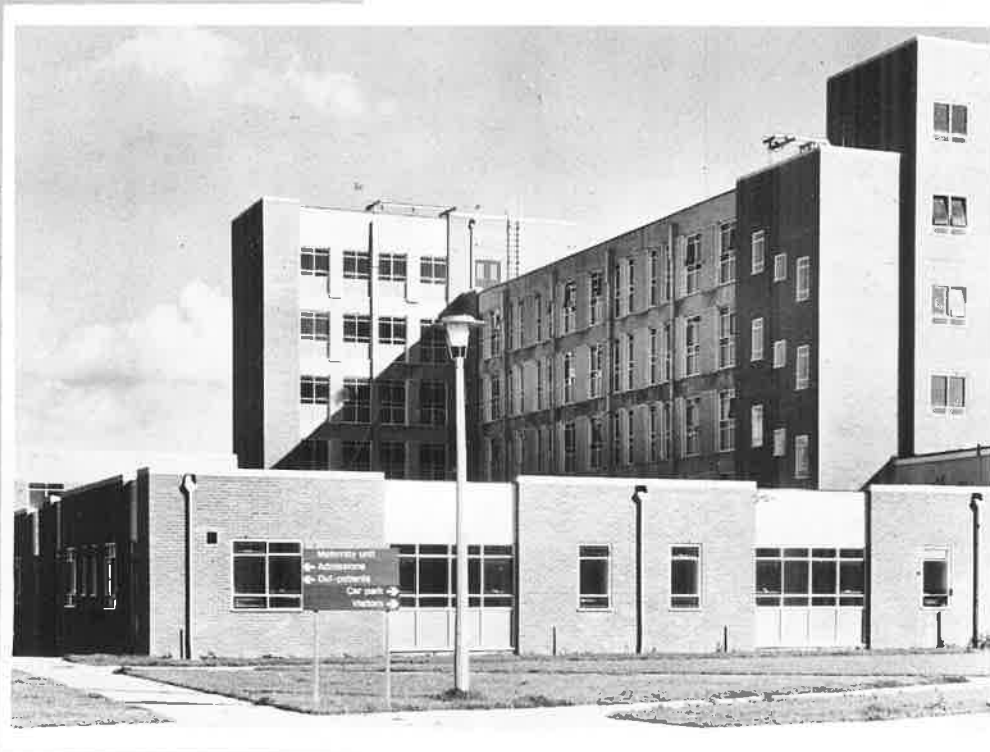


# BLACKPOOL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Official Opening of the Maternity Unit  
by The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Barbara Castle, M.P.  
*Secretary of State for Health and Social Services*

on Friday, March 14th, 1975



NORTH WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY



# ORDER OF CEREMONY

10.30 am Mr S. C. Hamburger, Chairman of the Regional Health Authority, will introduce and welcome Mrs. Barbara Castle.

10.35 am Mr. W. Bennett, Chairman of the Area Health Authority, will speak.

10.40 am Mrs Castle will speak.

10.50 am Dr F. H. Yates, Chairman of the District Medical Committee, will speak and propose a vote of thanks to Mrs Castle, following which Mr Hamburger will invite a representative of Lumb and Walton, the Nominated Architects, to present Mrs Castle with a souvenir of the occasion.

11.00 am The Platform Party, the Guests following, will proceed to the Reception Hall of the Maternity Unit where Mrs Castle will unveil a plaque and declare the new building open and the Chaplain to the Hospital will offer a dedicatory prayer.

The Platform Party, the guests following, will proceed to an inspection of the new development.

12.30 pm Following the inspection, the assembly will return to the Social Centre where a buffet luncheon will be served.

1.30 pm Mrs Castle will depart.



*Barbara Castle, M.P., Secretary of State for Health and Social Services.*

# THE NEW UNIT

A major landmark in the history of Blackpool Victoria Hospital has been reached with the opening of the new Maternity Unit.

It marks the end of a long, hard struggle for a purpose-built maternity hospital in the town.

For years, planners have dreamed of a unit where babies could be born in modern surroundings with all the aids of today's science. Now that dream has been realised.

The five-storey unit, which cost £816,000 to build and a further £112,000 to furnish, accommodates 120 patients and on the first floor a special-care baby unit.

The ground floor includes an admission unit, a delivery suite of 10 first-stage labour rooms and 10 delivery rooms, operating theatre suite, out-patient clinics, mothercraft room, and a playroom where mothers can leave young children while they attend relaxation classes. Also on the ground floor is a modern midwifery teaching unit.

On the first floor is the ante-natal ward, made up of five four-bedded wards and 10 single rooms. There is also the special-care baby unit with 24 cots.

The second, third and fourth floors are identical, each providing five four-bedded wards and 10 single rooms for post-natal care.

For the first two or three nights after delivery, babies will be tucked up on their own in the ward nursery so that mothers can get some sleep. But after that, babies will spend day and night with their mothers.

There are pleasant day rooms where mothers can read or watch television and if they fancy a walk there is an attractive patio.

Fathers-to-be have not been forgotten either. In the waiting room there is even a convertible couch where they can spend the night if they wish.



*Feeding time ... and two new-born babies get their first bottles.*



*Instruction on baby care.*



*Where Mum will be.*



*The patio where mothers can relax.*



*The most modern aids available.*

# FAREWELL TO THE OLD...

The opening of the Maternity Unit has meant the end of a long and distinguished life for Glenroyd Maternity Hospital, in Whitegate Drive, Blackpool.

More than 40,000 babies were born there during a span of 35 years.

Tree-lined Glenroyd was once a convalescent home for cotton workers, and was first used for maternity cases in 1939 when Blackpool received expectant mothers from the industrial danger zones.

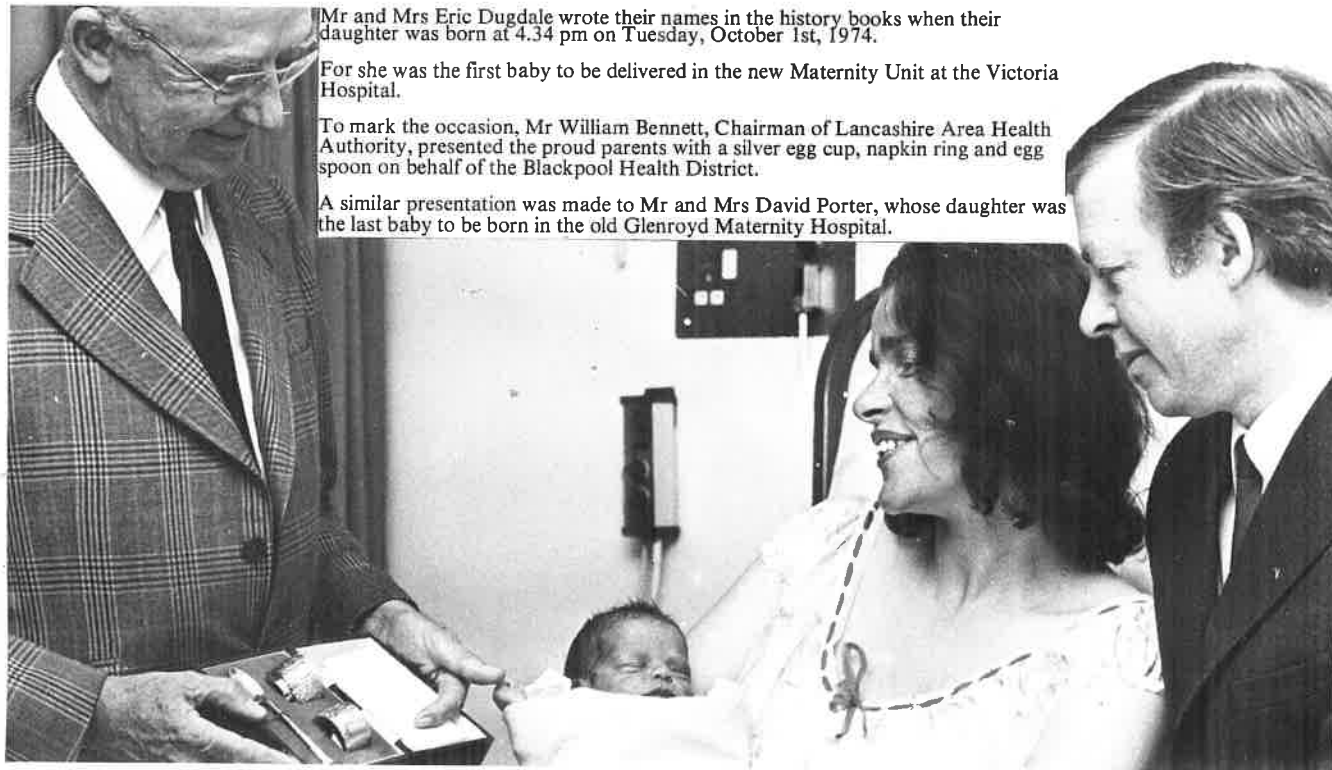
After the war, Blackpool Corporation continued to use Glenroyd for maternity cases.

On the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948, responsibility for the hospital passed to the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

Many of the mothers who had babies at Glenroyd had themselves been born there. In 1940, 741 babies were brought into the world at Glenroyd; in recent years the figure rose to just under 2,000.



*Glenroyd ... it saw 40,000 births.*



Mr and Mrs Eric Dugdale wrote their names in the history books when their daughter was born at 4.34 pm on Tuesday, October 1st, 1974.

For she was the first baby to be delivered in the new Maternity Unit at the Victoria Hospital.

To mark the occasion, Mr William Bennett, Chairman of Lancashire Area Health Authority, presented the proud parents with a silver egg cup, napkin ring and egg spoon on behalf of the Blackpool Health District.

A similar presentation was made to Mr and Mrs David Porter, whose daughter was the last baby to be born in the old Glenroyd Maternity Hospital.

**Nominated Architects**

Lumb and Walton  
Blackpool

**Consulting Engineers**

R W Gregory & Partners  
Manchester

**General Contractors**

F Parkinson Ltd  
Blackpool

**Quantity Surveyors**

Holden & Lee  
Blackpool

**Structural Engineers**

Bertram Done & Partners  
Manchester

**Clerks of Works**

Mr A Mills  
Mr R Gratrix

# HOSPITAL HISTORY

THE Victoria Hospital has come a long way since it was commissioned in 1936 and opened by the Duke of Kent on October 21st, 1937.

There were just 69 patients at the beginning, transferred from the old hospital in Whitegate Drive. But soon the numbers started to swell, and when war broke out seven hutments were built, each accommodating 36 patients.

Thousands of sick and wounded servicemen and women were treated there, as well as prisoners of war, sick evacuees and transferred war workers.

When peace came, many new specialised departments were added and the volume of work at the hospital soared.

Over the last two decades, the hospital has gone from strength to strength. Major developments followed each other, culminating in the opening of the new Maternity Unit.

The statistics below show the increases in the work since the first full year that the old hospital in Whitegate Drive was occupied in 1895.

	1895	1915	1936	1948	1974
In-patients	69	1,334	2,518	6,703	20,389
Average no. of beds available	8	90	134	315	598
Average no. of beds occupied	5	76	106	281	536
Outpatient attendances	34	1,734	28,420	37,250	126,229



*Constant check on a mother-to-be.*