

Bacup District Nursing Society

The Borough of Bacup District Nursing Society was formed in 1897 and comprised of a President, three Vice Presidents, Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary a House Superintendent and a General Committee.

In 1906 a great deal of fundraising was undertaken the funds raised being used to buy a house in Dale Street which would be used as a Nurses home and treatment centre the house was number 33 Dale Street.

Nurses had to report to the committee once a month at which time the register of patients and nurses reports were given to the committee. The services of the District Nurse were free but patients were encouraged to make a donation to the association if possible. Nurses were not allowed to attend cases of Scarlet Fever, Typhus or Smallpox except in the cases of an emergency and then only if this had been agreed by one of the local Doctors and provision had been made to look after the other patients in the nurses care.

Although Bacup had a good selection of St Johns Ambulance nurses many of the District Nurses came from other areas of the country. For instance, the British Journal of Nursing of February 29th 1908 shows a transfer to Bacup from Carlisle of a Miss Ada K Howlett, and in the May 1908 edition a transfer for Miss Margaret Gorst to Bacup, followed in November of same year by a transfer to Bacup of Miss Jennie Younger.

Other Nurses that worked in Bacup were 1915 Nurse Dixon, Nurse Awre, 1917 Nurse Grace M Clarke and Nurse Margaret J Dodds, Nurse Hamilton and Nurse Neary Nurse Morgan and Boham Nurse Heys and Riley Nurse Wrigley and Davies Nurse Cummings and Nurse John 1944 Nurse Wilson and Nurse Jacks.

One of Bacup's best-known nurse was Bridget Ann Kelly who trained at Queens Park Hospital in Blackburn and Rossendale General, where for two years she served as a Maternity sister bringing many babies into the world. During the war years she was in charge of the Bacup First Aid Post and was a nursing officer for St Johns Ambulance Brigade. Nurse Kelly retired in June 1955.

