

Local History: The Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital and College

The early history of this site is given in the section of 'Pest Houses and Hospitals', which describes the Absent Minded Beggars Hospital/Princes House Hospital which were here.

Sir William Purdie Treloar, a previous Lord Mayor of London and a long campaigner on behalf of crippled children, formed the 'Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripple's Home and College Trust', which acquired the former Army hospital in 1907. It was to be used as a hospital to treat children of both sexes up to the age of 12 who were suffering from tuberculosis disease of the bones or joints. The associated College aimed to provide *'technical instruction to cripple boys of 14 years of age and upwards, as will enable them to earn their own living'*. This institution was opened on 8 September 1908.

Within a few years children were arriving from all over the country and the hospital was fortunate to have its own railway platform on the Alton – Basingstoke branch line known as Alton Park. The original hatted hospital was partly rebuilt between 1929 and 1937 and until the early 1950s the hospital and college facilities were side by side. The Hospital had been taken over by the National Health Service in 1948 and the College acquired a site at Froyle Place, moving there in 1953. The Florence Treloar School for Girls was opened at Holybourne in 1965.

In 1978 the boy's college at Froyle and the Florence Treloar School for girls were amalgamated to provide a co-educational establishment called Lord Mayor Treloar College, with the Lower School at Froyle and the Upper School at Holybourne. In 1995 the Froyle site became the Lord Mayor Treloar School, whilst the Holybourne site became a National Specialist College for Further Education. Both parts of Treloars are now at Holybourne and the Froyle site has been sold.

The Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital in Chawton Park Road was threatened with closure in the 1970s, but survived to serve the community until 1994. A Community Hospital was opened on part of the site in 1992 when the former Alton General Hospital on Anstey Road closed.



The bust of Sir William Treloar (decorated for the centenary of the opening of the Hospital and College in 2008) outside the Community Hospital on the corner of the original site.



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Despite a seven year campaign to keep the Treloar Hospital open, closure was confirmed and the contents were sold by auction in 2001. Most of the buildings were demolished the following year, the site being re-developed for housing. The street names of the area provide a reminder of the people associated with the former hospital.

A plaque on the site was unveiled by Alan Titchmarsh on Saturday, 5 July 2005 commemorating the history and achievements of the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital.

More information can be found in the publications: 'Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital and College: The Story of the Little Cripple's Hospital' by Gladys S E Moynihan, 1988, and 'Treloar's: One Hundred Years of Education' by Jane Hurst, 2007.