

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We owe a debt of gratitude to the late Dr R J Donaldson [*JRSH* 2005;125(5):197], affectionately known as Paddy, for the fundamental contribution he made to our understanding of head louse control. In the 1970s, while he was the Medical Officer of Health in Teesside, he risked considerable adverse publicity to throw light on this problem, concealed by individuals and communities alike. He insisted it should be managed like any communicable disease by defining the source, reservoir and susceptible host with the appropriate intervention to break the chain of transmission. He led an intensive detection and treatment campaign. Monitoring showed that "Public education is, indeed, a most effective insecticide."¹ The Bug Busting Days organised by Community Hygiene Concern^{2,3} are built on this solid

evidence base. We will sorely miss our tireless mentor, Paddy Donaldson.

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for Community Hygiene Concern
www.chc.org

1 Donaldson RJ. Head Lice. In: Donaldson RJ, editor. *Parasites and Western Man*. Lancaster: MTP Press, 1979. pp. 57-77

2 Ibarra J, Hall DMB. Head Lice in School-children. *Arch Dis Child* 1996;75:471-3

3 Department of Health. *The Prevention and Treatment of Head Lice*. London: Department of Health, 2000

A free leaflet on head lice for schools is available from the Department of Health, PO Box 777, London SE1 6XH Fax: 01623 724 524 Email: doh@prolog.uk.com



Paddy Donaldson 1920-2005

Resilience in Healthcare: Energy, Coping and Healing

2-3 December 2005, Brighton Postgraduate Medical Centre, Brighton

This conference will explore tomorrow's healthcare, a broader understanding of health creation and the increasing part to be played by holism. Discussions will take form through plenary sessions and workshops. For more information see the British Holistic Medicine Association website: www.bhma.org/conference2005.

NICE 2005: Health and Clinical Excellence

7-8 December 2005, International Convention Centre, Birmingham

Health and Clinical Excellence is the leading event for senior healthcare directors and managers, clinicians and policy-makers. It profiles outstanding national and international examples of health improvements and clinical excellence and provides practical examples of implementing national guidance. It explores the challenges of public health and highlights new research and development initiatives. This year's conference will reflect the public health responsibilities that NICE has taken over from the Health Development Agency. For more information see the conference website: www.nice2005.co.uk.

2nd National Conference on Obesity and Health

20-21 March 2006, Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester

The aim of the conference will be to build upon the success of the 2005 event and again to pull together as many organisations and professionals as possible, using a cross-sectoral approach to the management of obesity, so as to form part of the process of forming partnerships and alliances for better public health. The meeting will aim to provide delegates with up-to-date information on what can be done socially and clinically for the improved treatment of obesity. For more details see the conference website: www.obesityandhealth.co.uk.