

Some of David's favourite photographs



David and Lily



David, Lily and their grandson Reuben



David and Reuben playing chess



David and Joan



Joan, David, his daughter in law, son and grandson



David and Joan now!



Congratulations David!
You are the oldest JDA member at 100!
You still look about 20 years younger! What is the secret of keeping young and fit at your age?

Well, I have never smoked or drunk alcohol. I kept fit by playing tennis and went on rambles. I never worry too much, I am just happy!

You have been a JDA member for many years and celebrated your birthday here with your partner Joan and JDA friends. You even drove your own car to JDA. We hear that Arsenal held a birthday celebration for you too, because you are a long-time and regular supporter of the Club.

I have been a devoted Arsenal supporter ever since I arrived in Britain. Arsenal gave me a wonderful 100th birthday celebration. It was an unexpected surprise. My son Martin arranged to take me to the Stadium. He mentioned to Arsenal staff that I have been a supporter for more than 75 years.



The staff treated me to a delicious lunch with a lovely birthday cake and announced my 100th birthday to the audience at lunch time. They clapped loudly to cheer me with drinks. I felt like a VIP and will never forget what a wonderful time I had. The match was Arsenal versus Everton - Everton won!

When did you become a member of JDA?

I was 19 when I arrived in London in 1934. I had no understanding of English and I felt lonely, because I left many dear friends in Vienna. I soon started English evening classes for Deaf people and was able to communicate in British Sign Language. I became a member of JDA in 1937 and a member of the National Deaf Club as well.

Where were you were born?

I was born in a well in 1915... but it was a dry well! The well was in Konsk in Poland. At the time, it was part of the Russian Empire. The Germans and Russians were fighting each other during the First World War. My mother thought it was a safe place to have a baby!

FIRST JDA MEMBER TO RECEIVE A 100TH BIRTHDAY TELEGRAM!

What are your early childhood memories?

My parents suspected that there might be something wrong with my hearing. They took me to see the doctor in Poland, who said that it was best to wait and see.

My father wasn't satisfied with this response and was worried. So they sought a second opinion from a doctor in Vienna, who confirmed that I was deaf. He said my deafness was caused by the blast of bombs dropped where I lived in Poland.

How did you and your family decide to come and live in England? What was your job here?



When Hitler rose to power, my father decided that Vienna was no longer a safe place for us. We moved to Britain and my father relocated his jewellery business here. I was 19 years old and I worked in my father's business in Hatton Garden.

◀ One of our proudest moments was in 1947. We were one of 50 jewellery manufacturers

asked to submit a wedding present, a brooch for Princess Elizabeth, our future Queen. All 50 brooches were sent to Buckingham Palace and I was so proud when the future Queen picked our brooch, made by me and my fellow craftsmen. She sent a letter of congratulations to my father's jewellery business and still wears the brooch.

You were a good sportsman in your younger days. Which sports did you enjoy playing?

I enjoyed playing tennis, badminton, skiing and particularly swimming. I took part in the European Swimming Championships for the Deaf in 1932, coming second in breaststroke. It is still one of my favourite pastimes and I love swimming in the sea.

I have always been a keen photographer. I entered a photography competition and the judges picked my photograph of a street urchin as the winner! I still enjoy taking photographs with my digital camera today.



Tell us something about your family.

After the Blitz, in London, I fell in love with a beautiful woman, Lily Nabarro.



Lily didn't want to meet me at first but finally decided to turn up for our date! We fell in love.

We married in 1946 and lived happily for 57 years. When, sadly, Lily passed away in 2003, I felt lost and alone.

Then on a momentous outing with JDA in 2004 to Somerleyton Hall and Gardens in Suffolk, I sat on the coach with an old friend, Joan Weinberg. We chatted for nine hours non-stop ... something special had begun!

We moved in together in 2005 when I was 89 and have never spent a day apart.

