

**National Conference  
10 - 11 October 2024**



## **WORKSHOP**

***“Working with Leagues of Friends  
- our Community Hospitals as  
community assets”***



# Heather Penwarden BEM

LinkedIn



@HeatherPenwardn

The relationship between a community and its health care providers is complex and dynamic



# One Devon Integrated Care

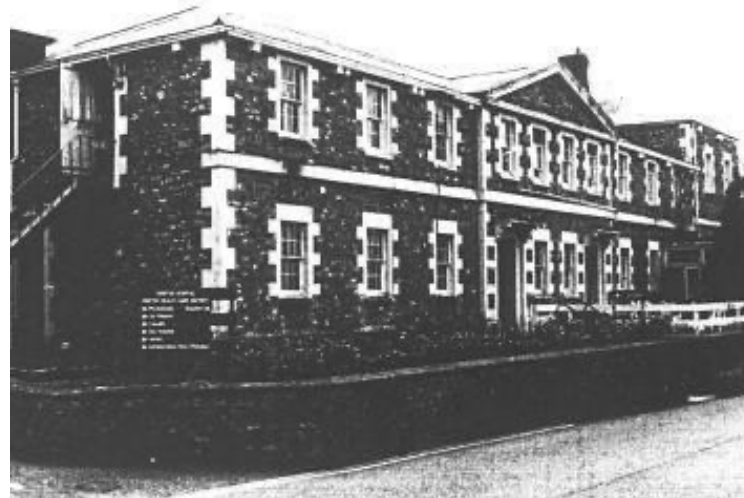
*onedevon.org.uk*

population @800,000



# Honiton Hospital

Built and funded by the community in 1836





A new hospital was opened in 1996  
of which the community is very proud and  
works actively to support



In 2017 New Devon CCG claimed that

*“a closure of inpatient beds will help address their ongoing deficit - one of the largest in the country....”*



The people of Honiton were not included in the consultation document – a decision had already been made pre-consultation that our local medical beds would close



# What did the Community do next?



# WE MARCHED!

# The people wanted to have their say



There were calls for a  
Judicial Review and  
people started sending  
money to The Friends at  
the Hospital

**Within 1 week  
£25,000 was  
received**

We found a human rights solicitor willing to act for us  
We found a barrister  
We suddenly had a QC!

*The inhabitants of 4 Lawn Buildings, EC1*



*Derek The Clerk*



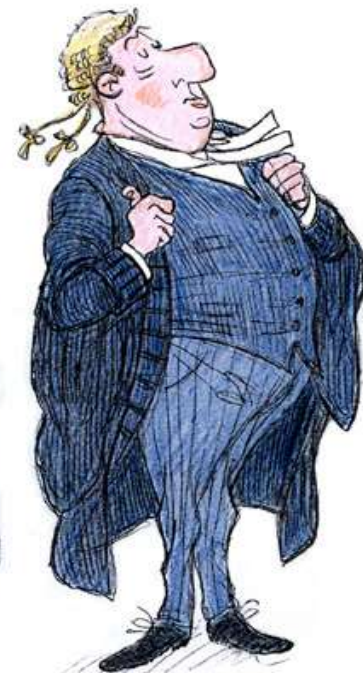
*Helena*



*Quentin Crawley*



*Edward Longwind Esq*



*Sir Geoffrey Bentwood QC*



We worked up a case

We thought it was a strong one

We sent a PAP [Pre-Action Protocol] letter

We received a reply

Our case did not seem so strong

We learned that the law is about facts not emotions

## Through the conflict we started talking



Time to evolve  
The Friends wanted to remind  
people that the hospital is not just  
about the medical beds.

## Honiton Health & Wellbeing Day

**Saturday 20th May 2017**  
**10am to 4pm**  
**The Beehive Community Centre**  
Free entry

Save the date and come along to  
learn about health and wellbeing  
services available in Honiton

Visit stalls from our hospital, surgery,  
social services, mental health team and  
community teams alongside charities  
and community groups.

Attend a range of talks throughout the day  
on a whole range of health care issues.

Sign up for our "Couch to 5k challenge on  
dementia" starting and finishing from the  
Beehive in the afternoon – see overleaf.

If you or your group would like to contribute to the day please contact Heather Penwarden  
Chairman Honiton Hospital League of Friends 01404 540540 Penwarden@btinternet.com

 **Hospiscare**  
Caring in the heart of Devon

 **HLC**

 **TRIP**

 **led**

# Honiton Hospital & Community League of Friends





# We set up Community Conversations on mental health, loneliness, volunteering and young peoples' health and wellbeing



# The Future

**History shows us that communities are not afraid of progress**

**We will continue to support health care services in our community wherever those services are being provided**

**We want to be fully engaged in the development of future services**

**We can facilitate community engagement and help the myriad of current providers connect with each other**

**We can promote positive health messages and activities**

**Listen to us, we are the experts in our own community**

Our health and wellbeing in Honiton really does **matter** to every single member of this community and we are now **talking** about it, are you listening?

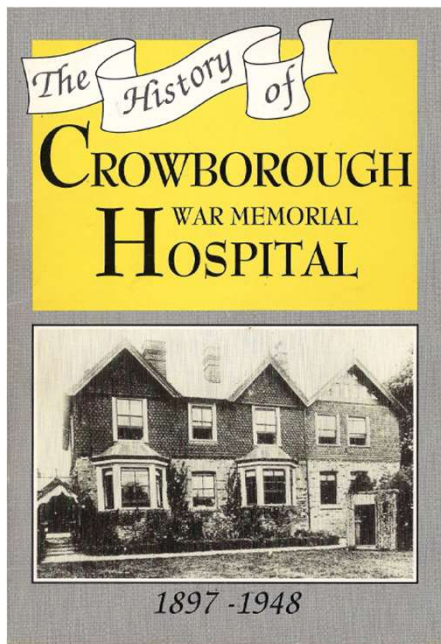


From Honiton in Devon with  
Heather Penwarden BEM .....

.....travel 150 miles east (*as the crow flies*).....

.....to Crowborough in East Sussex  
with Richard Hallett MBE





## Crowborough War Memorial Hospital

In 1999 the Friends supported the redevelopment of the old 19<sup>th</sup> Century building with matched funding of £1.5M to help provide a Community Hospital for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The hospital continues to have an enviable reputation for community support and fund raising that helps to provide first-class treatment to both in-patients and out-patients, and contains a midwife-led birth centre that acts as a local maternity care centre for pregnant women.



*Dr Kate Stokes* (Retired Local GP)



# Hospital Clinical Activity

Minor Injuries Unit *8 am- 8 pm* (SCFT)

X-ray (SCFT)

Ultrasound (SCFT)

Birth Centre / MLU (MTW)

Outpatients (MTW)

General Ward – 26 beds (SCFT)

some palliative & terminal care

step down medical & nursing care





# Grove House

District Nursing (SCFT)

Children's Eye Clinic (ESHT)

Health in Mind Counselling (SPFT)

Speech Therapy / Occupational Therapy (KCT)

Podiatry (Diabetic / Non-diabetic) (ESHT/SCFT)

Baby & Child Development Clinics (ESHT)

Memory Assessment Service (SPFT)

Musko-Skeletal (MSK) Clinics (MSK Partnership)

Diabetic Clinics (Dietician & Consultant) (SCFT)

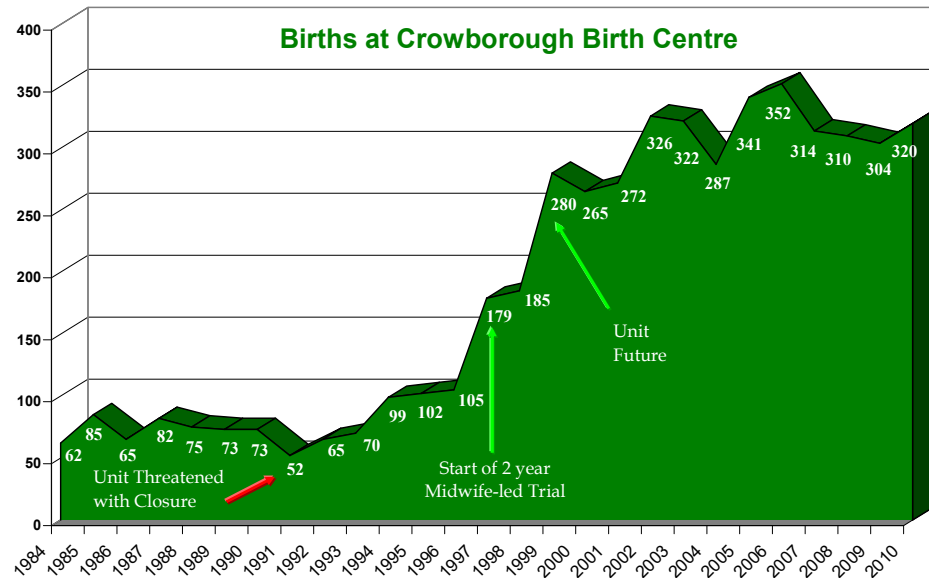


Dementia Research Unit

# Crowborough Birthing Centre



1997 campaign for new Midwife-Led Birth Centre to retain Maternity Services at Crowborough, and funded the transition. Campaigned for transfer to MTW in 2016 & facilities for partners overnight added.



Breastfeeding Café April 2023 - April 2024

# Organisations on Crowborough Hospital Site



**Friends of  
Crowborough  
Hospital**





# Crowborough Hospital Friends Project Funding



Started Social Day Service in 2015 to reduce social isolation. Supported by own community transport. Ahead of the times with “social prescribing”.



2019 new X-Ray equipment funding of £166,000 for local modern diagnostics for GP referral and to support the Minor Injuries Unit + new Ultrasound Scanner in 2024 - £51,000



Birth Centre communal Kitchen and Staff Rest Room 2021. “Snack” kitchen for new parents, + rest room for staff well-being

Have moved the Friends from “***Buying Bedpans to Strategic Support***”

# Questions & Discussion

Heather Penwarden BEM

*penwarden@btinternet.com*

Richard Hallett MBE

*richard@communityhospitals.net*