

DR DONALD CAMPBELL HUDSON, GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Dr Donald C Hudson, retired General Practitioner. Born October 1926. Qualified MB ChB Ed 1949. Died 1st December 2019.

Donald Campbell Hudson ("Don" to his friends) was born at Hoylake in the Wirral on 21 October 1926. When reminded that this was the date of Nelson's victory off Cape Trafalgar in 1805, he would acknowledge the fact with a wry smile hinting at his Scottish roots. Indeed his younger brother, Ian, and Don's eldest son, David both achieved fame later as keen golfers.

At that time Don's father was working for a chemicals firm in Ruabon and was living in Cheshire. Later he moved as Works Chemist for ICI to Huddersfield but about 1934/35 he was moved to the Grangemouth plant in Scotland.

Don received his early education at the High School in Falkirk. He was Head of the Junior School by 1938, leaving to become a pupil at George Watson's College in Edinburgh, where he spent the early war years. However, in 1942 the family moved back to Huddersfield as Don's father was put in charge of the Research Lab there.

In 1943 Don applied for a place at the world famous medical school in Edinburgh, where he graduated MB ChB Ed in 1949. After the usual house jobs, he developed an interest in midwifery, moving to Birmingham where he obtained his DRCOG. He was called up to do National Service as a medical officer in the RAF, where he was posted to serve at Cologne at the time of the 'cold war' with the Soviet Union. Apart from his general duties, he had the distinction of looking after the medical needs of Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, at that time the British High Commissioner in Germany.

Released from the RAF after two years, he worked at Leicester Royal Infirmary before obtaining a post as GP at Walkden, near Sale. It was there at the local Brooklands lawn tennis club that he met and fell in love with a charming girl "Barrie", who was to become his wife for the next 63 happy years. They finally settled at 'The Elms' medical practice at Ormskirk in 1955, where Don became senior partner.

Apart from his medical activities, he was actively engaged in the local community, enjoying playing golf and tennis. One of the more pleasant memories of the writer was the annual invitation made by Don personally to attend a 'drinks party' at his house on the evening of New Years Eve prior to going on to the annual Dinner/Dance at Ormskirk Golf Club.

He was our family physician for nearly forty years, during which time I never remember a 'cross word' nor difference of opinion. In his practice Don seemed to have the happy knack of sorting out the genuine case from the false as honed by his long experience.

He was a member of the local Officers' Club of Ormskirk, founded in 1961, in which both he and Barrie played a part in their social activities. Also he was one of the founders of the Brandreth Club for retired medical and dental practitioners in 1982 which, up till recently, used to meet at the Postgraduate Centre at Ormskirk Hospital. He maintained his interest in obstetrics as a clinical assistant at Ormskirk Hospital working with Consultants Colin Porteous and General Physician Gerard Sanderson.

Of a strong constitution he survived surgery for mesenteric vein thrombosis but continued to play competitive golf at an average handicap. He is remembered for his immaculate 'swing' and ability to 'hit' fairways much to the chagrin of his fellow competitors. (He had joined the

golf club in 1955 and was later a Life Member; also made a Life Member of the Liverpool Medical Institution in 1996).

In retirement Don enjoyed playing bridge socially and was always a pleasant and reliable partner.

In addition to their fine house in Ruff Lane, conveniently situated within walking distance of the hospital, the Hudson's had invested in a bungalow at Abersoch, where Don was able to enjoy sailing his dinghy up till quite recently. Winter holidays were spent skiing in France, where he was competent at speaking the language and also in the summer to Spain where he and Barrie had honeymooned.

Don was a member of the Society of Occupational Medicine and held clinics at Kraft Foods; in his retirement he worked for the DHSS war pensions scheme. With increasing frailty in his 90th year he had given up driving his car but still enjoyed visits from his family and grandchildren. Following a fall at home in 2018, he was admitted to nursing homes near Ormskirk where he delighted in seeing visitors under the devoted vigilance of Barrie. Over the course of the next year, his physical and mental state progressively declined and he died peacefully on 1st December 2019. His funeral took place at his local parish church, St James, Westhead where he lies buried in the churchyard. Beloved by his grieving family, his patients and his friends, the numbers attending bore witness to a long life devoted to the wise care of others. As regards this trait of sagacity, his epitaph might be found in chapter 3 of the book of Proverbs: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

He is survived by his wife Barrie, his three sons David, Peter and Timothy and three grandchildren, and also by his brother Ian.

Dr Robin Agnew