

OBITUARY

Dr Margaret Mary Timpany

Margaret Mary Timpany passed away on 6 January 2008, aged 90 years.

Born in Bury, where her father and forbears had been in the cotton industry, she graduated MBChB at Edinburgh Medical School in 1943. Her early professional career was in general practice then, after a few years working at a psychiatric hospital, she came to Lancaster in 1958 as a child health/schools medical officer. From then until her retirement she was based in Skerton and thus was able to follow the lives of individuals from birth to schooling, to marriage then to parenthood.

She noted that girls tended to improve their social status on marriage, whereas boys tended to go down. Enlarging on this, she had an article published in a medical journal.

Margaret joined the local branch of the National Trust soon after it was established and rarely missed a lecture, walk, visit

or weekends away. It was at one of these that she made history by locking herself out of the hotel bedroom, whilst in her night clothes, two nights in succession, needing a younger member of the club to climb through a fortunately open window to let her get back to bed. As an enthusiastic walker, when in her sixties, she completed the Pennine Way and the Lyke Wake Walk, amongst other long distance routes.

A devout Christian, she sang in the Bare Methodist Church choir until increasing deafness made it somewhat difficult. Despite this handicap, she undertook a presidential year with the Lancaster Medical Book Club, carrying out her duties with diligence and courage.

Her last few years were spent in residential homes and finally in a nursing home. She was cremated in the Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium on Thursday, 17 January 2008.

PREVENTING FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

In recent years, over £170 million of fraud has been detected within the NHS in England, over 430 disciplinary cases have been heard and 360 prosecutions have taken place. Preventative action has benefited the NHS to the sum of £811 million – you can see the benefits of taking action to counter fraud.

WHAT IS FRAUD?

Put simply, fraud is gaining an advantage or causing a loss to someone by some type of deception.

Examples include submitting timesheets for work not done and working privately whilst on sick leave. Patient frauds include submitting false travel expense claims and making false claims to avoid NHS charges. Contractor frauds include claims for treatment not given and invoices for work not done or authorised.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Don't try to investigate yourself. It may already be being investigated (you may alert the person, allowing evidence to be destroyed) or you may put yourself at risk. Report your concerns to our Local Counter Fraud Specialists (LCFS), the NHS Fraud and Corruption Reporting Line 0800 028 40 60, the Finance Director, or use the whistle-blowing policy. Do not report your concerns to your line manager, as there have been cases where managers have colluded with staff to commit fraud.

Information is treated in confidence – you don't have to give your name. UHMB NHS Trust is committed to countering fraud and corruption within the NHS and will actively support members of staff who report concerns.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

The LCFS discretely investigate, gathering evidence to show that fraud has, or has not, occurred – collating documents, examining systems and interviewing witnesses. If evidence of fraud is uncovered the Trust will consider the appropriate sanction – this may be disciplinary action or prosecuting the individual concerned. Once the investigation is complete, the LCFS review the systems with a view to closing the loophole that allowed NHS funds to be used inappropriately.

WHO TO CONTACT

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Or call the NHS Fraud and Corruption Reporting Line (Freephone) 0800 028 40 60