

Enid Phyllis Spurgin.

I would like to make the following points regarding my Aunt. I was probably the one who knew her best as we had conversed regularly throughout my life from prep school days until her death.

She was an extremely private person who had lived on her own since her husband's death some 40 years ago.

Her joys were her garden, her dogs, nature, walking and embroidery. She was a member of the embroiders guild and taught embroidery to a group of people in the Hillhead area.

Every year she went away on holiday with a very good friend of hers and went on a walking holiday in Scotland, Yorkshire moors or some such place.

In her late 80's she contracted Lyme disease whilst on a walking holiday in Yorkshire. She was admitted to the QA hospital in Portsmouth. At the time a Doctor told me that if she recovered at all she would never be the same again. In fact she recovered remarkably quickly and within a month she was back driving her car and walking her dog.

She continued to drive until the age of 90. What I am saying is that my Aunt was a resilient character and a fighter and would not give up easily.

She was a President in the guides and supported them throughout her life. She helped to design and embroider their standard which hangs in Winchester Cathedral.

Around 1995 she set up a Trust in the name of her husband The RHS Charitable Trust of which she along with members of Blake Laphorns were Trustees. She continued as a trustee until her death.

I make these points because of David Black's erroneous statements in his witness statement.

1. My Aunt did not have a fall at home as stated on page 14 para 6.3., she was in fact over a mile away from home walking her dog, a greyhound when the dog pulled her over.

2. According to the statement made on page 11 of the report para5.1 I believe it implies that my Aunt was depressed and suffering the early signs of memory empairment. I have here a letter from her solicitor in reply to a letter from my Aunt written on the 14th March 1999 , five days before her fall.

This does not imply an old person suffering the early signs of dementia.

As to the claim that my Aunt was depressed , I would say that she was frustrated at getting old and more infirm and unable to drive her car, work as hard in her garden as she was used to and walk her dog as far.

Regarding her treatment at Haslar hospital.

I visited my Aunt the day after her fall and when she had had her leg pinned. She was out of bed and told me that the Pysios had visited her and she had been on her feet. She was in relatively good spirits and I can only say that I found her care exemplary.

I was very surprised to find that a few days later she had been transferred to the War Memorial Hospital. In fact my heart sank as I knew the reputation of the Hospital from other elderly people living in the area.

My Aunt was in a room of her own and during the remaining days of her life I visited her on numerous occasions. Her main complaint was that she had not seen a Doctor and no Physios had been in to see her. This was a recurring complaint of hers. In fact during my visits I saw very little of any staff in the hospital. When I did look for them they all seemed to be huddled in a corner drinking tea. This lack of care was made by her solicitor Mr Charles Toghill of Blake Laphorns in a letter to me on the 9th April. He suggested to me that I we should try to get her moved to a private hospital somewhere. On my next visit to my Aunt I suggested this but she was adamant that she didn't need to be moved. By this time my Aunt was fed up and in a lot of pain and she told me that her leg wwas very swollen. She was still not being seen by any Doctors and as far as I could see was getting little treatment and minimal nursing care.

On the 12th April I visited my Aunt for the last time. It was about 2 pm when I arrived and she was quite unconscious. I could in no way rouse her. I sought out a member of the staff and was told that I could wait and see a Doctor when they made their rounds. Eventually, around 1800 I got to see a Doctor Reid. He informed me that the only thing wrong with my Aunt was that she had been given too much diomorphine. He told me that

the dose would be reduced. I then went home and at 2230 the hospital called to say that my Aunt had come round had had a wash and a sip of water.

At around 0130 on the morning of the 13th April the Hospital called to say that my Aunt had died. The cause of death was stated to be a cerebrovascular accident which I took to mean a stroke in laymens terms. This I believe to be brought on by a too higher dose of diomorphine.

I was not informed that at the time the diomorphine was reduced that another drug had been added.

I would like to know why the treatment of my Aunt was so cavalier and I would go so far as to say, Inhumane.

I would like to know why the infection or bleeding in the wound was not more aggressively treated.

I would like to know why my Aunt was not put on a drip for dehydration and why she was treated as a useless part of society.

She might have only had a few more years to live and they might have become increasingly difficult for her but at least she deserved the chance.

We may well all end up in the same boat one day!!!