

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jadene Doak at [jadene.doak@springernature.com](mailto:jadene.doak@springernature.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 *BDJ*.



**Richard Elvin**  
1956–2022

It is with great sadness that I have to notify the profession of the sudden loss of my great friend and colleague, Richard Elvin – a massive stalwart of the general dental practitioner (GDP). He died very suddenly on Wednesday 27 April 2022.

I first met Richard in our student days at UCH London in the late 1970s, and this was the beginning of our 40+ years of friendship. After a few years as an associate, he bought a practice in Borehamwood in Hertfordshire which he grew into a successful practice. We decided that he would sell his practice and we went into a long and fruitful partnership in the late 1980s, until Richard sold the practice in 2011. He fully retired as a clinician in 2015.

Richard became involved with dental politics early, starting with the Watford Section, progressing to the Middlesex and Hertfordshire Branch, where he served as both Chair and for years as Treasurer, becoming Branch President in 2005. A real details man, he organised the Branch Presidential trips for years which were held in various cities of Europe.

He joined the Herts LDC in the early 1990s originally, as he was aghast at the idea of GDPs having to provide 24-hour emergency cover in their practices. Needless to say, he got this overturned with his usual powers of reasoned argument. He became Chair of Hertfordshire LDC and followed this with Chair of LDC Conference in 2013.

He became Treasurer of the BDA Benevolent Fund for nearly 20 years, where his passion for helping colleagues and their families was fully evident. His other passion

was to help all GDPs in their working life, which he did for years as part of GDPC.

In 2020, Richard was quite rightly awarded the BDA Fellowship Medal in recognition of distinguished and exceptional service to the Association and/or the dental profession.

Outside of dentistry, his other love was watching Queens Park Rangers with his family.

After retiring, he attained the prestigious City of London Green Badge from the Institute of Tourist Guiding which he was proud to have completed – his specialist area was the City of London.

I was lucky to call him a friend and he will be missed greatly by all who knew him. My thoughts are especially with his brother and sister, their children and his long-standing partner Katie who I know he loved dearly.

Russell Heathcote-Curtis



**Eszter Nagy**  
1936–2022

Eszter Nagy sadly passed away on 3 February 2022. Her life was one of determination, endeavour and success, at times in exceedingly difficult circumstances.

She was born in Székesfehérvár, Hungary, in 1936. She met her future husband Louis (Lajos) while they were medical students in Budapest, where their studies were curtailed by the 1956 Hungarian uprising and Russian occupation. Forced to escape to Austria with only the clothes they were wearing, they arrived in England in December 1956.

In January 1957, with the help of families who had given them shelter, Eszter and Louis found jobs at, respectively, Bromley Hospital and Farnborough Hospital. They both studied

English intensively and were able to pass the test in English language proficiency in early September 1957, a remarkable achievement.

It proved impractical to pursue their career in medicine and Eszter and Louis were advised to consider dentistry. While beginning their studies at the Dundee Dental School of St Andrews University in 1957, they married on 28 December that year at a small ceremony. Having both qualified, Eszter and Louis moved to Sevenoaks in Kent in 1961.

Eszter forged a dedicated and respected dental career, starting part-time in a Maidstone practice until January 1963. After taking time from work to raise their children – David, Agnes and Monika – Eszter took a one-year retraining course at Guy's Hospital Dental School in 1972.

She subsequently began work in the Kent Dental School Service, which was eventually re-structured as the Community Dental Service. Eszter was particularly interested in paediatric dentistry, skilfully treating children during school visits and at her Larkfield practice near Maidstone.

Her consummate organisational skills also saw her acting as Secretary for the West Kent Section (Southern Counties Branch) of the British Dental Association for 12 years. Eszter then became the Section representative to the Branch of the BDA and was co-opted as Vice-Chairman of the Branch. She also provided invaluable guidance and support for Louis during his very successful year as Southern Counties Branch President in 1992, as well as arranging presidential events and social outings.

In a richly fulfilled life, Eszter was highly creative, particularly with embroidery and dressmaking. She was also much appreciated as an expert cook and a brilliant host. A caring and dependable rock for her family and friends, Eszter was loved by everyone and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Agnes Nagy and Stuart Oakenfull