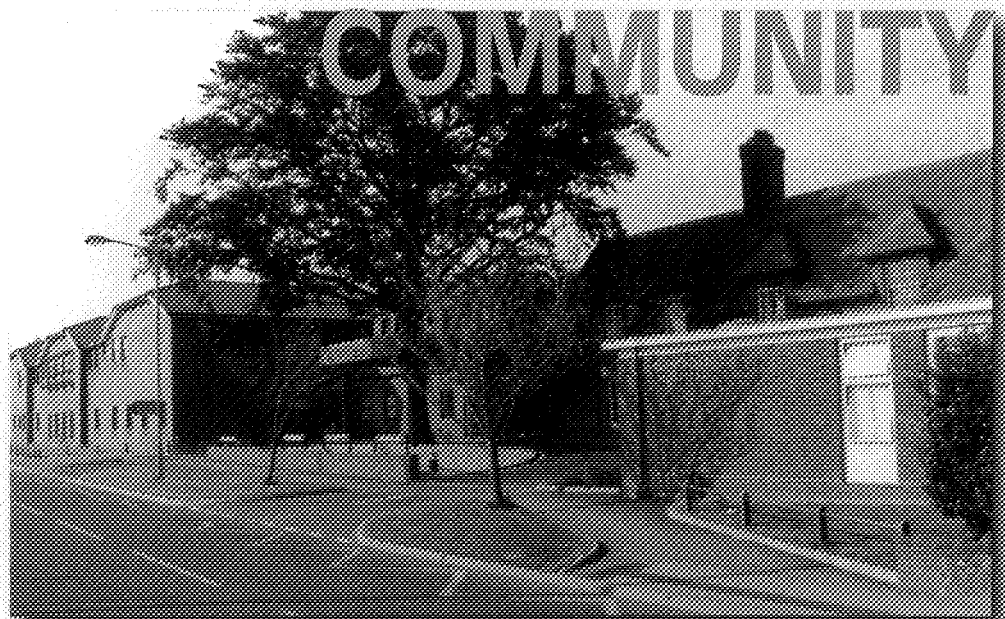


From  
COTTAGE



To  
COMMUNITY



***THE FIRST 100 YEARS OR SO  
OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL***

# FROM COTTAGE TO COMMUNITY

An account of the first 100 years or so  
of Blandford Hospital

by  
Dr Ian Wilson

*President of the League of Friends*

## Foreword

I have lived in West Dorset since 1985, in fact returning from County Durham to work for Blandford Hospital and since that day I have had a working relationship with the hospital and the local General Practitioners. I have seen the transition from a Cottage Hospital to a Community Hospital, always with the health of the local community very much at heart. In 1985 Doctor Ian Wilson was a practising GP and held other senior positions, such as the Chairman of the Community Hospitals Association, influencing the way care was delivered locally and nationally. Since Ian's retirement his love for Blandford Hospital has undoubtedly led him to become President of the League of Friends.

Blandford Community Hospital has gone through many changes over the years and it seems very fitting that this book is published during the 60th anniversary of the NHS. It is a fine testament to the people who have worked there, the patients who had undoubtedly received high quality care. The hospital has won various prestigious awards and in recent years has been awarded a charter mark and is the only hospital in the United Kingdom that has a Practice Development Unit status (this is where the hospital is accredited by a licensed University) and in Blandford Hospital's case – Leeds and all departments can demonstrate that they use current best practice.

The dedication and commitment of the staff of Blandford Hospital make this hospital special. The Staff are proud to offer such an excellent health care service to the local community, helped very much by the League of Friends who over the last sixty years have so much, in time and money to enhance the treatment and comfort of the patients and have supported the staff in many ways.

Blandford Community Hospital is at the heart of a healthy community and I thank Dr Ian Wilson for his diligence and research to record the history of this very special hospital.

Steven E. Cole  
General Manager, Community Hospitals in Dorset.

### *Acknowledgements*

Whilst clearing out my father's (Dr Kenneth) desk and study it occurred to me that someone should write the history of the Hospital as the history was all here albeit in hundreds of bits and pieces. Plus the bulk of this story came from him not throwing anything away. Annie Drennan at the hospital has been a great help as has Sarah Connor and Emma Campbell of the League of Friends. Dorothy Roberts a patient in Tarrant Ward for many years on the staff of the Hospital has helped to identify staff in the photographs. I acknowledge also the help of John Tory of Travellers Rest, the Portman Trust in London, Ben Cox and the Town Council. Also an old photo from Chris Brickells mother. Pat Rutter past matron and others of the nursing staff have produced many photographs, some of which are included in the book. There are many other people I have probably forgotten but I am very grateful for all their help. Many thanks to Steve Cole for writing the Foreword. Nothing would have been possible without the help of Mo Haines who did all the typing. To her, very many thanks indeed. Purely Print have been very patient with a novice and a tremendous help in publishing this book.

Signed

IAN WILSON MBE MB Ch.B FRCGP

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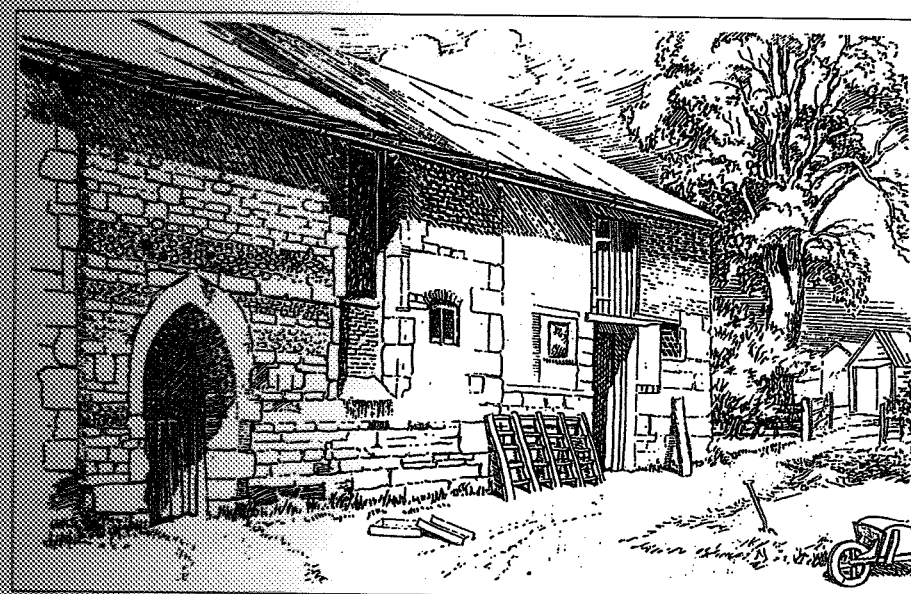
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## CHAPTER I

### The Beginning

It is reported elsewhere that in the 13th century St Leonards Chapel was used as a hospital for the sick of Blandford and for travellers returning from the crusades but for the purposes of this chronicle we



*St. Leonards Chapel*

move swiftly to the late 19th century. It was reported in the Blandford Express dated 17 March 1883 that there was a wagon accident in Tarrant Hinton. The injured man was conveyed to Blandford where he was received into the new Cottage Hospital adjoining the corner coffee house. This Cottage Hospital was supplied at the expense of the Honourable Miss Portman early in 1883 adjoining the corner coffee house at the junction of Salisbury Street with Whitecliff Mill Street. This is where the man injured by the wagon was brought. This building was known in 1885-1887 as The Nurse House. Although it appears that it was not accepting in patients who were sent to Bath, Weymouth, Bournemouth or Dorchester but in April 1888 plans were made for the Nurse House to revert to its real use as a Cottage Hospital although it

is doubtful in fact whether it ever did. In December 1888 a new cottage hospital was planned at Pickett Close. This became the nucleus of the present hospital. Suffice it to say that in the 19th century we saw a widespread awakening of social consciousness in this country and especially with regard to the sick and the injured. This tendency was greatly accelerated in the latter half of this century largely due to the influence of Miss Florence Nightingales work in the matter of adequate training of nurses and improved planning and administration of hospitals. This urge to acquire a local hospital was felt in Blandford and was warmly supported by the local doctors. Donations and subscriptions were solicited and the first meeting of donors and subscribers was held on the 1 November 1888 but it appears that the hospital had already been functioning for possibly 5 years before this. The Reverend James Penny was elected Chairman and the first Committee included him, the Honorary Treasurer and Vice Chairman, Mr R Lock, Honorary Secretary, Miss Daniel, Medical Officers, Dr Bacet, Dr Spooner, Mr Ingram, Dr Daniel and the Matron was Miss Short. A plaque in memory of all the work for the hospital by Mr R Lock was in the entrance porch of the old hospital.



Miss Short was at first the only nurse but she soon found that extra help was necessary as from the very beginning the hospital was much appreciated. There is a quotation from the first report for the year December 1 1888 to December 31 1889 "that the hospital was opened on December 1 1888 and the Committee can only begin their first report with words of heartiest thankfulness and praise to the great giver of all good for the success which has in every way attended the Blandford Cottage Hospital". The scheme was started on exceptional favourable circumstances the Honourable Miss Portman who

Committee and undertaken to provide both matron and servant while Lord Portman most kindly engaged to meet the entire cost of bed and annual subscription of £50.00. From the first the five beds and one cot have seldom been unoccupied. This must have been the first Viscount Portman who in fact died in 1888. Two cases of rheumatic fever and others of rheumatism have been successfully treated, possibly by the use of hot air and warm baths. The arrangement for the air bath was designed by the Reverend C Fines Clinton. 8 out of the 46 patients were children, 15 of the cases were in some villages around Blandford and confidence in the hospital has taken the place of any mistrust which such persons may have had. Many little gifts have from time to time been brought by their former patients in the shape of a few vegetables and flowers. It must be obvious that the work of nursing in so small a house especially in hot and sultry weather and when every bed is occupied must be of a trying character and to complete the work so well bigger and larger premises are greatly to be desired.

The hospital was so fully used that it soon became very obvious that expansion was necessary and through the generosity of the Portman family the present site was acquired and a hospital building erected at the total cost of £3,165.9s 10p all of which was borne by the Portman family. The matron with four patients moved into the new building on 25 April 1891 and more nurses were engaged. There were beds for six males, six females and four cots. There were also two private beds at the charge of which was one or two guineas a week. The matron's salary was £30.00 per year and the nurses £16.00 rising to £20.00. These figures were increased over the years up until 1948. As will be shown later in the history the local doctors and visiting consultants gave the services absolutely free. With rising costs however they demanded small fees from the patients at some point in the 1930's Blandford District Hospital League was founded and paid the cost of its members. Subscriptions and donations were necessary and a copy of the accounts of 1888 and 1891 are shown.

The generosity of the Portman family knew no bounds and it seems strange that the present hospital was not called the Portman Hospital. While the Yeatman Hospital in Sherborne was opened in 1866 in memory of the Reverend Harry Far Yeatman who was born in 1786 and died in 1861 and was the Chairman of Dorset Quarter Sessions for



*The 2nd Viscount Portman*

Portman's Steward and lived at Bryanston and recording in her diaries the following.

"15 December 1888. Today the new cottage hospital (Nurse House) was formally opened at Blandford. There were two patients, one a man, I forget his complaint (we have already mentioned that and who was run over by a wagon), two a woman who was there under rather laughable circumstances. By the will of the first Lord Wilverton every person in his service claimed a years wages probably intended that the domestic



*The 2nd Viscountess Portman*

25 years and in his day Quarter Sessions would have been the criminal Court much as we know it was also responsible for much of the administration of the County since the County Council did not exist. He had a pack of hounds which he kept at Stock House and hunted himself and this evolved into the Blackmore Vale Hunt. This had similarities to the Portman family 20 years later. An interesting postscript to the opening of the hospital recently discovered by Mr Tory of Bryanston who having kept diaries of Julietta Forrester who was the wife of Lord

servants only were intended to receive this but through a terrible error everybody in his employ became legally entitled to it. I believe that it took about £8,000 to pay off all these legacies. Amongst the recipients was the first female patient in Blandford Cottage Hospital. She took her money with the rest last Wednesday. She spent and drank some of it and then went up to bed but she thought she would like a drop more and set about going down to fetch it. She stumbled and fell falling from the top of the stairs to be bottom and broke her leg and was admitted to the Cottage Hospital."

### *The Isolation Hospital*

I wish to include the Isolation Hospital at this stage in the history because I do not know where else to put it. It would appear that this hospital was founded immediately after the first world war in probably old Army Huts in Shaftesbury Lane and is situated where the U Drive compound is at the moment with the cottage next door, the red brick cottage, where the matron, a Miss Lucas, and nursing staff lived. There are a number of beds and illustrated is the rules for visiting these beds. Also the agreement nominating Dr Kenneth Wilson as the public vaccinator and his Contract is very interesting to read. The Isolation Hospital admitted cases of smallpox, chicken pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas and all the other infectious illnesses. We must remember that at

#### BLANDFORD ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

##### **Regulations as to Visiting of Patients.**

1. No person under 15 years of age is allowed to visit the patients except by special permission
2. The visiting of patients in all ordinary cases is permitted only between the hours of 2 p.m., and 4 p.m., on Wednesdays and Sundays.
3. Two visitors only will be allowed to each patient.
4. Visitors are not admitted to the wards but may see and talk to patients through the corridor windows.
5. Each visit is limited in duration to 20 minutes.
6. The Medical Officer or Matron will notify the nearest relative of a patient in case of dangerous illness and after such notification special permission will be given by the Medical Officer to visit at such times as he may appoint and admission to the ward may be granted.
7. Visitors will be required before leaving the premises to use such methods of disinfection as may be directed by the Medical Officer or Matron.
8. Visitors are forbidden to convey any article of food or drink to the patients except grapes, ~~oranges~~ or new laid eggs by permission from the Matron.
9. Visitors are warned that they run great risk in entering the wards and are advised to partake of a good meal before doing so. They are required to avoid touching the patient or exposing themselves to the breath or emanations from the skin of the patient.
10. Visitors are strongly urged not to enter any public conveyance immediately after leaving the hospital.

*By order of the Committee, Oct. 8th, 1910.*

EDWD. PHELPS,  
Secretary.

this stage in 1920 there were no anti-biotics and the children who had these serious illnesses of scarlet fever and diphtheria were pulled through it by pure nursing skills and tender loving care. It would appear that at the beginning this place was run by the guardians of



*Isolation Hospital*

the poor and as can be told by the agreement between the guardians of the poor and Dr Kenneth Wilson to be the first district medical officer and public vaccinator. This agreement makes good reading. In days past each village had a poor house and in the end each village would send a representative into Blandford where the workhouse was built which is of course now Castleman House. The guardians of the Blandford Union were the representatives from each village and they were responsible for the poor people and met every month in Blandford. Dr Kenneth Wilson was appointed the Medical Officer of number one of the district of the Union at a salary of £110 per year which included being the public vaccinator. He took over from Dr Daniel who was the first one to hold this office. Dr Kenneth Wilson remained in charge of the Isolation Hospital until March 1947,



*Mill House for the Isolation Hospital*

closed by Blandford Rural District. It became a toy factory making toy soldiers.

## CHAPTER II

### Bricks and Mortar

It soon became obvious that the nurses house kindly donated by Lord Portman and his sister Miss Portman was not sufficient for the needs of the neighbourhood as far as hospitals were concerned. There were only five beds and one cot but they were very much appreciated. It was very soon felt that an expansion was both desirable and necessary and through the generosity of the Portman family the provision of a site at Pickett Close was provided and a building was erected. The matron



*Postcard Blandford Hospital*



*Postcard Deer Park*

and the patients moved into this building, the site of the present hospital on the 25 April 1891. This building consisted of 12 beds, four cots and two private wards. The beds were situated in two extensions to the main building and facing south on to the recreation ground. In the centre was the one private ward with French windows opening out onto the garden and a very pleasant room it was. Behind this was the theatre and further back was the kitchen and various domestic departments. Beyond the theatre was the other private ward which went through an annex room which was eventually used as a sort of casualty and theatre preparation room and next to that was a room for containing the sterilisation equipment. Outside that was a sort of yard and across the yard was a mortuary and various sheds. One interesting part to the building which was discovered later on is a huge tank underneath the tarmac area in front of the hospital which collected all the rain water from the building and this was probably the only water supply to start with in the hospital. There was only one bath which



was used very rarely. Bed baths were the order of the day. In the 1920s a small portable x-ray unit was purchased and a small massage department was built. Major extensions took place in 1938 with the provision of a new women's ward, resident staff headquarters and



*1938 Opening of the extension to the Woman's Ward by the Countess of Ilchester and a Blessing by the Bishop of Salisbury*

Front Row - L to R: Rev. Hall, Gen. Laird, Bishop of Salisbury, Countess of Ilchester, Frank Woodhouse, Dr K. Wilson, Matron Verinder.

Back Row - L to R: Gen. Stuart, Mr Meiu, Dr Spooner, Dr Montgomerie, Dr Oliver, Mr Bodley Scott.

domestic offices. In 1963 after the war the men's ward was enlarged and this gave the hospital 22 beds, two private wards and two cots. Also in 1963 an important modernisation took place in the conversion of the old solid fuel boiler to gas fired boiler. This was important



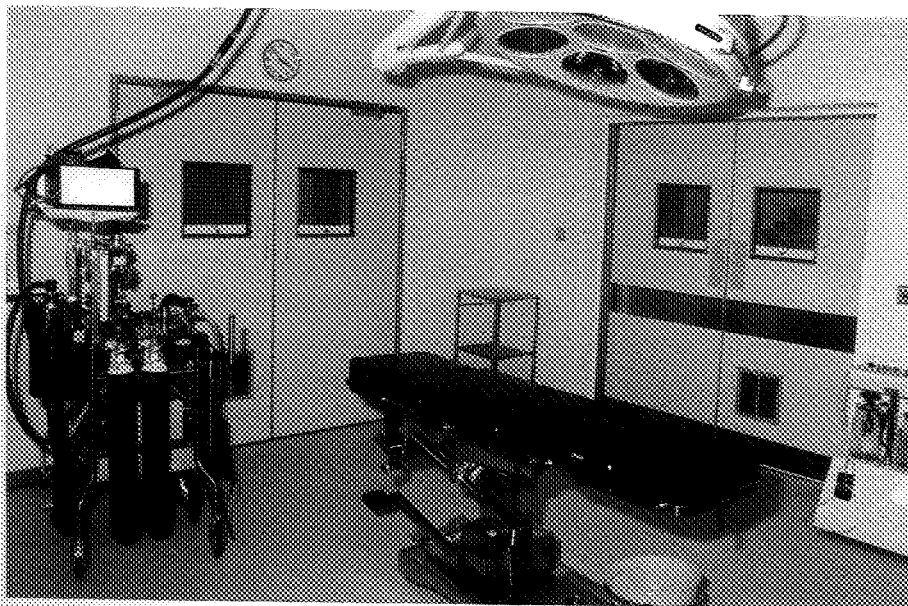
cottage that was built in the grounds by the Portman family when the hospital was first built was used by a porter to be on site so that they could stoke the solid fuel boiler at regular intervals. The gas fired boiler meant that this cottage then became available and was eventually occupied by



*Porters Lodge*

Miss Hetherington one of the matrons. During the war they built at the back of the hospital where the private ward was a gas cleansing unit which in fact was never used and in 1967 it was enlarged even further by the addition of a brand new physiotherapy unit paid for by the League of Friends. The gas cleansing unit eventually became the outpatient unit including the private ward. It is interesting to learn that this unit was used at one time certainly since the war as a maternity department. One or two mothers had their children there and the midwife was imported for the occasion. I think Mrs Coates of Hydfarm, Pimperne was the last person to have a baby in the hospital. The outside of the end room there was two rooms. The end room was an office the next room became the consulting room for out patient and the old private ward was turned into two examination units surrounded by curtains. The room also held a portable Phillips x-ray machine which was extensively used for the diagnosis of fractures but was also occasionally used for chest x-rays but not terribly satisfactory. In 1969 a new x-ray department was provided and a new medical records office. In 1973 was the first major upheaval in Health Service administration since the start in 1948 and regional area and district health authorities were formed. Up until now Blandford had been run by the Bournemouth & East Dorset Hospital Management Committee as will be stated in a later chapter but on the assumption of the District Management Team Blandford opted to go to West Dorset and the plan in the West Dorset Team was to have a central District Hospital in

Weymouth, Bridport, Sherborne, Shaftesbury and Blandford and in 1976 plans began to appear to create a larger hospital in Blandford on what was then the old drill hall or gun park belonging to the Dorset Regiment and the Dorset Yeomanry. Building of phase 1 began in 1982 with the final completion of the total building project in January 1986. The hospital could then accommodate 22 GPs acute beds 30 geriatric, 20 psycho geriatric patients. Three day hospitals each had 20 places for psycho geriatric with mental illness and 24 hour casualty departments and superior outpatient, physiotherapy and occupational therapy facilities. There is also a much better equipped theatre dealing with minor surgery cases which have now been upgraded to more major surgery being done. An interesting story about the theatre was that when it came the fact that we wanted a theatre in Blandford a major theatre was a very complicated affair and was obviously out of the pocket of the Health Service to pay for and they refused to pay for it and on visiting the professor of surgery at Southampton at the time who was Sir James Fraser he suggested that we have a Day Unit which is a much simpler affair and would suit our purposes very well and a Day Theatre was built with the generous help of the League of Friends at the hospital.



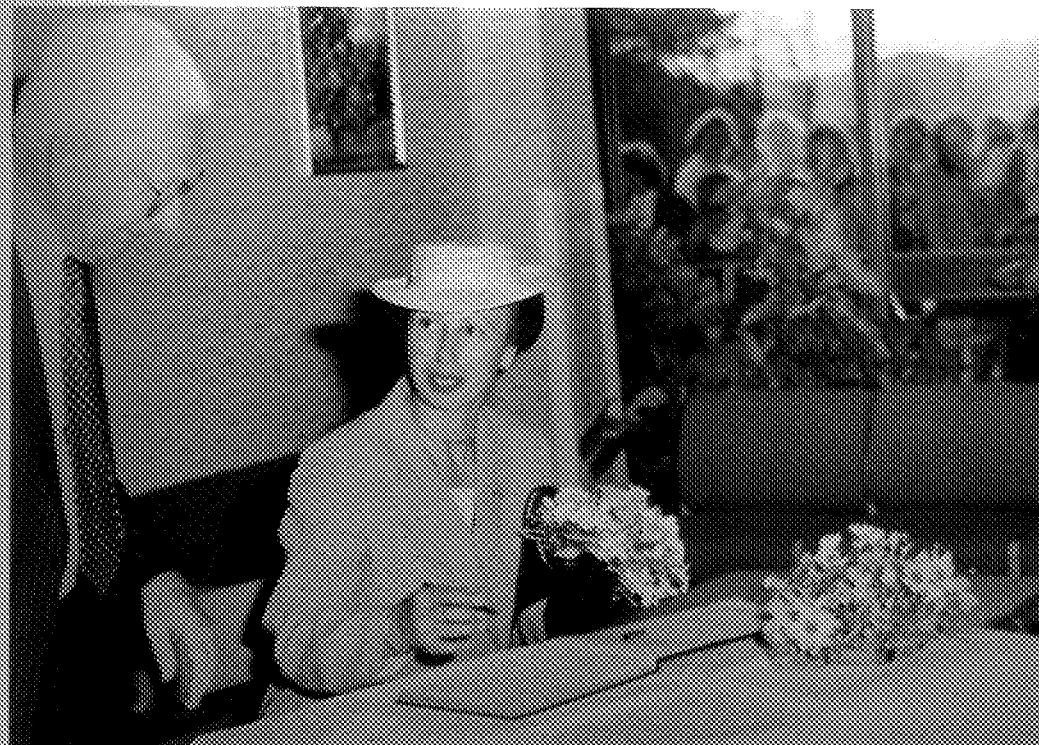
*Operating Theatre*

The beautiful copper beech tree in the front of the hospital was retained and a large hole was made in the canopy over the front door. Unfortunately it has recently acquired an infection and has had to be taken down.



*Blandford Hospital Front*

This new hospital was opened by Princess Anne on 11 September 1986. This was a great occasion the Princess landing on the Grammar School playing fields in a red helicopter and then walking across the road to the hospital. She visited every department and spoke to every single patient and was given a very good lunch of roast duck by the hospital. She left later in the afternoon after a very splendid visit.



*The Princess Royal at the opening of the new hospital 1986 with*



Some improvements were made to this new building which one could now state that Blandford had a community hospital rather than a cottage hospital but things were not quite perfect and the out patient department was replanned. A mental illness unit, the Milldown Unit as it was known, has been totally rebuilt and altered internally. The day hospital has been altered to include a bigger occupational therapy department. Shortly after the hospital opened the League of Friends managed to raise enough money to build a hydrotherapy pool attached to the physiotherapy department. This was actually built by the men from Hall & Woodhouse and has been a great boon for the hospital and to have a facility like this a great asset. Two family units were attached to the side of the mens ward. These have been very useful. There has been an alteration of the Accident and Emergency Department and two include a primary care unit and a extra room has been put on to accommodate a silent room for the Ear Nose and Throat Department for hearing tests, etc. Outside a car park exists at the far end of the site which is hardly big enough for the use of the hospital and the League of Friends and others are actively looking for further car parking space near the hospital. In the garden to celebrate the new millennium a very nicely laid out garden has been planned and built by the League of Friends. This is a very nice place for patients to use for walking and it is outside the family unit. Also a conservatory has been added on the side of the day room which lies in between the mens and womens ward. Very little can now be done to increase the size and use of the hospital as it is a very restricted site and there are ambitious plans for a modern up to date theatre which will take in part of the day unit and other parts of the building but this is very much in the melting pot at the moment.

Upstairs is Tarrant Ward used for elderly patients for assessment or relief of relatives. Also Langbourne Ward used for elderly severely mentally ill patients now redesigned by monies left by Betty Highwood and now known as Betty Highwood Ward. 2006 meant the hospital had been as we know it now built for 20 years and in order to celebrate this we were honoured by a further visit from Princess Anne who visited all the departments spoke to the patients and many of the people who helped within the hospital. It was a good day for us all.

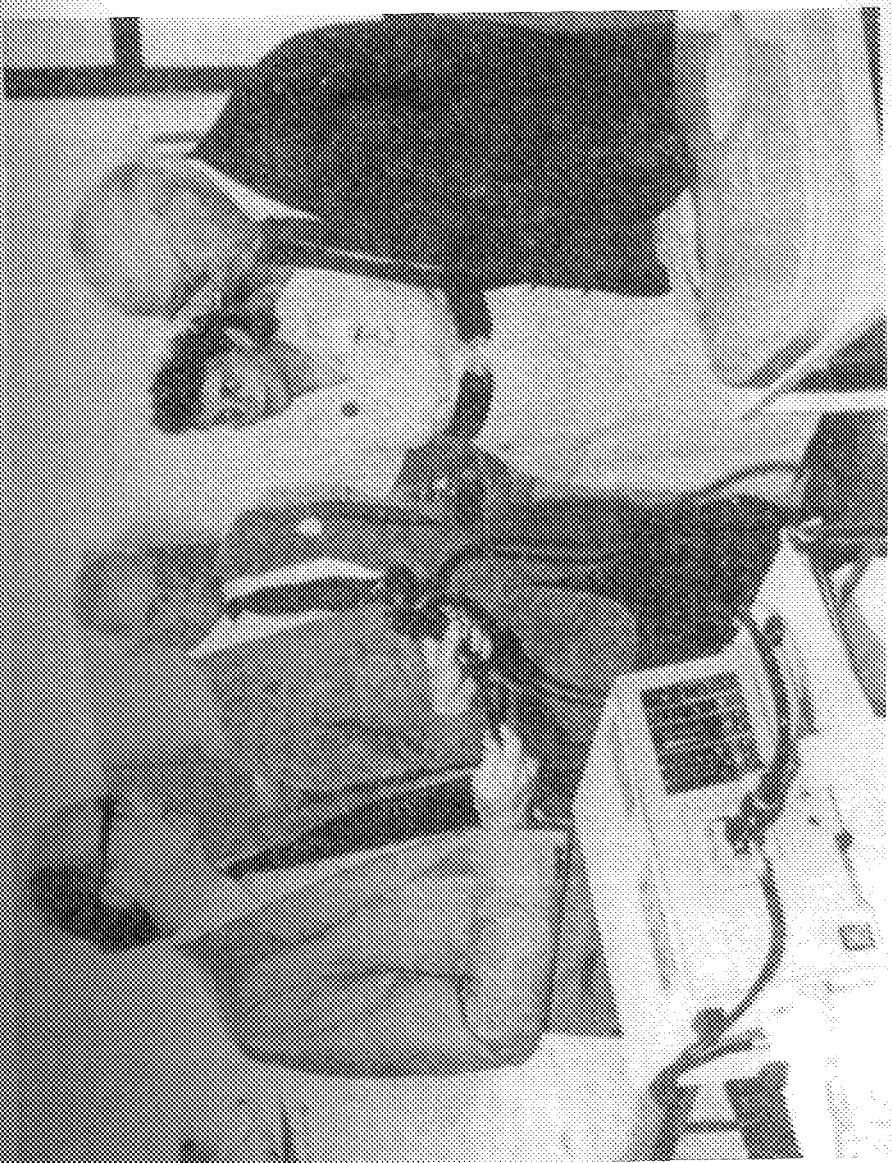
## CHAPTER III

### The Medical Staff

In 1888 when the nurses house was functioning the medical officers at the time was Dr Bacet, Dr Spooner, Dr Daniell, the matron was Miss Short and the doctors gave their services absolutely free and this has continued this free service to the hospital through all general practitioners and the consultant medical staff until the Health Service started in July 1948. The list of general practitioners who continued to work in the hospital included the following, Dr Alan Reid Wilson, Dr Leonard Bodley Scott, Dr Kenneth Wilson, Dr Dennis Oliver, Dr Henry Spooner, son of Dr Caswell Spooner, Dr Tom Everett during the post war years, Dr John Craddock, Dr John Jackson, Dr Ian Wilson, son of Dr Kenneth Wilson and grand nephew of Dr Alan Reid Wilson. These were later followed by Dr Joan and Dr David Davies who took over the Old Bank House after Dr Henry Spooner was killed in a yachting accident. Any account of the history of Blandford Hospital should ensure that it includes a list of the devoted consultants who worked here and as already mentioned up until 1948 gave their services absolutely free.

We start with the general surgeons in the order of the years they were here. We start with Mr Bodley Scott, Mr Archie Mein, Mr Aideny, Mr Frank Forest, Mr Rolf Shepherd, Mr Puckle Markby, Mr John Verdon.

Sometimes these surgeons performed fairly major operations in Blandford such as thyroid cholecystectomies, mastectomies, repair of hernias and varicose veins and haemorrhoids. They were backed up by general practitioner surgeons. The Whitecliff Mill Practice always when appointing partners had work at the hospital in mind and Dr John Craddock for some years helped surgeons as did Dr Roger Prior more recently. The anaesthetics were covered in the main by Dr Eric Courtin, a wonderful cheerful man who was a great friend to us all. Again the Whitecliff Practice always made sure that they had a partner qualified in anaesthetics and we have one or two of these and most recently Dr John Evans.



Friends of Blandford Hospital chairman Mr Frank Pike and treasurer Col Richard Taylor presenting a gastroscope to Dr Peter Down seen describing its use to (from left) Col Taylor, Staff Nurse Michele Torben and Mr Pike.



Retirement of Frank Forrest

L to R: Dr Kenneth, Sisters Yates and Lamb and Nurses Fox and Preston, Dr Oliver, Mrs Forrest, John Craddock, John Jackson, Drs Joan and David Davies and Dr Ian Wilson.

Consultant Physician and the first was a Dr Monington who lived in Salisbury who was always called in for second opinions and was a great support to Blandford doctors. Then came Dr Hindmarsh from Poole, followed by Dr Hill from Poole, Dr Peter Down and Dr Williams Geriatrician from Dorchester.

Gynaecology, Mr Buckle from Poole, was followed by Mr Donald Beaton from Dorchester and Mr Thelwell Jones also from Dorchester. Gynaecologists always held an anti natal and post natal clinics and out patients and minor gynaecological operations such as pelvic floor repairs and D&Cs.

Ear Nose and Throat was Dr MacGilly Cuddy then Dr Humphrey Mariner a very interesting man who was mad on railways and we always had to stop operating whilst the Pines Express came up through Blandford and in complete silence he would be able to tell us the number of the engine that was pulling the train that day. His garden at Westbourne backed down on to West Station and he watched trains all day long. He was followed by Dr McKenzie Ross and also a man from Salisbury.

Orthopaedics, Nick Vere Hodge and then John Wrighton an Olympic 400m runner.

Paediatrics, David Vulliamy and Richard Purvis.

Eye operations and outpatients by Mr Eric Bowes who mainly repaired squints.

Dermatology covered by Sammy Hall who could conduct his clinics in five languages.

One of the great advantages of the consultants visiting the hospital was that they had the opportunity to meet and discuss patients with GP's.

## CHAPTER IV

### Administration

There seems little doubt that the nurses house which was the first inpatient hospital in Blandford in Salisbury Street was started about 1883 but there was very soon a feeling in the town and was warmly supported by the local doctors and thus donations and subscriptions were solicited and a meeting of donors and subscribers was held on the 1 November 1888 at the corner coffee house known later as The Salisbury Hotel. At that meeting a committee was elected. The Chairman was the Reverend J Penny, Honorary Treasurer and Vice Chairman was Mr R Lock and Honorary Secretary was Miss M Daniel. As we have already mentioned there is a commentary tablet to Mr Lock near the front door of the old hospital.

The hospital has been entirely funded by donations of subscriptions either from individuals or from Companies in Blandford who were able to give the hospital some money.

The matrons salary was £30.00 per year and the nurses £16.00 per year rising to £20.00. These figures were increased over the years and up until the Health Service started in 1948 local doctors and visiting consultants gave all their services entirely free. With rising costs however it became necessary to demand small fees from the patients. At some point in the 1930s the Blandford District Hospital League was founded and paid the costs of its members when they were in hospital. The hospital committee had a set of rules and an annual meeting was held of the donors and subscribers every February and to receive a report of the committee of management and the Honorary Treasurers Accounts for the past year and to fill up vacancies of the committee and to elect a Treasurer a Secretary and auditors for the coming year.

The hospital was to be managed by this committee consisting of twelve persons who shall be subscribers with the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary with Honorary Medical Officers who shall be ex officio members. Four of the committee shall retire annually in rotation but shall be eligible for re-election. Members of the management committee shall at the first meeting elect a Chairman to preside



at their meetings. Also at the first meeting a house committee shall be elected consisting of three members of the management committee with the Treasurer and Secretary who shall meet from time to time and receive tenders for provisions, fuel, etc. To illustrate this a list in 1938 of the committee is illustrated below.

## THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL, BLANDFORD.

**Founded by**  
THE HON. L. E. PORTMAN and THE VISCOUNTESS PORTMAN.

**Patroness**  
FRANCES VISCOUNTESS PORTMAN.

**Patron**  
CAPTAIN THE HON. GERALD PORTMAN.

### Committee 1938

Beever, Major H. H.  
Castleman-Smith, Miss  
Cherry, Mr. L.  
Leslie-Melville, Mrs.  
Stuart, Brownlow, Mrs.  
Hooper, Mr. W. K.

Kennaway, Rev. C. L.  
Smith-Marriott, Mr. J.  
Portman, Hon. Seymour B.  
Tate, Mr. H. R.  
Woodhouse, Mr. F. D. (Chairman)  
Woodhouse, Mr. H. S.

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Brigadier K. M. Laird.

**Hon. Chaplain**  
Rev. C. F. Hall, O.B.E.

**Hon. Secretary**  
Mrs. E. N. Peach.

### Hon. Medical Officers

K. J. T. Wilson, M.B., Ch. B. (Glasgow).  
D. Oliver, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
W. H. C. Spooner, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
J. Montgomerie, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., Ch. B. (Birmingham)

### Hon. Consulting Surgeons

N. F. Adeney, M.B., F.R.C.S.  
M. Bodley Scott, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)  
W. Arch. Mein, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. (Ed.) L.D.S.

**Hon. Consulting Radiotherapist**  
Dr. W. A. Troup.

### Masseuse

Mrs. Fane-Robertson, C.S.M.M.G.

### Hon. Dental Surgeons

E. A. Curtis, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.  
E. J. B. Curtis, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.  
S. A. McCandlish, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.

### Matron

Miss A. Verinder, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### Lady Visitors

Coulson, Miss  
Hooper, Mrs.  
Grenville Grey, Mrs.  
Morris, Mrs.

Phillips, Mrs. F. B.  
Almack, Miss  
Salkeld, Mrs.  
Scott, Mrs. L. B.

Strange, Miss  
Wilson, Mrs. K.  
Woodhouse, Miss R.  
Young, Mrs.

### Administrative Trustees

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

### Auditors

Mr. J. G. Hall.

Mr. A. C. Mills.

Besides the Hospital League there was the Linen Guild which was responsible for all the bedding at the hospital, blankets and sheets, towels, etc. This was also funded by voluntary subscription and there was a party of ladies who used to meet regularly to repair the linen at the Hospital amongst whom were the Milton Abbas working party who also helped with the mending and which were greatly appreciated at the time.

The Hospital was run by this committee and this continued up until July 1948 when the Health Service started. In July 1948 the funds of the hospital were handed over to the State and the hospital

had some very good Chairmen amongst whom was Dr Kenneth Wilson, Mr Geoffrey Swain and chiefly Sir Eric Beckett who was knighted for his services to the political arena. His asset to Blandford was that at one time the County Council were planning to put a by pass across the northern part of Blandford over the Crown Meadows and over the recreation ground very close to the Hospital. This would have been an absolute disaster for the hospital and it was due to Sir Eric's good offices and his travelling to London to talk to Ministers that stopped it and for that reason we shall always be grateful.

Another kind Chairman was Geoffrey Swain and in his memory a fund was set up called the Swain Memorial Fund which is part of the League of Friends assets that is used for the further education of the nursing staff.

The Committee met at regular intervals and we have some of the minutes of these meetings. The hospital was used extensively and was run very smoothly under the secretaryship of Douglas Baker who was part time in Blandford but was mainly based at St Leonards Hospital. He was a fine musician and one of his greatest assets was that he played the piano for all the concerts at Christmas and at other times that were held at the hospital.

There were no major changes to the Health Service administration until 1973 when they did away with the hospital management committees. They formed region, area and district medical committees. Blandford chose to go to West Dorset rather than East Dorset so that we were mainly overlooked by Dorchester and not Poole. This was a good move because Dorchester was more rural orientated rather than the main accommodations of Bournemouth & Poole. The West Dorset Health Authority had under it a West Dorset Management Team which consisted of an administrator Mr Riisager, a chief nurse Mrs Cox, a finance officer and district medical officer, a consultant Mr James Malliner, an anaesthetist and Gp, Dr Ian Wilson. This team worked extremely well and the District was run like clockwork. Their plan was that there should be a central district hospital surrounded by smaller community hospitals in Portland, Weymouth, Bridport, Shaftesbury, Sherborne and Blandford. The only problem was where to put the central hospital and it was arguable between the site at Herrison and Dorchester. In the end the centre of Dorchester won. Th

was run by the Bournemouth & East Dorset Hospital Management Committee. They appointed a House Committee where they had two representatives on the local house committee who most of the time

only major change that was made was that they got rid of the area so we just had a region and then the District Health Authority which seemed a sensible approach. However, in 1989 the government announced yet a further radical change in the organisation of the Health Service and new titles and expressions were heard throughout the land. Trust, purchasers and providers, fund holding GPs and block Contracts to name but a few. There were to be Boards of Directors and members of the public became non executive directors and trusts were run by these people and developed. Blandford became part of West Dorset Community Health NHS Trust. These trusts have since been altered and Blandford became part of North Dorset Primary Care Trust. The hospital has changed again and is being looked after as the whole of Dorset Primary Care Trust excluding Bournemouth & Poole. These changes do not I think effect the care of patients which is the prime objective of everybody but I don't think that it improves it one little bit nor does the new Contract for general practice help.

The hospital is indebted to Steve Cole who is the Chief Administrator and looks after all the Community Hospitals now in Dorset of which there are 11.

Bournemouth & East Dorset Hospital management committee had two secretaries who were both sympathetic to Blandford. The first was Commander Jackson whose daughter in law later became head of our new physiotherapy department in the Community Hospital. The other was a Mr Criscuolo. Blandford House Committee had a representative of local Councillors two representatives from the Bournemouth & East Dorset Committee and a medical representative and they worked very well and the hospital ran very smoothly and was fully used and occupied until in 1973 the Health Service had its first of many reorganisations. At the same time two Green papers came out. One called the Seabohm Report and the other was the Salmon Report. The Seabohm Report took away the social services out of the health domain and it was the start of the Social Service empire. The Salmon Report affected the nursing staff. It removed matrons from hospitals and classified the nurses from letters from the alphabet according to their grading. I believe the disappearance of matrons lowered the general standard of cleanliness and discipline in hospitals and I am sure was a bad decision.

The reorganisation of the Health Service meant that there was regional Health Authority an area Health Authority which meant the whole of Dorset was divided in an East and West District Health Authority. Blandford feeling that West Dorset was more rural orientated opted to go to come out of Bournemouth area and join West Dorset District based at Dorchester. This was a very wise decision and has affected the whole future of the hospital. The district had under it a management team which consisted of an administrator a consultant a GP a nurse a finance officer and a district medical officer. This team was small, met regularly every week and was a great success and the Health Service was run I think probably better than before and since. It was the District Management team that decided the community hospital should be developed with a district central hospital and thus in 1982 Blandford Hospital was started to be built and the foundations were laid and finally opened in 1986 as the Princess Royal.

In 2006, after 20 years from her first visit, the Princess graciously paid a further visit to the hospital. This was another splendid occasion.





*Nurse Preston, Nurse Harrington and Probationer N. Brown - 1939-40*



*Probationer Nurse Maybee, Nurse Stroud, Nurse Harrington and Probationer Nurse*

## CHAPTER V

### The Nurses

No history of a hospital can be written without recourse to the nursing staff. Nursing these days has evolved in so many ways. You have hospital nurses, community nurses, community midwives, school nurses practice nurses and industrial nurses. Blandford Hospital is extremely fortunate in its nursing staff and in particular its matrons. Mrs Short was the first appointed matron in the nurses house and in the first years she admitted 46 patients to the Nurses Home. She moved to the new hospital and the salary was £30.00 per year and the nurses £16.00 per year. In 1901 Miss Alliston was appointed and retired in 1935 a period of 34 years. In 1935 Miss Agnes Verinder was appointed. She came to us from Guys Hospital and wore a Guys Hospital cap and gown during the whole of her service until 1957. She was an extraordinary person who I think brought the hospital up to new levels of excellence and it is right at this time that one should bring into this story the celebrations over Christmas which Miss Verinder introduced. Various groups were invited with those in hospital to sing Christmas Carols such as the Girl Guides and the Dorset 40 Red Cross detachment in Blandford Commandants were Miss Rita Woodhouse, Mrs Ian Wilson and lastly Dr Joan Davies. A stage was built at one end of women's ward. A Christmas concert was given over 2 or 3 evenings. Nurse Preston danced the hornpipe wearing bloomers made out of a union jack. Dr Oliver told his bible stories. On this day Miss Verinder always had the doctors and their families for a coffee in the morning with the children and the youngest had to ring a bell when Father Christmas arrived. Father Christmas was usually played by a member of staff notably Dr Kenneth Wilson, then Dr David Davies and recently Len Prill. The staff carved the turkeys on the various wards and Dr Wilson carved on Portman Ward for 40 years. The staff miss these old activities due to new regulations.

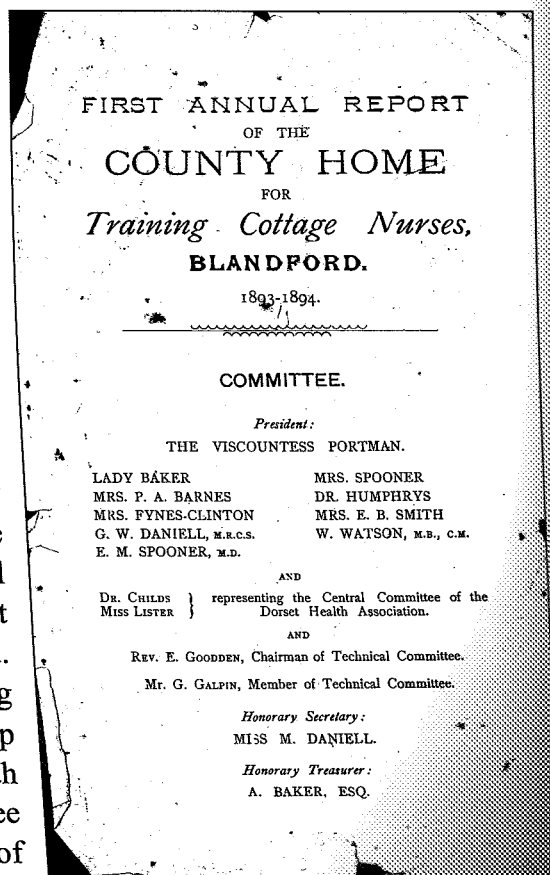
Whoever performed at the hospital was always made extremely welcome by Miss Verinder and were filled up with home made mince and coffee or something stronger. Miss Verinder followed by



Mrs Noble, Miss Hetherington and Mrs Rutter. Mrs Bennett started as matron but was renamed as Locality Manager.

### *District Nurses*

The first annual report of the County House for Training cottage nurses in Blandford was published in 1893. Two years after the opening of the hospital in the report of the work of Dorset Health Association in the minutes it was divided into three departments. (1) Ambulance (2) sick nursing and (3) sanitary. The latter was taken over by Parish Council. The ambulances later by County. One of their first jobs was to set up a County home for training of cottage nurses. This home was under the management of the Blandford local nursing committee assisted by representatives of the Dorset Health Authority and the county technical committee. The Secretary was a Miss M Daniel of St Leonards and the first nurse was a Miss Haywood. Blandford District Nursing Association continued from up until 1948 when the Health Service started. The committee was full of the notables of Blandford and examples are Mrs Greenwood, Mrs W H Wilson, Mrs Harold Woodhouse, Mrs Kenneth Wilson, Mrs Bodley Scott, Miss George, Mrs Pitt, The Reverend O'Burn, Mrs Ackroyd. Miss Castleman Smith of the Close House was secretary for 37 years and the success of Blandford nursing really is down to her organisation and discipline.



*1st Annual Report 1893 - 94*

Queens Road, Kings Road and part of Milldown Road, The Milldown and part of Langton Road which meant it was too much for the Blandford nurse and application was made to Lady Portman to let the Bryanston nurse take over these new areas and this was agreed. Lady Portman was of course president of the Nursing Association for many years.

At this time the Nursing Association started to work hand in hand with the Blandford Hospital League and the Hospital League eventually supported the nurses association with occasional grants. The Hospital League is mentioned in the next chapter. We have been mentioning all the women who became a Blandford district nurse but one particular mention is Nurse Ward who was in Blandford for over 20 years and who had a frightening nature but a heart of gold and was much respected and loved by her patients. During Nurse Wards reign when she was off duty she was helped by nurses of the surrounding villages such as Miss Lomax and Miss Dunn in the Tarrant area and Mrs James, Charlton and Spetisbury. They were a splendid team. When Sister Ward retired Blandford was fortunate in having another good nurse in Sister Jarrett who kept up the very good work of Sister Ward and the traditions of the Blandford Nursing Association.

After a time it became necessary to house the two nurses and in 1921 the Nursing Association purchased a cottage at number 24 Bryanston Street for £388.8 shillings. Later 25 Bryanston Street was also purchased for the Bryanston nurse and that was bought for £689.10 shillings and tuppence. Blandford Nursing Association is a remarkably successful story and very much due to the worthy ladies who are on its committee and also very much to the secretary Ella G Castleman Smith for so many years. It continued to work until the 1960s when it ceased to exist. The monies from the sale of the two houses and from a few stocks and shares were formed into a new charitable fund for Blandford called The Blandford Aid and Sickness Fund and this was used to help people of the Blandford area with small aids to comfort in their homes from a nursing point of view and helping when they were ill. Eventually the Blandford Aid and Sickness Fund was handed over to the Friends of Blandford Hospital as their objects were very similar when the Hospital League branched out more

We have the original minute book of the Nursing Association and the cash book leading to the Aid and Sickness Fund in our possession. The cost of nursing of the Blandford Nursing Association was entirely met by voluntary contributions and occasional grants by various organisations such as the League and the Town Council. These were very small and it was mainly due to the public who kept the whole thing going. The reports of first of all the Dorset Health Association changed to the Blandford Nursing Association we retain the reports from 1895 up until the 1950s. These have been carefully preserved and if anyone wishes to see them they are available at the hospital.

## HEALTH MINISTER AT BLANDFORD



Mr. Kenneth Robinson, Minister of Health, with the Matron of Blandford Hospital (Mrs J. M. Retherington), Alderman Philip Templeman (chairman of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) and Dr. Ian Wilson (senior medical practitioner at the hospital) in the sun lounge of Blandford Hospital during his visit on Wednesday.

### *Health Minister's Visit*



Mr. Robinson, left, and Maj Gen Richard Keighley, chairman of West Dorset Health Authority, chatting to Blandford Hospital matron Mrs Pat Flutter who is holding the picture of the late Mrs Marjorie Portman. Picture by Colin Moore.



### *Farewell gifts to*

NURSE PARSONS-FOX receiving a retirement gift of a food-poiser from Dr. Ian Wilson. Also in the picture is her husband.



*Sister Lockyer & Nurses Preston, Fox, Crew and Acourt.*



*Sister Goodrum and Staff - Tarrant Ward*



*Carving the turkey Christmas 1960 on Portman Ward.  
Sister Lockyer Canon Goodall and Matron Mrs. Nell*



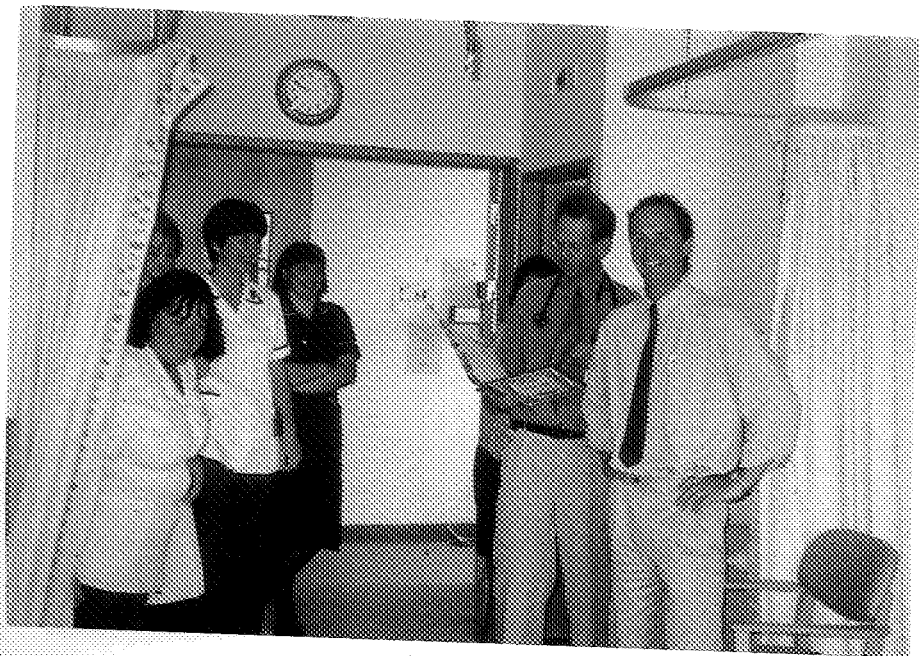




*Carving the turkey on Portman Ward.  
Sister Jennings, Doreen Prill and Matthew Holland - Paramedic.*



*Matron Hilary Baumberger and Father Xmas*



*Dr Williams (C...)*



## CHAPTER VI

### The Leagues

The urge to acquire a local hospital was felt in Blandford and was warmly supported by the local doctors so donations and subscriptions were solicited and a meeting of donors and subscribers was held on 1 November 1888 at the corner coffee house known later as The Salisbury Hotel. At that meeting the committee was elected, the Chairman was the Reverend J Penner, Hon Treasurer and Vice Chairman Mr R Lock and Hon Secretary Miss M Daniel. Until the arrival of the National Health Service Blandford Hospital was kept going purely by voluntary contributions. However with rising costs it soon became necessary to demand a small fee from the patients and at some point in the 1930s the Blandford & District Hospital League was founded and paid the costs of its members.

The setting may be a sequel to the Slate Clubs which had already been formed in various villages. In a Slate Club one became a member and paid an annual subscription and when you were sick or had to be off work then the Slate Club came to your help. Two very well known ones were at Charlton Marshall and in Tarrant Gunville. There came well known because if profits were made at the end of the season they held a village supper which was always a great occasion.

The Blandford & District Hospital League continued up until 1948 when the Health Service started and kept slowly increasing its prices and in 1938 for instance they were paying 4shillings a day for its membership an increase of one shilling. During the year the League paid a total of £551 for maintenance, xray, outpatients and massage and electrical treatment as well as giving a donation of £60 to the hospital. This state of affairs continued and it was helped by another organisation known as the Linen Guild. The Linen Guild was run by voluntary contributions and received help from places like the Catholic Needleworks Guild and the Milton Abbas Working Party for mending much of the linen and extraordinary work this Linen Guild did to keep the patients comfortable.

The Blandford & District Hospital League also gave money to the

Blandford Nursing Association an annual addition to their funds was always much appreciated.

In July 1948 the Health Service started and all donations and subscriptions to the hospital ceased and the Blandford & District Hospital League was closed.

### *League of Friends*

On the Tuesday, November 23, 1948 at 7.00pm a meeting was held in the Town Hall at Blandford to form a League of Friends for the Hospital. The chair was taken by the Viscount Portman. At that meeting Colonel Carrington Sykes who was living at Norden was elected Honorary Secretary. They decided to fix the minimum subscription at 1 shilling. It was hoped that supporters of the old Blandford Hospital League would join the League of Friends and its first object was as soon as possible to provide extras for the hospital and patients over Christmas and they hoped that they would raise £25-£30 for this purpose. From this day the League of Friends has continued gaining strength to strength every year. It has had several distinguished people as its Chairman or serving on the committee. Amongst whom the Portman family, the Viscount Portman, Michael Portman, Marjorie Portman, Rex Woodhouse, John Woodhouse and David Woodhouse and there has always been an association it would appear with the Brewery. Colin Kaille was a long serving past secretary of the Brewery and Frank Pike a Director of the Brewery has been serving on the League of Friends almost since it started and it still an extremely active and valuable member. The Treasurer was Ralph Ewbank who was manager of the National Provincial Bank and it was then taken over by Colonel Richard Taylor who was an amazing man and who ran the accounts in true military fashion and had to deliver and collect the boxes from various pubs even as far as ten miles away by walking and this was an amazing feat. Eventually Accountants Borton & Baker were involved and Tony Baker became Treasurer followed closely by Roland Ellis who was a past partner of this firm.

Income for the League of Friends came from members subscriptions which had gone up of course from the original 1 shilling

Sturminster Newton which bring in considerable sums every year. They also annually have one or two functions, particularly a dress show and also at least once a year an auction of object art and also some other things of quite considerable value are sold off. The person behind the auction, a dress show and the hospital which has an annual Christmas Fayre is Gordan Adam. His contribution to the Friends has been incredible. Another popular Chairman of the Friends was Geoffrey Swain who is remembered by a memorial fund which is used for the further education of the nursing staff.

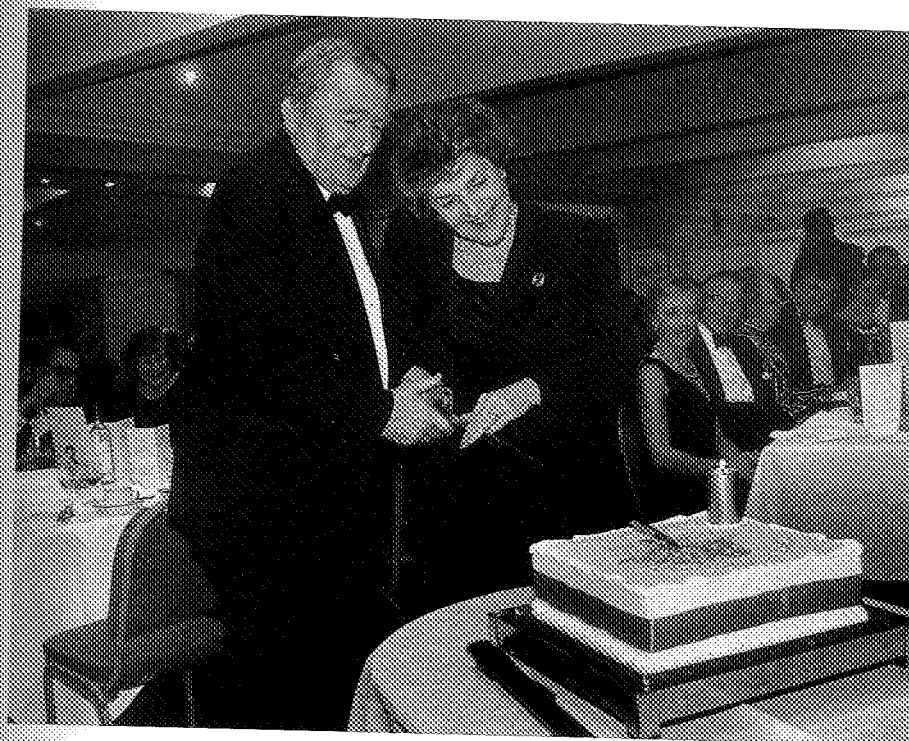
It is impossible to state everything which the League of Friends has done for the Blandford Hospital but the list is considerable and the following are just a few examples. They were responsible for building



*Sun Lounge*

the original sun lounge in memory of Michael Portman and Henry Spooner. Also they were totally responsible for building the physiotherapy room on the end of the gas cleansing unit at the back of the hospital. More recently moving from East to West the millennium garden, the families unit, the operating theatre, the hydrotherapy pool, the outpatient department, a reconfiguration of the minor injuries unit, the reception, improvement to the medical records department, the x-ray department and totally supplying the ultrasound equipment in that department, the snooze room and Langbourne Ward, reconfiguration of both the Langbourne Ward which is now called the Betty Highwood Unit because Mrs Highwood left a considerable sum of money to the League in her Will which was used for the Langbourne Ward so was named after her. Improvements to the day hospital and room for the new chapel. In the chapel is a beautifully carved table and chair in memory of Dr Kenneth Wilson and furniture on the table was supplied in memory of Douglas Girling ex headmaster of Park Road Academy. Recently the League of Friends has branched into the

community and it is called the Friends and Practice Scheme and has been a great success. They are also responsible for reconfiguration of the Milldown Unit and helped toward osteoporosis source centre and many other activities. Also instruments, particularly for endoscopy are supplied for orthopaedic and general surgery. It can be seen that the League of Friends has spent a considerable amount of money in improving the Blandford Hospital which really is now a Community hospital and better equipped than most hospitals of its equivalent size in the UK. The money raised to do all this work has come from local people and this is how it should be and long may it last.

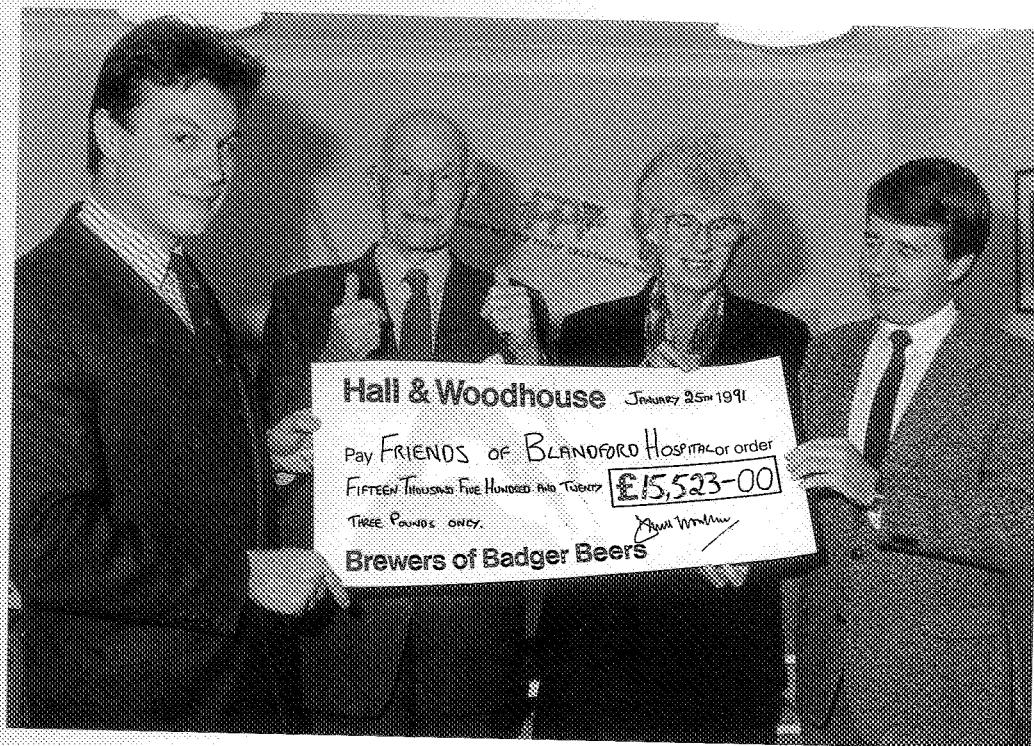


*Baroness Miller of Hendon MBE Chairman of the National Association League of Friends and Dr Ian Wilson MBE President of Blandford League of Friends celebrating the 50th Anniversary Cake*





*Snoezelen Room - Betty Highwood Unit*



*Money raised from Trustees of Telethon towards a family care unit raised by Hall & Woodhouse.  
L to R: David Woodhouse, Col Taylor, Mrs Rutter and a representative of Telethon.*



*Having already raised a staggering £766 from sponsorship in the annual Shillingstone Blandford Raft Race, signallers from the Royal School of Signals based at Blandford C surprised the organisers when they presented a further £75 charity voucher to swell total to £841. The money raised was mainly from the Defence Industry who sponsored raft "Jimmy's Jewel" in the event which took place in 1988. Col F K Pike, Chairman, League of Friends of Blandford Hospital (holding cheque) accompanied Col R O T Treasurer (right) at a special presentation from left to right Staff Sgt Alexander, M Nicholas Thompson, Cpl Roger Philip (presenting cheque).*



*League of Friends Hospital Fayre  
Susan Adam and Linda Davis*



*Sturminster Newton  
League of Friends of Blandford Hospital*

Friends of Blandford Community Hospital



## Golden Jubilee Dinner

1948 to 1998

50 Years supporting our local Healthcare Services

*Patron*

The Viscount Portman

*President*

Dr D.I.T. Wilson MBE

*Chairman*

P. Fale Esq M.A.

*The Crown Hotel  
Blandford Forum*

*Friday  
20th November 1998.*

*Golden Jubilee*

## CHAPTER VII

### Bits and Pieces

It is not possible to mention everything the hospital does but further mention is needed of the physiotherapy unit which started as one room on the edge of the women's ward one small room and Mrs Far Robertson, an Australian lady was the first physio, followed close by Mrs Diana Bosey and now with a new fully equipped department with hydrotherapy pool. It was opened by Mrs Jackson who was the daughter in law of Commander Jackson originally secretary of Tl Bournemouth Hospital Management Committee. Now in the capable hands of Mrs Brown.

The occupational therapy department, the x ray department which started as one mobile Phillips machine and we now have a full floor valve set capable of virtually doing anything that is required and



*Senior Physiotherapist Alison Brown and her staff at the retirement of Mrs Jackson*





*In the hydrotherapy pool Senior Physiotherapist Alison Brown and a patient Mr Peter Steele watched by Gen R Keightley, Chairman of West Dorset Health Authority, Mrs Margery Portman, President of the League of Friends, Dr Helliwell - Rheumatologist, Mrs Peggy Walley, and Gerald Trickey, Hall & Woodhouse.*

that department is the ultrasound machine fully paid for by the League of Friends.

The hospital also has a very well equipped kitchen possibly bigger than was required by the Hospital but was built in mind with possible national emergencies.

Lastly at the back of the hospital is the mortuary and last to that is the boiler room and beyond that the hospital car park. Blandford Hospital is now a true community hospital serving Blandford and district and has come a long way since the nurses room in Salisbury Street and with the League of Friends full involvement in the hospital I am sure will continue and improve.



*Aerial view of Blandford Community Hospital*



*Three worthy ladies of The League, June Jackson, Betty Greenleaves and Maureen Wilson AGM 1996*

Date	Name	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
May 1	Butcher	167	15.10	
2	Mr. W. S. W. Adams	12		
3	Butcher & Washburn	1		
4	Mr. Hamer	5		
5	Lady Portman	5		
6	Mr. W. W. W. W.	1	10	
7	Mr. (D. D. D.)	1		
8	Mr. D. D. D.	1		
9	Mr. D. D. D.	12	2	
10	Mr. D. D. D.	1	5	
11	Mr. D. D. D.	10		
12	Mr. D. D. D.	15		
13	Mr. D. D. D.	1	1	
14	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
15	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
16	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
17	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
18	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
19	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
20	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
21	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
22	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
23	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
24	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
25	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
26	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
27	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
28	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
29	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	
30	Mr. D. D. D.	1	2	

[illegible]

## Blandford Union.

Day of Meeting, Thursday, Monthly.

Next Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> May

20<sup>th</sup> April

1922

*W. Haskell Short, CLERK.*

*and Superintendent Registrar.*

Correspondence No

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated the 19<sup>th</sup> instant was read to the Guardians and the Rural District Council at their meetings held to-day and I was directed to inform you in reply that you were appointed by the Guardians to act as Temporary Medical Officer of the No. 1 District of the Union with a salary at the rate of £110 per annum and a bonus at the rate of £22 per annum, and as Temporary Public Vaccinator of the No. 1 District with the usual fees, and by the Rural District Council as Temporary Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital with a salary at the rate of £30 per annum.

All the above appointments are to commence as from the 1<sup>st</sup> May prox. and to terminate on the 30<sup>th</sup> June next.

Yours faithfully,

*W. Haskell Short*

*clerk to the Guardians*

*Dr. Kenneth J. F. Wilson*  
*Engle House,*  
*Blandford*

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 1888

# Cottage Hospital

Blandford.



Report for 1938.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS AND STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS, RULES, ETC.

Edmonds & Son, Printers, Blandford.



## Blandford Cottage Hospital.

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of Subscribers and Friends

will be held in

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER (TOWN HALL) BLANDFORD

(by kind permission of the Mayor, Alderman B. C. Hunt)

on

Monday, 8th March, 1948, at 3 o'clock p.m.

MR. F. D. WOODHOUSE will kindly preside.

The presence of Subscribers and Friends will be  
heartily welcomed.

#### AGENDA.

To confirm the Minutes.

To receive the Report.

To elect Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary.

To re-elect retiring members of the Committee.

To appoint Auditors.

To pass a vote of thanks to the Hon. Medical Officers  
and the Hon. Dental Surgeons.

To pass a vote of thanks to the Matron and Nurses.

The retiring members of the Committee are:

Mr. F. D. Woodhouse

Mrs. Leslie Melville

Mr. H. R. Tate

Dr. L. Scott

who offer themselves for re-election.

## FIFTY YEARS ON

### Blandford Cottage Hospital.

### PUBLIC MEETING

will be held in

THE TOWN HALL  
BLANDFORD

(by kind permission of His Worship the Mayor  
Alderman B. C. Hunt)

Tuesday, November 23rd, 1948

AT 7 P.M.

TO FORM

"A LEAGUE OF FRIENDS"

FOR THE HOSPITAL

The Chair will be taken by

THE VISCOUNT PORTMAN

It is hoped that all friends of the Hospital will attend

Edmonds & Son, Printers, Blandford.

The Friends are having a Golden Jubilee Dinner at the Crown Hotel on Friday 20 November 1998 to mark and celebrate their achievement of 50 years support to Blandford Hospital and the local community Healthcare Service.

They will be delighted if you are able to join the party. Applications for tickets to the Friends Office, Blandford Community Hospital, Milldown Road, Blandford DT11 7DD; Tel 01258 450095

Black tie  
Reception 7.30 p.m.

Price £22.00 cheque payable  
To the Friends of Blandford  
Community Hospital



Dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 1911

Blanchford Cottage  
Hospital

Deed Poll

Ex. 10. 1911



To all to whom these Presents shall come The Right Honourable William Henry Berkeley Viscount Portman (hereinafter called Viscount Portman) Sends Greeting Whereas -

Viscount Portman has recently caused the sum of Three thousand eight hundred pounds Local Loans three per cent Stock to be transferred into the names of his son The Honourable Edward William Berkeley Portman and his son-in-law Alan William Hobart Esquire (hereinafter called the Trustees) for the purposes hereinafter expressed Now these Presents witness and it is hereby declared and Viscount Portman doth hereby direct that the said sum of Three thousand eight hundred <sup>pounds</sup> Local Loans three per cent Stock with power from time to time to vary the investment thereof (hereinafter called "the said Trust Stock") shall be held in trust for the following purposes (that is to say)

1. The Trustees shall receive the dividends of the said Trust Stock and shall apply annually after the year one thousand nine hundred the sum of One hundred and six pounds part thereof towards the maintenance of the two beds in the Cottage Hospital at Blanchford in the County of Dorset known as "The Viscount Portman Bed" and "The Viscount's Portman Bed".
2. The Trustees may if they think fit pay the whole or any part of the surplus income of the said Trust Stock in any year to the Trustees for the time being of the said Hospital to be applied by them towards the repair or otherwise for the benefit of the said Hospital.
3. At the want of the said Hospital, ceasing to exist, or ceasing to be used for the purposes of a Hospital, the trust hereby created shall immediately cease and determine.

and the said Trust Stock and all interest thereon due or  
accruing due in respect thereof shall be divided equally  
between the Trustees for the time being of these presents  
and retained by them accordingly for their own use and  
benefit.

In witness whereof the said Vicar of Portman hath  
hereunto set his hand and seal this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of  
July One thousand nine hundred.

Signed Sealed and Delivered  
by the above named Vicar of Portman  
in the presence of S.B. Fortman  
Bryanston Blandford Gent

Portman

Two appointments made

Two appointments made in Blandford  
Union  
(then proposed)

## CONTRACT.

Dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 1922

Mr. Kenneth John Talbot Wilson  
District Medical Officer.

AND

THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR  
OF THE

Blandford Union.

DISTRICT No. 1

(P.L. 93 in Use.)  
HADDEN, REST & Co., 5, West Harding Street, London, E.C.  
S. 110-18.

Contract 1922 Cover

**DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
CONTRACT.**

At an Annual Salary

F.I. 98 to List.  
HADDON, BENT & Co., 6, West Harding Street, London, E.C.

Articles of Agreement made the sixth day of July One thousand nine hundred and twenty-two

BETWEEN Kenneth John Talbot Wilson  
of "Brenting" Blandford, Dorset, Medical Practitioner,  
of the ONE PART, and the GUARDIANS OF THE POOR of the  
Parish of Blandford [UNION], in the County of  
of Dorset of the OTHER PART

REGISTRARS.  
1. District  
assigned.

Whereas the said Guardians have duly assigned as one of the Medical Districts of the said Parish  
[Union] the Parishes or places of Blandford Forum (part) Blandford St Mary  
Bryanston Charlton Marshall Shettle Langton Long Shettleham  
Tarrant Blandford Tarrant Keynston Tarrant Lamerston Tarrant Moulton  
Tarrant Newton and Tarrant Nushon

2. Appoint-  
ment of  
Officer.

And Whereas the said Guardians, at a Meeting of their Board, held on the eighth  
day of June 1922 did duly appoint to be the Medical Officer of the said District  
the said Kenneth John Talbot Wilson  
(being a person duly qualified for the said office), at the Salary and remuneration hereinafter  
mentioned.

3. Appoint-  
ment of  
Officer.

And Whereas the said Guardians, at a Meeting of their Board, held on the eighth  
day of June 1922 did duly appoint to be the Medical Officer of the said District  
the said Kenneth John Talbot Wilson  
(being a person duly qualified for the said office), at the Salary and remuneration hereinafter  
mentioned.

Medical  
Officer's  
Oversight.

Now the said District Medical Officer doth hereby contract and covenant with the said  
Guardians, and their successors, that for the Salary and remuneration hereinafter stipulated, he  
will at all times hereafter, so long as he shall continue to hold the office of District Medical Officer  
duly, skilfully, and attentively discharge the duties of the said office; obey all lawful directions of  
the said Guardians concerning the said office; and in all respects and particulars well and truly  
comply with all the Rules, Orders, and Regulations in force for the time being, issued by competent  
authority, relating to the said office, or the duties thereof, according to the purport, true intent  
and meaning of the same.

2. To give  
Notice of re-  
signing his  
Office.

AND WILL, in case he shall be desirous of resigning the said office of District Medical Officer  
give to the said Guardians One calendar month's Notice of his intention so to do, or forfeit One  
month's amount of Salary, which may be deducted as liquidated damages from the amount of  
Salary due at the time of such resignation, unless the said Guardians shall be willing to accept  
shorter notice or an immediate resignation.

COVENANT  
by the  
Guardians.

And the said Guardians do hereby for themselves and their successors, covenant with the  
said District Medical Officer, that in case the said District Medical Officer shall well and diligently  
discharge the duties of his office, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, then  
the said Guardians will pay unto the said District Medical Officer the Salary and remuneration, the  
amount and rate whereof are hereinafter expressed, together with the times and circumstances of  
payment thereof; that is to say—

Terms Salary  
and rates of  
remuneration

Salary as a remuneration for attend-  
ance, medicine, operations, treat-  
ment, appliances and all other  
expenses, in all cases not men-  
tioned below

One hundred and ten  
POUNDS PER ANNUM.

To be paid by quarterly instalments  
at 30th June, 30th September  
and 30th December and 31st  
the first payment on the first-named date  
with a proportionate payment up to the date  
on which he shall cease to hold the office

Contract 1922 A

Contract



Surgical cases and operations specified in the Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners or the Local Government Board <i>The Ministry of Health</i>	This amount in each case fixed by the said Regulations	To be paid under the circumstances stated in the said Regulations and at the same time of payment of Salary after the service performed.
Cases of attendance on Women in or immediately after childbirth under the aforesaid Regulations	The sum of <i>ten shillings and sixpence</i> for each case in the town of <i>Sharnford</i> <i>ten shillings</i> for each case <i>attendance</i>	Ditto.
Special cases of difficult delivery or long subsequent attendance under the aforesaid Regulations	A sum not exceeding TWO POUNDS for each case.	Ditto.
Trusses and pessaries furnished under the order in writing of the Guardians.	The cost price thereof.	To be paid the next time of payment of Salary.
Medicines and appliances furnished under the order in writing of the Guardians; viz.— Artificial limbs Other mechanical appliances worn by the patients only		Ditto.
<i>Gumma</i> <i>and</i> <i>Bandages</i>	<i>The cost price thereof</i>	

Determination of this Agreement.

And it is agreed between the Parties hereto, that the said Guardians may at any time put an end to this Agreement, on giving to the said District Medical Officer One Calendar Month's Notice of their intention to do so, and on the other hand, that the said District Medical Officer may at any time put an end to this Agreement, on giving to the said Guardians One calendar month's Notice of his intention to do so; And further, that if the *Local Government Board* shall at any time hereafter, by an Order issued under their Seal, make any alteration either in the District or in the Salary or remuneration assigned to the said District Medical Officer, this Agreement shall thereupon cease and determine, and shall have no further force or effect after

the day on which such Order shall come into operation.

In witness whereof the said Medical Officer, his Hand and Seal, and the said Guardians the Common Seal, have hereunto set.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said

*Kenneth John Talbot Watson*

*Kenneth J. Talbot*

in the presence of

*Edith M. Alliston, M.B.*

*Cottage Hospital*

The Common Seal of the Guardians of the above-named *Parish* [Union] was hereunto affixed at a Meeting of the said Guardians held on the *Sixth* day of *July* 1922 by *J. W. S. Furbush* the presiding Chairman by Order of the Board in the presence of

*W. H. Hall*

Clerk to the said Guardians.

\* Half-yearly or Quarterly.

† Insert such sum as may be agreed upon between the limits fixed by the Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, or Local Government Board.

‡ Insert the article, or list of the articles (if any), to be excepted from the remuneration provided by the salary; and the prices or fees agreed upon.

§ This clause applies solely to the determination of the present Agreement, and does not refer to the determination of the Medical Officer's appointment.

Contract 1922 C

Contract

# Blandford Rural District Council.

T.H. CULLEN DAVIES.  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.

TEL. BLANDFORD 361.

Council Offices,  
10, The Market Place,  
Blandford, Dorset.

27th February 1945

Dear Dr. Wilson,

## Blandford Isolation Hospital. Appointment of Medical Superintendent

As the Ministry of Health has informed the Council that they will no longer be financially responsible for the above hospital, the Council are compelled to close it with effect from the 31st proximo.

It is therefore with regret that I have to give you one month's notice as from 1st March to terminate your appointment.

I am sure that the Council will at their next meeting place on record the valuable service you have rendered to the District during the many years that you have been Medical Superintendant, and I should like to add my own appreciation to the above.

Yours faithfully,

*T.H. Cullen Davies*  
Clerk of the Council.

Dr. Kenneth J.T. Wilson,  
Brehtry,  
White-cliff-mill-street,  
Blandford.

TELEPHONE: BLANDFORD 353.

AVENING,  
NURSERY ROAD,  
BLANDFORD FORUM  
DORSET.

1. When the breeze of a joyful dawn blew free [that's Tenny  
O'er Blandford Town] [that isn't it]  
I little dreamt that night I'd be  
A hospital admission:
2. But, yes, there came the clarion call,  
"Today's your day for hospital."  
And, Gosh! I moved, I did an' all  
As quick as nuclear fission.
3. A dozen urgent jobs not done,  
And cancellations more than one,  
Carcering round the town like fun.  
On this & that omission:
4. Wherefor, three loaves for the avaricious gland  
That in one's youth is in demand  
But later, "dammit's", out of hand  
And then demands excision.
5. And here, in private ward and bed,  
The nurse sez unto me, she said,  
"Cheer up, Old Chap, you'll soon be dead" —  
By words to little effect.
6. Meanwhile the lads I left behind  
Are bashing through the Hardy ground  
While I, for effort dumbstruck,  
Am present & correct.

- 7 And on the 7<sup>th</sup> as ever is  
The surgeon will get down to biz  
With muffled cutting comment rises  
To rob me of my rights.
- 8 He'll have me all in stitches, not—  
not metaphorically speaking, but  
The suture sort of silk & gut  
That draw the dermis tight.
- 9 (allowing for a little about  
To let meek mucky fluid out  
That no practitioner wants about  
When swabs are out of sight.)
- 10 I haven't any notion when  
I take the homeward road again;  
But roll on brushes, paint & pen—  
And sounder sleep at night.

Poem P2

The following documents are important and should be preserved.  
They are in a steel case marked "K.J.T. WILSON" and are stored in  
the Hospital.

CASH BOOKS 1888-1948

BLANDFORD AND DISTRICT  
NURSING ASSOCIATION 1893-1955

REPORT OF HOSPITAL COMMITTEE 1938-1946-1947-1948

MINUTES OF LEAGUE OF FRIENDS 1948-1975

PLAN OF NEW PHYSIO DEPT 1966

REPORTS OF HOSPITAL COMMITTEE MEETING 1936-1948

HISTORY OF YEATMAN HOSPITAL

DEED POLL FOR BEDS BY VISCOUNT AND  
VISCOUNTESS PORTMAN

CONTRACTS AND DISMISSAL OF DR K WILSON  
WITH ISOLATION HOSPITAL

LETTER FROM JOHN TORY

PICTURES OF PORTMAN FAMILY

MINUTES AND LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT TO  
HOSPITAL HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE

NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS IN ALBUM