

Arthur David Ettrick Baird



David Baird died on 1 September 2005, after a long and courageous battle against cancer. For 63 years he packed his life with activities, personal and professional, which focussed on improving the wellbeing of all with whom he came into contact.

After he qualified from the London Hospital Dental School in 1964, he entered a busy NHS dental practice in Winchester, where he stayed as an associate for 15 years, building up a large clientele of children.

This ignited his lifelong interest in paedodontics and thus he entered, in 1978, the community dental service in Southampton. Here he served as a clinical community dental officer at a variety of clinic locations including Harefield, Swaythling and Bitterne. His interest in dental health education flourished and in 1981, he became lecturer in oral health promotion at Eastleigh College, introducing exciting programmes into local schools.

David was convinced that his future career should focus on caring for children, so he gained an MSc in children's dentistry at the Eastman Dental Hospital in 1983 and then returned to Southampton as a senior dental officer and set about developing the much needed provision of an in-house paediatric service to help his local colleagues. At the same time, he was appointed associate specialist at the General Hospital and, with his consummate skill and tact, smoothed the links between the hospital and community to enable the treatment of child patients. He also led initiatives which resulted in establishing a dental presence on the paediatric oncology wards at the Royal South Hants Hospital and became an empathetic lead for the children's dental general anaesthetic service.

Since 1983 David had been on the Representative Board, and its successor, the Representative Body, and was tireless in his commitment to the Wessex Branch serving as its secretary for 17 years,

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which was deservedly recognised with the award of life membership of the BDA. When he demitted office at the Branch AGM last year, he characteristically guided the President through the intricacies and constitutional niceties of the agenda, with his unruly locks of abundant white hair very much in evidence.

David was a natural committee person. For seven years he brought his analytical mind to the deliberations of the Dental Formulary Committee and shared generously his in-depth knowledge and expertise of computer technology. From 1994 he was a member of the GDSC IT working party and developed two computer-assisted learning programmes, which remain as part of the Wessex Deanery web-tool package.

His caring and organisational skills stretched beyond dentistry and were reflected in his long association as Governor of four schools in the Winchester area, assuming the role of chairman of governors of each establishment. He further found energy to excel in his hobby of making and flying radio-controlled model aircraft, master digital photography, tend his garden and travel overseas.

In 1964, David married Pam, a ward sister at the London Hospital, who sadly in deep grief, survived him by only five months. Truly, David was a family man; a loving father to Andrew and Angi and devoted to his grandchildren: Kayleigh, Connor, Caitlin and Molly.

Family, friends, colleagues and patients will be enriched for knowing David Baird, with his renowned methodical approach, boundless energy and enthusiasm for life. In particular, the Wessex Branch of the BDA will be forever in his debt.

David and Pam will be missed by us all.

Dame Margaret Seward

Major General Esmond John Bowen



Esmond Bowen, who died on 7 April, was born on 6 December 1922, the son of an infantry officer. He entered Birmingham University Dental School in 1941, where he joined the Home Guard obtaining a TA Commission in 1943. On qualifying LDS in 1946, he took a House Officer appointment under the famous Ralph Broderick DSO, MC, who encouraged Esmond to join the RADC, which he did in June 1947. He was married to Elsie Midgley in 1948,

followed by postings to the Far East, UK and Kenya (during the latter he always slept with a pistol under his pillow). He developed an interest in orthodontics, claiming that he was taught to bend Adams cribs by Prof Adams himself. During his postings at Aldershot he represented the Army at rifle shooting, instructed student hygienists and established the RADC museum which became a world-class collection concerned with the history of British military dentistry. A stickler for the accurate interpretation of Dress Regulations, his ability to spot any item of uniform which was not being worn correctly was legendary!

Esmond and Elsie were active Christians and were involved with the welfare of RADC personnel, frequently opening their home to all.

A man of integrity who loved his family, the Army and his Corps.

After posts with increasing responsibility as Assistant Director at MOD in 1974 and then in BAOR, Esmond returned to the UK in 1978 to become Director Army Dental Service. During his four-year tenure he defended the Corps vigorously against manpower and equipment cuts and encouraged his officers to join the BDA and undertake postgraduate study.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of St John in 1976, Honorary Dental Surgeon to The Queen in 1977 and CB in 1982. After retirement he was Colonel Commandant RADC from 1982 to 1987, a task which he relished, visiting many RADC units worldwide. He was also chairman of the BDA Armed Forces Committee.

For many years, Esmond and Elsie lived at Andover where he was an active fund raising member of St Mary's Church. Tragically, Elsie died as result of a road traffic accident in 1996 and Esmond's subsequent courage in facing motor neurone disease alone was remarkable. He is survived by his loving sons and daughters, Neil, John, Stephanie and Vanessa and their families. An older daughter, Marilyn died in infancy.

M. R. Townsend