

OBITUARIES

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Ruth Doherty at r.doherty@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*.

ROBERT JONES

1950 – 2016



Robert was raised in the village of Fachwen in Snowdonia, the son of a quarryman. He studied dentistry at the University of Liverpool, qualifying in

1973. He returned to North Wales, setting up practice in Bangor where he remained committed to providing the best care for his patients until retiring.

Almost immediately he began to make his mark on the local dental community. He was active within the BDA for many years, serving as chairman of the North Wales section and on various branch committees. He represented dentists on the GDSC, the WGDSC and on Gwynedd LDC. Robert acted as media spokesman for both the BDA and Y Gymdeithas Ddeintyddol (the Welsh Dental Society), of which he was an enthusiastic supporter – it was not at all unusual to find him being interviewed live on radio or TV before the first patient of the day!

Dentistry was but one facet of Robert's life. He was also a magician – a toy magic set given to his daughter triggered a passion which grew until 'Robert John' was a well-known magician, complete with equity card and TV series. Many a dry dental conference was livened up by an impromptu cabaret! He was a member of the Magic Circle and president of the North Wales Magic Circle.

Robert took great pride in raising funds for worthwhile causes, always being happy to help. He was the youngest ever member of Bangor Rotary Club, supporting them for over 35 years and his efforts lead him to being made a Paul Harris Fellow – twice.

Aviation was another passion; being scared of flying, Robert's family bought

a 'trial flight' to see if it would cure his nerves – he was soon hooked, gaining his pilot's licence and flying extensively around the UK and Europe. He became a long standing member, chairman and trustee of Mona Flying Club, who honoured him with a fly-past at his funeral.

He loved sailing, cruising around North Wales and beyond with his family. He was a scuba diver, photographer, painter, rally navigator, classic car enthusiast and Sunday school teacher – the list goes on.

Robert pursued all his interests with passion, commitment and a desire to 'put something back'. He led by example, making time to help, taking responsibility and getting things done. Above all, he was deeply committed to his family – he met his wife, Eirian, while they were students working on the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire ferry in the summer holidays, proposing after just nine days. They were blessed with two daughters, Alison and Jennifer, and four grandchildren to whom he was devoted.

In honour of Robert's association with Y Gymdeithas Ddeintyddol (the Welsh Dental Society), his obituary has been written with a Welsh translation below.

Magwyd Robert yn fab i chwarelwr ym mhentref bach Fachwen yn Eryri. Astudiodd Ddeintyddiaeth ym Mhri-fysgol Lerpwl a graddio ym 1973. Yn fuan iawn wedyn, dychwelodd i Ogledd Cymru, gan sefydlu practis ym Mangor, lle'r ymroes i ddarparu'r gofal gorau i'w gleifion nes iddo ymdddeol.

Gwnaeth enw iddo'i hun o fewn y gymuned ddeintyddol leol yn syth fwy neu lai. Bu'n weithgar gyda'r BDA am flynyddoedd lawer, yn gadeirydd Adran Gogledd Cymru ac yn gwasanaethu ar amryfal bwyllgorau'r Canghennau. Cynrychiolodd ddeintyddion ar y GDSC, y WGDSC ac ar LDC Gwynedd. Bu Robert yn llefarydd y cyfryngau ar ran y BDA a'r Gymdeithas Ddeintyddol (y bu'n gefnogwr brwd iddi) ac nid anarferol fyddai ei glywed yn cael ei gyf-weld

yn fyw ar radio neu ar deledu cyn iddo weld claf cyntaf y diwrnod!

Nid oedd Ddeintyddiaeth ond un wedd ar ei fywyd – mae'n anodd gwybod ble'n union i ddechrau sôn am ei ddi-dordebau eraill.

Roedd yn gonsuriwr – set o offer consurio i blentyn a roddodd yn anrheg i'w ferch a sbardunodd ynddo'r diddordeb a dyfodd ac a ddatblygodd nes i 'Robert John' ddod yn gonsuriwr adnabyddus iawn, yn berchen cerdyn Equity a chael cyfres deledu. Bywiogwyd sawl cynhadledd ddeintyddol gan gabaret byrfyfyr gan Robert! Roedd yn aelod o'r Magic Circle ac yn llywydd y Cylch hwnnw yng Ngogledd Cymru.

Roedd yn hynod falch o allu codi arian at achosion da a phob amser yn barod i fod o gymorth – o gynnal cabaret i redeg ocsiwn. Fo oedd yr aelod ieuengaf erioed o Glwb Rotari Bangor, a gefnogodd am dros 35 mlynedd. Cydnabuwyd ei ymdrechion pan wnaed ef yn Gymrawd Paul Harris – ddwy waith.

Roedd hedfan yn un arall o'i hoffterau – ac yntau ofn hedfan, roedd ei rieni wedi prynu iddo 'heddiad prawf' er mwyn gweld a fyddai hynny'n tawelu ei nerfau. Buan iawn y cafodd hedfan afael dynn ynddo – enillodd ei drwydded peilot a hedfanodd yn helaeth o gwmpas y Deyrnas Unedig ac yn Ewrop. Bu'n aelod am flynyddoedd o Glwb Hedfan Mona, yn llywydd y Clwb ac yn ymddiriedolwr, ac i'w anrhydeddu fe hedfanodd aelodau'r Clwb eu hawyrennau mewn trefn uwchben ei angladd.

Roedd wrth ei fodd yn hwylio, yn mordwyo'n braf o glych Gogledd Cymru a'r tu hwnt gyda'i deulu. Roedd yn sgwba-blymiwr, yn ffotograffydd, yn arlunydd, yn gyfeiriwr raliau, yn edmygydd brwd o geir clasurol, ac yn athro Ysgol Sul – ac mae'r rhestr yn parhau.

Dilynai Robert ei holl ddiddordebau gydag afiaith, ymroddiad, ac awydd i 'roi rhywbeth yn ôl. Arweiniai drwy esiampl, gan wneud amser i fod o gymorth, cymryd cyfrifoldeb, a gweithredu i gyflawni. Uwchlaw pob-

eth, roedd ei ymroddiad i'w deulu yn ddi-ball. Cyfarfu ei wraig, Eirian, pan oeddynt yn fyfyrwyr yn gweithio ar y fferi rhwng Caergybi a Dun Laoghaire yn ystod eu gwyliau haf, a gofyn iddi ei briodi ar ôl dim ond naw diwrnod. Cawsant eu bendithio â dwy ferch, Alison a Jennifer, a phedwar o wyrion yr oedd yn meddwl y byd ohonyn nhw.

David Meacher

GARRY SIME

1958–2016



Our colleague and friend Garry Sime died suddenly in the early hours of 13 February 2016.

Garry was a highly respected and liked colleague who has

left an indelible imprint on the lives of many young dentists who had the benefit of his teaching in hospital and community settings in Scotland and Wales.

Garry qualified from Glasgow as a dentist in 1982 having taken the slightly extended route via an intercalated BSc in Physiology. Working life began with house jobs which entitled him to sit FDS, again in Glasgow, after which he broadened his experience by working as an associate in general practice and as a community dental officer. The offer of a senior dental officer post saw Garry move to Clwyd where he and his young family settled in 1993. They really enjoyed their sojourn in Wales but the call of home was strong, and the opportunity to take up a senior post in Tayside brought Garry, Elizabeth and Euan to Perth. Here Garry continued his career development, becoming the Deputy Clinical Director for NHS Tayside and being included in the new specialist list for special care dentistry.

Garry was a superb clinician and provided all his patients with the best and most suitable treatment available. At heart he was a teacher and his final role within NHS Tayside was as the Outreach lead in Broxden Dental Centre in Perth. Aspiring dentists and therapist/hygienists benefited from Garry's inexhaustible patience and encyclopaedic knowledge as well as his clinical skill. Garry's last professional act was to chair the SDCEP Anticoagulant Report Group.

This clinical skill and Garry's compassion benefitted people around the world as he undertook charitable work in Peru, Kenya and Albania. When not working at home or abroad, Garry enjoyed the great outdoors, initially as a walker and latterly as a runner. From being 'unable to run the distance between two lampposts', he ran 5k in his kilt, half marathons and, in 2014, the full Dundee marathon. The following year he climbed Kilimanjaro. A treasured photograph is of him at the summit, exhausted, exhilarated and clutching a mini Saltire with his name misspelt. He was also a competitive baker, albeit within the confines of the dental centre.

Garry, Elizabeth and Euan were active members of their church, Letham St Marks. Their shared profound faith made his passing bearable and Garry left this life without fear.

Morag Curnow