

Kettering General Hospital

1897 Centenary 1997



The stone facade of Kettering General Hospital in Rothwell Road, illustrated by local artist, poet and hairdresser, George Harrison, to celebrate the opening of the building in the autumn of 1897.



An early photograph of members of the staff. Central figures, seated, Dr J Allison and the first Matron, Miss G Hick.

The first Evening Telegraph report to extend to more than a few paragraphs, and the first to be illustrated with a large picture, was the opening of the Kettering General Hospital. Kettering was growing so rapidly in the latter part of the century that, with the nearest hospital situated at Northampton, it was apparent that the town required its own medical facility. In 1891 a local Nursing Association revived plans for a cottage hospital, originally planned four years earlier to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The scheme received influential backing, notably from Mr J T Stockburn, who offered £500 towards the project and the Duke of Buccleuch, who donated a three acre site.

Architect J A Gotch drew up plans and in 1895 the newly formed hospital committee, with Stockburn as chairman, put these out to tender. Seven quotations were received and the lowest, £5,575 submitted by Alfred Barlow, was accepted. The foundation stone was laid by the Duchess of Buccleuch the following year, and in 1897 the building was officially opened.

HOSPITAL BUILT FOR £5,575