

## DR CHARLES BRIAN O'CARROLL OBITUARY

A service of thanksgiving for the long life of Dr Brian O'Carroll took place recently at St Andrew's church, Redruth, followed by cremation at Penmount.

The service was conducted by the Reverent Peter Dixon with readings by Mrs Gillian Druce and the Rev Simon Cade. The organist was Mr Chris Uren.

Brian was born in Oxford on March 2, 1917. His father was a stockbroker. The family moved to Wimbledon at the end of the First World War.

At school, he was a classical scholar and a keen swimmer and oarsman. Before leaving school, he briefly thought about becoming a missionary in China and began to learn Mandarin.

However, in 1935 he started his medical training at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London and won the Brackenbury Surgery Prize when he qualified in 1941. He rapidly became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh before serving in the RAMC as a surgeon in Normandy and West Africa before returning to Italy prior to demobilisation.

In 1942, he married Mildred Jones, who had also trained at Bart's as nurse and with whom he worked during the Blitz. They had a daughter, Jennifer and a son, Timothy.

From 1946 to 1950, Brian continued to train as a surgeon, first in London before moving to the City Hospital, Truro. However, further advancement as a surgeon was not possible at that time and so he was fortunate to join the Green Lane Surgery, in Redruth in partnership with Drs O'Donnell, Macdonald, Clahane and Glover, at which time he lived in Clinton Road.

His career as a general practitioner spanned 30 years and for 15 of those years, he was senior partner. He saw the Green Lane practice develop into a training partnership of six doctors. His last trainee was Dr Tim Rogers, who is the current senior partner at Manor Surgery.

For many years Brian was the medical officer for Remploy and Mace, Rainbow and Stone.

Throughout his career, he was always an astute diagnostician and also took pride in his care of the mothers and their babies before the opening of the Consultant Obstetric Unit at Treliske in 1967.

His relaxation from the demands of general practice and the telephone was his boat Faria, which he sailed for many years from Mylor Yacht Harbour. He was also chairman of the governors of Redruth School and a member of the parish church council of St Andrew's Church, where he worshipped until shortly before his death.

His first wife, Mildred, died in 1971 and he married again to Clare in St Andrew's Church in 1979: Clare was to predecease him in 2008. They were both very proud of the achievements of their families.

His love of Italy and the Italian language, which began when he lived in Rome in 1946-7, continued from 1964 onwards, when he built a house on the Island of Elba. He and Clare would spend 3 months of a year there and he spoke Italian fluently, even to an Italian nurse in Treliske who cared for him in his last illness.

He loved his dogs, especially Sally, whom Clare banished from his bedroom, and latterly Toby, who kept him active into his late eighties and with whom he was often seen on Portreath beach.

Thanks to the care and patient support of the Manor Surgery, district Nurses, RATS, Alan and Bernice Ball, family, friends and neighbours, Brian was able to remain independent until shortly before his death. As his health deteriorated he was further supported by carers from Penhells Community Care.

He died in Treliske, following a short illness, when he was looked after by the doctors, nurses and therapists of MAU and Roskear Ward.

More than 100 friends, family, former patients and colleagues filled the church, many of whom shared their reminiscences with much laughter at his wake in the crypt afterwards; especially at the words he chose to remember himself by. "He loved his God, he loved his dog, he loved his family and he loved his patients (at least some of them)."

There was a collection for the Redruth branch of the RNLI which has raised £349.13 to date. Funeral directors: Bernard Williams and Son, Redruth.

**WEST BRITON** Thursday June 24, 2010.