

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*.

DEREK LAWTON COWLEY



Derek Cowley died, aged 86, on 29 October 2010 after a short period in hospital. Although it was found that he was suffering from cancer in multiple organs and

had suffered two strokes, he lived independently until three weeks before he died, having visited Australia, Turkey, Egypt and Moscow in the previous 18 months. Derek enjoyed an active retirement of over 26 years, yet continued to undertake online CPD via the BDA and attend dental and aeronautical lectures. The photograph is of him gliding a few weeks before his death, for the first time in over 60 years.

Derek was born on 2 October 1924 in Hull, the eldest of three brothers, all of whom followed their father, Richard Lawton Cowley, in taking up dentistry as a career.

He joined the RAF as soon as he could during WWII and completed training as a pilot in South Africa and Rhodesia, just as the war finished. He then returned to the UK and studied dentistry at Leeds University, joining his two brothers in practice in Hull following their father's death in 1953. The practice dissolved in the late 1970s and Derek continued practising both NHS and privately until he retired on his sixtieth birthday. Over 10% of the population of Hull were patients of the Cowley brothers during that time.

In 1973, Derek was president of the Yorkshire branch of the BDA and he represented the BDA on the Court of the University of Hull until his death.

He shared a love of travel with his wife, Helen, who died in 2008, and had visited all 50 US states as well as many countries around the world.

He was married for nearly 60 years and leaves two children (Peter and Susan) and two grandchildren (Matt and Alan). Another child and a grandchild predeceased him. Peter may be contacted on mail@petercowley.org.

Our thoughts are with them as our memories of Derek remain.

Peter Cowley

WILFRED INNESS



Wilfred Inness was born in Gateshead, County Durham in 1919 and was always proud of his Tyneside roots. He attended the The Royal Grammar School in Newcastle

where he excelled at rugby. He played for Durham School boys and was, with a group of friends and his brother Stan, the nucleus of Gatehead Fell rugby club. In 1939 he, along with most of the first XV, joined the Royal Artillery Survey Regiment. He spent the next six years on active service, travelling to the Middle East and North Africa via the Cape of Good Hope before landing in Sicily and then mainland Italy. He fought at the Battle of Monte Cassino and finished the war near Venice; for his courage he was mentioned in dispatches.

After returning home he studied at the newly revamped Dental School in Newcastle. During his time studying he often went walking in the Lake District; on one weekend trip to Borrowdale he met his future wife, June Jefferson. They

married in 1948 and enjoyed 62 years of happy married life.

He qualified in 1955 with a young family to care for. After looking at several practices he joined a four man practice in Stratford-upon-Avon. He spent all his professional life at 42 Sheep Street and built up an enviable reputation as a caring and highly skilled professional. He found the work both demanding and satisfying, but felt frustrated by a system that didn't reward quality. He was active in the BDA and was both Secretary and Chairman of the South Warwickshire Branch.

He found that playing golf was a great release from the pressures of practice life. He was a member of Stratford Golf Club for 55 years. He retired in 1984 and kept fit and healthy until 12 months before his death on 23 December 2010.

He was a man who was proud of his chosen profession and his profession should be proud of him. His youngest son Michael died tragically in 1984 but Wilfred is survived by his wife June, children Bill and Heather and his loving grandchildren.

W. S. Inness