My father, Philip Owen Nicholas, was born in Gloucester. He was the younger of two children and attended Sir Thomas Rich’s school in Gloucester, where his father was deputy head. He was not a natural scholar but worked hard and got into Bristol University medical school in 1947.

Philip completed his house jobs in Bristol before doing national service in Germany. On his return to the UK he worked at Blackburn Royal infirmary where he met his future wife, Sue (my mum). They went to Edinburgh together and Philip worked in paediatrics there.

Philip was always interested in both child and public health. He worked as deputy medical officer of health in Castleford, Doncaster, and later in Bolton. In 1969 he was appointed as medical officer of health in Birkenhead. His work was really important to him, and he worked incredibly hard trying to make a difference
to people’s lives through good public health. Philip always championed the underdog and was interested in the less glamourous aspects of medicine. He was good at working alongside colleagues in both education and social care and weathered the storm of numerous reorganisations in Public Health and Community Medicine over the next 20 years.

He retired from his role as district medical officer for Wirral Health Authority in 1986.

In retirement Philip trained to be an adviser for the Citizens Advice Bureau and worked there for many years. He loved to sing in the choir and potter in the garden. He was happy in his marriage and loved his growing family; he considered himself a lucky man. He died peacefully at the age of 92.

Philip was a kind and generous man, much loved and missed by his family.

He leaves his wife, Sue; three daughters; eight grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

District medical officer Wirral Health Authority (b 1929; q Bristol, 1953; DCH, DPH), from old age and the after effects of covid-19 on 25 April 2022.