

Defeat Depression Action Week

The Defeat Depression Campaign would like to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved in the activities of the Defeat Depression Action Week (6–12 March 1994). The main aims are to raise awareness about depression, to reduce the stigma associated with depression, and to give advice on seeking help. The following subjects will be addressed: suicide, employment and stigma, the family, the elderly and carers, age group and gender, ethnic minorities, and self-help and treatments. For further information please contact Deborah Hart – 071 235 2351.

The Action Week will be launched with a three mile fun run in Hyde Park, London, at 12 noon on 6 March 1994. There will be a small entry fee, which will be donated to the Defeat Depression Campaign. If you are interested in entering the race please contact Chris Gear – 071 235 2351.

To round off the Defeat Depression Action Week a dinner dance is being arranged at the Cumberland Hotel, London, on Saturday, 12 March 1994. Tickets will be £25.00. For further information please contact Chris Gear – 071 235 2351.

Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

PETER RAYMOND DOHERTY, Retired Consultant Psychiatrist, Gloucester

The death of Ray Doherty on 10 March 1993 brought to an end the life of a unique character. Throughout his professional career and subsequently, from 1985 during his active retirement, his dedication and concern for the welfare of children in Gloucestershire was second to none.

A Roman Catholic, Ray was born in Londonderry, Ireland on 29 March 1925, the youngest of nine children. His childhood experiences had a profound effect on him and contributed positively to the approach he adopted in his work as a child psychiatrist.

In 1949 he graduated MB BCh BAO from the National University of Ireland in Dublin. He worked initially as a house surgeon at the Mater Teaching Hospital in Dublin and subsequently at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth. In 1951 he travelled to the United States of America where he worked on a rotating internship in Teanack, New Jersey, before becoming resident officer at Greystone Park County Asylum in Morristown, New Jersey.

It was during his time in the USA that he married his wife, Mercia. For family reasons they returned to the United Kingdom in 1953 and for the next 18 months Ray worked in an eight man general practice in Leicester City.

His interest in psychiatry prevailed and he took a junior post at Central Hospital, Hatton near Warwick for six months before moving to Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester.

At this point in his career, Ray obtained a three year short service commission with the RAF and worked as Senior Neuropsychiatrist and Officer-in-Charge at Princess Margaret's Hospital, Halton, with the rank of Squadron Leader.

After leaving the RAF he was appointed Senior Registrar to the Warneford and Park Hospital for Children, Oxford, under Christopher Ounsted. Throughout his time in general practice and during this latter appointment, he was a part-time trainee in psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic in London under the tutelage of Jock Sutherland and in March 1960 he was appointed consultant psychiatrist with a special interest in children and young people to the North Gloucestershire clinical area.

Throughout his professional career Ray worked strenuously to improve the range and quality of services that were provided in Gloucestershire. In 1963 he helped set up the Gloucestershire Association for Mental Health and in 1964 at its first AGM Ray was appointed as medical officer in which capacity he remained throughout his career.

In 1968 with Ray's enthusiastic support, GAMH managed to raise the required £30,000 to establish an adolescent unit. It was to take another seven years, however, before the unit was declared open formally by HRH the Duke of Gloucester on 23 April 1976.

On 31 May 1974 he was elected to Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Ray was a man of great compassion and natural wit. He will be sorely missed as a doctor by his patients, as a husband by his wife, Mercia and as a father by his children, Anne and Paul.

CLIVE FROGGATT