

South Tyneside



NHS Foundation Trust

The Dame Catherine Cookson Memorial Garden

Situated along the Hospital Street at South Tyneside District Hospital, the Dame Catherine Cookson Memorial Garden was designed by artist Elizabeth Tate around the theme of the Caduceus, the serpent-entwined staff symbolic of knowledge and healing. Catherine Cookson began her working life as a laundry checker in Harton Workhouse Laundry on the District Hospital site, where she worked from 22nd October 1924 – April 1929 and, by her writing success, became a major sponsor of both medicine and the arts.

The garden features a 40-metre-long water channel connecting two pools, set amid a serpentine shape whose loops enclose the garden plots. The garden was built under the Arts and Environment Initiative of the Health Promoting Trusts programme, which seeks to develop new partnerships to enhance the well-being and health of the community. This project included Pedalling Arts and Groundwork South Tyneside and the participation and funding of the Post Office Community Action Team. Additional funding was also provided by the Dame Catherine Cookson Trust.

The Garden was officially opened on Tuesday 20 November 2001 by Dr Hugo Marshall, Chairman of the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust together with his wife Anne, a close family friend of Catherine and Tom Cookson.

Seen here is David Robinson of the Estates Department at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and Sue Hodgson, Public Relations Officer at the Trust pictured in the Dame Catherine Cookson Memorial Garden full of bright summer plants courtesy of a donation by Steve Tomkins of the Vigilant Inn, South Shields (also pictured) to the Sponsor A Bed Scheme. This initiative, to which Dame Catherine Cookson made several donations to over the years has included purchases of planters, bird baths, shrubs and flowers to help enhance our recreational areas for use by our patients and their visitors.

For Further Information Please Contact

Mrs Sue Hodgson
Public Relations and Communication Officer
Telephone 08448 11 30 30 Extension 2385