

John Cameron. Psychoanalyst.

1934 - 2023.

The death has occurred of John Cameron, the last of the original generation of Monkstown psychoanalysts.

John was born in Concord, Massachusetts in 1934. His father was professor of Church History at Boston University and John grew up in a liberal pacifist family with strong religious leanings. His uncle was jailed for refusing to bear arms in WW11, and some years later his older brother Dick was similarly sentenced to a year and a day in Denbury Penitentiary for refusing to fight in the Korean War. This had a bearing on John's future since Dick, disenchanted after his release, left America and settled in Ireland to train as a psychoanalyst under Jonty Hanaghan, the first psychoanalyst in Ireland. After a short number of years, John followed suit. John studied medicine here in Dublin and qualified as a doctor, but opted to work full-time as a psychoanalyst for over fifty years. Like all of the Monkstown group he was Freudian. And like all of the Monkstown group he felt strongly that no-one should be refused analysis because of poverty. As a result he always had a number of analysands on very low fees. In many ways conservative, John was great fun, with a lively intelligence and a willingness to participate in discussions and reading groups. He also had many interests outside of psychoanalysis. He was a keen and knowledgeable birdwatcher, a year round swimmer, a jogger and marathon runner and a fan of nudist beach holidays.

John was a very gifted musician, who wrote wonderful music and was organist and choirmaster at Monkstown Church for many decades.

The last time I saw him was on Dun Laoghaire pier - an alarming sight - tall, spectrally thin and terrifyingly unsteady on his feet but full of good humour, and I think now; that was John. A gallant man.

He is survived by his much loved wife and lifelong companion Jane, his daughter and son Wendy and Bruce, their partners and his beloved grandchildren, Siofra and Conor as well as his wider family here and in America.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhilis.

Olga Cox Cameron.