

CRUSADE: Top solicitor consulted over hospital deaths

Families vow to soldier on for answers

by **Richard Whitehouse**
The News

FAMILIES trying to find out why their elderly relatives died at a Gosport hospital are seeking the help of a top London solicitor.

Two families have already complained to the police about the way they investigated the deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

And three more are poised to write to officers with their concerns about the police investigations which found nothing after their relatives died.

The complaints have been sparked by the crusade of Gillian Mackenzie whose mother Gladys Richards, 91, died at the hospital in 1998.

All families are concerned about the amount of drugs given to their relatives and the level of care they received at the hospital.

The revelations about the deaths were brought to light in a special investigation by *The News* last year.

Mrs Mackenzie, who lives in East Sussex, said they are all to meet a London-based solicitor experienced in this type of case.

She hopes he can obtain names of medical experts who were asked to look at her mother's medical notes at the time.

She said: 'The fact that we are doing this shows that we are not going to go away and we will continue trying.'

The news comes as another woman lodged a formal complaint against police for not investigating her complaints about her mother's death at the hospital.

Marjorie Bulbeck has written to police and also made a complaint to the General Medical Council about her mother's treatment.

Her mother Dulcie Middleton, 85, was transferred to the War Memorial after suffering a stroke. She began to deteriorate and died in September last year.



Dulcie Middleton died shortly after being transferred to Gosport War Memorial hospital following a stroke

Police ready to look at complaints

POLICE are poised to start looking into complaints about the way they investigated the deaths of elderly patients at the War Memorial Hospital in Gosport.

Chief Superintendent Dan Clacher is to interview the relatives of one of the

women who died. The family has complained about how they investigated the death of 82-year-old Alice Wilkie in 1998.

Health chiefs say they have fully investigated the deaths and complied with the police inquiries.

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Mrs Bulbeck, who lives in Southbourne, near Emsworth, said: 'They didn't interview me properly about it and they didn't request to see my mother's notes.'

She also said her mother

was given too many sedative drugs which she believed were unnecessary.

'I know it won't bring my mother back but it may give me peace of mind to know that I have tried to make sure it won't happen to anyone else,' she said.