

The 'positive' professor... Family and friends pay tribute to medicine pioneer

MORE than 150 friends and family gathered on Saturday to celebrate the life and lasting legacy of a Chinese professor known for his "infectious laugh" and "positive thinking".

Tributes have continued to pour in for Professor Man Fong Mei, 67, known fondly as Benny Mei, after he died from sudden heart failure.

Always seen with a smile on his face, Professor Mei was determined to bring Eastern and Western medicine together. It was an ambition that

by STEVE BARNETT

led to him opening the Acu Medic centre in Euston, which then moved to its prominent site in Camden High Street, where it became one of Europe's premier establishments for integrated medicine.

It was the perfect location to hold a special celebration to honour Professor Mei on Saturday, with people gathering to share their stories and



The family of Professor Man Fong Mei (inset), outside Acu Medic's branch in Camden High Street: daughter Liselle, son Don, widow Monika and son Han



memories. In a touching tribute his son Don, 39, recalled: "When I was a very

little boy my father gave me and my sister a little red book, it wasn't 'Mao's Little Red Book', it was a blank

book. And he told me, when I was six, 'This is to record all of your father's wisdom', which, as I'm sure you

all know, he was happy to share with everyone.

"He said: 'Whenever I say something wise, write it down'. The first thing we ever wrote was 'positive thinking', which became a mantra for our family."

"You probably all have a very vivid memory of my father's laughter and his smile, which was always genuine. He had an amazing ability to just let problems slide off his shoulders."

The speech was followed by Chinese New Year celebrations, including a traditional Chinese lion dance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zoo plans lion expansion

LONDON Zoo has revealed plans to revamp its lion enclosure in a new £5.7million project. The attraction in Regent's Park hopes to increase the enclosure's size four-fold. Zoo chiefs are concerned that visitors leave without realising that lions live in Asia, as well as Africa.

Japanese deal for fire market

THE owners of the Hawley Wharf market in Camden Town, which was destroyed by fire in 2008, have announced a £237m deal with Japanese investment bank Nomura to pay for a redevelopment project. Stanley Sidings are planning homes, markets and a school on the site.

Pupils tune in to musical

REGENT High School pupils are rehearsing for their production of *High School Musical*. This week the Charrington Road school's "live band" was practising at Euston Road's Shaw Theatre for the final performance in the theatre on Monday.

Glenda's fears for refugees

GLENDA Jackson has urged the government not to separate Syrian refugee children from their families. The Labour MP for Hampstead and Kilburn challenged Theresa May about the process which often splits up families on arrival.

Report raises concerns over hygiene and understanding of faiths at police stations

Custody cells 'ingrained with dirt'

INSPECTORS who made a surprise visit to Camden's police custody cells found some walls "ingrained with dirt", toilet paper only available on request and cases where

by ALICE HUTTON

staff were unable to properly advise Muslim detainees.

A report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons painted a

generally positive picture of the lock-ups at the police stations in Holmes Road, Kentish Town, and Lambs Conduit Street, Holborn, with repeated reference to "good,

respectful interactions between all staff and detainees" with "diverse needs generally met" and "good partnership working to improve detainee care".

But the findings raised concerns over the lack of facilities for pregnant or disabled people, with hygiene packs not routinely offered to women, cells in Kentish Town "ingrained [with] dirt and graffiti" and showers "rarely offered and toilet paper only available on request".

Although religious texts were available, they were not stored respectfully, the report said, and not all custody staff were aware of the needs of Muslim detainees and were unable to help those who wanted to pray because they were "unclear" which way Mecca was.

The findings were published yesterday (Wednesday) in a report by Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, and Dru Sharpling, HM Inspector of Constabulary, after a prompted visit in August last year.

They expressed concerns about queuing at Kentish Town for 11 cells when Holborn's 16 custody suites were "quiet", a lack of appropriate monitoring of force used and senior officers instructing staff to make arrests without enough information.

Although the report praised the good mental health liaison scheme, they found that the police national computer was not always used when checking the backgrounds of

people entering the cells with three people not checked who were later found to have histories of self-harm and attempted suicide and not all occupied cells checked within 24 hours.

Camden Council's safety chief, Councillor Abdul Hai, said he was "generally pleased" with the report and how police treated

people with "dignity". But he added that he would raise the concerns about lack of training for staff dealing with those of Muslim faith as well as lack of facilities for disabled and pregnant people.

Debbie Danon, training and partnership manager at the Kentish Town-based Three Faiths Forum (3FFs), one of the UK's leading inter-faith organisations, said that Camden police were "not alone" in "struggling" with how to approach dealing with people of different faiths but that they would encourage a willingness to ask questions.

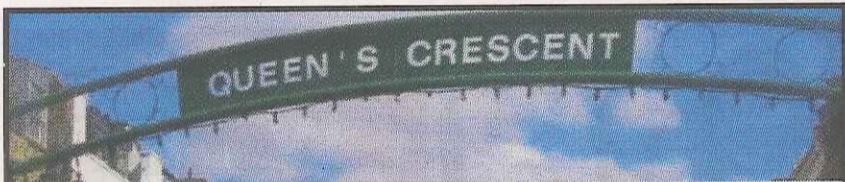
She added: "We see this quite a lot when dealing with organisations around Camden when people don't know what to do, and the key is to ask questions, raise the issue and provide opportunities for training and support."

Mr Hardwick said: "Overall, custody provision in Camden was good. Strategic oversight was reasonable and detainees were treated respectfully. At both suites, we saw

some positive interactions between staff and detainees."

Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Tucker, Camden's Borough Commander said: "It [the report] recognises the good work that is being carried out by our officers and staff to ensure the safe custody and care of those who come into our sta-

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