**Dr Bertram Keir Brooker**

Consultant Psychiatrist (b 3rd January 1932, q Liverpool 1955, d 19th December 2024)

Dr. Bertram Keir Brooker (“Bert”) passed away on December 19th, 2024. Predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Berra, just three months earlier, Bert’s final chapter was marked by quiet courage as he faced dementia in his later years.

Born and raised in Wallasey in 1932, Bert’s early years were shaped by the upheaval of World War II, including being evacuated to Wales during the Blitz. These formative experiences instilled in him a lifelong resilience and an innate ability to adapt to life’s challenges—a theme that would echo throughout his storied career and personal life.

Bert graduated from Liverpool University in 1955, earning his M.B., Ch.B., and later achieving his D.P.M. and M.R.C.Psych. His career was as varied as it was distinguished. From house jobs at Clatterbridge to life-changing service in the Royal Air Force, Bert’s journey spanned continents and disciplines. His time in the Hebrides, St. Kilda, and Antarctica—where he served with ingenuity and compassion—earned him the Polar Medal, a testament to his adventurous spirit and skill under extreme conditions.

After leaving the RAF and holding various hospital and GP posts in the Wirral and Liverpool in the early 1960s, Bert chose psychiatry as his lifelong career. In 1964, he accepted a registrar post at the Royal Liverpool Infirmary, which evolved into a lecturer role and eventually a research fellowship at Liverpool University.

Bert’s professional life blossomed when he became a consultant psychiatrist in Warrington to serve Halton district in 1973. Over 27 years, he poured his energy into building highly regarded psychiatric services in Halton from the ground up, ensuring that those in need received compassionate, patient-centred care. His commitment to his patients and colleagues was reflected in the many leadership roles he assumed and the naming of a new psychiatric unit in his honour—a rare and well-deserved accolade.

Despite his demanding career, Bert made time for his many passions: mountaineering, cricket, bridge, skiing, golf, and his enduring love of theatre, opera, and fixing things. These pursuits reflected his curiosity, determination, and zest for life.

In retirement, Bert continued to inspire those around him with his wit, wisdom, and generosity of spirit. Even as dementia clouded his later years, his essence—a man of intellect, humour, and compassion—remained a guiding light to his family and friends.

Bert’s legacy is one of service, kindness, and a life lived to its fullest. He leaves behind his four children—two consultant anaesthetists, physiotherapist, and an artist—nine grandchildren, and countless others whose lives he touched. A born adventurer, Bert aptly referred to death as “the last great adventure.”

Rest in peace, Bert, reunited now with Berra. Together, you leave behind a legacy of love, adventure, and an enduring reminder of what it means to live with purpose.

**Charles Brooker**

**Son**