



columns

active, taking part in various drug trials and travelling, on occasions, to Europe to attend relevant symposia, where he had the opportunity to listen to and learn from many eminent psychiatrists.

He was now becoming restless and his ambition and desire to widen his activities caused him to look further afield. In 1963, at the age of 37, he was appointed consultant and Medical Director of Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove, where he set about modernising the out-of-date practices which he found. He met some opposition, but with humour and perseverance he managed to overcome this and he worked tirelessly within the hospital and local community to make Barnsley Hall a successful modern hospital. Being now in close proximity to Birmingham, an important centre of

psychiatric services, he had the opportunity to widen his experience. He joined the Birmingham Psychiatric Society and later served a term as President. In 1971 he gained his MRCPsych and in 1979 he was elected to the Fellowship.

Alec had always been interested in forensic psychiatry and sought to develop this interest to a greater degree. He published several articles on the subject and became recognised and respected as an expert witness in court.

He served as a member of the Parole Board and sat as a medical member on Mental Health Review Tribunals, which he continued after his retirement. One of his last acts at Barnsley Hall, was to set up one of the early medium secure units (Clent Unit), a feat not without opposition and difficulties. He was highly thought of

by his colleagues, both in the hospital and in the wider area, and was widely liked and admired by his patients.

After his retirement in 1984, he was appointed Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor for the Southern region. This kept him very busy; it entailed frequent travelling widely from Cornwall to London, and the work he enjoyed immensely. He held this and the Tribunal appointment until the obligatory retirement age of 70.

Alec was a man of great wit and humour. He was extremely well read, with an interest in many subjects and a deep knowledge of British and Irish history.

He died, aged 76, on 26 April 2002, leaving a wife, Kathleen, a daughter and two sons.

**Andrew Fullerton**

## forthcoming events

'Effective models for service delivery and interpretation in mental health services' – the **Annual Conference of the Transcultural Special Interest Group** – will take place on 26

February 2003 at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London. For further details please contact Mrs G. Medhurst on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays at Barts and The London Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry (tel: 020 7882 7555; fax: 020 7882 7551; e-mail: g.medhurst@qmul.ac.uk).

MindFields College would like to announce the study day **'New ways to improve psychiatric care'** to be held at various venues nationwide, up until June 2003. It shows how effective brief therapy interventions can bring your work into alignment with what neuroscientists, psychologists and leading psychotherapists are finding out about best treatment. The day explores why psychotherapy usually has better outcomes than drug treatments for depression, trauma, anxiety disorders and psychosis, and examines how to improve the partnership between psychiatry and psychotherapy in community mental health teams. For more information, please visit their website ([www.mindfields.org.uk/studyday](http://www.mindfields.org.uk/studyday)) or contact MindFields College (tel: 01323 811440; e-mail: [info@mindfields.org.uk](mailto:info@mindfields.org.uk)) quoting SB01.

**The 14th International Symposium for the Psychological Treatments of Schizophrenia and other Psychosis: 'Reconciliation, Reform and Recovery – Creating a future for psychological interventions in psychosis'** will take place on 22–25 September 2003, Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 1 March 2003. Main speakers will include

Professors Pat McGorry, Ian Falloon, Jeremy Holmes, Jim van Os, Richard Bentall, Frank Margison, TK Larsen and John Read. For further details please contact ISPS, C/-Conference Strategy Pty Ltd, Post Office Box 1127, Sandringham Victory 3191, Australia (tel: +61 395218881; fax: +61 395218889; e-mail: [isps@conferencestrategy.com.au](mailto:isps@conferencestrategy.com.au); website: [www.conferencestrategy.com.au](http://www.conferencestrategy.com.au)).

**Solutions in Mind: Alcohol and Severe Mental Illness (SMI)** will take place on 4 March 2003. This one-day national conference organised by Alcohol Concern, the national agency for alcohol misuse, will be held at the Manchester Conference Centre, UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology). The conference explores the link between alcohol and SMI, and provides practical guidance on how clinicians and services might better plan appropriate treatment responses. For further information please contact Slade Carter at Alcohol Concern (tel: 020 7922 8657; e-mail: [scarter@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:scarter@alcoholconcern.org.uk)) or visit the Alcohol Concern website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk).

**'In This Together' – 14th Annual Durham Research Conference on Autism** will take place on 9–11 April 2003 at Van Mildert College, University of Durham, Durham. The conference will be an opportunity to present new, incomplete and planned research in the field of autism and related areas, as well as to obtain essential feedback from colleagues. Particularly welcome are submissions from research and practice in the areas of education, behavioural/psychiatric intervention, pharmacological/biomedical diagnosis and genetics. For further details please contact Gillian Linfoot, Conference Office, Autism North

Ltd, 6–7 The Cloisters, Sunderland, SR2 7BD (tel: 0191 563 7755; fax: 0191 563 7711; e-mail: [gill.linfoot@espa.org.uk](mailto:gill.linfoot@espa.org.uk)) or visit the following website: <http://osiris.sunderland.ac.uk/autism>.

**The Midland Course In Group Work With Children & Adolescents 2003** will take place in Northampton over the following three weekends: 31 May–1 June 2003; 14–15 June 2003; and 28–29 June 2003. This course is for professionals who are interested in group work with children and adolescents, whether they are beginners or have already had experience of group work. For further information and to obtain an application form please contact: Dr Kedar Dwivedi, Course Director, c/o 1 Becket Way, Northampton NN3 6EX (tel: 01604 604 608; fax: 01604 604 531; e-mail: [Kedar.Dwivedi@ngh-tr.anglox.nhs.uk](mailto:Kedar.Dwivedi@ngh-tr.anglox.nhs.uk)).

**The 26th Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Neuro-psychopharmacology (CCNP)** will be held on 1–4 June 2003 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For further information, please contact Dr Lalit Srivastava, Douglas Hospital Research Center, 6875 LaSalle Boulevard, Verdun, Quebec, Canada H4H 1R3 (tel: +514 761 6131 ext. 2936; fax: +514 762 3034; e-mail: [lalit.srivastava@mcgill.ca](mailto:lalit.srivastava@mcgill.ca)).

The North London Centre for Group Therapy will be holding a group-analytic weekend workshop entitled **'The ISMS in Groups: Conflict and Difference'** on 27–29 June 2003. The workshop will take place at The North London Centre for Group Therapy. Further details can be obtained from Lesley Holmes, The North London Centre for Group Therapy, 138 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HU (tel: 020 8440 1451, fax: 020 8449 3847; e-mail: [NLCent@aol.com](mailto:NLCent@aol.com)).