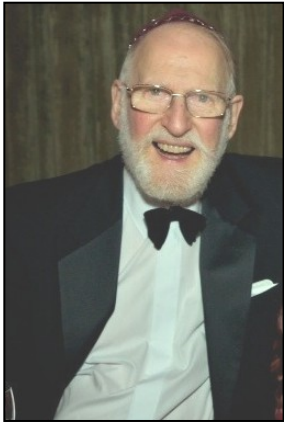


TRIBUTE: Remembering David Myers



Ruth Myers pays tribute to her beloved husband David, who passed away on 11 December 2013.

David was born in 1929, the youngest of five children and the only one who was deaf, probably because he had mumps and measles before he was one year old.

He was privately educated, apart from one year, at a then well-known school for deaf people (sadly now closed).

When he finished his schooling, David was trained to be a tailors' cutter - in those days manual trades were considered the most suitable for deaf people - but David wasn't happy and decided to try his luck in Australia.

He greatly enjoyed the relaxed, laid back life and sunshine, but the hot climate meant there was no call for tailored clothing .

So he came back to England and retrained in accountancy. For ten years, he worked for a well-known accountancy firm and went on to work for the mining company Rio Tinto for the rest of his working life.

David's real interest was in technology and, at the age of three, he was found pulling a lock to pieces! In later years he lapped up technology and was continually looking at the internet to see what was being done. The result was that early in his retirement he was on several committees for this purpose.

Several people wrote to me to say how valuable David's contribution had been in improving access to communications for deaf people.

One wrote: "I firmly believe he had a huge impact on the rise of deaf-accessible technology in the 20th century, and we would have been a great deal worse off than we are today without his hard work over the decades."

He could not understand why I didn't share his interest and despaired of my lack of enthusiasm and understanding of technology!

David also put his accountancy skills to good use and for many years he was Treasurer of a number of organisations, including JDA member committees.

He always enjoyed visiting JDA and seeing his friends. It is a pity that distance meant he could not continue to play a more active part in the organisation.

Living on the borders of the Chilterns meant David could enjoy the beautiful countryside and was always happy to drive round the villages.



David and Ruth Myers

He also loved to travel, so one year we went with our synagogue to Bulgaria and Turkey, visiting synagogues with the aim of encouraging the few Jews still living in those countries to keep the faith.

The next year we went to New Zealand, probably David's favourite trip, because it is a huge and under-populated country, with four million people but 14 million sheep!

We were lucky that, due to the recession which had just started, there were only 18 people on our tour instead of 48! They were friendly, helpful and not at all put out by our deafness.

Perhaps David's experiences help to prove that deafness need not stop you doing most of the things you want to do!