

Deaf Londoners in the 1660s

The story of me

LONDON MUSEUM



Now that you've read about the lives of three deaf Londoners in the 17th century, it's time to tell your own story!

Use the template on the next page to draw a comic book showing your own experiences. Maybe you want to include a day that was really important to you, a signed conversation you had, or an achievement you're really proud of.

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Everywhere you look in history you can find deaf people and sign languages.

Marthirosus Nerseerajan II (1672-1714)
Ruler of Mysore

Laura Peadden Sarang (1839-1923)
Journalist and Poet

Jean Sébastien LeClerc (1693-1765)
Countess of Worms

This is Samuel Pepys, writing famous diary 350 years ago!

The boy went to see if he could stop the coach ...

He pretended to be sleeping in there.

Then he tried to steal the seat, but it was nailed down!

Finally, the angry coachman chased him away.

The boy came back and told everyone what he had done.

Pepys was very impressed.

This was one of the first times in English history that anyone wrote in detail about what a deaf person was signing. But Pepys never wrote down the boy's name!

Pepys shaved his head and bought a wig to be more fashionable.

He asked Jane what she thought about his new wig.

Jane was sad Pepys had to shave his hair, but told him he looked great!

After a year, Jane left her job. She stayed friends with Bess.

In 1669 Jane was married and had her own home.

Fram and his brother John were both deaf. Both used sign language. John was an artist too.

Fram sent John presents from London. They both loved chocolate, which was new in England.

Fram wrote letters to John.

Fram fell ill. In 1672, he wrote his will.

Fram is the first deaf person that we know about who was born deaf and wrote his own will. He left money to his brother John.

We can read Fram's letters to John today. Perhaps one day a Deaf historian will find some of Fram's paintings!

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