

## Memories of Sorrento

I was born at Sorrento on the 9th of April 1990, 6 weeks early, weighing just 3 pounds 2 ounces. I was looked after in the premature baby unit, remaining at Sorrento for almost a month. The fantastic care I received was a direct result of the innovations Dr Crosse made.



Although I was obviously too young to have any memories of that time, which considering the amount of needles and tubes involved is probably a small mercy, I can never forget the wonderful nurses at Sorrento. This is because of the Easter card they made for my parents and the ID bracelet they put on my toy panda, which said 'I belong to Josephine, please take care of me'.

When I gave a talk on this subject at the Local History Group's November 2013 meeting it inspired several other people to contribute their memories of Sorrento:

'I had both my children at Sorrento hospital and my husband was born there in 1938. My first daughter was born in 1963. I had to stay in for 7 days and was in an attic ward. There were about 8 beds and 2 toilets. We were all given enemas at the same time and were banging on the doors of the toilets to use them... My second daughter was born in 1966. The new delivery unit was built by them. After the birth I was wheeled across a courtyard in the icy cold (it was February) with my new baby.' **Judy Witton**

'My mum spent her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Sorrento hospital. She was admitted with pre-eclampsia prior to the birth of my eldest sister Christine. She was in hospital for 10 weeks in total. She says it could be very dull and often lonely but to make the time pass more quickly she took up crochet and made dressing table sets for all the nurses, who were very kind. My sister was born on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1945 and my mother's birthday was June 6<sup>th</sup>! Her second child, my brother Raymond, was also born at Sorrento.' **Brenda Wall**

'My first memory of my sister is going to the Sorrento with my father to meet Mum and new baby at the side entrance to the hospital (this was 1957).' **Christine Mann**

'When I had my second baby in 1972 I had abundant breast milk. Sorrento gave me a breast pump, I expressed milk into a small bottle and stored it in my fridge until the Sorrento van came daily to collect it for the breast milk bank. My other memory of Sorrento is visiting a friend when she had her babies. It was a rabbit warren!' **Janet Berry**

'There was a sign at the rear entrance of Sorrento which said 'No Parking. Delivery Expected!'  
**Fiona Adams**

If you have any memories or images of Sorrento, we'd love to hear them! You can email them to [moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com](mailto:moseleyhistory@moseleyexchange.com).