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**Winners and a continuation of tales from the past are featured in this month's edition along with sad farewells for colleagues.**

## GallifordTry encourage young artists

GallifordTry, the main contractors for the redevelopment at Queen Mary's invited children from Sherwood Park School to design some posters. The theme being anything about the hospital, which would then be displayed on the hoardings outside the main building. The children eagerly took up this task and the results were astounding. The school picked the best pictures from each year and sent them in to be judged by GallifordTry which proved to be no easy task. Dan Gamble, Project Manager said "They are all winners as it is too difficult to single any of them out".

All the finalists were invited in to the hospital to see their work displayed and have their photos

taken by their pictures and each child received a certificate. The school will also receive a new bench for the playground as a winning prize for the school.



## Highs and lows for Speakability

Sidcup Speakability Group helps and supports adults suffering with communication difficulties following some form of brain injury, more often than not as a result of a stroke and/or a brain



tumour. Oxleas has provided accommodation at Queen Mary's and support the group for over 3 years and it's proved to be hugely popular. So much so that they are completely full and currently running a waiting list. To mark their fantastic work with this group they were nominated and won funding from the local Nationwide Building Society in recognition for their work in the community. Sadly they recently lost one of their long standing members to a brain tumour. The family were so grateful to the group for the help and support that their relative received they have arranged to take the whole group out as a thank you and aid everyone's overall recovery.

**The Huts part 2** This old hospital had a patients' radio request programme set up which operated from a hut furthest away from the main entrance and a good number of people joined this team which came under the heading of The Friends of Queen Mary's. Twice a week some of the team went round the old hatted wards to collect patients' favourite songs or music and bearing in mind this was the early 1960s there was a good choice of requests. Patients could enjoy listening to their chosen records during the broadcast which went out in the evening after the visitors had gone home. This became extremely popular so much so that the technical people who ran it decided that it would be a nice idea if they could do a live broadcast each week from a chosen ward. To do this it meant running numerous lengths of cables from the studio around every single ward and this took place when the team got together on a Sunday morning with the hammers and

staples connecting the cables up which took many months due to the layout of the wards in this old hospital. Bearing in mind there was no such thing as digital in those days the equipment used would look extremely ancient today but it worked. So each week the team chose a specific ward and with permission from the nursing staff we could actually interview patients in their beds. Occasionally we had a special guest being a DJ either in the studio or they would join what was known as the outside broadcast team. This radio request programme continued for many years with new people joining the team as others left for various reasons. It was very well known and the studio continued to operate in this way until the new hospital opened when a more up to date studio opened in a room just inside the hospital's main entrance.

*Memoirs of Gerry Hosking  
QMH Employee 1964-1978*

### **Gillies patient 18 months old**

David Smith told us that back in 1938 he had congenital ptosis (drooping eyelid) as a baby and Harold Gillies carried out the plastic surgery on him when he was only 18 months old. This had to be done privately in those days and the cost for this was the equivalent of a year's wages. After the war David was followed up at the Queen Victoria hospital and of course by then did not have to pay for this.

**1940's** Mrs Massey recalled when she stayed at Queen Mary's in ward 18 about 75 years ago due to pleurisy. She had to stay in hospital for 2 months then was sent to convalesce in Penzance in Cornwall for a further 6 months. Mrs Massey remembers how the hospital was such a long way from home. She remembers being treated very well whilst in hospital and loved being here and enjoyed her time in Penzance too.

### **Sad farewells but fond memories**

**Michael Mieres** - Staff from all over Queen Mary's said a sad farewell at a service of Love and Remembrance to a much loved colleague, Michael Mieres who sadly passed away last month. He had worked at Queen Mary's for 17 years, originally starting as a domestic then moving to the role of supervisor. His kindness and caring personality will be missed by all.



**Mandy Powis** - It is with great sadness that we pass on the news that Mandy, a volunteer here at Queen Mary's for 7 years, sadly passed away in February. Mandy volunteered on the breast screening van and also with the Chaplaincy team. Although she suffered ill health, Mandy always had a smile and a laugh with everyone she came into contact with and was positive about life. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.



### **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](mailto:denise.webb@nhs.net) or you can telephone on **020 8308 3013**.