

On the Asylum Road by Charlotte Mew - 1916

Theirs is the house whose windows---every pane---
Are made of darkly stained or clouded glass:
Sometimes you come upon them in the lane,
The saddest crowd that you will ever pass.

But still we merry town or village folk
Throw to their scattered stare a kindly grin,
And think no shame to stop and crack a joke
With the incarnate wages of man's sin.

None but ourselves in our long gallery we meet,
The moor-hen stepping from her reeds with dainty feet,
The hare-bell bowing on its stem,
Dance not with us; their pulses beat
To fainter music; nor do we to them
Make their life sweet.

The gayest crowd that they will ever pass
Are we to brother-shadows in the lane:
Our windows, too, are clouded glass
To them, yes, every pane!

SURVIVOR VOICES 1908-2008

A timeline from the Survivors History Group



A hundred years ago, magazine editors refused to publish one of Charlotte Mew's poems because they "believed in the segregation of the feeble-minded".

SURVIVOR VOICES 1908-2008

1908 Clifford Beers *A Mind the Found Itself* (USA)

1916 Charlotte Mew speaks out in poetry (UK)

1939 Alcoholics Anonymous (started USA)

1957 Recovery Groups (started Australia)

1958 *The Hurt Mind* (UK TV). Only hands and feet of patients.

1966 *Observer* colour supplement with a reporter's personal account of breakdown and recovery.

1969 PNP - People Not Psychiatry. People Need People (London and Manchester)

1970 The Phobics Society (Manchester)

1971 Scottish Union of Mental Patients

1973 Mental Patients Union (London)

1974 Federation of Mental Patients Unions (Manchester)

1974 Depressives Anonymous (Later became Associated)

1976 PROMPT: Protection of Rights of Patients in Therapy

1977/1978 Hackney Workers Education Association's patient led courses begin

1978 (USA) *On Our Own. Patient-Controlled Alternatives to the Mental Health System* by Judi Chamberlin

1979 *Your Rights in Mental Hospital* (Manchester MPU) - Manchester MIND - 42nd Street (Manchester)

1980 PROMPT Conference on Anti-Psychiatry at Conway Hall

1980 Life of Matthew O'Hara (MPU Housing) commemorated by "committee for community care and civil liberties".

Early 1980s Women and Mental Health groups. *Society for the Advancement of Research into Anorexia*.

1981 David Brandon *Voices of Experience. Consumer Perspectives of Psychiatric Treatment*. North West Mind - Preston, Lancashire

1982 *Commonplace* established by Manchester Mind.

1982 AGM of CMH (Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People) devoted almost entirely to self-advocacy.

1983-1988 British Network of Alternatives to Psychiatry

1983-1985 *Mental Distress in Old Age* courses and reports from Hackney WEA

April 1984 *Psichiatria Democratica* (Italy) tour of Sheffield, Manchester and London

October 1984 Glasgow Link Club members and Chesterfield (Derbyshire) Project make presentations at MIND Annual Conference.

January 1985 *House of Commons' Social Services Committee* complains about "...difficulty in hearing the authentic voice of the ultimate consumers of community care". Praises mental handicap organisations for promoting self advocacy whereas

mental illness groups are "relatively stuck in the present tramlines". During 1986 the *National Schizophrenia Fellowship* opened the *National Voices Forum* for its user members.

March 1985 PROMPT becomes CAPO (Campaign Against Psychiatric Oppression)

Spring 1985 *Speaking from Experience* video - first shown at Mental Health 2000 Conference.

May 1985 CAPO Manifesto distributed at Mental Health 2000 Conference in Brighton. English activists meet activists from Holland, Scotland and the USA. Charter.

November 1985 MIND Conference devoted to users' voices.
January 1986 Nottingham Patients Council Support Group.

January 1986 Survivors Speak Out founded. Regular newssheets from spring 1987 helped to build a national movement.

Spring 1986 *Asylum - A Magazine for Democratic Psychiatry* published Sheffield.

November 1986 *We're Not Mad We're Angry* on Channel Four.

September 1987 Edale Conference held in Derbyshire votes for the Edale Charter.

1988 Crisis House, Wokingham, a user run crisis centre, established.

1988 First Hearing Voices group formed in Manchester by activists from Manchester Mind and Manchester Alliance for Community Care.

January 1988 Bristol Crisis Service for Women established.

May 1988 Distress Awareness Training Agency (DATA) started. Base in Greater Manchester.

August 1988 Issue one of *Mindwaves - The Newsletter of the MIND Consumer Network*.

26.9.1988-29.9.1988 *Common Concerns: International Conference on User Involvement in Mental Health Services*, held in Sussex.

December 1988 Start of what became the Scottish Users Network

5.4.1989 First session of *Having a Voice Conference for people who use Mental Health Services in North Manchester*. Organised by Manchester Users' Support Group, North Manchester Community Health Council and North Manchester Health Authority.

20.6.1989 Forty or more mental health service users, representing most of the mental health action groups, patients' councils, consumer networks and advocacy projects in the United Kingdom meet Labour Party leaders in the House of Commons.

5.9.1989 First national conference on self-harm. Survivor led.

15.3.1990 - 16.3.1990 *User Involvement - The Way Forward* Patients Council conference in Nottingham that led to the United Kingdom Advocacy Network.

August 1990 First *United Kingdom People First Conference* held in Twickenham.

November 1990 First National Hearing Voices Conference held in Manchester.

23.8.1991 World Federation of Psychiatric Users - First committee meeting - Mexico City

November 1991 Survivors Poetry founded 'to foster and promote poetry workshops and performances for and by survivors of the mental health system'.

December 1993 - March 1994 Survivors' Poetry UK tour: Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Bristol, Wolverhampton.

1992 *Eating Distress - Perspectives from Personal Experience*. Conference Papers.

Autumn 1992 A "Training the Trainers" event in Nottingham, jointly

organised by UKAN - MindLink - and Nottingham Patients Council. This, and a DATA event in May 1993, were very early examples of service user Training the Trainers events.

January 1993 Government working on a Mental Health Task Force with a User Group. Marion Beeforth, Colin Gell, Jim Read, Jan Wallcraft, Edna Conlan, Roberta Graley, Ian Mooney, Tony Day and Mary Nettle were amongst the members. Eleven events were organised, nation wide, at which over 1,000 service users got their first introduction to the possibilities of being involved.

1993 Leeds Mental Health Advocacy Group

1993 *Stopovers on my way home from mars. Reflective journey through the psychiatric survivor movement in the USA, Britain and the Netherlands* by Mary O'Hagan (New Zealand)

1994 Black service users/survivors set up their own groups, including Awaaz in Manchester, Buddies in Bradford, and SIMBA and Black Women and Mental Health in London.

1994 In Bradford, Pat Butterfield starts *ECT Anonymous*

June 1994 "Forging Our Futures" conference at Manchester Airport - part of Mental Health Task Force process.

29.11.1994 and **30.11.1994** Conference "Forging our Futures" held at Derby by the Mental Health Task Force User Group to mark the culmination of their work. 200 service users representing the movement, endorsed the three publications:

Building on Experience: A training pack for mental health service users working as trainers, speakers and workshop facilitators,

Guidelines for a local charter for users of mental health services.

Advocacy - a code of practice : developed by UKAN (United Kingdom Advocacy Network).

December 1994 Launch of Schizophrenia Media Agency, c/o Hearing Voices Network, Manchester "People with schizophrenia have had enough of media misrepresentation."

1994 UKAN survey of attitudes to Electro Convulsive Therapy in its member groups

August 1995 Survivors Poetry Scotland launched as part of the Out of Sight - Out of Mind Exhibition at Kelvingrove Art Gallery.

1996-1998 User Focused Monitoring research by Diana Rose in Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster

1996 Bradford Home Treatment Service appoints Peter Relton as the United Kingdom's first Service User Development Worker

1996 *And the World Really Had Changed* published by Leeds Survivor Poets.

1996 Peter Campbell "The History of the User Movement in the United Kingdom".

1996 Sharon Lefevre, *Killing me Softly. Self harm, survival not suicide* Gloucester.

1997 LUNA: arts-based mental health project established Dundee.

1997 CAPITAL (Clients and Professionals in Training and Learning) established in Sussex.

February 1997 Alison Faulkner, *Knowing Our Own Minds - Users Views of Alternative and Complementary Treatments in Mental Health.*

May 1997 "The North West Right to Refuse Electroshock Campaign" formed at a packed meeting in Manchester Town Hall.

October 1997 Royal Bethlem Hospital's 750 year birthday party countered by a "Reclaim Bedlam Campaign" organised by Peter Shaughnessy.

1998 *The Hurt Yourself Less Workbook* by Eleanor Dace and others Published by the National Self-Harm Network

1998 PACE service user/survivor-led report on gays'/lesbians'/bisexuals' experiences of mental health services.

10.2.1998 National Voices Forum Conference on Self-Management of Schizophrenia, Birmingham.

September/October 1998 *Survivor's Poetry Newsletter* Number One - This became *Poetry Express*.

November 1998 Two day conference in Birmingham leading to the setting up of a (general) National Advocacy Network.

1999-2002 Survivors United Network newsletter and email, edited by Andrew Hughes in Oldham, funded by a *Mind* Millennium Award.

19.6.1999 Mental Health History Timeline

20.6.1999 Mad Pride's "first ever gig", at *The Foundry* in Shoreditch, London.

About 1999 *Suresearch*: a network of Service Users in Research and Education established with a base in Birmingham University.

30.9.1999 Department of Health, London, *A National Service Framework for Mental Health*

a) Service users need to be involved in developing services in order to make them more acceptable and culturally sensitive.

b) Performance of psychiatric services needs to be assessed at a national and local level by the experience of users and carers including those from black and ethnic minority groups.

c) Service users and carers should be involved in planning, providing and evaluating training for all health care professionals

2000 Alison Faulkner, *Strategies for Living: A Report of User-led Research*

into People's Strategies for Living with Mental Distress

2000 Service Users Monitoring Service (SUMS) established Nottingham. This became Making Waves, engaged in research, and education and training

February 2000 Little Wing, a forum for people with experience of mental health difficulties based in Dundee, Scotland started. Little Wing met in the same building as The Westfield Association, which started in **October 1973** as Dundee Mental Patients Union with contacts inside and outside the Royal Dundee Liff Hospital. Until the early 1990s, the Westfield Association was not allowed to meet in Liff Hospital

June 2000 *Mad Pride: A Celebration of Mad Culture* edited by Ted Curtis, Robert Dellar, Esther Leslie and Ben Watson.

January 2001 PSAT - *Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto* (Canada) began meeting regularly

28.2.2001 First UK Survivor Workers' conference held in Manchester. 200 survivor workers attended. Report written by Rose Snow published in 2002.

Spring 2001 National Voices Forum website

December 2001 A Hearing Voices group started in Strangeways prison

2002 Shaping Our Lives National User Network became an independent organisation. It set up a networking site at <http://www.solnetwork.org.uk>

April 2002 National Institute for Mental Health in England set up service user/carer 'Experts by Experience' national consultative group. "Expert patients will include people with long-standing mental health problems such as bipolar disorder"

November 2003 Meetings in Barnsley, Yorkshire, launch Paranoia Network

30.12.2003 Life and Living radio started

June 2004 *Mental Health and Social Exclusion* Social Exclusion Unit Report:

"Nearly one-third of respondents... felt that increased involvement of adults with mental health problems in the design and delivery of mental health services would help promote social inclusion".

16.7.2004 Rutland Healing Group Organisation started. In summer 2005 it started to plan a history of mental health project called Heritage Mental Health.

July 2004 1985 *Speaking from Experience* video rediscovered in Brighton attic. Thurstine Basset sends an email that leads to the Survivors History Group.

September 2004 The National Black and Minority Ethnic Mental Health Network.

September 2004 *Stronger in Partnership - Involving Service Users and Carers in the design, planning, delivery and evaluation of mental health services in Wales* - Policy Implementation Guidance.

January 2005 SURF (Service Users Reaching Forward) brings the users of mental health services in the Durham and Chester-le-Street Primary Care Trust area and their carers together to discuss issues and exchange experiences.

September 2006 Manchester conference at which CASL: *The campaign for the abolition of the schizophrenia* label was launched.

14.9.2006 First World Hearing Voices Day celebrated in Manchester by a parade in Picadilly Gardens with music and song.

February 2007 First meeting of the management committee of the National Survivor User Network

March 2007 The Scottish Mental Health Foundation to help prepare VoX - the Scottish user network - for independence

3.9.2008 *Society Guardian* feature by Catherine Jackson on the history of the survivors movement.

10.9.2008 Recording *Our Histories*. *Survivors History Greater Manchester* hosts an open meeting of the *Survivors History Group* at the Asylum! Conference and Festival.



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This is a copy of the timeline displayed at our exhibition, which is based on the history and archive that we are constructing on our website <http://studymore.org.uk/mpu.htm>

We want to hear, at either address, from anyone who would like to join in with writing history and preserving archives.

The *Survivors History Group* is building a network of survivor historians and archivists across Britain and Ireland. We hope to have centres in Bristol, Wales, Birmingham, Yorkshire, Tyneside, Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere, as well as Manchester and London.

Our work is carried out by volunteers and we want to raise funds to help with their expenses. Donations can be made as a cheque to "*Survivors History Group*", or as unused stamps, sent to The Secretary, 177 Glenarm Road, London, E50NB. If you include your address, we will send you one of our badges to say thank you.