



**University of Dundee**

## **Remembering Ruth - Celebrating the Life and Work of Professor Ruth Freeman**

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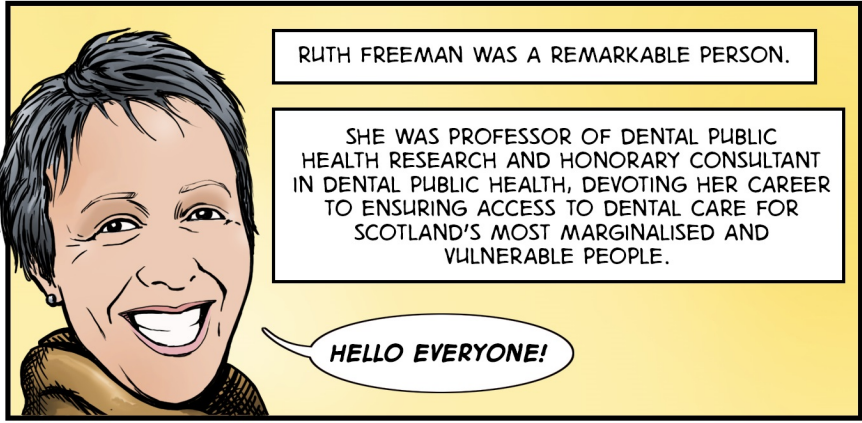
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# REMEMBERING Ruth



CELEBRATING  
THE LIFE AND WORK  
OF PROFESSOR  
RUTH FREEMAN  
(1954-2021)





RUTH FREEMAN WAS A REMARKABLE PERSON.

SHE WAS PROFESSOR OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH AND HONORARY CONSULTANT IN DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH, DEVOTING HER CAREER TO ENSURING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE FOR SCOTLAND'S MOST MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE.

HELLO EVERYONE!

RUTH WAS BORN IN GLASGOW IN 1954. HER MOTHER, JOAN, WAS A MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER AND HER FATHER, THOMAS, WAS A WORLD-RENOWNED PSYCHIATRIST.



THE FAMILY MOVED TO DUNDEE WHEN RUTH'S FATHER BECAME A CONSULTANT AT LIFF HOSPITAL.



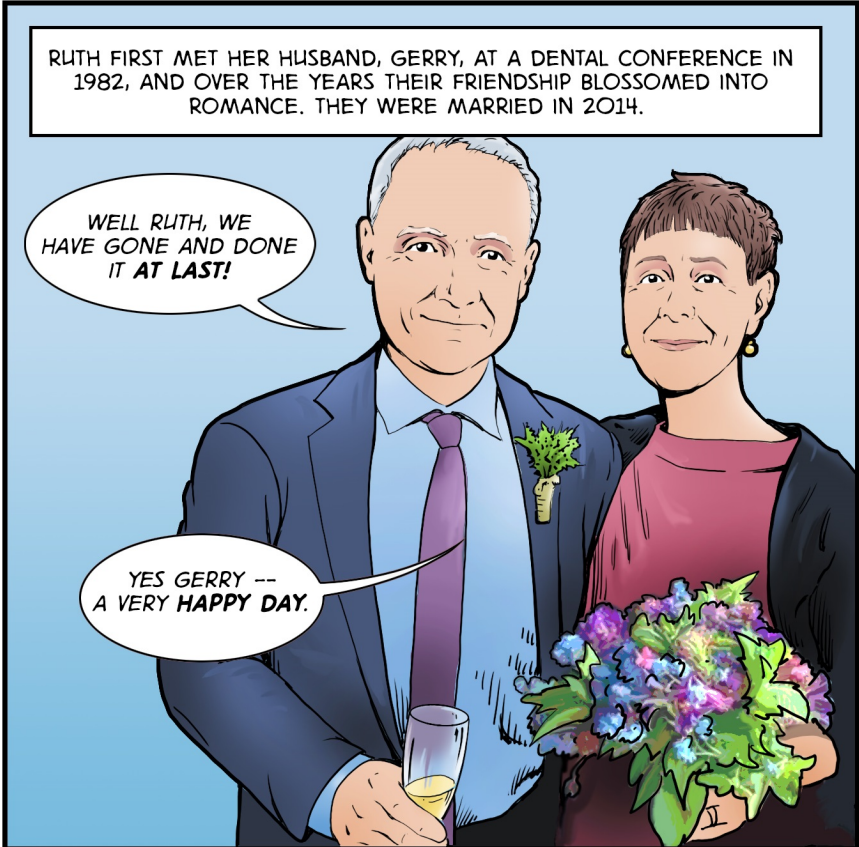
RUTH ATTENDED THE DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL BEFORE GOING ON TO HARRIS ACADEMY.

IN HER TEENS THE FAMILY RELOCATED TO BELFAST, AND RUTH STUDIED FOR A DEGREE IN DENTAL SURGERY AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.



I REALLY LIKE NEIL SWALLOW'S APPROACH TO PREVENTATIVE DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN!

SHE QUALIFIED IN 1979 THEN TOOK A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, BEFORE PURSUING A PHD.



RUTH FIRST MET HER HUSBAND, GERRY, AT A DENTAL CONFERENCE IN 1982, AND OVER THE YEARS THEIR FRIENDSHIP BLOSSOMED INTO ROMANCE. THEY WERE MARRIED IN 2014.

WELL RUTH, WE HAVE GONE AND DONE IT AT LAST!

YES GERRY -- A VERY HAPPY DAY.



DUNDEE! I'M BACK!

RUTH JOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE IN 2006 AS PROFESSOR OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH AND DIRECTOR OF THE ORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH UNIT- WHICH IS QUITE A MOUTHFUL!



RUTH MADE A HUGE IMPRESSION AS AN EDUCATOR. SHE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND INSPIRING.



SHE WAS ALSO AN EAGER COLLABORATOR WITH COLLEAGUES FROM MANY DISCIPLINES.

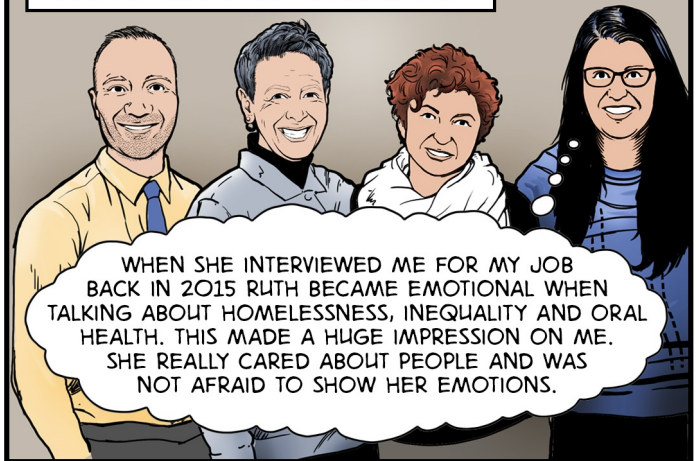


SHE WAS ALSO AN INNOVATIVE RESEARCHER, BRINGING TOGETHER DENTISTRY WITH BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS.



RUTH WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH ISSUES OF DENTAL ANXIETY, AND ESPECIALLY CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH AND THEIR EXPERIENCES WHEN VISITING THE DENTIST. SHE ALSO WORKED ON ORAL HEALTH FOR THE HOMELESS AND PEOPLE IN PRISON.

RUTH WAS DEEPLY RESPECTED AND ADMIRED BY HER COLLEAGUES.



RUTH WAS A POWERHOUSE OF ACTIVITY. SHE EMBRACED INNOVATIVE METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT.



SHE REPRESENTED THE UNIVERSITY AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING IN A VISIT TO CHINA. TRIPS INTO TOWN WITH GERRY OFTEN INVOLVED RUTH CHATTING TO HOMELESS PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR ORAL HEALTH.

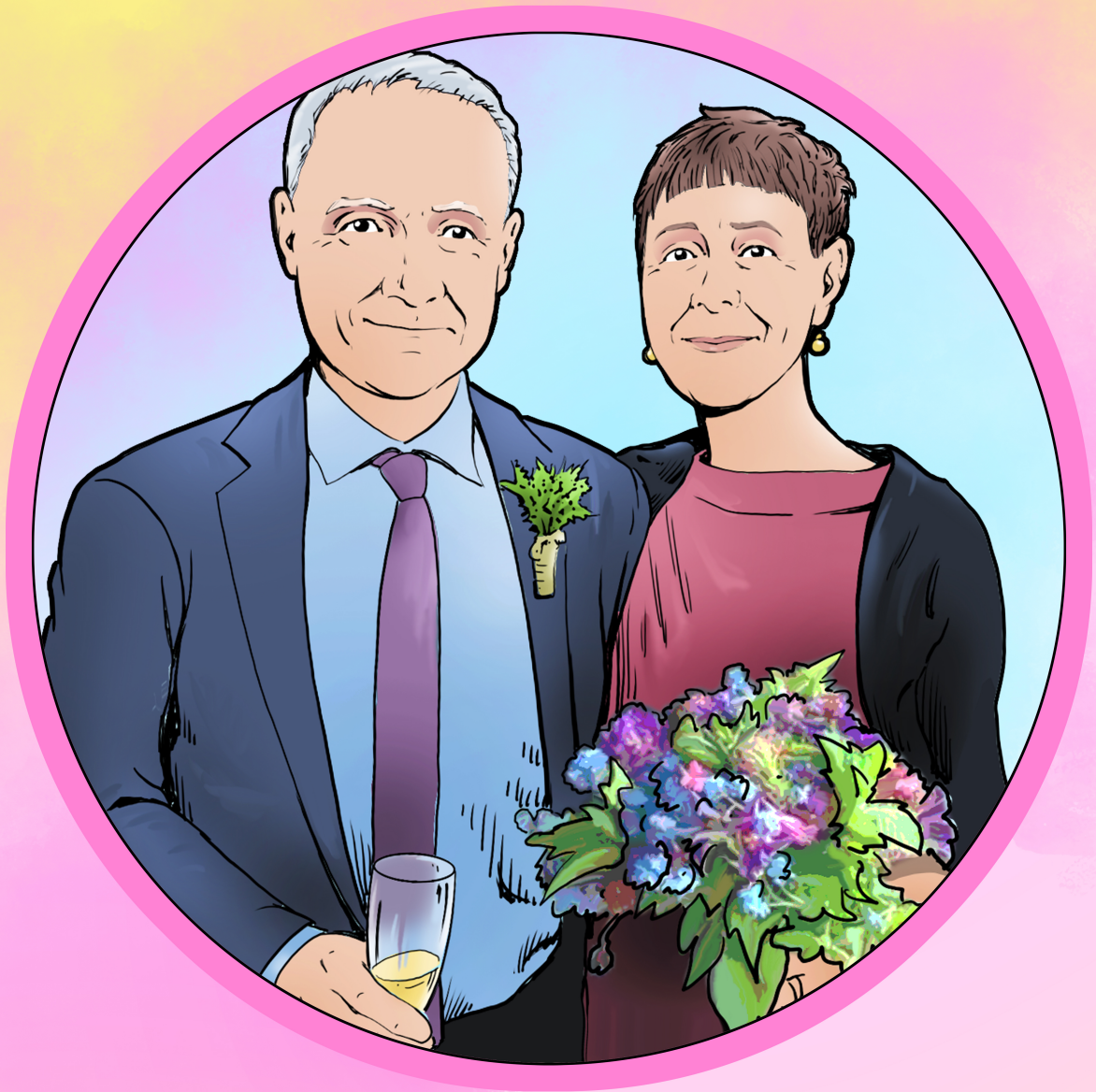


RUTH HAD BREAST CANCER. SHE DIED IN 2021. THIS WAS A HUGE LOSS TO THE UNIVERSITY, ALL HER COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS, AND MOST OF ALL, TO GERRY.

EVERYONE WHO KNEW OR WORKED WITH RUTH WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HER. HER WORK MADE A HUGE IMPACT ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ORAL HEALTH, ESPECIALLY WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON INCLUSION AND EMPATHY. SHE WAS PASSIONATE, CREATIVE, FUN-LOVING, AND ALWAYS RAISED A SMILE.







WRITTEN BY CHRIS MURRAY. ARTWORK BY ANDY STRACHAN.

THANKS TO GERRY HUMPHRIES, ANDREA RODRIQUEZ, NIALL MC GOLDRICK,  
SIYANG YUAN, JAN CLARKSON, AND SUCHARITA NANJAPPA.