

Dr Angus Macdonald

1935 — 2010

Dr Angus Macdonald was born in a military encampment in Burma on 14.09.1935. His father was a pathologist in the RAMC following a long line of Dr Angus MacDonalds. His mother was from a colonial mercantile family dealing with textiles in Japan. After Burma they were billeted to Northern Ireland, Cambridge and Porton Down where his father undertook military research. His father volunteered to serve in the Eighth Army Field Ambulance in N. Africa where his ambulance was hit by stray shell. Our Angus was 8 and remembered his mother's tears as she read the telegram.

They went to stay with a rich aunt of his mother's in the south of England whence he was sent to boarding school in York: he remembered the long train journeys he took alone to school. He enjoyed his time there despite the great winter freeze of 1946/47 with ice, snow, food and fuel rations. Around this time his mother remarried and they went to live in London. A brief trip to Kenya with a narrow escape from an ambush added to the spice of a luxurious colonial life.

By 1948, aged 13, he was back at boarding school: post war France beckoned. He and his friend set off down the Loire Valley with their bicycles. After Fettes college, he returned to Scotland, graduating from Edinburgh, followed by house jobs in Glasgow. Returning to Scotland was fulfilment. These were his real formative years.

Angus took a short commission as a ship's doctor on the HMS

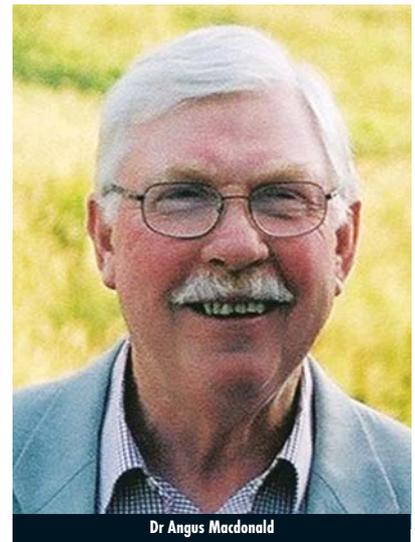
Arcadia from the fleet of the P & O, circumnavigating the globe as a uniformed officer only to return to long hours of acute medicine in the NHS of the 1960s. In 1965 he served as a Registrar to Dr David Ferriman at the North Middlesex Hospital where he met his wife Sue, they married and in 1967 had a daughter, Elspeth. He took a Senior Registrar's job at St Mary's Paddington.

With a further baby boy, Angus in 1968, they began to settle, with his dermatology consultant appointment in Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks. They had another baby, Charlotte in 1973, and bought a farm in 1976, with another small holding of 50 ewes, 20 cows, calves and a few geese. Angus built big lean-tos for the cattle and small tree houses for the children. He sculpted the gardens.

He joined the PC revolution, using a Commodore Pet, and designed one of the earliest pieces of software for private practice; this is still in use today. Angus worked both for the NHS and privately and Sue worked the farm and looked after the children. They worked very hard and Angus became a good farmer as well, adding to his many talents. He was busy on committees and interview panels. After a long illness Sue died in 1985.

He met Ann around now and embraced her children. They bought a house "Crebantieras" in Dordogne which became his life joy. There Angus spent months at a time, welcoming visitors and guests.

In 2001 he retired. Bitter coincidence allowed him only six



months of a care-free life before he was diagnosed with Prostatic cancer. For awhile with therapy he thrived as did his children, with new grandchildren arriving. He wept when his children said goodbye to Crebantieras.

Angus spent his final six months dignified but bed bound, as his legs were weak. He was never depressed but admitted he got bored. He bought an iPad, read books and watched films. His cognitive functions began to fail several weeks before he died. His dogs long since gone themselves, came to rest by his side and give him comfort. He was never agitated. Angus died peacefully in his own bed one autumnal Sunday morning in November.

Dr Angus MacDonald FRCP born 14.09.1935 died 07.11.2010. Retired consultant Dermatologist, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. Survived by his second wife Ann, son Angus MacDonald consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, daughter Elspeth occupational therapist and daughter Charlotte.

**Mr Angus Macdonald
and
Dr S. Tharakaram**