**Key People – Surgery**

Humphrey Davy – discovered nitrous oxide (laughing gas) in 1799

William Morton – discovered ether in 1846

James Simpson – discovered chloroform in 1847

Queen Victoria – famously used and endorsed chloroform for the birth of her 8th child in 1853

Kate Dickens – used chloroform in childbirth

Hannah Greener – died of an overdose during a simple operation using chloroform in 1848

John Snow – developed an inhaler to control the dosage of chloroform given to patients in 1848

Robert Liston – the swift surgeon (leg amputations in under 30 seconds, removed a patient’s testicles by accident and fingers of an assistant in another operation). First used ether in 1847.

Ignaz Semmelweiss – suggested that people wash their hands in chlorinated water in an attempt to lower infection rates (before germ theory)

Joseph Lister – invented the carbolic spray in 1867

William Halstead – developed the first rubber gloves to protect a nurse’s hands from irritation caused by carbolic spray, which incidentally reduced infection rates because it was aseptic

James Blundell – performed the first successful human-to-human blood transfusion during the 19th century

Alexander Wood – invented the hypodermic needle for blood transfusions in 1853

Karl Landsteiner – discovered different blood groups in 1901

Richard Lewisohn – added sodium citrate to blood to stop it clotting

Richard Weil – discovered that blood with sodium citrate could be stored in refrigerated conditions

Rous and Turner – added a citrate glucose solution to blood to store it longer

Harold Gillies – developed plastic surgery in WWI, setting up a unit in Aldershot in 1916

Louis Pasteur – came up with the germ theory in 1861

Wilhelm Roentgen – discovered X-rays in 1895

Geoffrey Keynes – developed a portable machine to store blood, meaning that transfusions could happen closer to the battlefield in WWI