

Adrienne Alton



Adrienne explains: "The photos were taken at the original Royal Surrey County Hospital in the 1950s. Now it is the Farnham Road Hospital and it dates back to 1866 when it was funded by public subscription (can you believe that?!) and the land was loaned by the then Lord Onslow.



"I trained at the old hospital in Guildford from 1962 - 1965 and when we completed our training, we were all invited to join the former nurses league which ran until 1980 when it was disbanded. The money that was left in the league's funds paid for a stained glass window to be put in Guildford cathedral - it is modelled on our Royal Surrey County Hospital badge (the window is on the left hand side of the main aisle and is a Red Cross!). One of the old sisters gave me a tin of old photos and these pictures were in there.



"My son was actually the first patient in the new Royal Surrey. He was 10 years old and had appendicitis on New Year's Day. He was operated on in the old hospital and transferred to the new one where he was the first patient in. I transferred as a ward sister to St Luke's into the refurbished surgical wards, till my ward was closed in 1988. From there I then worked in the new Royal Surrey County Hospital in Occupational Health and then as the Manual Handling advisor before I left following the death of my husband in 1998. I left the NHS in 1999 and then worked as a school matron for many years. I retired four years ago at the age of 74."

