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THE BRIDLINGTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL

March 1988 to March 2008

The full story by: **Mick Pilling (Chairman)**

Save Bridlington Hospital Campaign Action Group est:2002 Due to Service Cuts/Removals.

The construction of the new 220-bed Bridlington & District Hospital represents the biggest single step forward ever taken in the provision of health care to the famous seaside resort. Built at a total cost of some £16 million it provides nine wards on two floors together with an operating theatre, important day hospital accommodation for the elderly, those suffering from mental health difficulties and for the elder with psychiatric problems. There is also a modern rehabilitation department, a minor injuries unit and other support provision such as x-ray. The hospital boasts a six-bed coronary monitoring unit where the equipment has been donated by the League of Friends. Other facilities include a beautifully equipped hospital chapel, a studio for the hospital radio and a main foyer shop operated by the WRVS.

The two-story block, on a sweeping 15.76 acre site in Bessingby Road, received its first patient in March 1988. It brought together for the first time all the facilities from the town's three existing hospitals – the Lloyd, Avenue and Bempton Lane – together with some which had previously been provided 12 miles away in Driffield.

Providing health care from so many small scattered sites caused frequent problems for both patients and staff and none of the old hospitals was purpose-designed for modern medicine – although each had developed an important place in local people's affections over many years.

The Lloyd, in the town centre, dated from 1876 and the roots of the Avenue, which housed the town's maternity service as well as some acute and geriatric facilities, dated back to 1714, Bempton Lane was a former infectious diseases hospital on the outskirts of the town. A modern wing was added in 1960 and this latter accommodation is to be retained and re-developed for use by people with a mental handicap. East Riding General at Driffield was a former workhouse with nine EMS hatted wards dating from 1941.

The new hospital has already established for itself a reputation for treating more patients, introducing new specialities to the town and cutting waiting lists across the board because of the more effective use that can be made of centralised rather than scattered accommodation. Because of the modern facilities which are now available fewer patients need to be transferred out of the resort than in the past, although there are still some cases where the level and complexity of an injury may require more specialised treatment and nursing than can be provided at Bridlington.

The hospital is still developing and a new 12 bed Acute unit for adult psychiatric patients has now been opened to replace provisions for which hitherto patients had to travel to Broad-gates Hospital at Beverley.

However, not everything is new in that the hospital has attempted to maintain links with its historic past in the naming of each of its nine wards. These include Lloyd and Avenue after two of the former hospitals: Johnson after the famous Amy Johnson who Bridlington links: Buckrose after a 12th century district of the East Riding: and Waters, Holtby, Kent, Thornton & Alderson after distinguished medical and civic figures associated with the town.

Then came the changes:

The NHS took over, then we became part of the North & East Yorkshire NHS Healthcare Trust. Once part of the N.E.Y.NHS.H.T. The complete lack of investment by the Trust over the years meant that the Bridlington & District Hospital was on a collision course and services started to demise.

First to suffer was the Minor Injuries Unit which to date as closed its doors over-night from 9pm to 9am next day; 3 times in as many years the latest closure from: September 2006 to the present day 1st March 2008 the reason given was a shortage of staff the other reason maternity leave; the Trust did nothing to elevate this, it made no contingency plans what so ever, it also introduced a ban on overtime and recruitment, this ban was lifted this year 2008 due to a large number of staff been short on all wards, staff at Bridlington Hospital are over-worked and moral is extremely low as it as been short of staff for approximately 2 years or longer.

Then the Trust decided that the Maternity Unit at Bridlington, Malton & Whitby would all close and be transferred to Scarborough Hospital, the Trust headquarters.

The Hull Mental Health Authorises then decided not to run the Mental healthcare at Bridlington Hospital which was Water Ward it employed 17 Nurses; one day in June 2007 the H.M.H.A. Came in one Monday morning and locked the doors.....for good! The only Mental Health ward left at Bridlington Hospital is now Buckrose Ward it too has a short life span and hangs in the balance as the lease runs out in 2010, we are told this ward will probably end up at Castle-hill Hospital in the not too distant future.

The Problems at Bridlington Hospital started when the Scarborough NHS Trust got into debt to the tune of £20millions. This was not made any better by the fact the North Yorkshire PCT were also in Debt to the tune of £45millions. Bridlington Hospital was made the scape-goat to save vast amounts of money; hence the Service cuts now in place with more to come.

I've started a new Petition - the Travesty Bestowed on Bridlington Hospital is Ludicrous....Lives will be LOST!

I've started a New Petition - the Travesty bestowed on Bridlington Hospital is Ludicrous.....We believe LIVES will be LOST

The Petition is gathering a remarkable pace in the first week with people advancing on shops in there hundreds to sign this petition..... to date 28/02/08 Petition stands @ 29,000+ with a week to run; all Shops and Businesses will re-turn petitions by end of February 2008

The plans to remove the **Cardiac Monitoring Unit (CMU) of 6 beds & also the removal of 30 bed Acute Medical Services** has prompted me to run another Petition, this Petition when collected will be taken to No10, Downing Street, London for the attention of Prime Minister; the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP we will ask for his intervention to stop the removal of these vital services, they must be retained to remove them to Scarborough by the North & East Yorkshire Scarborough NHS Healthcare Trust will and could result in patients dying in transit as they are taken to hospitals as far away as Scarborough 22 miles, York 42 miles or Hull 30+ miles; patients need to be taken to the nearest hospital when suffering a Heart Attack or Chest Pains; we have a fully functional Cardiac Unit in Bridlington, the Trust are hell bent on removing this to save money. If the CMU is to be removed as planned and stated then the Yorkshire Ambulance Service will have to provide additional Ambulances at a cost estimated £1.2m to £1.5 millions, this seem ludicrous, why not put this money into the Bridlington Hospital Services and Saves Lives!

This Petition I have introduced started Monday 21/01/2008 and will run until the 1st week in March 2008 this will give the whole town chance to take part and to voice their opinion.

A short time ago the Bridlington Town Council along with the Beverley Town Council gave the Scarborough NHS Healthcare Trust a complete **Vote of NO CONFIDENCE**; taking part were 63

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Councillors. A Petition of no less than 22,500 signatures was presented to the Scarborough NHS Trust in December 2006 asking for NO Cuts to Services along with letters from our town, this was all rejected by the Trust; a Protest/March/Rally was organised and held where 3,000 people took to the streets of Bridlington this un-equalled March was to object to the removal of the CMU and Acute services, the Trust did not attend? "Saying have a good March & we hope the weather is fine" Quote: Chief Executive Iain McInnes.

LLeading this Campaign all the Way: the Save Bridlington Hospital Campaign Action Group. This fight is also supported by the Health & Scrutiny Committee; Unite the Union, the Bridlington Free Press, Mayor of Bridlington Councillor Raymond Allerston and all the 22+ Doctors from 5 Surgeries in the town plus many, many other.

Our MP the Rt. Hon. Mr. Greg Knight MP supports this Petition.

We would like The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP leader of the Conservatives to support this Petition.....we have indeed written to Mr. Cameron.

Everyone in Bridlington & surrounding areas are taking part in this Petition we had people going door to door.

Kindest regards Mick Pilling

Fighting for a safer and fairer National Health Services for all

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Other problems at the Bridlington Hospital came into effect when the Scarborough NHS Trust place a recruitment & overtime ban on Scarborough & Bridlington Hospitals due to the Trust been in debt; this ban as now been lifted but we feel the damage as been done.

Nurses working at Bridlington feel insecure about there future as the axe looms over the Cardiac Monitoring Unit & Acute Medical wards; morale I can say is at an all time low; nurses feel they cannot due there job correctly whilst the wards are un-staffed.

The Lloyd ward used to be a 24hr ward; this is now day case unit, another introduction by the Scarborough NHS Trust.

People of Bridlington are also wondering what happened to the £3,000 raised by the town for a birthing pool in the Maternity Unit now under threat and due to be removed later this year.

The Bridlington Hospital League of Friends have put thousands of £'s worth of equipment into the hospital; they are unsure what will happen to all this equipment, too numerous to name, the **Save Bridlington Hospital Campaign Action Group** est: 2002 have also bought around £4,000 worth of equipment.

Advertisement for staff are been placed by the Trust to elevate the problems they have caused by letting staff levels run down to a dangerous level...

The Bridlington Hospital staff shortages are as follows: Required; 2 Porters, 25 Nurses, 13 Cleaners and a Gardener; roads around the hospital need re-surfacing and signs need replacing.

Car-parking Charges were quickly introduced so the Trust could raise revenue to pay off there debts, Nurses and Doctors are to be charged later this year to park at work **Yours Truly Mick Pilling**