

## **OBITUARY for British Association of the Deaf (BATOD) for Tony Fennemore**

It is with great sadness that the death is announced of Tony Fennemore, who was well-known to many teachers of the deaf as a lecturer who trained student teachers and supervised classroom practice at Oxford and later at Birmingham and Mary Hare.

Tony died in a care home in Oxfordshire on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. He was 87 and latterly had had failing physical health which prevented him from continuing to live independently in his home in Oxford. He enjoyed his time in Tall Trees Care Home and he was, as he was earlier in his life, grateful and appreciative for life's gifts and opportunities.

He was a teacher at the Ewing School for the Deaf in Nottingham in the early 60s which was when I first met him. In 1973 we became colleagues when I joined him and Norah North at the then newly created centre for training teachers of the deaf (TOD) at Lady Spencer-Churchill College at Wheatley, Oxfordshire. The course later became part of Oxford Polytechnic and subsequently Oxford Brookes University.

He was a knowledgeable professional whose communication skills, humour, passion and unique personality engaged generations of students who trained the one year full-time course. It is not everyone who can make the study of the International Phonetic Alphabet fun, but Tony did. His skills as an educator and raconteur will be remembered with great fondness and for many years by former students and by the staff at Oxford with whom he worked over a period of 18 years.

He was a very dear friend whose humanity characterised both his personal and professional life. His early life, upbringing and work in the Salvation Army, his years as a Quaker and most recently his service as a church warden at the University Church in Oxford all contributed to the faith and belief that expressed itself in kindness, his willingness to help and his concern for other people.

Prior to his death he made his wishes clear that he did not wish to have a formal funeral but simply an interment in Wolverton Cemetery in Oxford alongside his lifelong partner Paul.

A former Dean of Winchester Cathedral, Michael Till in his retirement sermon spoke the words "we are put together to get on as best we may". Tony did that in abundance and we thank him for that and for his long and significant contribution to the education of hearing impaired children and young people.

David Braybrook, Educational Consultant (SEND),  
Head of Ovingdean Hall School 1983-93  
with the assistance of Liz Andrews and Sue Lewis who also worked with Tony at Oxford.