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October 2011

Peer Support Fife

News Byte

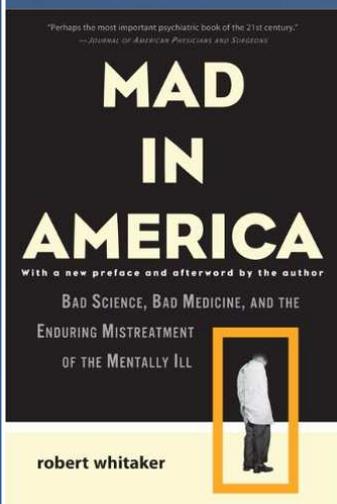
promoting peer support;
peer led initiatives;
survivor user carer
participation & leadership;
independent peer advocacy

Robert Whitaker Lecture

Saturday 19 November 2011
1.00pm to 3.00pm

Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife

special guests Prof Phil Barker and
Poppy Buchanan-Barker



"a powerful piece of writing, exposing the major flaws in the psychiatric system and the inhumane treatment historically of people with 'mental illness' - from eugenics to lobotomies, ECT to chemical coshes - painful to read about the abuses but necessary to remember"

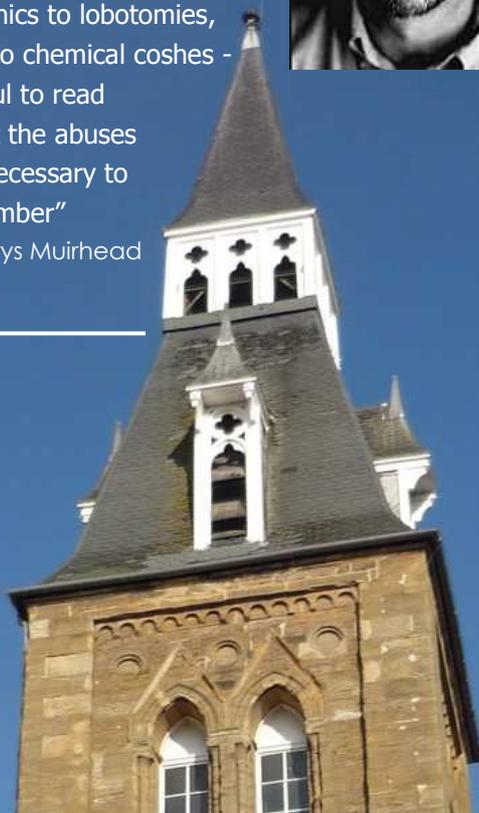
Chrys Muirhead



www.madinamerica.com

'At the *Sharp* Edge'
our Fife dialogue event on
peer led crisis alternatives on
20 September went well!
Thanks to the 70+ delegates
who joined us, to the
guest speakers and 
who supported us.

Photo of speakers [right to left]:
Shery Mead, Chris Hansen,
Karen Taylor, Ron Coleman
& Jacquie Nicholson



Cupar Corn Exchange

Anatomy of an Epidemic: *Psychiatric Medications and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*

"According to conventional histories of psychiatry, the arrival of Thorazine (chlorpromazine) in asylum medicine in 1955 kicked off a 'psychopharmacological revolution'. Yet, since 1955, the disability rate due to mental illness in the United States has risen more than *six-fold*. Moreover, this epidemic of disabling mental illness has accelerated since 1987, when Prozac - the first of the 'second-generation' drugs - arrived on the market. This increase in disability is also being seen in other countries that have embraced the use of psychiatric drugs: Canada, UK, Ireland, Iceland, Australia and NZ, among others. A review of the long-term outcomes literature for psychiatric medications reveals why this is so. The 'medical model' paradigm of care, which emphasises continual use of psychiatric medications, is a failed paradigm and needs to be dramatically rethought."

Robert Whitaker

Robert Whitaker Conversation

21 November 2011 - 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Public Policy Network

Edinburgh University

Chrystal Macmillan Building
George Square, Edinburgh

The Myth of the Chemical Cure:
A Critique of Psychiatric Drug Treatment
Joanna Moncrieff

Soteria Network Conference
'Alternatives Within and Beyond Psychiatry'
11 November 2011, Riverside Centre, Derby

Keynote speakers:

Robert Whitaker, USA

Jaakko Seikkula, Finland

Richard Bentall, University of Liverpool

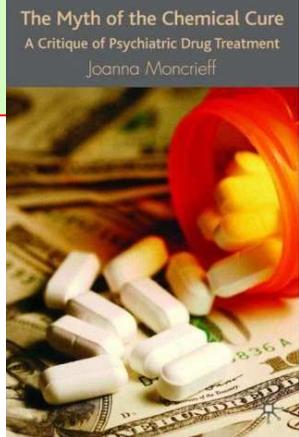
Sonia Johnson, University College London

www.soterianetwork.org.uk

"This book exposes the traditional view that psychiatric drugs target underlying diseases, or correct chemical imbalances, as a fraud. It traces the emergence of this view and suggests that it was adopted, not because there was any evidence to support it, but because it served the vested interests of the psychiatric profession, the pharmaceutical industry and the modern state.

Instead it is proposed that psychiatric drugs 'work' by creating altered mental states, which may suppress the symptoms of psychiatric disorders, along with other intellectual and emotional functions. Research on antipsychotics, antidepressants, mood stabilisers and stimulants is examined to demonstrate this thesis and the pros and cons of using the different sorts of drugs are discussed."

Amazon.co.uk



Cork Conference 16 & 17 November 2011

Medicating Human Distress:
Concerns, Critiques and Solutions

University College Cork, Ireland

Keynote Speakers: Kate Crawford -

Anna Emmanouilidou - Peter Lehmann

Terry Lynch - Sami Timimi - Rachel Waddington

Contact: h.gijbels@ucc.ie * l.sapouna@ucc.ie

Committed to Parkview - *Johnny Cash*

There's a man across the hall who sits starin' at the floor
And he thinks he's Hank Williams, hear him singin' through the door
There's a girl in 202 who stops by to visit me
And she talks about her songs and the star that she should be
There's a lot of real fine talent stayin' in or passin' through
And for one thing or another they're committed to Parkview

There's a girl in 207 comin' down on Thorazine
And a superstar's ex-drummer tryin' to pick benzedrine
There's a real fine country singer who has tried and tried and tried
They just brought him in this morning an attempted suicide
There are those who never made it, those who did and now are through
Some came of their own good choosin', some committed to Parkview

There's a girl who cries above me loud enough to wake the dead
They don't know what she has taken that has scrambled up her head
There's a boy just down below me who's the son of some well known
He was brought in by his mother cause his daddy's always gone
There's a bum from down on Broadway and a few quite well-to-do
Who have withdrawn from the rat race and committed to Parkview

They wake me about 6:30 just before the morning meal
While they're takin' my blood pressure they ask me how I feel
And I always say fantastic there ain't nothing wrong with me
And then they give me my injection and I go right back to sleep
And my days are kinda foggy and my nights are dreamy too
For they're taking good care of me while committed to Parkview

Thanks to Alastair at Plus Perth for passing this on

"We are pretending to treat or cure people with mental illness because that makes us feel alright about controlling them. Sometimes we need to control them but we should at least be honest about what we are doing. Pharmaceutical companies are cashing in on our dishonesty."

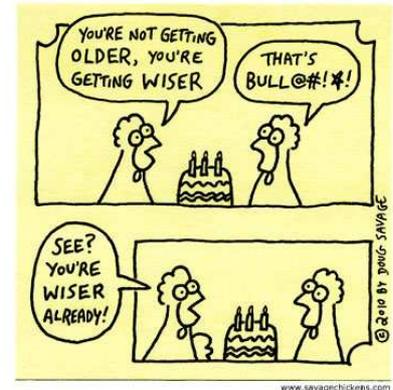
Joanna Moncrieff Interview with Michael F. Shaughnessy, EducationNews.org, Eastern New Mexico University

Link to full interview on

www.peersupportfife.org.uk

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



Peer Support Fife AGM
Wednesday 26 October 2011
Going Forth, SAMH, Dunfermline
11.00am to 12 noon