

Whipps Cross Voices

September 2022



Autumn news

It has certainly felt like a long and hot summer. Unfortunately at the hospital this meant the postponement of two events in July but the good news is that we have new dates for these later in September. As our oral history recordings continue we're also starting to record every day sounds of the hospital. See below for a few words from Frazer Merrick, our project sound artist, and an invitation to share your 'must-hear' sounds.

Remember to be in touch with your memories or anything you have to show us and to take a look at the new website galleries. If there is anything you would like to see more of please [drop us a line](#).

A word from Frazer

One person's noise is another person's treasure, and it's these unique stories we hope to capture through recording the building and its inhabitants over the next year. We will be recording the people and the ambiances of the beautiful Victorian building such as its 1/4 mile long corridor and the people who traverse it every day and the additional spaces built around it.

We need your help! Let us know your ideas for what and where to record on this [form](#). Please feel free to share with friends and colleagues.

Behind the scenes at the archive



Left to right: RLHWX/P/1/5/19 - Mrs Pandit, Indian High Commissioner to the UK, talking to a patient on George Ward, Whipps Cross Hospital, 1955. RLHWX/P/1/5/23 - Photograph of Matron Kathleen Fogarty setting off to a garden party at Buckingham Palace, July 1956 RLHWX/P/1/5/47 - Cubicles in the newly opened Outpatients' Department, March 1958

Project volunteers Maureen and Becky have been coming regularly to the archives (based on the St Bartholomew's Hospital site) to work on projects to increase access to the existing Whipps Cross Hospital archive collections. They have both been working with historic photos of the hospital, spanning the early 1900s to the 1980s. This month we'll hear from Maureen and the work she is doing to digitise photographs from a series of albums compiled by the school of nursing in the 1940s-1960s and next month we'll find out more from Becky.

Maureen, why did you decide to join us on Whipps Cross Voices?

I saw the project advertised in the local newspaper and decided to join the launch on zoom. My mum and grandmother worked as auxiliaries in hospitals so I was naturally drawn to it. I'd also not long finished working so this seemed like something completely different to do with my time and a good way to keep my brain going.

And what do you like about volunteering?

It's good for me and good for the archive. I get to focus on the scanning and can make good progress in the hours I'm there. I enjoy learning about the past and you can see how different it used to be at Whipps. I've enjoyed seeing photos of the first male nurses at their prize-giving, the Queen Mother on a visit and nurses from across the Commonwealth - it was good to see different faces. I've also learnt there are jobs in the NHS I never knew existed, like the archivist!

We are delighted to have Becky and Maureen working with us. With their support we have been able to add over 200 new catalogue descriptions and 221 newly digitised images to the catalogue of the Whipps Cross Hospital archives, as well as over 50 photographs of Langthorne Hospital, which was closely associated with Whipps Cross.

These photos will all be going online shortly when we update our public catalogue in September, meaning that they can be searched and accessed online for the first time.

[Why not take a look?](#)

If you'd like to catch up with the launch meeting and see more about volunteering take a look at the [Volunteer with us](#) page on the website.

Dates for your diary

The next project event will be **21st September** and this time in the Outpatients waiting area (the space with the piano). Come and find us anytime between 11.30 and 2.30. We're particularly keen to find out about your must-hear sounds of the hospital and your memories connected with them.

After this we'll be holding our first event away from the hospital site at Leytonstone Library sometime later in the autumn. We'll share the information as soon as we have it.

Very best wishes,

Kate and Claire

You are receiving this newsletter because you expressed an interest in the project. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing us at info@whippscrossvoices.com