Obituary

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at jonathan.coe@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 400 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 800 words).

Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the BDA.

Fiona Jane Lawrie
1954–2019

Fiona Jane Lawrie was born in Huddersfield and attended King's College to study dentistry; a strange choice, as her sister Morag remembers Fiona having a brace fitted in her mid-teens, which she never wore, becoming an expert at finding hiding places!

At King's, Fiona met her future husband, Howard. They married in 1981, settling in Brackley where they worked as associates before purchasing a run-down practice in Cosham, Portsmouth, which they built into a successful business. During this time, Fiona also served as a magistrate, and continued to do so for 24 years until 2015

when she rose to the position of Bench Chairman.

In 1991, Fiona and Howard were overjoyed to be joined by Alasdair and two years later Iain was born. With the family now complete, Fiona focused everything around Howard, Alasdair and Iain. She was always in her element when entertaining; woe betide anyone who interfered with her kitchen! The family developed a passion for skiing, even though the boys soon left Fiona behind on the slopes. This came with the usual mishaps of gashed knees and broken shoulders. When she went to see the consultant regarding her shoulder, he told her, 'it's healed very well, but I'm afraid you won't be skiing on that shoulder again.' As one might expect Fiona's response was, 'that's not a problem, I've got another one!'

In June 2011 Fiona retired and immediately threw herself into her hobbies of quilting, fabric design, flower arranging and cycling with the Rowlands Rollers,

even undertaking the Hayling to Holland ride and completing 350 miles in five days. Friends remember getting lost in Holland; the men got out the GPS, while Fiona pulled out a map and found the hotel within a minute! Golfing was tried but dismissed, with Fiona's main concern the safety of others if she continued!

Fiona had a happy fulfilling life, even when her illness got in the way she held her chin up and carried on not letting anyone, including Howard, know her pain. It was only in the last six months she suffered. Even this didn't stop her travelling with the Rollers to Newquay or seeing her beloved puffins in Northumberland.

Howard has lost a dear friend, lover, wife and soulmate. Alasdair and Iain have lost a caring and generous mother who always put them first. Her heart and kindness touched all who met her. She is sadly missed by us all.

Bridget Ashton and Howard Pollard

"I can't express my gratitude for your help, I really appreciate this. It's very helpful and it will give me the opportunity to focus on university and get my financials in order. Again, many thanks for your support."

You do not need to be a member of the BDA to receive help.

Please call us on 0207 4864994 or
apply via www.bdabenevolentfund.org