
Obituaries

Alan Maiden, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Clinic, Worcester

Alan Maiden, formerly a consultant in child and adolescent psychiatry in Mid and South Worcestershire and Bromsgrove and Redditch Health Districts, died in May 1993 shortly before his 57th birthday.

From his school days, Alan's high degree of genuine intellectual curiosity and wide-ranging cultural interests were recognised. By the time he joined the West Midlands training scheme in child and adolescent psychiatry, he had prepared himself by postgraduate training in paediatrics and in psychiatry at the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals and the Tavistock Clinic (where he met his wife Diana, an educational psychologist). During his 13 years as a consultant, despite battling with long-standing ill health, his contribution was valued by his patients, their families and professional colleagues. His warmth, sensitivity and unassuming personality together with his intelligence and integrity combined to give him a special clinical astuteness. One of his great disappointments was that lack of finance prevented the development of a day/in-patient service for Worcestershire. Following a cerebro-vascular accident in 1986 associated with a hemiplegia and severe dysphasia, Alan had to take early retirement.

He was devoted to his family – his wife and three, now adolescent, children who with his parents survive him.

EDNA M. IRWIN

Ramon Francis Norris, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Highcroft Hospital, Birmingham

Ramon Norris was born on 23 February 1935 and died suddenly on 10 December 1992. He was educated at King Edwards Grammar School, Handsworth, Birmingham and graduated MB ChB Birmingham University Medical School in December 1958.

While holding a short service commission with the RAF he spent two years at Headquarters British Forces, Gulf Peninsula, and one year as surgical assistant to Sir Peter Dixon, Princess Mary's Royal Airforce Hospital, Halton. He was awarded the General Service Medal.

After the RAF Norris decided to specialise in psychiatry and held various appointments at All Saints Hospital, Birmingham and at the Uffculme Clinic, Moseley, Birmingham. He came

to Highcroft Hospital in May 1967 as senior registrar and was appointed consultant in 1978. He was elected MRCPsych in 1971.

Norris was much a local man having lived his life in Birmingham. He understood the local community and its social and ethnic structure. He valued practising at local level in the primary health care setting and established friendly relationships with a number of general practitioners in the district. He was well known for his rapid and incisive response to requests for guidance from GPs who were frequently faced with the difficulties of treating their patients in their homes. Again, his advice was always straightforward and incisive. These aspects of his work will be greatly missed by those who sought his advice.

At Highcroft Hospital Dr Norris gave much of his time to serving on various committees and he played a key role in developing the psychiatric services of the hospital. For three years he was Chairman of the Psychiatric Division. He will be missed by his clinical colleagues and staff at Highcroft Hospital where a trust fund has been established in his name.

R. H. F. NORRIS

Ernest Wynford Rees, formerly Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Wessex Regional Health Authority

Ernest Rees studied medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London and qualified MRCS Eng LRCP Lond in 1936.

From 1939-46 he served in the RNVF as a Neuropsychiatric Specialist, reaching the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant Commander. After demobilisation he took the DPM Eng in 1946 and was elected a foundation fellow of the College in 1971.

He later worked at the Roffey Park Rehabilitation Centre where he became Deputy Medical Director and was Consultant Psychiatrist at the Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water.

After retirement he lived in the Isle of Wight.

Michael Justin Tarsh, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Bowden House Clinic, Harrow

'Larger than life' is the description that immediately comes to mind about Michael Tarsh. Physically tall and bulky, he was also expansive in personality, 'upfront' in his actions, and not one to suffer fools quietly. His father was a doctor who switched in mid-career to the Bar, where his mother also qualified, and this example was no doubt influential in Michael's