

HISTORICAL FACTSHEET No 25

Arts Projects

a) *The Dance of Life Mural 1952-1956*

For details see Historical Factsheet No 26.

b) *Trees Maps and Words 1993-1994*

In response to a complaint from some local young people that the Orthopaedic Hospital was a dreary place to be ill, the Oswestry Arts Development Group devised a project involving different community groups in the creation of an artwork to enhance the hospital environment. Under the leadership of local artists Ann Stephens and Joanna Davis, well over 100 people were involved in the project. Many different organisations took part, including local primary schools, youth clubs and colleges, the Oswestry Psychiatric Day Centre, and patients and staff from the Orthopaedic Hospital itself. The outcome of the project was a series of six wall panels, each four feet square, on the theme of Shropshire trees in winter, based on photographs of trees found within a few miles of the hospital. These currently hang in the reception area of the Outpatients Department.

c) *Chrysalis Sculpture 2003-2005*

In 2003, the Trust applied for a £35,000 grant from the King's Fund charity as part of its 'Enhancing the Healing Environment' scheme, which aims to use art to bring beauty and pleasure to hospital staff, patients, and visitors. The bid was successful, and a team began working with staff, patients and the local community to develop a piece of art which would provide a focus point in the area outside the Central Admissions Unit. A commission was awarded to Inge Panneels, internationally-renowned glass sculptor, who created a striking sculpture involving glass and fibre-optic lighting, which stretches almost from floor to ceiling. The sculpture was unveiled on 21 July 2005.

d) *The Public Catalogue Foundation 2008-2009*

The Public Catalogue Foundation is a registered charity set up to photograph and record all oil, acrylic and tempera paintings in publicly owned collections in the United Kingdom. The aim of the Foundation is to improve public access to these paintings by producing a series of affordable colour catalogues for each county. The Trust agreed to participate in the project, and a total of 25 paintings hung in various locations around the hospital are reproduced in the catalogue, which was published in July 2009.

Sources

1. *Trees, maps and words: final report of a project to produce a series of wall panels for The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust, Shropshire. Oswestry Arts Development Group, 1994*
2. *Joint Issues No 4 Winter 2004/5, p 4*
3. *Shropshire Star. Shimmering artwork lighting up hospital. 22 Jul 2005*
4. *Public Catalogue Foundation. Oil paintings in public ownership in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. London: The Foundation, 2009*