



2018 David Jolley Lecture at the University of Worcester



**Claire Hilton**

## **The Story of Barbara Robb**

Her campaign, and how she set in motion improvements in mental health and older people's services, and influenced the NHS more broadly

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**16:00 (registration & refreshments)**

**Lecture: 16:30 to 17:15 followed by discussion to 17:45**

**University of Worcester Arena,**

**Hylton Road, Worcester, WR2 5JN**

For directions see <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/find-us-severn-campus.html>

To book a free place please use the online booking system at:

<https://davidjolleylecture18july2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

Claire Hilton qualified in medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. After training as a general practitioner, she began her psychiatry career at Withington Hospital, Manchester, in 1989, in David Jolley's department. Almost immediately she was inspired to become an old age psychiatrist. During psychiatry training she spent 5 months in Jamaica, carrying out research into psychiatric complications of sickle cell disease for her MD degree. In 1998, she moved to a consultant old age psychiatry post in North West London, until 2017.

Alongside clinical practice, Claire had had a long-term interest in history. Her first history book was *The Stockport Jewish Community* (1999), and her first history of psychiatry research (2004) was a biographical study of Felix Post, a pioneer of old age psychiatry. Since then she has written widely on psychiatric history, and was awarded her PhD in history in 2014. Currently she is chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group.

Her most recent history study was about [Barbara Robb \(1912-76\)](#) who campaigned for better psychiatric care for older people. Robb also influenced the government to create an NHS inspectorate, provide effective hospital complaint procedures, appoint an ombudsman, create blueprints for modernising psychiatric services, and develop guidelines on managing violence in hospitals. Cabinet Minister Richard Crossman described Robb as a 'terrible danger' to the government, and a 'bomb' who had to be defused. In Professor Brian Abel-Smith's words: 'For one woman . . . to suddenly do so much in such a short period—and tragically, to die so soon—is a remarkable story.'

**Barbara Robb's story is the subject of the 2018 David Jolley Lecture.**

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### **Target audience**

This seminar will be of interest to a wide audience of the public, professionals and researchers interested in dementia, mental health, history, service development and campaigning for quality improvements.

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For more information on the Association for Dementia Studies please go to <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/dementia>