



columns

mental health services to the adult populations of Southport and Formby. She was appointed shortly after the closures of the asylum in Southport and Greaves Hall Hospital, and relocation of the mental health service to the Hesketh Centre. She was tireless in her efforts to modernise the service and it was not unusual for her to work late on most nights of the week. She was first and foremost a clinician, but took an active role in service provision, teaching and audit. Her gentle determination, strong work ethic and excellent clinical acumen made her popular with her patients and well liked by her colleagues. She worked hard to improve patient care and to offer alternatives to hospital admission, and the Crisis Unit and partial hospitalisation system are now established features of the mental health service in Southport. She regularly gave

lectures and seminars to the staff of the local Samaritans to support them in their service.

She was one of six children in a large, caring family in Liverpool. Her younger brother, Jamie, particularly enjoyed those trips to the States he was able to make with her. Gabby herself never married and had no children of her own. Her Catholic faith became increasingly important to her and was a great source of strength, particularly in her latter years. She attended her local church regularly and made a number of trips to Lourdes.

Gabby enjoyed a simple lifestyle, but had a fondness for opera, films and fine wines. She had a particular passion for travel. During her university days, for example, she spent an elective period in Kenya working at the Aga Khan Hospital, Nairobi and at a Catholic mission in a rural

area and as a psychiatric registrar, she organised a placement for herself in Melbourne. She also travelled widely during vacations.

She was a generous woman, who donated to a number of charitable organisations and had sponsored a child in Africa, with whom she received regular correspondence. She was one of those people who had an aura of approachability and benevolence.

Gabby was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 1996. She faced her illness with courage and dignity. She died on 7 June 2002, following a sudden recurrence of the cancer. She is missed by all who knew her.

M. L. Wesson

forthcoming events

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust would like to announce a four-day workshop on **Interpersonal Psychotherapy**, being held on 12–15 May 2003 at the Leicester General Hospital. This workshop will provide a basic understanding of the theory and practice of this effective, short-term psychotherapy. The course leaders are

accredited interpersonal psychotherapy supervisors, trained by the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto. For further information, please contact Lynne Reeve (tel/fax: 0116 225 6230).

The 12th AEP Congress (Association of European Psychiatrists) will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14–18 April 2004. The deadline for receipt of

abstracts is 30 October 2003. For further information please contact 12th AEP Congress, Kenes International – Global Congress Organisers and Association Management Services, 17 Rue du Cendrier, PO Box 1726, CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland (tel: +41 22 908 0499; fax: +41 22 732 2850; e-mail: aep12@kenes.com).