

Obituary

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at jonathan.coe@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 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 *BDA*.



Brenda Fox

1940–2018

A German bomber, having missed its target in Manchester, jettisoned a landmine over the Lancashire village of Stubbins. The blast brought down the roof, crushing Brenda's cot. It was 2 May, her birthday. After her party she developed a tummy ache. Luckily, her mother had taken her into her bed at the front of the house.

Moving to Cheshire, she attended Crewe Grammar, a progressive school which pioneered careers evenings. It was there that she met Professor John Miller who commended dentistry. She subsequently spent six happy years at Bristol Dental School, winning the paedodontic prize and

becoming 'houseman' to a joint post with the School Dental Service. She was shocked that children were unable to get to her clinic because they had no shoes.

Moving to London as Chief Dental Officer of Hillingdon and remembering this, Brenda worked with Professor Winter of the Eastman to run a trial of 'dental home visitors' who helped mothers unable to get to the dental clinic. Building on the success of this, she established one of the first domiciliary services for the homebound and was a founder member of the Society of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

This was the time before fluoride toothpaste. Appalled by the large number of deciduous teeth which were being extracted, she recognised the need to develop dental health education. In pursuit of this, she joined a diploma in sociology evening class and pioneered a number of programmes including 'Teeth Time' for infant schoolchildren. Funded by Beechams, she presented the

results at the annual meetings of the BDR. Brenda was later appointed a member of the Health Education Councils Dental Advisory Panel.

Brenda taught dental public health and later was a part-time dento-legal advisor at Dental Protection. She introduced one of the first programmes of clinical audit, describing it at a BDA annual conference. Subsequently she was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be a member of Central London Employment Tribunals.

At the end of her career Brenda was also the general manager of community services in Harrow and Hillingdon; responsible not only for dentistry but also nurses, therapists, a cottage hospital and two child psychiatrists. In recognition of her achievements she was invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party. Abandoning dentistry in her retirement, she devoted her time to her interests: gardening, cooking and her 13 grandchildren.

Ian Maddick



"I'd like to thank you all at the Benevolent Fund I think you all do a fantastic job. I wish you all well, and think it's amazing how you help dentists and those in the profession when they need help."

You do not need to be a member of the BDA to receive help.

Please call us on 0207 4864994 or
apply via www.bdabenevolentfund.org