

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at [jonathan.coe@nature.com](mailto:jonathan.coe@nature.com).

All submitted obituaries should be 400 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*.



**Richard Pennington**

1925–2017

It is with fascinating reflection that we highlight the life of Richard Pennington who passed away peacefully in his ninety-second year. One of that older generation of caring professional men – a man and outstanding clinician of his time. He unfortunately contracted TB during his training at Liverpool Dental Hospital and spent two years incarcerated in a sanatorium. His life was eventually saved by the advent of streptomycin and a partial pneumonectomy. He qualified from the Royal College of Surgeons in London in 1951 after being denied sitting his finals in Liverpool over concerns about being a TB carrier.

With the vigour of his new lease of life he purchased a part time practice in Newton-le-Willows, which he built into a very successful multi-surgery practice. Simultaneously, he developed and provided the dental service at Red Bank Approved School. He was an accomplished dental anaesthetist and had a swift and deft surgical ability. He also had vast experience as a prosthetist. Patients and staff were all exposed to his mischievous sense of humour.

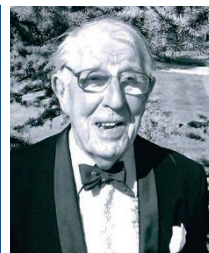
Richard was chairman of the Local Dental Committee in St Helens for many years where his speeches were legendary. He was also co-opted as a magistrate and became Chairman of the Warrington Juvenile Bench. He worked tirelessly to raise funds for the local Boys Club and was a dedicated Round Tabler. He was a lifelong member of the

Liverpool Odontological Society and served a term as president.

Out of the surgery he was never happier than being outdoors with his beloved Springer Spaniel, often off to the Chat Moss shoot. He often returned to his family roots in Wales.

He was always a very strong family man and is survived by his wife, Kathleen, his children, Jonathan, Joanna, Charlotte and Becky, and his ten grandchildren.

Barry Clayton



**Edgar Cowperthwaite**

1923–2018

Edgar was born in Rochdale into a farming family who moved to Lancaster when he was young. After attending Lancaster Royal Grammar School he was apprenticed to a pharmacist before his call up to serve in the Royal Navy. His twenty-first birthday was on watch at Scapa Flow. He was trained to service the electrics of the planes on aircraft carriers and he completed his service as a Chief Petty Officer. Edgar attended Leeds University Dental School and in that year the students were all ex-servicemen, save one straight from school. He was in a select few who went through the course with no resits.

In 1949 Edgar married Betty Clark, a childhood friend who was a nursing sister at Leeds General Infirmary. He managed an allotment to supplement meagre income and rations. On qualification he was a house surgeon at Leeds Dental Hospital and then joined the School Dental Service

and served at Skipton and Settle. In 1952–55, JW Sandham, whose practice the schoolboy Edgar attended, had a series of prolonged illnesses and the practice was in a desperate plight. Edgar wanted to help and he was allowed to leave the school dental service early. He quickly restored the wellbeing of the practice and as well as running the practice, he acquired the job of secretary of Lancaster and Morecambe BDA and also Sandham's membership of the Executive Council. His drive, attractive personality and common sense quickly made him a senior member of this committee and soon he became a long-serving vice-chairman (25+ years). By regulation the chairman was a lay person. Edgar was well respected by members and senior staff of the council and Lancashire practitioners. As President of the North Western Branch he welcomed Professor and Mrs Martin Rushton to our annual dinner and dance.

Edgar retired from practice in 1978 to serve in the school service again where he enjoyed treating children. He retired from clinical practice in 1983. His happiest times were probably spent raising his young family at Fluke Hall, Pilling, with ponies, gardening and amateur radio hamming. Edgar and Betty were a devoted couple and Edgar was bereft at her death in 2000. Their children are Ruth, who emigrated to Alberta, Helen, who inherited his public service gene and became mayor of Lancaster in 2007, Rachel, who is a food scientist, and Robert, who runs a substantial furniture manufactory. He has ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. The last years became difficult. He became totally blind and had mobility problems, but his mind was as sharp as a razor and his memory crystal clear. May he rest in peace.

John Sandham