



A pioneering Darlington pathologist has died at the age of 90.

Dr John Tregillus, former pathologist at Darlington Memorial Hospital, died peacefully at the Terrace House Care Home, Richmond, on June 27 2010.

Dr Tregillus was born in Coventry in 1920. He won a scholarship to Bablake Grammar School, where he achieved high academic standards and became captain of the rugby team.

He studied medicine at Birmingham, qualifying in 1943, after which he joined the RAMC and saw active service at the Normandy landings.

On leaving the Army, he gained extensive training in pathological sciences before his appointment as the first general clinical pathologist at Darlington Memorial Hospital in 1952, where he set out to establish a new modern department.

But the post-war financial constraints did not allow him to achieve this ambition until 1980, when he secured a purpose-built pathology unit within the new hospital complex.

Dr Tregillus was widely respected by his medical and other colleagues.

He was a quietly-spoken modest man of utmost integrity. A founder member of the Royal College of Pathologists, he was awarded its honorary fellowship.

He was married to Eva, who was herself a Darlington GP, and they lived at Merrybent,

Obituary

Dr John Tregillus

in a house with an extensive garden where Dr Tregillus indulged his interest in growing.

Here he successfully grafted fruit trees and kept geese for a time.

Retiring in 1985, the couple moved from Merrybent to Reeth, where they continued their passion for walking and gardening.

Dr Tregillus always had an interest in vegetable growing and at the house in Reeth spent many hours on his plot, with his wife ringing the bell attached to the garage to call him in for meals.

In recent years, he grew saplings from seed and planted them beside footpaths on Fremington Edge.

He is survived by Eva, their nephew Peter Hartley, his wife, Sue, and their three sons.

This Obituary was contributed by Dr. Abdul Jaleel, retired consultant rheumatologist, Darlington Memorial Hospital and was first published in The Darlington and Stockton Times on 23 July 2010. Reproduced with permission.

The British Medical Journal obituary can be read on line here:

<http://www.bmj.com/content/341/bmj.c4371.full?sid=b6533cf8-6cfc-4f0a-b73b-48a841cc8dd7>