

# Friends join MRSA fight

- ❑ Pair hope to combat hospital super bugs
- ❑ Men re-use known technology

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TWO friends have invented a superbug-busting machine which they believe could rid NHS hospitals of the deadly MRSA bacteria.

Science enthusiasts Chris Higgs and Max Tillings, have spent the past four years creating their Miroclean machine, which is designed to clear hospital wards of killer bugs like MRSA and C-difficile using a high frequency of ultra violet rays.

The long-time friends were inspired to come up with their invention after Max's nan, Vera, died in Canterbury Hospital in 2002 at the age of 91 after contracting MRSA.

Chris, 54 of Roberts Road, Laindon, and Max, 40, from Canterbury, believe their machine could save hundreds of lives a year if it is taken up by hospitals.

Chris said: "We are very excited about this.

"What we have done is used already proven technology, with the use of UV rays and adapted it for this machine.

"We have taken out several patents while in the process of creating the machine to protect our work from being copied."

Max and Chris will now be working on getting their machine used for hospital's deep cleaning programmes.

Max added: "Hospital's spend millions on deep-cleaning wards to eradicate MRSA every year and there are now new statistics out which prove this method just isn't



■ Beating the superbugs – Chris Higgs, left, and Max Tillings with the machine they have invented to fight diseases like MRSA and C-Diff in hospitals  
Picture: **DAVE HENDERSON** ENHX84

working. This is groundbreaking stuff as far as we're concerned.

"Ultra violet light can destroy the DNA in harmful bacteria, so it is eradicated for good.

"This knowledge has been around for years, so we are sur-

prised nobody has come up with an idea like this before. Then again, sometimes where science is concerned, you can't see the wood for the trees."

The pair say they don't yet know how much the plastic-coat-

ed 18 by 25 inch machine will set hospitals back, but stress it will be cost effective.

"We would envisage hospitals having several machines, which can be used on floors, walls, bed linen and curtains," Max said.

“ This knowledge has been around for years. We are surprised nobody has come up with an idea like this before.