Healing Through Kindness:

Commemorating the centenary of the Royal Masonic Hospital

Susan Snell, Archivist, Library and Museum of Freemasonry

Conceived as a nursing home for freemasons before World War I, in its time the Royal Masonic Hospital was the largest private medical facility in England. The Hospital treated thousands of servicemen during both world wars and its surgeons developed techniques that influenced NHS treatments. Located at Ravenscourt Park from 1931, the Hospital’s striking architecture won awards and its nurse training was highly-regarded. This presentation will reveal the Hospital’s fascinating history using images from archives, photographs and films.

Susan qualified as an archivist in the 1980s and has cared for archive resources in local authorities, private business and national museums. She joined the Library and Museum of Freemasonry eleven years ago and is a keen enthusiast in promoting access to its resources. She gained her MA in Eighteenth Century Studies at King’s College three years ago and curated an exhibition to commemorate the bi-centenary of anti-slavery legislation. She is delighted to give this presentation as it coincides with the completion of a project to catalogue the archives of the Royal Masonic Hospital and an associated exhibition, free to view at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry until April 2017.