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

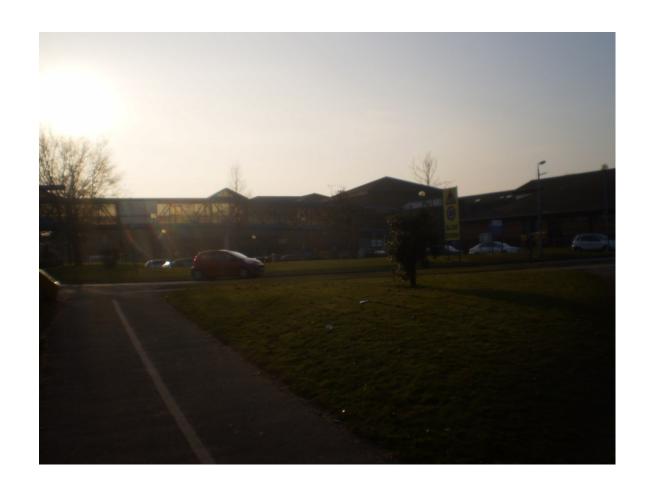


Bache Hall, 2011

 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