

# 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 450 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*.

## SARAH LLOYD NICHOLAS (NEE JONES)

1920–2014



Sarah Nicholas died on the 26 February 2014 aged 94.

She was born on 9 January 1920 in Dihewyd Cardigan-shire in a house with no running water or electricity. Her mother had not been expecting twins, so

Sarah's arrival 10 minutes after her sister was a surprise. Sadly her twin died at the age of 20 from congenital heart disease. Sarah's father was a congregational minister and the family spoke Welsh. They moved to North Devon when Sarah was six, and she started school speaking no English. She was, however, very bright, and was soon winning national essay writing competitions.

The family moved again to Market Lavington in Wiltshire, and Sarah attended Devizes Secondary School. At the age of only 16 she started at Bristol University Dental School, living in Clifton Hill House. She was the only woman in her year, and graduated in 1941 becoming the first woman to gain a dental degree – previous women had only taken the diploma. Her husband Peter was a fellow student and they married in 1945.

Sarah spent the war as the School Dental Officer for Bath and in 1947 started her own practice at Kings Road, Brislington. It was opened during one of the worst winters on record and business was slow, but she soon gained a reputation for excellent dentistry and patients came in numbers. The surgery still exists, with some patients being the fourth generation of the first.

Sadly Sarah was widowed in 1969, but she remained working at Kings Road until she was 60, when she sold the business. However, she continued as an associate one day a week to help a friend in Red-

land. She eventually retired in 1986, after 50 years in dentistry.

She spent her retirement travelling the world and tending her garden. She was still living independently and driving her car in her ninetieth year. In 2011 she moved to a home in Hitchin, and died of old age peacefully in her sleep.

She leaves a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Mary Cracknell

## BRIAN JAMES WATSON

1940–2014



Brian James Watson, always known as Jim, was born on 11 February 1940 and passed away on 18 April 2014. Jim was born in Hull and had one sister, Hillary. His early education was at Endyke

Primary School, from where he won a scholarship to Hymers College. He graduated BDS from King's College Dental School, Durham in 1964 and joined the BDA on the day he graduated. His first job was as an associate to Rob and Roger Park in York, where he met his future wife Alice. Alice came as a patient and Jim was immediately attracted to her, but as he said he had to devise a way to have a 'date' with her without being struck off. He managed to find a mutual friend who arranged a dinner party. Jim and Alice were married in York in 1966. They had three daughters, Kate and twins Penelope and Caroline. In 1967 Jim bought a practice in Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, where he stayed until his retirement in 1989 at the age of 49, due to multiple sclerosis.

As a member of Kesteven and Holland Section he was variously treasurer, Chairman and Benevolent Fund Rep. He was elected to section representative to the Eastern Counties branch. Jim served six years as Assistant Section Secretary

(ie meetings organiser), was Branch President in 1980, Branch Treasurer from 1981–1991, ECB auditor from 1991–1998 and Benevolent Fund Trustee 1998–2004. In 2009 Jim was made a life member of the BDA, an honour that made him very proud. Jim always worked hard for any association he joined. He was a member and secretary for many years of East Elloe Rotary Club. In his Masonic life he organised many ladies nights as festival secretary and was the worshipful master in 2012. He also did the most wonderful job of printing the most superb invitations for the Annual Benevolent Fund Dinner held in Queens' College Cambridge every year. Jim will be much missed not only by Alice, Kate, Caroline and Penelope and his three grandsons, Max, Ryan and Ewan, but by all his many friends and colleagues.

Shirley Zangwill