

Margaret Stote Glen Bott OBE 1891–1969

**Nottingham's First woman Gynaecologist,
Surgeon, Obstetrician, Magistrate,
City Councillor, Alderman**



Margaret was born on 17th August 1891, the youngest of six children – two sons and four daughters – her father Alexander was a clergyman and her mother was Mina Stote Burn. She was christened at St Thomas church at Halliwell where her father was the vicar and where the family lived – Halliwell is a residential area of Bolton. Margaret went to St Elphin's school in Darley Dale, Derbyshire; a school for the daughters of clergy and there she did well being mentioned winning various awards in the report of the Annual Speech Day in 1907.

Margaret always wanted to be a doctor and trained at the London School of Medicine for Women, now the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, where she qualified with the conjoint Diploma (degrees were not yet awarded to women) in 1915 and is on the medical register as a surgeon. Her address on the Medical Register is the family home at St Thomas Vicarage, Halliwell, Bolton. Despite a house appointment in London, as a woman she found it difficult to get a surgeon's role elsewhere. In 1916, however, she was appointed as house surgeon at Nottingham General Hospital to assist with the influx of some 500+ injured WW1 soldiers. She graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 1917 – now women were able to be awarded degrees.

In 1919 she set up her own practice in Nottingham; and in the trade directories for 1920, 1922 and 1925 she is at 9 Wellington Circus and listed as a surgeon. In September 1919 she also started working at the Women's Hospital in Castle Gate where she had been appointed as Honorary Surgeon, she was also an assistant surgeon at the Children's Hospital. In a Nottingham Guardian article 26.10.1951. she describes how she went all over the city and County during the night to attend to

emergency call – she always slept with her phone by her bed. And as in her early days she didn't have a car she went everywhere by bicycle.

The electoral register shows that by 1925 she was living at 15 Regent Street where she remained for some 25 years as evidenced in the 1939 register and a reference as part of her duties as a Magistrate. Margaret was appointed as a Magistrate in 1937 and served until 1950's. In 1938 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG) in recognition of her senior gynaecological role. In addition to her medical work, she was a county badminton player, and played golf, tennis and went fishing.

With the advent of WW2, she was called upon to serve Nottingham in another capacity being co-opted onto the City Council, a choice that was later ratified by the citizens at the first post-war election. She served as a city councillor for Mapperley Ward 1939-1958 and was made Alderman in 1956 and received an OBE in 1961 for her political service to the city.



Credit: Guardian Journal 14.07.1961



Credit: Nottingham Castle Museum

After her death the award was given to Nottingham's Castle Museum as she had been a member of the Museum's governing committee from 1942 and Chair from 1952 to 1958. The Museum database records a donation made by a Miss ED Berridge of Kent via Alderman Miss MS Glen Bott, and this was used to buy a collection of glass walking sticks! Although another source suggested that these may have been presented from her estate.

Margaret was particularly interested in all aspects of education, and the Margaret Glen Bott School – a secondary school in Wollaton Park was named after her in 1955. Margaret was also on the committee working to raise the funds to set up the new Nottingham Playhouse in 1963.

At the inception of the National Health Service in 1948 she was made a member of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board and served there for many years, and later was chair of Nottingham No. 3 Hospital Management Committee. Over and above her work Margaret had a keen interest in the arts and theatre, sport, country life and gardening – she had a country cottage in Norwich which she loved to visit with her dogs including in 1951 a new puppy, Bess, a Norwich terrier.

Margaret devoted her life to public service, was extremely hardworking and

organised but was also self-deprecating. Speaking to the *Nottingham Guardian* in October 1951 she said: *“Nottingham has been so kind to me. It gave me my first chance and also the chance to set up in specialised work. I love the City and I think it is very beautiful.”*

She was a real pioneer remembered as a tiny figure perched on a wooden stool, operating with great skill, she is remembered with great affection and admiration by those who worked with or were trained by her. She retired in 1968 and died the following year on 21 March 1969, at 2 Newcastle Circus in The Park leaving £11,4507 including a bequest to Nottingham University – she served on the University Council from 1945–1965 – with which they bought 41 watercolours from various artists which established the University’s permanent art collection. Margaret’s niece Dr Mary Glen Bott and great niece Christine Woods were at her funeral at St Peter’s after which she was cremated at Wilford Hill. There were obituaries in Guardian Journal 22.3.69 and 27.3.69 and a piece in the Nottm Guardian 26.10.51.

On 21st March 2026 NWHG installed a plaque on her home in Regent Street. The occasion was attended by over sixty people including representatives from NWHG, the Medical Chiurgical Society, Margaret Glen Bott School and members of the Glen Bott family.

