

# ‘Voluntary Takeover’ of NHS Hospitals

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## St Ives residents raise £1m to save community hospital closed by NHS

Former Edward Hain Memorial hospital founded more than a century ago to become new hub for health and wellness



Residents had feared the hospital building would be sold and turned into apartments due to the high demand for holiday lets in St Ives. Photograph: Jason Batterham/Alamy

Residents of a Cornish harbour town have raised £1m to save their beloved community hospital three years after it was closed by the NHS, [raising fears it](#)



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## Edward Hain Hospital: St Ives residents raise £1m to save hospital

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Those behind the fundraising celebrated the purchase on Tuesday

**The residents of a Cornish town have raised £1m to save the Edward Hain Memorial Hospital.**

**Closed in 2020**, the former Edward Hain Hospital in St Ives will open as the Edward Hain Centre, providing a range of health and wellbeing services.

Lynne Isaacs, chair of the Edward Hain centre, said the loss of the hospital was

# The Cases

Hospital	Year of Transfer
Tadworth Court (The Children's Trust)	1984
Hoyle Cottage Hospital	1984
Tarporley & District War Memorial Cottage Hospital	1987
Mildmay Mission Hospital	1988
Holbeach & East Elloe Hospital Trust	1988
Brackley Cottage Hospital	1990
Tetbury Cottage Hospital	1992
Rye, Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital	1995
Odiham Cottage Hospital	1999
Wells Cottage Hospital	2006



# 1980s Policy Context

## 1. Long term trend of hospital closures



Ken Clarke:

*"I closed more hospitals than most people had hot dinners"*

## 2. Support for voluntarism in health



Patrick Jenkin:

*"We are prepared to discuss in some cases the question of leasing hospitals at peppercorn rents to voluntary bodies to run themselves rather than that they should be closed"*



# Facing Closure

- Transfer to avoid closure
- Health Authority's economic rationale
- Hospitals blamed 'war of attrition'
- Not the first time



## Sick children hospitals overspent

The closure of beds at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children is a temporary measure, Lord Trefgarne, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said in a written answer in the House of Lords.

The Times - 29th Oct 1982

Daily Mirror - 11 June 1991

## Macca hits out at Major for axeing his local hospital ..

PAUL McCARTNEY launched a ferocious attack on Prime Minister John Major last night after his long campaign to save his local hospital failed.

## HOSPITAL SHUTS

THE 17-bed Tetbury cottage hospital near the Prince of Wales's Cotswold home Highgrove House, is to be closed as an economy measure by Gloucester District Health Authority.

Liverpool Echo - 17 Jan 1990

# Campaigns Against Closure

RLH TH A/14/23

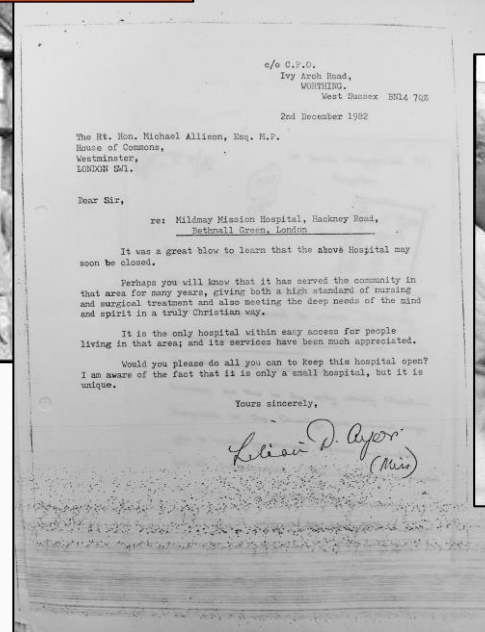
Surrey Live: The Children's Trust



Chester archives: D7882



BBC: Hoylake Cottage Hospital



Rye News: Rye Hospital



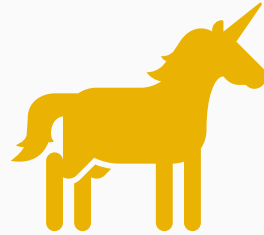
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# Representations of 'the hospital'



Site of healthcare



Special



Local asset



# Representations of 'the hospital' (a)



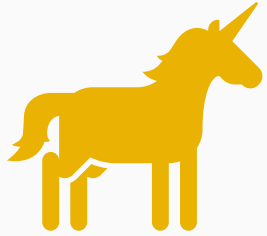
## Site of Healthcare:

- **Accessible – the 'local hospital'**
  - Patients & patients' families/carers
- **Specialist (Tadworth)**
  - Staff & patients' parents



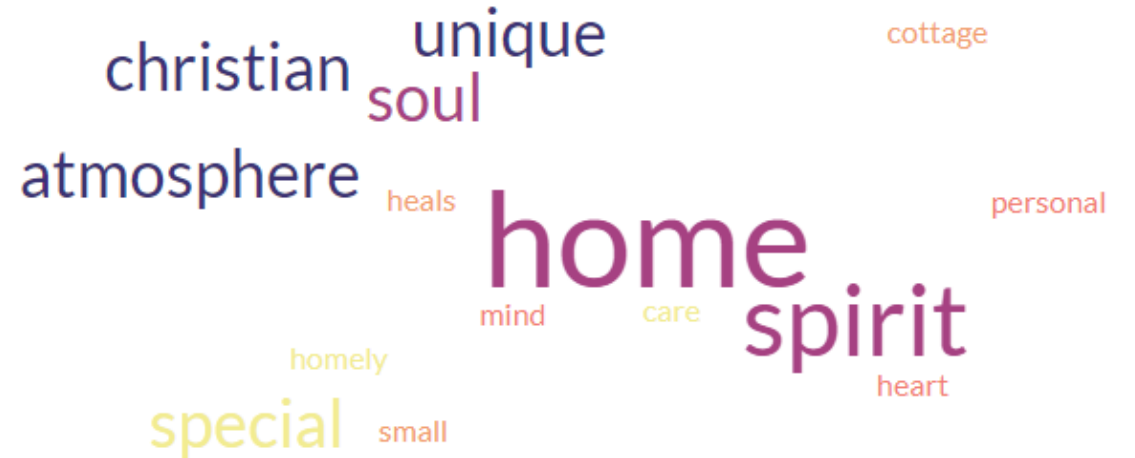


# Representations of 'the hospital' (b)



## Special:

- Unique, homely atmosphere
  - Staff, patients
- Religious spirit (Mildmay)
  - Staff, volunteers, patients, Christians, Church leaders



# Representations of 'the hospital' (c)



## Local asset:

- Local ownership
  - Local residents
- Historical legacy
  - Local residents



# Distinction From Other Hospitals

1. Strong history of voluntary support (mobilised)
2. Recognised campaign leader – formed Action/Battle Committees
3. Unity behind single campaign
4. Health Authorities amenable to alternatives



# Transferring Hospitals

## Transfer of control

- Leased at peppercorn rent
- E.g. Tarporley, Hoylake, Holbeach, Mildmay



Chester archives - D7783 4



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## Transfer of ownership

- Bought back by the community
- E.g. Odiham, Rye, Tetbury



Rye, Winchelsea & District Memorial Hospital, Centenary History

# Post-Transfer

- Grant support to ease transition
    - E.g. Tadworth £750k for 3 years, Tarporley £55k one-off
  - Contractual relations with NHS
    - Examined annual records over past 30-40 years
    - Most funding still comes from the NHS – typically 80-99%
  - Charity only used for ‘extras’
    - Staff and patient amenities
    - Equipment
    - Building extensions and redevelopment
- } same as in NHS



# What do these cases tell us?



Voluntarism as filling state gaps and resistance to state control



Diversity of communities behind 'community hospitals'



Influence of charity on NHS policy



Connections between charity and health inequities?



# Border Crossings Project

Read more about our research:

<https://more.bham.ac.uk/border-crossings/>



## Timeline of Fundraising and the NHS

Public fundraising activities are one of the most revealing aspects of charitable funding for healthcare in the UK. Before 1948, many hospitals were founded and funded with a mix of charitable donations, patient payments, investment income, and subscriptions. Under the NHS since 1948, these hospitals are funded by government, but space has continued for some active fundraising. This timeline of over 100 years of fundraising for healthcare shows these developments from pre-1948, to the early decades of the NHS, right up to fundraising around the NHS' 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2023. Explore how the language and imagery of fundraising campaigns and appeals have changed, and notice some of the ways they have stayed the same.

Before the NHS (pre-1948)

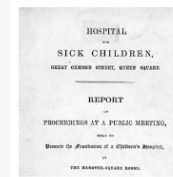
The first 50 Years (1948-1997)

The recent NHS (1998-2023)

## Before the NHS (pre-1948)

Before the NHS was introduced, many hospitals in the UK were established through the efforts and contributions of communities, doctors, and philanthropic gifts. They remained reliant on fundraising efforts, though as donations fluctuated over time with economic and political context, they also began to receive income from patient payments, investments, subscriptions, and contributory schemes.

1851



Appeal for Foundation of Hospital for Sick Children

1902



Coronation Appeal for King Edward's Hospital Fund for London

1917



Merrie Merrie England – Fundraising fairs, bazaars, and fetes

With thanks to our funders:



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# Thank you, any questions?

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