

## Admission of Life Members

*The following members were admitted to Life Membership of the Institution at the Celebration and Admission of Life Members on Thursday, 6th December 2018.*

*Three Public Orators presented these citations.*



Back row (l-r): Dr A Ellis, Dr R S Ahearn, Dr C Evans, Dr J Curtis and Mr K Parsons  
Front row (l-r): Mr K Woolfenden, Dr J W H Watt, Lady Anne Dodd, Prof J Hunter and Dr R P Howard

### DR ANTHONY ELLIS



Dr Anthony (Tony) Ellis was educated at North Manchester Grammar School and graduated from the Liverpool Medical School in 1971.

During his house officer posts at the David Lewis Northern Hospital he developed his photographic skills, recording clinical signs, some of which Dr Colin Ogilvie and I used in Chamberlains Symptoms and Signs textbook.

After obtaining MRCP in 1975 he commenced specialist training in general medicine and gastroenterology. Under Dr Richard McConnell's tutelage at Broadgreen Hospital, Tony became an adept endoscopist. His distinguished research led to his MD concerning firstly the inheritance of Pepsinogens and then to bowel cancer and tylosis. This latter Liverpool disease was ascribed to chromosome 17, IRHOM 2, during which Tony and Richard collaborated with Sir Walter Bodmer of Cancer UK and Prof Kelsell, Head of Human Molecular Genetics at Barts. For this work Tony was awarded a gold medal.

He became FRCP in 1989 soon after his consultant appointment to Broadgreen and the Royal Liverpool hospitals. Tony is still working into his 70's and describes himself as a luminal gastroenterologist in contra distinction to liver doctors or hepatologists.

Tony has served this Institution well, and conscientiously, having only recently completed a 7 year stint as Treasurer.

Tony and his wife Carole are approaching their golden wedding anniversary and they have 3 sons and 2 plus grandchildren. Two of their sons are in business, providing fundings to the needy in war torn countries. Their middle son is a musician, who also teaches those with learning difficulties. The family enjoy classical music, gardening and travel.

As an east Lancs boy, Tony used to play the Flugelhorn in a brass band. When he came up to Medical School, his Liverpool landlady let it be known that either he or the flugelhorn had to go, so bringing his promising musical career to an abrupt halt. Music's loss was luminal enterologists gain!

Mr President, I have pleasure in introducing Dr Tony Ellis. MD FRCP.

CHRIS EVANS

#### **DR ROBERT PHILIP HOWARD**



Robert Philip Howard qualified in Liverpool in 1973. Rob did his house jobs at Walton and then went on to do six months paediatrics, including 3 months paediatric cardiology, then for the next six months he did A & E at Broadgreen.

Rob said that although these two jobs were not planned as an entry into anaesthesia, the paediatrics and cardiology proved to be invaluable in his anaesthetic career and the A&E taught him to assess patients quickly and to make decisions rapidly and above all to take responsibility for them.

Rob's anaesthetic training started in October 1975 when he became an SHO in anaesthesia at the Royal Southern Hospital. He passed the Primary exam for the Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons in February 1976 - that is only five months after he started anaesthetics! I should say that getting your primary Fellowship exam after only five months in the specialty was vanishingly rare in those days - one of our registrars gave up anaesthesia after failing the Primary FFA 13 times.

Armed with his Primary (which is an essential for promotion to registrar rank), Rob became a registrar at Walton after only 9 months as an SHO. He attributes this meteoric progression in his anaesthetic career to the fact that he was known as a keen sailor and fortunately Tom Forrest and Graham Meadows (both devoted sailors) were both on the Selection Committee: this might not have harmed his prospects for success!

After he had passed the Final exam for the FFA, RCS he progressed to senior registrar and was then appointed Consultant Anaesthetist at Whiston in 1983. As well as a very full clinical programme he ran the Anaesthetic Clinical Meetings at Whiston every two weeks for 5 years. He was Chairman of the Theatre Users Committee and then Clinical Director of Theatres for 5 years and he also sat on the Committee of the Liverpool Society Of Anaesthetists in the 1980s. As well as this he sat on countless minor committees.

Many clinicians have told me that they did not go into medicine to sit on committees. My riposte has been that if there are no clinicians on the hospital committees, the said clinicians have only themselves to blame if the committees make decisions that are clinically inappropriate.

Rob married Clare who is also an eminent Consultant Anaesthetist in 1981. They have two sons, James and William. They have a holiday cottage at Porthdinllaen, near Nefyn, in North Wales and they have a 20ft cabin cruiser moored there. He had learned to sail in a smaller boat, a 14 foot dinghy known as the GP 14. He sailed these boats with his elder brother for many years. They participated in National and International Championships and they did extremely well. Indeed Rob became the Vice President of the GP 14 class which had 4000 members worldwide. His clinical work was the only thing which prevented his acceptance of the Presidency.

Rob retired in 2012, but he is not idle; he still plays golf at the West Lancashire Golf club; indeed he is its Captain this year! Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that you will have concluded, as I have, that this Candidate for Life Membership is a man who has excelled at everything that he has taken up. It is my privilege to present to you for Life Membership of this Institution, Dr Robert Philip Howard.

DR A A GILBERTSON



## **PROF JENNIFER M HUNTER**

To give anything like a comprehensive account of Jennifer Hunter's life and achievements would take a large book, not a five minute oration. I hope you will forgive me if 7 minutes is the best I can do?

Jennifer Margaret Hunter's education started at Blackburne House High School for Girls. She left Liverpool to study medicine at the University of St Andrews. She qualified Mb ChB with commendation in 1971.

After house jobs in Dundee and Perth, she started anaesthetics in Dundee. After 18 months there, she came to Alder Hey as an anaesthetic SHO for a year. She came to Liverpool because there was no formal paediatric or cardiothoracic anaesthetic training in Dundee at that time. She went on to do a registrar job and then senior registrar jobs in Liverpool and then she entered the University Department of Anaesthesia first as a senior registrar. She was made a Senior Lecturer a year later that is in 1978.

When our Intensive Therapy Unit moved from Sefton General Hospital to the new Royal in 1978, the recently-appointed Senior Lecturer in the University Department of Anaesthesia, non-other than Jennie Hunter, joined the Consultants in the ITU, thus opening to the Unit the research facilities of the Department and even more importantly she brought the necessary better brain than mine to research the action of relaxants in renal failure patients! And this brain had plenty of patients to research because the Dialysis Unit from Sefton General had also moved into the Royal so the Intensive Therapy Unit continued to treat many patients in combined renal and respiratory failure. Research into the action of relaxant drugs in patients with renal failure became Jennie's dominant research interest.

She and her colleagues in the University Department of Anaesthesia published in 1984 a groundbreaking comparison of curare and its analogues in normal patients and in patients with no renal function. Since then she has published an enormous number of papers, many of them about relaxants in patients with renal failure and has edited two books and contributed 35 chapters in international texts. She was Honorary Secretary of the Anaesthetic Research Society from 1991 to 1996.

Not only has Jennie published so many papers, she has been responsible for the publication of hundreds of her colleague's papers and for stimulating research into anaesthesia because she was Editor in Chief of the British Journal of Anaesthesia for 8 years (1997-2005) and so she was responsible for maintaining and indeed improving the high standard of papers published in the Journal.

Not only has she edited the Journal, she was Honorary Secretary to the Board of the Journal for 5 years and Honorary Chairman and Director of the Board of the same journal for 6 years.

In 2006 she went further afield and served for three years as Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee of the European Society of Anaesthesiology.

But for all her international work, she found time to be from 2008 to 2010 President of the Liverpool Society of Anaesthetists.

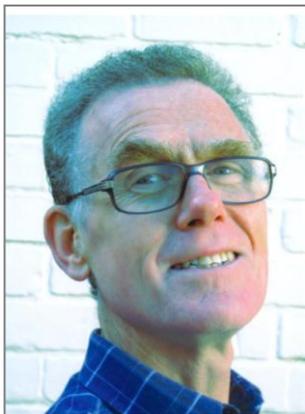
In 2010 Jennie was appointed by Liverpool University to assess my MD Thesis. Just before Christmas 2010 she gave up trying to eliminate my innumerable typographical errors so as not to spoil both our Christmases, and was kind enough to recommend to the University the acceptance of the thesis.

There is not time to tell you of the honours she has received from Societies in this country and abroad but I cannot omit to remind you of her MBE - a national recognition of her value to this country.

President, ladies and gentlemen, It is an honour to present to you, for election to Life Membership of this Institution, a remarkable woman who was and is one of the leading anaesthetists in this country and indeed in the World; Emeritus Professor Jennifer Hunter.

DR A A GILBERTSON

## DR JOHN W H WATT



John, an alumnus of the Edinburgh Academy, qualified in medicine with 2nd class honours here in Liverpool in 1973. He did his house jobs at the Royal Southern Hospital where he says was inspired by anaesthetic colleagues – Drs Jenny Hunter, Peter Drury, Raymond Ahearn and Tony Gilbertson, but I'm sure it was actually the devastating skill of the surgeons at the Southern, particularly the registrars, that drew him to a career in operating theatres. Modesty forbids me from saying who they were.

Four years later John passed his fellowship in anaesthesia, and in 1981 achieved an MD under the tutorship of Gordon Jackson Rees, investigating pre-treatment to protect the ischaemic brain.

As a result of meeting another inspirational and charismatic senior colleague, Kookal Krishnan, who ran the regional spinal injuries centre in Southport, John was appointed as Consultant Anaesthetist to the Southport and Ormskirk District Hospital NHS Trust.

Krishnan recruited John to assist with the complex ventilation problems in quadriplegic patients. John's first publication on this topic was in 1986, and this drew attention to the higher incidence of complications if respiratory management started before transfer to specialised units. He was able to emphasise the benefits of patients moving to spinal injury centres as soon as possible after injury.

The perhaps unintended consequence of this focus on assisted ventilation in high level tetraplegia, was that Southport quickly became the largest admitting Centre in the United Kingdom for patients with long-term ventilator dependence following high spinal cord injury.

This in turn stimulated two goals. The first, a quest for ventilation of these patients at home, and the second was whether it might be possible to manage paralysed respiration without mechanical ventilation.

In pursuit of the first, and as a result of John's passion, dedication and attention to detail, the unit at Southport was the first UK centre to establish a domiciliary ventilation service for quadriplegic patients.

With John's input the Centre gained an unparalleled 25 year expertise in treating people with high level tetraplegia who require continued ventilation, and developed support services in the community to such a degree that it is now the norm rather than the exception, for the majority of these patients to return home rather than require institutional care.

The second goal led directly to the development of phrenic nerve pacing, a technique which enables patients who were previously ventilator dependent to spend variable lengths of time free from ventilator support.

With John's invaluable contribution, the Southport Spinal Injuries Centre developed an internationally recognised reputation in this technique providing ventilator free breathing for paralysed patients. It supports the largest number of such cases in Europe.

John's paper in 2011 reporting a single-centre 25 year retrospective study on short and long term survival after ventilation in spinal cord injury, is one of only 12 quoted references in the guidance document of NHS England's Clinical Commissioning policy for phrenic nerve pacing in SCI, which I believe is a fitting tribute to John's work.

In his retirement John's life has been taken over he says, caring for his 33 acres of woodlands and meadows; developing an interest in mycology; and fostering the education of young people in importance of the natural world.

Liverpool Medical Institution has played a significant role in John's professional career, so it is especially pleasing that he is to receive a life membership tonight.

MR KEITH PARSONS

## MR K A WOOLFENDEN



Kenneth Alan Woolfenden is a North Manchester Grammar School lad who in 1968 saw sense, struck out west, and came along the A580 to the Liverpool Medical School.

He was a successful undergraduate and in 1973 was awarded the John Rankin Exhibition in Practical Anatomy.

John Rankin was a local philanthropic ship owner after whom Rankin Hall is named. He gave several awards and bursaries to the University, and in 1922 his anatomy exhibition award was for £25. That would be very nearly £1000 in today's money so it was a significant award. Now I don't know what Alan received, but if it was less than around £200 Alan, maybe you should go back and ask for a bit more.

In 1976 Alan was awarded a travelling fellowship in Anatomy teaching young undergraduates at the University of Texas in Houston. This probably explains his lasting penchant for cowboy boots, Stetson hats, and playing the banjo!

It was whilst working at Alder Hey Hospital for his great mentor Herbert Johnstone in 1980, that Alan met John Gearhart, a young American paediatric surgeon from Kentucky. They struck an immediate and enduring friendship and in 1982 co-authored a paper together on megareter repair in children.

They have remained close ever since often taking vacations together with their families in Montego Bay in Jamaica. John went on to become head of Paediatric Urology at the Brady Institute at the John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore where Dr Patrick Walsh was the Chief of Urology.

Pat Walsh was and is renowned worldwide for developing the technique of nerve sparing radical prostatectomy which completely changed the management of early prostate cancer. It was as a result of an introduction by John Gearhart to Dr Walsh that Alan was invited to the Hopkins to learn this exquisite surgical technique under the guidance of the master, a privilege afforded to very few.

Alan was appointed Consultant Urological Surgeon to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital (as it then was) in 1985, and in 1986 he performed the first radical prostatectomy in the Northwest.

Since then a large number of patients under his care have been cured of their prostate cancer. Remember that up until this time, there was a reluctance in the UK to treat early prostate cancer with radical surgery.

It took broad shoulders, resilience and single-mindedness to take on this challenging operation.

Alan of course developed these necessary characteristics being a season ticket at Manchester United, whilst working here in the city of Liverpool – what's not to like about that?

Generous to a fault, he once took me to Old Trafford as his guest for a game against Everton. On the crowded local train to the ground, packed full of 'Mancs', Alan, perceptive as ever, thoughtfully warned me 'whatever you do, don't speak scouse!'

Since retiring Alan and his wife Sue spend their time between Heswall and his home in Limoges in France where his next door neighbour is a rabbit farmer. There he puts his urological talents to good use, whiling away his time....artificially inseminating rabbits.

Alan has not been too well over the last couple of years, so it's lovely to see him back to his old self; bon-viveur; chef extraordinaire and raconteur. As a lover of Shakespeare, he really has 'Laid aside life-harming heaviness, And entertained a cheerful disposition'. (Richard 11 Act 2 scene 2).

Mr President, it's so pleasing to see him here with Sue to receive his Life Membership of Liverpool Medical Institution.

MR KEITH PARSONS

## ADMISSION OF LADY ANN DODD AS AN HONORARY MEMBER

### MUSIC

"Love is like a violin" Is how the former Blue Belle dancer, Miss Anne Jones first met Liverpool's and Britain's number one comedian.

In fact, she tells me, she was draped over a giant sized, highly polished violin on the stage of the Manchester Opera House, when she slipped off onto the floor thereby catching Ken's eye. The rest is history, as they say.

Anne was from Altrincham, the daughter of a solicitor, who after school, including Latin O level, worked as a secretary and then a series of jobs for British European Airways rising from senior cabin crew to senior personnel officer at Manchester Airport.

I should add here that Ken always joked that Manchester ringway airport was actually situated in Stockport.

Working with Ken for over 40 years, Anne exploited some of her own musical talents, in theatres the length and breadth of the country, singing, playing the piano, guitar and flute including lessons from James Galway.

Anne lived with Ken in his family house, Oak House, in Thomas Lane, Knotty Ash, where behind the charming 18 century home, there is a lovely garden, which Anne designed, but as she says, she loves gardens but not gardening.

They have always had a dog and visit the local church, St Johns, where Anne plays the organ.

She accompanied Ken on all his trips, which until 20 years ago were managed by his agent. Thereafter Anne took over, choosing where they would care to visit together. She thus became a major player in "Team Dodd".

Sometimes Anne was the butt of Ken's humour. When asked if he practised safe sex, he replied of course we do, there's a hand rail round the bed.

Ken was made an honorary member here in 2004, and was subsequently pleased to receive honorary doctorates from local universities.

He had a number of medical disorders, and some of his consultants are here tonight. He attended my asthma clinic and was always accompanied by Anne, to check that he was telling the truth about his symptoms and inhaler usage. As many of you will know, some asthma inhalers have the potential to alter the function of the vocal cords, which would not have been welcomed by our singing comedian.

Ken used to see me on a Saturday morning at the Lourdes, now Spire hospital. I had to book him in as the last patient, for if he came, at say 10.30 for a follow up appointment, all subsequent patients consultations were delayed. When he was the last patient in the morning, we were able to enjoy a long chat, after he had entertained the staff and other patients, and I might get home for afternoon tea!

Sadly, Ken developed a severe chest infection, was admitted to the Heart and Chest Hospital, Broadgreen, and although discharged was to pass away on Mothering Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> this year. Mindful of his precarious state of health, he married Anne in a registry ceremony in Oak House, and she is now known correctly as Lady Anne Dodd.

In the 2017 New Year's Honours List Ken was knighted by Prince Charles, having been appointed OBE in 1982 for services to show business and charity.

Many medical charities have benefitted from Ken's generosity when he has put on a show pro bono and the British Lung Foundation was no exception.

Some of you here this evening will have attended Ken's memorial service at the Anglican Cathedral. Anne sat with Dame Lorna and Ronald who unfortunately cannot be with us tonight. The tributes and eulogies went on and on, but not as long as some of Ken's evening shows. The media paid their tributes over the next few weeks. Since then Anne has unveiled plaques at theatres around Britain and she is delighted with the thoughtful bust of Ken which she commissioned by Jane Robinson now placed in the reading room of the Picton Library where he frequently studied.

Anne is considering teaming up with John Fisher, author, producer and Ken's friend who gave such a profound eulogy in the cathedral.

Mr President, in inviting you to confer honorary membership of this Institution on Lady Anne Dodd, we continue our association with Sir Ken who has given everybody, so much happiness.

MUSIC. "HAPPINESS"

CHRIS EVANS