

900 years of medical care

A brief history of Barts and The London

b+tlc BARTS AND
THE LONDON
CHARITY

‘In health there is freedom.
Health is the first of all liberties.’

HENRI FREDERIC AMIEL



Historical images courtesy
Barts and The London Archives and Museum.

A royal connection

Barts and the London NHS Trust, comprising St Bartholomew's Hospital in the City, The Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel and The London Chest Hospital in Bethnal Green, can draw upon a rich history of healthcare and medical innovation.

Barts has provided continuous patient care on the same site for longer than any other hospital in England. It was founded with St Bartholomew's Priory in 1123 by Rahere, a clerk employed by Henry I.

In 1539, Henry VIII closed the Priory as part of the dissolution of the monasteries. The Hospital survived, but with no income its future was uncertain. Concerned at what might happen to the local sick and poor people, the citizens of London petitioned the King. Henry finally relented and in 1546 granted the Hospital to the City of London and endowed it with properties and income.



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HISTORICAL MILESTONES

1123 Founding

Barts founded by Rahere, former courtier to Henry I.

1539 Refounding

Henry VIII grants Barts to City of London.

1567 Roderigo Lopez

First physician, later hung, drawn and quartered after being accused of plotting to poison Queen Elizabeth I.

1576 William Clowes

First surgeon of distinction at Barts.

1609 William Harvey

Physician and discoverer of the circulation of the blood.

1729 John Freke

First ophthalmic surgeon and governor.

1740 London Hospital founded

Seven businessmen and philanthropists meet in the Feathers Tavern in Cheapside to plan a new hospital.

1749 Percival Pott

Surgeon, gives his name to Pott's fracture and several other conditions.

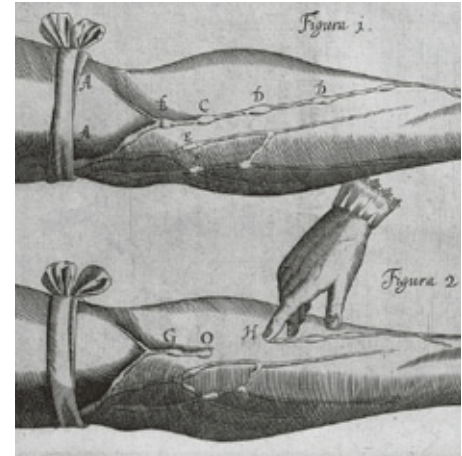
A history of innovation

Throughout its history, Barts has been associated with pioneering treatments and research, as well as eminent physicians. In 1609, for example, William Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of blood, was appointed Hospital Physician.

While Harvey is rightly celebrated as Barts' most illustrious physician, its medical reputation was founded much earlier. The works of William Clowes, surgeon from 1576 to 1585, are possibly the finest surgical writings of the Elizabethan era.

In the 18th century, men such as John Freke and Percival Pott did much to enhance the standing of surgery, then one of medicine's poor relations.

The Royal London Hospital has also been home to numerous distinguished physicians, many of whose names live on in the conditions named after them, such as James Parkinson and John Langdon Down.



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HISTORICAL MILESTONES

1752 London Hospital

Building of the new hospital in Whitechapel begins.

1785 William Blizard

Surgeon, co-founds England's first clinical medical school.

1817 James Parkinson

Describes 'paralysis agitans', named Parkinson's disease in his honour.

1822 Medical School

Surgeon John Abernethy persuades Hospital Governors to formally recognise Medical School.

1824 William Lawrence

Surgeon and one of the founders of British ophthalmology.

1827 Thomas Davies

Pioneer in the use of the stethoscope and co-founder of the world's first chest hospital.

1839 William John Little

Pioneer of orthopaedic surgery.

1839 Jonathan Pereira

Publishes the first great English work on pharmacology.

Challenging convention

Barts and its associated hospitals have been at the forefront of medical advances, often challenging entrenched opinion or prejudice.

Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor, worked at Barts while Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (right), the first woman to qualify in Britain, trained at The London Hospital. Ethel Gordon Manson, Matron to Barts School of Nursing, became the country's first state-registered nurse and is regarded as the founder of modern nursing.

In many fields of medicine, the hospitals were quick to realise the potential of new technology or medical thinking, pioneering the use of anaesthetics, X-ray imaging, and advances in heart surgery.



1847 Anaesthetics

Barts is one of the first hospitals to promote use of anaesthetics.

1848 London Chest Hospital

London Chest Hospital is founded by 19 philanthropic bankers and City merchants at a meeting held at the London Tavern.

1850 Elizabeth Blackwell

First English woman doctor, admitted to Medical School.

1855 Chest Hospital opens

London Chest Hospital becomes world-renowned for the treatment of diseases of the heart and lungs, particularly tuberculosis.

1859 John Langdon Down

Pioneer in the treatment of the learning disabled, described Down's syndrome.

1861 Sir James Paget

Physician and pathologist, one of the greatest surgeons of the Victorian age.

From the past to the future



For nearly 900 years, Barts has been providing medical and hospital services to the people of London. It has survived Henry VIII's whims, the Great Fire of London and the Blitz.

It occupies historically important buildings, now grade 1 listed. The Grand Staircase in the North Wing is decorated with two magnificent paintings by William Hogarth, symbolising the Hospital's work.

Building on its illustrious history, Barts and The London is still looking forward, with both The City and Whitechapel sites being substantially rebuilt for the needs of 21st century medicine.

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

1866 Thomas Barnardo

The founder of Dr Barnardo's homes becomes a medical student at The London Hospital.

1866 Children's Hospital founded

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children is founded in the wake of a cholera epidemic.

1877 School of Nursing founded

First student nurses, 'probationers', enter Barts.

1881 Ethel Gordon Manson

(Mrs Bedford Fenwick)
Britain's first state-registered nurse.

1892 Sir Henry Trentham Butlin

Pioneer of medical surgery for cancers.

1896 X-ray pioneers

One of the first hospitals to make use of X-rays in diagnosis and treatment.

1897 William Bulloch

First UK use of salvarsan to treat syphilis at The London Hospital.

The London Chest Hospital maintains its reputation as one of the country's leading heart centres and has more than halved mortality from heart attacks.

The Children's Hospital at The Royal London has become one of the UK's leading, offering a full paediatric service including one of the busiest paediatric A&E departments in the country.

With a vibrant medical research programme at its associated medical school – Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry – Barts is not only fulfilling the wishes of its founder but also helping to shape the future of medical care.



1902 Sir Frederick Treves

Operated to save King Edward VII and treated the Elephant Man, Joseph Merrick.

1904 Archibald Edward Garrod

Physician, first to appreciate the importance of biochemistry in medicine.

1920 Sir Thomas Dunhill

Surgeon, first to advocate extensive thyroidectomy for toxic goitre.

1921 Thomas Jeeves Horder

(Lord Horder of Ashford)

Physician, recognised importance of laboratory science in clinical care.

1925 Sir Henry Souttar

First mitral valvotomy and pioneer of the surgical use of radium.

1994 A new Trust

Barts, The Royal London and The London Chest Hospital merge to form a new NHS Trust, later renamed Barts and The London.

1996 Children's Hospital joins Trust

The Children's Hospital joins the Trust that later becomes Barts and The London.

Further information on current appeals and ways of helping
can be found on our website:

www.bartsandthelondoncharity.org.uk

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