

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Kate Maynard at k.maynard@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*.

HUGH LESTER LEECH



It is with sadness that we report the death of Hugh Lester Leech on 1 February 2010 aged 88.

Hugh was born on 11 September 1921 near Newport, South Wales, and was educated locally, his singing ability leading to him being selected for the Newport Cathedral Choir, and later the Exeter Cathedral School and Cathedral Choir.

He went up to Bristol University in 1939 to study dentistry. His studies coincided with the Bristol Blitz. The Bristol Royal Infirmary and Dental School being close to the centre, he found himself at night on fire-watch duty on the roof of the BRI, as well as carrying injured people on stretchers up and down stairs if the lifts could not be used, particularly during air-raids. He was also in the Home Guard, guarding the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

A keen sportsman, he found time to captain the Rugby 2nd XV, as well as playing football, tennis and cricket, later becoming a member of the MCC on moving to London.

On graduating in 1944, he joined the Army Dental Corps, being posted to Egypt where he served with the Paras.

At demob, he studied orthodontics at the Eastman.

He then lectured at Birmingham Dental School before, in 1958, being appointed as one of the earliest consultant orthodontists. Initially he worked at Bedford, Luton, Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead and Watford from his home base of Amersham, where he met his future wife

Lorna at amateur dramatics. They married in 1961.

Slowly, he managed to hand over some units to new consultants: Bedford and Stevenage in 1979, Luton and Hemel Hempstead in 1987, and Watford in 1990, when he was finally able to take his well-earned retirement.

Throughout his career Hugh showed total commitment to the NHS, and was very popular with his patients, receiving many expressions of gratitude.

In retirement, he continued to attend the Lord's Test Match each year, and played tennis and golf, until his wife's failing health took precedence for a number of years until her death in 2007.

Sadly their only child Nicky also predeceased him in 2008.

LROH/MRK

DAVID PATRICK FLEMING JONES



Colonel David Fleming Jones was born on 1 March 1939 in Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire. He was raised by his mother Patricia until his father David, a Captain

in the Parachute Regiment, returned from fighting in Italy and Greece at the end of the war. He attended Stonyhurst College, before going to Guy's Hospital where he became an Army scholar and played rugby for the combined London Hospitals' XV. He began work as a general duties officer in the Royal Army Dental Corps at Chelsea Barracks in 1966, and three years later was posted to Singapore. On return from Singapore, he was posted to Soest in North

Rhine-Westphalia, serving with the BAOR. David returned to the UK in 1973 to serve as a general duties officer in Yorkshire (Hampsthwaite) from where he spent a six-month active duty stint in Northern Ireland. From here he took a three-year secondment to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment in Borneo, where he oversaw the building of a new dental centre at Berakas. On returning from Brunei, he spent most of the rest of his career divided between Germany (Fallingbostal, Dusseldorf and Hamlin) and Winchester and Aldershot in the UK. Whilst in Fallingbostal and Winchester he completed a Master's degree in Restorative Dentistry at the Eastman Institute in London. He was promoted to Colonel in 1987, taking up posts as officer commanding the RADC's technical services and commanding officer of the north German dental group, before becoming an adviser in general dental practice to the corps. He took early retirement in 1993, but continued in private practice in Hampshire before retiring five years later. He was a passionate fly-fisherman, and wherever he lived made a den, in which an assortment of dental instruments was given over to the manufacture of elaborate flies. He died after a traumatic illness brought about as a result of a heart valve operation, the causes of which currently remain unclear. He bore this with customary fortitude and dignity, and died gently as he lived. He will be sorely missed by his family, including his wife Sally and three sons, grandchildren and friends.

J. Fleming-Jones