

For £1, they purchased, from the Church in Wales, a small church threatened with demolition. Bernard first repaired the windows to exclude nesting birds. He erected scaffolding and brought down the big bell, which they took for restoration to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

Before retirement, Bernard bought a dilapidated, thatched, cottage near Bedford. For Susan, it was a restoration too far. After it was sold, he contented himself with woodworking in his workshop at the top of their house.

Bernard and Susan were very hospitable, their wonderful cooking said to make memorable evenings. When Bernard retired, he loved finding new recipes, sourcing ingredients at local markets and cooking.

With all of these activities, it is amazing he found time for dentistry.

Bernard's achievements seem amazing knowing that for years he combated ill health. After becoming head of conservative dentistry at UMDS, he won a battle with lymphoma. Bernard was gung-ho about every available treatment: he had bone marrow harvests, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Between two cancers, he had one knee replaced. By the time pancreatic cancer was diagnosed, balance and walking were major problems, so they moved in his final year from their five-storeys to a single-storey home near Oxford. He died on 2 November 2016.

## Postscript

Bernard was a man of great integrity: 'if he considered something was wrong, wild horses would not make him budge'.<sup>13</sup> Students regarded him as an inspirational teacher and he had a great interest in the curriculum. Bernard was a wise, caring counsel, influencing many students and colleagues with his excellent advice. He sometimes advised a change in career direction, not easy to provide. Many people benefited from his suggestions.



Fig. 6 The renovated cottage

Leslie Howe, his former student at the RDH and later consultant, head of conservative dentistry and director of education at King's College London, said 'Bernard was a major influence on me and a wonderful mentor for my career.' He went on: 'I don't think we understood as undergraduates in the mid-1970s how advanced the thinking was at the Royal in general and especially in conservative dentistry with Bernard and his colleagues Edwina Kidd and Ian Barnes.'

### Ethics declaration

*The author declares no conflicts of interest.*

### Acknowledgements

*Susan Smith supplied a great deal of background information. She and daughter Louise provided the photographs. Edwina Kidd and Lesley Howe added further material. Helen Niell, Head of BDA Library and Knowledge Services sourced some references.*

## References

1. Howe L C. Personal communication. 15 August 2023.
2. Smith B G. The value of tests of spatial and psycho-motor ability in selecting dental students. *Br Dent J* 1976; **141**: 150–154.
3. Smith B G, Davis H C, Page C F. The attitudes of sixth formers to dentistry as a career. *Br Dent J* 1978; **145**: 129–133.
4. Smith B G. The value of perception and control tests in predicting performance in dental students and ancillary personnel. *Med Educ* 1979; **13**: 247–250.
5. Lewis K J, Smith B G. The relationship of erosion and attrition in extensive tooth tissue loss. Case reports. *Br Dent J* 1973; **135**: 400–404.
6. Smith B G. Dental Erosion, Attrition and Abrasion. *Practitioner* 1975; **214**: 347–355.
7. Smith B G, Knight J K. An index for measuring the wear of teeth. *Br Dent J* 1984; **156**: 435–438.
8. Smith B G, Knight J K. A comparison of patterns of tooth wear with aetiological factors. *Br Dent J* 1984; **157**: 16–19.
9. Grey N J, Shaw M J, Smith B G. Audit in restorative dentistry. *Ann R Coll Surg Engl* 1994; **76**: 182–184.
10. Kidd E. Personal communication. 9 May 2023.
11. Ashley M. Personal communication. 10 August 2023.
12. Smith S. Personal communication. 1 May 2023.
13. Kidd E, Howe L. Obituary: Bernard Geoffrey Norman Smith. *Br Dent J* 2016; **221**: 696.

Springer Nature or its licensor (e.g. a society or other partner) holds exclusive rights to this article under a publishing agreement with the author(s) or other rightsholder(s); author self-archiving of the accepted manuscript version of this article is solely governed by the terms of such publishing agreement and applicable law.

© The Author(s) under exclusive licence to the British Dental Association 2024.

## Correction to: Minimum intervention oral care – incentivising preventive management of high-needs/ high caries-risk patients using phased courses of treatment

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-024-7132-2>

Journal's correction note:

Clinical article *Br Dent J* 2024; **236**: 379–382.

When initially published, there was an error in one of the author's affiliations. The affiliation for Pritesh Shah read 'Lead Dental Advisor, NHS England, England, UK' but should have read 'Lead Dental Advisor, NHS England, London Region, UK'.

The journal apologises for any inconvenience caused.

© The Author(s) 2024.