

# Wirral Metropolitan College



**STUDY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN A  
CENTRE OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

#### **School Leavers:**

- BTEC programmes from Level 1 to Level 3
- NHS Cadetships (delivered with the NHS Academy) at Level 2 and Level 3

#### **Adults:**

- Bespoke NVQ training (Train to Gain funding available)
- Bespoke short courses, e.g. dementia, patient handling, diabetes, administration of medicines, effective listening skills, life coaching
- Level 4 Leadership and Management Care Services

**Contact the College for more information  
Telephone: 0151-551-7777**

## carpenters solicitors

*No Gimmicks*

*No high pressure advertising campaigns*

*Just outstanding client care and commitment to winning  
compensation for accident victims*

#### **Why would you want to do anything else?**

*If you have been injured as a result of another person's negligence  
and you want good, honest advice*

**Call our First Response Unit on 0844 249 3580**

**Leonard House, Scotts Quays,  
Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1FB  
Website: [www.carpenters-law.co.uk](http://www.carpenters-law.co.uk)**



#### **Preparing for Patients**



Nurse Brenda Taylor

Support services such as laundry and catering were arranged with the Hospital until the hospice had its own facilities. Initially there was a telephone extension from the Clatterbridge Hospital switchboard until the day when we had our own number! Uniforms were ordered; dark green for Matron with a frilly-style cap, dark blue for the sisters, pale blue for the nurses, light brown for auxiliaries and tabards for nurses and volunteers. These were to change style and colour many times in the coming years. Equipment was purchased or donated from many quarters, often second hand. 'Fifteen Kingsland beds, one Contour bed and some Sani-Chairs' were purchased from the surplus store at Birkenhead General Hospital and were cleaned and resprayed. Local groups of ladies knitted or crocheted blankets and knee rugs for the patients which added a splash of colour to the brown and cream ward decor.

The first administrator, Reg Worthington, started work in April 1983 setting up systems for supplies, salaries and much more. In the absence of computers, the monthly salaries were calculated manually. Reg ordered the food supplies and picked them up in his car. As committees were formed, (initially Clinical, House and Chaplaincy Committees), the Administrator took the minutes. Reg's first task was to employ a handyman and Stan Smith turned out to be a great asset to the establishment. A popular character, an ex-seaman, he could turn his hand to anything, using his own tools and his own car until a van was donated.



After extensive refurbishment, Wendy Ward was transformed. It provided 15 beds in two four-bedded bays and single rooms. Improvements to the configuration of the beds changed several times and, after alterations following a fire in the Day Room in 1987, it became a 16 bed unit. A chapel had been furnished with many donated items, including the altar. The Bebington Soroptimists gave a beautiful stained glass window.



Rev. Ken Nicholson, a Methodist Minister, was appointed as the first Hospice Chaplain in 1983. He was seconded from Clatterbridge and played a unique role, caring for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the patients, relatives and staff, of any faith or none, for 14 years. Additional nurses were appointed including Staff Nurse Penny Vernon, who would cover night duty, Jane Kough and Brenda Taylor, both of whom are still nursing on the wards. Dr Jill Brock, Consultant in Radiotherapy at Clatterbridge, was appointed as Medical Director on an honorary part-time secondment from the NHS and was to spend 13 years serving the hospice with personal commitment, loyalty and dedication.



Wendy Ward had become St John's Hospice and a first class team was ready to receive patients. The clinical team had a three day induction involving talks and discussions on clinical, organisational and theoretical issues before the practice began! In early June, two open days were held for the general public to see the hospice building that they had so generously helped to refurbish. Over 3000 people passed through the doors!