

OBITUARIES

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Annabel Nicholson at annabel.nicholson@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*.

ANDY WILLIAMS

1962–2014



The British Dental Association's (BDA) Senior Employment Relations Officer, Andy Williams, has sadly died after a short illness at the age of 52.

I first met Andy in the mid-80s when we were

activists together in the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), which was then the largest civil service trade union. Andy worked for the Welsh Office in Cardiff and held many union posts in the department, becoming the chair of the trade union side, responsible for all negotiations with management and managing a dedicated staff of local representatives.

Andy was also a feisty and intelligent contributor to wider union debates in a famously combative trade union, but his contributions were always intelligent and well accepted, tinged with goodwill and humour. His many friends across the union were a testament to the high regard in which he was held by all factions.

Andy's many years of dedicated service to members in the department were ended when he applied and obtained the BDA's newly created Industrial Relations Officer post, established in Cardiff.

Andy's passion for working with salaried services dentists to help them to help themselves was apparent from the beginning. He achieved enormous results for salaried dentists both individually and collectively. He assisted many members in Wales and across the rest of the UK on a one-to-one basis, helping them resolve often complex and traumatic personal issues.

A notable achievement was to lead the negotiation of new terms and conditions for salaried dentists across the UK. The staff and members that worked with Andy in this sometimes fraught and

lengthy process have paid tribute to his determination and skill in achieving a successful outcome in the face of significant challenges.

Another of Andy's lasting legacies to dentists throughout the UK was the development of a network of well-trained and well-informed local accredited representatives, who were in turn supported by a team of dedicated employment relations officers led by him.

Andy was tireless in his development of this structure. He was quiet but dogged; generous and winning; intelligent and persuasive.

The many tributes received from members who Andy represented individually also pay tribute to his skill and determination to achieve the best outcomes for people in difficulty. Being described by one member as 'professional, witty, smart and caring'.

Andy's death has left a large hole in all our lives that will be impossible to fill. His family have lost a loving partner, father, son and brother. We, his colleagues, have lost an inspiration, friend and soul mate. The members have lost a caring and dedicated professional.

The world has lost a wonderful human being, for which we are all the poorer.

Martin Jones

JOHN ANTHONY PETTIFER

1947–2014



John was born in Redditch, Worcestershire on 11 February 1947. The family moved south to London shortly afterwards, which is where his father's family were based.

John's early education was at

St Alban's Catholic Preparatory School, and then the Challenor's School, both in Finchley. Following a spell at Barnet College he went on to study zoology at Aberdeen University, graduating with

a BSc degree in 1971. He thoroughly enjoyed his time there becoming, not surprisingly, the social secretary of the students union.

He then went on to study dentistry at Guy's, London qualifying with a BDS and LDS (London) Dentistry in 1976.

John's early career was as an associate with Graham Bond in Loughton, Essex. He then moved on to South Herts as an associate and in 1999 became a practice owner of AJ Dental Care in Potters Bar. His forte was caring for children and the elderly. In addition, his practice attracted a wide range of healthcare professionals as well as senior NHS managers and directors. He was much loved and respected by all who came into contact with him.

John retired from practice on health grounds in 2006 and subsequently moved with his partner to Rustington in West Sussex, where he enjoyed house renovations and gardening, interspersed with many holidays overseas. His friendships were wide ranging and his entertaining skills legendary.

John died in Worthing Hospital following a short illness on 8 October. He leaves a civil partner, Michael, a retired pharmacist, and family members Tina, Joan, Sheila and Veronica.

'We have John's love, his wonderful sense of fun and kindness with us always.'

Michael Beaman