

Celebrating the Women of MTW

Maggie Matthews – Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, teacher and adviser



Maggie grew up in Purley and always knew she would work in healthcare. Her parent's friends were medics and her Mum a nurse who worked full time - which in itself was quite unusual at that time. As a Matron of a nursing home, looking back, Maggie felt that her Mum was her role model. Maggie and her Brother were always encouraged to achieve their best and neither of them were treated differently to each other. She spent quite some time helping out at the nursing home where she decided that a career in medicine was definitely for her!

Maggie went to medical school and loved both Obs and Gynae and General Practice. Obs and Gynae won her heart due to the variety of both medical and surgical skills and working with multi-

disciplinary teams.

Maggie's husband is also a clinician and they moved around together without a hard and fast plan, making decisions about things as they happened. Her husband became an A&E Consultant at MTW in 1999 and the family moved from London to Kent.

When Maggie joined MTW as a Consultant, she knew it was important that her team understood what it was like from a patient's perspective and instilled the principle that it's mostly about being kind. Maggie loves teaching and recalls a time when she taught anatomy. The Professor insisted that she teach using a book and was not impressed when she revealed a model she had made of an eye to help with the complicated learning. She decided to continue to use the model and swore her group to secrecy! Not content with teaching, Maggie also loves learning and completed her Masters just a few years ago.

When she first joined the Trust, there were 70 Consultants – only 10 of whom were women. When Sarah Flint joined the team, they set up a women's dining club which gave them an opportunity to support each other over a cheeky glass of wine. Maggie has noticed gender stereotyping over the years and when asking her children what they thought she did at work, they said she was a nurse. Whilst acknowledging that equality is moving on, she spends a lot of time talking to the younger members of her family about it not happening passively.

Maggie adores her three children; when they were growing up, she and her husband shared the household jobs and learnt that compromise was key and it really didn't matter if the house wasn't spotless. They made a lot of friends, accepted help where it was offered and were really well supported by their parents. Maggie is very proud to have created an open family home where her children's friends are always welcome and there's often a house full of people.

Knowing how important it is to make time for each other as a couple, Maggie's advice is "Take offers of help, stick to your principles, do the things that you enjoy and take on challenges. And always make time for your friends and family".

Not one to be idle, Maggie loves to socialise with friends, walk and is part of a book group. She also sits on a NICE Obstetrics committee, is a committee member of the British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society, runs the annual RCOG labour ward course and talks at national events.

- Consultant OBGYN
- Adviser and supporter
- Accomplished teacher
- Talks at National events
- Member of several Committees