



St Catherine's Hospice Care: Our History – from 1212 to today!

1212: James de Lostock is registered as living in Lostock Hall, the property he built on the site where the hospice now stands today.

1764: The present old house is re-built by William Clayton, the banker of Preston.

1829: Death of William's son George Clayton, who had inherited the house and lived there with his wife Dolly.

1881: The hall is purchased by Harry Dewhurst of Messrs Geo & R. Dewhurst, who lived there until 1918.

1922: The hall and its grounds – donated by Mr Dewhurst to Preston Royal Infirmary – open as Lostock Hall Convalescent Hospital for women and children, under the Lancashire Area Health Authority.

1980-82: Kitty Sharples instigates the founding of the first fundraising committee and chaired the meeting on 7 December 1981 when St Catherine's Hospice (Lancashire) Limited is established as a charity.

Lostock Hall Convalescent Hospital, where the hospice stands today, closes. St Catherine's Hospice purchases the redundant house and grounds from the NHS and begins a programme of renovation.

1985: On 29 April – the feast of St Catherine of Siena – Day Care begins at St Catherine's and on 8 July an In-Patient Unit for up to 12 patients opens. Visit by HRH Princess Alexandra.

1990-95: Light Up A Life celebration and memorial evening begins.

An extension providing beds for a further seven patients is opened by HRH Princess Diana of Wales. The hospice lottery begins followed by the first Symphony at the Tower.

1996-98: Extension works to increase Day Care provision for up to 20 patients a day begins. Therapy and rehabilitation services, clinical and administrative offices and meeting rooms open the following year. Visit by HRH Duchess of Norfolk.

2005-08: The hospice celebrates its 20th anniversary with the Love Jeanette campaign in partnership with the Lancashire Evening Post and in memory of Leyland mum Jeanette Martin who was cared for by St Catherine's.

Patient rooms are improved and converted from multiple-occupancy to more spacious single and double rooms with en-suite facilities including space for relatives to stay overnight. A separate ambulance entrance is built. Visit by HRH the Countess of Wessex.

St Catherine's appoints a Consultant in Palliative Medicine as Medical Director to further enhance care provision. The Chair of the Board, Cliff Hughes, is awarded an MBE.

The lower lawn area is created by Preston North and local rotary clubs from a disused overgrown 'wilderness' that had once been a vegetable garden.

The Woodside Clinic is opened to extend Lymphoedema and other outpatient services. Utilities are updated including the heating system, generator, kitchen and laundry.

The Moonlight Walk is launched followed by the Santa Dash.

2009-10: St Catherine's Advice Line is launched.

St Catherine's new education service commences its work - this will go on to support care homes throughout Central Lancashire. Seven-day working is extended to the Community Clinical Nurse Specialist Team and further work is carried out to extend care for patients with life-shortening conditions in addition to cancer.

An electronic patient record system is introduced to enhance care through improved communication with multi-disciplinary teams.

It is discovered that Lostock Hall, built around 1750, is close to collapse, a new steel framework is built within the old building, Day Therapy rooms are redesigned and refurbished and, second floor offices become open plan.

Day Therapy begins a new pattern of working to enhance patient benefits. Reception and the gift shop are redesigned and refurbished into a brighter and more welcoming area along with a new safer driveway and a much needed additional car park. A refurbishment programme begins for the hospice's charity shops.

2011-13: Piped oxygen is introduced to help more patients with breathing difficulties, the chapel is refurbished and a new patient room with ensuite is opened. The Donation Centre moves on-site and new software to manage donations is introduced. An annual hospice Wills Week is introduced.

A new sensory garden is built and work on a wetland commences. The Symphony at the Tower is extended to two nights and the first St Catherine's Christmas Festival takes place. The Moonlight and Memories Walk is opened up to men and children and soon after moves to start and finish from the hospice grounds.

2013-15: St Catherine's befriending service is launched to support more patients and carers at home. The Woodside Clinic is extended to include a wet-room and two more therapy rooms.

The Mill café and community hub with meeting rooms, information and therapies is constructed and launched by broadcaster Ranvir Singh. A new charity boutique is opened in Penwortham.

Car parks are further extended to cope with demand and an essential new footbridge will be built by Preston North and South Rotary Clubs.

2015: St Catherine's celebrates its 30th anniversary.

A packed programme of celebratory events takes place during the month of June. The year-long 'Give a Gift' campaign with the Lancashire Evening Post encourages local people and businesses to support St Catherine's in a range of different ways from a list of 30 gifts. Two special 30th anniversary newspapers are sent to every household in Central Lancashire.

A Memorandum of Understanding is signed with the University of Central Lancashire, formalising the partnership between the two organisations.

2016: Catherine's Park is formally opened with a new footbridge and gateway, and an upgrade of the older footbridge.

A new shop opens in Longton.

2017: The in-patient unit is redecorated along with conference rooms.

The reception gift shop is extended to include a new self-service cafe.

The St Catherine's Superstore launches as a one-stop charity emporium, including the innovative Buy a Bag offer.

A sponsored firewalk is launched and takes place at Yellow Day.

2018: Virtual reality therapy is introduced to help distract patients from their illness, and improve pain and anxiety.

Plans are approved to extend The Mill cafe to include extra tables and function space, as well as a new on-site shop.

Hospice chairman Cliff Hughes stands down after 30 years; solicitor John Chesworth is appointed the new chairman while Cliff continues to serve as President after Dr Raymond Consiglio stands down.

A new 'rapid response' Clinical Nurse Specialist is appointed to the community team, along with two Hospice Support Assistants who visit patients at home.

2019: A new shop opens in Adlington.

A new Learning Zone providing new space for education and training of hospice staff and external colleagues is created.

A Memorandum of Understanding is signed with Runshaw College, formalising the partnership between the two organisations.

The contractor for The Mill project is appointed and building work begins.

The on-going development of St Catherine's Hospice over the past 30 years would not have been possible without the local community's generous support, as well as special grants and awards won from public bodies, businesses and charitable trusts. Thank you for your wonderful support.