



Political Studies Association

The Political Studies Association is very sad to learn of the passing of Professor David Denver. David gave decades of service to Politics at Lancaster University and contributed selflessly to his profession. He served on the PSA Executive between 1988 and 2008. David's no-nonsense approach offered only a thin veil over his underlying kindness and very frequent willingness to assist colleagues. He was given a Special Recognition Award by the PSA in 2009.

David played an instrumental role in the development of the PSA's specialist group in Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP), helping it become one of the Association's largest and most successful bodies. He was particularly adept at encouraging the intellectual and social development of younger colleagues and loved nothing more than hearing new work on elections from a PhD student. David fostered a 'convivial' atmosphere via his regular presence at EPOP's annual conferences, He will be greatly missed and a warm tribute will no doubt be held at its gathering in Manchester next month.

David's specialism - perhaps obsession would be a better word - was the statistical aspect of elections; even during his final illness he was taking delight in advisory work for the Scottish boundary commission. He was an expert on both constituency boundaries and on constituency campaigning. As but one example of David's work, he demonstrated, with typical empirical rigour, that face-to-face canvassing of electors did have beneficial effects for political parties.

The author of numerous books and articles, David's most notable contribution is *Elections and Voters in Britain* (with Robert Johns: Palgrave Macmillan, 4th edition, 2022). He co-authored an authoritative study of *British General Elections since 1964* (Oxford University Press) and was a regular contributor of an excellent results chapter in the *Britain Votes* election series, also with Oxford University Press. David's first article, on religion and voting, was published (in *Political Studies*) in 1970 and his first pieces on constituency campaigning appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science* during the following year. He remained prolific for more than half-a-century.

As in the wider profession, David's colleagues at Lancaster University held him in the highest respect. Even more importantly, he was loved by the students who benefited from his teaching for many decades. After a brief period as a research assistant at the University of Dundee, David took up a lectureship at Lancaster in 1969, becoming a Senior Lecturer in 1990 and Professor in 1997.

Although he remained a proud product of Ayrshire in Scotland, David contributed greatly to the civic life of his adopted home in north-west England. His interests lay, in no particular order, mostly in golf, Robert Burns, Presbyterianism, real ale and the John O'Gaunt Liberal Club. The Association's deepest sympathies are extended to David's wife, Barbara and their two children.

PSA Vice-President Professor Jon Tonge