

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jadene Doak at jadene.doak@springernature.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 *BDJ*.



Christopher (Kit) Hughes
1930–2019

Kit Hughes' Life Membership of the BDA has come to an end. For 36 years Kit was in general practice in Colchester, Essex. He took an active and engaged interest in the work of the BDA in Essex, and gave considerable energy and time to its work with the Department of Health in the 1970s and 1980s.

Kit trained at the London Hospital, a 17-year-old among veterans returning from active service in the War. National Service as an RAF dentist followed, with stays in Iraq providing opportunities for exploring the region, seeding a love of travel which survived into later life.

Back in the UK, Kit married Mary and moved to work in Colchester in 1957. Initially in partnership with Alan Seymour, he set up his own practice in 1963 which he continued till retirement in 1993. Others judged his work as careful, precise, possibly unflashy but always with excellent care and craftsmanship. He enjoyed his friendships with patients.

Kit was a member of the Local Dental Committee from 1959, and the Representative Board from 1973. At that date he also became a member of the General Dental Services Committee. Kit served for ten years on the University Grants Committee, and for shorter periods on the Standing Dental Advisory Committee and the Dental Practice Board (in its earlier incarnation as the Dental Estimates Board).

He was proposed for Life Membership of the BDA in the early 1990s.

Outside the surgery, Kit's time was most happily spent sailing with friends and family, children and grandchildren on the Essex Coast and sometimes cruising further afield in his gaff-rigged yacht, *Miranda*. He enjoyed playing golf, bridge and croquet, and was an active Rotarian.

He died peacefully after a long and happy retirement, leaving good memories with his family and many friends, and with former patients too.

Sara Humphreys and Kate Clifton



Laurence Oldham
1931–2019

Laurence, the consultant who developed Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery services in Somerset, a gifted postgraduate educator, passed away on 2 October 2019.

Born in 1931, the son of a headmaster, he was educated at Ashby Grammar School. He graduated from the University of Birmingham in 1955, followed by a House Officer post, which included a resident post at Birmingham General Hospital; this awakened his enthusiasm for surgery.

He gained his FDS in 1958. He was awarded a Rotary Foundation Fellowship to the USA, spending 1959–60 at the University of Pennsylvania. The Fellowship included a lecture tour of Rotary Clubs across the USA. This honed his skills as a lecturer and raconteur, which became a life-long activity.

He was appointed as a lecturer at the University of Manchester in Oral Surgery, working with Gordon Ashcroft, who in the previous year had published a seminal paper on effective exodontia with Patrick Pawsey. In 1965 Laurence was seconded to the New Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. There he gained ten years surgical experience in two years.

He was appointed Consultant Oral Surgeon in Taunton in 1968, over the next 25 years he built up the maxillofacial service. Latterly he was appointed to the Board of Somerset Health Authority and acted as the bridge between clinicians and management. He retired in 1991. His retirement dinner was attended by over 85% of his ex-SHO's.

Not one to rest on his laurels, in retirement Laurence chaired St Margaret's Hospice Trust in Taunton for 12 years, then became secretary to the UK Chairs of Independent Hospices and vice-President. He led the University of Bristol BUOLD Oral Surgery distance learning programme, with over 300 dentists gaining from his knowledge. He was on the governing body of Queens College, Taunton for 12 years. He lectured on a wide range of topics to local groups and was an active member of the Oral Surgery Travelling Club. He was a pianist, motor cyclist and attended the Hay Literary Festival.

Laurence will be greatly missed for his compassion, wisdom and humour. He leaves a wife, Diana of over 50 years, two sons, Mark a Professor of Medical Physics in the USA and James an osteopath who was a lecturer at the University of Plymouth Medical School, and a grandson Tej. To them we extend our condolences. Those of us who worked for Laurie felt very privileged to have known him.

Alasdair G. Miller