

Dr Dorothy France

1940 – 2005

Dorothy France was born and grew up in Glasgow and was always exceedingly proud of this fact. Any suggestion that she came from the other side of Scotland was met with some disdain, and a notable and sudden increase in the breadth of her Glaswegian accent. In spite of some ill health in childhood she excelled at school and gained a place at Medical School in Glasgow. This was at a time when there were relatively few successful female doctors. She qualified in 1968, and worked in Aberdeen before specialising in Dermatology at UCH.

Dorothy was appointed as Consultant Dermatologist at Cuckfield, Crawley & Horsham Hospitals on November 1st 1975. She worked tirelessly across these 3 sites (Cuckfield becoming the Princess Royal Hospital) until she retired on September 2nd 2003.

Her profession was always a very important part of Dorothy's life and she was dedicated both to her Hospitals and to Dermatology. During her career she held various offices,

including Clinical tutor at Crawley, Chair of the local Ethics committee, Chair to the local BMA group and Secretary to the Dowling Club. She applied herself to these jobs with her customary enthusiasm and great attention to detail.

She was an excellent and gifted physician, strong willed, independent and compassionate. She showed complete dedication to her medical work and so many patients have been thankful for her expertise. She had an excellent memory where patients' names, diagnoses and treatments were concerned, and I know that she developed a devoted following of patients. The staff that worked with her also became extremely loyal.

Dorothy married Alan later in her life and the two of them travelled extensively, often on the Dowling Club expeditions. They were a devoted couple who shared many interests, learning new skills together (singing, Scottish dancing etc). Dorothy encouraged Alan to buy her a set of drums one Christmas and became a competent player, performing in



several local productions. She was devastated by Alan's early death in 1999. Dorothy had a great sense of humour and was an excellent raconteur. She enjoyed company and had an extensive group of friends to accompany her on her cultural excursions. Her brain was always sharp and enquiring; after her retirement she took up Astronomy, becoming expert in some of the more esoteric aspects.

She was a great asset to the world of Dermatology and is missed by colleagues and patients alike.

Dr Elizabeth Derrick

Brighton