

Hospitals & Clinics

In 1882 when Bacup received its charter of Incorporation the Bacup Hospital Charities Fund was set up. Collections were made throughout the community by events called Hospital Saturday and Hospital Sunday and from the working-class community by collections in the mills, factories and churches.

The money raised was then sent as a grant to various hospitals such as Rochdale Infirmary which had opened in 1883 and Birch Hill, Rochdale's former workhouse. Manchester Royal Infirmary, Southport Convalescent Home, The Devonshire Hospital in Buxton and Sourhall Isolation Hospital as well as donations being made to the Bacup Sick Nursing Association.



Sourhall Smallpox Hospital

Consequently, any patient needing treatment or care from Bacup or Stacksteads could then be sent to one of these hospitals and receive treatment or have the attention of one of the nurses from the Sick Nursing Association.

In 1915 it was found that many more children were being referred to Rochdale Infirmary following Medical Examinations carried out in schools which brought to light many cases of eye problems in the children.

It was therefore decided that Rochdale Infirmary should receive £5.00 extra from the fund. Another case in 1915 concerned a young girl suffering from *St Vitus Dance who needed to go into the convalescent home in Southport the home, however, was filled with wounded soldiers from the war. It was decided that extra nourishment be provided to the girl who's family was very poor by the Sick Nursing Society.

In 1944 the Town Council expressed a wish to buy the mill along with its various warehouses and outbuildings for their town improvement scheme. The scheme included plans to build a War memorial hospital and health centre on the site. The Second World War, however, had put restrictions on what money could be used for and it take almost thirty years before a Health Centre would be built in the area.

The building of the new Bacup Health Centre was underway by September 1972, at a cost of £67,000. Four GP's Dr Falconer, Dr Gray, Dr Talukdar and Dr Islam all had their consulting rooms there along with specialised clinics. The building of the health centre was beset with problems from a building strike, work on the river culvert and changes in design, all led to delays. But the centre finally opened on Monday 22nd April 1974.

Irwell Street had been the home prior to the building of the Yorkshire Street Health Centre, to the school clinic, which was opened and being used ten months before its official opening. Built by Caygill Bros & Sons at a cost of £10,000, the Irwell Street Clinic was officially opened by County Alderman J. Bradley on 10th November 1960. Built to replace the old school clinic on Rochdale Road, which had been looking after Bacup school children since the school health service had come into being in 1908, the clinic dealt with minor ailments, accidents, medical, and dental inspections as well as checks on sight and hearing.

