

JDA Support Worker Lisa Mansur pays tribute to Eddie Abrahams

Whenever I was ending one of my visits to Eddie I would say goodbye to him and tell him to be good. He always replied, "I'm not good, I'm a bad boy!" That was Eddie, he knew who he was and he made no apologies for it.

At some point everyone who knew Eddie knew that he could be rude, difficult, lecherous and offensive.

He was also one of my favourite people - warm-hearted with a massively generous spirit. Eddie lived life in full colour and over-indulged in all that life had to offer - be it food, drink, women or trouble!

He didn't do anything in half measures and you always knew when Eddie arrived. He used to turn up to JDA Day

Centre wearing the brightest orange shorts suit,

the loudest voice, dirtiest laugh and the strongest language. Such a character, he made his mark wherever he went.

Eddie was born at Whitechapel Hospital nearly 86 years ago; he would have celebrated his birthday in December. His father was a boxer, a fact Eddie was very proud of. He grew up in the East End of London with his parents and brother Norman.

Eddie attended the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children

where he met his lifelong friend and all-time favourite person, Harry Newman. Goodness knows how many times those two must have been called into the Principal's office and the trouble they must have caused.



▲ Enjoying a huge icecream sundae!



▲ Reading from the Haggadah at a JDA



▲ Eddie with Martin Binysh (left) and his 'all-time favourite friend' Harry Newman.
▲ Looking wicked at Purim in devil's horns and plaits!

After school Eddie moved to Montreal, Canada with his family, where he worked as a lorry driver. Love brought him back to London where he married Doreen Smulovitch, the first Mrs Abrahams. She tragically passed away very young and he told me she was his favourite wife.

Things did not go so well with the second Mrs Abrahams. So when he met the third woman in his life, he decided he was through with marriage. He and Joan Pisani remained life partners until she passed away a few years ago.

In London, Eddie's job was pressing clothes in a factory. He worked hard and when he and Harry retired they went on many trips and holidays together.

He was also an avid Arsenal fan and possibly owned every piece of memorabilia they ever made.

Eddie lived on Cable Street until health problems prevented him from living alone. He was a dedicated member of JDA ever since its inception and nominated us as his next of kin. When he needed to move into care, his one wish was to be near JDA.

We packed up his flat and moved him close to us, to Rubens House.

Eddie approached moving into care and all the changes in his life without sentiment and no regrets. Once in Rubens House, he immediately made his mark there.

He brought his unique personality to the place and continued to entertain and infuriate everyone around him wherever he went.

Eddie was larger than life and we will certainly feel his loss.

We will miss you Eddie and will always remember your funny ways, your sense of humour and your cheeky smile.

Rest in peace.



▲ Eddie enjoying a Roaring 20s Chanukah party with JDA staff Danielle and Suzie.



▲ Fun at Day Centre with JDA members Rene Kosky, Maureen Winterflood and



▲ Showing off his art work at a Happy Mondays crafts display.



▲ At Rubens House, JDA celebrates his birthday!