



## **Mind in Harrow**

Shenley Mental Hospital admitted its first patient in 1931. It is almost 20 years since its doors closed. With the closure of Shenley and the development of the policy of 'care in the community', all the patients admitted, were transferred to community care services. Shenley Hospital's local notoriety still lives on. Although its doors were closed almost 20 years ago, little is publicly known about what life was really like in Shenley; its heritage and the impact of its closure.

Mind in Harrow, a local mental health charity affiliated to National Mind, is exploring the 'hidden history' of Shenley Hospital in an exciting new project called the 'Hidden Minds' Heritage Project. 'Hidden Minds' is inviting local people, including mental health service users, to become project volunteers. The project has already recruited 16 project volunteers who are currently learning a range of heritage skills so that they are able to uncover the 'hidden' history of Shenley Hospital. The project volunteers will be collecting people's first hand experiences of life in Shenley, visiting/researching archives, gathering photos and documentation. The findings will be put together in a ground-breaking exhibition which will be delivered to four community venues in Harrow.

The project has formed a strong working partnership with Shenley Park Trust and would like to involve the wider community. How?

**Sharing your experience:** Are you an ex staff member or patient of Shenley Hospital? Or did you visit Shenley as a carer or relative of someone who was in Shenley? If so we would love to talk to you about your experience in confidence.

**Become a project volunteer:** We will be looking for more project volunteers to support us with the pre-exhibition planning in January 2012. At that stage, project volunteers will be helping us to translate the information we will have collected about Shenley Hospital into an exhibition.

For more information please contact Josie Hinton, Project Coordinator, on 0208 515 7871 or [j.hinton@mindinharrow.org.uk](mailto:j.hinton@mindinharrow.org.uk)