

Edward Evans C.B.E.

1883-1960



The following information is taken from 'Who's Who of British Members of Parliament, Vol.IV 1945-1979' by Michael Stenton and Stephen Lees, The Harvester Press, 1981, ISBN 0 85527 335 6.

Edward Evans, C.B.E. of 128 Waxwell Lane, Pinner was born on 11 January 1883, the son of Daniel Evans, Esq., of Manchester and Mary Beynon.

He was married on 13 November 1915 to Evelyn, daughter of Robert Muir, Esq., (she died in 1953). They had 2 sons.

He was educated at Llanelli Science Schools, St.Pauls College, Cheltenham and London University. He was elected as Labour MP for Lowestoft in July 1945 and sat until 1959 when he was defeated. He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1949 and died on 30 March 1960.

His other achievements include:

Dept.Secretary National Institute for the Blind 1943-45
Chairman National Institute for the Deaf
Chairman Ministry of Health Advisory Committee for the Health and for the

Welfare of Handicapped Persons
President National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League
Chairman Labour Party Fisheries Committee
Chairman All-Party Coast Defence Committee
Vice-Chairman All-Party Resorts and Tourist Committee
Parliamentary Delegate to Austria 1946, Iceland 1953 and Denmark 1955
Head Master of East Anglican Schools for Blind and Deaf Children
Vice-President of College of Teachers of the Blind
Vice-President of National College of Teachers of the deaf, and of Central
Council for the Care of Cripples
Governor, Chalfont Epileptic Colony
Editor of 'Braille School Magazine'
Author of 'A Manual Alphabet for the Deaf-Blind'
Governor Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf

From The Times
Obituary

Mr. EDWARD EVANS

Welfare of the Deaf and Blind

Mr. Edward Evans, C.B.E., who died suddenly at his home at Pinner, Middlesex, yesterday, at the age of 77, was the chairman of the National Institute for the Deaf. He was also a notable figure in the world of the blind. From 1945 until the last general election he was Labour M.P. for Lowestoft.

Born in January, 1883, at Manchester, of Welsh parents, he was educated at Llanelly elementary and science schools and St. Paul's College, Cheltenham. He took a training course as a teacher at London University and was a teacher for the first 40 years of his career, first in a London elementary school, then at Linden Lodge Special School for the Blind, and later at the Old Kent Road School for the Deaf and at the East Anglian Schools for Blind and Deaf at Gorleston. He held the special diplomas in both blind and deaf teaching, was one of the founders of the Association of Teachers of the Blind and later its chairman, chairman of the College of Teachers of the Blind, vice-president of the National College of Teachers of the Deaf, and at one time chairman of its southern branch. He wrote widely on educational matters, was formerly editor of the Braille Schools Magazine and was Special Schools correspondent of the Schoolmaster. He was also the composer of the manual alphabet for the deaf-blind used in this country and vice-chairman of the deaf-blind sub-committee of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

When he retired from the headmaster-ship of the Gorleston Schools in 1943, he became deputy secretary of the R.N.I.B. and held the post until he was elected member for Lowestoft in 1945. He played an influential part in the drafting of those parts of the National Assistance Act of 1948 which relate to handicapped persons and was a prime mover in the issue of the National Health Service hearing aid, the Medresco. From 1949 he was chairman of the Minister of Health's Advisory Committee on Handicapped Persons (to which he was re-elected chairman within the past few days), and there, as elsewhere, showed himself to be a firm but

conciliatory chairman. He was also an influential speaker on matters relating to fishery protection and concerned himself actively with measures to check East coast erosion. When he spoke on the welfare of the deaf he was always listened to with respect and attention on both sides of the House, as much for his sincerity, as for the persuasiveness of his exposition.

He was a personal friend of Miss Helen Keller and used to visit her on the occasions when an international conference on the deaf and the deaf-blind took him to the United States. He became vice-chairman of the National Institute for the Deaf in 1947 and succeeded Mr. R. Scott Stevenson as chairman in 1954. He married in 1915 Victoria Evelyn Muir (who died in 1960) by whom he had two sons.

Genealogy Record:

Parents:		Daniel Thomas Evans and Mary Beynon
Life Range:	11 Jan 1883 – 30 Mar 1960	
11 Jan 1883	Birth:	Manchester, , Lancashire, England.
12 Jan 1887	Spouse:	Victoria Evelyn Muir (1887–1960). Born in Kelvinside. Died on 1 Jan 1960.
13 Nov 1915	Marriage:	Victoria Evelyn Muir (1887–1960). in St Peter ad Vincula Chapel, Tower of London.
22 Nov 1921 1930	Son born (#1): Occupation:	Donald Brindley Ferguson Evans Gorleston, , Norfolk, England, The House, East Anglican Schools. Head Master and Superintendent of Blind and Deaf Schools.
12 Nov 1930	Son born (#2):	Malcolm Warwick Evans (1930–2000). Born in Gorleston, , Norfolk, England, The House, East Anglican Schools. Died on 7 Jul 2000 in Scotland.
1945–1959	Occupation:	Lowestoft, , Suffolk, England. Member of Parliament (Labour)
1949	Honours:	C.B.E.
1 Jan 1960	Death of Spouse:	Victoria Evelyn Muir (1887–1960).
30 Mar 1960	Death:	Pinner, London, UK.
	School:	Llanelli Science Schools.

General Notes: Edward Evans developed the British deaf-blind alphabet.



Helen Keller
&
Alexander Graham Bell

