Interviewee: Alan Mayhew and Ed Attenborough

Profession/ Specialities: Alan Mayhew – oral surgeon, Ed Attenborough - Managing Director of Attenborough Dental

Date of the Interview: 30 June 2011

Location of interview: BDA Headquarters

Interviewer: Stephen Simmons

Recording equipment used: Zoom H4N Recorder, Rode Lavalier Microphones, Beyer M58 Microphones

Number of recordings: 2

Total length of recording: 46 minutes 2 seconds

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Summary of interview

01 – Mayhew – training at Guy’s in 1942. Motivations to go into dentistry. Attenborough – father’s route into dentistry
Comment on degrees available
Mayhew – use of a pantograph. Availability of porcelain teeth in the 1940s. Mayhew and Attenborough – introduction and use of polymethyl methacrylate (acrylic resin)
Mayhew – life as a student during WWII. Studying and living arrangements at Sherwood Park, experiences in the Fire Service. Attenborough – Father’s experiences in WWII.
Mayhew - taking of exams during WWII. Vote on the introduction of women into the course. Story of a bomb exploding nearby during an exam. Attenborough – father’s career options on graduation
Rooksdown House. Experiences working for private practice in Harley Street and decision to go into hospital work. Establishing the Embryo Club.

02 – Mayhew and Attenborough – discussion of photograph Embryo Club reunion 2009.
Mayhew – mention on the use of treadle drills.
Mayhew and Attenborough - discussion of photograph preliminary clinical class in operative dentistry, September 1945.
Mayhew and Attenborough - discussion of photograph House Officers at Guy’s, 1947.
Attenborough – history of Attenborough Dental Laboratory. Introduction and use of porcelain jacket crowns.
Mayhew – discussion of greatest professional achievement – working at Rooksdown House and formation of Rooksdown club.
Mayhew and Attenborough – advice to dentists and dental technicians starting their careers. Comment on growth of oral surgery.
Attenborough – registration of dental technicians.