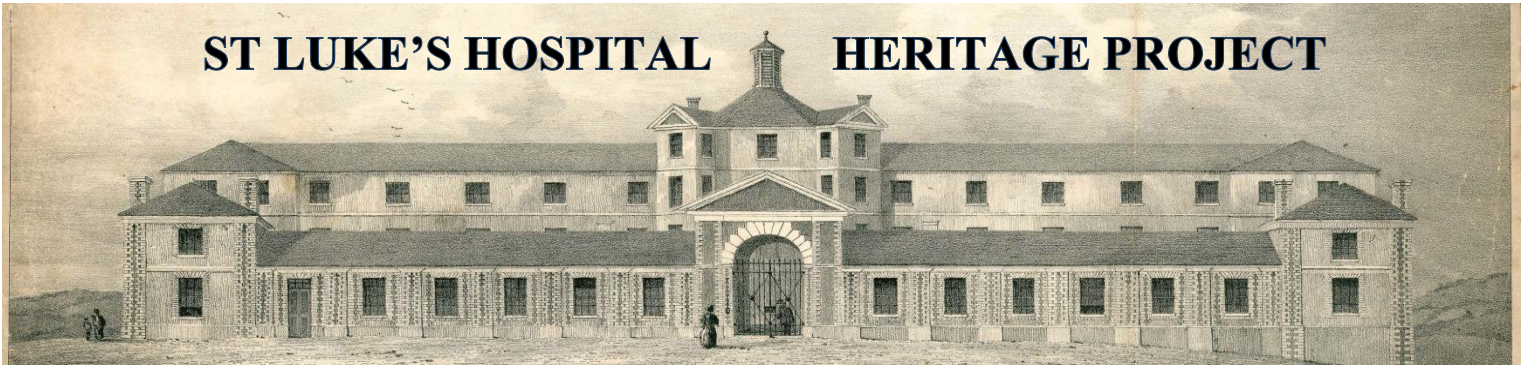


ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL HERITAGE PROJECT



Welcome to your Press Pack

Who we are...

We are a team of volunteers, who have just completed a two-year research project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) into the history of the Guildford Union Workhouse infirmary, which eventually became St Luke's Hospital.

In addition to our research, we have covered all aspects of the project; events for ex-staff, oral history interviews, costume making and adding to the growing collection in the archive.

We have included the following information sheets:

- **The Spike** building, past, present and volunteers (brochure attached)
- **The Exhibition** space, design elements, narrative and future uses.
- **The Project** work of SLHHP (The St Luke's Hospital Heritage Project).
- **The History** with relevant dates and significant events.

For more information please contact the coordinator:

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Charlotteville Jubilee Trust

Patron: The Lady Sterling

Charity No: 1103768

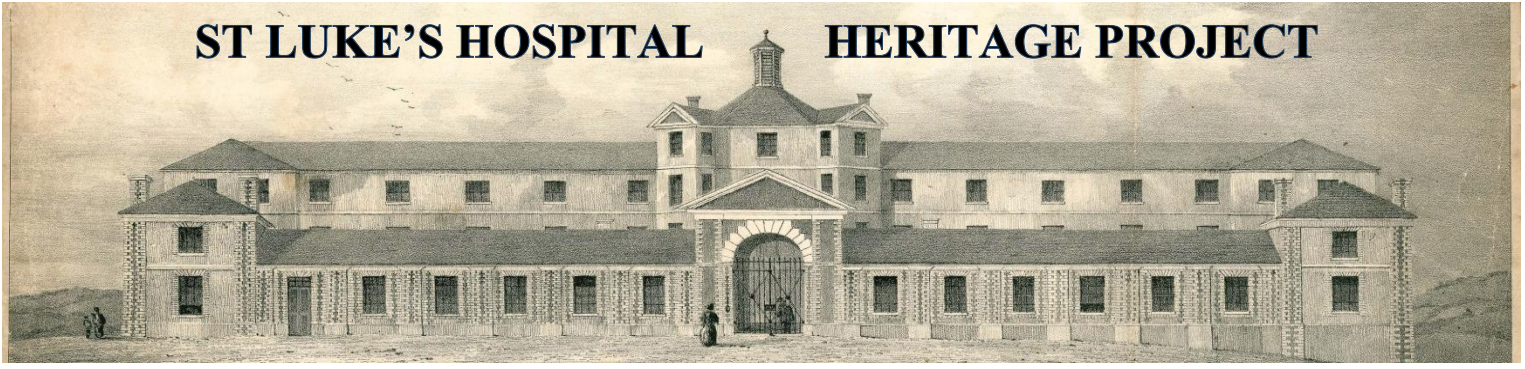
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THE SPIKE

The SPIKE, a purpose built Vagrants and Casual Ward, was built in 1906 by the Guildford Union Workhouse.

Workhouses and vagrant's wards were often known as Spikes. The name probably came from the tool commonly used by inmates, who were set to work splitting old rope ready for oakum picking. Oakum is rope fibre, which was mixed with tar and used to seal seams in wooden ships.

The building with its long, cold corridor and stone-breaking cells was erected to separate the 'undesirable' vagrants and their disruptive influence from the structured routine of the Workhouse.

With their filthy clothes, crude language and coarse behaviour they often endured a miserable and unhealthy existence. For a vagrant or tramp it was a way of life and **The Spike provided overnight shelter from 1906 until the last tramp left on May 31st 1962.**

After closure, it was used for training sessions and storage, but fell into neglect in the 1990s when the hospital departments transferred to the new Royal Surrey County Hospital.

and now...

In 2007 with the aid of a £1.2M grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the building was transformed into the award winning Spike Heritage Centre.

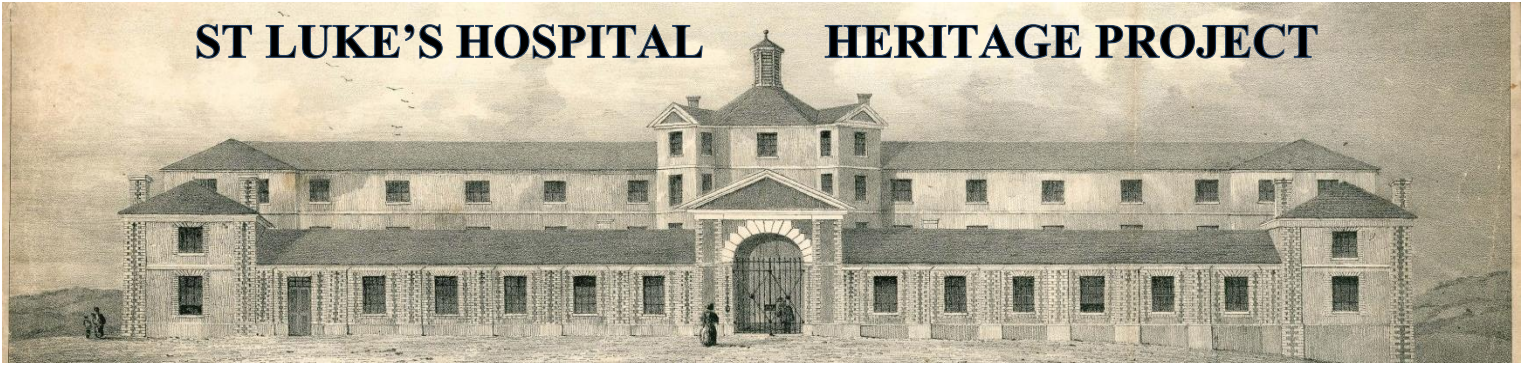
The Spike has become an important destination for schools studying Victorian history and industrialisation with activities for all ages from KS1 to KS4.

The Spike offers **guided tours to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays** and is a popular destination for visitors from schools, groups and societies at other times.

Spike volunteers...

The Spike is run entirely by volunteers. They conduct tours, stage events, carry out maintenance and gardening, administration and bookings, stage re-enactments and give talks. Our volunteer team also stage fundraising events such as the very popular Charlotteville Burns Night and the annual Victorian Seaside Extravaganza. Their enthusiasm led to the successful HLF bid, funding the two-year research project, archive and exhibition.

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THE EXHIBITION

the space...

The Design Brief: An exhibition to be staged in an Education Room used at other times for KS2 class activities including eating packed lunches. (The research team had no idea where to start - Matron certainly would not have approved.)

the design...

Taking inspiration from the archive, the design evokes different eras as the visitor moves from one 'cubicle' to the next. Privacy screens hold information boards, medical trolleys display artefacts and the whole exhibition can be wheeled away from sticky fingers when the space is needed as a school room.

the narrative...

The story of the Spike and Workhouse is told through a guided costume tour and film/audio stories. **The exhibition shows the history of the infirmary and hospital.** It has tackled the difficult task of showing research material by using medical clipboards, computer screens and table top documents.

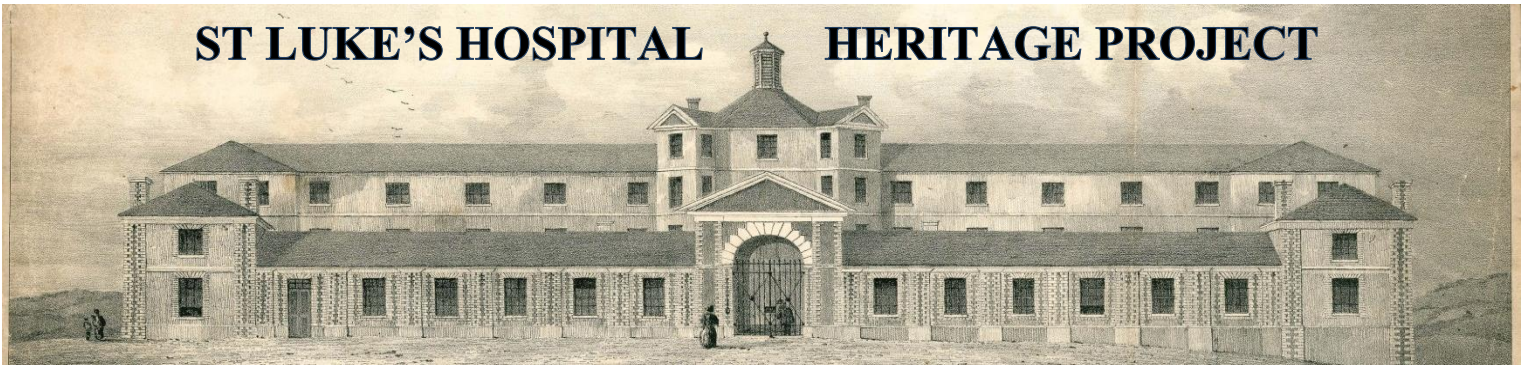
the future...

The screened information boards, the artefact trolleys and media equipment can all be easily dismantled. This creates a mobile exhibition for events, schools and groups in the wider community.

The boards are detachable and inexpensive to change. This makes it easy to show new research and transform the exhibition for themed events. **Christmas on the Ward is already planned for December 2014!**

END

ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL HERITAGE PROJECT



THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The **SLHHP Team** have spent the last two years researching the history of St Luke's hospital. They have discovered a story typical of the hundreds of hospitals that started life in the Workhouse system.

Research has been conducted in all sorts of ways: from the National archives here and abroad, local archives, letters and artefacts from private collections along with personal recollections. The information gathered continues to grow, and will be available for visitors to the centre and through our website www.hospitalproject.co.uk

Contributions to the Oral History Project and written interviews have come from local residents and staff, some of whom are now in their nineties.

Artefacts were almost non-existent when the project was launched, but as awareness has spread, items are turning up from some unlikely sources. An original set of workhouse keys turned up after an absence of 52 years!

The personal stories of people such as WW1 Matron Louisa Tulloh, the wartime doctors and nurses dealing with Dunkirk casualties and the midwife who delivered over 1,000 babies -they are all part of St Luke's.

The Exhibition will give visitors to the Spike an opportunity to learn more about the history of the workhouse and the hospital. It shows how social change and advances in medicine have influenced healthcare for local people.

Sylvia Howe has written a play for the project which will be performed as a Summer Season fundraiser. Characters from the play also tell their stories to camera and these have been used to create interactive elements for the tour and exhibition.

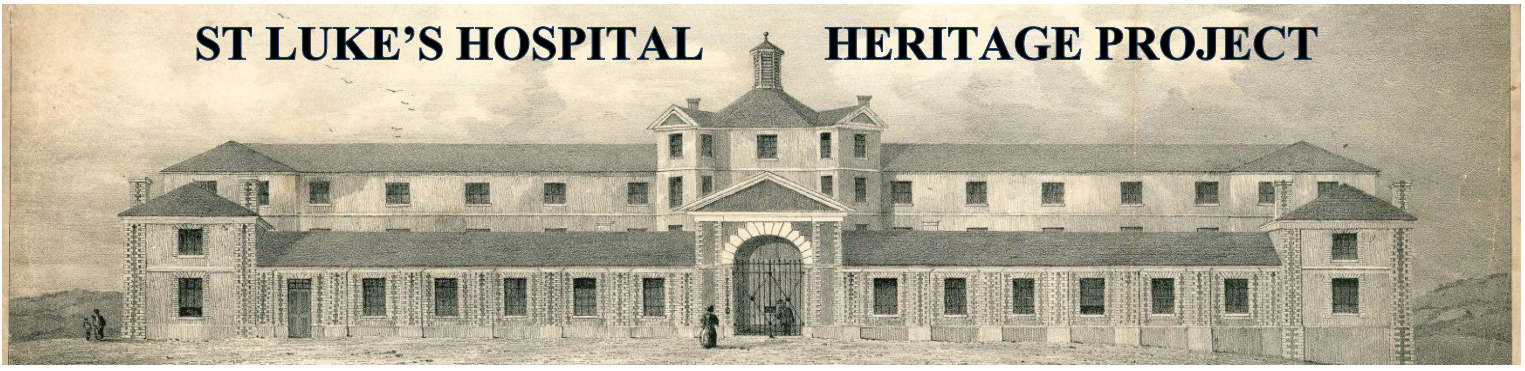
a little historical background...

The 1838 Workhouse was like a prison with conditions that were grim, disciplined, monotonous and impersonal. On entry, families were separated by age and gender. There were 10 sick and lying-in beds for 300 workhouse inmates.

From this first infirmary, the facilities and standards of care gradually improved. Significant strides were made during WW1 and WW2. From 1948, under the NHS, St. Luke's evolved into an important local and regional hospital. *(For more information see 'History' in this pack.)*

END

ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL HERITAGE PROJECT



THE HISTORY OF St LUKE'S HOSPITAL

Background...

In 1838, a workhouse was built on the outskirts of Guildford, in accordance with the provisions of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. Its purpose was to house 300 people, the destitute, ill and infirm from 21 parishes. 10 infirmary beds were allocated for the sick - which proved to be totally inadequate.

On 9th February 1856 the Poor Law Board Inspection of the Workhouse reported that the infirmary was overcrowded by 30%, the ventilation was "most imperfect", and declared: **"the infirmary is totally unfit and a disgrace to the Establishment."**

A new Infirmary was built the following year but by 1891, after another damning Poor Law Board report, the Guildford Board of Guardians built the new 170-bed Guildford Infirmary, the forerunner of St. Luke's Hospital, which opened in 1896.

During World War I, the infirmary and most of the remaining workhouse buildings were taken over by the military. The Guildford War Hospital treated 7,680 mainly British, Australian and Canadian soldiers between 1916 and 1919.

In 1929 The Local Government Act passed management of the Infirmary to Surrey County Council (SCC.) Union Lane had been renamed Warren Road and Guildford Infirmary became known as **Warren Road Hospital**. By now there were 190 beds, including five maternity, mainly for unmarried mothers. In 1938 there were proposals to build a large modern hospital on the site.

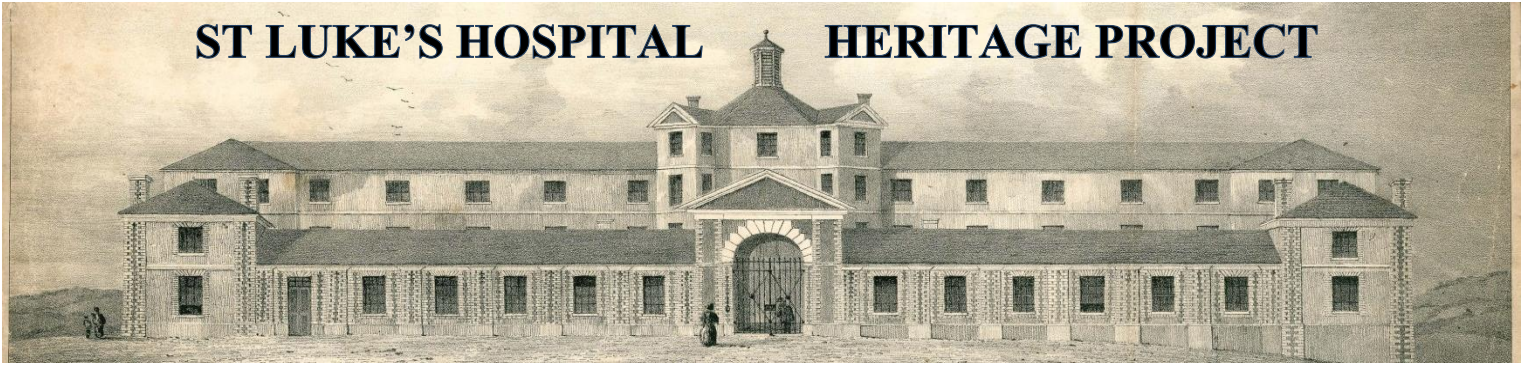
As Warren Road prepared for another war, these plans were suspended.

The London hospitals were organised to meet the threat of bombing and the Warren Road site was incorporated into Sector 8 of the Emergency Medical Services, under St. Thomas' Hospital. In addition to providing general hospital care for civilians, Warren Road treated military cases, including hundreds of casualties from Dunkirk and the D-Day landings.

In 1939 Warren Road Hospital was provided with a military style 'hatted hospital', built by Canadian soldiers. A group of London teaching hospitals used this new annexe to set up a temporary Radiotherapy Unit.

World War II brought about significant changes, with doctors and nurses coming down from St. Thomas' and other London teaching hospitals. For many of them it was their first experience of working in hospitals where conditions and standards of care left much to be desired. This and the over-estimation of beds needed during the war helped pave the way for the NHS.

ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL HERITAGE PROJECT



In 1945, the association with the old workhouse infirmary ceased, in name at least, when **Warren Road Hospital became St. Luke's Hospital**. SCC renamed the hospital after Addison Road church of St Luke's, (Luke being the Patron Saint of Physicians.)

In 1948 the hospital was incorporated into the National Health Service, which had just been established under the National Assistance Act of 1947. Following Clinical Union with Guildford's Royal Surrey County Hospital (RSCH) Farnham Road in 1952, St. Luke's expanded and specialised. The stigma of being a former workhouse hospital began to disappear.

During the late 1950s and 1960s, St. Luke's expansion continued. The Nurses' Preliminary Training School was built in 1956 and radiographers, operating department practitioners and midwives were all trained on site.

Dr R B McMillan MD, FRCP(E) was the Superintendent Physician. His foresight and organisational ability guided the hospital through this period. The new McMillan Day Hospital was named in his honour. Matron Brigit Coyle was another key figure and Coyle Hall was named after her.

St Luke's became home to the Group and District Pathology Service, the Public Health Laboratory, new Haematology and Clinical Biochemistry departments.

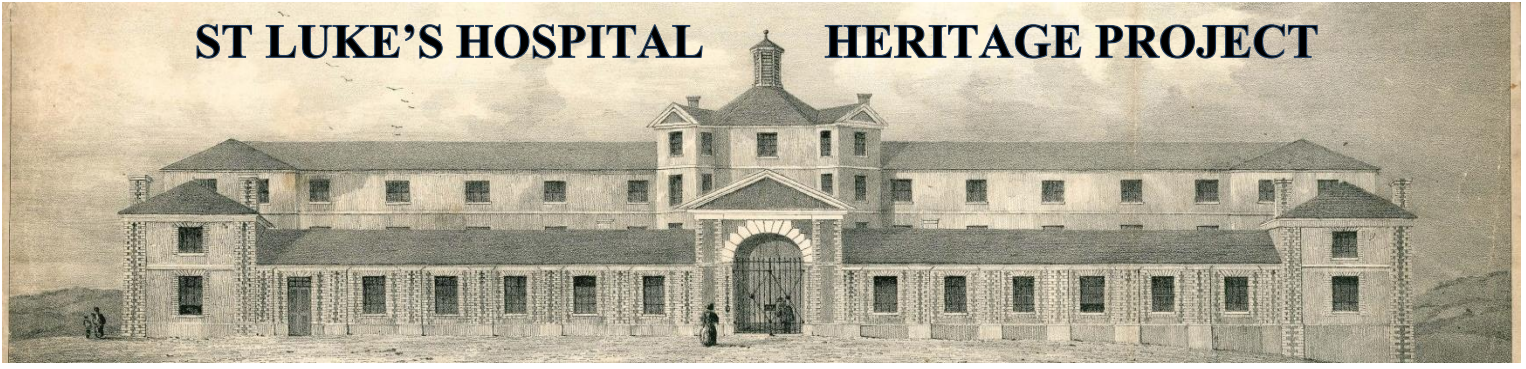
In 1963 the Betatron Cancer Appeal Trust began fundraising to buy an electron therapy unit for cancer treatment, the first of its type in the UK. Hospital staff, with the actress Florence Desmond, the hospital secretary Mr Frank Cogdell, Mr Wingrave-Clarke and the League of Friends worked together to raise over £150,000. **The Betatron was installed in 1967** and remained in service for 24 years.

Later Developments....

By January 1980 the policy of centralising services in one Guildford hospital was well under way. In the first phase, inpatient services in general medicine, general surgery and paediatrics were transferred from St Luke's. This marks the end of St. Luke's as a general hospital.

St. Luke's still provided a wide range of outpatients services and remained particularly busy as it housed the Departments of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as an enlarged Geriatric Department and of course, the important Regional Radiotherapy and Oncology Centre. The Diagnostic Radiology, Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy departments continued their work on-site, along with the Public Health Laboratory and the Medical Photography and Illustration department.

ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL HERITAGE PROJECT



The first Laser Laparoscopy in the United Kingdom was performed at St Luke's Hospital in October 1982 by Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Christopher Sutton and his team led by Sister Annie Parker and her nurses, with technical support from Dougie Bathie.

All the funding for a new Colposcopy clinic was raised by the 'Guildford Raise a Laser' charity Appeal, set up and run by St Luke's staff.

In 1985, the Obstetric Department was improved and expanded to accommodate the Haslemere and District Maternity Unit. In 1990, Nurse and Midwifery training also increased to serve three Health Districts with the Frances Harrison College of Healthcare.

The site at Warren Road was always earmarked for closure. In 1991 the older main building of the hospital was closed and the Inpatient and Outpatient departments transferred to the Royal Surrey County Hospital. On April 1st 1991, St. Luke's Hospital joined with the RSCH to form a jointly self-governing Trust within the National Health Service. Departments continued to be transferred away from the site.

The last department to leave was Radiotherapy in November 1996.

The site was then sold to make way for the 257 homes in St. Luke's Park and St. Luke's Square.

END

SLHHP February 2014