

OBITUARIES



Margaret Anne Evelyn Baker

Tim Baker



Margaret Anne Evelyn Baker (née Stuart) was described at her funeral as a “sociable, determined lady, who had a precise mind and great sense of fun, who was always busy, and who had an amazing life story.”

She was born to a third generation Singapore family, the only child of a lawyer and nurse. At the age of 6, she was sent to boarding school in Sydney and lived with her cousins; she did not see her parents for five years. At age 11, she travelled with a guardian by ship to Africa, lived briefly in Uganda, and then moved to boarding school in Kenya. At age 13, she travelled to England, to Westonbirt School in Gloucestershire, but when war broke out, she was evacuated by ship to South Africa and started at another boarding school, in Johannesburg. At the end of the war, after a year of working in a government office in Uganda, she flew to Cairo. She then went on a troopship back to the UK to attend medical school.

Soon after qualifying, she met and married Geoff, during her house jobs at Mile End Hospital. They remained married for 62 years. They spent their first two married years in Germany, while Geoff completed his national service. There, their first son, Michael, was born, and they developed a passion for skiing, which she continued until the age of 88.

On returning to England, the family settled in Englefield Green. As the wife of a GP, Margaret brought up four children and studied, passing her diploma in child health in 1971. She worked in community and school clinics, and as a clinical assistant at Ashford Hospital, until the late 1980s.

She always kept active, playing regular tennis and golf, as well as skiing, gardening, and playing the piano. However, her family was always her main priority.

Her determination and character helped her survive two cancers, of the ovary in 1979 and of the colon in 2005. However, she developed dementia late in life. Margaret’s and Geoff’s health declined rapidly over 12 months, and they died three months apart. She leaves four children and eight grandchildren.

Biography

Paediatrician Ashford Hospital, Middlesex (b 1926; q London Hospital 1952; DCH), died with dementia on 11 August 2016.

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