

Savernake Cottage Hospital's very own Who's Who

Name: Charles Edwin Ponting FSA, 1849-1932 Honorary Architect to Savernake Hospital 1891-1924

Charles Ponting worked tirelessly during a distinguished career that lasted over 50 years. Yet he still managed to find time to serve as Honorary Architect to Savernake Hospital. He became a Life Governor of the Hospital in 1890 and was appointed Honorary Architect in 1891. Each year, the Life Governors, together with subscribers of over £1.1.0, appointed the Committee. This power of appointment therefore meant that Ponting was also indirectly involved in the management of the Hospital.

For many years Ponting also served as a House Visitor for a month. The duties of a Visitor were more onerous than the title might suggest. They were expected to visit the Hospital at least once a week, inspect the wards, ensure each patient was comfortable, discuss matters with Matron, note any repairs required and, lastly, inspect the Weekly Report Book.

Although Ponting had moved to Parkstone at Poole in 1919, he continued to act as Honorary Architect. He finally resigned in 1924. He had served the Hospital for 33 years. In their 1924 Annual Report, the Committee paid tribute to Charles Ponting and described his long-standing connection with the Hospital as a 'wonderful record of useful service faithfully and ungrudgingly given'.



Major Works Undertaken for the Hospital

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| 1891 | Repair of decayed timbers in the ornamental front of the central gable. The opportunity was taken to cover the original front with hanging tiles. |
| 1893 | New buildings including an Operating Room with ward attached and two bedrooms. Financed by a bequest of £2,500 in 1892 from The Lady Mary Caroline, Marchioness of Ailesbury. |
| 1906 | New drainage system |
| 1907 | Installation of electric lighting. Financed by the Lighting Fund, which was started by Mrs Oliver Maurice and brought to fruition by a specially formed committee of ladies in Marlborough. |
| 1921 | New building scheme including nurses' bedrooms, maids' sitting room, pantry and storeroom. |
| 1924 | Designed the new Mortuary Chapel. Ponting was then aged 75. The Chapel was completed in 1925. |

Researched and written by Tony Nicholson, Wrington, March 2009

Nb Charles Ponting was also the Architect of the Town Hall in Marlborough which opened in 1902