

Tribute paid to popular doctor

by Lesley Anslow

TRIBUTE has been paid to a well-known and popular Stowmarket GP who died suddenly, while on holiday, 10 years after having a heart transplant.

Dr Ian Jenkins was a partner at Stowhealth in Violet Hill Road. He died while in Colombo, Sri Lanka aged 54.

A talented athlete, he developed a rare heart condition 10 years ago and, following a successful transplant, vowed it would not deter him from leading a full and active life.

The father of two had set up a project to encourage people to visit the gym after major surgery. This was two years before he himself needed life-saving surgery.

At the time, he told the Bury Free Press: "It really shows that having had a transplant there is



Dr Ian Jenkins

no reason why you cannot go on being your normal self except, now, I appreciate everything life has to offer."

This week, colleagues at the health centre paid tribute to Dr Jenkins and a table was set aside for patients to leave messages and cards for his family.

Following the transplant, Dr Jenkins continued to work full-time and continued his sporting

activities as well as enjoying extensive travel with his wife Sheila visiting India, Laos and other countries.

Dr Michael Helliwell, senior partner, and Dr Simon Rudland, executive partner, said of him: "A lesser individual might have sought early retirement on health grounds, but Ian was determined to work as a full-time partner, caring for his patients.

"His dedication remained an inspiration to his patients and colleagues alike.

"He will be greatly missed by all the team at Stowhealth and all his patients in Stowmarket for whom he cared so well.

Dr Jenkins had been a long-serving member of the Suffolk Local Medical Committee and was also involved in primary care trust committees.

He leaves his wife, Sheila and their two children Alice and Charlie.

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