

REMEMBERING JDA MEMBER DAVID HIRSHMAN

11 JANUARY 1938 – 19 JUNE 2025

JDA member David Hirshman passed away peacefully while sunbathing in his garden — his happy place. Sharon and Marcel write their father's life story:



David was born in Hammersmith Hospital in 1938 and grew up with his mother and father, Gertrude and Samuel Hirshman, as an only child in Willesden.

During the war, he was an evacuee to Marlborough where he stayed until the war ended. His mother used to visit weekly if she could, but his father was a firefighter, so he didn't see much of David.

After the war, David went to the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children (RSJDC), then applied to Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf where he remained for the rest of his schooling.

When he left school, he didn't know what to do. By chance, he started working as a tea boy for Casson Beckman Accountants, and worked his way up to become a qualified accountant despite being deaf.

Over the years, he was actively involved with the Jewish Deaf Association, the Jewish Deaf Circle, Spurs Club, 66 club, National Deaf Club and tennis.

He met Anita through JDA and got married in 1967 in Holland with the marriage registered in the UK. They had two children – Sharon and Marcel. When Anita passed away in 1982, he became a single father raising two kids on his own.

When he retired from work, he decided to teach BSL and taught classes in Harrow College. He then decided to take up VSO voluntary work overseas on a project in Namibia.

He stayed for two years, and it was extended for another year, so he was out there for three years. We did visit him there.

He was always active, walking and exploring. He booked holidays around the world, exploring places. He became a member of the British Deaf History Society, also volunteering for them.

He often attended guided group tours and events in London. He volunteered to support deaf people with mental health. He also often volunteered for Deaf Sports Personality of the Year and the British Deaf Association.

All his life he loved sunbathing, and he always found the time to sunbathe wherever he was. This time, he sunbathed and slept his way out of this world.

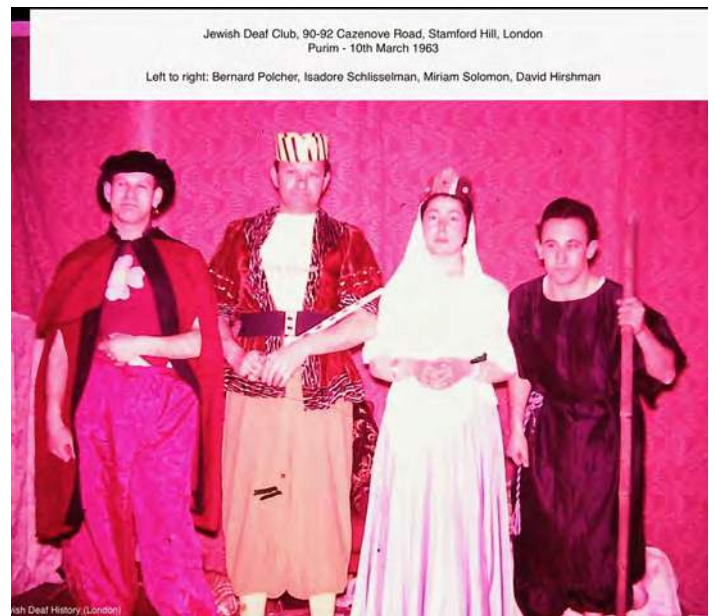
He has left behind Sharon and Joe, Marcel and Sophie and his grandchildren Rosabella, Olivier, Lucas and Torin.



▲ David with Anne Senchal, Ann Hart and Ruth Lawrence at JDA



▲ Always ready to lend a hand, David supports David Stellman at JDA's Seder



▲ David (right) in the JDA Purim play 1963 with Bernard Polchar, Issy Schlisselman and Miriam Solomon

▼ David (Row 2, right) at JDA's 70th Anniversary celebration, with his lifelong friends

