



*College. The ballot paper shall not indicate the method of nomination or the names of those nominating. If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies, these nominees shall be declared elected at the first meeting, whether of the Council or of the Executive and Finance Committee, after the expiry of the period of four clear weeks in this paragraph referred to.*

## The Royal Court offers members reduced-price tickets for *Iron* by Rona Munro between 22 January and 1 March 2003



The Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 is offering members of the College £2 off the top 2 price bands for *Iron* (excluding Mondays), a play by Rona Munro, directed by Roxana Silbert.

*Iron* was previously performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Josie is visiting her mother Fay in prison for the first time. She's not seen her for 15 years, not since

the day her mother was taken away when she was 10 years old. Fay is in prison for murder. A murder Josie cannot remember and Fay has always tried to forget.' "This is a psychological drama at its best – tense, harrowing, yet also powered by an unsentimental fund of compassion." *Daily Telegraph*. "Roxana Silbert's production is exquisitely judged... beautifully acted." *Guardian*.

Please book reduced-price tickets (£24 or £17.50) through the priority booking line. Tel: 020 7565 5005, quoting 'Royal College of Psychiatrists'. This play has been supported by the College through the Mind Odyssey initiative.

## Acute Psychiatric Care For Young People With Severe Mental Illness CR106

### Summary

This document has been produced by a working group of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Faculty of General and Community Psychiatry. It makes recommendations about how services should be provided and commissioned, for the acute care of young people with serious mental illness.

There is widespread recognition that the care of young people presenting with acute, severe mental illness is often unsatisfactory. This can be due to a lack of any suitable bed, undue delay, or an inappropriate admission to an adult or paediatric bed. In fact, some 600 young people are inappropriately placed per

year, in England and Wales, on adult or paediatric wards.

The report notes that the principles of specialist provision for adolescents with serious mental illness should include prompt admission, a suitably safe and appropriately staffed ward environment (which conforms to the agreed standards), geographical proximity to the family home (enabling frequent visits and appropriate family interventions to be offered), and minimisation of health and safety risks from other patients and drugs and alcohol availability.

The key recommendations are that:

- Young people under 16 years should not be admitted to adult psychiatric wards
- Those aged 16 or 17 years of age can be considered for admission to adult psychiatric wards when
  - no suitable specialist adolescent psychiatric bed is available
  - they are suffering from severe mental illness
  - acceptable standards of care are met
- Health commissioners need to develop appropriate services
- Inappropriate admissions should be considered as a sign of inadequate resources and treated as an untoward or critical incident.

The report concludes that significant investment and development is needed to provide acute inpatient and community services for adolescents with severe mental illness in line with Government priorities.

## obituary

### Dr Alexander Getty Fullerton

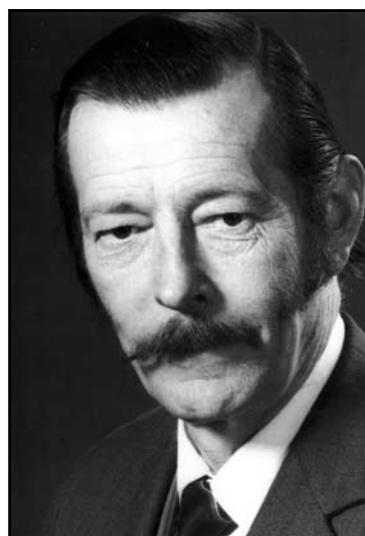
Formerly Medical Director of Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Alec Fullerton was born and raised in Ballymena, County Antrim, one of five children all destined for the medical profession. He attended Ballymena Academy, where his father was headmaster. With both parents teachers, he was expected to excel and he duly obliged. In emerging from school, at the age of 17, he enrolled as a medical student at Queen's University, Belfast. Five months later, being now 18, he volunteered for the Royal Navy. There was no conscription in Northern Ireland, but Alec felt his duty very strongly. After initial Naval training,

he was sent on a rigorous course at King Alfred Officer Training Centre in Hove and he was commissioned as a sub-lieutenant, choosing to serve in minesweepers for the rest of the war.

When he was released in December 1946, he returned to Queen's where he took an active part in university life, being a rowing cox and an enthusiastic rugby player. After qualifying, he embarked on the usual junior posts but in 1953, on the advice of his elder brother, who was in general practice in Dorset, he moved to England.

Alec had decided to specialise in psychiatry and was offered a post at Herrison Hospital, Dorchester, where he received excellent progressive training. He flourished here and quickly gained his DPM. While at Herrison he was extremely





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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)).