

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Heather Bradbury at [heather.bradbury@nature.com](mailto:heather.bradbury@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 *BDJ*.



**Kenneth Richard Ray**

1930–2023

Ken Ray OBE BDS FDSRCS FRCS was born in Oxford and educated at the City of Oxford High School where he developed his lifelong love of rugby. He completed national service in Hong Kong and went on a County Scholarship to the University of Birmingham Dental School, graduating BDS in 1955. After initial training posts in Birmingham, he moved to the Royal Dental Hospital as registrar in oral surgery in 1957, remaining as senior registrar and subsequently senior lecturer. As a senior registrar, he was introduced by a mutual friend to Pam, a trainee almoner at the West Middlesex Hospital, and they were married within a year in the spring of 1958. By the time he took up a part-time NHS post at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in 1963, three children had arrived and for the next ten years he combined his increasingly busy clinical practice with his academic role in London, finally relinquishing this in 1973.

Ken immersed himself in developing and supporting his profession. Amongst numerous national roles, he was chair of the Central Committee for Hospital Dental Services and the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry, President of the Hospitals Group of the BDA, President of BAOMS, Vice Dean and subsequently Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the RCS London, and UK representative on the EEC Dental Liaison Committee. He was an honorary fellow of the Australian, Edinburgh and Glasgow Dental Faculties and the recipient of the Down Surgical Prize of BAOMS and the Colyer Gold Medal of the RCS London. He was awarded an OBE in 1996. Colleagues remember him as a formidable operator, someone who could be

counted on to make the right decision and get things done in the most difficult circumstances.

In retirement, he and Pam travelled widely and were generous hosts to family and friends at their homes in the Berkshire countryside and in the Lake District. After Pam's death in 2016, Ken moved to Cheshire to be closer to his son where he built a new circle of friends and inevitably, unable to break the habits of a lifetime, chaired the residents board of his apartment complex to great effect. He died peacefully on 1 August 2023, a month after falling and fracturing his hip and a few weeks after his last visit to his beloved home in the North Lakes. He leaves three children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Simon Ray



**David Michael Hobbs**

1936–2023

David passed away peacefully on 31 July 2023, having lived with cancer for two years. He was born on 27 July 1936, the youngest of four children.

He trained at Birmingham Dental School. He did National Service in the Royal Army Dental Corps; in the same month that he completed this, he married Mary. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2021.

Roles in Oldbury, Smethwick and Warley were followed by becoming Principal School Dental Officer for Leicestershire. Here, he worked with the University of Birmingham carrying out pioneering epidemiological studies of the dental health of Leicestershire children.

In 1971, David moved to Radnorshire soon becoming Area Dental Officer for Powys and

at retirement was Director of Dental Public Health for Dyfed Powys. He Chaired the Powys AIDS Co-ordinating Team and the Officer Working Group of the Powys Joint Consultative Committee. For a period, David was a member of the Heath Advisory Committee for Wales and an Honorary Clinical Teacher at the Dental School of the University of Wales.

He served on BDA committees as a member, secretary and chair, culminating in being President of the Community Dental Services Group. His presidential meeting was notable for an informal dinner with superb roast leg of lamb in a hay-box.

David's interests varied; family and friendship were important. He enjoyed rugby, serving as a committee member at Builth Wells RFC, cycling, gardening, aviculture, opera, ballet, theatre and travelling. His travels included the Gambia, where he and Mary participated in the development of a school for a rural community.

After retiring, he was secretary of a Parochial Church Council, Director of Cymryd Rhan, a voluntary organisation, a National Trust Gardener and a member of Llandrindod Probus and Horticulture Clubs.

Fifty years ago, David, with Midlands colleagues, became part of the 'Midlands Mafia'. We, the Mafia, challenged establishment CDS figures perceived to be biased towards London and the South, then found that many of us became establishment figures ourselves, subject to similar rebellions. Since 1993, the remnants of the Mafia have gathered together annually, for a few days of nostalgia, good food and wine. David managed to attend our latest gathering in April.

Both David, and his beloved Mary, will be remembered with love and great respect. He is survived by his four sons: Michael, Edward, Robert and Philip.

Roger Bettles, John Charlton and Roger Heesterman, and the spouses who sought to bring moderation to the Midlands Mafia