

Whipps Cross Voices

October 2022



Autumn news

There has been a flurry of activity already this autumn. In September we had another drop-in at Whipps Cross, this time in the outpatients department. Thank you to all those who came along, it was great to put faces to names! We will be doing it again on **1st November** but this time away from the hospital at Leytonstone Library. Please help us spread the word and pop-in to see us if you can.

James from NHS at 70 also joined us at the hospital to record some oral history interviews in September and Frazer, our sound recordist, started his work recording the corridor and spending some time with the volunteer team. Please [be in touch](#) with any suggestions for Frazer or if you would like to contribute an oral history.

Sounds of the hospital

Frazer's work recording the everyday sounds of the hospital is now underway so keep an eye out for him if you're visiting Whipps any time soon. He has been walking around

the site at different times of day recording those background sounds of the hospital at work and soon will be able to capture the change in season too. He is shadowing people in some teams and recently spent time with volunteers as they help people around the hospital. If you have any suggestions or would like to nominate a sound or person please let us know on this [form](#) (remember to press submit at the end). Please feel free to share this with friends and colleagues.

Behind the scenes at the archive



Above: Group photograph of staff and students at the Preliminary Training School, Apr-Jul 1956 (RLHWX/P/1/3/5)

Last month we had an update from project volunteers Maureen and Becky who have been coming regularly to the archives based on the St Bartholomew's Hospital site. This month Becky shares what she has been up to.

[Becky, how did you find out about the project and why did you decide to get involved?](#)

I found out about the project from the Wanstead Village Directory which is posted through our letter box each month. I am currently training to become an archivist and the project sounded an ideal opportunity to gain more experience of working in an archive. Whipps Cross is my local hospital and I thought it would be fascinating to be involved in a project which captures the Hospital's history before it is redeveloped.

[Can you give us an idea of what you've been doing?](#)

I usually go into the archive at Barts on a weekly basis for around 3 hours. I am currently helping to catalogue the photographs of Whipps Cross which have been scanned. Cataloguing involves listing and providing detailed descriptions of the

photographs so that they can be easily searched for. The idea is that everyone can then search and look for the photographs on the online catalogue.

Have there been any stand out moments for you?

Cataloguing the photographs has provided a fascinating snapshot into what the hospital's wards were like in the first half of the twentieth century. I have also found it interesting to catalogue the photographs from the nursing school at Whipps Cross. I have to say my favourite photographs, as a dog fan, have been ones containing Tara the Corgi who was owned by Matron Fogarty. Tara has certainly made several appearances in the catalogue and she can be found in action in RLHWX/P/1/3/5 (above).

You can search the public catalogue which was updated last month with Maureen and Becky's work [here](#). We've also recently received some new donations which you will be able to search for soon. If you have anything to show us that can help tell the story of Whipps Cross please get in touch with us.

Dates for your diary

Our first event away from the hospital will be at Leytonstone Library on **Tuesday 1st November**. We'll be there from 11.30 to 2.30 with our pop up display. We'll also be ready to look at anything you would like to show us and to record your memories. We hope you'll be able to make it!

Very best wishes,

Kate and Claire

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