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 *BDJ*.

Mary Jane Morris
(née Fox)

1959–2017

Mary Jane was born in Manchester but brought up in Leeds and was always staunchly proud of her northern roots. Despite living in the south for most of her adult life, she never lost her accent and was renowned for her typically northern direct style. Mary Jane had two sisters who became psychiatrists, but she followed a different pathway and trained in dentistry at Guy's Hospital Dental School, qualifying in 1981. Her friends and colleagues will always remember her style and flair for design and for her infectious laugh and happy nature that often shone through. This was in spite of having acute liver

disease with complications requiring extensive surgery during adolescence. She was affected by chronic illness throughout her life, frequently requiring prolonged stays in hospital which she managed with her characteristic fighting spirit and determination.

After graduation, her career pathway led to hospital posts; initially at Sheffield and then Ipswich General Hospital. After her Senior House Officer post at Bristol Dental Hospital, Mary Jane went into general dental practice in Stroud. It was here that she found her vocation, using her skills in general dentistry to treat people from all walks of life which she continued while a partner in her own practice in Redland, Bristol. There, she met her former husband, Chris, and moved to the South West of London, where she remained until she became too ill to work. She also went back to her alma mater, working in, what was to her and her peers, the 'PTU Department'.

Due to her illness, Mary Jane was not able to give birth, and so adopted James and then, James's younger sister, Laura. She loved both her children unconditionally and she was as ambitious for James and Laura as she was for herself, dedicated to their education, playing a governing role in shaping their outlooks and beliefs. Mary Jane enjoyed listening to music and as part of her role as a devoted mother often forced her eclectic tastes onto the children for the benefit of their education! Mary Jane also adored gardening and her flair for design was reflected in her interest in art, fabrics, china, embroidery and photography.

Mary Jane battled oesophageal cancer to the bitter end, even attending a Guy's reunion a few months before she died on 22 October 2017. She is sorely missed by her family and all her friends, to whom she was so loyal.

Pamela Stephenson

The BDA Benevolent Fund has been working for over 130 years to ensure that no dentist is unsupported in times of need or crisis. Our ultimate aim is to reach more people in need. We need dentists in all areas of the UK to help spread the word.

If you know someone who is finding it hard to cope, make sure they know about the BDA Benevolent Fund. If we can help, we will. Share, like and keep up to date with our efforts on our Facebook page: facebook.com/bdabenenevolentfund/