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# Obituaries

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**James Bertrand Gordon-Russell, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Hortham Hospital, Bristol**



Wingate in County Durham, where his father was a general practitioner.

He graduated in medicine at Aberdeen University in 1943, with first or second class Honours in several subjects. Jimmy held house physician posts at hospitals in Scotland and England before going into general practice in County Durham and Derbyshire, and at the same time joining the MACP (Lond), proceeding to the FRCP in 1973. It was about this time, too, that he decided that his professional future lay in psychiatry. He began, as I did, in 1949 at St James Hospital, Portsmouth, where Thomas Beaton was Medical Superintendent. 'Intensive' ECT and 'electronarcosis' were then in vogue and the theory behind intensive ECT (usually given to neurotic patients, without anaesthetic or muscle-relaxant), was that you 'wiped the slate clean' by two or three shocks twice a day. In practice, the main effect appeared to be to cause the patient to regress, in some cases, to an almost infantile level leaving him or her, no doubt, with far fewer brain cells and a memory loss for just about everything except the previous neurosis! Neither Jimmy nor I had the knowledge nor the standing to challenge a treatment, given in good faith at the time, which now seems barbaric. He passed the DPM examination in 1950.

Jimmy left St James to enter the speciality of mental deficiency (as it was then known) as a senior registrar at St Ebba's Hospital, Epsom. He returned to general psychiatry as Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Medical Superintendent at Tone Vale Hospital, Taunton, on his way to becoming one of this country's youngest Physician Superintendents at Roundway Hospital, Devizes, where he remained until 1964. During his time at Roundway, Jimmy became a JP and served on a number of important committees, including the Platt Committee on Medical Establishments and the Mental Health Committee of the South Western Regional Hospital Board.

In 1964, following the death of his daughter, in a tragic accident, Jimmy emigrated to Australia with his wife, Peggy, to become Deputy Chairman of the Mental Health Authority for the State of Victoria and an Adviser to the Minister of Health. He was awarded the MANZCP in 1964. Jimmy came back to England in 1967 to work in the fields of mental handicap, child and general psychiatry in hospitals and in the community in the Bristol area. During this time, he was elected a Foundation Fellow of the College and President of the Bristol Division of the BMA. Jimmy returned to Australia in 1987 where he filled various consultant psychiatric posts in Victoria until his retirement in 1992, apart from a year's break in England in 1990-1991. Jimmy was a very warm-hearted person, very much loved by his patients on both sides of the globe.

In his younger days, Jimmy was a keen rugby and cricket player. We never met on the rugby field, but in our encounters on the cricket field - he as a batsman and I as a fast bowler - he frequently accused me of cheating, not by ball-tampering but of using my height to deliver the ball at him from out of the trees above the sight-screen! However, we managed to remain very good friends.

After his retirement, Jimmy and Peggy lived very quietly in their cottage at Over on the Northern outskirts of Bristol. Sadly, about three months before his death, Jimmy was found to be suffering from carcinoma of the pancreas, but remained characteristically

cheerful until the end, sustained by his family and his very real Roman Catholic faith, to which he had converted before his marriage in December 1944. He is survived by Peggy and their children, Martin a solicitor, and Fiona a director of nursing.

ALAN HEATON-WARD

**Lorna Wheelan (Lady Hill), formerly Director in Charge of the Department of Child Psychiatry, King's College Hospital**

Lorna Wheelan died at home on 25 March 1994. She had been having disabling pain for several months previously, but had kept in touch with friends and family in her usual lively and forthright way, urging them on to help change the world.

Lorna was born in Scotland in 1925, the only child of John and Bessie Wheelan. Her mother had, before marriage, taught painting and drawing, an interest which Lorna herself, and both her children, later enjoyed. The family story was that Lorna had initially intended to become a fashion designer, but having been treated with care and consideration by a local GP during a brief illness decided to study medicine instead. She gained her MBChB in 1948 and MD in 1954, both at the University of Aberdeen. She trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley from 1950 to 1955 and became an Associate Member of the Institute of Psycho-Analysis in 1959. In 1961, with Dennis Hill, she founded the Department of Child Psychiatry at the Belgrave Children's Hospital in Kennington; this closed in the mid '80s and the clinic moved to King's College Hospital.

Lorna married Denis Hill in 1962, and they had two children, Richard and Annabel. Lorna continued to work 'part-time' but was very far from marginal, being clearly the head of department. Her colleagues remember her as wise and supportive, a well-rounded, composed and very civilised person, who maintained a sense of humour even in the face of the irritations of hospital politics. She enjoyed the professional help she was able to give and organise for the unhappy children referred, and was never doctrinaire in her approach, seeking out what would be most useful for the particular case. There remains an illuminating picture among her papers, drawn by a child patient; it is headed 'Dr Whelan flying a chopper' – and there she is, clearly on a rescue mission. In her later clinical years, she told me that one of her greatest

pleasures was to encourage the young doctors in training with us, and we could tell how much this was appreciated by the numbers who kept in touch.

Denis Hill was knighted in 1980. He died in 1982, not long after his retirement, and Lorna clearly suffered a great deal from this loss. Nevertheless, after her own retirement in 1990, despite physical ill-health, she kept on seeing private patients and did locum part-time consultant jobs when she could. As her children were now launched into adulthood she developed her own interests especially in art and travel. She loved to discuss politics, and was angry at many of the changes in the National Health Service, which seemed to her to be detrimental. In the last few months she had begun a course of study of 'conservation' with the Open University as part of a developing interest in 'green' issues she had caught from her children.

A memorial service was held for Lorna on 9 May 1994 in the chapel of King's College Hospital. There was an abundance of friends, family and colleagues eager to testify and share how much Lorna had influenced and inspired them.

FIONA SUBOTSKY

**Patrick Gerrard McGrath, formerly Physician Superintendent, Broadmoor Hospital**



Dr McGrath died from cancer at his home on 18 October 1994. The following address was given by Dr Henry Rollin at the Requiem Mass held at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, Berkshire on Monday, 24 October 1994.

Dr Patrick McGrath ('Pat' as he was affectionately known as by a host of friends) was the sort of man for whom the term 'charismatic' was coined. Wherever he sat was the head of the table, be it in the old Broadmoor Medical Officers' mess – now, alas, sacrificed on the altar of economy – or, as later, in the nondescript, plastic, self-service hospital cafeteria.

Pat was born in Glasgow on 10 June 1916. His father, also Patrick (as is his oldest son) was a headmaster of what he describes in an