



Obituary

Walter Ernest Hook 31st January 1923 – 31st August 2011

It is with deep regret to inform you of the sad loss of the late Walter Ernest Hook who passed away at the end of August after a short illness in hospital. He was surrounded in his final days and hours with his two nieces Jo & Julie, SDA staff and friends – all ladies I might add.

Many of us knew Wally as he was known, for many many years and he will be missed greatly by everyone that enjoyed working, playing scrabble - darts - bowls and snooker and in general talking to people. We all remember him with his dogs, Patch and recently Jake coming to the Centre nearly every day and most recently twice weekly. Wally had a lot of time for everyone including staff and volunteers who work extremely hard to ensure provision of support is available for deaf people. Over the years he taught Sign Language of which he had many students and made many friends. Wally was extremely protective and supportive of what The Sussex Deaf Association stands for of which is reflected in his serving on our Committee for 25 years in recent years as the Church Representative. A complete gentleman with an extremely cheerful outlook on life, of which he enjoyed it to its fullest. Cruise Holidays were his particular favourite and especially recently going on one final cruise to Norway during July.

An avid supporter of Arsenal Football Club of which Chrissie Jenner, Manager of Sussex Deaf Association enjoyed catching up on the sport from the weekend when he popped in on a Tuesday. In a comment from Graham Sheppard, Headmaster from Hamilton Lodge School "I would just like to say that Wally was a wonderful person both within the Deaf community and beyond. He was always a great friend to Hamilton Lodge School and whenever he met the children he spent time talking to them, passing on his wit and wisdom".

Wally was also heavily involved in the Church being a faithful server at St Marys Church for many years. He also represented SDA at the Church Meetings at Diocese Church House in Hove.

Being a profoundly deaf individual this did not stop Wally from doing anything he wanted to do. Wally crammed so much into his 88 years of which many of us can learn so much from this much loved and committed individual. He will be sadly missed by staff at the Association; Chrissie, Sue, Kim, Tracy, Teena, friends and by everyone who worked with him in the past. Including our colleague Patricia Mitchell who worked with Wally for some 30 years until her retirement last December.

The feeling from everyone who wanted to pay tribute to Wally was reflected in his funeral on 21st September at Downs Crematorium Brighton, with so many people in attendance that there was standing room only. The Sussex Deaf Association and his two nieces Jo and Julie would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and attendance to his funeral and lunch in celebration of his life that day.

A Memorial Service by Rev Andrew Woodward was held at St Mary's Church, St James Street Brighton on Sunday 6th November 2011 with many in attendance from his friends, family and acquaintances.

We offer our grateful thanks to this extraordinary man who's presence and support will be missed by everyone.