



Timothy Scannell, formerly Consultant Adolescent Psychiatrist to Brookside Young People's Unit, Redbridge Health Care Trust and Senior Lecturer in Adolescent Psychiatry at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London since 1988.

Timothy Scannell – Tim – who died on 22

February at the age of 43 years was educated at Prior Park College, Bath, where he became Head Boy, and at The London Hospital Medical School, where he qualified MB BS in 1975. After house jobs at the London and St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, he trained in psychiatry at University College Hospital, gaining early experience in psychotherapy and adolescent psychiatry, which, along with forensic work, were to be the focus of his later professional career. As a medical student, Tim had spent two months at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He returned to the United States in 1980, first to Georgetown University Hospital, Washington and then to the Downstate Medical Centre, State University of New York, where he worked with adolescents, including delinquents, in the Secure Treatment Unit and Out-Patient Service.

Tim returned home to London in 1983 and undertook further training in forensic psychiatry at St George's Medical School, largely under the tutelage of Dr Patrick Galloway. He was elected MRCPsych in 1980.

Tim's appointment to Brookside Young People's Unit and St Bartholomew's reflected and made good use of the impressively wide range of his professional interests. These included child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic assessment, and psychotherapy.

Tim oversaw the re-opening of Brookside Young People's Unit. His vision of Brookside was one of a centre of excellence in work with disturbed young people, their families and carers. Tim's commitment to multidisciplinary work led him through the often painful, but ultimately profitable, process of building a team comprising a wide range of skills and professionals.

Tim never seemed to quite appreciate the tremendous impact that he had upon the lives of people with whom he came into contact.

Nowhere was this more so than at Brookside Young People's Unit. His generosity of spirit, endearing eccentricity, infuriating organisational vagueness and absolute belief in the ability of the team at Brookside to get alongside young people in distress, inspired and motivated all staff to reach for their full potential. The application of group analytic theory and attention to group process both with the staff and in the young people's group, laid the firm foundations of the Unit, enabling it to continue the constant process of development. He held firmly to the belief of every person's capacity for change, which belief has become central to Brookside's philosophy of care.

Tim's commitment to the work of Brookside is seen in his bequest to Redbridge Health Care Trust Fund of a sum of money which is to be used to establish the Tim Scannell Memorial Training Fund for the purpose of the personal and professional development of members of the Brookside staff team.

Tim earned particular respect within the legal profession and the judiciary for his thoroughly professional and humane elucidations of young people's anti-social behaviour. He was increasingly in demand in this capacity for what were sometimes high profile adolescent criminal cases.

The enthusiasm and intensity which Tim brought to his work was equally present in his interests in music – especially opera – literature, theatre, wine, food – and Italy, where he shared a house.

It is particularly sad that we should now have lost someone who was equipped with such understanding and expertise at a time when our society appears barren in its response to the problems posed by rising juvenile disturbance and crime.

CHRISTOPHER CORDESS

The deaths of the following have also been reported:

HARRY COATES, retired; 1 Abbots Court, Beach Priory Gardens, Southport, Lancashire.

DANIEL FREEDMAN, Professor of Psychiatry, UCLA, School of Medicine, 760 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

MICHAEL TREVAN HAMBLY, Consultant Psychiatrist, Trengweath, Penryn Street, Redruth, Cornwall.