

Dr John Yearn

Pioneer in Dental Technology



John was a late starter! He joined in Form 54 in 1957, after his family had moved down from Stone. Some of his classmates had to ask where Stone was - and one or two where Staffordshire was! John quickly adapted to his new environment. He was a keen rugby player and a popular member of the class.

In 1960 he went to Aberystwyth to study Physics and six years later left, not only with a B.Sc. and PhD but also with a wife, Mary. In 1966 he joined ICI Petrochemical and Polymer Laboratory at Runcorn doing materials research and in 1973 moved to ICI Pharmaceuticals - developing novel medical devices. Having been shown a new resin which hardened with ultraviolet light, John immediately saw its potential as replacement for amalgam in restorative dentistry. John enthusiastically guided the product development, organised trials and secured the necessary

regulatory approvals. As Managing Director of ICI Dental, he led the sales team which succeeded in getting the product used by nearly every dentist in the world.

In 1990 ICI Dental was sold to its Japanese distributor and John moved to Chicago as a Vice-President of Production and Technology and three years later he transferred to the European Headquarters in Leuven, Belgium where he worked until he retired in 2003.

During his international career John and Mary always maintained a home in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, where he died peacefully in his sleep on 20th June 2010.