

## HISTORICAL FACTSHEET No 31

### A Circular Tour of the Hospital, with reference to its History

The information given below is current at August 2011.

Start at the West Entrance

1. *Entering the corridor through the West Entrance* – the hospital moved to this site in 1921 to make use of the former Park Hall Military Hospital, built in 1915. The basic layout of the military hospital still remains: one long corridor with wards on the side facing the road, and departments on the other side.
2. *Photographs on each side of the corridor* – note the photographs and captions running the length of the corridor which tell the story of various aspects of the hospital's history.
3. *Outpatients reception area* – this is part of a major hospital rebuilding programme, which will incorporate a new main entrance at the front of the hospital. Completion date is planned for March 2012.
4. *Denbigh's restaurant* – opened in 1999 on the site of the former Denbigh Ward. Several of the original wards, including Ludlow, Denbigh, Montgomery, and Merioneth, were named after the local Voluntary Orthopaedic Associations which raised funds for their construction.
5. *League of Friends Shop* – opened in 1997. The League was formed in 1961 – see the photograph of Alice Pym on the wall opposite. She was a founder member of the League and gave many years of service to the hospital. The children's ward is named after her.
6. *Institute of Orthopaedics* – founded as a focus for postgraduate education, research and patient care. The building was opened in 1971, incorporating a lecture theatre, library, and laboratories.
7. *The Menzies Unit* – this is a modular building, completed in less than five months, comprising two extra operating theatres for major orthopaedic surgery, and a day case operating theatre. It was opened in October 2009 on the site of the Concert Hall and Chapel complex, which was built in 1968. It was at this point that the fire of 1948, which had advanced from the eastern end of the corridor, was finally brought under control. The Unit is named after John Menzies, Secretary-Superintendent (Chief Administrator) from 1928 to 1956.
8. *Powys/ Clwyd Wards and Theatre Suite* – opened for patients in 1992, at a cost of around £7 million. The first operating theatre at the Baschurch Home was built in 1907, and cost £249 3s 11d! The suite contains seven operating theatres.
9. *Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries* – originally opened as a unit in 1966. It serves patients from a large catchment area across the midlands. The current building was opened in 2001.

10. *Trust Offices* – originally built after the fire of 1948 to house the School of Physiotherapy. Agnes Hunt first set up training in exercise and massage (the forerunners of physiotherapy) at Baschurch in 1910. The School remained at the hospital until 1994, when it was incorporated into Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent. A large representation of the School of Physiotherapy badge can be seen mounted on the wall next to the reception area.
11. *Eastern end of the corridor (from where the floor slopes downwards)* – built as an extension onto the original corridor in the 1970s to house a new Rehabilitation Unit.
12. *Sheldon Ward* – houses the medical ward and was rebuilt in 1986. It is named after a local pioneer geriatric physician.
13. *Children's Unit* - Alice Ward was named after Alice Pym, Chairman of the League of Friends for many years.
14. *East Entrance* A large representation of the hospital coat of arms, granted in 1944, is set into the floor just inside the East Entrance door. It incorporates elements from the coats of arms of Robert Jones and the Hunt family. The latin motto 'Deo dante damus' can be loosely translated as 'God gives to us that we may give unto others.'
15. *Exit via the East Entrance* – turn left and continue along the path following the line of the buildings.
16. *The Pennill Pool* – on the right. This is the therapeutic swimming pool, opened in 2005. It replaces an older building from the 1960s. Continue along the road past the boiler house.
17. *Centre for Spinal Studies* – on the left. This department was set up in 1976, the first of its kind in the country. Comedian Ken Dodd laid the foundation stone for the building, which was opened by hospital patron the Duchess of Kent in 1987.
18. *Leopold Muller Arthritis Research Centre* – completed in 1996, following a £2.5 million appeal. Research into rheumatic conditions had been pursued on site since the late 1960s.
19. *The Laing Memorial* – see sign on the building on the left. This refers to a charitable donation which funded new operating theatres in the 1930s.
20. *TORCH Building* – on the right. The UK's only centre dedicated to the comprehensive assessment of children with mobility problems. The foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Gloucester in 2007.

Turn left at the road junction. This will bring you back to the West Entrance where the tour started.

#### Sources

1. *Carter, Marie. Healing & hope: 100 years of 'The Orthopaedic'. Oswestry: The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust, 2000*