

The Legacy of Sherwood Medical



1966-2009



**Ballymoney
Museum**

This booklet has been created as a lasting legacy of the Sherwood Medical Industries exhibition, ensuring that the story of the Ballymoney factory and the people who made it such a vital part of the community, is not forgotten.

From its opening in 1966 to its closure in 2009, Sherwood Medical played a significant role not only in local employment and industrial development but also in global healthcare. Its impact reached far beyond Northern Ireland, through innovation, humanitarian aid, and the enduring spirit of its employees.

Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Services would like to extend sincere thanks to all those who generously contributed photographs, memorabilia, personal stories, and memories to the exhibition and this publication. Your support has made it possible to preserve and share this important chapter of our shared heritage.

Information presented here has been drawn from local newspaper archives and historical records, with special thanks to Albert Sherrard, former Factory Manager, for his invaluable insights and assistance.

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Front cover Image: Sherwood Medical Industries Ltd factory, Ballymoney 1972. Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archives.

Back Cover Images: A selection of images featuring Sherwood staff members. Courtesy of various members of the public who contributed their images to 'The legacy of Sherwood Medical.'

Research by Linda Logan.



STERILE-DISPOSABLE

SYRINGES
AND NEEDLES

SETTING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS
OF PRODUCT SAFETY, EFFECTIVENESS,
AND EFFICIENCY

Background image: Monoject product catalogue. Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

Sherwood Medical Industries Ltd made disposable plastic medical equipment, such as hypodermic syringes, medical tubing and catheters, in their Ballymoney factory from 1966 –2009.



Tyco/Healthcare Kendall Medicut intravenous Cannula. Courtesy of Vincent Rodgers.

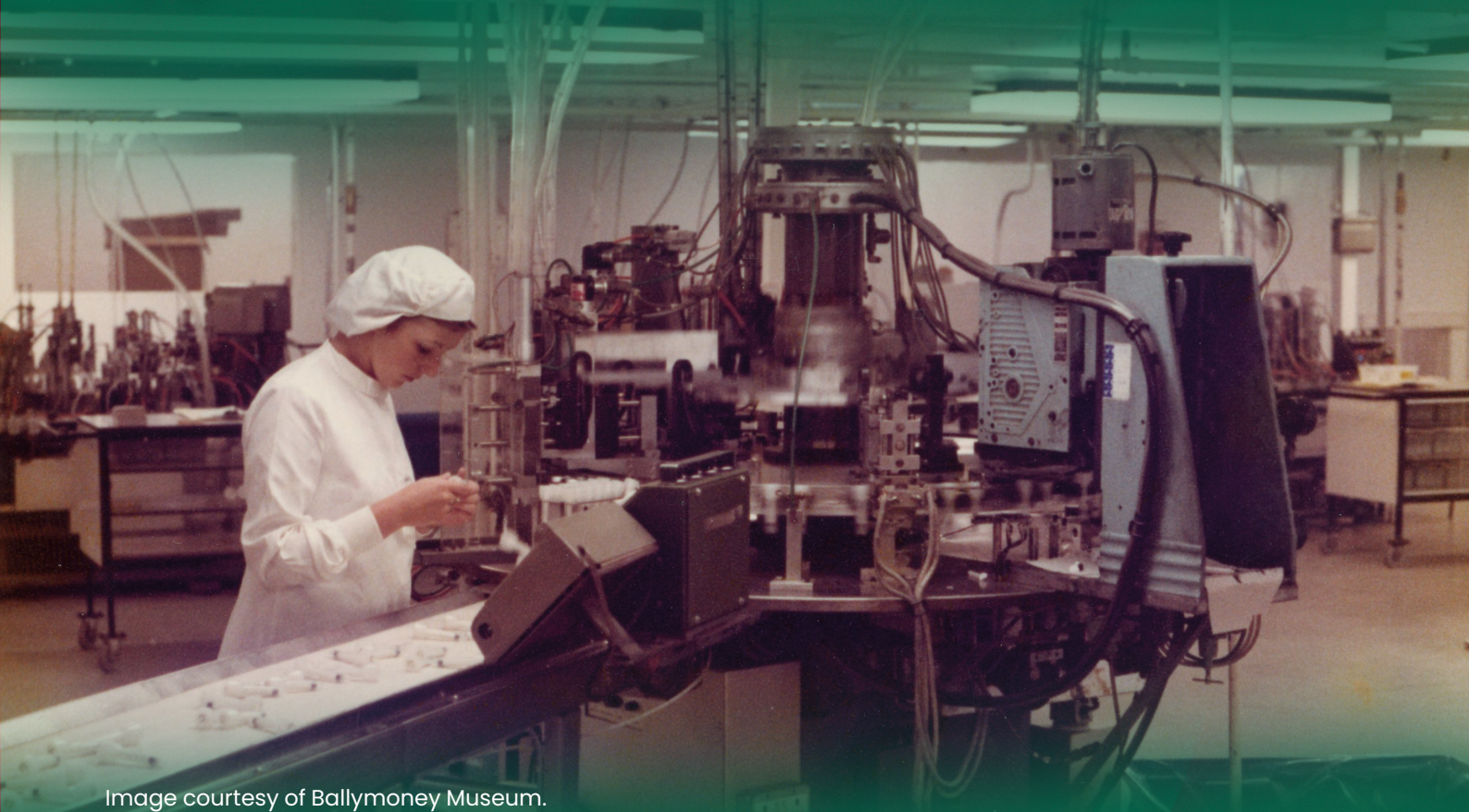


Image courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

Sherwood Facilities

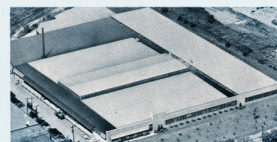
Here, together with the Sherwood headquarters buildings in the United States and England, are our manufacturing and research facilities. In these locations the technical skills and talents of nearly 4,200 highly trained and dedicated people are combined with the latest and most advanced manufacturing equipment and technology to bring quality products to the dental, medical, scientific and veterinary fields.



Sherwood Administrative Headquarters
St. Louis, Missouri



Argyle, New York



Brentwood, Missouri



Bridgeton, Missouri



West Port R & D Center,
St. Louis County, Missouri



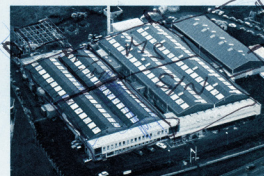
Waterbury, Connecticut



DeLand, Florida



St. Joseph, Missouri



Ballymoney, Northern Ireland,
Sherwood Medical Industries, Ltd.



Headquarters of Sherwood Medical Industries Ltd.
Crawley, Sussex, England



Chicago, Illinois



Norfolk, Nebraska

MONOJECT

DIVISION OF SHERWOOD MEDICAL

A BRUNSWICK COMPANY

Taken from employees handbook.
Courtesy of Anne Gribben.

Sherwood Medical Industries based in St Louis, USA selected their first European factory to be built in Ballymoney. When the factory opened in October 1966 it was known as Brunswick Corporation, then renamed Argyle Medical Industries after one of the Sherwood Medical divisions.

 **Sherwood MEDICAL INDUSTRIES INC.**
1837 OLIVE STREET, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103

Printed in U.S.A. 53A1(R)-212

1960S

In 1969 employment doubled to 256 after a 30,000 sq ft extension was added to the original 20,000 sq.ft factory to supply needles, syringes and spinal needles to the USA. As a result of a 40% increase in exports in their first two years, Sherwood Medical were awarded the International Export Association's Gold Award in December 1969.

In those days Norman Kelly was the first Plant Manager followed by Tom Parr and then Noel Wilson.



Lord Grey's visit at Sherwood Medical Factory Ballymoney in 1971. Left to right Tom parr, Noel Wilson, Bob Beasant, Norman Ashcroft. Back row, Tom Henderson, Brian Mehaffey, Albert Sherrard.
Image courtesy of *Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution* Archive.

1970s



Despite wages strikes during the 1970s, Governor of NI, Lord Grey of Naunton presented Managing Director William Bennett with the Queen's Award to Industry in June 1972. 400 people were now employed, manufacturing a range of Monoject single use sterile needles, disposable syringes, silicone tubing and disposable gloves with products being exported all over Europe and further afield.

Lord Grey talking to staff member Sam O'Hara in the tool room at Sherwood Medical Factory Ballymoney in 1971. Image courtesy of *Coleraine Chronicle* & *Constitution Archive*.

"Our success is the result of the outstanding quality of our products and the outstanding enthusiasm and teamwork of our employees."

— William Bennett, Managing Director (*Coleraine Chronicle*, 3 June 1972)



Henry Warke - Ian McConaghie - David Baird - William Gault - Vincent Rodgers - John Kinnard - William Gault (Wag) - Philip Stewart - Michael Wilson - Jack McCurdy - Robbie Paul - Marshall Carson - Charlie McKeegan - James Ross - James Wallace. Image Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

In 1974 Ed Whitney, from the Sherwood Medical facility in Deland Florida was appointed Plant Manager until September 1976 when Albert Sherrard was appointed Factory Manager and later promoted to Director in 1999. After Tyco International acquired the Sherwood David and Geck Division Albert was promoted to Director of Manufacturing for five factories in Europe. He was replaced as Plant Manager by Robin Eakin, who had been at the factory since it started. In 1998 Albert moved to Basingstoke, the Tyco Healthcare Headquarters in Europe, where he was promoted to Vice- President of Manufacturing for Europe with responsibility for 18 manufacturing locations outside the US.

Albert Sherrard, Plant Manger and Robin Eakin, Production Manager pictured on the 25th Anniversary of Sherwood Medical, Ballymoney Factory.



In April 1981 Secretary of State Humphrey Atkins toured the factory and President of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Oscar Rath visited in 1987.

By 1983, eight separate extensions had been added to the Ballymoney site.

1980S



Secretary of State Humphrey Atkins during a visit in 1979.



- 1. Office & Accounts
- 2. Production Area
- 3. Sterilisation Area
- 4. Bond store & Labatory
- 5. Offices & Canteen

- 6. Production Area
- 7. Mould Shop & Toolroom
- 8. Production Control, Drawing Office Top Floor, Lockers, Toilets Ground Floor
- 9. Production Area

- 10. Incoming Stores
- 11. High Bay Stores
- 12. Boiler House

- 13. Finished Goods Warehouse
- 14. Electron Beam Sterilisation Facility

1990s

During a visit in 1992, Secretary of State Peter Brooke announced an £11.7 million investment in new technology and product lines—creating 40 new jobs.



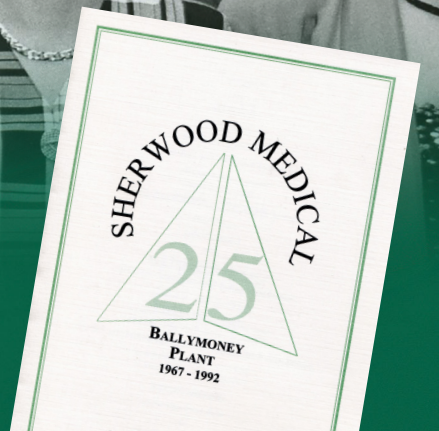
Helen Paul, Helen Reid, Mary Beckett, Elizabeth Patton, Secretary of state Peter Brooke, Doreen McWilliams. Image courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Ballymoney Plant celebrated its 25th Anniversary in April 1992. A company celebratory dinner for all employees and their spouses was held at the Magherabuoy Hotel Portrush. A cake to celebrate the occasion was cut by Kathleen McAuley and Robin Eakin, the longest serving female and male employees and an engraved crystal glass celebrating the occasion was presented to each employee.

Staff members at Sherwood Medical Factory's 25th anniversary dinner in 1992. Pictured right: Kathleen McAuley, May Wakes, Margaret Christie, A Cuhnahan. Standing, S morrison, L Cardinale, E Muldoon, G Thomas, R Eakin and A Sherrard. Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



Staff members at Sherwood Medical Factory's 25th anniversary dinner in 1992. Back row: Michael Mullaghan, Adrian Barkley, Don Mullaghan, Davy Fenton. Front row: Donna Mullaghan, Louise Havlin, Donna Mullaghan, Ingrid Murphy, Wendy Connor. Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

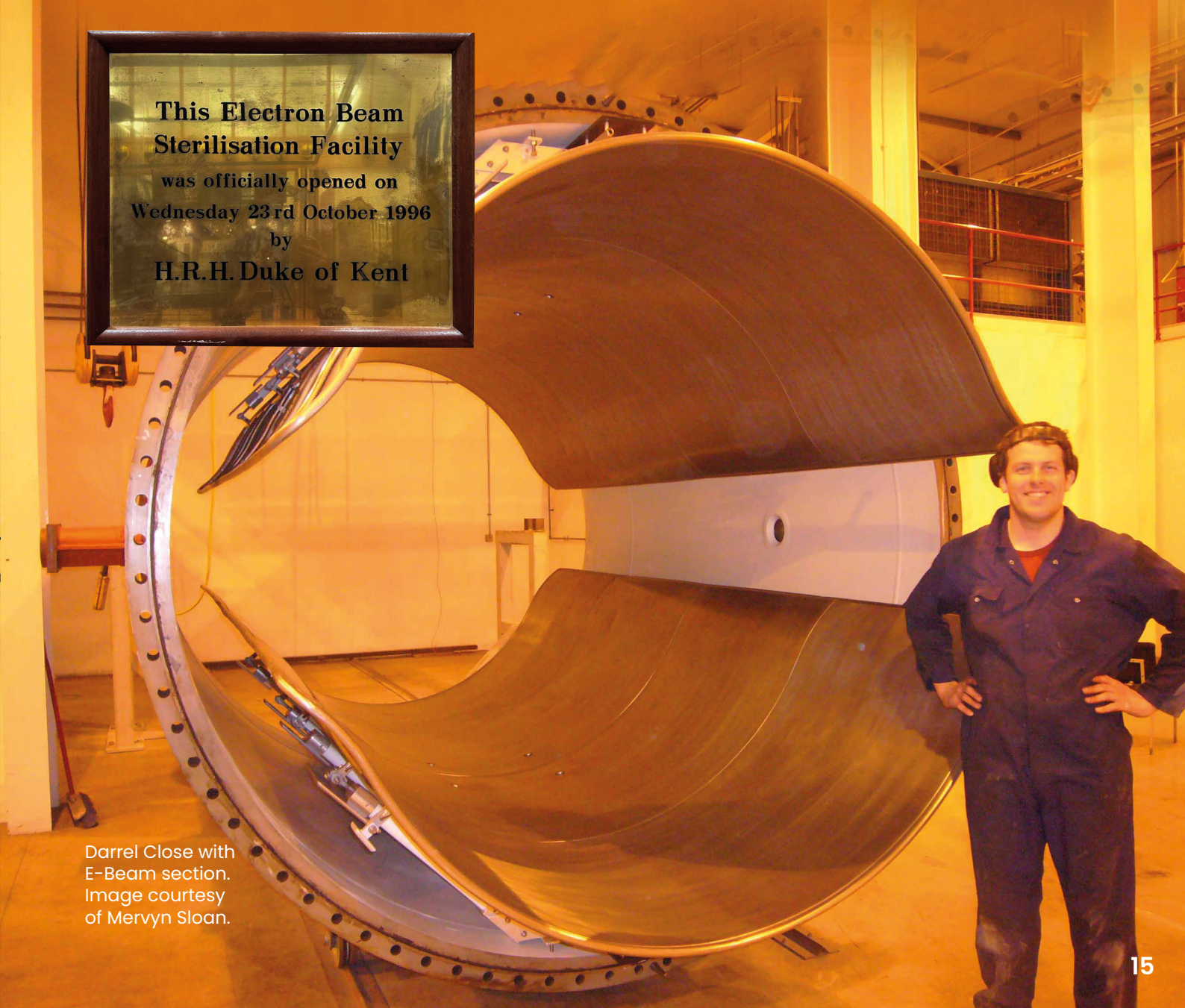


In October 1996, the Duke of Kent officially opened the new £4.5 million electron beam sterilisation facility, the first of its kind on the island of Ireland and only one of seven in Europe. That November, the International Development Board awarded a £17.5 million grant enabling Sherwood Davis & Geck to upgrade operations and begin producing high precision thermometers—supporting 73 new jobs.

Sherwood was acquired by Tyco’s Kendal Healthcare division in 1997 and ranked in Belfast Telegraph’s 1998 Northern Ireland Top 100 Companies.



The E-Beam uses an electron accelerator to generate a beam of high energy electrons to sterilise the product. The E-beam facility was also made available to other medical manufacturers in Ireland to enable them to sterilise their products.



2000s

In 2002, Tyco became UNICEF suppliers, delivering 60 million single use syringes worldwide to prevent disease transmission in developing countries.

Following a reduction in orders, 30 staff were made redundant in March 2006. By August 2007, redundancy notices affected all remaining 260 staff. The Ballymoney factory finally closed in February 2009, when new owner Covidien consolidated operations in the USA.



Toolroom Maintenance staff. Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

Claire McClelland - Production Operator, **Wendy Robinson** - Production Operator, **Agnes Connor** - Foreperson, **Michelle Hanna** - Production Operator and **Siobhan Dixon** - Production Operator at Sherwood Medical Factory. Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



We supply the world. | Sherwood exported medical supplies across Europe, Africa and the Far East and were there in times of need.



The employees of Sherwood Medical ran a successful Sports and Social Club within the factory and donated to various charities over the years. They entered sports competitions, Portrush raft race and The Mayor's Show, Ballymoney float parade. They also organised the Christmas Dinner Dance held in Portrush, as well as the annual Christmas party for employee's children in the factory canteen.



The 'Medical Express' and her winning Sherwood crew at Portrush Raft race 25th May 1985. The winning crew members included, Robin Eakin (Captain) Manager of moulding, Liam Carson Chargehand fitter, Robert Wright Laboratory Assistant, Mervyn Sloan Quantity Control Technician, Ronnie McDowell Quality Control Clerk and Dean Barr Apprentice Fitter. Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

Sherwood staff members taking part in the Ballymoney Mayor's Show float parade. Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.





Sylvia McAuley courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive, 1973.



Marlene Wright, courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive, 1974.



Sylvia McKay, courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive, 1975.

Miss Sherwood Beauty Contests

Social activities included the popular Miss Sherwood beauty contest, held every year during the week of September and judged by local celebrities.

Selection of winners:

- 1971 – Josephine Coyles (age 19)
- 1973 – Sylvia McAuley
- 1974 – Marlene Wright (Quality Control Supervisor, age 23)
- 1975 – Sylvia McKay (age 21)



Iris Cushahan, courtesy of Ballymoney Museum, 1976.



Jennifer Thompson, courtesy of Corey Simpson, 1980's.



Courtesy of Violet Graham.



Sherwood Factory football team. Image courtesy of Albert Sherrard.



Sherwood Men's football team. Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



Women's Football team. Back row: Angela McErlain, Claire Ferris, Lisa Smith, Donna Mullaghan, Mandy steel and Barbara Mcconaghie. Front row: Rhonda Mooney, Louise Smyth, Lorna Robinson, Helena McCook, Tracy Bartlett and Tracy Kyle. Image courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

Sherwood's men's football team competed in the Coleraine & District Morning Division Two. In the 1984–85 season, they defeated the newly formed Coleraine Rangers 2–0 in a friendly match. The team was proudly sponsored by McAuley Kitchens of Ballymoney and fundraised for Sandelford School.

In 1996, the Sherwood Davis & Geck women's football team won nine of the matches they played, inspiring proposals for Ireland's first female works football league.

We hope this booklet serves not only as a reflection on Sherwood's past but as a tribute to the community who built its legacy.

“32 Happy years spent there. Many challenges but it was an adventure! Miss lots of my friends- good to see so many.”

“30 many happy years spent. Good to see so many faces, some long gone.”

“Spent 15 years there- 1993-2009. Lovely to see these photos. Still have some great friends from there.”

“My father Jim McAtamney from Kilrea worked in the stores at Sherwood Medical from 1976 until 1993.”

“1985 to 1994. Many good memories with good friends.”

“So nice to see my picture 46 years later.”

“Spent 44 years in Toolroom. Lot's of happy memories. Sad to see the firm demise. Greatly missed.”

“Lovely to see the faces from Sherwoods. Happy Memories!”

“27 years from shop floor to management, took me all over the world.”

“Loved every minute, sad to see it gone.”

“Many good memories and great friends made.”

Quotes taken from visitors to The Legacy of Sherwood Medical Exhibition, 2025.

