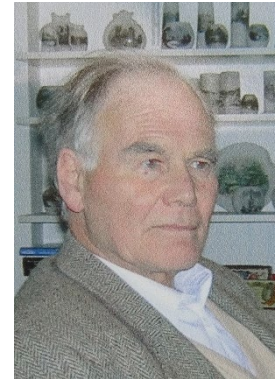


Obituary.

Dr. David Lewis Dewey

17 November 1927 – 22 March 2024

David was a an honourable and private gentleman who afforded himself very little fuss. His passion was for science, an inventor at heart, he was happiest tinkering in his workshop or pottering in his garden.



David attended Radley College as a teenager, where his teachers compelled upon him Latin and Greek philosophy whilst all he wanted was read up on nuclear physics.

He went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge in 1945 to study Natural Science, but was called up at the end of the second world war. After a brief training, David was sent to occupied Germany as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in charge of educating the British troops between Hamburg and Denmark, returning as a Captain.

After the war, David returned to Pembroke college, where he completed his studies gaining a B.A in Natural Science and in 1950 a M.A. in Biological science. During 1949 he was president of the Pembroke College Stokes Society, a position he greatly enjoyed.

He then went on to University College Hospital in London, as a research scientist and in 1953 earned his PhD in Medical Science.

In 1956 he joined the Cancer Research Campaign's Gray Laboratory, initially working with the great Dr. Harold Gray himself, whose name is now used for the unit of absorbed X-ray dose. He spent his career, researching into the effects of radiation on cancer cells, publishing over 100 scientific papers in journals such as Nature and the British Institute of Radiology. In one of his early papers published in 1959, he and fellow scientist Jack Boag, describe the effects of large pulses of radiation on bacteria saturated with oxygen. This paper has since been cited over 2000 times most recently in conjunction with a new Cancer treatment, FLASH radiotherapy, where by the radiation dose is delivered in a fraction of a second. The theory is that if the dose is delivered in a very short time, well oxygenated normal tissues will experience greater protection than poorly oxygenated tumours.

David's passion for inventing continued outside his work and he often said one of his hobbies was making gadgets. In 1957, during the Suez crisis when petrol was scarce, David made an electric Tricycle so he could get to work and back. Using heavy duty bicycle wheels, an old lorry battery and Lancaster bombers starter motors, his electric tricycle took 2 weeks to build, which including getting it taxed, licensed and insured. (Civil servants were very cooperative in those days). Initially, the major hazard were pedestrians stepping into the road without looking, not expecting a totally silent vehicle. This stopped when he fitted a fan to cool the motor which made a high pitched whine. The electric bike got him to work and back for many years, in all weathers. He was certainly well ahead of his time.

On retirement, in 1990, David's creativity turned to gardening, where he spent many happy hours pottering around in his garden and sheds, still wearing a tie and sporting his favourite jacket. He loved growing fruit and vegetables, corn on the cob from plant to cooking pot in less than 5 mins was a speciality.

His long-standing battle to outwit the squirrels in the garden was source great family amusement. He made elaborate fruit cages and grew the pears in plastic bottles attached to the tree branches to protect the fruit. He usually outsmarted the wildlife one way or another, in his own unique way.

He was a wonderful provider for his family who he adored. He met his wife Jackie at a dance in 1958, they were married in 1960 and enjoyed a remarkable 63 years together. David is survived by his wife Jackie, 3 children , 6 grand children and his great granddaughter.

By Fiona Mook-Dewey (Daughter)