

Upton's Health Park Then and Now

- 1808 County Asylums Act allowed Justices of the Peace to levy a rate for the establishment of County Lunatic Asylums for the care of pauper lunatics
- Chester's Asylum was opened in 1829 to house 90 patients



The Asylum c1830 depicted in Hemingway's book on Chester



The 1829 Building today

- During the Victorian period the Asylum was expanded to accommodate an increasing number of patients
- Extensions were made to the 1829 Building



The front of the 1829 Building showing one of the additional wings

- The Asylum was a self contained community with its own farmland, workshops, laundries and craftsmen
- The Asylum had its own Chapel set in the grounds behind the 1829 Building



The Chapel in 2013, now deconsecrated

- In the 1890s a new building complex called “The Main” was opened to accommodate the increasing number of patients and staff
- By 1900 the number of patients had risen to 915
- From the 1970s onwards these buildings were closed as care for the mentally ill became community based



“The Main” with fire fighters



The Water Tower – the buildings which formed “The Main” have all been demolished, 2013

- Further building expansion took place in the early twentieth century with “The Annexe” opening in 1915.
- The improvements in the treatment of people with mental health problems have meant that large institutions are no longer required. “The Annexe” was demolished and replaced by a housing development.



The Annexe in the late 1990s



Upton Dene, 2013

- Bache Hall lies at the southern most end of the Health Park overlooking Countess Way
- Records for a manor in the area since thirteenth century. Last private house on the site sold to the Mental Hospital in 1922
- Bache Hall is now part of the University of Chester



Bache Hall, 2011

- Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust opened in 1984 on the site between the 1829 Building and Bache Hall
- The hospital replaced both the Royal Infirmary and City Hospitals in Chester
- The hospital has and is continuing to expand and develop



Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust, 2013

- A country part has been designated for the land behind the hospitals and administrative buildings on the Health Park
- Trees have been planted to enhance the area in the future



Country Park, 2013