

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*.

JOHN MICHAEL BROWN

1953–2015



John died in April 2015 at the age of 62 years. After qualifying in Newcastle he returned to North Wales and practised in Anglesey for 38 years. He was dedicated

to his profession, in the widest possible sense, and devoted enormous amounts his energy to it. But he also loved the outdoors and the wildlife of Wales. John was a keen photographer and the chairman of the local camera club. He loved gadgets, and above all, he loved fast cars of which he owned many over the years. He also acted as a motoring correspondent for a motoring magazine.

In his practice he was a respected and capable clinician. He cared deeply about his patients who likewise valued him

greatly. He always refused to leave the NHS as he knew so many of them would be unable to afford treatment outside the NHS. His staff were likewise loyal and often long serving, seeing him more as a friend than an employer. As a vocational trainer he supported many newly qualified dentists over a period of some 20 years, making some lifelong friendships in the process. He became a dental practice advisor, willingly giving the benefit of his experience to the profession throughout the area. As a clinical assistant in Bangor he acquired orthodontic skills which he used to provide an orthodontic service for patients at the practice, saving them many lengthy return trips to Bangor for treatment.

He was much valued on committees, always the willing helper, often holding office as secretary or treasurer or even chairman. He could be taciturn, but when he spoke it was wise and to good effect. He played his part locally on many dental committees including the BDA, LDC, local orthodontic committee, local Health Board committees and at

Public Health Wales. He became much involved in orthodontic affairs, playing a large part in the formation and running of the North Wales Orthodontic Study Group, which evolved into the highly regarded Portmeirion study day, now held every year.

He was a member and enthusiastic supporter of the British Orthodontic Society from its inception, serving on its Council and many of its committees. He was a founder member and one time chairman of the Society's Practitioner Group which was formed to support GDPs like himself who had an interest in orthodontics. Many members recall with warmth his wit and good humour, perhaps best experienced in the legendary late night sessions at the bar. He received the BOS Special Service Award in 2002, and was accorded the rare honour of Life Membership for his exceptional service in 2010.

He leaves a widow, Pat, to whom he was a devoted husband over some 40 years.

David C. Tidy

ROSSLYN CHIDGEY

1948–2015



Rosslyn Chidgey, known as Ross, was born in Merthyr Tydfil and brought up in the village of Aberfan. He attended Quakers Yard Grammar School progressing to Swansea

University, where he gained a first class honours in chemistry. Awarded a science research scholarship he undertook full-time studies for a PhD in organic chemistry at University College London, completing in 1975. Whilst finishing his thesis, he commenced the BDS course at UCH Dental School qualifying in 1977.

Following a house surgeon appointment at UCH, Ross joined the community dental service rising to become Director of Dental Services in South-West Essex. In his progression to this position the health authority sponsored him for the MSc course in prosthetic dentistry at the Eastman. This culminated in his gaining the degree with distinction and the Dentsply award for the outstanding MSc student of 1989. Additionally in his career he attained a Diploma in Management Studies at the University of East London.

Ross was a proud Welshman following his national teams with glee when they trounced the old adversaries. Always gregarious, he was popular with friends, colleagues and patients. A specialist in prosthodontics, ever meticulous, he took great pride in his work. Coming from the mining area of south Wales, he was forever mindful of the needs of those

less fortunate than himself. Altruistic, he had scant regard for profit or gain. Ross treated those with facial abnormalities, the disabled and housebound, the medically compromised and other challenging referrals. He was extremely happy in his work, so much so that he dreaded retirement. Inspiring immense loyalty and affection from his staff, they organised a big surprise 60th birthday for him at the Ivory Rooms in Billericay – a most memorable night.

Ross' funeral was on 20th March 2015 at South Essex Crematorium at Upminster. The large turnout, congregating well outside the chapel, included all his devoted staff, many colleagues and friends including a large cohort of his UCH contemporaries. Ross, a great friend, loyal and generous to the end. Sadly missed by all.

Alan White