

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Kate Maynard at k.maynard@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 400 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 700–800 words).

Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

GEOFFREY WOOD



On 8 August 2008, Geoff Wood suffered a fall in his garden. He did not recover consciousness and died two days later in hospital. He had been at a dance with Anne, his wife of 51

years, the evening previous to his fall.

Geoff was born on Armistice Day 1932 in the Rossendale Valley, Lancashire. He attended the Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School where he was appointed Head Boy for 1949/50. It was here that he met Anne, a pupil in the year below him. He qualified in dentistry at the Turner Dental School, Manchester University late in 1956. Shortly afterwards he bought Holt's Dental Practice in Waterfoot, Rossendale where he and Anne lived 'above the shop' for a couple of years.

Geoff's was a large practice in a well populated working class area of Rossendale. National Health Service was definitely the norm. It was a happy practice with a good atmosphere.

He was a most loyal member of the BDA and held his chosen profession in high regard. Chairman of the Burnley Section of BDA in the late 1960s, he was later to be elected President of the East Lancs and East Cheshire Branch.

Geoff lived the social side of life to the full. He played a full part in Round table, 41 Club and was President of Rossendale Rotary Club in 1986. He was a former Captain and President of Rossendale Golf Club, of which he was a member for over 50 years. Geoff had a very severe heart attack 17 years ago. Since then he had taken health matters seriously and renewed his love of dancing, even going

on dancing weekends and holidays.

Geoff was a good friend, a very sociable person and still a very keen dentist. When the practice was sold, he continued to be available for locum services and was still working up to the present as an assistant to Irene Gott in Clitheroe.

Geoff and Anne had three children, Kay, Gillian and Peter. They were very proud of sons-in-law Duncan and Peter and their five grandchildren, Ian, Charles, David, James and Leonie. Our sympathy is extended to Geoff's family for their very sudden loss, a good husband, father and grandfather.

The church at Read was overflowing with friends and colleagues. Geoff Garnett, Past President BDA gave the address and led the prayers.

G. F. Garnett

DOUGLAS LESLIE ALBERT



All professions produce individuals whose activities the profession as a whole benefits from. The importance of the financial benefits of the NHS pension scheme for

dentists and in particular the issue of dynamisation cannot be understated. The individual responsible for persuading the Department to accept the profession's case in the late 1960s was Duggie Albert.

Born in 1927, Duggie qualified from the London Hospital in the late 1940s. He was posted to Nottingham, initially working as an oral surgeon in the air force. After completion of his 'tour' Duggie returned to the London working in the oral pathology department where he developed research skills that would

prove invaluable in his later career. One of his enormous attributes was the recognition that the care for patients lay in the long-term obligations that true professionalism carries: the application of practice based research made him a quite unique and remarkable practitioner.

Duggie built up a practice in which not only the delivery of care took place but passed on his experiences and insights to students for further generations.

His commitment and devotion to his profession was equally strong. His value and efforts on behalf of the profession and the public were recognised by his peers with the award of a Tomes medal.

What was particularly noteworthy about Duggie was his ability to combine his professional commitment with a personal devotion to his pride and joy: his wife and family. There was impish delight in his eyes when recalling his courting of Ruth while based in Nottingham; his subsequent service duties in the Far East included persuading the aircrew to allow him control of a Sunderland flying boat when trying to meet Ruth as she made her way to Singapore to see him. He and Ruth have nurtured three exceptional children: Frances, Robin and David, and their children.

Everybody who knew him praised his qualities: those of sound principles in all aspects of life, a thinker, a carer, but most of all someone who was genuine and who was devoted to those who he knew and what he believed in. The affection of which he spoke about nature: his trip to Japan and holidays with Ruth in the Balearics, the walks along the Seven Sisters after meetings at the former Dental Practice Board all reinforce what a thoughtful and beguiling individual Duggie was.

Paul Batchelor