

British Deaf News - June 1993

Obituaries



Charlotte Balkanyi

The Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children Reunion Committee and post-war pupils deeply mourn the loss of our ex-teacher and friend, Mrs. Charlotte Balkanyi, who passed away in early December, 1992.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, and a highly qualified teacher, she spent ten happy years teaching the Jewish deaf, blind and speech-impaired children in her home town before the German occupation in 1944 which forced the closure of all Jewish schools. Most of the Jewish deaf were sent to Auschwitz and other camps and the few who survived were helped by Charlotte, amongst others, to keep together.

She came to England in 1955. With no visa, no work permit, no money and a poor grasp of the English language, she was overjoyed when she was informed of a teaching vacancy at the RSJDC. She thoroughly enjoyed her time teaching at the RSJDC from 1955 to 1957.

Charlotte was delighted to be asked to be our 'Guest of Honour' at the First Reunion

Banquet in May last year. In her banquet speech Charlotte said - "I have many happy thoughts and memories of life at that school".

We, too, have many lovely memories of dear Charlotte and she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.
Colleen Daniels, Hon Secretary, RSJDC.