

# 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*.



**Hilary Firestone**  
1956–2022

Hilary Firestone was a name that suited her. A sassy, smart, opinionated and knowledgeable person who cared profoundly for the people around her. She cut a dash on the ground floor restorative clinic – whether in a tunic and heels pre-COVID, or tailored scrubs during the pandemic. Dry humour and great dentistry were something she generously shared with her students and patients alike.

Hilary was born in Salford, Manchester to Rita and Merton Firestone. She attended Broughton High School; no one wanted to be head girl, so she volunteered! She was in the top set but messed up her A-Levels and had to retake them. This made her even more determined and ambitious. She chose dentistry because her biology teacher told her to!

Graduating from Birmingham University in 1980, she went to work at the London Hospital and the Liverpool Dental Hospital. She met her husband Terry at a party and returned to Manchester in 1985 when she started working as a restorative tutor at Manchester Dental School. From 1989, she worked in practice and later began working as an expert witness. She found the legal aspect of her work fascinating, taking up much of her professional spare time. She was never without a file so she could write a report wherever she found herself in a coffee shop, department store or on holiday. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching students, learning as much from them as they did from her. She did not suffer fools gladly but was the favourite tutor of hundreds of students.

She loved skiing, running, and was an intrepid traveller. She would wake at 5.15 am to do some housework and a workout before work. Her main love, other than her family and dentistry, was shopping. She always looked impeccable. Her Judaism was very important to her, especially Saturdays, the only day she rested. She would often invite students for Friday night dinner. Once she even persuaded them to come in formal black-tie attire! She actively participated in many charitable causes.

In January 2022, she was diagnosed with cancer. Teaching at Manchester Dental School for 37 years, she came across thousands of staff and students who all adored her. She was a huge presence and an icon at the Dental School who will be so sorely missed. We send our heartfelt condolences to her husband and children, Terry, Georgia, Imogen, and Ethan.

By Lynne Dover and Mark Shupac



**Nuala Mary Brigid Mitzi Macey-Dare (née Coyle)**  
1934–2022

Dr Nuala Mary Brigid Mitzi Macey-Dare (always known professionally as Dr Mitzi Coyle) was born in Blackheath, London on 19 June 1934, the fourth of eight children of an Irish doctor, Dr Cecil Coyle (who was then the Medical Superintendent of the Fulham Hospital and went on to become the Medical Superintendent of the Whittington Hospital and also the President of the Hunterian Society) and Madge Day, an English nurse (who had won the nursing Gold Medal as a student at the Mile End

Hospital). She was educated at West Hill Preparatory School in Putney, followed by the Sacred Heart Convent (known as Beechwood) in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mitzi studied dentistry at the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square, where she won the Dolomere Prize and the Amalgamated Dental Scholarship. She was the first woman to be appointed a student demonstrator at the Royal Dental, where she later became a house surgeon.

Mitzi qualified in 1960 and spent a brief period in general dental practice. In February 1962, she married fellow dental surgeon Dr Barry Macey-Dare, whom she had met at the Royal Dental. She and her husband moved initially to East Horsley, followed by Guildford. After settling in Surrey, Mitzi entered the Surrey Community Dental Service, rising to Clinical Director and General Manager of Community Dentistry of the Surrey and Hampshire Borders NHS Trust. She was on the Specialist Register of paediatric dentists and obtained an MSc (London), the DDPH (Royal College of Surgeons) and an MBA (OU).

On retiring from general practice, Mitzi pursued a second career in Forensic Odontology, having obtained the Dip F Od and also an LLB. She worked mainly for the Surrey Coroner and was involved with several high-profile criminal cases, including identifying the body of the 13-year-old school girl, Millie Dowler, who went missing in September 2002.

Mitzi and her husband, Barry (who died in April 2021) were married for 59 years. She is survived by her five children – one of whom, Dr Lucy Macey-Dare, is a Consultant Orthodontist at the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – and 12 grandchildren.

By Edward Macey-Dare