

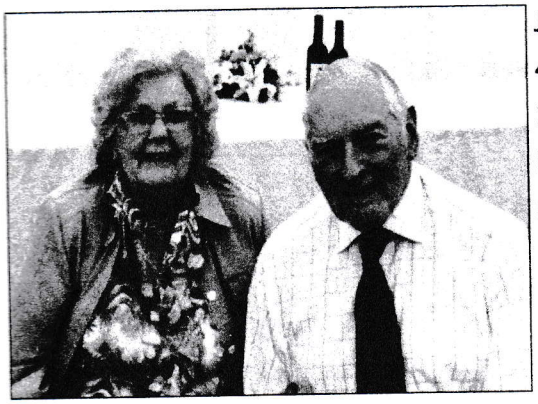
John Pearce Baker

1926-2020

John was born in Wolverhampton on May 25th 1926, the only child of Douglas and Violet. He was educated at Tettenhall College and then read Natural Sciences at Queen's College, Cambridge. He undertook his National Service in the Royal Navy and spent most of his time in Malta involved in weather forecasting.

He joined James Baker and Sons Ltd in 1949 representing the fourth generation of the family business and later becoming Director. In the 1960s an old friend Brian Woolley became assistant manager of Barclays Bank, Snow Hill. He well remembers whenever 'Mr Douglas' (father) or 'Mr John' came to the bank from their nearby offices and factory the staff were under strict instructions to give them the 'best possible courteous service'.

John married Doreen at St Mary's Church, Stafford on 25th July 1962 and they had two daughters, Annabel and Caroline. They met at Wolverhampton and Stafford Car Club of which they were both members. They also shared a keen interest in sailing and were members of South Staffordshire Sailing Club where they raced GP 14s. They later graduated to a larger boat when John bought a 30 foot yacht called Crispin (Saints Crispin and Crispinian are the the patron saints of shoemakers) which he moored on the west coast of Scotland. Old friends Rod and Jen Jones were among those who sometimes crewed for John on trips around Scotland and Ireland. He was always a perfect gentleman but occasionally crafty – putting Rod at the helm at tricky times! The Bakers also enjoyed many happy family holidays at Aberdovey and Abersoch.



John was chairman of Round Table in 1966-7 and later chairman of the 41 Club from 1971-2. He was introduced to Rotary by Rod Jones in 1971 and became president of the club in 1981-2. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for long service in 2016. Both Doreen and John made many friends through all these clubs.

In 1984 the club was interested in opening an MS treatment centre using high pressure (hyperbaric) oxygen and John drove Dr. Fraser Dukes and Peter Williams, Club President and President Elect, to Glasgow (and back on the same day!) to visit a centre of Action for Research into Multiple Sclerosis. Subsequently John became chairman of our local ARMS committee and was fully involved in a public meeting, fundraising and setting up the Wolverhampton and District MS Centre with a small pressure chamber in 1986 and a larger one (brought from Middlesex Hospital) in 1993. John arranged the refurbishment of the new chamber by a Tipton company. The Centre is now a charity offering relief to many MS patients.

John has four grandchildren, Harry, Isobel, Lottie and Katie of whom he was immensely proud. He enjoyed spending time with them while they were growing up and in recent years loved seeing them at family occasions and Sunday lunches.

He had a keen interest in classical music and enjoyed evenings at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, In later life he took up woodwork and created several beautiful pieces of furniture, winning amateur cabinet maker awards.

Doreen is now 95 and though sadly unable to take part in John's Memorial Service she was able to spend time with him in his final weeks.