

Newsletter

November 2017

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New beginnings and nostalgia are in this month's edition.

Queen Mary's and the cats

Underneath the wooden huts and walk ways were hundreds of feral (wild) cats. Most of the wards had their own favourites and they would feed them and give them water. They were considered to be a health problem and nuisance by some, but overall, most people liked them and had their own special ones. Sometimes because of illnesses and the sheer number of cats that lived in warrens underneath the wards, the cats would be culled. This would cause uproar amongst staff as they were very protective towards them. Often the culling had to take place on bank holidays when there were less staff around. Uproar would ensue when staff returned to work and they could not find their cats.

*Memories from Fenelly Dowsett
previous employee whose parents worked in the huts*

Apology for error in council fine article

We would like to apologise for any upset caused by the wrong title used in the article about council fines in last month's edition. We had written that Environmental Health Officers had been attending Queen Mary's where as it was Environment Enforcement Officers (EEOs) that were attending. We sincerely apologise if we offended anyone. We would still ask all not to drop litter and thus avoid receiving an £80 on the spot fine from the EEOs who patrol council areas on behalf of Bexley Council.

Welcome to..

Helen Manchester has joined the Oxleas Estates and Facilities team as the Operational Manager for Queen Mary's Hospital. Helen is an extended scope physiotherapist by background, who has worked at Queen Mary's since 2010 in the Bexley Musculoskeletal Service. She is keen to work together with all the teams at Queen Mary's to provide seamless care for all Bexley residents and service users. Helen can be contacted by telephone on 0203 9107384 or by emailing helenmanchester@nhs.net



We also welcome..

Lee Bolton as the new Facilities Manager for Queen Mary's Hospital. Lee will be managing both the Hard and Soft FM contracts within QMH. Lee said: "I have worked for Oxleas now for 7 years and previously managed facilities within our wider estate consisting of Bexley and Greenwich Community properties as well as our Medium Secure Inpatient unit the Bracton Centre. I look forward to working with and meeting



everyone that helps make this hospital a great place not only to work but to receive healthcare as well."

Maternity unit

It was very sad to see the maternity unit at Queen Mary's demolished as I had my two children there, Jack and Niamh.

When I was pregnant with my first baby, Jack, I had pre-eclampsia and was constantly in and out of Elizabeth ward in the old maternity unit but I had the best care. My Consultant, Mr Morcos was fantastic, always reassuring me and the nurses and midwives were great too. From the fifth month of my pregnancy I had to be in hospital and at 24 weeks I went into labour. Whilst I was in the delivery room a Midwife stayed with me as I was really scared because I knew I had to have a caesarean section due to peritonitis. I believe Mr Morcos saved Jack as he gave me injections before he was born to make Jack's lungs stronger. I had to have bed rest which was very boring. When Jack was born he was very premature and weighed 4lbs which dropped to 3 1/2lb, he was

so tiny. I had a lot of trouble feeding him and he kept sleeping. The Midwives were fantastic and helped me bath and feed him as because he was so tiny I was scared. Jack had to be fed every hour and I found this very difficult and he would not take his milk but I got all the support I needed. When we were discharged the Midwife who was assigned to Jack came around to our home and weighed him in a sheet as he was so very small.

Jack had difficulty sitting up when he was six months old and did not walk until he was two. He had to have physiotherapy here at QM and I cannot thank the staff enough for all the support and guidance I received.

Although Jack had difficulties due to his birth I am so grateful to the staff at Queen Mary's and it is a shame the maternity unit had to shut.

Eileen Finn

Telephonist at QMH



Remembrance Carol Service

Sunday 10 December 2017

**From 6pm at St James the Great Church
Bladindon Drive, Bexley DA5 3BP**

The Carol Service is for families and friends to come together to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

Dedicate a message in memory of a loved one by:
lighting a candle and hanging a message on the tree.

The service has a collection of well-known carols for all to sing as well as special Christmas pieces sung by the choir.

After the service, you are welcome to join us
for some light refreshments.

To find out more:

T: 020 8304 5245 E: bexleyandbromley@cruse.org.uk



@CruseBexley



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Christmas decorations

Do you have any old photographs of past Christmases at Queen Mary's that you would share with us? We will be decorating the inside of the hospital next month ready for Christmas and in the newsletter we will be looking back at some photos of how the decorations were in the past. Please do get in touch if you are able to share anything with us and stories are most welcome too. We have the past 100 years to find photos from!

The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places.

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**.