

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Kate Maynard at k.maynard@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 350 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 700-800 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*.

PAUL SHEPHERD



Paul Shepherd was born in Fleet, Hampshire, on 8 August 1922. He was trained at King's College Hospital and qualified LDSRCS (Eng) in 1944 after which he was posted to RAF stations in Essex, the Sudan, Egypt and Italy. In 1948 he joined a Plymouth practice as an assistant and in 1950 bought the dental practice in Torrington, Devonshire. He retired in 1983.

In the Blitz, King's College Hospital student groups doubled up as fire fighting teams and he spent many hours dealing with incendiary bombs on the hospital roof. His house was destroyed. A flying bomb explosion interrupted his final exam.

He was much involved in dental politics as a student and was instrumental in setting up the British Dental Students' Association in 1942. As BDSA secretary he prepared a memorandum for Lord Teviot's Committee on Dentistry. He pleaded in the *BDJ* for what became the General Dental Council and for properly funded dental schools (Shepherd P R. Dental education: the students' point of view. *Br Dent J* 1943; 75: 116-118). Fifty-three years later, he co-wrote a *BMJ* editorial, *Privatising the NHS: dentistry paves the way* (*Br Med J* 1996; 312: 922-923) drawing attention to the importance of adequate NHS dental services. His proudest achievement in dentistry though, was looking after people - almost all NHS patients - in Torrington.

He constantly updated his practice, recruiting his children to help with time

and motion studies. With GPs as anaesthetists - in the 1950s one of them used a chloroform soaked handkerchief - he provided a GA extraction service. Bleeding sockets were sometimes dealt with in the family kitchen.

For half a century, supported by his devoted wife Heather and his lively Christian faith, he was a stalwart and imaginative BDA North Devon section officer, friend of Lee Abbey, Radio Devon broadcaster, writer for the *North Devon Journal*, chapel deacon, town trustee and lay preacher.

He passed away, aged 87, on 5 December 2009. He is survived by his wife and four sons, one of whom followed him into dentistry and is a member of the *BDJ* editorial board.

JPS

LLEWELLYN BRYAN COSMO LEWIS



Is it possible for a classics scholar to simultaneously attempt to study for degrees in medicine and dentistry and pick up an honours BSc *en route*? The answer is 'No!' - unless your name happens to be 'Bryan Lewis'. To then go on to gain the Diploma in Anaesthetics from the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the primary FDS, work as a hospital anaesthetist through the night and in a dental clinic during the day, then your name could only be Bryan Lewis! Bryan's unique history gives a measure of both the intellect and energy of the man.

He was born in Birmingham to an Italian mother and an English father who was a schoolmaster. As a young boy he

was evacuated to the West Country for part of WWII and this was the start of his lifelong love of Cornwall.

Bryan graduated in dentistry in 1958 and then went on to complete his medical training, which he described as easy compared with the exacting precision required in dentistry.

As a young house surgeon at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, he met and married a senior nurse called Colleen Brewster. It was a turning point in Bryan's life. He set aside his academic career, temporarily, or so he thought, and set up a dental practice in Northfield. His specialist training in anaesthetics was not wasted. He gave anaesthetics for about ten other dentists in the Birmingham area. He also set up another practice in West Bromwich.

But his beloved Cornwall beckoned. Bryan spent ten years of his working life in practice in Penzance. Here he was also able to indulge his lifelong hobbies of bird watching and sailing.

He was never to return to academic dentistry. Life with Colleen, their two daughters, a son and nine grandchildren fulfilled all that he desired in life.

It was characteristic of Bryan to cope with the cruelness of his final illness with great courage and pragmatism. He said he felt he had been so lucky in all that had happened in his life that it was too much to expect his luck would last forever.

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