

OBITUARIES

We regret to announce the deaths of four of our members in recent months.

John Conybeare, Herefordshire

Michael Bullied, Swaffham Prior and London

Jonathan Levi, London

V.J. Taylor, Bath

Dr. Jonathan Levi b. 27 July 1933 - d. 4th January 1999

Eminent and respected for his contribution to medicine, primarily as the consultant physician and gastroenterologist at Northwick Park and St Marks from 1969 to 1997, Jon Levi will be best remembered by members of the RFS as an enthusiastic collector of Treen and as the author of *'Treen for the Table'*.

Educated at Westminster School, he went on to study medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge and Westminster Hospital. He later won a Nuffield fellowship to work in pioneering research with Prof. Irwin Arias at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and then published over a 100 medical papers, including some notable clinical discoveries. He also inspired and negotiated the union of St Marks Hospital with Northwick Park, bringing together research and the treatment of common diseases for the first time.

Jon had anticipated enjoying a productive retirement by employing his academic skills and experience to research and to write a new book on Treen. With this in mind and concurrently amassing an impressive private collection, he read, talked and travelled, tirelessly. He visited provincial museums, public private and reserve collections, keeping photographs, records and notes of his discoveries and learnings.

His original plan was cruelly thwarted when he 'fell into the hands of the doctors' himself and in October 1997, was told he had only 3 months to live. With impressive and enviable tenacity, enthusiasm and courage he determined to see a book published in his lifetime. Armed with his years of diligent and ordered research and by narrowing down the subject to wooden objects related only to eating and drinking, his ambition was realised and culminated in a memorable and moving launch party hosted by Christie's in London, April 1998.

Jon Levi was noted in his professional life as a teacher and champion of education, inspiring many young medical students. He brought this same passionate enthusiasm to his study and collecting of Treen and whilst circumstances did not allow him to publish the work as he planned, he hoped it might inspire research and ignite interest in others to continue from where he left off.

The modernised Jonathan Levi Clinical Lecture Theatre at Northwick Park was renamed in his honour and *'Treen for the table'* will stand as a testament to his single-minded determination and is a valuable contribution to the further study of provincial craftsmanship.

Our warmest sympathy is extended to his widow, Mary, son David, and daughters Sophie, Carla, Rachael.

Robert Young