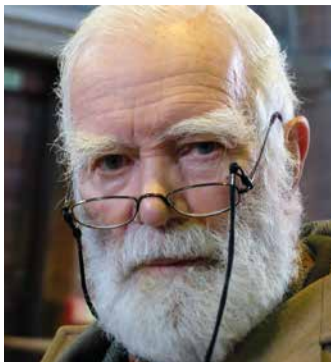


# Alan Smallbone 1930 - 2019

SARAH SMALLBONE



Alan Frederick Smallbone was born on 29th March 1930 to Gidea Park GP Eric and his Scottish wife Jean (9 months to the day after their wedding). He was educated at Bradfield College (Army House) and Trinity College, Oxford. Before attending Officer Cadet school, he served for a time in Africa in the Mauritian guard and was then commissioned into a cavalry regiment, being awarded the General Service Medal for his part in the Suez Campaign. He loved being in the Army and afterwards maintained a committed attachment as a Territorial Army Officer in the Inns of Court Regiment. Convention and formality, learnt at school and in the Army, were important to him throughout his life.

He became a Broker at Lloyds in 1955 and worked there until his early retirement in 1988 following a heart attack. He was passionate about issues around Lloyds and pensions on which he was an inveterate writer of letters to the Times and Financial Times. He revelled in the challenges of argument, never let go of a topic once engaged and railed against the obtuseness of those who could not follow his line of thought, or was it perhaps those who disagreed? It was during this time that he became a Justice of the Peace, widely respected as Chairman of the Bench. I do wonder if his true vocation might have been in the world of law where I think he might have made a wonderful (and probably provocative) judge.

He married Katie in 1959, initially living in a flat in Primrose Hill where Sarah was born. They moved to Temple Fortune Lane in 1966 and Erica was born. He was a devoted family man and loved being a parent and subsequently grandparent (to Erica's three children living in Somerset) and great grandparent, and was very involved in our upbringing and

theirs. Bath time, bedtime stories, impromptu trips to Longleat or the fairground made Dad the 'fun' parent. His deep sense of morality, of right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable could at times be hard to live with and to live up to, but his integrity was never in doubt. We walked our dogs on the heath and at Kenwood and enjoyed meals at The Spaniards Inn.

He took great care of Katie in her final illness until her death in December 2010 and remained, initially alone until Sarah moved back to care for him, in the family home until the week before his unexpected death on 30th August 2019 in The Royal Free Hospital as the result of an acute illness.

He became increasingly more eccentric in old age, especially in his choice of clothes, but never went out without a hat (a selection of which were laid on his coffin). Until two months before his death, he could be seen wobbling down to Temple Fortune on his bike, wearing his favourite Knickerbockers which he refused to part with even when full of holes.

SARAH SMALLBONE

# Ben Lachmann 1924 - 2019



Ben Lachmann was born in Gleiwitz, Upper Silesia (now Gliwice, Poland) in 1924 where his parents, Josef and Rose, ran the family store selling household furnishings. After Josef's tragic death in a car accident in 1928, Rose continued to run the store until she sold it in 1933. A timely sale indeed. The political unrest in Germany was creating increasingly unfavourable conditions for Jews. Ben recalled being shot in the arm with an air rifle by a couple of Hitler youths on his way home from school one day. He rushed up to the family's second-floor flat and hurled a flower pot from the balcony at them. He was pretty sure he hit one of them.

Towards the end of 1934, Rose decided to leave Germany and moved her family to (what was then) Czechoslovakia, Austria and Italy in the hope of finding a better life. However, with the Nazis now occupying large swathes of Europe, Rose knew she had to move her family yet again. They sailed on the Galileo from Trieste to Haifa in 1937 to join Rose's brother who had already settled there.

Having turned 13 on the voyage to Haifa, Ben celebrated his Barmitzvah (Jewish coming of age) in Tel Aviv. After attending the local school and learning Hebrew, Ben enrolled at a technical school specifically set up to train young German-Jewish boys in metal and woodwork. He clearly had an aptitude for woodwork, building the large double doors for the school's main entrance. At 18 Ben joined the Jewish Brigade and travelled to Alexandria and then Southern Italy following the Allied invasion from Sicily.

With the war officially over, Ben, now stationed in northern Italy, brought displaced Jews from the Soviet-occupied zone into Italy and sent them by boat on to Palestine. The Jewish Brigade was then sent to Holland and Belgium to guard fields of parked tanks and heavy weapons. Driving through bombed-out Germany in lorries painted with the Brigade's distinctive blue and white stripes and the yellow Star of David, Ben heard a German man exclaim "Was! es gibt noch Juden?" ("What! Are there still Jews around?").

After the war, Ben returned to Tel Aviv. With his discharge payment, he bought a set of carpentry tools and started working in furniture factories. He also carried out his mandatory two year army training and clearly did well, being promoted to sergeant. Though asked to remain in the army, Ben declined but he did fulfil his call up for the 1956 Suez campaign.

Israel in the 1950s was a harsh country to live in; it was full of shortages, particularly in medication. In 1957 Ben's mother decided to go back to Germany to join some friends who had

returned to Frankfurt. Ben's sister had already left Israel to settle in London and so in 1958 he decided to look for work in England. He was introduced to a Czech-owned furniture company who agreed to apply for a work permit for him. Starting on a weekly wage of £12 he finished up as technical and import director. His experience and ability to travel and communicate had stood him in good stead.

Ben finally received his British citizenship in 1963, two years after marrying Steffi. The couple started married life in Oakwood Road here in the Suburb. Their son Jonathan was born in 1968 and the family moved to Litchfield Way in the early seventies. Both Ben and Steffi loved the Suburb, particularly the sense of community and 'village feel'. They enjoyed walks across the Heath Extension and even had a favourite tree which they would always walk around before turning back to go home. Sadly, Steffi died in 2016.

Despite suffering a massive stroke in January 2014 which left him physically impaired, Ben continued to enjoy a high level of alertness and memory capacity right up to the end of his life and used this time to write a short but detailed memoir. Ben was determined to stay in his home in Litchfield Way until his death and his family ensured his wish was honoured.

Ben Lachmann was a true survivor and his life story will continue to be handed down through the generations by his son Jonathan, his daughter-in-law Beth and his two grandchildren Sam and Maya of whom Ben was inordinately proud.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

## Orchard Housing



The Orchard Housing Society is a not for profit registered social landlord, which exists to provide sheltered accommodation for older Suburb residents or the parents of Suburb residents who are in housing need. The provision of housing for the elderly was part of the overall vision of Dame Henrietta Barnett, and in 1909 the original group of flats was opened. A group of local residents formed the current Orchard Housing Society in order to replace the original buildings with more up to date provision and the new buildings were opened in 1972.

We are very fortunate at The Orchard. Surrounded by beautiful grounds and gardens, our well

maintained safe outdoor space has plenty of seating for our tenants to enjoy fresh air and beautiful weather. This helped to ensure the Orchard community kept in contact with their neighbours whilst maintaining the recommended two metre social distance.

Prior to the lockdown, when the pandemic started to affect people in England, we sadly and cautiously decided to close our communal rooms, which meant we had to stop all activities; coffee mornings, meditation, decoupage classes and the 'my generation' project which was run in partnership with Mind in Barnet.

We encouraged our tenants to wash their hands and stick to

government recommendations. Laminated notices were put on entrance doors and notice boards as visual reminders.

Hand sanitising dispensers were installed at each entrance to reduce the spread of infection. Our communal laundries stayed open, with only one person at a time permitted.

Our tenants helped each other by ordering shopping online for others, delivering prescriptions and checking on each other's wellbeing.

As an independent sheltered housing scheme, the managers are not considered front-line workers and arranged to work from home, with a weekly visit to site. We quickly adapted to the situation, setting up remote access to our computer systems and diverting phones to ensure our tenants could contact us directly during office hours. Amanda and I are the full time managers and together with our new part time Housing Assistant, Leonie, we created a rota to check in with our tenants at least once a week. A daily call to our most vulnerable and isolated tenants assisted in ensuring all needs were being met.

As the Tenant Support Manager, I have visited the Orchard at least once a week since the lockdown began, making sure contact with tenants was maintained, showing moral support and a physical presence.

Updates on the current guidance, are sent to tenants fortnightly, ensuring clear communication on the ever-changing Covid-19 pandemic and government rules. We believe all these efforts helped to keep the Orchard virus free.

We cannot thank the local community enough. We were overwhelmed by offers of support from the Suburb community, from Helping Hands, Mutual Aid Volunteer group and from all the neighbours who emailed and called offering support with shopping, collecting prescriptions, cooking or just a friendly phone call; Thank you!

Finally, huge thanks to our wonderful gardeners, cleaners, and handyman for all their hard work during this time.

BEATRICE BOUSSARD, TENANT SUPPORT MANAGER

## 2020

*It started with quiet streets and dreary days  
So desolate and lifeless*

*Our hearts sinking every time we hear the familiar wail of sirens  
People walking far apart not worried for themselves  
But for those they love and cherish with fear that they may perish*

*Painting rainbows on our windows  
To encourage all our heroes  
The Angels who work hard night and day to keep their brethren safe  
Risking their lives on emergency wards  
Knowing they have made a difference  
We clap for them on Thursdays, but every day we pray*

*We want to smile yet we sigh  
When the recovery rate is low and the deaths high  
We walk on through this storm of fear and sorrow  
When tears subside  
There will be a brighter tomorrow*

*A gentle breeze turned into a storm bringing the world to its knees  
but when the world is all recovered  
humanity and kindness will be rediscovered.  
It's been six weeks the air is clear; pollution has found a natural solution.  
The grass is green the flowers are bright and there are very few cars in sight.  
Lessons we have learnt shall stay within our mind and we shall be wise to follow them till the end of time.  
Respect our planet and all who live on it,  
or bear the consequences of Her reactions to our tainted actions.*

GIA BHALLA

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