

Request for Information - Eric Evans

This may seem an unusual enquiry but I am trying to find some information about Eric (Erik maybe) Evans who worked at Chailey Heritage some 50+ years ago as a careworker. I knew him as Uncle Erik and understood him to be my mother's (Peggy Rogal nee Robb) cousin. He used to visit us for a week or so in the summer holidays at our house near Bognor Regis sometimes with a resident or two of Chailey. My parents were very protective of me and I rarely saw much of him on these visits. Many years later when filming a TV piece on disability for Ch4 I met a former resident who spoke so fondly of him: I also remember my mother telling me that at his funeral hundreds of former Chailey pupils and staff attended and that she was overwhelmed by the affection he was held in.

I have recently started researching my family tree and have traced my mother's side back several generations. However I can find absolutely no record of Eric anywhere save for a possible death certificate which shows Lewes as the place of death of a Mr Eric Gordon Evans in April 2008 and a birthdate of 26 Jan 1921. There appears to be no obvious connection in the tree so it may well be that "cousin" was a white lie. I do know that Peggy and Eric spent a lot of time together as children and that there were several family "secrets" about issues that today wouldn't concern us very much. It's to my regret that I didn't press my mother for more information when she was alive but that is the way of life.

Anyway I was wondering if any of your former staff or alumni might remember Eric and be able to provide any further information on him? I would be very happy if this message could be forwarded to anyone you think might be helpful to me in my research and thank you in advance for any help you can provide.