

Wishing you a happy healthy New Year. What an exciting year we have ahead in Queen Mary's Hospital's centenary year.

Where it all began....



One hundred years ago Harold Gillies' dream of a purpose-built hospital for the treatment of facial injuries was on its way to being built and would open its doors officially on 18 August

1917 for facial casualties of World War 1. With just 320 beds this was found to be not enough so a second part to the hospital was built bringing the total to 600 beds.



In 1920 the War Office handed over control of the hospital to the Ministry of Pensions.

Over the years the hospital changed and general medical and surgical cases were admitted. In 1924 patients with neurasthenia were admitted. Then in 1925 patients with



ulcers and tuberculosis of the skin were also treated.

By 1929 the Ministry of Pensions had no interest in the hospital and closed it down. Founder of the hospital, Sir Charles Kenderdine along with Surgeon Rear-Admiral Hill took many months to negotiate a sale of the site to London County Council who took

ownership in 1931. The hospital was re-opened by Princess Mary and renamed Queen Mary's, in honour of its original patron.



The hospital was hit several times during WW2 and once it was over, the life of the hospital was again threatened. Health care was changing dramatically with the introduction of the NHS. Again Queen Mary's hospital survived through the sheer determination and persistence of George Wallace, MP for Chislehurst & Sidcup.

By 1948 Queen Mary's had been transferred to the State for local usage and was run by the Sidcup & Swanley Hospital Management Committee.

In 1956 a new outpatient area opened and by 1958 it was announced that a brand new hospital would be built.

In 1961 Phase 1 was approved, comprising new staff accommodation, boiler house and nurse training school.



Pictured in August 1962 is the ceremony for Lord Wallace turning the first sod for the new hospital.



In 1964 work began on the maternity department and in 1965 the first patient was transferred by helicopter. Finally the first baby was born in the new maternity unit in December 1966.



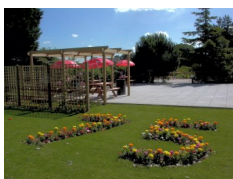
In 1969 site clearance work began for phase 2 to start being built in 1970 which was not before time as the old hospital was not only starting to fall apart but was also burning down with the kitchen and Accident & Emergency being severely damaged.



By 1974 the new hospital opened and the first operation was performed by Mr Peter

Savage in October 1974. The hospital by now was under new management by the Greenwich & Bexley Area Health Authority.

The early 90s saw Queen Mary's become Queen Mary's NHS Trust with a new concept and way of dealing with payment for healthcare and of course it celebrated its 75th birthday.

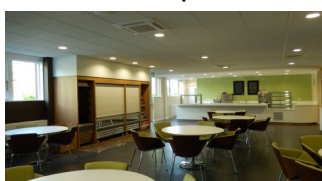


By 2009 it became a part of the South London Healthcare NHS Trust (SLHT) when it was merged with Princess Royal and Queen

Elizabeth. By July 2012 SLHT was put into special measures and this unity was dissolved in September 2013. Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust bought the Queen Mary's site and so again a transformation began.

A major re-development by Oxleas was planned for the site to be completed in phases.

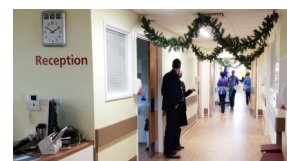
In 2014 the demolition work started on the old School of Nursing and Froggnal Centre making way for the new Cancer Centre. Although sad to see the loss of these buildings, out of the ashes will rise the phoenix.



In May 2014 the Snack Box opened in the main reception area whilst the old Oak Tree restaurant

and Java closed to make way for the new Kidney Treatment centre.

In December 2014 Meadow View opened its doors for patients requiring intermediate care.



In September 2016 B Block entrance closed to enable the works for the new reception area to continue.

And how it will continue

January 2017 will see the official opening of Acorns which is a new unit purposely designed for children and young adolescents.

April 2017 the new Kidney Treatment centre will open.

9 September 2017 will see the Centenary Celebrations for Queens / Queen Mary's

Hospital with the official opening of B Block reception and completion of Phase 1 of the re-development works. This will be a day of fun for all and we hope staff, patients and all those living in the community will come along and help us celebrate. More details of this event will be published in the next couple of months.

Your news and questions

If you have any interesting news from Queen Mary's new or old you would like to share, views about anything within this newsletter, or any questions you would like to ask about what is happening around Queen Mary's, do get in touch. If you would like this newsletter emailed to you please do let us know. Contact details are: denise.webb@nhs.net or you can telephone on **020 8308 3013**.