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Tuesday, April 16, 2013

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LUXURY HAMPER IS PART OF THIS FANTASTIC PRIZE - PAGE 26



DOCTOR: I DID NOT HASTEN PATIENT'S DEATH

Hospital clinical assistant says pensioner was dying

THE doctor caring for a pensioner whose death sparked a huge inquiry has said the OAP was close to dying when she was admitted. Police were called in after the death of Gladys Richards, but the

doctor at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Jane Barton, *pictured*, told an inquest that painkillers prescribed to the pensioner did not hasten her death.

FULL STORY ■ PAGE 5

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DETAILS - PAGE 34

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DETAILS - PAGE 33

SPORT

Hermann's last stand

HERMANN Hreidarsson readied himself for an emotional Pompey farewell tonight and explained: I want to say goodbye.



■ BACK PAGE

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Information Evening

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Doctor says drugs were not used to hasten death

OAP said to be dying when she went back to Gosport hospital

by **PRIYA MISTRY**
Health reporter
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THE doctor who cared for Gladys Richards said a 'haunted and harrowed' expression on her face showed she was dying.

Dr Jane Barton worked as a clinical assistant at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) in August 1998.

Gladys Richards, 91, was a patient in the Daedalus ward, and under Dr Barton's care.

Yesterday, retired Dr Barton gave evidence at the inquest into Mrs Richards' death, which is being held at the Portsmouth Guildhall.

The court heard painkillers were given to make the pensioner feel comfortable, not to hasten her death.

And it would have been 'inhumane' to take Mrs Richards off diamorphine, to see if she was still suffering from pain, Dr Barton said.

As previously reported, Mrs Richards had surgery on her right hip at the Royal Haslar Hospital, following a fall at the nursing home she was staying at in Lee-on-the-Solent.

On August 11, she was taken to GWMH for rehabilitation.

Dr Barton assessed Mrs Richards and felt she had a '50-50' chance of survival and also noted she was 'happy for nursing staff to confirm death'.

Dr Barton prescribed the use of painkillers oramorph (swallowed) and diamorphine through a syringe driver - a method which continuously administers medication.

Dr Barton said it was an 'administrative decision' as she was not always at the ward and nurses would be able to give the pain relief if needed.

Mrs Richards suffered a second fall in GWMH, and was taken to Haslar for further hip work.

When she was transferred back to GWMH on August 17, Dr Barton saw a change in Mrs Richards.

Dr Barton said: 'There was a marked deterioration, she



GIVING EVIDENCE Dr Jane Barton outside Portsmouth Guildhall

was dying. 'She had a haunted, harrowed expression.

'When she arrived back in the 17th, she was dying. I did not induce her death.'

On August 18, it was decided Mrs Richards would be given diamorphine.

Dr Barton told the court the syringe driver was 'not the act of promoting or hastening death' or the 'instrument of death'.

Mrs Richards died on August 21, and the cause of death was put down to bronchopneumonia.

Between 1996 and 1999, 12 patients died under the care of Dr Barton - including 91-year-old Mrs Richards.

Her daughter Gillian Mackenzie, 79, of Eastbourne, approached police with concerns over her mother's care, which initiated an investigation by Hampshire Constabulary into the deaths. Inquests of five other patients at the hospital took place in 2009, where a jury ruled drugs prescribed by Dr Barton contributed to the deaths.

A General Medical Council hearing took place in 2010, which found Dr Barton had prescribed 'excessive' drugs to elderly patients, but decided not to remove her from the register.

Mrs Richards' inquest was not included with the other



INQUEST Gladys Richards

five. Mrs Mackenzie has been campaigning for almost 15 years to have the inquest.

One more witness is due to give evidence this week, before coroner David Horsley announces a verdict.

(Proceeding).

Kate Middleton to visit children's hospice

CHILDREN and their families are in for a royal treat as the Duchess of Cambridge is due to visit a hospice.

Kate Middleton will be touring Naomi House children's hospice - which looks after terminally-ill young people from the Portsmouth area.

During her visit, which takes place in Children's Hospice Week, she will see the hydrotherapy pool, children's bedrooms and gardens.

She will also meet children, young people and families who rely on the services provided by the charity near Winchester.

Professor Khalid Aziz,

chairman at Naomi House, was present when The Duchess's father-in-law, Prince Charles, opened the centre in 1997.

He said: 'We are delighted Her Royal Highness has chosen Naomi House to visit at the start of Children's Hospice Week.'

'Her presence will provide a real boost for our families, our volunteers and all of our dedicated staff who will be thrilled to meet her.'

The Duchess is expected to stay for around 90 minutes, during her visit, which takes place on the first day of the awareness week - Monday, April 29.

Titchfield's questions

THE popular Radio 4 programme Any Questions? is set to be broadcast from Titchfield.

The current affairs show will be at Titchfield Community Centre on June 28.

A provisional line-up of panellists includes Bernard Jenkin MP, John Denham MP, Matthew Parris from The Times and Maura McGowan, QC, chairwoman of the bar council. Ticket information has yet to be released.

Motorist cut free from car

A MOTORIST had to be cut free from their car after being involved in a crash on the A27 last night.

Two cars collided on the eastbound carriageway, close to junction 12 at about 10.15pm.

As the emergency services were dealing with the first incident, three more vehicles collided nearby.

Firefighters from Cosham, cut one person out of a car and they were then taken to hospital. Their injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

The road was briefly closed.

Covenant celebrated

MP CAROLINE Dinenage has celebrated Gosport Borough Council's early adoption of the Armed Forces Community Covenant during defence questions at the House of Commons.

The covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the civilian community

and any serving and former members of the armed forces and their families.

She said: 'Given the Gosport peninsula's proud military heritage, it's only right that our area is leading the way in adopting its own community covenant.'

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