

Margot was born in Fiji and spent quite a part of her life there. She was a chemistry teacher, continuing to teach into her seventies, and was still marking chemistry A-level papers this summer.

She had two daughters and shared a house with the family of one of them. She led an extremely busy life, rising early to ensure her grandchildren breakfasted well and caught the school bus in time. Then on to Esporta for an activity class. At Esporta she was the unassuming hub of a social group where she gave support and counsel to all her friends. In the afternoon, she walked the family dog before preparing the evening meal. And then, of course, in the evening it was time for bridge.

On Saturday evening she had had an enjoyable time with the three friends she had invited round for dinner and bridge (Pauline Grant, Kay Bicknell and Jane Cox). She died that night aged 82, less than 2 weeks before her 83rd birthday.

We all knew her most of all at the bridge table where she excelled in her declarer play but was also a perfect partner or opponent. Always polite, never self-centred, never having an unkind word to say about anyone. She was never heard to complain about anyone or anything. To her partners she was much more than this. We will all miss her kindness, her support and her unfailingly positive attitude. Above all, Margot was a giver and in her life she gave unstintingly of her time, patience and care to all her friends and family. We will all miss her so much.

Moira Pavelin

19 December 2011