

GENERATION NO. 10

MARK OWEN NEWTON BROWNFIELD

10. I. MARK OWEN NEWTON BROWNFIELD was born in 1963 in St Mary's Hospital Portsmouth and christened at St Mary's Church, Sheet, Petersfield.

For all of his childhood, Mark lived in Portsmouth, where he attended The Portsmouth Grammar School and at weekends, sailing in the Solent would become a regular part of family life. At school, he steered a 'middle of the road' course both in the classroom and on the playing field, choosing to try out everything, rather than to excel at any one thing in particular. Through involvement with the Combined Cadet Force he was able, at 14, to join an expedition to the Cairngorms and after a night under canvas above the snow line, felt destined to dedicate much of his life to the great outdoors. Later, by persuading masters to allow him to take geology AO level, he qualified for the legendary 'Geography Field Week', joining his stepbrother Quentin in Braithwaite, in the Lake District, for a week of beer and mountains. In his sixth form, he became the secretary for the 'British Association Young Scientists'; a position requiring him to arrange an academic programme of lectures in Portsmouth and securing him a place at the 'British Association' meeting in York.

In his lower sixth, Mark decided to pursue medicine as a career, which surprised his father, as he had always thought that living in the house of a hard-working GP would put him off! At school his masters were also surprised, but David Richards, a headmaster with a measure of foresight, gave permission for an extra lower sixth year to acquire the necessary qualifications, resulting in academic success and a place at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, part of the University of London.

Mark's five years at Medical School were something of a revelation, not only as a result of the academic challenge of a medical degree, but in the opportunities afforded him through the extra-curricular agenda. Day one saw him diligently placing scalpel to skin in the dissection room on the 14th floor, and from then on he would stagger through the curriculum, passing exams (once or twice on the second attempt) and eventually make the grade of Doctor of Medicine in December 1987. On the non-academic side, Mark spent his first year in the halls of residence in Notting Hill and then moved in to a house in Fulham with two contemporaries, Hugh Roberts and Andrew Sikorski. The major advantage of this new liaison was the sharing of their sporting interests with Hugh as a first team water polo player for the University of London, Andy an exceptional alpine skier, and Mark as an up and coming rock climber, later to become the president of the Charing Cross Mountaineering Club in his third and fourth years. Other diversions included the light opera society (Pirates of Penzance), raising money for the British Heart Foundation on 'The Fun Bus' and one or two Rugby Club Winter Balls.

In his fourth year, the year of the 'elective', Mark, Hugh and Andy flew to St Lucia for nine weeks, where they studied medicine in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Castries. Having satisfied the minimum requirements for the university, they embarked upon an adventure around the Caribbean, acquiring skills in sailing, water-skiing, deep-sea fishing, windsurfing and camping out on silver beaches under mosquito nets. Meanwhile, friends from medical school took the 'India' option, contracted dysentery and lost several stones in weight!

With MBBS under his belt, Mark proceeded to his first job as a house surgeon at Thanet District General Hospital, and adopting the nickname 'Brownie', he worked hard and played hard through six months with the terrifying Sister Richardson at the helm. His second house job took him to Amersham General Hospital, Bucks, where he met student nurse Emma, bribing her with cremation fees to get her to climb into his step-grandfather's racing green, MGBGT and ride off into the sunset. Armed with the Reader's Digest book of Great British round walks, they proceeded to travel the country, sleep under canvas and talk about their future. A courtship in the most traditional sense.

Buying a tiny flat in High Wycombe, Mark created his own GP training scheme, moving between Amersham and Wycombe and eventually joining Dr Leslie Lee as her trainee at the Pound

House Surgery in Wooburn Green. Dr Lee inspired Mark with all the most positive and holistic aspects of General Practice and very successfully launched him into a most rewarding vocation.

Mark and Emma were married in August 1991 and later bought 'Ragdoll Cottage' in Boxmoor, on the edge of Hemel Hempstead. He obtained his Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) in 1992 and his Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (DRCOG) in 1993. He also acquired certificates in Minor Surgery and Family Planning. In August of 2003, he became a partner at the 'Calcot Medical Centre' in Chalfont St Peter, but was not happy there and in August 1994, he moved to become a partner at the 'Kings Langley Surgery' in Hertfordshire. Here the partnership bestowed equal status on each member and he soon felt at home, able to apply his trade and contribute to the core culture of the practice. His only outside activity was a regular session in Watford A&E which he did for 5 years gaining Advanced Cardiac Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support certificates along the way.



Dr Anderson, the partner he had replaced was a well respected medical politician, and it was not long before Mark found himself performing similar functions, first as chairman of the local GP locality forum, and subsequently as an executive member of the Dacorum

Primary Care Trust. This post he held for 5 years and further developed his knowledge of the local health economy and the nature of political influences in health provision.

Mark and Emma were to be blessed with 3 sons, Jonathan, Harry and Benjamin, born in 1995, 1997 and 1999 respectively. Harry was born at home and a very dedicated and intuitive midwife, Lynn Webb, who has since retired, delivered all three into this world.

Leaving the world of medical politics, Mark's next chapter took him towards the task of training General Practitioners. Travelling to Cambridge and staying with an old family friend, Bobby Stopford, Mark managed to gain his Postgraduate Certificate in Medical and Healthcare Education (a course that was assessed at Masters level) in 2007. He is now working towards taking on his first trainee, just as Leslie Lee did in 1992 and his father did some 35 years beforehand.

As well as his work in the practice, Mark has developed a number of 'outside' medical interests and in 1994 was appointed Honorary Medical Advisor for the Hemel Hempstead Branch of the British Red Cross. In February 1995, he also took up a part time appointment as Hospital Practitioner in the Accident and Emergency Department at Watford General Hospital and during the six years that he continued with this work, he obtained qualifications in Advanced Trauma Life Support and Advanced Life Support. In 1998, he moved into medical politics and became the Chairman of the Hemel Hempstead and District Locality Forum and a board member of the Dacorum Primary Care Group. In April 2001, he was appointed GP Executive member of the Dacorum PCT. He married EMMA KATHARINE SMITH at St Paul's Church, Chipperfield, Buckinghamshire, on August 10, 1991. They are living in Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

Mark and Emma have three sons:

11. I. JONATHAN EDWARD BROWNFIELD who was born in Hemel Hempstead Hospital in 1995 and christened at St John's Church, Boxmoor.

II. HARRY SAMUEL BROWNFIELD who was born at home at Rag Doll Cottage in 1997 and christened at St John's Church, Boxmoor.

III. BENJAMIN RICHARD BROWNFIELD who was born in Hemel Hempstead Hospital in 1999 and christened in St Mary's Church, Chesham on November 19th 2000.

