

Ladies Walk Centre

By Sheila Oliver

Sheila Oliver has been attending All Saints' for many years – she was in the legendary **All Saints' Youth Club** with **Jane Hartshorne in the 1960s** - and is still a member of **All Saints' Choir**. In this article she reminisces about a Sedgley institution close to her heart and of vital importance to Sedgley people over the decades – Ladies Walk Clinic.



The old Ladies Walk Clinic in 2000, pictured when work on the new clinic was taking place.

Sheila worked at the clinic from September 1976. It was opened in the early 1960s and was a very small, single storey building with many windows, that made it a pleasant place to work. The main function was a base for health visitors attached to the GP practices at Tandon, The Ridgeway and Northway Medical Centres.



Sheila (centre) with her work colleagues in September 2000.

One of Sheila's jobs was to sell baby food and milk powder and she served many of the 'characters' of Sedgley and also Lower Gornal - where she also worked for a while.

One mum would complain about her husband's pigeons who would invade her kitchen!



September 2000 – the new Ladies Walk Centre rises alongside the old clinic.

The clinic had other rooms that were used by speech therapists, chiropodists, the family planning service and the local mental health team and the school nurse.

There was a play room for children in which was also held a Tufty club teaching children about road safety.



A view of the old clinic, showing the office where the 'pram shelter' once was.



The official opening of the new Ladies Walk Centre in 2001.



A string quartet performed at the official opening.

In the late 1990s we were given the news that our clinic was to be replaced by a new larger building that would incorporate child health services, local mental health services, social services and other professionals who would use the clinic as a base. One of them was the daily phlebotomy service (taking blood for testing) which proved popular with people who didn't want to travel to Russells Hall.

We wondered how the changes would be made and services still maintained - but need not have worried. While the first half of the two storey building was being built we carried on working in the clinic as normal. We then transferred to new offices while the old clinic was demolished and the new building completed in late 2000.

It was officially opened the following year with balloons, bunting and a string quartet.

Sheila Oliver

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This is an abridged version- a full version with all Sheila's text will be available shortly.