

JDA 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Plus:
Jewish
Deaf History
website
launch

CELEBRATING JDA'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

It's not just Her Majesty The Queen celebrating her Platinum Jubilee this year — the Jewish Deaf Association is also celebrating serving the community for 70 years! (Actually, we're a little late, because of covid lockdowns last year.)

On Sunday 8 May 2022, 100 people from the Deaf community enjoyed our spectacular celebration evening. It was wonderful to see so many people attending our special event, especially those who travelled far to join us. A most memorable occasion. The event was organised by committee members Ann Clements, Barry David, Linda Woolfe, Sara Olsen, Mira Goldberg and Carolyn Denmark. This wonderful evening was chaired by Barry David and celebrated:

- 70th Anniversary of JDA
- 100th Anniversary of Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children (RSJDC)
- Launch of Jewish Deaf History (London) website.



Mira Goldberg paid tribute to JDA's invaluable work at the heart of the Deaf community over the past 70 years. The event also reunited lifelong friends — now aged 63–97 years old — who grew up together at the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children (RSJDC).



RSJDC 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Linda Woolfe made a speech to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the school, which opened in 1865 and closed down in 1965. The school held many memories for all past pupils.



Daniel Clements showed everyone the website on big screen. It was emotional to see, at long last, Jewish Deaf people's stories, photos, videos and memorabilia, preserving the history of the JDA, World Organisation of Jewish Deaf, Jewish Deaf Sports and the RSJDC.

The website is generously sponsored by Harold Fallman, who has been a JDA member since he was 16 years old.

It was created by Ben Glover, a professional Deaf video designer.



Four elders of the community and former RSJDC pupils — Harold Fallman, Miriam Solomon, Leslie Bieber and Martin Binysh — cut a stunning 70th Anniversary cake, created by deaf baker Ravit Freeman of Peaks and Swirls.



The website content was compiled thanks to months of hard work from Deaf volunteers Barry David, Ann Clements, Mira Goldberg (JDA Trustee), Linda Woolfe, Carolyn Denmark, Sara Olsen and Daniel Clements, supported by the help and input of many Deaf people in the community.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this amazing event and the new website. Here's to many more years of creating Jewish Deaf history together!



All eyes were then on Harold Fallman when he pressed the big red button and fireworks appeared. This was the big moment everyone had been waiting for — the launch of the new Jewish Deaf History (London) website:

www.jdeafhistorylondon.co.uk.

JDA 70TH ANNIVERSARY — continued

OUR MEMBERS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES FROM THE EVENT



David Jackson writes:

The event was worth going to from where we live (Bristol) — over 100 miles to reunite with over 100 people we had not seen for ages. It was good to see them after so long. There were many highlights — but the main one was the announcement of a new website tracing the history of the JDA. It is something that we can enjoy looking at and reminding ourselves of how involved we were. What is more is that we can look it up from wherever we are — at home or on holiday, maybe from the other side of the world. And we can add to it with our “forgotten” photos and stories.

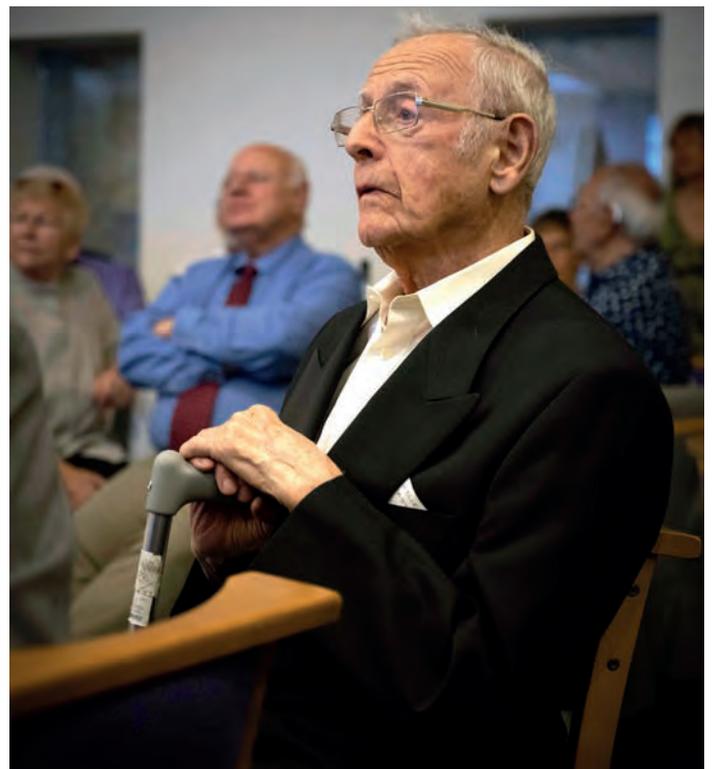
Thanks must go to the hard-working team who made the event a great success. For us, the JDA is never far away.



Michael Higham Corney writes:

The JDA anniversary and the RSJDC reunion was on Sunday 8 May in celebration of seventy years — when we were all teenagers. There were 100 guests, many ex-RSJDC. Georges Lehrer is a very rare Deaf Rabbi so it was very special when he blessed the bread for us.

We all enjoyed our lovely meals including salmon in pastry. Many of us were like chatterboxes after all these years. The seven committee members worked very hard in planning the celebration. It took five months! We must thank them so much. Some of us hugged as we said farewell.





▲ Raising a glass to JDA — Christine Bennett, Ann Clements, Helen Schreiber-Smith and Michael Hunt



Miriam Solomon writes:

The 70th Birthday celebration of the Jewish Deaf Association and the Jewish Deaf History website launch was a resounding (excuse the pun) success. Mazeltov!

This was done by the wholly Deaf committee with no outside help. They found the right venue, chose the menu, arranged the tables adorned with members' names. We all gathered in a nearby room for drinks and nibbles, all in animated chatter about our school days, looking at photos of times past. I discovered elderflower juice and liked it a lot.

Carolyn Denmark gave the opening speech and we sat down to supper. Everything went like clockwork and was very well managed. I was very surprised but proud and honoured to be asked to make the first cut of the beautiful huge cake. I am sure we all went home full of good cheer and happiness after meeting up with our old school friends.

This event was triggered in the covid lockdown when Ann Clements decided to do something with the huge amount of her and her late husband Harvey's family photos. It took her three months to sort out! Meanwhile Barry David also had his hands full with his uncle Harold Fallman's photos. Also, some members who had passed away had left their photo albums behind.

Ann, Barry, Mira and Carolyn led the process, with permission from Sue Cipin to access the JDA archives and scan all pictures from 1951 onwards. They wanted to save all those precious memories before they get lost.

Ann asked all the members to find any JDA and school memorabilia and lend them to be scanned. I gave a lot of my own mementos, interesting papers, metal and cloth badges to scan as well. I was not on the committee but gave a lot of my spare time and input "behind the scenes". Ann tasked me with identifying all the young faces in the piles of old photos from school, outings, holidays, etc. I was happy to do it as I knew almost all of them. I wish I counted how many I did — Ann estimated about 700! More to come!

Sue suggested a link between celebrating JDA's 70th anniversary and the new website. Daniel Clements found somebody to design a new website and so everything came together at the right time.

Many thanks to Martin Binysh and Harold Fallman for their very generous donations.

JDA 70TH ANNIVERSARY —continued



Paula Boreham, Alan Daniels, Colleen Daniels, Maria Roodenburgh, Terry Mills



Kim Purnell, Stella Seymour, Eva Mansell, Ross Mansell



George Panayi, Maureen Winterflood, Janet McAuley, Georges Lehrer



Howard Woolfe, Linda Woolfe, Ann Hart, Ruth Lawrence, Rina Mullan



David Rose, Daniel Langholtz, Barry David, Sandra David, Carolyn Denmark



Former pupils of the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children reunite



Sharon Hirshman, Mark Hart, Rose Hart, Denise Hart, Simeon Hart

JDA 70TH ANNIVERSARY —continued



Emanuel Cilia, Mira Goldberg, Hava Fielding-Jackson, David Jackson



Phillip Gardner, Donna Bull, Gerald Franks, Roy Winterflood



Leo Mansell, Simone Tamary, Richard Weinbaum, Rebecca Kaye



Rosalind Bieber, Ruth Steiner, Jack Schwartz, Deidre Schwartz



Leslie Masters, Leslie Bieber, Brenda Sterne, Michael Corney



Neil Kaufman and Christine Bennett



Alan Murray and June Smith

Jewish Deaf History London

NEW WEBSITE IS NOW HERE!

The new Jewish Deaf History (London) website was launched on 8 May 2022 — thanks to months of hard work from committee members Ann Clements, Barry David, Linda Woolfe, Sara Olsen, Mira Goldberg and Carolyn Denmark.

It shares videos, photos and memorabilia from the Jewish Deaf community over the years. Members of Limping Chicken (popular deaf blog) met with committee members Ann Clements and Carolyn Denmark to discuss the significance of this website, with contributions also from Mira Goldberg and Barry David. Here is an adaptation of their report:

Hi! Tell us a bit about you and your involvement in Jewish Deaf Association



Ann: My name is Ann Clements, my parents were both Deaf. I am one of the committee members for Jewish Deaf History (London) and I am also responsible, together with Barry David and Daniel Clements, for the overall

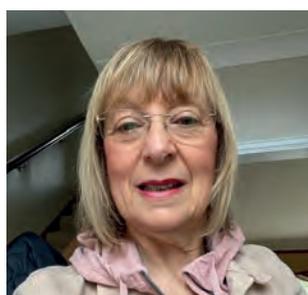
design of the website, updating and maintaining it.

My late parents were both members of JDA when the club was in Cazenove Road back in the 1950s. They met there and married.

When I left school I asked my parents about meeting a Jewish Deaf man as I went to a non-Jewish school and didn't know how to find where there was a Jewish Deaf community. This is when I was told about JDA.

So I joined JDA back in the 1980s and there I met my late husband Harvey Clements. I have been a member since then.

Now I work for JDA and it's like one big family. I have been a member for over 30 years and I have worked for JDA for over 16 years in various roles. My current role is Dcafe (Deaf cafe) Manager and Outings Manager. I love my job and being with the Deaf community.



Carolyn: I am Carolyn Denmark/Nabarro. I come from six generations of Deaf families and have several personal stories relating to JDA from my late grandparents and my parents, as well as my extended relatives, as

most of my family also attended the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children (RSJDC).

Some of my relatives attended Oak Lodge School for the Deaf which was practically next door to the RSJDC. I believe this was a worldwide first – having two large Deaf schools standing next to each other at Nightingale Lane, Balham, London.

During my childhood, my parents always took me and my Deaf sister Linda to Jewish Deaf Association (JDA) on special occasions as they opened on Sundays during our school holidays.

I loved watching the elderly members talking about their lives and chatting to each other. I was lucky as they shared their personal stories with me, some of which have always stayed with me throughout my life. I do value their stories and my experiences growing up at RSDJC and JDA.

I was thrilled to put Jewish Deaf History (London) on the map. I was happy to offer guidance to the team from time to time and helped with the translation work on the website.

How did the idea for the Jewish Deaf History (London) website come to life and develop?

Ann: During lockdown I was sorting out our family photos. I had boxes of old photographs from my late husband Harvey and my late in-laws – hundreds of photos were sorted! I came across historical photographs including those from JDA, RSJDC and Deaf sports including the Deaf Olympics. I thought to myself, 'why keep these hidden in boxes and albums?'

I chatted with Barry David and other Deaf people and we came up with the idea of creating a new website preserving Jewish Deaf History from the London area.

Barry spoke to his Uncle, Harold Fallman, who had shelves of boxes and albums full of documents and photographs and told him our idea. Harold quickly offered to make a donation to get this website up and running. So this is when the process started.

Carolyn: I was involved in a recent project with the British Deaf Association as Deaf Heritage Officer. This was a valuable experience for me and I was keen for a similar project to happen with a Jewish Deaf History (London) website.

Barry, Ann and I all felt strongly that it would benefit our younger generation if we could preserve our Deaf parents' history from their generations and pass this on to our young Deaf generation today.

We watched old videos of past generations signing. I felt we should show the clips on the website for people to see old signs as they were used at the time. I am sure many people outside of JDA would be very interested to know more about our old Jewish signs too.

We are very proud of our achievement. Thanks to all committee members who volunteered and made it possible to launch our much needed and valuable website for present and future generations to enjoy.

Did you stumble upon any particularly interesting or surprising memorabilia or photos?

Ann: We found the census for RSJDC dating back to 1871 which is fabulous! Especially where we have families of the ex-pupils who went to the school in those years, we are able to confirm their school attendance.

There is a photograph dated 1922 and the names are written on the back by the late Belvin Austin. We were able to confirm the names with the 1921 census which is amazing. There are so many incredible photographs and videos.

Of course, I also enjoyed seeing photos of Harvey's parents at RSJDC in their younger days as well as JDA photos.

Tell us more about the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children

Carolyn: I joined the school as a boarder when I was two years old. Mira Goldberg (nee Levy) was a year older than me and we shared our journey, together with another cousin of ours, Maria Olsen, who is a year older than us.

Unfortunately, the school closed in 1965 because of the dwindling number of Jewish pupils. I was the youngest pupil at RSJDC when that happened.

We were educated via the oral method, as most deaf schools were back then. We shared common experiences growing up in an oral education. Like many other deaf pupils, we struggled and some of us were punished for using sign language.

On the website we share many stories through old video clips. It was important to preserve these rich stories and signing from ex-pupils who have sadly departed from us.



Take a look at the website here:
www.jdeafhistorylondon.co.uk

If you have any photos, trophies, memorabilia, videos to share or wish to contact us, please email Ann Clements at jdeafhistory2021@gmail.com