as fetes, bazaars, concerts and plays. In-patients were charged one shilling (5p) a day towards their keep.

By 1914, although the number of beds had increased to 24, the population of the area had grown and this bed accommodation had again become inadequate. With no further possibility of expansion on the site, a fund-raising campaign began to raise money for a new hospital on a new location. However, the outbreak of WW1 caused the plans to be postponed.

After the war the Hospital Committee began to explore potential sites in 1919; it was intended that the new hospital would also serve as a War Memorial.

Fund-raising began in earnest and a piece of land was acquired in Hampton Road for £2,000. The vendors also donated £1,000 towards the building fund. A magazine called *Our Town* was published in 1924 to raise money for the fund; this was renamed *Swan and Stag* in 1925 and was published annually until 1934 (the magazines are apparently available in the Twickenham Library, while the swan and the stag became the emblem of the Hospital).

In 1928 Lord Dawson of Penn, physician to the Royal family, laid the foundation stone for the new Hospital. Behind the stone, which is embedded in the side return wall by the front door, were placed the names of the benefactors and donors.

The Teddington, Hampton Wick and District Memorial Hospital opened in 1929. It had its own kitchen garden at the rear, which provided fresh fruit and vegetables for the patients and staff.

By 1931 the Hospital's name had been shortened to the more manageable 'Teddington Memorial Hospital'.

In 1933 an operating theatre block was built, as a memorial to one of the original founders of the hospital, Dr. Isaac Coalbank. Later another new

building was erected, which contained a children's ward and rooms for private patients.

At the outbreak of WW2 the Hospital became a Casualty Clearing Station. Forty of its 51 beds were reserved for civilian air-raid casualties. During the war a church on the opposite corner of the road was completely destroyed by a direct hit, but the Hospital was spared severe damage by the bomb-blast wall which had been built along its frontage.

In 1948 the Hospital joined the NHS under the control of the South West Middlesex Hospital Management Committee, part of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. It was the largest GP hospital in the group.

In 1954 the League of Friends was formed to provide practical help for the patients. It organised an in-patient library trolley, a refreshment canteen for out-patients and, more importantly, instigated fund-raising activities.

The Chappell Ward day room opened in 1962 financed by former patients and partly furnished by the League of Friends. In 1964 a new Physiotherapy Department opened, financed by the local population and sponsored by the Teddington Rotary Club. In 1965 the day room for the Grace Anderson Ward opened, again financed by former patients and the League of Friends. In 1968 a day room for the Male Ward was built as part of the Teddington Hospital Improvement Scheme. It, too, was financed by voluntary contributions.

During the 1970s public donations enabled a Medical Records room to be built onto the existing Out-Patients Department in 1971. The following year the Solarium on the Male Ward was upgraded; two consulting rooms were extended, and opened as a memorial to Dr. Godfrey Morgan, a popular local GP and a member of the staff of the Hospital who had died unexpectedly in 1970.

In 1973, a large part of the Hospital grounds was taken over by the Local Health Authority on which to build the Teddington Clinic.

In 1974, following a major reorganisation of the NHS, the Hospital came under the control of the Hounslow District Health Authority, part of the North West Thames Regional Health Authority.

In 1979, the year of the Hospital's Gold Jubilee on its Hampton Road site, a bathroom annexe was built for the Grace Anderson Ward, the cost of the building and its fixtures of £40,000 being borne by the League of Friends and the local community.

In 1981 a campaign was launched by the League to raise money for the new X-ray Department but the project was put on hold as, in 1982, after another NHS reshuffle, the Hospital came under the control of the Hounslow and

Spelthorne District Health Authority; it was linked with the West Middlesex Hospital.

The new Health Authority, already in financial difficulties, contemplated closing the wards at the Hospital in order to save money. The League of Friends organised a campaign to save the Hospital, collecting some 35,000 signatures objecting to the ward closure. In 1983 a 24-hour candlelit vigil was held in the Hospital forecourt, with about 2,000 people attending and signing the vigil book.

A vigil candle burned for 24 hours and, to record the event, a fax was sent to the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. In November, a delegation led by the local MP, Toby Jessel, met with the Minister of State for Health, Kenneth Clarke. Amazingly, the Minister reprieved the Hospital and designated it should have 27 GP beds. However, the Hospital's operating theatre closed in 1984.

Since the 1950's the League of Friends had provided much-needed funds for the improvement of the Hospital's facilities. During the 1980s the League launched an Appeal Fund to raise £285,000 for complete refurbishment of the Casualty, X-ray and Out-Patients Departments, with new waiting rooms, a Medical Records storage room and a staff dining room, as well as many other projects.

In December 1985 work began on preparing the foundations for the new buildings and, in July 1986, a foundation stone was set in the front wall of the Hospital. The newly refurbished Casualty Department and the Out-Patients Department, with its new waiting room and League shop, opened in November 1986. The new X-ray Department opened in July 1987.

The League once again launched an Appeal in 1988 to raise £300,000 for a 22-bedded GP unit. Building work on this began in 1989, with the foundation stone being laid by the Health Secretary, Kenneth Clarke.

In 1990 Mrs Mary Baker, Director of Thames Television, opened the GP unit – the Pamela Bryant Ward, named after the Chairman of the League of Friends. The following year the X-ray Department was equipped with an ultrasound machine and a mammography unit, funded again at a cost of £150,000 by the League of Friends, supported by the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity.

In January 1992, after another NHS reorganisation, the Hospital applied for Trust status. The Secretary of State for Health granted it shadow Trust status in April 1993, to run as a pilot scheme for other community hospitals. In the meantime, the League of Friends began another Appeal for funds to extend and improve the out-patients facilities, including installation of a minor surgery unit. The work for this was completed in 1994, the cost of £185,000 borne by the League Appeal.

In April 1995 the Hospital was granted full NHS Trust status. However, the League of Friends continued to raise funds for improvements and

refurbishments. An appeal raised £160,000 to upgrade the Chappell and Anderson Wards, and £460,000 for the installation of a lift. In 1998 a Hospital Chapel for All Faiths was built, at a cost of £195,000. The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Michael Colclough, conducted the opening service, which was attended by many religious leaders and some 200 members of the community. A plaque inside the building, unveiled by the Trust Chairman, Maggi Lyne, marked the official opening.

In 1999 the Trust was enlarged to include community services. Its name was changed to reflect this – and it became the Teddington Memorial Hospital and Community NHS Trust.

In the same year, a stained glass window was installed in the Chapel. Depicting local scenes, it was donated by the League. By the end of the year, the League had donated almost £150,000 worth of equipment to the wards and various departments.

In 2002 the Hospital became part of the newly formed Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust. In July 2003 the Trust received £1.5m funding to develop a Walk-In Centre at the Hospital.

In 2004 the newly modernised wards opened; Grace Anderson and Pamela Bryant Wards replaced the old Nightingale-style wards. The ward development was funded by the government at a cost of £1.94m. In the same year the League of Friends launched another Appeal, this time to raise £900,000 to modernise the Hospital. The plans included new X-ray equipment and a purpose-built, fully equipped Rehabilitation Unit. The new digital X-ray Department opened in July 2004, with the consultant radiologists at West Middlesex Hospital providing a diagnostic service.

This Hospital, well supported by its local population, is still operational as a General Practitioner and community hospital with 50 beds. It has a modern X-ray Department and a nurse-led Walk-In Clinic for minor injuries and ailments. In March 2010 the Teddington Memorial Health Centre, a new GP practice, opened.

The League of Friends continues to raise funds for the Hospital to further improve its facilities.

