



## Gertrude Blamires

Consultant ophthalmic surgeon and lead clinician, ophthalmology, Kettering General Hospital (b 1948; q St Mary's Hospital, London, 1975; MA, FRCSEd, FRCOphth), died from cancer of the gall bladder on 29 November 2009.

Gertrude Blamires ("Trudi") went up to Oxford as a scholar in 1967 and gained a degree in physics. After qualifying as a doctor, she held positions in London, Reading, Oxford, and Cambridge, becoming consultant in Kettering in 1992. She specialised in neuro-ophthalmology and thyroid eye disease, as well as in eye problems in disabled children and adults. In the 1990s she pioneered an explanatory video on cataract surgery for patients; she also established a weekly journal club and set up an education fund. Shortly before she died, Trudi gained a diploma in medical education. She leaves a husband and a son.

### Cyprian Blamires

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## James Irvine Cromarty

Former chief administrative medical officer Orkney (b 1928; q Edinburgh 1951; QHP, OBE, FFPH), died from prostate cancer on 20 July 2009.

James Irvine Cromarty ("Jim") grew up in Stromness, and after qualifying pursued a varied career in the Royal



Air Force. He commanded Royal Air Force Medical Rehabilitation Unit Chessington and No 3 Royal Australian Air Force Hospital Richmond, but he particularly enjoyed his year at RAF Gan in the Maldives as GP, dentist, anaesthetist, and obstetrician to 600 servicemen and many more islanders. In 1975 he returned to Orkney. As general manager of the health board he buffered the islands from central policies designed for the south. Predeceased by his wife, Joyce, in 2002, he leaves two sons and four grandchildren.

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## John Marvale Crossley

Former general practitioner Knowle, Solihull (b 1923; q Birmingham 1944), d 27 November 2009.

John Marvale Crossley left school at 17 to study medicine and was only 21 when he qualified. He spent national service on troop ships to and from the Far East and, despite his relative inexperience, had responsibility for crew and passengers. He joined an old established practice in the village of Knowle in 1956, where he stayed for the next 28 years, retiring in 1984. He was the medical officer to a closed order of nuns and the only man to be allowed into the heart of the convent. A true mentor and polymath, John had a broad knowledge of early computing, the natural world, fast cars, and, above all, France. He leaves a wife, Dorothy.

### John Taverner

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## Arnold Elliott

Former general practitioner Ilford, Essex (b 1921; q Queen's University, Belfast, 1944; OBE), d 24 August 2009.

Arnold Elliott joined the NHS as a singlehanded general practitioner in 1948. Dedicated and pioneering, he changed the lives of many for the better over a lifetime working on behalf of patients, and in support of his colleagues and the NHS. He set up



## Robert John Stuart Weir

Former general practitioner Brighton and Hove (b 1922; q Trinity College Dublin 1947), died from pancreatic cancer on 14 November 2009.

After qualifying, Robert John Stuart Weir ("Stuart") came to England for house jobs in Liverpool. He joined the British Army for national service, becoming a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He trained in paediatrics, but, in response to the needs of a growing family, entered general practice in Whitehawk, Brighton, where he stayed for 25 years. Subsequently he set up his own private practice, assisted by his wife, Joan, retiring in 1994. Stuart regularly attended postgraduate courses long before they were compulsory. He was also president of Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1987. Predeceased by Joan in 2004, he leaves three children and three granddaughters.

### Carol Johnson

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one of England's first primary health care centres in 1972 and strongly promoted the concept of integrated health care. A committed socialist and trade unionist, he was also a leading GP trainer and a provost of the royal college. He championed social workers and mental health, and opposed the intrusion of management culture into the NHS. He was active in the BMA from 1944 until his death, and was made a lifetime honorary vice president in 1997. Predeceased by his wife, Lee, in 1999, he leaves three children and six grandchildren.

### Paul Elliott

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## Andrew Philip Thomas

Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Wolverhampton (b 1951; q Cambridge/St Thomas' 1976; MA, FRCS), d 12 August 2009.

After qualifying, Andrew Philip Thomas trained in London, mainly at St Mary's, then moved to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham, where he became senior registrar in 1985. When appointed consultant to the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital in 1990 he was intent on delivering the highest quality service to as many patients as possible—and he succeeded. He combined organisational effectiveness with clinical and operative skills of the highest order and developed a successful and large practice in upper limb surgery. Andrew coauthored several papers with his students and encouraged them to present their papers locally. He leaves a wife, Marianne, and two children.

### Sandy Fraser

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## Bernard Wilkins

Former general practitioner Stockport, Manchester (b 1915; q Manchester 1944), d 3 December 2009.

After working as a chemist and an optometrist, Bernard Wilkins studied medicine. He was devoted to his patients, working as a singlehanded general practitioner from the ground floor surgery of his home for 40 years. He had close links with St John Ambulance, and he had a specialist interest in hypnosis, helping many people to stop smoking. After his retirement he devoted many hours to increasing his knowledge of Judaism and pursuing his longstanding love of golf. He was the oldest member of Whitefield Golf Club, often playing with people 20 years his junior until a few months before his death. Predeceased by his wife, Rita, in 2002, he leaves two children and seven grandchildren.

### Rodney Wilkins, Steven Mann

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