

ANGELA MACKENZIE (1923–2011)



Angela Speed was born in 1923 and educated at St Philomena's, Charshalton, a Catholic Convent School. Having worked for some years as a secretary, in 1956 she achieved her ambition of becoming a stewardess with BOAC. She flew in Britannias, Comet IVs and Boeing 707s and served on two royal flights, with Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra.

After BOAC Angela returned to secretarial work and eventually became executive secretary to Alastair Mackenzie at Commercial Union in the City. Angela and Alastair married in 1974 and acquired the Old Well House in Deddington as their country home.

Marriage to Alastair was a fast-moving whirl of travel, entertaining and regular visits to Covent Garden and the theatre. Angela, without children herself, and Alastair enjoyed the company of Jonathan and Andrew, sons of Angela's brother Anthony, taking them to the theatre and ballet and even on a canal holiday; her nephews' progress was an abiding interest.

Alastair died in 1989 after a long illness and then in the mid-90s Angela was diagnosed with tongue cancer. Treatment was successful, but left her having to learn to speak again. Her characteristic strong-mindedness enabled her to do this and, though her self-confidence and vivaciousness were somewhat diminished, she was nevertheless able to take several cruises, go on a cycling holiday in the Jura and to visit Antarctica.

Anthony Speed and HW