Watford Museum

Watford General Hospital administration block at Shrodell's Wing, Vicarage Road

This building was a Union Workhouse built following the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. It was renamed Shrodells in the 1930s.

It became a hospital for older people when the National Health Service was founded in 1948.

When Watford General Hospital was developed on this site, the building began to be used as offices.

Have you ever been to Watford General hospital?

Watford Museum Salters Almshouse

These almshouses were built by one of the City of London Livery Companies.

The Salters' Company were sometimes also known as the Drysalters.

They were built to be homes for pensioners in need. These pensioners had been living in the company's more cramped almshouses in the city.

Why do you think they were called drysalters?



Watford Museum Reeds School, Orphanage Road

The London Orphan Asylum moved in the 19th century from London to build in the cleaner air of Watford.

It was built for 5-600 orphans and 100 servants and opened in 1871.

When the children were evacuated from here in 1940, the building was taken over by the then Ministry of Works and used as a hospital. After the war it was used as offices and then sold for housing

Did you know no plaster was used on the building to save on maintenance?



Watford Museum King Street Maternity hospital

This building was a maternity hospital from 1919 until 1948. It was Established by the County Nursing Association as a Nurses Home and Training Centre for Midwives. It was jointly managed by the Nursing Association and Hertfordshire County Council.

How many babies do you think were born here between 1919 and 1948?



Watford Museum The Peace hospice

The Peace Memorial Hospital was opened by Princess Mary in 1925. It was built by public subscription as a memorial to those killed in the First World War. It was a 'voluntary' hospital, paid for by subscriptions and fund-raising. During the 1970s, services were transferred to the new Watford General Hospital, forcing its closure in 1985. In 1991 the South West Hertfordshire Hospital Charitable Trust and ran an appeal to fund a new hospice. After fundraising a day centre was able to be transferred to the building in 1996. Today the Peace hospice continues to develop, adapt, fundraise and look after those in need.

