

# History of Booth Hall Hospital

1851 was a significant year for the city because not only was it the year that Humphrey Booth was born, but with it a caring nature that has passed through generations which has turned Booth Hall Hospital into one of the most talked about children's hospitals in the country.

In fact the inscription on Booth's headstone that reads 'love his memory, imitate his devotion' perfectly sums up the Hospital's continued devotion to patient care.



Booth bought a piece of land in Blackley before 1907, when the building was demolished to make way for the new Hospital. The infirmary opened in 1908.

Costing £70,000 to build from the remains of Booth's house, it occupied a 34 acre site, and was built in a two-storied pavilion style. By February 1909, 151 patients had been moved from the Work

House to the Infirmary and by March that year, there were more than 30 staff. Influenced by Booth's reason for helping the destitute after the devastating effects of the plague, Booth Hall cared for those who were poor, but sick until 1914 when wounded soldiers from World War I were admitted.

Key events during the early 1900s included:

- **1915** - With the amalgamation of the Poor Law Unions, the Manchester Board of Guardians, designated **Booth Hall** a children's hospital.
- **1916** - Guardians reduce working hours for nurses from 64 to 51 hours.
- **1925** - Lord Mayor of Manchester opens nurses' home costing £48,000.
- **1931** - Manchester Corporations appropriated the hospital under the 1930 Public Health Act.
- **1935** - 140 nurses employed.





On the day after World War II broke out, all patients were removed from Booth Hall. Those who were well enough were sent home and the rest to other hospitals or convalescence homes in the North West.

The empty Hospital was made ready for the casualties of expected air raids, and a decontamination unit was even installed for the victims of gas attacks. However, the anticipated

conflict never materialised and within six months the Hospital reverted back to caring for sick children.

At that time, it had 525 beds, 227 of which were occupied. In the first three weeks of June that year there were 1,092 out-patient attendances and 143 operations carried out.

When the NHS was born in 1948, Booth Hall, Monsall and the Duchess of York Hospital were grouped under Manchester babies and Children's Hospital Management Committee, and the Hospital was incorporated into the NHS.

Following the introduction of the NHS, Booth Hall continued to develop:

**1951** - Burns and Plastic unit was established.

**1952** - New chapel.

**1953** - Dr T R Malloy appointed as a first full-time Consultant Child Psychiatrist.

**1958** - 50th anniversary of the hospital.

**1964** - Unrestricted visiting between 9.00 am and 7.30 pm introduced.

**1965** - Research programmed into the cause and treatment of disease of kidney granted.

**1966** - Cubicle bedrooms for six mothers completed.

**1968** - Friends of Booth Hall receive official recognition.

**1970** - New operating suite opened.

**1979** - The High Care Unit was established

**1980** - Renal Dialysis Unit was opened by Princess Michael of Kent.

**1991** - Manchester Children's Hospitals Trust was born



From the vision of one man in 1907, the Hospital grew, yet its principles remained constant throughout. This approach and dedication to caring for the children of the North West, and the UK as a whole, continues with the new Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

The staff and services of Booth Hall Children's Hospital moved into the new Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in the Summer of 2009.



Photos (from top): Booth Hall Children's Hospital; Ward 11; Nurses' Quiet Room 1943; Ward 6; Booth Hall's sledge, the new Children's Hospital on the Oxford Road site.

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