

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Ruth Doherty at [r.doherty@nature.com](mailto:r.doherty@nature.com).

All submitted obituaries should be 450 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 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*



**David Robert Stirrups**

1948–2016

David Stirrups, who died on Friday 12 August following a short illness, was an inspirational clinician, teacher, educationalist and colleague. David qualified from Sheffield Dental School in 1970, winning the prize for orthodontics. He became a Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1974 and did his orthodontic training in the North of England before being appointed a consultant at Glasgow Dental Hospital. It was during his training that David realised he needed to know more about statistics in order to analyse research papers and so completed an Open University degree in mathematics, followed by a Master's degree in applied statistics. This training underpinned his innate facility with data, and made him sought after as a statistician. David was a very talented clinical orthodontist and his ability to predict facial growth and dental development and apply this to interceptive orthodontics was second to none.

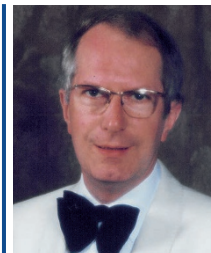
Appointed to the Chair of Orthodontics in Dundee in 1992 he immediately made a huge impact. He was the dental school's first teaching Dean and galvanised us into activity to improve and develop the curriculum. He published widely in the field of orthodontics and co-edited a unique book on dental education, which sought to summarise the germane learning points in the dental curriculum. As well as training undergraduates David was a very committed postgraduate teacher who loved helping people, and he inspired a generation of high achieving orthodontists. He was a mentor as well as a friend and colleague to many, and had endless patience and generosity

with his time. David was a man of tremendous integrity and sound judgement, and his advice on a wide range of clinical, academic and political matters was much sought after. He also had a tremendous sense of humour and fun that was infectious, and he could lighten any dire academic event with a witty quip. Following retirement from Dundee in 2007 he took up a consultant post in Middlesbrough before he and his wife Anne retired to Cambridgeshire.

David had many interests including gardening, camping, orienteering and stamp collecting. He became a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society and was a world-renowned expert on the postage stamps of Gibraltar.

We remember David as a thoroughly decent man, talented and generous, who helped many along the way. His death at such an early age is tragic for one who had so much still to offer.

J. R. Drummond, D. Evans and P. A. Mossey



**Paul Castle**

1945–2016

I first met Paul Castle in 1985. Having just been appointed as the Regional Dental Officer for the North Western Regional Health Authority, it was suggested that I join the newly formed Regional Fluoridation Action Group, which was having its inaugural meeting the following Monday. I duly arrived, met Paul Castle, started a lifetime interest in water fluoridation, and a friendship that was to last some 30 plus years. It quickly became apparent that Paul had some real gifts including the ability to turn complex scientific concepts into readable prose.

It is perhaps worth looking back to the 1960s to understand how Paul first acquired

those skills. He graduated in 1968 with a first class honours degree in history from Pembroke College, University of Oxford. Far from the popular concept of history as the chronology of kings and queens, a history degree ensures a graduate possesses: '*a talent for clear expression, both oral and written [...] - gathering, investigating and assessing material [...] - and organising the material in a logical and coherent way*' ([theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com), 15 January 2010; What to do with a degree in history).

Paul certainly learnt those skills and went on to hone them firstly as a journalist and later as a local politician. One of his early journalistic posts was as a leader writer for the *Liverpool Daily Post*, a well-respected and influential regional newspaper. Paul was subsequently elected to Sale Council and stood unsuccessfully as the Labour Party candidate for the Cheadle constituency.

Paul then joined the NHS to head the Regional Public Relations department for the West Midlands RHA, where he worked with John Charlton and John Langford. Subsequently he moved to the North Western RHA, joining John Roberts who had been appointed Regional Administrator. Both Paul and John had shared interests in health promotion and were very active in tobacco control and in promoting water fluoridation. I feel water fluoridation in the North West would have been long achieved if it had not been for the intransigence of the newly privatised water company concerned.

Paul moved back to the West Midlands where he set up his own company, Castle Communications. I continued to work with him for the British Fluoridation Society; his report *One in a million*, now in its third edition, is a testimony to his energy and commitment. He is survived by his wife Pamela, a former dental nurse, two children and one grandson; they will miss him sorely, as will I.

M. A. Lennon