

Photo: from the family archive

Jeremy Berkoff

1943 - 2023

ANDREW BOTTERILL

The lives of some residents slip under the radar of the Suburb commentariat. 'A Lifetime in Water' could be the strapline. Jeremy devoted the major part of his professional life to this most precious of our Earth's resources.

He was born in India; the family returning to London at the end of the war. Cambridge followed Westminster and the world of work took shape with stints at the Economist Intelligence Unit and then as an economist with the Ministry of Overseas Development. There followed 18 years as a water and irrigation specialist first with the World Bank and then as an independent consultant until his retirement.

A true internationalist, he worked in 37 countries and visited a further 34. A colleague noted that he was one of a small band

of engineers and economists that really made a difference wherever they worked. He was a prolific author in his field, and eschewed corporate politics and the greasy career pole, motivated only by his sense of humanity and passion for the environment.

Timing is everything, they say. But this timing was tragic. Jeremy died unexpectedly of an aortic dissection on the day before his 80th birthday and a long-planned celebration of his life with friends and family all of whom adored him – and he them. They have spoken of his curiosity, humour and kindness; of the legendary parties and dinners. He was a great conversationalist. In short, a most endearing character.

In retirement, he became Chair of the North West London Historical Association and many recall his warmth, incisive questioning and heroic IT struggles before talks.

The Order of Service contained an excerpt from Oliver Sacks' essay Gratitude which years ago Jeremy had earmarked for his funeral: "I have loved and been loved... I have read and travelled and thought and written. Above all, I have been a sentient being; a thinking animal on this beautiful planet and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure."

Schools and then was at Keble College, Oxford where she studied Japanese, graduating in 1992. The College's tribute to her can be found at keble.ox.ac.uk/news/lucy-dee-1974-2023/.

After Lucy married Leo Dee at Norrice Lea synagogue, the couple travelled for a year and afterwards Lucy supported her husband when he was leading congregations in Radlett and Hendon. The family emigrated to Israel in 2014, settling in the town of Efrat. Lucy taught English in a nearby school, focusing her attention on those who needed most support. After her untimely death, five people received donations of life-saving organs from Lucy; an act of charity which her family said was wholly in keeping with her generous nature.

Her sister Gaby and brother-in-law Mike Sweidan, residents themselves of HGS, said "Lucianne will always be remembered as the best mother, wife, daughter, big sister, rebetzten, teacher, counsellor and friend to all of us in the UK, Israel and wider world. She was someone who selflessly inspired and taught us to embrace the values of what Judaism has to offer. She dedicated her life to charity, thinking of others and learning, turning away from a lifestyle of materialism."

Lucy Dee is survived by her husband Rabbi Leo Dee and their children Keren, Tali and Yehuda.



Lucy Dee with her daughters Rina and Maia (Photo: from the Dee family archive)

Lucy Dee

1974 - 2023

MARGARET HARRIS

Readers of Suburb News will have seen in other media during April the tragic news of the killing of three British-Israeli women – Lucy Dee and her daughters, Maia (aged 20) and Rina (aged 15).

Lucy was born Lucianne Shaw in 1974 and grew up in the Suburb with her brother and twin sisters – living in Ruskin Close and, later, Wildwood Road. Lucy attended Kerem and Henrietta Barnett

Alfred Huberman

1923 - 2023

MARGARET HARRIS

Suburb resident Alfred Huberman who died last February would have celebrated his 100th birthday this summer. His passing elicited fulsome praise and respect in the mainstream national media which focused especially on his heroic deeds during WW2 in the RAF – which he joined at age 17, driven by his wish to contribute personally to the fight against the Nazis.

He participated in an astounding 38 bombing operations against targets in Germany and occupied Europe. He was a 'tail end Charlie', or 'rear gunner' in a Lancaster, always on the look-out for enemy aircraft approaching from the rear of the plane. The casualty rate on bombing missions was very high but, miraculously, Alfred survived and was featured in 2018 in the RAF Museum's 'Hidden Heroes' Exhibition celebrating the Jewish contribution to Bomber Command.

Alfred later worked closely with Bee Gees' singer Robin Gibb to have a monument built in Green Park to honour those who had fought in Bomber Command. The monument was unveiled in June 2012 after thousands of donations were received for the cause which Alfred had championed.

But the war hero and decorated veteran was not the only side of Alfred Huberman's big personality. After the War he studied at St Martin's School of Art and became an accomplished artist and designer. One of his works, 'A View from the Turret', was donated to the RAF Museum when it opened in Hendon in 1983. He also helped establish a family firm which designed and manufactured ladies' coats. His Suburb home was full of his own paintings – as well as trophies acquired playing bridge and poker. Other hobbies included watching horse-racing and opera.

Alfred Huberman continued working until his late 80s. Work routines were then replaced by frequent visits to Temple Fortune for coffee and a card game.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Thelma; children Corinne, Peter, Michelle and Paul; five grand-daughters and two great-granddaughters.

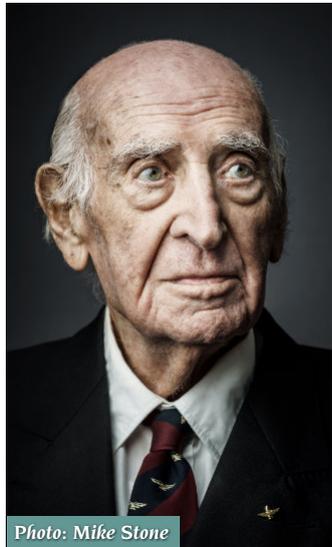


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