

Mr Leon Ellis

Past president: 2002-2003



Whilst a 3rd year student, at the Manchester Dental Hospital, I received a commission into the Royal Army Dental Corps.

I qualified in November 1965 and accepted the position of House Surgeon for six months prior to my first posting in Exeter as Dental Officer to the Wessex Brigade (Infantry).

My next posting early in 1969 was with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (Cavalry Regiment) in Munster, West Germany, with BAOR.

During these 8 1/2 years I had enjoyed membership of the BSRD., BSSPD., Endodontic and Periodontic Societies.

In February 1972, I was invited to apply for the position of Registrar at the Eastman Dental Hospital in the Dept of Prosthodontics. I resigned my commission as Major from the RADC and spent three and a half happy years as Registrar and Senior Registrar under Malcolm Geddes, Professor Alan Mack, Peter L'Estrange and Hamish Thompson.

Part of my work involved maxillo - facial prosthodontics, at the nearby E.N.T. Hospital under Prof Harrison, where I gained invaluable experience with obturators, sectional obturators utilising magnets and moloplast inserts to engage the undercut areas (in those days there were no implants). I also had a private referral practice 2 or 3 evenings a week. During my 3 1/2 years at the Eastman I learned invaluable dental experience, especially prosthodontics and " The Difficult Denture Case ", and about the appreciation of life itself.

I departed E.D.H. in June 1975 and took up the position of P/T Lecturer and Clinical Supervisor in the Dept of Prosthetics, under Prof Alan Grant, at the Manchester Dental Hospital.

The Prosthetics Dept later came under the umbrella of the Dept of Restorative Dentistry. I worked there until December 1998.

I was also the principal and owner of a private practice in Wilmslow, Cheshire from 1975 - 2001 and had a private Prosthodontic referral practice in Manchester.

I was a BSRD Council Member from Nov 1995- May 1999 and became a member of the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry and the SAC in Restorative Dentistry. I was a member of the assessment panel for prosthodontics representing specialist practitioners in fixed and removable prosthodontics (joint nomination by the BSSPD and BSRD).

I was admitted to the Restorative Specialist List in 2001.

I retired from the Cheshire Practice in 2001 and moved down to Poole where I was invited to join a Specialist Practice, as the Prosthodontist, which I enjoyed on a p/t basis for 6 years.

I presided over the 2002 May, Spring Conference at the Haven Hotel, Sandbanks, Poole when the theme was " Practice Problems - Practical Solutions ".

In retrospect, it gives me pleasure to quote from the archives " Not surprisingly, the appeal of renowned speakers, the luxury of the Haven Hotel and the social programme resulted in a sell-out " Guests of the Society included Dame Margaret Seaward, Prof Nairn Wilson President of the GDC., Prof Ian Bennington President of the BDA., Dr Peter Likeman President of the BSSPD., and Mr Stephen Day President of the BES.

The evening's social programme started with a drinks reception on " The Maid of the Harbour " with 170 people, cruising around Poole Harbour with canapes and champagne, a gentle sea breeze and a wonderful sunny evening. To Serpil, I owe an eternal debt of gratitude for assisting me tremendously and arranging that perfect weather!

The cruise was followed by a Black-Tie Dinner and the photos of the Harbour Cruise and Dinner bring back some extremely happy memories.

Some 16 years later in Poole, following my final retirement, I've been leading a busy and enjoyable life albeit with its ups and downs.

I completed the Yachtmaster (land based) course and Coastal skipper course (practical). We have a 32 ft motor sailer (sails and an engine!) which Judy and I enjoy sailing when we have reasonable weather. I took up croquet (a most cerebral game) ten years ago and Judy plays tennis.

I was introduced to the Bournemouth & Poole Medical Society by Dame Margaret Seaward and was President in 2008.

I'm a member of the Royal Motor Yacht Club and sit on the House & Wine Committee ; one of my jobs is organising Wine Tasting Dinners (wine being one of my hobbies).I try to attend a gym a couple of times a week in a vain attempt to keep fit !

It's a full and varied life but I still miss the repartee with my elderly prosthodontic patients !