

The New Family Unit

Karyn Chiesa, Marketing Nurse

The building of the new Day Unit educational facility for the Families Unit began in September on course for its opening in April next year. A tree planting ceremony to mark the commencement of building is planned for late November.

Meanwhile, fundraising for phase two of the development, purpose built accommodation for the Families Unit, is progressing steadily. In early May a successful and enjoyable event was held at the Tower of London. Guest of honour at the reception was Princess Alexandra, accompanied by her husband Sir Angus Ogilvy. Also in attendance was the appeals Chairman, the Countess of Lichfield, and the president of the Appeal, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, whose great grandfather, Sir Ernest Cassel founded the hospital in 1920.

Patrons and representatives from 43 charitable trusts and foundations attended this fund raising event along with supporters and staff of the hospital.



A view of the current day unit

Next Edition: Feature on the new Day Unit

Department of Research

Peter Griffiths, Clinical Nurse Specialist

The last 6 months has been an active and exciting time for the Department of Psychosocial Research and Education. While research into the clinical work of the hospital continues, links have also been established with other institutions in several European countries. Internal initiatives include:

- the award, by North Thames Research and Development directorate, of three years funding for a Research/Outreach Nursing Post (with a view to developing Psychosocial Nursing within the community);

- progress in the development of a course in Psychosocial Practice for mental health workers based in a variety of other residential settings (due to start in the autumn of 1996);

- two workshops and one conference: "Working with Self Destructive and Suicidal Clients"; "Working with Families in which there has been Physical or Sexual Abuse"; "The Residential Treatment of Severe Personality Disorders". All three were over subscribed and evaluated highly by participants from a range of disciplines.

Founded in 1920 by the benefactor Sir Ernest Cassel for Psychological casualties of the First World War, the Hospital has built up a long-standing and international reputation for research and training in psychotherapy. Since the Second World War, under the direction of Tom Main, the concept of treating personality disorders in a therapeutic community was developed and we now offer this service to all age ranges of patients who have proved largely resistant to other forms of psychiatric treatment.

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