

Francis Goddard MRCS, LRCP, FRSM, FGS
1918 - 2003



Francis died in September after a long illness and, with his passing, we have lost our last link with the pre-war years.

Francis was born on 6th June, 1918 in Dursley, Gloucestershire, but was schooled in Bristol, at St. Brendan's College, before coming up to the University in 1935 to read medicine. He graduated in 1943 and first practised as House Surgeon at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the General Hospital before being called up to join the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1943. War Service took him to West Africa where he served until being demobbed in 1946.

After the war he took up general practice, first in a partnership in Walthamstow, Essex, until 1965 and then in Brighton and Hove where he stayed in practice until retirement in 1985. Amongst other tasks, he was appointed as Medical Officer for Brighton Racecourse. He was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and received their Silver Medal in 2003. He was also recognised with Life Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine in September of 2003.

During his student years in Bristol, he joined the Society and served as Secretary in 1940/1, but from more importantly, he will always be remembered as one of the discoverers of G.B. Cave in November 1939, at that time and for many years afterwards the Society's most significant cave discovery on Mendip. Along with Charles Barker, Francis gave one of his initials towards its name and he was the author of the first detailed report on the cave in these *Proceedings* (Goddard, 1944), a publication notable for its early use of underground colour photography.

After leaving Bristol, family ties and other commitments did not allow for many visits to Mendip and caving took a back seat to his other interests; including music, photography, travel, geology. He was a fellow of the Geological Society of London and was also a keen member of the RSPB. He remained a member of the Society, however, and remained in contact with many of his colleagues, notably Rod Pearce who always spoke of him with great affection particularly when remembering the difficulties that they shared during the war years.

Graham Mullan

Bibliography

GODDARD, F.J. 1944. G.B. Cave, Charterhouse on Mendip. *Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society*. 5. 2. 104-113.