

1970's



KGH

Work began on a six-storey main ward block (still our main ward block) in 1971 and was completed in 1976. We also built the new Rockingham Wing which opened in 1977 as the hospital's new maternity and gynaecology department.

The Post Graduate Education Centre opened in 1976.

(KGH Together)

NHS

Louise Brown, the world's first test-tube baby, is born on July 25 1978. Her parents Lesley and John Brown had failed to conceive because of her mother's blocked fallopian tubes.



Louise Brown (www.nhs.uk)

Dr Patrick Steptoe, a gynaecologist at Oldham General Hospital, and Dr Robert Edwards, a physiologist at the University of Cambridge, develop a new technique to fertilise an egg outside a woman's body before replacing it in the womb.

More than 1 million children worldwide will go on to be conceived in this way.

In 1972 CT scans revolutionise the way doctors examine the body computerised tomography (CT) scanners produce 3D images from a large series of 2D X-rays.

The first CT scanner was dreamt up in England in 1967 by Godfrey Newbold Hounsfield, becoming a reality in 1972. His concept will go on to win him a Nobel Prize alongside the American Allan McLeod Cormack, who developed the same idea across the Atlantic.



Godfrey Newbold Hounsfield
(www.nobelprize.org)

Since then, CT scanners have developed enormously, but the principle remains the same.

Celebrating 70 years of the NHS