

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Laura Pacey at [l.pacey@nature.com](mailto:l.pacey@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*.

## KEN CANNEY



Ken Canney died on 23 August 2013, after a courageous fight against inoperable cancer. He was 83.

After premedical studies at Queen Mary College University of London he joined The Royal London Hospital Dental School. Whilst there he excelled at tennis and football and captained The London Hospital Soccer team when they won the interhospitals cup. More importantly he picked out his future wife, Maureen, at the School of Nursing and never let her go. On qualification Ken joined a dental practice near Southend, Essex. There he was able to exercise his love of boats and sailing as well as learning to fly gliders. Soon he was able to set up his own surgery and with Maureen's help and a great deal of hard work he developed a very successful single-handed practice.

Ken was a strong believer in the principles of the National Health Service and with his caring nature, attention to detail and great integrity he was unsparing of himself in the service of his patients for 35 years.

When they decided to retire, Ken and Maureen moved to Elworthy in Somerset.

Initially, they knew nobody but with his strong belief in Christian ethics and commitment to community service Ken was soon deeply involved in village life; church warden, village hall committee, Deanery Synod, vice president of the cricket club and much involvement in village fund raising activities.

Ken was so proud of Maureen and his three charming and successful daughters

and his retirement years were clearly very happy until sudden illness struck.

Ken was courageous, good humoured, and interested in everything and everybody right up to the end. He was a fine and gentle man who will be much missed by everyone who was privileged to know him.

John Luffingham

## JOHN KENNETH BOWKER



It is with sadness and regret that I announce the death of John Kenneth Bowker. Ken, as he was known by his friends and colleagues, died peacefully on

13 August 2013 with family by his side.

Ken was born on 21 July 1918 in Clitheroe, Lancashire and was educated at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, continuing his studies at Edinburgh Dental School and the Royal College of Surgeons where he graduated in 1942.

He was briefly an assistant in general practice but shortly joined the army as a first lieutenant and was soon promoted to Captain and then Major in the Royal Army Dental Corps. During World War 2 he commanded dental operations during the campaign in North Africa. He married Margaret Paterson Corke in 1945 prior to being drafted to the Middle East. He was demobilised in 1946 and awarded the rank of Hon. Major for life.

On his return to the UK the couple lived briefly in Perthshire before returning to his home town of Clitheroe in December 1947, where Ken opened Cramond House Dental Practice on York Street with his colleague Frank Parrott.

Ken devoted himself to a life of service in the local community where he was well known and respected. He was a very keen member of the local Rotary Club becoming its President in 1960. He was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship, the Rotary Club's highest honour for service. His late daughter Helen settled in the USA, and Ken forged links between his mother club in Clitheroe and several American clubs.

Ken had a special interest in oral surgery and for 23 years worked as a clinical assistant to the consultant oral surgeon at the Blackburn Hospital Group. He served as President of the Blackburn and District Medical Association in 1966/7 and 1975/6.

Ken was a keen and active member of Ribble Section BDA, from where he was appointed on to the North Western Branch Council as a section representative. He was a regular attender at branch council meetings and represented the area on the National Representative Board of the BDA during the 60s and 70s. He was twice nominated and served as Branch President in 1966 and 1975. He was appointed Honorary Life Vice President of the Branch in 1988 for his long and loyal service, and received Life Membership of the BDA in 1990.

In their spare time Ken and his wife, Margaret, who died in 2004, were keen caravan enthusiasts. He had a strong interest in woodwork and played violin in the local orchestra.

Ken is survived by his sister, and daughter, Roslinde, sons-in-law, David and Hefni, and four grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and colleagues, and I was very proud to have known him.

John O. Edwards and Howard Merrill