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Sheffield’s Hospitals



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Royal Hospital, 1978

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Royal Hospital, c. 1907

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City General Hospital, 1964

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# Central Health Clinic

The Central Health Clinic’s forerunners were the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Bainbridge Buildings, Norfolk Street, 1910-1918; 143 Norfolk Street, 1918-1927 and Orchard Place (later known as Orchard Square), 1927-1974. From 1974 the service was known as the Central Health Clinic and was based at Mulberry Street.

The Central Health Clinic had origins in the work of the Sheffield Infantile Mortality Committee, appointed in November 1906 to consider means for reducing the high rate of infant mortality. Its initial report, produced in February 1907, put the cause for the high death rate as the 'ignorance and apathy of a large number of mothers' and referred to various potential ways to address the situation including: the establishment of Infant Milk Depots supplying dried milk for bottle-fed infants during the season when diarrhoea was prevalent; a longer period of abstention from factory work after childbirth; the early notification of births and the registration of stillbirths; measures for the better education of mothers and prospective mothers; and measures for promoting cleanliness outside the home (e.g. conversion of privies, paving of courtyards). From summer 1907, doctors held 'baby consultations' at five points where dried milk, purchased by the Medical Officer's department, was available at cost price. In 1910 these facilities were provided centrally, from premises in Bainbridge Buildings, Norfolk Street.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, required the immediate notification of all births to the Medical Officer of Health; it was then his responsibility to arrange for a trained health visitor (previously known as a woman sanitary inspector) to call on the mother in her home and to teach her how to protect her baby's health. From 1899 Sheffield had had women sanitary inspectors. In early 1915, plans were presented for a proposed building for the women inspectors and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre on Corporation land at the corner of Campo Lane and Lee Croft [presumably not built].

The Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, gave legal recognition to local authorities' antenatal centres, for the supervision of expectant and nursing mothers, and to the infant welfare centres for children under five years which had been set up following the 1907 Act. In 1918, these Sheffield facilities moved into less cramped premises at 143, Norfolk Street. Its work was reported by the Council’s Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Attendances grew and new premises were built in Orchard Place in 1927. The foundation stone in the now-called Orchard Square is still visible; the site is now occupied by Waterstones bookshop.

By the 1960s, as well as the principal Orchard Place clinic, there were over 20 welfare centres including those at Firth Park, Manor Top and Woodhouse. Activities expanded, and Orchard Place was used as the point for blood collection for civilian victims in Vietnam in 1971; also, in that year the Domiciliary Family Planning Service was established, building on the existing domiciliary midwives network. The Service was devised to offer women with special difficulties advice and contraception in their own homes.

Relocation of the clinic became necessary, in view of the proposed development of the Orchard Place area; in March 1974 approval was granted for the rental of the Wilks Building in Norfolk Street as replacement premises, prior to the move to the new Mulberry Street premises in April 1974. Thereafter known as the Central Health Clinic, it offers advice on contraception, pregnancy, sexual health and sexuality.

# Grenoside Hospital

Grenoside Hospital, formerly Grenoside Institution, was sited in buildings originally erected in the 1850s as Wortley Poor Law Union workhouse and fever hospital in Salt Box Lane. At the end of Poor Law Administration following the Local Government Act, 1929, the workhouse buildings were altered for the reception of mental health patients.

By 1951 Grenoside Institution was described as consisting of three main blocks: the Main Block for male patients; the old Infirmary Block which housed 49 mentally defective female patients; and the Lodge, which provided the offices and staff quarters. The nearby former Infectious Diseases Hospital (built 1893) was then empty, although in 1949 the Minister of Health had directed it that should be used as an annexe to the Grenoside Institution, for the treatment of tuberculosis mental patients. Failure to recruit the required staff in 1951 resulted in most of that accommodation being used for chronic sick patients from the surrounding area, with just the veranda block being reserved for tuberculosis mental patients.

In late 1956 the Annexe (the former Isolation Hospital), then accommodating chronic sick patients, reverted to its original intended use of accommodation for bedfast mental defective patients; a number of male mental defectives were transferred there from Middlewood Hospital. Tuberculosis mental defectives were accommodated in the cubicle block. The whole Hospital and Annexe combined could house a total of 182 mental defectives (134 males; 48 females).

In 1957 accommodation rose to provide for 212 male and female mentally handicapped patients.

In 1959 plans were first put forward to develop Grenoside Hospital, Aughton Court and Thundercliffe Grange to permit Hollow Meadows and Middlewood Hospitals to close. For the Grenoside site, plans were approved in 1960/61 for two new blocks, to accommodate an additional 80 patients.

By 1961 the hospital was described as of two units, divided by Salt Box Lane. The male side consisted of three blocks with a smaller unit accommodating the females.

By the mid-1960s around 50 mentally retarded (but not certified) women were accommodated at the Annexe which by 1969 largely catered for doubly handicapped women. All types of deficiency were catered for, and a number of patients also had physical illnesses. Plans to completely modernise the whole site and build extra villas featured in the Regional Hospital Board's capital programme, as part of Sheffield's scheme to accommodate mentally sub-normal patients.

By 1971 the three units provided accommodation for 208 patients: women in the Annexe, men in the main male block (the ex-workhouse building), and in the more recent hospital block. The main block was described as 'a Dickensian workhouse which remains a grim, dark inconvenient Victorian building... activities go on despite the lack of any real facilities'; it was a fire risk and its evacuation and replacement were strongly advised. In the grounds of the Annexe stood an old unused isolation block in a poor state of repair.

In 1985 the hospital was earmarked for possible closure in 1986/1987 as part of the transfer of the mentally handicapped into the community. The Southside wing of Grenoside Grange was vacated in March 1989.

# Grenoside Fever Hospital

Grenoside Fever Hospital was also known as Wortley Rural District Council Infectious Diseases Hospital / Wortley RDC Isolation Hospital

Just to the north of the workhouse site, across Salt Box Lane, stood the Grenoside Isolation Hospital. It was opened in 1893 at a cost of £9,500 and provided 32 beds for patients with scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever and other infectious diseases.

By the 1930s only half a dozen cases per month were admitted.

In 1949 the Minister of Health directed that this hospital should be used as an annexe to the Grenoside Institution, for the treatment of tuberculosis mental patients. Failure to recruit the required staff in 1951 resulted in most of that accommodation being used for chronic sick patients from the surrounding area, with just the veranda block being reserved for tuberculosis mental patients.

In 1951 the former Infectious Diseases Hospital consisted of 4 buildings, empty, but intended to house mentally defective adults. It became known as the 'Annexe' to the main Grenoside Hospital.

# Hallwood Isolation Hospital, Grenoside

Hallwood Isolation Hospital opened in early 1916 specifically for the care of smallpox patients. Deliberations about its building had been held by Wortley Rural District Council since at least 1909, but it was not until June 1914 that the Local Government Board approved the plans and not until November 1914 that the contract was signed for the building works. In December 1915 the Sheffield Medical Officer of Health obtained an agreement to secure five beds for Sheffield smallpox cases, at an annual payment of £100 plus five guineas per week per patient admitted.

In 1949 certain repairs and fitting were authorised, in order to enable the premises to be used in the event of an emergency, and the question of providing electricity was addressed.

As the first line smallpox hospital within Sheffield Regional Hospital Board (RHB) area, discussions about its upgrading were held in 1972-1973 and the hospital was to be closed for extensive work in 1974, with agreements in place with Birmingham RHB and Leeds RHB for patients to be admitted to the Catherine-de-Barnes Hospital in Solihull and Oakwell Smallpox Hospital in Birstall, respectively.

The buildings were sold in 1982.

# Jessop Hospital for Women

The Sheffield Hospital for Women opened in Figtree Lane in 1864, with objectives to “attend cases of midwifery and the diseases peculiar to women”.

The importance of establishing a hospital for women in Sheffield had been agreed at a meeting on 12 December 1863, chaired by Thomas Jessop, Mayor and Master Cutler.

The original accommodation (six beds) soon proved inadequate and in 1874 Thomas Jessop provided funds for an entirely new building. The building and equipping of premises in Gell Street/Leavygreave Road was completed four years later, and when the hospital transferred there, under the title of the Jessop Hospital for Women, it could accommodate 57 in-patients and provide assistance to out-patients. Extensions were made in 1902 and 1918 and by 1920 the Diseases of Women Department provided 64 beds, the Maternity Department 28 beds and there were 25 cots.

The Firth Auxiliary Hospital opened as an auxiliary to Jessop Hospital in October 1927 in the converted Norton Hall. The hall, with land, had been donated to the four Sheffield voluntary hospitals by Colonel Bernard Firth in 1925, as a site for a new hospital where the services of the Royal Hospital, Royal Infirmary and the Jessop Hospital would be amalgamated. The later decision to build in the city centre changed this, leaving the Jessop Hospital to take on sole use of the site. It could

house 45 antenatal and fever cases.

The main hospital was severely damaged in an air raid in 1940 and new buildings were completed in 1943. By 1948 there were 211 beds including 47 at the Firth Auxiliary Hospital, Norton, where there was a special provision for the treatment of puerperal sepsis in an open-air ward. Closure of the Firth Auxiliary Hospital, (also known as the Norton Annexe) was discussed in April 1969. It eventually closed in 1972 and was later used as a private clinic.

A new Out-patient Department was opened at the main hospital in 1953. Sheffield University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was sited at Jessop Hospital.

Jessop Hospital closed in January 2001 - five years later than planned - and The Jessop Wing (at first also known as Stone Grove after the crescent of houses demolished to make way for it) was opened, linked to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, in February 2001. The official start of building at the Stone Grove site was 5 July 1998, the 50th anniversary of the NHS. The Jessop Wing brought together on one site all the city's obstetrics, gynaecology and neonatal services, which had formerly been provided at the Jessop Hospital for Women, the Northern General Hospital and Nether Edge Hospital (which had closed in 1991).

# King Edward VII Orthopaedic Hospital

On the death of Edward VII in 1910, a memorial fund was established with the aim of erecting a special school for the crippled children of Sheffield and to provide medical and surgical aid. Subscriptions were invited and £18,000 was raised. As this was not sufficient to meet the whole costs, Sheffield Corporation gave additional funds, and a grant was made by the Board of Education conditional upon the hospital being managed by the city authorities. A site was donated by the Duke of Norfolk and building work, including treatment block, operating theatre, kitchens, nurses' and servants' quarters, was commenced in 1913.

Officially opened by the Duchess of Norfolk, the first patients were admitted in 1916 to the then called King Edward VII Memorial Hospital for Crippled Children, mainly suffering from tuberculosis of the bones or joints. Continued advances were made in the medical treatment of non-pulmonary TB, with Dr Lee Patterson, the medical superintendent, introducing the wide use of ultra-violet therapy and vitamin treatments. As the duration of hospital stays thus decreased, admission was widened to outside Sheffield in order to keep the hospital full.

In 1931 the scope was further widened to provide treatment for congenital deformities, rickets and paralysis from polio. With patients taken outside for open air treatment, the establishment acted as a sanatorium as well as orthopaedic hospital.

A clause in Sheffield Corporation Bill of 1939 allowed for the admission of adult patients suffering from surgical TB as well as other crippling diseases depending on bed space; in 1944 children were evacuated elsewhere when two wards were allocated for the reception of officer casualties; during the 1947 polio epidemic patients were transferred in from other hospitals.

In 1944 the hospital was recognised as a Nurse Training School and in 1954 as an approved Orthopaedic Training School; a new physiotherapy unit, complete with remedial pool and gymnasium, was built in 1956 and splint makers' workshops in 1957-58. By that time bed complement had increased from its original 130 cots for crippled children to 194 beds for a range of ages, with the provision of two new civil defence ward blocks.

Hospital services were transferred to the Northern General Hospital, and it closed in 1992.

# Lodge Moor Hospital

Erected as an isolation hospital during Sheffield's smallpox epidemic in 1887-1888, Lodge Moor Hospital on Redmires Road was opened in 1888. It had twelve temporary wooden buildings to hold 156 patients. By the 1920s the hospital could accommodate 434 patients with infectious diseases, mainly with scarlet fever or diphtheria. During the 1925 smallpox epidemic further accommodation was made available at the former military camp at Redmires; Redmires Camp Hospital remained in use until c. 1935. Hallwood Smallpox Hospital was also administered from Lodge Moor Hospital.

By c.1940 the hospital provided teaching for students in the University's Medical School. In 1950 it could accommodate 508 infectious diseases patients and more if need arose, with an additional 48 male tuberculosis patients. In 1953 three wards were converted to form a Paraplegic Unit and the following year the hospital took on the role of treating the spinal injuries (from road crashes and pit and factory accidents) for the whole of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board area. On 9 December 1955 a United States Air Force jet aircraft crashed onto the hospital, killing one patient and injuring seven others. Two single storey cubicle blocks and a corridor were severely damaged. Further tuberculosis cubicles were provided in 1956-1957. This led to the closure of Sheffield's Commonside Sanatorium and the transfer to Lodge Moor in 1959 of the tuberculosis patients from Nether Edge Hospital.

By 1987 besides having beds for infectious diseases and spinal injuries, the hospital provided paediatrics, general and chest medicine, general surgery and urology, hospital and home renal dialysis, neuromedicine and neurosurgery, services for the elderly including a Day Hospital, and a sports hall for the disabled.

Despite public and staff opposition, it closed in September 1994 following Sheffield Health Authority's decision to centralise most of its services: infectious diseases were moved to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and the chest and spinal injuries units were moved to the Northern General Hospital.

# Middlewood Hospital

The hospital first known as the South Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum was declared open for the reception of patients in 1872. For a long time the workhouse in Sheffield provided the main local accommodation for pauper lunatics, with only the more difficult cases being transferred to Wakefield in West Yorkshire. As early as 1797, at the establishment of Sheffield General Infirmary, the need to provide an asylum or lunatic hospital in Sheffield had actually been first suggested.

South Yorkshire Asylum took in patients from the temporary asylum Mount Pleasant House at Sharrow, from Wakefield Asylum and from a number of Poor Law Unions, its catchment area comprising Sheffield, Ecclesall Bierlow, Rotherham, Doncaster, Thorne, Penistone, Wortley and part of Worksop. By 1906 its accommodation had more than doubled and provided beds for 1,600 inmates.

In January 1915 the asylum, by then known as Wadsley Asylum, was one of the locations selected as a war hospital. During March 1915 the mental patients were evacuated, mainly to the West Riding Asylums in Wakefield, Storthes Hall near Huddersfield, and Menston. A small number were maintained at the Asylum's farm residence. Wadsley Asylum was adapted for military use under the name of the 'Wharncliffe War Hospital' with, at its largest, 2039 beds including 112 'shake-downs'. It was placed under the general supervision of the Officer in Command of the 3rd Northern General Hospital in Sheffield, with the asylum's medical superintendent, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, appointed by the War Office in local command. Wharncliffe War Hospital finally closed on 31 July 1920, having treated nearly 37,000 patients since opening on 1 April 1915. The asylum buildings were reinstated and the mental patients were thereafter readmitted. Between 1920 and 1922 the male detached block was used as a hospital providing 300 beds for the treatment of ex-soldier pensioner cases.

After the war several forms of name were used for the institution, and 'asylum' was phased out in favour of 'mental hospital' in around 1923. The site and facilities developed: outdoor tuberculosis wards for males and females were opened in 1926; and a new Admission Hospital, with convalescent villas, was opened on 13 February 1935, named 'Middlewood Hospital' to distinguish it from the main institution. Set up under the 1930 Mental Treatment Act, it was to receive, study and treat all newly appointed patients with a view to separating those who could be readily cured and returned home from those whose prospects were less favourable.

After the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the Emergency Medical Services took over part of the hospital, with many existing patients being temporarily accommodated in other wards or being transferred to Storthes Hall. Five more wards were built and the accommodation was named the 'Wharncliffe Emergency Hospital'; it was equipped to treat medical, surgical and neurosis casualties. At the end of the war it was selected to become a 'Dispersal Hospital' under Army Demobilization Regulations. Some 31,000 convoy patients passed through the hospital altogether.

A general medical unit was continued as 'Wharncliffe Hospital', providing medical and surgical facilities not only for the mental hospital patients. In 1953 premises were converted to provide accommodation for 26 female tuberculosis patients from the Doncaster and Barnsley areas. The hospital also provided plastic surgery, particularly after burns, following on from its treatment of aircrew during the war. In 1954 all cases of spinal injury were transferred to Lodge Moor Hospital in Sheffield and other facilities were phased down. Wharncliffe Hospital closed in October 1978 by which time its 129-bed unit had only 11 patients, who were then transferred to the Royal Infirmary and Hallamshire Hospital.

The mental hospital continued its services during World War II. In 1949 Sheffield Regional Hospital Board recommended the provision of 1,000 additional beds to address the need for increased institutional accommodation for the region's mentally ill. In the mid-1950s some geriatric patients were accommodated in Moorgate Hospital and later at Swallownest Hospital (the second-line smallpox hospital), both in Rotherham.

In the early 1970s, with changing attitudes to the treatment of the mentally ill, services began to be scaled down. In 1986 there remained just over 600 patients (at its height the hospital had accommodated 2,200). Alternative provisions were made in the community, jointly provided by the NHS and the local authority. The hospital finally closed in 1996.

# Nether Edge Hospital, formerly Ecclesall Bierlow Institution

The Ecclesall Bierlow Union was formed in 1837 under an order of the Poor Law Commissioners. It comprised the townships of Ecclesall Bierlow, Upper and Nether Hallam, Dore, Totley, the parish of Norton, and Beauchief Liberty.

The workhouse was built 1842 -1843 at Cherrytree Hill to replace an old workhouse in Psalter Lane. By 1895, as well as the main building, there were schools for boys and girls, an asylum (erected 1859), a hospital with male and female wards, a smallpox hospital, and tramp wards. A maternity block, named the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Maternity Hospital, was opened in 1897. Two more ward blocks were built in the following years and in 1903 the children's homes known as Fulwood Cottage Homes were built.

From 1914, by order of the Local Government Board following the 1909 Poor Law Commission Report, the term 'workhouse' was abandoned in favour of the term 'institution'.

By order of the Ministry of Health in 1925 Ecclesall Bierlow Union and Sheffield Union were dissolved and the new Sheffield Union was created. From c. 1927, after the building of a new maternity block, the Institution became known as Nether Edge Hospital. There were sections for general care, sanatorium blocks for the treatment of tuberculosis, and maternity care. Temporary closure with the loss of TB beds in December 1940 was the result of blitz damage, which also destroyed the dining hall and a nurses' home.

38 beds were provided for the treatment of short-stay cases of chronic rheumatism and in 1951 the proposal to provide a geriatric unit with around 120 beds (two male and two female wards) was approved. In 1959 tuberculosis patients were transferred to Lodge Moor Hospital. The maternity department was provided with a completely new building in 1968; the department was closed in 1991. The hospital closed entirely in 1997.

# Northern General Hospital

The Northern General Hospital has its origins in the hospital of Sheffield Poor Law Union workhouse, erected in 1878-1880.

Before the creation of the Sheffield Poor Law Union in 1837, the workhouse for the township of Sheffield was in Kelham Street. That building, originally erected in 1811 as a cotton mill, had been converted in 1829 for use as a workhouse to accommodate some 1,200 inmates. It had no special provision for the sick except for an isolation unit provided during the cholera epidemic of 1832.

Due to opposition from ratepayers, plans drawn up in 1856 for a new workhouse for Sheffield Union were not completed until 1881, when new premises at Fir Vale were opened. The completed buildings comprised six separate departments: the main building to accommodate 1,662 paupers, plus officials; asylums to accommodate 200 patients classed as lunatic; a school for 300 pauper children; vagrants wards to take up to 60 men and 20 women; the hospital block to cater for 366 patients; and the fever hospitals. Management was in the hands of the Board of Guardians and its various committees, which in the 1880s had established a training school for nurses and a midwifery school.

Overcrowding caused by the numbers of children was addressed by setting up a boarding out system in 1888, and by opening a children's hospital, for up to 60, in 1894. A Lock ward or Lock hospital for treating women with venereal diseases also existed in the 1890s. A new 3-storey hospital block was completed in 1906 and on 21 March 1906 the Local Government Board issued an order to formally separate the newly named Sheffield Union Hospital (which by then could accommodate 643 patients) from the workhouse, thereafter, known as Fir Vale Institution. Over the next few years Sheffield Union Hospital became known as 'Fir Vale Hospital'. The workhouse became Fir Vale Institution, though 'Fir Vale House' was the name generally used for the institution premises accommodating geriatric patients and those classed as mental defectives. Belgian refugees were temporarily housed at Fir Vale during World War I, and over 15,000 soldiers, including men from the Sheffield Battalion who had been wounded on the Somme, were treated in a new children's hospital which had opened in 1916. Military patients remained until 1920 and it was not until 1921 that the children's hospital received its first children.

In 1930 the name was changed to the ' City General Hospital'.

c. 1929 Fir Vale House was renamed 'Fir Vale Infirmary' (for the care of the aged and chronic infirm), though the name 'institution' lingered for some years. During World War II numbers of its inmates were temporarily transferred to the Grenoside Institution when the hospital premises were designated as an Emergency Medical Service Hospital. No casualties from the war front were admitted until 1944 when 992 service cases and 405 prisoners of war were treated.

During the 1950s cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery commenced and in 1955 the City Hospital performed the first heart valve replacement operation in the world; in 1957 one of the first open heart operations in Europe was conducted here. It provided medical and surgical wards, children's hospital, maternity hospital, casualty and orthopaedic departments.

The City General Hospital and the Fir Vale Infirmary were run as separate institutions until 1967 when the Hospital (then with 654 beds) and the Infirmary (then with 682 beds) were amalgamated under the title of the 'Northern General Hospital'. Fir Vale Infirmary was to be known as the Geriatric Wing and the City General Hospital as the General and Maternity Wing. In 1968 a League of Friends was established to harness local support and raise additional funds.

Teaching was long a key function of the hospital, and this was recognised when it, together with Nether Edge Hospital, was awarded university teaching status in 1971 the hospital was one of the first Trust Hospitals.

The Northern General Hospital is (2006) the largest hospital campus within the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with over 1,100 beds. In fact, it is one of the largest hospitals in the UK and a leading teaching unit with a growing international reputation, which in c.2001 received NHS investment of £90 million for projects designed to expand and improve services still further.

# Royal Hallamshire Hospital

In 1938 it was decided to build a new Teaching Hospital on Glossop Road and the Million Pound Appeal Fund was launched to raise funds towards the project. A competition was held to find architects for the scheme, the first phase of which was originally to include a Central Radium Institute; a Dental Department (for which Sir Charles Clifford had left a bequest); premises for the Edgar Allen Institute which had outgrown its site; and an Orthopaedic Department.

The Hallamshire Hospital Out-Patients Department was opened in two phases, in 1961 and 1969. It consisted of 8 purpose-built clinics including: general surgery; general medicine; ENT surgery; psychiatry; dermatology; ophthalmology and urology. In addition, there were laboratories and a large X-ray department. By 1975 it was one of the busiest out-patients departments in the country, holding 202 clinics per week and providing two-thirds of the out-patient facilities for the city of Sheffield.

The main building comprising wards, with around 700 beds, and departments was completed in 1978. The hospital now (2006) has 850 beds for in-patients, specialist out-patient clinics and a specialist ophthalmology unit, a NHS Walk-In Centre and Minor Injuries Unit.

The Sheffield Medical School, originally in Surrey Street, then in buildings in Leopold Street, was opened in new premises on the hospital site in autumn 1973 to an intake of 150 students.

# Royal Hospital

The institution later known as the Royal Hospital first opened as a dispensary in a house in Tudor Place on 2 July 1832. It moved to larger premises in Westfield House, West Street, the next year.

For many years it had been thought that there was scope in Sheffield for an institution which would supplement the work of the General Infirmary, by providing home treatment for the sick poor and medical aid for young children as well as out-patient care and midwifery services. In 1827 a self-supporting dispensary had been founded in Tudor Square, but it was apparent that this was not adequate to deal with the needs of the population. A public meeting led to the formation of a committee which approached the Governors of the Infirmary with a view to setting up a dispensary connected with the Infirmary. This proposal met with opposition and so the committee decided to appeal for subscriptions.

A house on Tudor Place was purchased and duly altered to accommodate a dispensary. From the outset, the number of patients grew rapidly and it became necessary to increase the staff and the accommodation. In December 1832, Westfield House in West Street was purchased for £1,300, as a dispensary. In the first year, 2,712 patients obtained medical aid, 209 women were assisted by midwives and two surgical operations were performed. From 3 July 1833 the work of the Public Dispensary was carried out from the West Street premises.

Casualty and operating wards were added in 1852, and these were maintained by the Dispensary to deal with occasional emergencies requiring basic surgery. The funding had been raised by staff and their friends, as distinct from the ordinary funds of the institution. These wards did not constitute regular in-patient treatment: this came about in April 1860 when a new hospital, built on the same site, was opened with 21 beds. By 1865 there were 51 beds and a total of 27,954 patients were treated - which justified the decision to enlarge the original charity and convert it into a general hospital. The accommodation was, however, found to be badly overcrowded just seven years after the opening of the new premises and in August 1870 further new buildings were completed.

In 1875 the hospital was recognised as a teaching hospital by the Royal College of Surgeons. In the same year the midwifery services were discontinued, due to the establishment of what was to become the Jessop Hospital for Women. Further extensions were built in 1880, when the kitchens and laundry were enlarged and additional children's beds were provided. A whole new block, containing the out-patients department (later known as the York Wing) with wards above it and a casualty room, was completed in 1895. That was formally opened on 11 May 1895 by the Duke and Duchess of York, who also laid the foundation stone for a new nurses' home in Eldon Street. A new administrative block was completed in 1899 as were, in 1902, a new Central Block containing five wards, and in 1912, the Princess of Wales Wing. The last was not, however, fully brought into use until after World War I. Two of the new wards, plus a ward in the York Wing and the convalescent annexe at Fulwood, were occupied by the military from 1914 to 1919.

A scheme to raise funds to help defray expenses and debts was started by the Joint Consultative and Advisory Hospitals Council (formed in 1919). The contributory 'penny in the pound' scheme raised money for all Sheffield's voluntary hospitals. Further expenses accrued in 1922 when the Royal Hospital purchased the adjoining Mount Zion Chapel in Westfield Terrace and converted it into an out-patient department, opened in 1927 by Neville Chamberlain, Minister for Health.

From 1939 to 1948 the Royal Hospital and the Royal Infirmary were run as one corporation and after World War II the services of both were increasingly run down as facilities were constructed and centralised at the new Hallamshire Hospital. The Royal Hospital finally closed in October 1978 and the buildings have been demolished.

Several convalescent homes were connected to the Royal Hospital. The Woofindin Convalescent Home in Fulwood was opened in 1901, mainly to cater for patients from the Royal Hospital. In 1910 it repeatedly refused admission to patients from the Jessop Hospital for Women. From 1943 it was used as a Rehabilitation Centre and in 1958 opened as the Whiteley Wood Psychiatry Clinic of the United Sheffield Hospitals and Sheffield University.

The convalescent home near Whiteley Wood in Fulwood, known as the Hospital Annexe, opened in 1908. It was largely the gift of S Meggitt Johnson, MP. In 1939 it could accommodate 45 patients. In 1976 it took in geriatric patients. In October 1978 it was agreed to drop the name 'Annexe' as by then the Royal Hospital itself had closed and so it was no longer an annexe of anywhere else. It was henceforth known as 'Fulwood Hospital'. It closed in April 1986, the buildings reopening for office use in August 1989.

The Zachary Merton Convalescent Home, adjoining The Annexe at Fulwood, was opened in August 1938. It had accommodation for 48 patients: 16 each of men, women and children.

# Royal Infirmary

The establishment of an infirmary in Sheffield was first suggested in an anonymous letter written in 1789, but no further action was taken for three years.

Following a public meeting in April 1792, subscriptions amounting to £15,000 were collected, a site in Upperthorpe Meadows was purchased and on 4 September 1793 the first stone of the new building was laid. It was opened on 4 October 1797, with accommodation for around 100 in-patients. Its senior staff comprised three physicians (including William Younge to whom the anonymous letter was attributed and who served in post for 43 years), three surgeons and a matron.

The founders had been able to acquire a substantial site so space for expansion was assured: additions included the Norfolk Wing (1844), the Victoria Block (1872), octagonal out-patients and casualty building (1883), and the Centenary Nurses' Home, ophthalmic wards and theatre (1897). Further additions and the creation of special departments followed in the 20th century. Radium treatment was first carried out in 1914, and the Radium Centre was established at the Infirmary in 1930.

During World War I 100 beds were offered to the War Office to serve as part of the 3rd Northern General Hospital. Service cases were again accommodated during World War II, along with air raid casualties.

From 1939 the Royal Infirmary was one unit in the merged Sheffield Royal Infirmary and Hospital, and this continued until the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948 and the creation of the United Sheffield Hospitals.

The Royal Infirmary closed in 1980 when services were transferred and concentrated at the new Hallamshire Hospital. The last patient was discharged on 13 December 1980. The premises were finally vacated in December 1983 and the building was converted for office use.

Related establishments:

In 1910, Mrs Ellen Walker (later Lady Granger) donated 'The Priory' at Conisbrough for use as a convalescent home for infirmary patients, to be known as 'The Godfrey Walker Convalescent Home'. It closed in 1939.

Whiteley Wood Clinic, the premises of the former Rehabilitation Centre, opened in May 1958 as a unit of the University's new Department of Psychiatry, with close links to the Royal Infirmary.

# Sheffield Children’s Hospital

The Sheffield Free Hospital for Sick Children opened in 1876 in Brightmore House, Brookhill. Founded by Dr William Cleaver, with John Webster and Henry Vickers, and supported by voluntary subscription, its appearance caused some opposition, since Sheffield already sustained three voluntary hospitals. After preliminary meetings in 1876 to enlist promises of support, a three-year lease was taken out on Brightmore House, 222-224 Brookhill, with the aims to treat sick children; to gain and spread knowledge of childhood diseases; to give advice to the poorer classes for the better care of children in both sickness and health; to train women as children's nurses.

As demand grew, the inadequacies of the premises became obvious and two houses were purchased for new accommodation at 267 and 269 Western Bank, to which the hospital moved in September 1880, when it also changed its name to the 'Children's Hospital'. Extensions were built in 1888 and 1896, and a new outpatient and administrative block, replacing the two original houses, followed in 1903. The hospital then had 50 beds for in-patients and over 2,000 out-patients were treated every year; demand continually grew: in 1921 878 in-patients and 4,768 out-patients were treated.

Links were forged with the University from its very founding in 1905, with students taking courses taught by hospital house surgeons. The Department of Child Health was established in 1947.

Further extensions and wards were added in 1906 and 1920. Later developments and running costs were largely funded with the proceeds of money amassed by the Penny in the Pound Scheme, set up in 1921 by the Sheffield Joint Hospitals Council; more extensions followed in 1959, 1964 and 1972. An additional first phase development in the 1980s was completed and opened by the Princess of Wales in 1989. A second phase was completed in 1999 and its extensive departments and units include the City's Accident and Emergency Department for children, moved from the Northern General Hospital in 1994.

Other establishments:

In 1893 the East End Branch Hospital in the Wicker (Nursery Street) was opened as a branch of the Sheffield Children's Hospital, with the original aim of treating both out-patients and in-patients. It was founded by deed of endowment of 1891 which set up the Sheffield Children's Hospital Special Fund. A new out-patients department and administration block were opened in 1903, and two new wards were opened in 1927. It closed in 1931, following the order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, 1930. Its trustees were discharged from duty and the income of its endowments, and its management were transferred to the Sheffield Children's Hospital. Its name was preserved by naming a separate ward at the Children's Hospital 'The Eastern Ward' and reserving it for patients from the east end of Sheffield.

Thornbury Annexe (in 1976 renamed 'The Children's Hospital, Thornbury') in Fulwood Road was a medical annexe, isolation ward and convalescent home for the Children's Hospital. Purchased in 1947, it opened in 1951 with 50 beds and continued in use until 1982, after which it was sold by the trustees of the former United Sheffield Hospitals for development as a private hospital.

Ryegate Annexe (in 1976 renamed 'The Children's Hospital, Ryegate) in Manchester Road, a continuation hospital and convalescent home, was donated to the Children's Hospital in 1936. It is now (2006) known as Ryegate Children's Centre. Other care locations currently are: Beighton Community Hospital; Centenary House; Flockton House; Oakwood Young People's Centre; Shirle Hill Hospital; St Peter's Close.

# Weston Park Hospital

Weston Park Hospital was opened in 1970. It has its origins in the Sheffield Radium Committee which administered the Sheffield Radium Fund (established 1914), which in turn was superseded by the Radium Centre in 1930 and subsequently by the Sheffield National Centre for Radiotherapy in 1945.

New premises for a cancer treatment hospital were planned before World War II, originally as part of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, but it was not until 1965 that the foundation stone for the hospital and the J. G. Graves Institute of Radiotherapy was laid. It was built at a cost of £2.25 million and had accommodation for 118 patients with an additional 28 low dependency beds. The hospital absorbed the Sheffield National Centre for Radiotherapy, whose in-patients were transferred to the new hospital on 13 April 1970.

One of only three purpose-built specialist cancer hospitals in the UK, it provides a full range of non-surgical cancer treatments, both chemotherapy and radiotherapy, to the populations of South Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire and north Derbyshire. In 1995 it was designated as a cancer centre, providing as it did more specialist facilities for complex conditions; neighbouring district hospitals were designated as cancer units.

# Winter Street Hospital

Winter Street Hospital and sanatorium for infectious diseases (other than smallpox) and tuberculosis was built in 1881 at a cost of £20,000. It consisted of four blocks containing 80 beds in large wards and eight single-bedded wards, with airing courts on the roof. In 1892 the Nurses Home was built, followed by an isolation block of four wards. In 1898 a row of cottages adjoining the hospital in Dart Square was taken over to house more tuberculosis patients. Before the First World War the main cases taken in were scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Sheffield's Tuberculosis Scheme was discussed at meetings of the City Health Committee. In late 1913 the Council approved the principle of taking over cases of tuberculosis at that time dealt with by the Poor Law Authorities and decided that there should be two separate sanatoria within easy reach of the city, one for men (150 beds) and one for women (c.100 beds). Approval was granted in January 1914 for the purchase of a site in the Rivelin Valley (for women); and in late 1914 it was decided that land at Buck Wood be purchased for site for male sanatorium. These were apparently not built, the onset of the First World War presumably putting an end to these plans.

The hospital was handed over to the military authorities, to be used for military wounded, in March 1915. Wards had been prepared for this since October 1914 and the patients had been transferred out to Crimicar Lane Hospital on 25 February 1915. During the Second World War the hospital was again used for the military sick.

After the war the hospital reverted to accommodating male and female tuberculosis cases and had beds for 110 patients.

Bed places were set at 103 in 1954 when beds placed in the middle of wards were removed to reduce overcrowding. Children at the hospital were transferred to Ash House Hospital School in 1957. Closure by March 1970 was proposed in November 1968; the patients would be transferred to Lodge Moor Hospital. In 1971 spending was approved to adapt the premises to form a geriatric day hospital with 40 places.

In mid-1974 the 84 beds were too many for the staff to cope with and the number was reduced to 65.

In October 1974 Trent Regional Health Authority put the upgrading of Winter St Hospital out to tender; during which works the patients were moved out elsewhere. On 10 December 1975 it was recommended that the proposal to rename the reopened hospital ' St George's Hospital' be passed to Sheffield Area Health Authority.

# Edgar Allen Institute

The Edgar Allen Institute for Medico-Mechanical Treatment opened in June 1911 for the benefit of working-class victims of industrial accidents. Injuries incurred in Sheffield's large factories and pits were far from uncommon. The Institute, unique in the country at the time of its foundation, was established by William Edgar Allen, a wealthy steel manufacturer, who had himself been treated to a Swedish system of massage and exercise, known as the Zander method. He promoted the same Swedish methods as the basis of treatment, which included physiotherapy, exercises and apparatus work, all designed to boost muscles and joints which had lost strength and flexibility.

The Institute was equipped at the expense of William Edgar Allen who then maintained it for three years before his death in 1915. It was subsequently supported by public subscription and donations. Known as the Edgar Allen Physical Treatment Centre from 1947, being then a unit of the Royal Sheffield Infirmary and Hospital, it also provided training grounds for students from the School of Physiotherapy which opened in May 1949. By the 1950s, as well as a fully kitted out gymnasium, there were sunlight, diathermy, electrical, heat and massage departments, rooms for mud treatment, whirlpools, paraffin wax baths and a rheumatism centre. It closed, and the buildings were sold off in October 1988.

# School of Physiotherapy

The Executive Committee of the Edgar Allen Physical Treatment Centre first considered the proposal to establish a School of Massage in Sheffield in March 1946. The School actually opened May 1949 with a centre in Westbourne House as well as facilities in departments of the various Sheffield hospitals; in 1956 it was agreed that the new Graves Radiotherapy Centre be built on the Westbourne House site.

# Penistone Isolation Hospital, Penistone

Under the Public Health Act, 1875, the Local Government Board could authorise two or more local authorities to act jointly in the provision of hospital accommodation for epidemic diseases. Penistone District Isolation Hospital Committee was set up in 1897 and comprised twenty members taken from the Urban District Councils of Penistone, Thurlstone, Denby & Cumberworth, Clayton West, Hoyland Swaine, and Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth, and all the Rural District Councils in Penistone Union. It had a resident Medical Officer.

At the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948, the hospital was managed by Barnsley Hospital Management Committee (HMC) of Sheffield Regional Hospital Board (SRHB). Its hospitals were grouped under two House Committees: No 1 included 'Penistone Public Assistance Hospital'; No 2 included Stanhope Infectious Diseases Hospital and the County TB Dispensary at Penistone. Matters concerning Penistone Isolation Hospital were raised at No 1 House Committee.

Barnsley HMC applied to Sheffield Regional Hospital Board in August 1948 with a request to use Penistone Isolation Hospital as an annexe to the Beckett Hospital. At that time there were no patients at the Isolation Hospital and any future patients could be accommodated at the Kendray Isolation Hospital. SRHB recommended the immediate closure of Penistone Isolation Hospital and that the premises be used as an annexe to the Beckett Hospital as from October 1948. An adult chest clinic was retained in Penistone until c. 1962.

HMCs were abolished following reorganisation of the NHS in 1974, and hospital management fell to Barnsley Area Health Authority, within Trent Regional Health Authority.

# Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives Facilities

Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

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# Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city’s history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving, please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please email us (archives@sheffield.gov.uk or telephone 0114 203 9395).

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