Drugs case jail sentence ends

‘Julie’ doctor returns to the Wales he likes

by Arthur Williams

A young doctor, jailed for his role in the Operation Julie LSD case in practicing medicine at Aberystwyth 30 miles from the isolated farmhouse where he was arrested three years ago.

Dr Mark Charney, aged 30, who lives with his bride of three weeks in a health authority flat in Tywyn Road, Aberystwyth, was offered a job as a trustee G.P. by Dr D. Rowland Edwards who has his surgery in North Parade, Aberystwyth.

Soon after his conviction, he was struck off the medical register but was reinstated by a General Medical Council committee after his release from prison.

Dr Charney said this week he had applied for several jobs in Wales as he liked the country and its people.

"I always got on well with people in the Llwynbydden area when I was a locum at Llanbydden previously and I was very happy when Dr Edwards offered me the job," he said.

Dr Charney will be in general practice with Dr Edwards for a year. He said he had no definite plans for the future although he had an interest in psychiatry.

Speaking at his home, Dr Charney said: "It is a great pity about the publicity I have received as it complicates my relationship with my patients. I appeared before a disciplinary committee in July and it was decided that I was fit to be included on the medical register. At first I am concerned that somewhere sufficient guarantee to any patient that I am considered to be a responsible person."

Dr D. Rowland Edwards, a local police doctor, said he was happy to give Dr Charney a job because he had been reinstated by the GMC.

"He was reinstated after a GMC public inquiry and it was clear he was considered to be fit and proper to work as a doctor again. I knew about his background before I offered him a position."

said Dr Edwards.

Dr Charney was arrested during the Operation Julie drugs squad sweep which uncovered the world's biggest LSD haul. He was jailed for three years on charges of conspiracy to contaminate the Maws of Drugs Act and possession of drugs, and released in May last year.

He used to live close to the central figures in the case, chemist, Richard Kemp, and his girlfriend, Dr Christine Bult.

Dr Charney has said his share in the isolated farm where he lived in those days. To protect his identity he has also changed his name by deed poll by dropping the T from Tycherny.