

Revised notes on the history of St. Cross

1869 R. Nursing Home proposals formed 30.3.1869
Opened in Pennington Street 15.6.1869

1872 Moved to Castle Street (?) – the historical record is not clear

(1892 Masonic Hall erected on part of this site)

1872 Castle Street – rules – lights out at 8.30pm – long nights!

1879/80 Premises recognised as inadequate

Richard Henry Wood d.o.b. 6.2.1820 Manchester.

Came to Rugby 1874.

C.1880 offered a piece of land for a new hospital.

Trust deed dated 27.7.1882 – land in Barby Road plus a £10,000 endowment.

July 1884 New hospital brought into use

11/8/1884 Patients from old premises transferred

1st Matron Miss Petrie. Staff comprised Matron. Ward Nurse. Night Nurse. Porter. Cook. Laundress. Ward Maid. Total salaries £183 p.a.

1885 By end of year all 31 beds at hospital were in use.

1887 Night Nurse Wade granted 6 weeks holiday per year – for being on night duty all year – salary 1shilling and 6 pence per night!

1888 Benn family gave clocks to each ward

Early data: 1887 367 in patients
1470 outpatients
127 dental cases
1964 total

Note that general health of nation was poor – 60% of all potential Army recruits for the Boer War (1899) were rejected as medically unfit.

1888 Need for more free beds was recognised

1895 George Charles Benn (estate) bequest of £2000 plus other members of family donations making a total of £9000

1898 New Wing (Victoria Wing) taken into use – officially opened 17.7.1899
Chapel consecrated by Bishop of Hereford on same day.

1905 Need for Childrens' Ward recognised; fund raising commenced

Building commenced spring 1907; opened 26.10.1907 by Princess Henry of Battenburg

1910 Need for improvement of staff accommodation recognised plus extra room for additional staff

First X ray machine installed

1911 Brookfields: House and stables offered in 1911 and purchase January 1912. Building used for nurses' accommodation; stables for a laundry.

(Note: this is the original Brookfields – not the present extended building).

1914/18 Many pressures and changes of personnel but no building extensions.

1919 1st female doctor (Dr. Field) became resident medical officer Sept 1919. 12months later replaced by another female, Dr Gillespie

1920 Post war increase in VD. Clinic opened in 1920

Post war: New ward (a hut) for TB. Total beds now 78.

Orthopaedic Department set up under Dr. C R Hoskyn.

Visitors were encouraged to bring in food to aid the recovery of patients (many of whom had underlying dietary problems).

Complaints: However not all was well. A patient admitted in Dec. 1918 suffering from fractured humerus was discharged in February 1919 but could not move his arms. He alleged that the fractures had not been properly set.

Communication: Matron did not speak to the maids, her message would be channelled through the Housekeeper. Doctors had to ask Matron's permission to discuss new procedures with Theatre Sisters. Staff requiring a Saturday morning off had to apply in advance to the Board.

Support: local support continued. Annual Fair and Fete raised £2678. Washing out of the coal-fired boilers was done by volunteers from the LNWR locomotive department at the Rugby depot.

1921 First public funds: St. Cross the only hospital in Warwickshire to benefit from a grant of £725.

1922 Recognised by General Nursing council as a training hospital for nurses

- 1923 Recognised by London University as a training hospital for Resident Medical Officers
- Cost of running the hospital for 24 hours = £28.11s.6d
- 2nd Resident Medical Officer appointed
- 1924 Dr. Dukes died. (His portrait hangs in the former consultant's dining and there is a commemorative window in the chapel; it is alleged that the hitching ring he used to tether his horse is still in situ on the old 1884 main entrance). *NOTE THIS PORTRAIT MAY HAVE BEEN MOVED RECENTLY (note dated Sept 2012)*
- 1925 Miss Osborne retired. Miss L E Shaw appointed Matron
- 1926 First Superintendent and Secretary appointed; Lt.Col. P C Goodwin DSO (stayed only from Feb. to May)
- Aug; successor to Col.Goodwin appointed; Capt. W Cockburn who Re-organised the finances and set these on a sound footing
- 1927 Average bed occupancy 95.6%
- New orthopaedic wing built (paid for by medical staff fund raising £1100)
- 4 endowed wards; (Elizabeth, Hatton, Benn, Shillitoe)
- 1928 Paying patients introduced (first mooted in 1884); 5 beds. Scheme extended in 1932 by 2 beds
- New Outpatient building started – opened by HRH Duchess of York 27th April 1929. Orthopaedic Dept opened 27th July 1929
- 1929 New premises allowed significant re-organisation of the existing; e.g. general waiting room became the Board room; Matron provided with a sitting room, Wards 1 and 3 renovated.
- Road traffic accidents becoming significant and separate records were kept; 84 admissions in the year plus 172 Outpatients. 50 of the In Patients were not contributors and this cost the hospital £332 to provide their treatment.
- 1930 May. Work started on new boiler house; estimated to save £300 p.a. on running costs.
2 other wards modernised.
- 1931 "Sun pavilion" proposed. Town responded magnificently in raising money and for extensions to the Nurses' Home.

Crisis year; depression and unemployment led to a loss of contributions

Sun pavilion commenced. Nurses' Home extensions deferred. Operating theatre overhauled.

Financial deficit of £925. Staff offered to take a pay cut; Board agreed 2.5% for men and 5% for nurses.

1932 No. of beds now 110. Average occupancy 96.8%
1143 in patients treated; av. stay 25 days. 4068 outpatients treated

Nursing conditions improved;

Senior nursing staff:

31 days holiday (INCLUDING Sundays)

Nursing staff: 1 half day per week.

Sisters and staff nurses free to go after finishing duties at 11.0pm

Sisters to be allowed to use their sitting room until 11.30pm.

Conditions in Nurses' Home still poor; 18 nurses used two bathrooms each containing 1 bath and 1 washbasin (imagine 18 washing between 6.30am and 7.0am!)

1932 8th October; Sun pavilion opened by HRH Princess Royal

1934 50 years old and Matron submitted proposals for extension to the Nurses' Home. Foundation stone laid by the Lord Mayor of London Sir Charles Collett.

Staff conditions still tough; 2 nurses attended a dance without permission – missing for 12 hours (9.30pm to 9.30am). Matron reported that they had spent the night with a "perfectly respectable Rugby family." BOTH WERE DISMISSED.

1939 Emergency measures put in hand at St. Cross became Rugby St. Cross Base Hospital, classified 1A, code 5607.

Auxiliary nurses were trained drawn from people with previous nursing experience.

Dr. Hoskyn (orthopaedic surgeon) appointed Area Commandant for the Air Raid Precautions Emergency Casualty scheme for the district.

24.8.39 State of emergency declared; 70 patients sent home

3.9.39 War declared. All leave for nurses and domestics cancelled.

By October the vacated "emergency" beds were taken back into use.

1941 January: Hospital emergency fire service established with 25 members.

Number of beds increased from 120 to 160.

Matron Shaw created a Life Governor. (Subsequently, in 1951, the gynaecological ward was named Lucy Shaw Ward).

1944 November: Rehabilitation Centre opened – part of national scheme for treatment of service men.

1948 NHS founded. Rugby hospitals comprised:
St. Cross
Ashlawn House
Overlade Manor (Nurses Home)
Harborough Magna Isolation Hospital
Hillmorton Road Maternity Hospital
Plowman Street Chest Clinic

Total 417 beds (68 infectious diseases at Harborough Magna)

Harborough Magna became the Maternity Hospital for Rugby but there no indication in the history notes of when this took place.

Strong local support continued through donations large and small including £5000 from Mrs. Arthur James.

1954: Management Committee not permitted to appeal for gifts. But gifts continued and the Centenary brochure has a long list from stainless steel dishes to improvements to A & E and OPD.

1955: League of Friends of the hospital founded. Co Founder former Matron Ryde (Matron 1952 – 1969).

1966: New operating theatres built but no other major schemes through the period 1948 – 1974.

1974: Rugby became an NHS District within Warwickshire Health Authority. Top priority at St. Cross a new Maternity Unit. Opened 1982 to replace St. Mary's.

1982 Rugby became an independent Health Authority; later became Rugby NHS Trust.

1974-1992: a period of investment, new facilities include:
a new boilerhouse
new Pathology Laboratory
much internal modernisation
new medical library
development of Withybrook and Rainsbrook Wings – closure of old OPD and A&E departments
new staff accommodation

1997-1998: a very difficult and misunderstood period. Changes in medical practice, in particular the increasing extra-specialisation of consultants meant that some services could not be sustained in Rugby.

Medical Royal Colleges also laid down new minimum standards e.g. that a consultant must see a minimum of so many cases a year to maintain his/her professional skills.

(Use example of Maternity services: consultant lead unit must have a minimum of 2000 births a year for medical and midwifery staff to maintain their skills. Rugby was dealing with about 1000 a year).

So some services transferred to Coventry. Public understanding not helped my mis-reporting at the time and Rugby not alone. Kidderminster Hospital, similar size fared far worse and lost more services.

Friends of Hospital were re-imbursed in full for equipment which they had provided which was transferred to Coventry. £20,000 cheque received via David Loughton (the then Chief Executive at Walsgrave Hospital.)

Current provision:

Victorian buildings now mothballed and out of use. Old A&E and OPD largely used for storage at present. Most of the accommodation is in use.

Hospital now provides:

Take in the directory of services 2009 issue

Teaching Hospital: St. Cross is now part of a teaching hospital: (significance is that teaching hospitals tend to attract best staff).

45Developments 2008:

- New Diabetes Centre (The Joan Cox Diabetes Centre)
- New GU Medicine Centre (The Pine Clinic)
- New Endoscopy Unit
- CT scanner arrived to complement the MRI service
- Dive Decompression Centre
- Additional wards and beds opened
- Additional surgical teams and surgery performed on site including neurosurgery
- Scoping works for the replacement of the theatre block
- Scoping works to provide a 'Lucentis centre' for Ophthalmology treatment of wet AMD

SOME PERFORMANCE FIGURES

METRIC	2010/11	2011/12
OPD ATTENDANCES	70,000	81,495
A&E ATTENDANCES	25,000	33,882
XR ATTENDANCES	45,000 *	33,963
THEATRE CASES	8000	7426
ENDOSCOPIES	1970	2542
BOWEL CANCER SCREENING- Test kits sent out	700,000	1,022,967

MESSAGE: Tell your friends St. Cross is alive and kicking – busier than ever
– developing new services and has a key role in the UHCW plans.

**And we – the Friends of the Hospital of St. Cross –continue our support
as we have done since 1955.**

TC 27.2.09 updated Sept 2012

ORIGINS OF THE NAME “St. CROSS”

(An extract from the centenary brochure of the hospital)

The origins of the name chosen for Rugby’s hospital are somewhat confused. There is no such saint as “St. Cross.” The Rugby Advertiser for February 18th 1888 reports a meeting at which there was considerable discussion about the use of the title “Hospital of St. Cross” and about the official Trust Deed of 1882 in which it was described as the “Hospital of the Holy Cross.” It was stated at that meeting that the title was chosen by the founders, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Wood, after the oldest hospital in England – that of St. Cross in Winchester. Why then did Mr. Wood put his signature to a deed in which it is described otherwise?

To add to the confusion there is a report in the Nursing and Midwives Journal of May 27th, 1911 that the old hospital in Castle Street was also known as “St. Cross” although that is not verified by the other source.

The discrepancy may well be explained by the casual use of a foreign language: the Latin inscribed foundation stone describes the hospital as “Sancte Crucem” which could easily have been colloquialised as “St. Cross.” As the foundation stone was laid by the Woods, this adds weight to the argument that the original intention was it should be known as the “Hospital of the Holy Cross.”

MATRONS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. CROSS

The records are not comprehensive but this is believed to be a reasonably accurate record of the Matrons who served the hospital.

1884 to 1891	Miss Petrie (then married Dr. Williams, one of the hospital's honorary physicians and therefore retired)
1891 to 1893	Miss Chapman
1893	Miss Heathcote – there is no record of when she left
1910	Miss Osborne recorded as being sick (no record of her appointment) Miss Boycote appointed as temporary Matron
1925	Miss Osborne retired
1944	The Matron, Miss L. E. Shaw, completed 19 years and was created a Life Governor of the Hospital in recognition of her long and devoted service.
1925 to 1952	Miss L E Shaw
1952 – 1969	Miss Ryde

Lucy Shaw Ward was named after Matron Shaw

Ryde Wing was named after Matron Ryde