

A sculpture for Manor Hospital  
- About the project -

**This artwork is commissioned by Escape Arts and is funded by Arts Council England  
The artwork is being designed and made by Spencer Jenkins.**

### **Escape Arts story**

Escape Arts helps people of all age groups to work together on art and heritage projects that support wellbeing. For over 20 years Escape has developed a diverse programme of creative workshops, projects and artworks both in Stratford and Nuneaton, as well as across Warwickshire. Part of Escape's success is using this creativity to engage and celebrate stories of people, place and time in an exciting, empowering way. Escape works with a team of professional artists and heritage professionals to provide an innovative and varied programme.

[www.escapearts.org.uk](http://www.escapearts.org.uk)

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### **The Artists story**

Spencer Jenkins sculptural work is beautiful and often functional, it can encourage you to look, touch, sit on, walk under, through or around. His work is mainly made from steel and wood that connect with human nature and our environment. Working in varying scales from monumental sculptures to intricate thoughtful gallery pieces. Spencer has made work for museums, art galleries, country parks, heritage spaces, from show gardens to royal gardens both nationally and internationally.

Spencer says "I'm really excited and moved to be making an important piece of public art for this amazing building. Not only do I have a personal connection with the site but an admiration for its architectural significance. I was humbled to discover that its existence is down to a small group of caring human beings that set up a charity to provide care to all before the NHS. Prior to becoming an artist I was a hairdresser, one of my clients was a surgeon working at the Manor Hospital - he described the specialist facial reconstruction work he was performing at the time. This story held a fascination for me, I was impressed by his skill and knowledge - not only did he rebuild faces but also peoples lives. I too became a patient there after breaking my back, I remember a sense of calm, care, kindness and understanding, the hospital was small and very special.

[www.spencerjenkins.co.uk](http://www.spencerjenkins.co.uk)

Facebook [@spencerjenkinsgreenwood](#)

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### **The Artwork**

For its time Manor Hospital was performing pioneering reconstruction surgery, this, along with the history of the building has structured a narrative of unseen human care, dedication, specialist skills and equipment, generosity and kindness. Human stories connected to the building past and present along with medical archives will all help to influence and develop the final outcome of the work.

To develop this work Spencer wants people to come forward to share their story by asking,

'What was your experience of being a patient or a member of staff at The Manor Hospital, Nuneaton?'

The creative design process will be documented via online platforms throughout and will be built in the artists workshop in Nuneaton.

### **The Manor Hospital story**

Since before the day it was officially opened in 1893 and the introduction of the NHS in 1948 to the present day - The Manor Hospital has nurtured a long history of medical care and support for the poor and under privileged in Nuneaton. Instigated by Nuneaton Surgeon Dr Edward Nason and further supported by his sons and grandsons. The Nason's were London trained and witnessed first hand the benefits of medical and

nursing care in clean conditions with less chance of infection. These doctors and surgeons led the way to create the story of 'Nuneaton's Hospital Fund' which led to the building of Nuneaton's first hospital. Helped by MP James Tomlinson and local businessman, entrepreneur and humanitarian Reginald Stanley and funded by generous donation and creative fundraising.

Since its conception as Nuneaton's first hospital, Manor Court Surgery has witnessed pioneering surgery, medical care for infection and disease, specialist care to local workers and residents, WW2 service men and women, the setting up of a nurse training school and the development of George Eliot general and maternity hospital. Led by Ellie Deeming in 1930 it's fundraising roots even established the first town carnival and carnival queen. The beautiful architecture of the building design itself is also thanks to the generous support of community benefactor Reginald Stanley - of Stanley Brickworks, who was notably instrumental in developing some of the towns finest architecture. Stanley bricks were famed all over the world not only for their strength (the clay and stone quarried from Nuneaton was pretty special) but also for their decorative beauty. Stanley ensured even the modest of houses were adorned with decorative features as he believed everyone deserved beauty in their lives. So he donated the bricks for the hospital and hired a local building firm from Coton, who won the competitive commission to build the hospital.

The hospital has continued to provide local medical care as a GP surgery since 1993.

Research and history from [nuneatonmemories.wordpress](http://nuneatonmemories.wordpress.com) supplied by Alexandra Price

The Manor Hospital site is now managed by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust .

### **Where to Engage and how**

[4publicart@gmail.com](mailto:4publicart@gmail.com) is a dedicated email address set up to request more information about the project and for people to submit their responses.

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