



THE PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPITAL, ELY

Prior to 1987, this was known as the Royal Air Force Hospital, Ely, no doubt remembered, with affection, for the Romney Hut wards branching off long, shiny floored corridors. Brought into use around 1939, the motto on the R.A.F's badge was simply 'Save'.

The Battle of Britain Campaign Diary records an attack on the hospital, early in the morning of 30th August 1940, one small incendiary bomb was dropped which was quickly extinguished. Serving the armed forces, as well as civilians, the hospital soon became much loved and well supported by the local population. However, rumours began to spread that it was to close, much to the consternation of the community.

Despite a rigorous campaign in parliament by the local MPs, supported by a 15,000 name petition, the cause was lost. On November 13th 1990, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces formally announced the closure which would take place in October 1992.

A further rigorous campaign was launched, this time by ACHE, Action for a Community Hospital in Ely and this time the cause was won. Lifespan Healthcare Trust took over the premises during 1993.

Although much reduced in physical size, the trust began to develop the services provided. The hospital, now operated by Anglia Support Partnership, is about to undergo further reductions in size but increased efficiency in respect of running costs.

Gowing & Hunt have been contracted as principal contractor to decentralise the existing main boiler plant, which involves the demolition of the existing boiler house, installation of dedicated plant rooms and distribution of pipework throughout the undercrofts.

The final phase of the works involves the demolition of the water tower at the front of the site, a well known landmark.



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