



Hunstanton Society

Hunstanton Isolation Hospital

An article prepared from the research material of Tony Armstrong

On Redgate Hill there is a pair of residences that were converted from the building that was once the Isolation Hospital. It is now surrounded by housing, but in its time, it was isolated from the rest of Hunstanton. This was still the case in 1956, well after it closed:



It all started in 1893 when the Medical Officer for the Docking Sanitation Union, Dr Whitty, reported to the Local Board that it would be prudent to protect the community from the possibility of the spread of Infectious Diseases. He suggested that provision should be made to have an 'Isolation Hospital' built.

The very mention of isolation' or fever' meant that nobody wanted it near them, so Mr Hamon le Strange who owned much of the land in the area, suggested a site near Redgate Hill. He was to give the land, and the Council would do the construction.

The 4-bed facility, built in red brick, was completed in May 1896 - at the cost of £275.10s. In the event of an Epidemic occurring and only having 4 beds available, any spare and unused Bathing Machines would be commandeered and used. Within 2 months a case of Scarlet Fever was admitted.

The hospital was in use as such until the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914. At that time, it was a prime candidate for treating injured soldiers, so work was put in to converting the premises. However, there is no evidence that it was ever used for this purpose, the two convalescent homes in Hunstanton being preferred (on average catering for 80 soldiers at a time).

So after the war, the hospital went back to its original use under Hunstanton Urban District control. Local information tells us that anybody being admitted was brought by a black coach pulled by black horses. The hospital became obsolete with the opening of the new General Hospital in Kings Lynn.



This 1945 photograph shows the building in use as a residence (note the war-time taped kitchen windows)

This 1971 photograph shows the building divided into two homes. These were rented out by the Urban District Council until 1956, when under the terms of the original land transfer, the le Strange estate was offered the land back under the terms of the original land transfer. Mr Bernard le Strange declined. The two accommodations were then sold off as well as the surrounding land, and four more bungalows built.

