

Savernake Cottage Hospital's very own Who's Who

Name: Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811 – 1878) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Gilbert_Scott

For anyone who has come into contact with Savernake Hospital, the name “Gilbert Scott” will be familiar, for the original building this eminent architect designed, continues to be known as the “Gilbert Scott Building”. Until recently, it was thought to be listed and was indeed treated as a Grade II listed building during the re-build of the hospital in 2005. During research carried out for the 2007 Judicial Review, it was discovered by Val Compton and Joan Davies (Chair Savernake Parish Council) that an error occurred during the process of listing by Kennet District Council, the listing did not exist and despite best efforts, the Grade II listing was refused.



Savernake Hospital, c. 1872

Sir George Gilbert Scott, was born in Buckinghamshire and trained as an Architect, working as an employee at first, then setting up his own practice. He was associated with, or actually designed over 1000 buildings, including the Albert Memorial, St Pancras Station and Hotel, the General Infirmary in Leeds, the Episcopal Cathedral Edinburgh, and the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford to mention but a few. Achieving the dizzy heights of Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy (1866-1873) he was also knighted in 1872.

Sir George's father, the Reverend Thomas Scott was unsurprisingly, an amateur architect, so one could assume the “design gene” was established. George Gilbert Scott Jnr also inherited the gene, as did the second son John Oldrid Scott, who has signed the letters concerning the building costs of Savernake Hospital in 1871. (A copy of the letter can be found in our history files.) It was John Scott who took over his father's practice so presumably could have been very involved or perhaps even worked on aspects of the designs of the hospital.



The Telephone Box

George Gilbert Scott Jnr also passed on the architectural gene to his son Giles Gilbert Scott – another member of the family who would later be knighted. Giles (who like his father used Gilbert as a surname) was responsible for Liverpool Cathedral, Battersea Power Station and Waterloo Bridge – along with that prize winning design in 1924 for the Red Telephone Kiosk. There's no end to the family talents and indeed Sir Giles's son Richard Gilbert Scott also became well known circa 1930-50.

Great Scotts - Five Generations of Scotts and Who did What – in order of generation

1 Thomas Scott – Biblical Commentator (no details researched) His son was;

2 Reverend Thomas Scott (also amateur architect) 1780 – 1834. His son was;

3 Sir George Gilbert Scott PRIBA 1811 – 1878

Knighthood in 1872 and notably, buried in Westminster Abbey

Leading architect of Gothic Revival and Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy (1866 – 1873)

Responsible for design of nearly 1000 buildings and structures including; Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens 1862-3 (recently restored at a cost of £11.2 million), St Pancras Station and Hotel 1865, Foreign and Colonial Office 1858, Martyrs' Memorial Oxford 1841, St John's and Exeter College Chapels, General Infirmary Leeds, he was also appointed architect to the dean and chapter of Westminster Abbey. Notably for us, he was the architect of Savernake Cottage Hospital which opened in 1872. His sons were **(4a & 4b)**;

4a George Gilbert Scott Jnr 1839 – 1897 Architect who was the creative link between Victorian Gothic revival and arts and crafts movement. He designed two radical churches, the Vicarage St Agnes Kennington and All Hallow Southwark plus a trio of fine unpretentious churches in Yorkshire and much more. The Queen Anne style rectories that survive in Leamington Spa, Great Bedwyn and Pevensey demonstrate his fine designing capability. But sadly turned to alcohol and was certified insane in 1884. His son (and grandson to **Sir George Gilbert Scott**) was;

5 Giles Gilbert Scott responsible for Liverpool Cathedral, Waterloo Bridge, Red Telephone Kiosk, Battersea Power Station and Bankside (now Tate & Modern). His son was;

6 Richard Gilbert Scott 1923- another architect for the family firm, retiring in 1999.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Gilbert_Scott

Also a younger son of **Sir George Gilbert Scott** (and brother to **George Gilbert Scott Jnr**) was;

4b John Oldrid Scott, whose letters about the building of **Savernake Cottage Hospital** were copied into the Savernake Cottage Hospital Minute Book (available for inspection at Chippenham History Centre), supplying the names of builders who should tender for the work. The family business seems to have thrived for many years and three generations were working within the same practice at the time of the design and build of the hospital.

www.wikipedia.org has much more detailed information on many members of the Scott family but we thought an overview might be of interest!