

Interview summary: Hazel Reed, clinic nurse at Manor Gardens, 1975-1988.
Interviewer/Transcriber: Andrea Artz
Interviewee: Hazel Reed
Interview date: 26 March 2013

Interview code: MG201301A
Recording length: 01:04:04

[00:00:00 - 00:06:30] (Tags: introduction; relationship with centre; clinic work)

Hazel Reed is 77 years old and was born in Holborn in 1936. She discusses how she first became involved with the centre after responding to an advert in the *Islington Gazette* for work as a clinic nurse at Manor Gardens (MG).

Hazel worked in the clinic area, where she had various roles. She welcomed parents with newborn babies and weighed them. She worked in the vision clinic with an optician and ophthalmologist, and sadly recalls when the clinic ended. Hazel also assisted with family planning, an evening clinic for those parents who worked. She also helped to treat schoolchildren's minor ailments, which she enjoyed.

Hazel worked full time as a clinic nurse (8 hours a day). She also conducted school visits, and recalls visiting Grafton School to help the nurses there with head lice:

I used to go there to look at heads and find unwanted visitors which were head lice. They don't do that now which is really quite sad...not everyone's favourite job, but funny enough it was mine because it was contact with children because I love children, quite sincerely, all children all ages, even teenagers.

[00:06:02 - 00:15:20] (Tags: relationship with the centre; centre users)

Hazel got involved with the centre due to her love of children. She had a long background in nursing. She worked at MG for 8 years, from 1975 until her retirement in 1988.

Hazel suggests that her work wasn't always as challenging as she wished it to be. She also felt that whilst she was moving with the times, the nurses had an old-fashioned way about them.

Hazel mentions that she used Women's Therapy herself, but suggests that some of the nurses had negative opinions about it.

Hazel discusses the children who came to the centre, and feels that some could be difficult. She also recalls members of the Indian community visiting on Fridays with a translator.

[00:15:30 - 00:22:01] (Tags: clinics; staff relationships)

Hazel felt that the clinic area at MG was not big enough and believes that there was some friction between the many clinics using the space:

There was a bit of division between the three, top, middle and bottom part of Manor Gardens, quite a division. We used to joke about it...upstairs, downstairs...silliness really.

Hazel mentions other clinics and groups - Women's Therapy, family planning, and gay groups.

She remembers there being 2-4 female volunteers [in the clinics], who remained there for a long time. Hazel states that she only made one friend amongst her colleagues - Angela, the other clinic nurse.

[00:22:30 - 00:31:41] (Tags: clinic staff; ethnicity)

Hazel describes various staff members. She mentions her interest in photography.

[Looking at a 1973 photograph of mothers] Hazel feels that racial issues in wider society were not a problem at MG. She discusses black mothers and black health visitors.

[00:31:41 - 00:41:09] (Tags: light therapy; staff; job details; centre work; service users)

Hazel speaks about light therapy at MG, but says that this had ended by the time she joined the centre.

She also mentions Ann Jennings, who ran the nursery and started around the same time as Hazel.

Hazel helped with hearing tests for babies up to the age of five, and the verruca clinic. She recalls the Stroke Club and health visitors for older people. Hazel also mentions service users, including parents from a local homeless family unit.

[00:41:09 - 00:46:13] (Tags: staff and user relationships)

Hazel talks about the friendship she developed with one of the centre's mothers, and how they remain friends to this day.

[00:46:13 - 00:51:20] (Tags: events; leaving work; Women's Therapy)

Hazel discusses MG get-togethers, which happened occasionally, and her leaving party. She mentions that her employment ended when she was only 58 and suggests that she was not ready to leave at that time. suggesting she wanted to stay longer].

Hazel does not recall any Christmas parties.

Hazel also speaks about Women's Therapy and some of the issues they addresses, such as bereavement and domestic abuse.

[00:51:20 - 00:59:54] (Tags: Women's Therapy; leaving work; centre's reputation; diversity)

Hazel talks a little more about Women's Therapy, which she felt was somewhat misunderstood, but whose work she felt was important. She mentions using this service herself.

She shares her feelings of unhappiness at leaving MG and concerns that she wouldn't find further work, which proved unfounded. Hazel went on to work in a local school, where she saw many of the children she had seen grow up at MG.

When I went there I met the children I worked with at Manor Gardens, so I can say categorically, that I've watched half of Islington grow up...2 weeks old, up to have their own babies, that's how old I am...I'm 77 and going back to the school, I loved every minute of it.

Hazel feels that she was able to apply her skills and mind more to her work at the school that she was able to at MG.

Hazel remembers MG being very popular, however she says that some mothers stopped attending when various clinics ended.

She shares her thoughts on what she gained from working at MG - she was able to meet and learn about people from different backgrounds, including homeless families.

[01:00:00 - 01:04:04] (Tags: present relationship with centre; opinion of centre)

Hazel speaks more about working a school after her job at MG.

Hazel says she is no longer involved with MG, but is curious about what is happened there. She thinks the centre is still a good place, which continues to do fantastic work.

END OF RECORDING 1

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[Hazel repeats a story shared in Recording MG201301A about a mother who she became friends with.]

END OF RECORDING 2

(Edited by TZ May 2016)