

# OBITUARIES

## Patrick George Campbell Manson

C Elliott, C H Oliver

General practitioner Hawick (b 1954; q Aberdeen 1977; MRCPGP), d 26 April 2012

The entire community of Hawick was deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Patrick George Campbell Manson. Pat was a most dedicated, conscientious, thoughtful, and caring general practitioner. The wellbeing and care of his patients was the cornerstone of his professional life, and he gave his time unstintingly, often to his own personal detriment. We know that he felt very privileged indeed to have shared in the highs and lows of the lives of his many patients.

Pat was the eldest of three brothers and spent his early years in Alford, Aberdeenshire, where his father was a GP and local Scoutmaster. He became an active member of the Scout movement, where he developed his love for nature and the outdoors. He was educated at Inverurie Academy before attending Aberdeen University. He did his house jobs in Aberdeen and Dumfries, where he met his future wife, Lesley, a radiographer. He completed his training in Derby and Nottingham and became a partner in a Loughborough practice in 1981.

Pat and Lesley had a yearning to return to Scotland and moved to Hawick in 1988. They settled in the Borders and shared many interests together. Pat was a proud dad to Clare and Ian, and he took great pleasure in seeing them both develop successful careers. Clare recently got married in the Borders, with all her family and friends around.

The practice was originally in an adapted terraced house but moved to purpose built premises in Hawick Health Centre in 1990. Pat embraced new developments and technology but always asked himself, "How will this benefit the patients?" In 1998 an opportunity arose to merge with a neighbouring practice within the health centre. Pat was a prime mover in this process, and Teviot Medical Practice was born. An enthusiastic and respected GP trainer, he had mentored 23 trainee GPs. He followed their careers with interest and was pleased to have appointed two of them as partners in his own practice. As a course organiser for GP training in southeast Scotland he also

played a leading part in setting up and supporting CRUSE, the bereavement counselling service, in the Borders.

For the last four years he shared pitchside medical duties with a colleague at Mansfield Park, home of Hawick Rugby Football Club. This he thoroughly enjoyed but typically set about this challenge by ensuring that his own training and expertise was developed to his own self exacting standards. In recent years he volunteered as medical officer for two expeditions by the Borders Exploration Group to Chile and Norway. Again, his meticulous preparation and care ensured that the young explorers were in the best possible hands.

In spite of his demanding professional commitments he found time for many other interests. He was a keen golfer who could play to a single figure handicap when time allowed and was a popular member at both Hawick and Minto Golf Clubs. He played the guitar and also played competitive table tennis in his youth. He was instrumental in establishing a junior table tennis club in Hawick.

On moving to Hawick he joined Round Table, where he made many lasting friendships and he remained an active member of the Association of ex-Tablers. Pat was an amiable and generous host when he and Lesley entertained. He loved to cook and knew his wines. He and Lesley were widely travelled, having visited Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, and India. Closer to home he enjoyed walking and cycling in the lovely Border countryside.

Pat was a much valued friend and colleague and a true gentleman. He was forever sensitive to the needs of others and took his professional responsibilities very seriously. Ultimately he was overwhelmed by his own exacting standards and sadly took his own life. We have lost a very dear friend and truly dedicated doctor.

He leaves his wife, Lesley; their two children, Clare and Ian; his father, Bill; and two brothers, Charles and Kenny.

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