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Dr Garrett's

Last updated: 23 January 2008

Brian Gregson, who used to run Dr Garrett's children's home in Conwy, looks back at its history.



There are four more pages dedicated to the Dr Garrett's story:

- 1: Christmas at Dr Garrett's.**
- 2: Dave Dooley's memories.**
- 3: Your pictures.**
- 4: Add your own comments.**

"There must be about 70,000 children who've been to Dr Garrett's, scattered all over the world," writes Brian Gregson. "It was set up in the 1910s to get children out of the smog of Manchester for a few weeks.

Dr Garrett himself ran a poor clinic in Manchester, although he also had some very wealthy patients. He became ill himself and it was suggested that he move to Conwy to recuperate and made a remarkable recovery.

He saw that it must be true about the effect of smog and the bad atmosphere in a city and so he brought some kids from the poor clinic over to his house for a few weeks and watched them make great progress.

So it snowballed from there. Wealthy benefactors raised funds to buy five more houses and Dr Garrett's opened properly in 1916.

After he died in 1923, his wife carried on in his memory, and so it was known as the Dr Garrett Memorial Home. When she died in 1938 it was handed over to Manchester City Council.

It gradually changed from being a place for poor children to get away from the Manchester smog to being a place which helped families while their problems were being sorted out. There was no stigma, we just provided respite care - a form of health and social intervention - a nice title that hid a lot of poverty, illness, social deprivation and family breakdowns.

It was a very rewarding job. You can tell from all this interest what the children thought of the place. All the letters and petitions raised in Manchester could have filled a special edition of the Manchester Evening News when it was under threat of closure. It was phenomenal because it had become an institution to the people of Manchester. If mum was going into hospital, no-one had to worry about the children - they



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would just go to Dr Garrett's for a few weeks while things were sorted out.

It did become expensive, but the cost of running Dr Garrett's for a year was the same as putting 10 children in care - so to save just 10 families from collapsing made it worth the money.

It closed in 1989 for political and financial reasons. Despite having lots of people involved in trying to help us stay open and having the Home Office recognise that we were ahead of our time in terms of community care, Manchester City Council was determined to close places like us down, so that was the end of Dr Garrett's.

The council and library would love me to create a website or something with all the material I have because they're always inundated by enquiries - I'm going to do my best.

I ran Dr Garrett's from the mid 1970s until it closed in 1989 and I collected what was there for safekeeping. There were albums of photos of mayor's visits, happy days, arrival days, carnival days (we were always the biggest participants in the carnival and won lots of certificates for the floats).

Now, all photographs, 1917 to 1989, that were located at the Memorial Home have now been placed in the Conwy County Borough Archives. The Archive Centre is in the "old school" next to the lifeboat station on Lloyd Street, Llandudno."

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Christmas at Dr Garrett's

Last updated: 23 January 2008

Susan Bradley, formerly Sandbach shares her happy memories of Christmas at Dr Garrett's.

"As little Susan Bradley, aged six, I left my family and went with other children from Manchester by charabanc to the Dr Garrett Home, spending Christmas 1953 there. As we approached Conwy, the castle was pointed out to me; I'd never seen one before. The memories are as vivid today as they ever were. On arrival we were given clothes to wear that were not as nice as the ones my mother had sent me in. The brown overcoat had a big patch across the front and when my parents came to visit me they were very surprised but realised that it was necessary so that I could go home at the end of my six week stay with my own clothes none the worse for wear.

The first week was spent in bed in a sunshine ward facing onto the play area at the back of the house where I saw the other children playing and where I would play for the following weeks. After my first week I was allocated my new sleeping place, a chalet. There was a gated area of wooden chalets at the back of the big house and to the left. Each chalet doorway had a wooden half-door at the bottom and a canvas curtain for the top half. On either side of the door as you walked in was a single bed and mine was on the left. When I go to garden centres nowadays and see the little chalet playhouses they always remind me of Conwy.

I felt very lucky to be sharing my chalet with a good-hearted older girl who, as luck would have it, lived only a few streets away from me in Manchester and she was kind to me. There was no heater but on some occasions one of the beds would have a stone hot water bottle in it and whoops of glee would go up as my chalet friend and I shared it. You have to remember that this was December and in those days winters WERE COLD. Funnily, though, being cold was never a big deal; after all none of us had central heating then.

When we were taken for a walk we would cross over the road to the woods opposite the house and walk through them towards the harbour. I clearly remember the carer/nurse taking us to the smallest house in Britain. It was on one of these jaunts through the woods that the nurse found a tree stump to sit on and as we gathered around her she asked us all what we would like for Christmas. She must have taken notes or had a very good memory as I asked for a doll and, come Christmas morning, that was my present. My doll was second hand, about ten inches in length with very scratched cheeks and was dressed in a maroon knitted dress, bonnet and pants. I loved her instantly and called her Rose-Marie; where I dragged the name up from, I don't know. I clearly remember Father Christmas at the party held in the hall at the



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back of the playground and we danced 'The Lambeth Walk' and listened to the George Formby record 'I'm Leaning on the Lamp Post at the Corner of the Street.

In later years the eating arrangements may have changed but when I was there the dining area was to the right of the house, not in it, I don't think. We sat at, what seemed to me then, two long tables and after our meals we were each called to the front to be given our spoonful of sticky malt from a huge jar. I quite liked the malt and on my return home my mother bought me some.

A few years ago my husband took it into his head to take me back to Conwy to try to find the Dr Garrett Home and from my description was able to pinpoint the house for himself. The old institution gates are still to be seen at the side of the building. With the help of a thoughtful librarian we were also directed to the local cemetery where Dr Garrett's grave is marked with a child monument.

That my memories are so vivid and happy are clear indications of the impact my time at the home had on me.

Thank you Dr Garrett and those others who worked there."

[Return to Brian Gregson's memories...](#)

your comments

Karone Warburton, Manchester

I was at dr garrets in the 80s every year for 4 to 6 weeks at a time with my sisters. I remember us all being heartbroken leaving our parents at the town hall but it never took long for us all to make friends on the coach and look forward to what a great experience we were all going to have again.

I loved the walks we had to the park past the cows and then to conway castle.

We all had to queue up to get some pocket money when we were going out. Ribena always reminds me of being there cos that's the drink we had with our packed lunch on days out. Rice Krispies also remind me of being there as we had a cup full each for breakfast. The games we played in the huts, the discos, learning to knit with the older carers, being allowed in Penguins and Bod Heulog, the path to the castle with the small wall, long hikes up the hills, going to aunt alice's house and the suppers we had all sat in the kitchen.

I remember being really good at the skipping competitions we had in the garden near the sheds. It was such a lovely place to be and I loved every minute of being there.

Mon Jun 8 10:15:35 2009

Christine Watts, Hulme, Manchester

I was very fortunate to have visited Dr Garrets twice, when I was seven (1954 and 1955). I have very happy memories. My baby brother came the second time. I remember watching the kids playing from our window in the isolation

voice heard.

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dorm, they used to give us chicken soup, which was foul, (forgive the pun). We used to throw it out the window. The second time I had a Chalet which they could turn around to face the sun. Happy days.

Tue May 5 10:09:29 2009

Marie Garth from Manchester

Me and my brothers and sisters were blessed to go four or five years running, always for six weeks at a time. I recall that every day we went somewhere after first collecting a plastic bag with our lunch in. We went horse riding, grass sleighing, rock climbing, the Smallest House, castles, treasure hunts, to name a few. My favourite auntie had her own horse and those of us who had been well behaved got to go with her to see it. We made lots of friends there and some of us got boyfriends/girlfriends. We used to try to sneak to the boys' dorm but the staff caught us every time. Thank you Dr Garrett. Having that break gave me some of my happiest childhood memories.

Thu Mar 19 11:22:03 2009

Jennie from Conwy

I worked in Dr Garrett's in 1955 till 1957, left to get married and lived away for six years came back to live in Conwy and worked in Garrett's I love every minute of it. I worked most of the time with the teenagers, we had so much fun and everyone was so happy. It was a very sad day when Dr Garrett's closed. Thank you children for giving me the best job satisfaction that any one could have we had so much fun every one was so happy. I have had a few children visit me since it has closed.

Tue Dec 30 09:25:37 2008

Kath Davies (Aunty Kath)

I worked at Dr G's between the 1960s and 80s. Does anyone remember me?

Mon Dec 29 10:40:05 2008

Elizabeth from Manchester

I was at this home for 7 weeks in May and June 1961. I had no idea quite how many other children had been fortunate enough to spend time at Conwy. I too think back to that 'holiday' with special memories. I enjoyed the walks down country lanes and learning to play shove ha'penny. I have just found some letters my Mum kept that I had written while I was there and they brought memories flooding back. We were all very fortunate that such a place existed and that we have such fond memories of the kindness shown by the staff during our stay.

Mon Aug 4 14:31:20 2008

Julie Browne, Oxford

I just happened to be thinking of Dr G's this morning and wondered if anything is online. Amazing to discover this website, thank you. I worked at Dr Garrett's from Sept 1978 to Nov 1983 and loved every moment.

Mon Jun 23 09:50:46 2008

John Brown, Miles Platting (Now Ashton)

Just before Easter in 1967 my sister Patty and myself were sent to Dr Garrett's. We were not told why we were going

but went on a charabanc and stayed for about 6 weeks. I remember all the children who cried at night time who missed their parents, including myself. We thought we had been sent there because we had been naughty. After a short time we got used to it. I remember we had to take our shoes to the shed and wear plimsoles instead. I also remember a really nice old chap whom I think was called Mr Tucker who used to sit there all evening and polish our shoes. At Easter the washing machine factory (Hotpoint) donated loads of Easter eggs for us all. I also remember a little Irish girl and her sister, and when the carer used to coax her enough she used to sing the Black Velvet band for us. A group of us went around Conwy Castle and another group went to Danger Point. I also won the sack race in a sports day event. It was certainly an experience, but I was also glad to go home.

Mon Jul 23 09:33:34 2007

alan nixon manchester, now wirral

Thanks Tracy Daley, I will be looking up the artist shop in Conwy to hopefully buy a picture of the original houses. It is amazing that I spent 6 weeks at Dr Garretts in 1974, 34 years ago and I still have brilliant and emotional memories, I always go to the area at least twice a year just to remember and go back to the great days in my mind, Mr Gregson any news on a reunion? where can we post and see photos? Thanks for the wonderful memories Dr Garrett and all the staff.

Mon Jul 2 10:04:53 2007

jason jones wythenshawe

Does anyone have any pictures from the kids who were there in the 80s? I was there with my brother. we loved it, we did not want to go home. still talk about it to this day. I was in the penguin house, loved Conwy Castle and grass sledging, the smallest house in Britain and crabbing. the food was so nice, it was a massive change to our lives we had back in Manchester.

Mon Mar 12 09:16:29 2007

Gail Mullen from Manchester

Well what can I say, but that the place was a safe haven for us kids! We absolutely loved going there every year and remember so much the vaccination and tests done at the town hall before stepping on the bus to Conwy. I was fortunate to go a few times with my brother and sister. The place was fantastic and really felt like home. The white houses are a place that will stay in our memories forever. I have taken my children to see the place and I know that it's not there now but memories can never be erased. Thanks to all the wonderful people that worked there all over the years. I appreciate you all so much.

Mon Apr 24 08:49:13 2006

Gail from Manchester

I was there around 1970 and early 80s. I went every year for 4 to 6 weeks, I loved it and have very fond memories. I went there from the age of 9 to 15, the staff we called uncles and aunties - anyone who did go there would know exactly what I'm talking about. I'm nearly 41 now, how I wish I was that age again, they were all so loving and

caring. What a wonderful place.
Sat Mar 4 23:21:54 2006

Tracey Daley from Manchester

I can't believe that after all this time I've found people who remember the old place. I went there as a child and teenager from the mid seventies up until about 1982. I went every year with my younger sister, and I absolutely loved it, my fondest memory was when we did the Al Jolson show, it was fantastic. I went back last year with my own children and there were new houses in its place, I don't know why but it felt like a bereavment. I took a walk around the wall that led to the smallest house and all the memories came flooding back, we took some photos and then went to the artists shop in the town. I think it was the only one, anyway they have an oil painting there of the three big white houses that were so prominent at the time - they're around £60, well worth it. It's lovely to read your comments.

Wed Mar 1 20:04:59 2006

Paul Hesketh from Manchester

I was there in the mid 70s even though I was very young at the time I can still remember the wooden out buildings with the stable doors and the main house felt as big as Conway Castle itself. I don't remember the names of any of the staff, but one man who worked there had a small boat in the harbour called the Drake. Garrett's was a fantastic place for both ill children and kids like me who needed a break from life in manchester, it's a great shame that it's not there anymore. I know it helped me and thousands of other kids, thank you Dr garrett.

Sun Oct 16 09:41:22 2005

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Rock & Rubber

Last updated: 23 January 2008

Dave Dooley from Boston, formerly Gorton, shares his memories of landing in Dr Garrett's Children's Home, Conwy.

My first stay must have been around 1955. It came from a yearly medical examination at my school (Thomas St) and I was nominated for convalescence. To be honest I didn't really understand what was happening - just that I was taken into town by my mam and put on a 'chara'.

Being the weedy kid that I was, I inevitably suffered from travel sickness. The back bench seat of the chara was stacked with kids chucking up into 'pos'. If you didn't feel sick before you sat there, it didn't take long to begin to.

Upon arrival, we were ushered into the main house and herded through a nit inspection and bathing routine - followed by a cup of warm milk and two digestives.

I was further confused by the fact that the nurses often spoke in a strange language. The first night was pathetic to behold, with kids weeping through the night. In the house dormitories, you could save half of your digestives to feed the mice that shared the dorms with us.

Rather than repeat many of the memories already shared by people on this site, I'll try to add to them: Porridge with salt AND golden syrup in it; 'Rock & Rubber' (hard fried bread and chewy bacon); Being spun in my chalet until I felt sick; girls climbing over the wall which separated the chalets - in order to kiss the boys through their chalet windows (my first kiss - totally unappreciated at six); a weekly tablespoonful of Syrup of Figs (being advised not to 'trump' by the experienced); walking further than I'd ever done before; and finally, becoming aware that my energy and fitness was improving by the day.

I went again a few years later, and although I knew what to expect this time, I still didn't really appreciate its value as I felt homesick. One other positive was that, despite the potential for it, I do not recall a single incidence of bullying.

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The picture was taken at Dr Garrett's at Christmas in 1917.

Return to Brian Gregson's memories...

your comments

jean burrows from west gorton

i was in dr garretts about 1959. went in for 6weeks, but had to stay longer. there was an outbreak of some illness, dont know what it was though. if dr garrett opened 4 other homes, does anyone know where they were, or did they have a different name. regards jean.

Thu Aug 27 09:37:27 2009

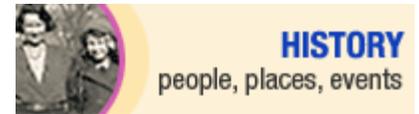
David Thomas, Rochdale

Has anyone a photo of the White Heather Home in Old Colwyn? We have just bought a bungalow that was built in the grounds of the orchard. What do people remember about the building and the grounds?

Wed Aug 19 09:32:49 2009

Margarate Howcroft (Nee Haddrell) Manchester

I was at Dr Garrett's from 1965. I was only 5 or 6. I can remember the coach picking my brother and I up from behind the Manchester Library, once on the coach we were all given a brown paper bag containing lunch. Once at the home we were all taken through the main door where we were seen by the doctor, then through to the bathroom where we were bathed then put on a wooden bench under spaceship-like hair dryers. A nurse/carer would come along the line of children and give them a plastic cup of warm soup and and two quarters of a slice of bread (supper).In the morning we were taken down to what a back kitchen. On the big wooden table were lots of different clothes of all sizes. I was picked up and sat on the table while a lady picked through the clothes and dressed me. Breakfast I remember was in a large wooden building in what looked like a yard - I remember the smell of toast, porridge and eggs, the smell of tea in plastic cups. Yuk! Does anyone remember



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the playroom with the piano? Kids learning to play chopsticks! I was usually sat on my own with my dolly. Easter, someone had donated a huge Easter egg to be shared it stood in the middle of the large table in front of all the kids sat cross legged on the floor. I can't remember any of the adults' names except for Nurse Logan who to this day means a lot to me. Anyway there was a man talking like a headmaster addressing a school. He told us that we could all have a piece of the egg after lunch. Does anyone remember waiting for your name to be called out if you had any pocket money and the little tuck table where we could buy maybe 2d worth of sweets? Or the sports day held in the little field at the side of the house next to the golf course? Sick bay was ok I guess. I caught German measles and Chicken pox both together while I was at the home. I had a birthday while in sick bay, one of the nurses/cleaners brought me a little doll dressed in a yellow dress, hat and booties that she had knitted herself (I loved that doll for years), my mum brought me a basket making kit and nurse Logan gave me a hug. I have been back to where Dr Garrett's house once stood a couple of times, where now a new housing estate stands. All that exists is the name of the man himself on a road name and the memories of you and I.

Mon Aug 3 09:32:12 2009

Ann Ratcliffe (nee Murdoch), Spain, ex-Bradford, M

I spent 6 weeks at Dr Garretts probably mid 1950s. I had TB as a 12 year old and was sent to recuperate. My memories are not really so good as most seem to be. I recall the ill fitting uniform with the button up liberty bodice, the initial bath with no doors for privacy. I was told off for being modest & shy. Having a bucket of water poured over my head to rinse my hair. I was in the dormitory I think for a week. I also recall the hut and the washrooms with around a dozen sinks all in a line. If you received a parcel you could only select one item from it then it would go into the large cupboard in the dining hall. You could then request one item each day. I pined for home, but I did meet the then love of my life, a boy from Moss Side. He came to my hut and kissed me through the window and we swore our love for each other. I also recall the play and outdoor singing sessions we had during the day that I always enjoyed. Am I the only one who went to Conwy to catch up with Dr Garretts only to find it had been demolished the previous year. Where are all the records?

Mon Jul 20 11:13:51 2009

Marie Lewis (nee Coogan)

I have very vivid memories of being sent to the White Heather Home in Old Colwyn during the 6 weeks summer holidays in 1961. We lived on Buxworth Street, Higher Ardwick. I had just turned 10 years old, but was small, and very underweight for my age. I remember my Mam taking me to see Dr. O'Sullivan, on Pin Mill Brow, Ardwick, and he weighed me, and said I was dead on 3 stones, and I should go to a convalescent home for a few weeks. We walked home, and I told my Mam I would go if my younger brother, John, could come with me, and if I could still watch Popeye on telly!

sea.

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Tai Hanesyddol

O blastai crand i ffermydd gwledig, camwch dros drothwy rhai o dai mwyaf

hanesyddol yr ardal

I remember my Mam having to buy me two of everything to take with me, and I was thrilled to have pyjamas for the first time! The time seemed to come around very quickly, and I was being put onto a chara, along with what seemed like hundreds of other kids, and I was pleading for John to come with me (he was 17 months younger than me, and we were very close), but Mam said he wasn't allowed.

It seemed hours until someone shouted, "I can see the sea!", and I was aware of what I thought were castle turrets lining the roadside. We were on Abergele Road, and they were actually garden walls. Only two of us got off the chara at Old Colwyn, and the rest went on to Conwy. We were greeted by the Matron and her husband (I think they were called Carter), and it turned out they had a couple of children, one of them being a girl of about my age. As we were introduced to some of the other children, I was heartbroken to realize that almost all of them had a sibling with them! We were shown into an upstairs dormitory, and I was given a bed in the bay window, along with a 6 year old girl called Alison. I was not allowed to see my parents for a fortnight, after which my Dad would somehow manage to borrow somebody's works van, and bring my family to see me. I hated almost every minute of being away from my family, and could write a book about my experiences there, but we were well taken care of, and I had gained weight by the time I went (very! gladly!) home again.

Fri Jun 19 10:33:34 2009

Fred Clark (then of) Ancoats Manchester

I'm looking for information on a White Heather Club convalescent home I was in here for 6 weeks in 1961-2ish. I think this home was in Conway.

Fri May 29 13:53:16 2009

Marcia from Manchester

I remember spending quite a long time at Conwy in 1975. My mother died and my four sisters and myself spent quite an enjoyable time there. I was eight years old and remember the cinema nights, I saw my first film at Conwy, it was Popeye. We were a black family and after being fostered to a violently racist family, Conwy was just a fantastically calm and healing experience.

Mon May 18 11:14:09 2009

Keren Callaghan Openshaw

I went to the home in October/Nov 1971, with my brother and sister to give my mum a rest as she was poorly. I was just five so can't remember much, apart from the black blinds in the nursery. There was a hatch at floor height into another dorm and I and another girl were crawling through going from dorm to dorm. I can remember this huge room where we had to go and eat breakfast on the day my mum and dad came to visit, and the huge warehouse where you could go and choose clothes.

Fri May 15 09:08:20 2009

Laurence Bennett from Bradford Manchester

I was at this childrens home in the early 1950s. I was about 5 or 6 years old. I remember the little two-person huts we slept in, also the film nights at weekends - The Lone

Ranger, the Three Stooges etc. Does any one remember going to the little beach. There was some kind of ruin there. I think it was a target range because we used to find used bullets amongst the rocks. Also I remember looking up to the mountain above the home. I think we called it danger point. I still remember the song all the kids would sing (Mummy daddy take me home, from this convalescent home...).

Thu Jan 15 16:08:59 2009

Dominic O'Connor, Manchester

I went to Dr Garrett's in about 1979 after a sickly childhood with asthma. When I first arrived I was homesick, but after time I got into the groove. I enjoyed the four weeks I had there, especially the grass sledging on the ferns of the mountains. I remember Uncle Alan and Richard Tucock (think that's how you spell his name). Richard took us on long walk one day and told us we walked 12 miles (I believe it to this day). Remember the witches hat and crabbing. What a shame it closed. Kids still should have these facilities before we build art galleries and crap like that.

Mon Jan 12 10:13:17 2009

katie rowden, clayton, manchester 11

I remember going, don't know why. I fell off the end of my bed messing and broke my front tooth. My only memories are the doorways from room to room, supper, and a black girl named Comfort. I also remember a four-bed dorm and a dorm that had loads of beds, oh and the huts outside and the smell of sick bay.

Tue Dec 23 09:18:18 2008

Beryl Jones (nee Tutin) Manchester

I don't know if this is the same convalescent home I stayed in but for the first few weeks we spent the time in bed we were then supposed to be out where the chalets were. However I got ill with Hepatitis and had to go into quarantine and not allowed any visitors. The people I was with when I arrived had to leave on the bus home whilst I was still convalescing. When I recovered, I was then in a chalet. All the children at their stage of their recovery from various conditions would sleep in chalets 2 beds to each chalets and take it in turn to spin them around.

I remember visiting Conway Castle and the small house. I was on there for a matter of weeks or months but that's all I remember.

Mon Nov 3 10:04:51 2008

Vincent Wilson from Bolton

Brian, have you written to the National Lottery asking if they can fund this very worthwhile cause? If they need any proof to see how popular the site is just give them the site address and let them see for themselves. Otherwise, try some of the local businesses in Conwy as I'm sure someone should be able to do something for you or you could ask the Manchester Evening News or Manchester social services to see if they can help.

Mon Oct 13 09:49:54 2008

Val Harvey, Bury

I don't know whether it was this particular home I went to in the late 1950/early 1960's as both parents now deceased so no one to ask. As I was quite young at the time I can't remember very much about it but have been trying to find out for quite a while. The place I stayed I thought was close to Rhyl as when Mum and Dad came at weekends they used to take me for an ice cream and I used to beg them to take me home. I know I was there over Christmas and kind local families took us in for Christmas Day. I don't have any nice memories of it, which is why I am wondering if it was a different place I went to. I remember we had to go to church every Sunday and because I didn't know whether I was Catholic or C of E they sent me to the Catholic Church. I was gutted when I found out that I was actually C of E when I got home because the children that went to that church said there was a monkey there! My other memory is of being in the dormitory and someone coming round to turn the lights out and half of us wanting the light left on, so when she went there was a fight between one of the girls who who wanted the light on and one who wanted the light off. I was caught and made to stand at the end of the bed all night. Reading other people's happy memories I feel sure it was a different home I went to and if anyone has any info I would be really grateful.

Wed Oct 8 16:13:45 2008

Tom Lusty. Wythenshawe

I went to the home in the early 60s being an unhealthy child, but as a kid I didn't know I was unhealthy, I thought I was tickety boo. I remember loads of Coaches/charas, leaving from near Woolies in town, With what appeared to be hundreds of kids, leaving weeping parents behind. (The first few days all I recall was learning how to play shove Ha'penny, and drinking a dark warm drink before bedtime. My next memory is we walked for 2000 miles (as it seemed at the time) to visit the smallest house in Britain. My memories after that is that I received my 1st letter as a person addressed to Master Thomas Lusty. it was from my Mother (I think she missed me as much as I missed her) I was unable to read at the time but there was a big lad that could read, and when asked, He read my letter to me. In the letter my mother said that my dog kept going to my school (St James primary in Gorton) to see if I was there. That little bit made me laugh so much that I hounded the reader! time and time again to read my letter to me.

After that I became ill. I was in bed in like a hospital ward for about 2 weeks, all I remember was that I had never seen so many ladies running around before looking after children, it was never ending nurses (I think they were) running in and out as it seemed every ten minutes . Then one Sunday My Dad was there to take me home. I seem to remember that I wasn't due to leave but my Dad after a few words to certain people made sure I was going home. Then after a 1500 mile walk to Conwy railway station, I was taught the virtue of patience by my Father, while waiting for a train back home to Manchester.

Thu Sep 25 09:18:56 2008

amanda johnson/willis wythenshawe

i went to dr garretts in 1983 - i wasnt ther long as i was

home sick and ran away i was 16 but it was great while i was there.

Mon Sep 22 10:28:35 2008

Sharelle, Manchester

Both me and my brother went to Dr Garretts a couple of times in the late 1980's. I was sat wondering about the three white houses a few times and wondering what had become of them. My times there were so happy, i loved it so much. When i stayed there i was in Bod heulog, i used to love it because when we went out we went in groups according to our age and that meant my brother never got to come out with me. lol.

I remember the discos when it was someones birthday, doing limbo and sports in the cabin style buildings at the back. i especially remember the witches hat in the playground as i was on it one day and some boys spun it that fast i fell right through and bust my lip, apparently i was heard screaming in the other houses. Needless to say i had a very fat lip for days. I loved going on the day trips on the train to colwyn bay zoo and llandudno. It seemed such a shame when they shut the houses down because they benefited so many people including myself and my brother. They were such happy times.

Fri Sep 12 16:01:41 2008

Brigit Power (bridy) Manchester

Me and my sister elizabeth (lilly) went there in the seventies, we also remember being out on a walk when we came across a lad that had fallen and broken his leg at the bottom of a very high hill. Also remember the race to get the best socks in the hut. our younger sister gerildine was in the nursery hut, cant remember what they called it.

Do any girls remember when we pretended to do a seance in the bedroom one night, good laugh. Think i remember auntie pauline if she was there in the later seventies, did she have black hair and very jolly. We had a great time. Also remember the%2! Ohealth check when you arrived and being weighed and weighed again at the end of the holiday.

Tue Sep 9 09:44:14 2008

Aunty Pauline

i'm aunty Pauline, used to be in sick bay Robins and sometimes in the Sparrows in the 70s up until it closed. How wonderful to read all these comments on this website. I do remember a few names, it would be good to hear from people who remember me, and I do see quite a lot of the old staff from the home.

Mon Aug 18 10:21:34 2008

Susan Beveridge/Rogers from Falkirk

I went to Dr Garretts three times from 1952 onwards and spent my fourth birthday there. Remember being in a clinic and being searched for nits and being totally bewildered by being put on a coach and taken away without knowing why. I also remember being slapped for screaming whilst having my hair washed. I stayed twice in the huts outside and remember crocodile walks over the bridge. one good memory was pocketmoney day and being able to buy

sweets and small toys. Not exactly child centred in the 1950s!

Mon Aug 18 10:20:58 2008

Bill Garrett, Plainfield, NJ, USA

I found this in an article from a Dallas, Texas newspaper. "A day nursery and settlement home has been successfully operating in the former residence of Bishop A. C. Garrett at 3011 Greenwood street, in East Dallas, for the past year. The building was recently rehabilitated through the joint efforts of Dallas citizens." Bishop A.C. Garrett was Dr. Thomas Garrett's Uncle, who immigrated to the states. It is an amazing coincidence that both their homes became a "Garrett Memorial Children's Home" after their deaths.

Wed Jul 16 09:18:16 2008

sharon chadwick

I lived at bod heulog with my two brothers from 1997, does anybody remember aunty mo and zebede the black dog, morfa beach just down the road. i remember when kids came from manchester to dr garetts and they were in bird groups.

its a shame its been knocked down. i have fond memories of the place. i oftenwonder how the kids i was there with have got on with there lives.

Mon Jul 14 10:24:58 2008

Belinda Livesey, Manchester

I was in Dr Garret'ts in the 1970s. I was in the Eagles. I remember Aunty Joan and Uncle Bellis. Aunty Joan used to bring her dog Suzy in to wake us up. Every Friday there would be a disco in the hut and we all used to get our cool clothes on to try and impress each other. I also have fond memories of all the skateboarding, walking, Conwy Castle, the smallest house, crab fishing. On Tuesdays it was always fish, chips and peas. It is so sad it is no longer there. I hold cherished memories of the place, it was a credit to the Garretts and a pleasure for any child who went there.

Tue Jun 24 09:15:15 2008

David Dooley from Middleton

I went here from 1974 up to 1980 - best time of my life. I remember Auntie Jenny, she was my favorite, and Uncle Alan. I remember singing in the minibus going on a trip and going to Auntie Joan's to see her horse and to see Auntie Jenny as she lived nearby.

Tue Jun 24 09:09:45 2008

mark

who remembers auntie joan - f0unny red lipstick just in the middle of her lips,she was older than all the rest(including uncle Richard) but she was my favorite . she took a group of us to her house and we met her pet labrador. weird how things come back to you...Brilliant

Fri Jun 20 09:55:52 2008

carol spelzini -swinton

I went to dr Garretts late 60s early 70s for about 8 years. This was the best years of my childhood.I remember being picked up in manchester - how excited i felt about the

adventure i was about to go on other children were crying but i could not wait to get going. On arriving we were put into isolation. In the mornings we helped to wash and dress the small children. At night time we used to sneak in each others room until the staff caught us. They used to wander around and wake you up to go to the toilet so you did not wet the bed.

Every day we had things to do we all used to walk down to Conway along the path next to the sea all singing silly songs can anyone remember them. Is there any one out there who was with the group when we got lost in the mountains and the police were searching for us? they even had a helicopter out!

I used to love it when it was tuckshop day and we would all wait in a line. The aunts and uncles were all fantastic - one i was fond of was i think Brian and he had a lovely dog he used to fetch in it was a red setter. Well i have too many memoirs of this fantastic place and maybe we could all get together and share them all. PLEASE /PLEASE/ PLEASE COULD SOMEONE ARRANGE THIS SOON.

Tue Jun 17 12:07:51 2008

Beverley Evans - Blackley

I went to Dr Garretts a few times around the late seventies, I went with my brother Darren and my sister Mandy. I remember going on long walks, going over the monkey bridge, playing rounders on the beach and my mum sending me a postal order so i could buy some sweets and stamps. I remember going to the pictures for the first time and seeing a Bruce Lee film when it had finished we done all the karate moves on each other.

Thu May 29 09:41:27 2008

karen obrien [fogg] manchester

i went to dr garretts in late 60s. i made friends with a girl called Mandy. i remember only having a change of clothes once a week, visiting the smallest house, long walks, very early bedtime, mum visiting on sundays and crying to go home.

Thu May 29 09:40:15 2008

Shirley Mills, Collyhurst, Manchester

I went to Dr Garrett's late 60s early 70s, with my older sister who stayed in sick bay, I also remember a middle house but can't remember the name of the other building, I remember Mr Tucker because we all used to sick "old Mr Tucker was a very old man, and a very old man was he". can't remember the rest of it. I also remember the playground with tyre swings, does anyone have any photo's? Have been back to Conway, but the buildings aren't there anymore... or was I in the wrong place, though I did find 'danger point'.

Wed Apr 30 11:02:11 2008

paul dermody (miles platting)

i went to dr garretts twice in the seventies, dont remember my first visit but the second was i think 1978 i was in the falcons group, my younger sister in the penguins. i remember i used to pal about with 3 boys Benny Andy and

john. while i was there i remember the witches hat and the long walks, playing hide and seek in the nearby forest, crab fishing off the jetty and the many trips out i think with uncle richard.

best memory being the pram race on llandudno prom we had to wear fancy dress and customise a pram to enter (pimp my ride) we won the race and got our picture in the local paper with trophy (on a mission now to find that paper clip) great to see all of the peoples comments on this site brought back some terrific memories . and to the staff of dr garretts thank you for all of your care and support at a time in need you where great.

Mon Apr 21 10:40:33 2008

Brian Robertson, Whalley Range

Lovely to see some web space devoted to Dr. G's. I have many fond memories of the place, having visited twice in 1970 and 72, though I did miss home and, on the last occasion, was bullied quite badly by a thoroughly unpleasant individual. Of course I remember the castle, and the walk over the hills that the nurses referred to as seven stiles, the walk to 'Danger Point' and walking along the harbour wall from Garretts when it was lined with fishing boats. One of the male members of staff once took us out to the beacon in the mouth of the river and we collected periwinkles for his tea, but he forgot to take them home and they were all over the hut the next morning! Does anyone remember picking up live ammunition on the shore from the WWII firing ranges? Does anyone remember Nurse Bryceland? I was so in love with her. I saved up all the money that my parents sent me for spends to buy her a present when I left and we wrote to each other for a little while afterwards.

Mon Apr 7 10:13:58 2008

Tracey Daley Manchester

Hi Alan Dunn, it was great to hear that you keep in touch with Andy, and he's doing well. I worked as an intensive care nurse for ten years, so we both went into the 999 services; miss going to dr garretts - it was a right laugh, couldn't wait for the holidays just so i could go back, andy was always playing football in the back field with his mates, i bet you were one of them ha ha, I would sit and wait with my mates on the roof of the shed, well we've all grown up now, all as mad as ever, well i know i am, great to hear from you - take care.

Tue Mar 18 12:47:47 2008

mark

Abba the movie, the witches hat, ghost house, in the penguins, paper chases with chalk, big swings in the woods, grass sledging, long long walks, collecting golf balls. i remember tony harper and colette rawlins from gorton. great memories.

Tue Mar 18 08:51:10 2008

Lisa White Manchester

I remember going to Dr Garretts a few times between 1985 and 1989 - i was always in the Robins and i remember the witches hat. I made lots of friends there and also met my first love Patrick, I can't remember his second name but we

had a buzz.

Mon Mar 17 11:21:13 2008

Lisa Manchester

I went three times; I remember going crabbing on the big long wall in Conwy, and the movie night at the Bod Heulog house - it was good, met some great kids there.

Mon Mar 17 10:59:36 2008

Graham Donald Fallowfield, manchester

I stayed at Dr Garretts 3 times through late 70s to early 80s. My times spent there were some of my happiest as a child. I'm awful at remembering names but i made some great friends who i wish i'd taken details to keep in touch. I remember dating a girl from Gorton who with her younger sister and older brother (who i shared a room with) would start talking in a scottish accent whenever their father phoned. My fondest memory of the staff was a guy who i think was called uncle Alan. He was such a great person. I too remember playing on the witch`s hat and in the play room with the plastic drums and balls which were used to tire the kids so they`d sleep. we`d argue over what i think was an atari system. I`ve been back to see the area a few times since. It gives me a memory rush. Packed lunches up a mountain were great too.

Mon Mar 10 14:19:08 2008

angela thompson from manchester

My mum was sent to 'conway castle convalescent home for children' in the late 1940s; she was only 7 years old at the time and she ran away because she didn't like it there. Is this the same home as Dr Garrett's? I'm trying to help my mum pick up pieces of her childhood memories, of which she has little recollection.

Mon Mar 10 10:33:23 2008

C Donald - Levy

I went 3 times (I think) in the late 70's/early 80's. A big wave to Michelle and Tracy below. Anyway, things I remember: Sitting in some sort of hall in Town/Manchester not sure what was happening. Getting on the coach. Giving the staff our spends on the way up (which we got back I may add). Crying myself to sleep the first night because I wanted to go home, then doing the same the last night because I wanted to stay. The snide lookin cagoules we got which I must admit kept us dry. Going crabbing. We used to make our own crab line/rods if I remember, and caught a few. Going out in the van on trips. The walks we went on. A nice cold glass of milk when we got back. The smell of the food coming from the scoff trollies. Blue night lights in the bedrooms. Sneaking to others. The witch's hats have been mentioned, I've noticed. What about that rockin boat/death trap they had? If I remember correctly it used to sit quite a few. Always ended up with just two loons either end tryin to rock the other onto one of the huts. Do we get things like Garretts nowadays? Anyway, all involved with Garretts: You deserve medals. Cheers!

Thu Mar 6 09:32:20 2008

Michelle Donald, Fallowfield

I went to Dr Garretts about 4 times, the last time being, I

think 14 years old. A couple of my brothers were with me and my sisters a couple of times. The first time I went I was about 6 and it was easter time coz I remember making a card in the shape of an egg. I'm sure the hut was called the Wrens. I was also in the Sparrows. I got home sick the first couple of times but still loved it. My fondest memories was playing on the witches hat. They were fantastic. The fun we used to have at bedtimes. Running in to the next doors house through the fire door or to the boys floor using the fire stairs and nearly getting caught by the night staff. The concerts we took part in. Eye of the Tiger being one of the songs(my brother Graham being the lead singer).

The roller discos. Watching a film (Allegator). Going to the Sandcastle. Visiting the haunted house. Taking part in a dancing competition and winning with my sister Tracy (as Tracy has mentioned - Tracy you'll hav! e to remind me about that one). I remember when my mum, etc came to visit and we went out for the day and was given spends. Going home was a sad event. All the friends we made, and did keep in touch with some for a while. About 12/13 years ago a few of us took a trip to Conwy and my sister Debbie and I took a stroll along 'the wall' to visit Dr Garrett's and couldn't believe it when we didn't see the white houses. That was so upsetting. It felt like in some ways our past had just vanished.

Wed Mar 5 09:45:47 2008

andrew foster manchester

It's good to see more and more names on here: just read kare wilson's message - I wonder if he might remember me; i was in penguins every year that i went, redhead always getting up to no good. I also read what Carol did - it's good reading this now and again. Cheers me up when I'm down as I remember everything. Have been back a few times myself as the memories flood back - it was the only time i got to see my uncle paul as he lived in llandudno at the time.

Tue Mar 4 10:14:22 2008

carl blissett from stockport

I went to dr garretts during the seventies on numerous occassions, 4weeks at a time. the last time was 1978. I remember being picked up on a coach and there was always an elderly lady with a bun in her hair. When me and my brothers got there we had to change and bath. I remember the witches hat and the big mountain behind with the railway inbetween. I went back recently with my daughter but it is now houses but i got my photo taken next to the dr garrets road sign - it's now dr garretts drive. Very emotional time for me as it brought back fond memories. I remember going to the pictures to see! the spy who loved me. Does anyone remember this time

Thu Feb 28 09:41:44 2008

Brian Gregson

A message for "Maggie of Manchester". I have been in touch with the Manchester Local Studies Library as you suggested but they were unable to see a way of helping. If you can make contact with them, you may find a way in that I couldn't. Keep the ideas comming. Brian Gregson

Wed Feb 27 10:07:44 2008

Bernie Scanlon from Gorton

i spent every year from 1970 to 1975 for four weeks of six week school holidays at dr garretts and my time there opened my eyes to nature. it definitely helped to shape the person i am today. nothing but fond memories. was so upset to find the marina in place of the home i remembered. i remember my first kiss ever with mark dyson at the age of ten in one of the huts.he was there with his sisters.would love a reunion or even to just see some photos of the home.

Tue Feb 26 09:43:38 2008

Maggy from Manchester

Many of the comments on this website are from people who have spent some of their childhood at Dr Garrett's, longing to see a picture of the home they fondly remember. Brian [Gregson] says he collected the documents and pictures when the home closed. Manchester Local Studies Library have an online photograph archive that would be ideal home for these memories.

Mon Feb 4 10:43:21 2008

Wils

Mr Gregson - could you please tell me where I could get a photo of Bod Heulog as I've tried everywhere I can think of - I've gone through the council in Llandudno but they didn't have anything. Do you have one I could have, as I lost all the photos I had in a house fire. Thanks!

Wed Jan 30 09:37:03 2008

Paul Hartley from Gorton

I was at Dr Garrett's about Easter time 1969 aged 14, I remember sitting in the big wooden hut watching the Grand National on TV, a couple of the nurses must have put on bets as they came in to watch the race and told us which horses they wanted us to cheer on. I think it was Mr Burrows who looked after us - he had a ginger moustache, and another who seemed to work part time and entertained us by doing magic tricks. The coach that took us there went from the Manchester Education building on the corner of Hardman St behind the Opera House in Manchester. On arriving at the home I remember everyone having to change into different clothes and I was given the only coat they had that would fit me, a horrible mingled grey and pink girls coat. After the first few days kept apart from the other kids we were eventually allowed to mix and go out on some great walks around the town, "Marine Walk" and a place called "Danger Point" somewhere in the hills behind the home. At the top of Morfa Drive (an estate of houses and flats are built on this area now) was a paper shop where we were all told to line up at the start of the walk while the person in charge would go in, at this point various kids would run across to a post box set in the wall facing to post a letter home, otherwise all letters sent home had to be read first by the matron. After dinner each day the matron would call out the names of any children who had brought with them any chocolate or toffees which had been placed in named shoe boxes at the start of our visit, and we where allowed one item from it. The only names I remember of

others there the same time as me was a lad called Mervyn, and another from Gorton called Tony. There were also twin girls that lived near Sunny Brow Park in Gorton.

Tue Jan 29 16:17:43 2008

Vincent Wilson

I would love to get in touch with any of the aunties or uncles who were at Bod Heulog from 1979 to 1982, just to see if any one of them have got a photo of the house I lived in at Conwy. I did have some but they got burnt in a house fire; it would be good to let my wife and children see where in Wales I spent one of the best times in my life, in one of the best children's homes in the world. I cannot thank the staff enough.

Fri Jan 25 08:52:25 2008

Sheila Pritchard nee Nuttall Wythenshawe Manchester

Absolutely wonderful. The memories have come flooding back. I was sent to Dr Garretts in I think 1955/6 for 9 weeks. My mum put me on a bus in the centre of Manchester and off we went. I had no idea where I was going till I got there. I had been asthmatic since knee high to a grasshopper and that's why I went. I'd had a spell in Wythenshawe Hospital several months before and it was deemed that Conwy would do me good. And it did. I have sketchy memories of things there like wearing somebody else's clothes so we all looked the same, queuing up for our cod liver oil, malt and syrup of figs. Aargh! The huts we slept in I remember most, that they turned round and were on rollers with just two beds and a locker. The only name I have in my head is nurse Angelina. Oh the walks and the friends I made, sadly I can't remember any of them. My mum and dad used to travel from Manchester each week on dad's motorbike and sidecar bringing my sister Linda with them. It was one heck of a journey as there was no motorway back then. Only found out last year when I went to visit the home that it had been pulled down. Very sad! What a wonderful man Dr Garrett was. I'd love to take part in a reunion if ever there is one and now I don't live too far away since moving to Henllan, Denbigh. Sadly I didn't have any photos taken while there but I wonder if anyone else has any of the summer of 55/6 when I was the grand old age of 8. One thing sticks in my mind - the song Diana by Paul Anker had just been released and all us girls swooned over him! Yes, very fond memories even though a bit sketchy. Must be my age and a few (or maybe a lot) of brain cells dying! Great to read everyone's thoughts and memories. Keep up the good work.

Wed Jan 9 10:00:19 2008

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Dr Garrett's memories

Last updated: 16 January 2009

This an archive of contributors' comments about Dr Garrett's Children's Home in Conwy.

Read the [latest comments](#) or add your own.

Lindsey Chesworth, Manchester

Does anyone remember the songs about Dr Garrett sliding down the bannister and the one about a sign outside the entrance?

Mon Nov 12 10:10:55 2007

Sandra Odell

I think that this is where i went when i was recovering from Jaundice when i was 5 years old. i am now 55 and i have been looking around old colwyn today. Some fond memories and some not so good.

Wed Oct 31 16:57:01 2007

ann Iarcombe

I've been looking at every web site just to find this site for years, I went to conway DR Garretts one month every year from 1979 to 1983 it was the best time of my life, horse riding, walking, all the great staff that were always their for us, trips, pickneies, the huts, cooking, swimming, roller skateing, it was the best hoildays i,v ever had, thanks to everyone, with love from myself @ sisters @ brother

Tue Oct 30 09:33:23 2007

vincent wilson from bolton

i would like to know if any of the staf from bodheulog are working in manchster as im sure i saw auntie beth in a sunshine variety van in bolton not that long ago. very impressed with this web site i found it by fluke

Wed Oct 24 10:36:29 2007

Katrina Welsby, Manchester

I remember going to Conway the first time when I was eight in 77 or 78. My three brother were also there at the same time. I have no idea why my older two brothers were there, but I do remember I was there because of a heart condition and damaged arteries in my leg. My twin brother came with my because Dr Garrett never split up twins. A boy call George who was in a wheelchair was by best friend there. He was the first person to ask me to marry him. He and my twin brother helped me get through home sickness. We had fun, we went for lots of walks with the aunties and uncles, but they always took note of the slowest children and never made them feel bad about holding the others up because they couldn't walk as fast. We went swimming and to the cinema and sightseeing. I have great memories of my time at Dr Garrett's and I'm sorry that there is nothing like this now.

Tue Oct 23 09:36:47 2007

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Carl Brand from Old Trafford

My gran (Gladys Jones) was at Dr Garrett's in the 1930s. She has many fond memories of the place and still often tells me of the goings on there. What she did mention was, having read articles in the Manchester Evening News, that it must have changed somewhat for the next few generations! Is there any more news on a website or are there any books of pictures or literature on the famous Dr G's I could purchase? This would be such a surprise for her.

Tue Sep 25 13:39:37 2007

kare wilson,manchester

I went to doctor garrett's in the summer of when abba the movie came out one of the happiest summer of my childhood.I remember being in penguin's which was in a prefab in the day. At night we went into main house girl's on one side boy's on the other side.We went on trip's every day and sometime's went to the beach with flask's of cocoa and jam buttie's for supper on the sunshine coach.I remember you didn't take clothe's they provided them.Once a week you got to pick a sweet out of you mix up while you watched telly.I remember watching hulk the movie when it first started. One of my carers was Carol in penguin's, i got a clip round the earhole for looking at the list of who had nit's and who did'nt.

I remember a girl called stella when i was there in penguin's. God what lovely memorie's.I went on the net about two year's ago andtyped in dr garrett's to no avail. about time because it was a truly wonderful place for many children for what ever reason.

Mon Sep 17 10:31:16 2007

Peter Archer from Moston

Have just got back from holiday in conwy with my young children where during the 70's and 80's i spent at least a month each year in Dr Garretts (age 6-15)..was very sad to see the place gone as i have very fond memories (auntie joan joans, auntie beth and uncle richard are just a few carers i remember). i still take my children to all the places we went although they have knocked down llandudno swimming baths.i remember so much ..getting caught in the girls rooms at night they should have locked us all up! the witches hat, the daily routines the bed checks when i was prone to f! orgetting the toilet at night and pack lunches....up and down that mountain (conwy).The little gift shop in town has closed now but the chippy near the first archway is going still.i remember still the excitement of setting off on the coach from aytown st in mcr centre.i thank all the staff who cared for me and the garrett family for the care their generous benefactor gave to mcr.we should have get together...and track down some of the old aunties and uncles too.

Wed Sep 12 09:35:11 2007

vincent wilson from bolton

i would like to know if any of the staf in bod heilog could sort out a reunion with the families that were in bod heulog from 1979 to 1982 as it would be good to see how everybody has moved on and to see if we all recocnise each other from vinny wilson

Mon Sep 10 09:27:25 2007

vincent wilson from bolton

my name is vincent wilson and i would like to know if you could put some photos of bod heulog before it was pulled down as it would be good to show my wife and children where in wales i was as all my photos got burnt in a house fire

Mon Sep 3 10:15:27 2007

Vincent Wilson from Bolton

I was in Bod Heulog from 1979 to 1982 with my two brothers and sister and it was the best children's home I was in.

Wed Aug 29 09:48:58 2007

Christine Screeton

I went to Dr Garrett's in 1972. I was 11 and recovering from Mumps and Jaundice. I was sent there to rest and get well again for 6 weeks. Unlike so many others I don't remember a lot of it but as I have read the stories things are coming back to me. I also visited Dr Garrett's with my children in the 90s and had mixed feelings - sadness because I seemed to have forgotten lots of things and yet tinged with happiness so it must have been a wonderful experience. I will keep coming back and reading I have been looking for info on Dr Garrett's for years and I am so sad to hear it is no longer there, it seems I am not the only one who wants to recall that time in my life.

Tue Aug 28 10:06:17 2007

Dawn Roberts from Holywell, North Wales.

Good to see all the comments on Bod Heulog and hi to all who were there when I was. I'm Andy's sister and he's doing great. I have a lot of fond memories of Garretts and did go back there a few times to have a look after it had been knocked down. I think those were my fondest memories of growing up.

Fri Aug 24 10:02:24 2007

Mary Ellison, Manchester

Lovely to keep reading about all the happy memories from Dr Garretts, but it would be even better to have a reunion and see how many people came because it was loved by so many children.

Tue Aug 21 09:08:54 2007

darren evans

Does anyone remember Auntie Sandra in the 70s?

Mon Aug 20 10:27:59 2007

Darren Moffatt (Beswick/Openshaw)

Does anyone remember me Darren or my brother Paul and sister Sharon? All three of us were sent to convalescent home roughly between 1975 and 1979. It was the only time us sickly and poor kids had a holiday for 6 whole brilliant weeks of the year. I remember going looking for golf balls at the nearby golf club and dry sloping down a big hill at the back of the home, it was always summer and I still can smell the dried up grass in the heatwave of 76! I also remember going on what I think (or felt) was a 24 mile walk with us kids and the aunts and uncles. Conwy castle and the

smallest house! I remember post being handed out at breakfast time, and being so excited when a letter had arrived from home for me, but being devastated if I had not got one. At bedtime sneaking into the girls dorm, and getting caught hiding underneath their beds by the night nurses! Scary stuff but so exciting as we were only about 11. I remember the disabled children in wheelchairs and those with mental illness who we became friends with, everyone was treated the same and with love and compassion. I returned a couple of years ago to discover this amazing place had been demolished. But the memories and lessons I learned from being one of the lucky ones to have been a part of Dr Garretts and will stay with me forever. Let's get a re-union sorted out.

Mon Jul 30 16:09:24 2007

darren welsby manchester

I was there from 1972-1981. I stayed in both houses, some short term, some long term. i had some good times and some bad times, i remember jogging along the beach early in the morning. doing lots of horse riding and playing in the forest. i used to love being in the top room with the hatch way between both rooms and sneaking out from there down the back stairs through the bathrooms. in the mid seventies we used to go skateboarding and on a saturday to the pictures and on a sunday getting our spends and going to spend it at the tuck shop. i went back with my wife and was shocked and upset to find it had gone.

Mon Jul 23 10:03:45 2007

Tracy donald, Moss Side

it has been great reading all the memmories of dr garretts. i went there a few times - my last time was easter 1986 we went home early after 3 weeks with an easter egg each. had some great times there horse riding, welsh mountain zoo, conwy castle, smallest house, hill walks, (which i nearly fell down a cliff after slipping and then sliding past the staff, only stopping by grabbing two handfulls of nettles). walking to get the train to llandudno to go swimming. friday night disco me and my sister michelle won a prize for the best dancers. i can remember doing keep fit to jane fonda, watching films, playing bingo, beauty sessions for girls on top floor of the big house just outside the girls rooms, and baking/cooking we made a fruit salad. i can remember stevie wonder was no1 in the harts with i just called to say i love you. i remember the time before being there for bonfire night where we had the best treacle toffee. also the staff were doing a sponsered stay in a haunted castle. will post more if anything comes to me. looking forward to more pics, and a reunion would be great

Mon Jul 16 09:57:37 2007

Rita Lyons Nee Whalley from Newton Heath M/C

I was at this wonderful place in 1943-1944 for 6 months as I had been very poorly in Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester, and was sent to Conwy to recuperate. I had a wonderful time. I went in in my brand new clothes which fitted perfectly but due to the wonderful care I received I had grown 3 inches and all were to short when I came home. Lovely memories.

Tue Jul 3 09:16:43 2007

Eileen Smith

I was at the home twice in the early 1950s and even though my memories are a little vague I can still taste the malt and the cod liver oil. I had clean clothes laid out on my bed every morning and Matron had 2 lovely little 'scotty dogs' one black and one white that I loved so much. For me it was such a wonderful time that I would love to know more about, would love to see any pictures posted to help me remember more clearly.

Web team: You can see some [photos here](#).

Tue Jun 12 09:17:44 2007

Lee , Conwy

Sorry, I didn't go to Dr Garretts, but I now live in the last old house, that was next door to the original homes. Does anyone have photos of this area from any period? You all seem to have had a fantastic time and fond memories of the area I now live in, I'd enjoy seeing any photos...has that website been set up yet?

Fri May 18 14:54:55 2007

andrew foster manchester

was just wondering is there any other way of writing to the staff of dr garretts apart from the site and do the staff ever look at this site and remember any of us?

Wed May 16 16:10:44 2007

Maria Formosa

I had forgotten I had even been there but something jogged my memory. I think I may have been in the Penguins. I remember lining up for medication and going to the Pictures on a Saturday - I think we went to see a Digby or a Herbie Film. Was there a Donkey there too?

Mon Apr 30 09:12:44 2007

alan nixon manchester

I went back to the area sunday 15/4/07, always feel sad and happy - best days of my life.

Mon Apr 23 10:12:38 2007

LEE, LINCS

i remember zebedee in bod huelog, he was a silky black labrador. i still love labradors. i remmember him lying down while playing one of the first tv computer consoles in the 70s

Tue Apr 17 09:26:33 2007

Margaret Davies from Urmston

My mum was there in the 1920s and I wonder if you have any records dating back so far. She had diptheria as a child and so went there to recover. Unfortunately she has died and so I am unable to ask all the questions I would like to about her life there.

Fri Mar 16 11:00:48 2007

suzanne welsby

my husband darren attended dr garretts on quite a few occasions and when we got married he took me to wales to see where he had spent most of his childhood. he was very upset that it had been knocked down. im glad i found this site so i can show it to my husband and he will most likely

leave a message. but does anyone know what happened to all the medical files, as there is nothing in his records to say he was sent there and he doesn't know if he suffered from anything while there.

Wed Feb 28 12:24:05 2007

Brian Hughes from Collyhurst

I was in the Dr Garrett Home in the early 1950s. I went to St Patrick's School. I was very ill and beside being at Dr Garrett's home, I was also sent to Styal Home. To be honest, I thought I was being sent to these places because I was always in trouble at school (not criminal just mischievous). I am trying to write things down for my four children. Mr Fisher was in charge at Conwy. I cannot remember names, but recall going on long walks every day. There was a nurse called Hughes, a lovely, dark-haired lady. We used to watch George Formby and Frank Randle on the film show in a hut on Friday evenings. A priest used to visit us once a week.

Thu Feb 22 10:08:57 2007

darren evans manchester

what a great place - me and my sisters, bev n mandy, went there in the early 70s

Mon Feb 12 10:02:26 2007

DAVE HARRISON ,PORTSMOUTH

james williams, i wonder if you were the one i got into trouble with by pushing the chalets together? do you remember the sock fights? i was there in about 52/53.

Thu Feb 8 13:01:10 2007

Peter Mannion. from Heywood.

I stayed at Dr Garretts twice, once in the late 1940s, and both myself and my sister in the early 1950s. I was born in 1938. I have never been quite sure why i was sent there from my home in Miles Platting, Manchester, and sadly both my parents are now dead so there's no one to ask. I cannot recall much regarding my first visit, being so young, apart from the fact that i wasnt allowed to sleep in the huts in the grounds and slept in a kind of dormitory along with other young children. On my second visit, being older, i got to sleep in the huts outside the main building i also remember a lot more, not least that this was a great place to be, never having had a holiday before, the thing i remember most was the kindness of the people looking after us, even the Matron who supervised the cod liver oil doses, and those mealtimes were absolutely great, i recall that two of the boys on our table didnt like fried bread, semolina, or sago pudding so i used to eat it for them, Wonderful! what i didn't offer to devour was their daily dose of cod liver oil. I recall being issued with a pair of boots and a raincoat that would have fitted my dad, but by virtue of the fact that we were all dressed the same no one was out of place. I have good memories of the days out we had, the long walks in the countryside and in particular, a vist to the Smallest House In The World, near Conwy Bridge. All of this was a wonderful world away from the day to day lives of kids like myself from the inner city areas of that time just after the war, over the years I've had the occasional thought to go back to Conway to have a look at the place which gave me, if only for a few

short weeks such pleasure, but it's only since discovering your website that I have learned that the building has been demolished so unfortunately that won't now happen. I would be interested if anybody knows if Mr Brian Gregson has managed to place the photo albums with the Library Archive Service to date, and if so, advise the access info.

Wed Jan 24 16:57:43 2007

andrew foster manchester

Here I go again, filling up, and I've remembered another name. Does anyone remember Mrs Flanagan who I think lived downstairs in the penguin house and our nightstaff Pat and Mary, if I remember right? Mr Gregson, has there been any more thought as to a reunion somewhere? Or if anyone could help me I would be honoured to arrange it myself. Have the photos been placed anywhere yet?

Fri Jan 19 11:19:49 2007

Craig McMillan (ex Collyhurst) now Glasgow

Loved this place, went with two of my brothers around '79 and '83 remember the witches hat and the films in the shed. I agree a website would be great, and I would be glad to give a donation.

Fri Dec 29 10:54:52 2006

Kathleen Lemon ex Manchester

Spent 2 months there in 1959. Was only 3 years old. Don't remember anything as yet. Any stories that might jog my memory would be great, would also like to see photo's from way back then.

Thu Dec 28 11:38:27 2006

jim williams ex moss side manchester

Is anyone anywhere nearer to posting any photos or information on the current website because I am not getting any younger and may miss out? You are doing a terrific job and I can tell you that you have made a lot of people happy to just be able to see other people's tales about the home.

Web team: We've published [these photos](#) so far.

Wed Dec 20 11:04:07 2006

Katrina Welsby from Manchester

My twin brother Glynn and I went to Conwy from 1977 until 1983. I remember the witches hat and the walks. We also went horse riding and swimming and in 83 we went at Easter time and everyone was given an Easter egg. We also did a little play for some visitors. My friend Sharon and I had to meet people at the door and say welcome in Welsh and give the bread with salt on it to ward away evil spirits. Some other kids recited a poem called we are seven and we performed a song about Conwy. Does anyone remember that?

Mon Nov 20 10:54:29 2006

barry william bowden

So pleased this site is growing. If there is a way of funding a website I too would like to donate, as would many, I'm sure. Well done, Brian Gregson.

Mon Oct 30 10:19:57 2006

Janis Hinchcliffe, Manchester

I was there in 1962 with my older brother John, and 1964 with John, and younger brothers Edward and Joseph. The first time I was seven and hated it as I just wanted to go home all the time. I pretended I was ill thinking I'd get to go home. I didn't, just got moved to the big house. The first time we went from Wood Street Mission and John was at the front of the coach. I spent the whole of the journey constantly checking to make sure he was still there! Vivid memories of bath and nit lotion on arrival followed by hot chocolate and 2 digestive biscuits, queing up for baths (3 in a row separated by a small wall, being interrupted from watching films or some `magic man` for strip washes when not our bath night, hand in hand walks singing `Fish cakes for tea`, being called out at breakfast to recieve our postal orders from home, lining up every Tuesday to order our shopping to be recieved Thursdays (mine was usually maltesers and 2 postage stamps to write home) week spent in isolation in `The Block` and thinking why do I have to stay in bed when I`m not ill? Walks up to Danger Point, monkey bridges, queing up for meals, clothes changes every Sunday, wearing big black boots, snakes and ladders on rainy days in the classroom, formation dancing in the part where the shoveapenny huts were, the coloured spinning around chalets, being woken up by Miss Thompson, to use the pot every night, the rocking horse in the block which we were not allowed to sit on, crying to go home when my Mum visited, being woken early in the morning the day we were going home, seeing my own clothes hanging up waiting for me to put them on! My second visit was completely different - 4 weeks instead of 6, no `block` and being 2 years older made such a difference. i really enjoyed it and made lots of fuss about being seperated from my younger brothers who were not enjoying it. The only person who I remember was a boy who told me he would love me till he died! He was from Gorton and sneaked out to kiss me the night before he left. Many many memories, some good, some bad, but all experiences!

Wed Sep 20 09:51:51 2006

david casey bury

i went to dr garretts 1976 to 1983. i loved it - i had fab time. i remember most of you on this site - hi brian gregson.

Mon Sep 18 11:00:34 2006

Alan Dunn

Hi Tracey Daley, hahah i couldnt believe it when u mentioned going out with my best mate at doctor garrets Andy! i still keep in contact with him after all these years, he still lives in north wales ,in colwyn bay.he is a fireman now, married also and has 2 daughters. Still to this day one of the most charming fellas ive met! I will contact him to let him know about this site and your comments and memories.

Mon Sep 4 10:54:23 2006

David Harrison from Portsmouth

I was in dr garrets in about 1952/53 and as i can recall i had a brilliant time there, i can vividly remember the taste of the shepherds pie and the sausages, the walks crocodile style along the roads and in the woods, i can remember being strapped to my bed because we were caught having a sock

fight in the dorm, i can picture in my mind the little chalets that moved round. what fun, can anybody get hold of any photos from about 1952-53 i'd love my partner to see what they were like. Does anyone know where i can access records of our stay at that wonderful place?

Fri Sep 1 14:48:22 2006

james gillon from liverpool

can any one remember playing footie against woodlands ,i went to woodlands and scored my only goal for woodlands against dr garretts and it was on video.

Tue Aug 22 09:37:02 2006

david casey whitefield

i went to dr garretts 1976 to 1983 i had a fab time thar all the staff were nice to. richard who use to work there did take some pictures of the kids when i was there - if brian gregson can find him and ask him will he put them on the internet for everyone to see that would be great.

Thu Aug 17 09:56:56 2006

david casey from bury

I went to dr garretts 1976 to 1983. i had good time. all the staff was fab if anyone remembers me get in touch. i do have some photographs of my time there and richerd who used work there has got some photographs

Fri Aug 11 16:54:34 2006

SUE TAYLOR MANCHESTER

I have 3 medallions as my children were in the final intake of children at Dr Garretts, 30th January 1989. Does anyone know if they are of any value? I was also there as a child mid 60s only really have one memory and that's being forced to eat bananas and vomiting afterwards. Never touched one since. I hate the smell of anything to do with bananas.

Tue Aug 8 11:59:34 2006

Anne Wilson (nee Ryan), South Australia

Does anybody know if there are any lists of children that stayed at the home? I'm not sure when I was there but I think it was around 1953 or 1954. It would be good to find out exactly when.

Mon Aug 7 11:14:45 2006

peter twentyman (moss side manchester)

i remember that my doctor referred me to the home because i was long and thin and looked ill (i felt okay, but you never questioned your doc then) and my mam probably needed a break (ha ha). i remember feeling really homesick and looked forward to the visits from my family almost as soon as they had gone home from the last visit. i remember wearing their boots, lumpy porridge, malt with cod liver oil (i still love it), the huts moving around in the wind and having a different view from the one you went to bed with, going down to the beach, up mountains, getting presents (it must have been xmas) and going home with my mam. i called there back in the 1990s and it was just as i remember it, i went back with a camera a couple of years later to take some pics and it had been demolished sick, still i have those wonderful memories of the late 50s in Dr Garrets home.

Fri Jul 28 10:49:00 2006

Jean Frost Hulme Manchester

I was at Dr Garretts in the late 40s and early 50s. I can not say all my memories were good, but do remember winning a singing comp and receiving a bag of sweets. I was sent there because I was underweight. I can remember being picked for kitchen duty which meant you could stay up later and help get the food ready for the next day. Shelling a sack load of peas when you are a child is great fun. I do remember being very homesick and crying a lot, and telling every one that my mum was coming to take me home, but she never did at least not for a long time.

Wed Jul 12 11:09:24 2006

wendy rogerson from wythenshawe

I was at Dr Garretts home in 1977 when it was the queens silver jubilee. The queen was visiting conway and we waited what seemed like hours for the queen to go past us and we waved our flags as she went by. I was poorly after having my tonsils taken out. I remember being in the robins category and I also caught chicken pots while I was there and had to stay in doors for two weeks.

Thu Jun 29 09:52:03 2006

Jason B, Manchester

A born and bred Mancunian, I remember Dr G's very well. I was there in the 80s and 90s with my brothers and sisters. I remember the trips, the mountains, my first time (and last) at skiing (artificial) and just how wonderful a place it was. One name that sticks out for me was Eunice. Don't know why, but she along with the rest of the staff made that place a joy to stay in. I remember the race to get the best BMX bike, beating the high score on the arcade machine(s) they had there, the invasion of girls into the guys rooms and vice versa. It's a shame the kids today can't experience what we enjoyed, but then again, some of the kids today wouldn't deserve it - something like boot camp would do them!

Fri Jun 2 10:58:51 2006

james williams (ex manchester)now norfolk

What a nice site! All these people with their lovely memories, just reading them brings on even more memories from my happy time at the home in the 1950s. I see that there are many enquiries about photos and more information about the home and if there is any progress I would love to know.

Tue May 30 16:50:30 2006

Howard Wright Manchester

I went to Dr Garrets Memorial Home on a coach from Manchester which was organised by Wood Street Mission (if anyone remembers that.) It was in 1961 and I was 10 years old. It was just after my Dad died. I don't remember much, but one thing that sticks in my mind was getting a slap across the face because my underpants were showing above my trousers. It was also the first time I ever tasted dripping butties, which we had for supper. Does anyone remember a mountain called "sleeping beauty mountain". Anyway the main thing was that it helped my mother get over a crisis.

Tue May 30 09:25:37 2006

alan nixon, manchester

fantastic to see all these comments, i would like to hear from anybody who spent time at doctor garretts in 1974 cannot remember the dates but as i said previously see my baby jive by wizard was at number 1 in the charts, i remember the walks in the mountain with a packed lunch and snogging susan doughton in the heather, she was from longsight, we met again in 1976 when we both worked at the midland hotel in manchester. i also remember a girl called bunny, and a friend called harry worth then from old moat lane in withington manchester.

Thu May 25 09:47:42 2006

Darren Sharrocks

Hi! Wow, I think this is great. I went to Dr Garrett's from around 1972 to 1979. In all I went 5 times I think. God, what a wonderful time I had. It was the first time anyone had treated me in a decent way, I did not feel judged, I felt like a real person, it was fantastic. What wonderful memories I had there. I did not want to come home, I really missed the people there. Anyone remember a member of staff who had ginger hair? She looked like she was in her forties, but to a 13 year old anyone over 18 was old. Other member of staff I remember is a young woman in the early 70s; she has short blonde hair and I think her name was Val, and another man who was rather old, plump, balding and always wore jumpers etc and a small moustache. The last hut I was in was the Penguins, but I was in them all. I remember the corduroy pants they gave us, the football team they tried to organise, the nativity play, the halloween party, the yukky potatoes, with that scoop thing. I watched the Planet of the Apes there for the first time. I spent Christmas there and got a nice blue plastic sailing boat. I remember the bedrooms with the small white hatch that led to the other rooms, the house was so grand, big stairs. Believe you me, it had the same effect on me when I was five years old as the stairs in the Harry Potter movies! I remember skateboarding/ice skating/swimming in Llandudno and the hill walks. I went to the house in Conwy in 1998 and was sadden to see it closed. All the memories, all the good people. I will never forget them. It was Dr Garrett and the people who ran the place who had a measure in what I achieved later on in life. I hope God still hands out sainthoods. The people who ran this place were the most kind hearted, generous and loving people I have ever met. Fantastic!

Mon May 8 13:12:19 2006

Tracey Daely (Foran)

I went to Dr Garretts during the 1970-1982, with my sister Patricia. What a great time, my mum used to drop us off in town and off we would go, pulling up at the houses I'd been before for the whole of the six weeks and couldn't wait to go back. Just outside the home was a bridge, which we would climb over and go down and get shells and then go back and make ornamants with. Does anyone remember the gardens in the back? They were surrounded with big hedges, you could play hide and seek for hours in there. Some days we would take that long walk around the wall going towards the old house. It felt like forever, I remember doing a show there, the black and white minstrels, it was fantastic. Most of the

people on this site were there in the early seventies and eighties - I bet a lot of us were there together, I used to go out with a boy who lived at Dr Garretts called Andy Roberts. Does anyone know how he is? I'm married now and took my children back to Conwy last year - it was very emotional, they couldn't understand why I was crying, it wasn't because I was sad but because for all the great memories I had about the place. I've loved reading all your comments and hope in the near future that there is a reunion.

Thu Apr 27 09:12:06 2006

Tracey Daley

Hi Alan Dunn - I remember going to Dr Garretts every year from 1970 to 1980. I used to go out with a boy there every year when I went back, called Andy Roberts, he lived there in the third house. Do you know how he is? I would love to catch up.

Tue Apr 18 16:52:14 2006

Chris Oakley

I was at Dr Garretts in the mid 60s along with my sisters Gillian and Rosemary and brothers Howard and David. We were from Judy Street just off Moston Lane in Manchester. I actually have fond memories of the home, although my sisters do not as they were younger and a little more afraid. I seem to remember one of the male staff who used to take us for walks along Marine Walk, which took us to the smallest house in Britain. His name was Mr Tucker, if memory serves me correctly - he had a grey handlebar moustache and he used a necktie to hold his trousers up. Some may not have very happy memories of the home, but the staff that worked there were kind and they showed us a lot of love. The nurses were wonderful kind people, although I didn't like the nit nurse and that chemical she put on your head, I think it was battery acid! I have some photos somewhere, if I can find them I will post them on the website.

Thu Apr 13 09:16:39 2006

joe barrett hoylake

I was sent to Dr Garretts home in late 40s and do not remember any names but do recall the matron? had 2 little snappy dogs that always seemed to be on sentry duty at the front of the house the most distinct memory I have of being fed tripe in milk that made me ill but was served every mealtime until I ate it! Also I did run away and slept under hedges and lived on blackberries I got locked up in solitary confinement as a reward for that. I was about 6 or 7 yrs old.

Fri Mar 31 14:23:52 2006

William Garrett, Plainfield, New Jersey, USA

Thomas J G Garrett was a younger brother of my great grandfather (George William Garrett). I have an enormous amount of documents and pictures from Dr Garrett's. I just need a little time to organize some material to contribute to this site. Stay tuned. We are a long way from Conwy, but our thoughts are often there.

Sun Mar 19 22:03:07 2006

Brian Gregson, Conwy

To Mary Ellison, All the people you mentioned we know well

and Auntie is still in Conwy and we see her periodically. Mr. Tucker moved away to Chirk some years ago when he retired. Mr. Burrows lived in the house across from myself and he died about seven years ago - he was in his eighties then but still helped friends and neighbours with various chores and shopping etc. He was a volunteer at Dr. Garretts for many years particularly for driving the mini bus on outings. Unfortunately he developed a heart condition which ended his driving days but remained a close friend of the home until its closure.

Tue Mar 14 19:43:57 2006

Mary Ellison nee:Anderson Manchester

Me and my brothers and sisters went to Dr Garretts all through the 70s. I met my husband there at 10 years old and we've been married 23 years. I took my children back there just before they pulled it down and to Dr Garretts grave. We had lots of happy times there. I remember most the witches hat, the clothes, different huts & all the aunties & uncles we had when we got there. I remember Mr Tucker, Auntie Jenny plus more. Does anyone remember Mr Burrows who lived nearby and came in most days? We did loads of activities and walked many a hill. It will always be a special part of my life. Please have a reunion and show some pictures.

Fri Mar 10 22:33:50 2006

Les Sherwood, ex Wythenshawe,Manchester

I spent 6 weeks at Dr Garrett's home around 1960 aged 8, following a month in Altrincham General after a near fatal illness. I remember the week in the quarantine hut which seemed much longer at the time, listening to Radio Luxembourg in the evening (no TV). After the first week the boys were moved outside into the wooden chalets which were on pivotal tracks and could be turned round if the wind changed direction; they were open fronted with a stable door & a roller blind (which was only pulled down if it rained), with two single beds & one shared chamber pot. The girls were moved into the big house with heating and flush toilets. We had lots of outings to the beach and sand dunes nearby, walks up Sychnant Pass flying model gliders, walks in the woods and activities in the craft hut, we used to walk into Conwy along the 'Marine Walk' (where we once met Hughie Green who had his yacht moored in the marina, he shook us all by the hand); into the town shops with our 'spends' and visiting the Castle. We used to go to the main house for meals and to receive our medication etc. There were cubicles around the playground with shove ha'penny tables and seats; the custom was to break all the teeth off your double sided 'nit comb' to make the shover. We also used the cubicles on visiting days with our parents. There were also sports days, egg and spoon races, three legged races etc.; the prizes consisted of second hand books and comic annuals, I still have the book I won for the egg and spoon race. Although I have happy memories of my time there I don't seem to remember any names of the other children I spent that time with, it's probably my age - does anyone remember me?

Thu Mar 9 02:06:58 2006

Tracy Telfer Manchester

I went to Dr Garrett's a couple times, I think the first time was in '77 - it was great, but I got homesick. My brothers, Gary and Billy, went too. I remember the witches hat and the sweet bags we had and that travel sickness medicine. I can't remember what hut I was in - Sparrows or Penguins? I would love to see photos, please. I remember Mr Tucker - he had a boat.

Sun Mar 5 15:49:52 2006

Dawn St Clare (Steedman)

I have three pictures: one of the home, a Christmas card from Dr and Mrs Garrett, and a picture of who I think is Dr Garrett with his wife and other people. I got the pictures from a lady who wrote an article in the Manchester Evening News about the home and I asked for copies - she seems to know a lot about the history of the home.

Webteam: Please e-mail your pictures, jpg if possible, with a caption to wales.northwest@bbc.co.uk

Sat Feb 25 11:03:43 2006

Margaret from Manchester

What e mail address should jpg pics be sent to as attachments?

Webteam: Please e-mail your pictures, jpg if possible, with a caption to wales.northwest@bbc.co.uk

Fri Feb 24 21:42:17 2006

Margaret from Manchester

Could you enable your site to allow those of us with pictures of ourselves at Dr Garretts to post our pictures?

Webteam: Yes, we will attempt to put your pictures on the site, provided there are no problems regarding copyright. Ideally they should be sent as jpg attachments.

Thu Feb 23 22:09:59 2006

Carol Gregson - Conwy

It is good to see so many comments and to know that so many children benefitted from the generosity of Dr and Mrs Garrett, who left the home to the city of Manchester in the hope that their work would continue. When the home was due to close hundreds of letters were received, not only opposing the closure but also from parents who were ill and for whom the provision of the home had been a lifeline to them, sometimes preventing their children having to go into permanent residential care. All the letters were passed on to a family relative of the Garretts who lives in America, for them to keep as they were a tribute to the work of Dr and Mrs Garrett. The family also purchased a lot of the furniture and artifacts from the houses from Manchester City Council.

Tue Feb 21 20:11:20 2006

George Brown - Bury

I went to Dr Garretts a couple of times in the 70s for my holidays. It was great and I met loads of people. I can remember going on walks etc and throwing stones at the local kids in the school at the back. I also remember seeing a lad fall off a cliff (some holiday - who needs the Med!)

Tue Feb 21 18:43:54 2006

Ann Davies (nee Brown) Moston

I started going to Dr Garretts around 1975. I've been trying to find out about this for years and all of a sudden I've found this website - it's fab! It brings back so many memories. Anyway, today (19/02/06) I'm taking my husband and 2 daughters back to re-live my memories. I've been telling my daughters about it and they're mortified that I used to go away without my mum and dad for weeks at a time! Our family back then used to be really poor and it meant I got to do things I never would have done in Manchester in the 1970s. I was always put in the sick bay (probably because I used to get so upset about being away from home).
Sun Feb 19 08:43:56 2006

BBC Homepage
Wales Home

Dr Garrett's in pictures

Last updated: 23 January 2008

Pictures sent in by people who went to Dr Garrett's children's home in Conwy, or anyone associated with the home in any way - as staff members, residents or visitors.



A postcard featuring Dr Garretts in about 1977, provided by Brian Gregson.

1 2 3 4 5

[More of your pictures from Dr Garrett's...](#)
[Return to Brian Gregson's memories...](#)

your comments

Shirley Lomas now Anderson, Manchester

I remember going Dr Garretts every year from about 1982 till about 1988-89. I thought it was for people who couldn't afford holidays. I went with my 2 younger sisters and brother we used to cry at first, but we enjoyed it.

Mon Aug 3 09:37:48 2009

Elizabeth Kelly, Manchester

My sister and I stayed at Dr Garretts around 1977. I enjoyed it, but we were very shy. I remember being very embarrassed when we arrived been given night clothes and been checked over by a nurse, looking for head lice. I wanted to die. We then had to have a bath, more shame. I was 13. I battered a lad for saying he fancied me, think I changed his mind. Really glad we went, good memories. I go to Conwy every weekend, love the place. It's all changed where the big white houses were, but the town is just the same.

Mon Aug 3 09:26:46 2009

Eunice Irons

I worked at Dr Garretts from 1980 to the day it closed. Most



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- Ancient remedies
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- Dr Garrett's
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- Jackdaws on wheels
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of the time I loved it and the children, tried not to show favouritism. But I did have some kiddies I felt a close bond with. Some I felt very sad for and wanted to take them to our home in Llandudno.

Thu Jul 30 11:39:47 2009

Steven Dyson, Wythenshawe

Not sure the year I stayed at Dr Garrett's, I think it was 1975 because we went into town to watch Jaws the movie which had just come out. I was 9. Good memories. Remember running through the dorms at night through the inter-connecting little hatches. Also the walk along the sea into Conwy, occasionally walk it to this day to bring back happy times.

Fri Jun 26 09:25:18 2009

Dempsey Matthew from Wythenshawe

I remember staying at this place for some time in between 1985 and 1987 with Two of my brothers Christopher and Paul my uncle Stevie James was there with us as well. I have loads of memories of the place and remember making a picture of the A Team van with dried pasta.

I also remember nutella choc spread and milk shake. I won a blue pencil case for having the cleanest dorm buying a Gi joe with my spends and I think there might have been a cabin with arcade machines and table tennis. The list could go on forever. I don't remember anyone who was there when I was and I would love to see some more pics of the place and the people

Mon Jun 1 09:27:56 2009

Gwyn Howells from Stoke on Trent

I have lots of fond memories of my stay. I think I stayed for six weeks in the early 1960s along with my brother and sister. I remember the songs so well and the sweetie bags and long walks and the smallest house. I remember the dorms and the laughs we had at nights, although six weeks did seem such an awful long time. I also went to Rhyl convalescent home as a child and had fond memories of that too.

Fri May 15 09:49:31 2009

Yvonne Everett, Australia

I was there with my sister a few times. I hated it at first. I was in the Robins. My sister was in a dorm, but I was lucky to share a small room with a girl named Linda. I loved supper time and the packed lunches and they let the "big boys" smoke, but they had to be 14 and had to have a letter from their parents. We had a sort of carnival and I was Jack and Jill with a boy. We had a float with flowers that all the kids made. Many happy times.

Mon May 11 10:07:05 2009

geraldine bradley manchester

I can't believe I've just found this site. Me and my family used to go here as kids. We loved it. I didn't realise it was a children's home, I just thought we went there cos we had a big family and we couldn't afford a holiday. The memories I have from there are fantastic. I was in Robins I think.

Wed Apr 22 09:24:49 2009



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LLEOL I MI

Gogledd Orllewin



Tai Hanesyddol

O blastai crand i ffermydd gwledig, camwch dros drothwy rhai o dai mwyaf

hanesyddol yr ardal

karen lane, manchester

I too had a spell in Dr Garretts in 1978. For years I could not remember the name of the home other than where it was. I stumbled on this site in search of any information on where it could be, and to my astonishment I recognise some names (Dominic) and Aunty Pauline.

I spent Easter in sick bay and Auntie Pauline made me an Easter bonnet with kitchen foil. I wasn't really ill - I was just upset because I never got any letters or visits from home. I think they knew...

I also remember a lad who we nicknamed action man, Robert, Lee from Newall Green and a girl called Jackie who we were all scared of. Whilst I was there and playing on the witch's hat some local lads fired an air gun through the fence and hit me in the shin. When the police arrived one of the policemen lifted me up on to the kitchen side and whacked my head on the cupboard. Not sure which hurt more my leg or my head.

I remember going to the pictures to see the 'last snows of spring' and some of the boys cried.

Tue Apr 7 09:27:30 2009

Margaret Smith from Levenshulme

I went with my older sister and brother in the early sixties for six weeks. I must have only been five or six. From memory I hated every moment of it. so did my brother who must have been about seven or eight, my sister was about ten, she says she loved it but she would have been with an older group I suppose. Memories include: Having your own clothes taken away from you and being put in itchy ill fitting clothes, including a liberty bodice! On arriving we were all sat on pots in a room and made to poo (so they could check for threadworm I guess?), I just remember feeling very embarrassed.

Being in sick bay for the first week was very strange. We then were sent to sleep in the chalets, and were woken up in the night to go on the pot by the horrible Nurse Tomcat! The taste of sickly goats milk and being made to eat food I didn't like. Being split up on Sunday into catholic and protestant groups for church and not knowing which I was, this was very confusing, I seem to remember standing in the line that was being given berets to wear. (I was actually C of E but that was all a mystery to me!)

I struggled with the long walks as I had polio as a baby and got tired easily, I was therefore on many occasions left to sit outside reading a book until everybody else came back, I just remember feeling very lonely when they left me behind. Having Easter Eggs from the Hoover factory was the highlight of the whole time there.

My mum and dad were the most loving parents, and like many happy couples after the war, had a large family (eight children). When I've asked in later years why they sent me, my Mum says that the school nurse suggested it would do my older sister good to have the holiday and fresh air, I

guess they probably thought we'd be better going as a group and my Mum had four younger children at the time. I suppose they thought they were doing their best for us. Many a time since I have wondered how people could have handed over such young children (babies really).
Mon Feb 16 10:24:56 2009

Wayne Wilson , Manchester

I stayed at Bod Heulog for 3 yrs with my 2 brothers and sister in the mid to late 70's (I think). We loved it there. We had the time of our lives. I cannot believe that I am in photo no 10, I remember Andy & Alan Dunn - who posted the pic, thanks for that it brought back really good memories!!!
Mon Feb 9 10:18:49 2009

marie barcoe from manchester

I went in 1979 when i was 10 with my brother we both hated it i was crying for my mum and my brother was comforting me when one of the staff members shouted at him and separated us all. I can remember being laughed at because i couldnt do some of the accvativs. The clothes were itchy and i never wanted to go back but the year later a letter arrived with my name on i opend it and it said that i was to go again on the date of my birthday without my brother because he was to old. Well i hid the letter from my mum and after the departure date i gave it to her.
Mon Feb 2 09:57:48 2009

Derek Warrington, Poulton-le-Fylde

I was at Dr Garrett's circa 1954-56 over the Christmas period. People whose names spring to mind were probably all from Manchester area as we left by coach from Garside Street. They are Tony Gunn, Vera Sarsfield from Newton Heath and a lad called "Spikey" because of his hair. Mr Benson used to show us magic shows and we had dance lessons but no schooling. We enjoyed that. Sleeping outside in huts, good square meals and a choice of fruit or other goodies at the end of the main meal from your own personal box, contents brought by you mam or dad who visited on a Sunday (if they could afford the train fare). Football on the field opposite and long walks beneath Devils Leap. I was in the sick bay for a week or two whilst there and so this time was tagged on to my intended length of stay (finished up doing 2 months or so). A good time, as I remember, but paid a small price in catching up when back at school.
Tue Dec 23 11:05:08 2008

Lee Coles

A Facebook group has been set up for Bod Heulog residence and staff. Just type 'bod' in the groups search.
Thu Dec 18 15:15:03 2008

Paul Kay

I was interned at Dr Garretts in the early 50s. I recall we played shove ha'penny and that was about it. I had a smashing stamp collection which was left behind when my mum called to visit on a Sunday, I was due to go back home the following Monday so she took me back with her. They promised to send my stamps on, I'm still waiting at aged 67.

Mon Nov 10 13:35:39 2008

Davina O'Brien, Manchester

I remember going twice, once with my older brother Simon and again with my younger brother Vincent. I remember very happy times there but was upset when my mum came to see us and wanted to go home. I think I was in the Penguins. I also remember one of the aunties had a horse and she took us to her house. I remember painting pictures on pebbles. Thank you to all the staff there who gave me some vague but happy memories.

Thu Nov 6 09:28:24 2008

John Chesworth, Gorton, Manchester

I stayed there twice in the 80s, once with my younger sister Joanne and younger brother Stuart. I loved it. The second time I went it was with our Joanne, Stuart and my youngest sister Linsey. I used to worry a lot cos I was separated from my sisters, especially Linsey coz she was the baby sister. I think the last time I was there was about 1985-1986. I remember going to the pictures with Uncle Alan and Auntie Linder. I would just like to say thank you to all the staff who worked there and god bless you for all the time and all the hard work you dedicated to us children.

Wed Nov 5 09:06:14 2008

Sheena Booth, Manchester

Vague memories of spending some time at Dr Garrett's but only found out recently where it was. Remember the song: I have the scarlet fever I had it very bad they wrapped me in a blanket and threw me in a cab, the cab was very shaky it nearly threw me out, but when I got to Conwy I heard the children shout. Mammy Daddy take me home from this convalescent home, etc.

I was born 1958 and guess I was there in the early sixties with one of my sisters . I remember it being very strict, large staircase, treats being handed out and walks around the wall.

Wed Oct 15 09:27:33 2008

Marie O'Connor, London

I was at the home in 66, I was 14 and have fond memories, I won the egg and spoon race. I loved music, the radio I had sent me was confiscated. a lovely lady would come and talk to me every night, she gave me a lovely pair of solk multi-coloured trousers. Their kindness will live with us forever. I would like to see a reunion.

Thu Sep 18 13:47:01 2008

Danny Lim from Lancaster origanly Manchester

We did not have much in the way of holiday's but I remember with great fondness the several visits to Dr Garrets, mother was ill, the family doctor suggested that she should be sent to Convalescent home so my sister Wendy and I was shipped off to a Dr Garrets children's home I cannot remember how long we stayed there for but it seemed ages and it was fantastic. the best days I had ever spent. We were both sent back to Dr Garrets for the final time in 1958 for the same reasons again we had a great time I found my first girlfriend Christine Shaw from Hulme who I have fond memories of we saw each other on and off

for about 7yrs until I came home on leave from the Merchant Navy to find out that they had been re-housed due to a mass house clearance of the area She could not let me know were she moved to because she did know were to contact me .anyway like I was saying it was great until I broke my arm and ended up in Llandudno Hospital , I remember the long walks , the syrup figs and castor oil , fish on a Friday, the blackberry and mushroom picking the late night raids on the Girls chalets (Just banged on the sides and ran off) my Sister Wendy Remembers the horrible thin and lumpy with milk skin porridge oh how we Laugh still what fond memories probably some of the best day's of my young life

Tue Sep 16 09:39:19 2008

ANITA MADDEN, MANCHESTER

i went to doctor garretts around the early 80's i recently went back to conwy and it brought back all the memories all of which were great. i went there with my brother edwin he did not not have a good time there. i remember auntie mo i think she was a rather large lady. we used to sing on the mini bus , go crabbing ,discos. about the only good childhood memories i have was when i attended there. i was in bod heulog. what a fantastic place wish i could turn back the clock!

Wed Jul 30 09:19:07 2008

ANITA MADDEN

oh my god me again! does anybody remember singing on the mini bus? 1 man went to mo went to mo a medow? it was aimed at auntie mo hahahaha she was lovely what was the name of the large lady who used to do bed patrol? they used to seperate the boys from the girls and every night we all used to sneek around and that lady always caught us red handed what great memories.

Wed Jul 30 09:18:18 2008

Gail Marsh, Manchester

My sister and I were at Dr Garretts in the 1960s. We boarded a coach from Chorlton Street Bus Station, Manchester, and two sisters from Wythenshawe were on it and they cried all the time. My sister and I slept outside in the cold sheds. It was so cold I cried all the first night and a horrible nurse told me if I didn't stop crying she would take me away from my sister. I also remember the horrible old clothes they made you wear and the big table that was laiden with them. We were the ones who were sent sweets from our parents that used to come in a Bonio box. My memories of that place were not happy ones at all.

Fri Jul 18 09:25:58 2008

Christine Everett- Ancoats Manchester

I Was at Dr Garretts several times, Starting from around 1966. My sisters Yvonne and Belinda were also there. I remember being really scared the first timei was sent there as i was only 4 or 5 but the memories after that were mostly good. I loved the walks passed the smallest house and trips to Conway Castle. I remember how excited i was when they took our little paper bags from the big cupboard in the day room Sweets!

I was once naughty and had to stand outside the dormitory at the top of the stairs, the nurse forgot i was there and i was crying with the cold when the%! 20night nurse finallycame to my rescue.I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers me or my sisters.

Thu Jul 17 09:46:27 2008

beverley roberts from newton heath,manchester

i was there in 1976 - i was in magpie group. i remember beverley donovan,belinda nelson went back in 1978 i remember jackie clay, kenny clay,a lad called darren,lee mcdonnell and we was in the penguins

Mon Jul 14 10:26:19 2008

sharon chadwick from manchester

i dont believe it,ive just been looking at the photots sent in by andrew dunn - my brother, myself and aunty mo are on those photos! i remember andrew so well,i got fostered in wales and andrew used to come and visit me.

Mon Jul 14 10:25:48 2008

Terry Henderson, Manchester

It was a thing where I loved the walks and the hills - did not like to see the dead sheep on the road to the railway bridge to the walk up the hill - lovely view from there.

I remember my first kiss - a young girl from I think Clayton area got hold of me and sent shocks down my spine - my first kiss and I think she had a clipped ear from it.

I do remember a red haired Nurse Roberts from Deganwy she combed the head lice out of my hair - she was a lovely warm operson, an! d gave me a hug before sending me off to sleep in a happy mood - wanted to stay there forever and cried often at home that such a hell hole afterwards - that nurse had patience and it was my first night there in the ward, sick rooms - she was an angel, Whatever happened to all the nice staff that were there - there were two bad one's but the rest were fantastic people. We will have to have a meeting set-up in the pub somewhere like the Yr Albion and make a social event - wonder how many of the kids are left from there now - I was there in about 1956/7 - nice time then!

Wed Jul 9 14:34:20 2008

Kathleen Haley, Bolton

I was there the first time at the age of 9 in 1978. Then again in summer 1980 and 1984. I was very happy there. I remember Auntie Jenny, she was my favorite, and Uncle Alan. I remember singing in the minibus going on a trip to the forest in 1984. There were trips to Welsh Mountain Zoo, swimming , roller blading and picnics. I wasn't a popular girl when I got there, I got bullied by the other kids because my mum dressed me in old-fashioned clothes and I was very quiet. I remember playing in the playground there and going on the witches hat, (like a round about shaped like a witches hat. They had a sports day, I remember the penguin hut, all the huts had different names. I was sad to see the buildings were knocked down when I went to visit there 10 yrs ago. I had a lot of happy memories there.

Fri Jun 6 10:29:57 2008

Edward Gill Cardiff

I went to Dr. Garrett's memorial home for three months in 1943 and have the happiest memories of it. The Matron was a Miss Ray and there was a Nurse Thompson. The staff were absolutely wonderful. A very elderly gentleman taught us in a small school room and from its windows we could see across the river to Deganwy. I remember so well the chalets with their canvas fronts - what a novel way it was to sleep.

Each week, we had dancing, doing the Military Two Step, The Valeta and St. Bernard's Waltz. My home town of Manchester was well ahead of its time and was very good to its childr! en. I have two books which are Annual Council Reports of the 1930s, entitled "How Manchester is Managed" They are the perfect blue print for any council today.

Being war time, I recall seeing large sections of Mulberry Harbour launched at the mouth of the River Conwy. It might have been Top Secret, but we could see it all from Dr. Garrett's. I think it was a must for all the home's residents to visit the Doctor's grave. Very happy memories. I was delighted to find your web site.

Tue Apr 29 09:28:00 2008

Pam Campbell-McLean from Australia

My mother-in-law Gladys Pritchard was in Dr Garrett's in 1935 at the age of 6. She had recovered from Diptheria and then contracted Scarlet Fever. She says "I was near death and was very lucky to recover. It was like an orphanage and I think I got my asthma from there due to nerves. They had a long trough with taps and we were strapped up and had to bend forward to have our hair washed. The nurses were very strict and cold. It wasn't a nice place but I think I was lucky that I had a place like that to go to or I may not be here today. My mother came to see me and brou! ght me a lovely coloured ball. I was playing with it on the beach and it went into the water. I was unable to go in and get it because I couldn't swim.

I remember crying "my ball, my ball" as it was drifting further out to sea. No one on the beach was able to go in the water and get it back for me".

Mon Apr 28 10:28:18 2008

Alan from Macclesfield

I served six months there in the mid fifties when I was about 9yrs old to convalesce after I contracted TB. My memories are pretty sketchy but I do remember the rotating chalets and jelly sandwiches for sunday tea(that's right, wobbly jelly on sliced bread)I also remember standing accused of being a heretic along with a few other boys because at meal times we used to rush about the canteen looking to sit where apostle spoons were laid out. We believed that they were magic and could grant wishes. The wish being we could go home or our parents would come to visit us as most couldn't afford the trip.

Needless to say we were found out, interrogated and paraded in front of everyone as heretics. We formed an escape committee and tried to tunnel our way out but were

unsuccessful due to an informer in our ranks.
Fri Apr 4 09:35:03 2008

lisa from manchester

my two sisters and I are in picture no 6 with the lord mayor
- anyone remember us?
Mon Mar 17 11:20:04 2008

Graham Donald from Fallowfield, Manchester

I stayed at Dr Garrets 3 times in the late seventies/ early eighties. There was quite a clan of us there. Karl, Colin, Michelle, myself, Tracy and Debbie. I loved the place. I still get a lump in my throat when i see the path that stretches along the river from Conwy to the road that used to have the houses. i remember Uncle Alan. He used to remind me of Roy Schneider from jaws. I really looked up to him. The battered minibuses and trips into the hills or to go swimming in colwyn bay. the memories make me smile. I remember singing survivor`s Eye of the Tiger with a friend which was filmed (i wonder what happened to all the home movies made there) and taping Star Wars on to v.c.r. if any of the staff ever read these comments...thank you!
Mon Mar 10 13:54:38 2008

Jean Frost/Johnson

To mary clark: i was there about the same time but my memories are not all good ones. i remember a boy called anthony i think he was from gorton but as i said my memory is not that good, maybe i am trying to blank out the bad bits. i got in trouble quite a bit and was tied down to make me behave. i did sleep outside for a while and then was told because of my behaviour i had to sleep in the dormitory.
Tue Mar 4 10:27:52 2008

carl rawlinson newton heath manchester

i was at the home in the late 70s early 80s. i have fond memarys of fun summer days in the fresh air . i visited several times around august. my faverate minder was auntie linder, but as above, the clothes were very itchy , i have now moved to wales ,because i love the placeif any body remembers me please get intouch
Mon Mar 3 12:31:25 2008

Mark Nolan Nelson was mosside

My memories are patchy but as I recallI was three years of age. I was sent withmy older brothers Steven and Derick. I wore a ballaclaver, and chewed it to bitsaround the mouth. I was petrefied. I was to frightened to get out of bed one night and had an accident, I was calledevery name under the sun. I remember being forced to stand in disgrace on the stage, being humiliated in front of everyone in a large hall. Thats it.

The only good memories I have are of playing pushpenny on a table out side and going trecking through woods near the monkey bridge. Going to this place at threeyears of age scarred me for life. I and like so many other were clearly far to young to be away from mum.
Tue Feb 26 09:41:56 2008

kathfitz

My sister and I went to Dr Garretts in 1959. I remember the place as very institutionised and cruel. Some of the staff hit me for not eating breakfast and were very strict about going to the loo etc. Not happy memories for me and I feel angry that they got away with hitting me.

Fri Feb 15 09:33:10 2008

Mary Clarke Gorton Manchester

Dr Garrett's changed so much over the years, when I was there in 1948, we went to school each day until dinner time, the teachers were really nice to us, and we stayed at this convalescent home for 3 months. We didn't refer to the young nurses as aunties and uncles, but they were like friends to us older girls; as the years went on the experiences of these children changed, for later there was no school room, and their stay was only for six weeks, you either loved the place or hated it and some wrote home asking to go home as they didn't take to the stay there, but in my days there I loved it. I keep looking on your site for children that were there with me Aug to Nov 1948, but have not had any luck yet.

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Mon Jan 14 09:33:09 2008

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I stayed in the 1980s. I was about 7 or 8. I can remember going with my sister Joanne, brothers John and Stuart, they were all older than me. We were all separated, girls on one side boys on the other. I can remember us having a disco in the cabins before returning home and how all the girls would say the make-up room was haunted.

Mon Nov 12 10:12:30 2007

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On picture number 12 there is a boy in a royal blue jumper. Does anyone know who it is? He looks very much like my older brother John Chesworth. The last time he went was about 1987 aged 11 or 12. If anybody knows could they let

me know?

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Donna Roberts now in Norfolk

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Mon Sep 24 11:35:28 2007

Emma Smith, Manchester

I was about seven years old, I remember bits, I was in the biggest girls' room at the front of the house. I could see the water and the yachts. I was the youngest one there and in my family me and my sister and brother were there. We played a lot of games. I got sent to the office a few times. One girl wasn't very nice to me, so we ended up.

Tue Sep 4 09:20:39 2007

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I attended Bod Heulog at Christmas 1981 with my two sisters Katie and Emma. I don't have many memories of the place but some things i do remember are wearing itchy clothes, uncle Alan, and a funny memory of one of the Aunties getting stuck in a chair. I remember sharing a dorm with a lad called Steven. I recall a girl called Anne and one of my sister katie's friends called Stella. One of my less fond memories was when my sister Emma got slapped for sucking up her milk from a cereal bowl instead of using her spoon. Generally though, the things i do remember were good times a! nd when it came to returning home I didn't want to go.

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Lee, Lincs

I have sent in a photo (no. 9 above) from the period when I was living in the permanent resident children's home, called Bod Heulog. I stayed there from around 1976-79. I also have fond memories of the staff that, it seemed, saw their role there as more than just a job. It was the first place I experienced happiness. I remember most clearly a lady called aunty Connie who had the biggest smile and the rosiest cheeks I had seen in my life. I also remember aunty Beth, also one of my favourite members of staff. I remember an Uncle Tom and aunty Nora. Aunty Nora had jet-black hair in a ponytail. Oh and aunty Mo and a member of the night staff called aunty Pat who had some trouble getting some of us to go to bed. Hope some of these names jog some memories for the children who lived at Bod Heulog during this period. I also remember gorse bush and bracken dens, running from wasps nests, house martins in the eaves, bilberries on the hills, the great orme, Conway castle, bodlondeb tot school and cadnant school. It only seems like yesterday that I was walking the last few yards home from school along morfa drive. I remember playing tag, hide and

Edward Gill Cardiff

I went to Dr. Garrett's memorial home for three months in 1943 and have the happiest memories of it. The Matron was a Miss Ray and there was a Nurse Thompson. The staff were absolutely wonderful. A very elderly gentleman taught us in a small school room and from its windows we could see across the river to Deganwy. I remember so well the chalets with their canvas fronts - what a novel way it was to sleep.

Each week, we had dancing, doing the Military Two Step, The Valeta and St. Bernard's Waltz. My home town of Manchester was well ahead of its time and was very good to its childr! en. I have two books which are Annual Council Reports of the 1930s, entitled "How Manchester is Managed" They are the perfect blue print for any council today.

Being war time, I recall seeing large sections of Mulberry Harbour launched at the mouth of the River Conwy. It might have been Top Secret, but we could see it all from Dr. Garrett's. I think it was a must for all the home's residents to visit the Doctor's grave. Very happy memories. I was delighted to find your web site.

Tue Apr 29 09:28:00 2008

Pam Campbell-McLean from Australia

My mother-in-law Gladys Pritchard was in Dr Garrett's in 1935 at the age of 6. She had recovered from Diptheria and then contracted Scarlet Fever. She says "I was near death and was very lucky to recover. It was like an orphanage and I think I got my asthma from there due to nerves. They had a long trough with taps and we were strapped up and had to bend forward to have our hair washed. The nurses were very strict and cold. It wasn't a nice place but I think I was lucky that I had a place like that to go to or I may not be here today. My mother came to see me and brou! ght me a lovely coloured ball. I was playing with it on the beach and it went into the water. I was unable to go in and get it because I couldn't swim.

I remember crying "my ball, my ball" as it was drifting further out to sea. No one on the beach was able to go in the water and get it back for me".

Mon Apr 28 10:28:18 2008

Alan from Macclesfield

I served six months there in the mid fifties when I was about 9yrs old to convalesce after I contracted TB. My memories are pretty sketchy but I do remember the rotating chalets and jelly sandwiches for sunday tea(that's right, wobbly jelly on sliced bread)I also remember standing accused of being a heretic along with a few other boys because at meal times we used to rush about the canteen looking to sit where apostle spoons were laid out. We believed that they were magic and could grant wishes. The wish being we could go home or our parents would come to visit us as most couldn't afford the trip.

Needless to say we were found out, interrogated and paraded in front of everyone as heretics. We formed an escape committee and tried to tunnel our way out but were

unsuccessful due to an informer in our ranks.

Fri Apr 4 09:35:03 2008

lisa from manchester

my two sisters and I are in picture no 6 with the lord mayor
- anyone remember us?

Mon Mar 17 11:20:04 2008

Graham Donald from Fallowfield, Manchester

I stayed at Dr Garrets 3 times in the late seventies/ early eighties. There was quite a clan of us there. Karl, Colin, Michelle, myself, Tracy and Debbie. I loved the place. I still get a lump in my throat when i see the path that stretches along the river from Conwy to the road that used to have the houses. i remember Uncle Alan. He used to remind me of Roy Schneider from jaws. I really looked up to him. The battered minibuses and trips into the hills or to go swimming in colwyn bay. the memories make me smile. I remember singing survivor`s Eye of the Tiger with a friend which was filmed (i wonder what happened to all the home movies made there) and taping Star Wars on to v.c.r. if any of the staff ever read these comments...thank you!

Mon Mar 10 13:54:38 2008

Jean Frost/Johnson

To mary clark: i was there about the same time but my memories are not all good ones. i remember a boy called anthony i think he was from gorton but as i said my memory is not that good, maybe i am trying to blank out the bad bits. i got in trouble quite a bit and was tied down to make me behave. i did sleep outside for a while and then was told because of my behaviour i had to sleep in the dormitory.

Tue Mar 4 10:27:52 2008

carl rawlinson newton heath manchester

i was at the home in the late 70s early 80s. i have fond memarys of fun summer days in the fresh air . i visited several times around august. my faverate minder was auntie linder, but as above, the clothes were very itchy , i have now moved to wales ,because i love the placeif any body remembers me please get intouch

Mon Mar 3 12:31:25 2008

Mark Nolan Nelson was mosside

My memories are patchy but as I recallI was three years of age. I was sent withmy older brothers Steven and Derick. I wore a ballaclaver, and chewed it to bitsaround the mouth. I was petrefied. I was to frightened to get out of bed one night and had an accident, I was calledevery name under the sun. I remember being forced to stand in disgrace on the stage, being humiliated in front of everyone in a large hall. Thats it.

The only good memories I have are of playing pushpenny on a table out side and going trecking through woods near the monkey bridge. Going to this place at threeyears of age scarred me for life. I and like so many other were clearly far to young to be away from mum.

Tue Feb 26 09:41:56 2008

kathfitz

My sister and I went to Dr Garretts in 1959. I remember the place as very institutionised and cruel. Some of the staff hit me for not eating breakfast and were very strict about going to the loo etc. Not happy memories for me and I feel angry that they got away with hitting me.

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seek. I used to lie down, just around the corner of the first yellow hut to see if the seeker was approaching, and when he or she disappeared out of view, I would run and touch base (such simple games as kids). I also waved a flag frantically on silver jubilee day as the queen, in a black car, as it rolled by.

Wed Apr 18 14:27:25 2007

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Mon Aug 3 09:37:48 2009

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Mon Aug 3 09:26:46 2009

Eunice Irons

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A bronze and marble clock from Dr Garrett's home - it was above the fireplace in the dining room.

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The china displayed is exactly where it sat when it was in the home. We took pictures before the furniture was removed, and we try to keep things as they were.

The cabinet was made in Manchester. It is maple, and just absolutely beautiful. Does anyone remember this from their stay at Dr Garrett's? I am sure Mrs Garrett prized this very highly. I believe that in Welsh it is called a "Cwpwrdd Gwydr".

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Dr Garrett's in pictures

Last updated: 11 March 2008

Pictures sent in by people who went to Dr Garrett's children's home in Conwy, or anyone associated with the home in any way - as staff members, residents or visitors.



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◀ A large china closet that was in the main entrance hall of Minydon, Dr. Garrett's memorial home. ▶

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A picture of the young Dr Thomas James Galloway Garrett, sent in by Bill Garrett.

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Dr Garrett with his father, Rev John Garrett DD, rector of Christ Church, Moss Side, Manchester, and his mother, Georgina Ewing Fry Garrett. Tom is holding the family dog. The picture was probably taken when he had just become a doctor, before he married.

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An inkwell or writing stand that belonged to Dr Garrett's father. It was in the home until it closed. 'Of all the artefacts saved from that sad event, this inkwell was the only thing that can traced back to our common ancestor,' says Bill Garrett.

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