
Obituaries



Michael Trevan Hambly,
formerly Consultant Psychiatrist in Cornwall

Mike died unexpectedly at home on 18th February 1995 at the early age of 52. He had recently retired prematurely from his Consultant post after several difficult years in the Na-

tional Health Service, which had taken their toll on his customary optimism and enthusiasm.

Mike was born on 8th November 1942 of a Cornish medical family. He was educated at Blundell's School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. After qualifying MRCS Eng. LRCP Lond. in 1968, he completed pre-registration appointments and a casualty post at Redhill before moving to an obstetrics post at Poole. He spent the rest of his career in the South West. His psychiatric training started at the Herrison Hospital, Dorchester, in 1970, working with Donald Dick at a time when major developments were occurring in the Dorset Service. He then spent time at Coldeast Hospital near Southampton (where the writer first met him) before going to a Senior Registrar appointment in Plymouth Health District, based at Moorhaven Hospital on the edge of Dartmoor.

In 1977, he was appointed to a Consultant post with the Cornwall Area Health Authority, initially based at St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin.

Mike was always proud of his Cornish connections and missed no opportunity to raise the profile of Cornwall at National meetings. It was no coincidence that he had sought both training and Consultant posts on the coast as he was an experienced yachtsman and a qualified RYA Yacht Master. His main recreation was concerned with sailing as witness his membership of the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club and of the Royal Ocean Racing Club. In his younger days, Mike was an enthusiastic horseman and a member

of his medical school's shooting team. In more recent years, he had taken up running and cycling which he did on most days.

As a Consultant, Mike took on many additional local responsibilities, being variously Chairman of the Mental Health Division, Clinical Tutor and representing Psychiatry on a number of local committees. He was the prime mover in the planning and acquisition of a new acute admission unit in Redruth, providing a more local service for West Cornwall. It was noted at its opening in 1987 that this unit was "probably the biggest improvement in services for the mentally ill in Cornwall this century". He had always been interested in the plight of the mentally abnormal offender and, for many years, was RMO for the county's high dependency ward for the most disturbed patients and for those coming from the Courts. He was the Psychiatrist for the Cornwall Probation Service and the county's Bail Hostel for many years. He always took an active interest in the affairs of the Forensic Section of the College.

He was a strong supporter of College activities, particularly at Divisional level and served two periods on the Executive Committee of the South Western Division. He organised a Divisional Meeting in Falmouth and, in 1992, was elected a Fellow of the College.

Mike was an optimistic and gregarious man, who had great empathy with his patients. He was a "larger than life" character. He was accustomed to lead from the front and had a good eye for any publicity which would reflect well on the Service. On one occasion, he volunteered both himself and his secretary to act as "guinea pigs" for the paramedics and air crew who were to operate the Cornwall Air Ambulance, the first Air Ambulance Service in the country for which he was well-suited, being a tall man of substantial build.

He is greatly missed by his family, his many friends, colleagues and ex-patients, both in Cornwall and the South West, who enjoyed his geniality and his humanity.

Mike is survived by his wife, Judy, and his sons, Patrick and Rupert.

PETER URWIN