A Mental Health Charter as a Manifesto

Brief biographies

Jude Ellis
Jude has led a lazy and undisciplined life, but somehow has been sensitive to the emptiness and loneliness that is the lived other side of the 'social' human condition. Having grown up close to the psychotic illness of a family member, she later grew a commitment to working in mental health social work and mental health law. (Her enjoyment of reading the writings of modern continental philosophy has been reawakened coincidentally at a time when the armchair philosopher needs to stand up.)

Judith Varley
Judith is a retired research biochemist /microbiologist in infectious diseases whose involvement in mental health began over 20 years ago with a close family member. She has a particular interest in progressive approaches to mental health and organisations like the International Society for PsychoSocial Interventions and Hearing Voices. She raised £30,000 to research and start a social enterprise offering paid work to people with mental ill health.

Paul Atkinson
Paul Atkinson has been swimming in the intersection of psychotherapy and political activism since the early 70s - with many spells of apathy, despair and watching telly. He helped found the Free Psychotherapy Network and the campaign for Universal Access to Counselling and Psychotherapy (uACT). He has five grandchildren.

Martin Blanchard
Martin truly fell out of love with psychiatry when the Clinical Director announced the arrival of the 'Harvard Business Model' in the service, when the priority suddenly became the assessment of a patient's 'currency' or 'value to the service'. Academia lost its shine with the REF and UCL's declared wish to become the 'Harvard of Europe'…. competing to chase income and promotion was beyond him, so he took instead to trying to understand what was going on.

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