

## THOMAS NORMAN CALVEY

***Pharmacologist. Born 31<sup>st</sup> October 1932. Qualified MB ChB Liverpool 1958. Died 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017, aged 83.***

Thomas Norman Calvey, always known as Norman, was born on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1932 in Wallasey. He was the middle child and only son of Gertrude (a teacher at Liscard Secondary Modern) and Thomas (a bookkeeper for Royal Sun).

Norman won a scholarship to Birkenhead School and then went on to study Medicine at Liverpool University. He was a keen sportsman and represented his school and the old boys at rugby. He won a medal for the shot put at the school Olympics at White City. However, a sports injury at the age of 17, and resulting osteomyelitis, put paid to his sporting ambitions.

He also loved playing the piano, a passion which lasted throughout his life. While a student at Liverpool he married Elizabeth (Betty) Crowton, a physiotherapist, who he had known since his early teens having met her at piano lessons in Wallasey.

He was awarded a BSc in 1955 and qualified as a doctor in 1958. House jobs were at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool and Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey. Friends and family attending A&E were always impressed with his very neat stitch work.

He won an MRC scholarship in 1959 and became a member of their scientific staff in Edinburgh. After a registrar post in Glasgow Norman and Betty, now with five daughters, moved back to Liverpool, where in 1965 Norman was appointed Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology at Liverpool University. Betty soon delivered their sixth, and final child, a son. It was during this time Norman achieved his PhD then MD.

He became a Senior Lecturer in 1971 and was appointed as an honorary consultant at Whiston Hospital in 1978. He was a popular lecturer, forming lifelong friendships while pursuing his research interests: anticholinesterase drugs, and later opioid analgesia. He was an examiner for the Royal College of Anaesthetists and in 1993 became Honorary Fellow of the RCA. In 1987 he retired from the Pharmacology department at Liverpool but continued working as a senior research fellow in the Department of Anaesthesia, and as an examiner.

Once retired he had more time to devote to travelling and walking. He loved the northern countryside, and frequently went walking in Derbyshire and Yorkshire. He was very proud of having walked the Pennine Way twice.

He published extensively, however may be best remembered for his two books, "Dental Pharmacology" co-authored with George Pennington and Tod O'Neil and "Principles and Practice of Pharmacology for Anaesthetists" with Norton Williams. Both have run to several editions and are standard texts. Updating for the later editions was done between his study at home and in local hostelrys, with his co-authors – his friends.

He was always a strong advocate of family, supporting and offering thoughtful, well considered advice when asked. With five daughters, he made "father of the bride" speeches an art form. He liked nothing better than being surrounded by his family, of whom he was inordinately proud.

In later years he developed malignant melanoma, and despite being enrolled in a trial and having active treatment, he died on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the age of 83, of complications of his treatment. During his final illness he expressed a preference for being called “Tom” which had been avoided as a boy, as his father carried the same name.

He is survived by his younger sister, Helen, his wife Betty, six children - two doctors, two teachers, a bookkeeper and an IT professional- and thirteen grandchildren.



**Dr Anne Bennett**