



# Kindertransport

A special interest group of

**The Association of Jewish Refugees**  
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE



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Previous issues may also be viewed at:  
[www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm](http://www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm)

Dear Kinder and Friends



From the Editor's Desk

Though this the Chanukah edition, the Festival has gone. However a belated good wish for Chanukah – good wishes can never harm. The main reason why I delayed was to ensure proper cover of The Last Train to Tomorrow at the Roundhouse. A report on this outstanding event is found in the pages following. Only a couple of hours before writing this note, a friend and I were discussing it; she agreed with me that there were not sufficient superlatives to describe the afternoon. Additionally the pages following contain reports about Kindertransport from or about various towns in the UK as well as items from abroad. If not good Chanukah, then all the best for 2015.

*Bernd.*

Hi Kinder

We move from Rosh Hashanah to Chanukah, In between we had that lovely concert at the Roundhouse. It was absolutely packed and I sincerely hope that some of you managed to meet His Royal Highness. I must give him a lot of credit. In the morning he was occupied with Memorial Day, had lunch with dignitaries, yet still insisted on attending at least some of the concert and at the same time meet with several 'Kinder'.

As for the concert itself, it seems to have been a great success. Natasha Kaplinsky did a wonderful job compering and Rabbi Wittenberg's words were quite extraordinary. The violinist from the Yehudi Menuhin School was outstanding. The most emotional part however was undoubtedly Carl

Davis's 'The Train to Tomorrow', the children's song cycle first commissioned by the Halle Orchestra in Manchester. I believe that by the end, it dawned on virtually the entire audience, including many members of the Finchley Children's choir, the kind of traumas that Kinder had to go through when they were forced to leave their homes and parents and Travel to a foreign country

If the concert conveyed the message, that child refugees invariably experience emotional upheavals, then it patently achieved its main objective

Finally, I must once again thank the members of AJR for their backing and the huge efforts they made to ensure success. Most of all we should be particularly grateful to their Chief Executive Michael Newman who laterally worked 24 hours a day on this project.

On that note I wish you and your families a very happy Chanukah.



#### LAST TRAIN TO TOMORROW

The Roundhouse, Camden Town, was originally built to house a turntable for railway engines. On 9th November 2014, the anniversary of Kristallnacht or Night of the Pogrom, it hopefully also served as a 'turntable' for the 1200 or so audience, to enable them to eventually leave with charged emotions and changed thoughts engendered by the power of the orchestral music and the musical poem on the Kindertransport.

Natasha Kaplinsky, the TV Presenter, compèred the event masterfully. She introduced Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg whose inspiring words set the tone for the afternoon, highlighted by the kindling of six candles by Kinder. (see below for the text of his address)

Mounting the podium next was Carl Davis, the world-renowned conductor and composer, to conduct the City of London Sinfonia for two pieces: the Overture to the Marriage of Figaro and Mendelsohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor. 14 year-old Louisa Staples, from the Yehudi Menuhin School, was the soloist. She enraptured the audience with her outstanding performance on the violin. As was later observed by many - she played like a young prodigy. I. And no doubt the audience were transported into another world by the music so beautifully conducted by Carl Davis.

The interval allowed some of the Kinder and guests to meet HRH Prince Charles who had arrived for the second part of the programme. Going down to the meeting area felt like going through dungeons. Words cannot really express our gratitude to His Royal Highness for his interest in the Kindertransport. To the best of my knowledge it is the fourth time he has met up with Kinder. In our short conversation, he asked about The Last Train to Tomorrow and I reassured him he would be enthralled. I hope I was right in my observations on it to him.

The final part of the programme was *The Train to Tomorrow*, a musical poem about the Kindertransport. The words are by the poet and writer Hiawyn Oram and the music by Carl Davis; he conducted the Sinfonia orchestra and the Children's Finchley Music Group. The proverbial pin could be heard (despite the music!) through the 12 parts of the piece. The atmosphere and feelings

aroused captivated us. The words re-enacted the story, with accompanying music, from the rise of Hitler, through the subsequent years, to Kristallnacht and the Kindertransport- its journeys and arrival in the UK. The emotions felt by parents and Kinder were beautifully expressed by the actor-children. I am sure that Kinder present were taken back over the years to the start of their journey, to their parents, siblings and families, whom they may or may not see again, nor their life at home; I certainly was. For some tears were not far away whilst without doubt others shed them.

Erich concluded the event with thanks especially to HRH Prince Charles, Carl Davis, the orchestra and the Children, to Michael Newman, Natasha Kaplinsky as well as to everyone who made the day such a success.

Adjectives and phrases heard and used to describe the whole event were: most evocative, moving, vibrant, emotive, soul-stirring, a unique event, an event to reflect on as times move on and many more comments in a similar vein.

“ ...They (parents made the ultimate sacrifice). They pushed us onto the last trains to any kind of a tomorrow, away from the waiting Holocaust...and gave us second lives,” so said the actor to accompanying music in the finale. This finished on the hopeful, optimistic note that the sun will always rise – rise on another world in which Kinder were given a new lease of life.

*BK*

[As editor, I want to express special thanks to Michael Newman, the king-pin of the event, to AJR and staff, to Erich and the planning committee, Many months of hard slogging produced an event beyond compare]

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#### **RABBI JONATHAN WITTENBERG'S ADDRESS**

##### **Kindertransport**

On this date of 9th November 1938, 76 years ago, came Kristallnacht. The full violence of the Nazi regime broke forth; Goebbels recorded in his diary with a glee one can still sense today the growing number of synagogues in flames. Jews were beaten in the streets, tens were murdered, and tens of thousands sent to the concentration camps.

The onslaught, which Goebbels described as the 'boiling spirit of popular feeling' had been carefully orchestrated. The shooting in Paris of Ernst von Rath by Herschel Grynspan, in revenge for the misery of his parents who had been dumped with thousands of other Jews at the Polish border at Zbaszyn to starve, was a convenient pretext. Foreign governments had shown at the Evian Conference on refugees how little interest they had in taking in more Jews. The Nazis therefore felt they could act with impunity.

The following day, my grandfather who'd served as a rabbi in Frankfurt all his working life, was summoned by the Gestapo to come with the keys to the synagogue on the Boerneplatz. As he walked through the crowd of onlookers, he heard it said that in the city's beautiful Westend-Synagoge, the inside of which had been destroyed, the Eternal Light remained burning. This was taken as a sign from God.

Though many lights were shattered on Kristallnacht, others began to burn more strongly. In Frankfurt, the wife of the British Consul, Robert Smallbones, telegraphed him in London saying that the consulate was full of desperate people to whom they were giving refugee. 'Do something', she urged. His actions led to the scheme under which thousands of temporary visas were issued, on condition that the applicants would not seek work in Britain. On the promise of such a visa many, including my grandfather, were released from Concentration Camps.

In Britain, the spirit of appeasement was largely over. Parliament debated the fate of Germany's Jews. "Here is a chance of taking the young generation of a great people, here is a chance of mitigating to some extent the terrible suffering of their parents", noted the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare. Permission was given for an unlimited number of children to enter the country. Lord Baldwin, the former Prime Minister broadcast an appeal to the nation: 'They may not be our fellow subjects, but they are our fellow men. Tonight I plead for the victims who turn to England for help.'

Jewish organisations, supported especially by the Quakers, had been urging such a response and were prepared. News of the Kindertransport spread quickly across Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. In thousands of homes a single bag was packed: How does a parent express with a picture, a prayer book, a cuddly toy, an unfathomable, measureless love? Partings took place in the foyers of railway stations; children saw the diminishing figures of their parents, often for the last time. They travelled across Holland, then by ferry to Harwich; at Liverpool Station they encountered the arms of strangers, some uncomprehending, many deeply kind. 'Here you shall be loved' Vera Gissing was told, when she reached her new 'family'.

I sometimes wonder about those lonely walks home Germany to flats or houses which must have felt desolate in their emptiness, a sadness born bravely because mothers and fathers knew that at least their child, to whom they had given life, now had a chance to survive.

Those children, many of whom are here today, embraced the future with courage and determination, creating lives and families of their own. But the heart, whether it surrounds memory with silence, or gives it words, does not forget. Nor must the world forget the pain, the courage and the generosity of the Kindertransport.

Ner Hashem Nishmat Adam: 'A lamp of the Lord is the human soul', says Proverbs. As we now light memorial candles, we think of the spirit of the parents who sent their children away to safety, of those children who 'came alone' to an unknown country, and of the dedication of all who helped them. (BK)

Carl Davis CBE Hiawyn Oram Louisa Staples

HRH Prince Charles HRH Prince Charles, Andrew Kaufman , Michael Newman & Equerry

Finchley Children's Music Group Carl Davis conducting Sinfonia & Children

(These four photographs by permission of Blake Ezra Photography

Souvenir Brochure

Given the popularity of the souvenir brochure, the AJR is to issue a reprint. If you would like a copy, please send a cheque for £5 to the AJR, Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL.



**Carl Davis CBE**



**Hiawyn Oram**



**Louisa Staples**





*HRH Prince Charles , Andrew Kaufman , Michael Newman & Equerry  
 Finchley Children's Music Group Carl Davis conducting Sinfonia & Children  
 (These four photographs by permission of Blake Ezra Photography*

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### ANCIENT LIGHT

“And the Lord said let there be light” Light plays a significant role in Jewish life. Friday night and Festival nights we kindle candles to welcome in our ‘guest’ – the spirit of Shabbat and Chaggim (Festivals).

“The Lord’s lamp is the spirit of man.” (Proverbs 20:27) We re-kindle that spirit when we light a Yahrzeit light. Its flickering flame is perhaps also a figurative reminder of the ‘flickering’ in our lives, one day up, the next day down in spirit.

The memorial candles on Yom Kippur likewise remind us of the frailty of life as we recall in the unetaneh tokef prayer: “Who shall live, and who shall die at his predestined time or before that time....” The light also recalls our dear departed for whom we also seek forgiveness.

In both Temple times a golden candelabrum of seven branches burned daily, illuminating the Holy part as if with the presence of God. This is replicated by the ner tamid, the perpetual light, in the synagogue, where too we are in the presence of the Almighty as we pray.

Over the eight days of Chanukah we light 36 lights (1,2...etc) plus 8 servant lights (shamash).

Unlike the Temple candelabrum, the Chanukiah has 8 branches (shammash) to recall the miracle of the oil lasting 8 days. The burning chanukiyot, as well as the electric ones in and on buildings or even cars, all recall the events where the flame of Judaism was flickering or in danger of going

out because of the decrees of Antiochus IV of Seleucid Syria. However, the endangered flame burned bright again after the victories of Judah the Maccabee and the rededication of the Temple. Ignoring the servant lights (which ensure that we do not 'use' the light of the chanukiah), the 36 separate lights lit over the 8 days equal the traditional number (36) of righteous people in a generation; righteous in Hebrew is tzaddik, which also means martyr, for in Maccabean times there were martyrs who sacrificed their lives not to betray their Judaism. Among them were the women who circumcised their sons (forbidden by decree), Eleazar. A teacher of renown, who refused trefah and the mother and her seven sons.

In our own times the flickering flames of many of our brothers and sisters were cruelly extinguished. Yet, there were many examples where Judaism survived and burned as a small flame under the most horrendous and dangerous conditions. For example there are mentions of prisoners in camps using whatever they could, including their rations, to light some form of Chanukiah. It produced the tzaddikim, in the martyrs of our people, 'may their souls rest eternal peace'.

Whilst the chanukiah is to be understood as a symbol of the survival of Judaism, it is also an echo of the Temple candelabrum. Jerusalem fell to the Romans under Titus in 70 CE and with it the Temple was destroyed. Its menorah was taken and eventually disappeared, though preserved in stone on the Arch of Titus in Rome. The 7 branched menorah became the symbol of Judaism, e.g. in the Jewish catacombs in Rome, long before the Magen David. In our time it has become once again a statement of our survival, as it serves as the official symbol of the State of Israel.

One, two, three.....As we light the first candle, representing our existence, just as the jar of oil existed to initiate the process of lighting the menorah, so we proceed though to eight, through the millennia and decades of our existence – our light of Judaism has survived, despite the attempts to destroy us, for God saw that it (the light) was good.

BK

## Harwich welcomes the return of the Kinder



The Mayor of Harwich, accompanied by numerous civic dignitaries as well as the Town Crier, welcomed a small group of Kindertransport survivors on the platform of Harwich International

(Parkeston Quay) Station on Thursday, 4th September 2014. The event, with the return of these survivors welcomed to Harwich, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of the Kindertransport programme and the achievement of 10,000 lives saved.

Peter Hedderly, a young man in his early 40's, has been involved with organising train journeys for much of his working life. His first involvement in the Kindertransport story was when he was asked to help plan and operate the special Winton Train journey from Prague to London in 2009 which was for invited guests of the Czech government. He quickly realised that the Czech rescue story was just one small part of a much larger, much more ambitious rescue attempt requiring amazing planning and ingenuity on the part of the organisers. In planning the journey of 4th September 2014, his aim was to honour the unsung heroes of the 1930's and to help children threatened by war today.

The operation of the special train for September 4th was only approved in August, at which point invitations were sent out to "Kinder" on the AJR mailing list. This unfortunate lack of adequate notice resulted in the numbers being much smaller than such a splendid venture deserved. This special train, christened the "Chadwick Train" from London to Harwich and the "Warriner Train" from Harwich to London in honour of two of the people who worked closely with Nicholas Winton in Prague, left Liverpool Street Station at 10-37 and arrived punctually at Harwich International at 11-51 a.m. Coffee and pastries helped to pass the journey comfortably and quickly.

As we stepped off the train the Town Crier called out "Oyez, Oyez" and read a special welcome to the Kindertransport survivors who had returned to Harwich after 75 years. Four young girls and boys from the local All Saints Primary School in Harwich presented flowers and chatted with the visitors. A very warm welcome!

An old red London double-deck bus took the entire party to St. Nicholas Church near the sea front for a very moving Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in which the hymns and prayers had been very carefully chosen to fit well with the rescue of children and the remembrance of those sadly left behind and never seen again. The Beadle of Colchester Synagogue had also come specially to greet us and added his prayers.

After this the group moved onto the Harwich Electric Palace Cinema which was built in the early years of the 20th Century and is today a Grade II listed building, privately owned and in regular use as a cinema. It has the ideal atmosphere in which to watch the short BBC film "Our World: Saving a Generation" about Sir Nicholas Winton and his well documented work in saving so many children from Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia. This is a well made, very moving film which shows Sir Nicholas with many of his "family".

Peter Hedderly, a non-Jew, put an incredible amount of work into the organisation of this quite remarkable train journey, work of a totally voluntary nature. He was clearly well supported by the train company Abellio Greater Anglia and by Network Rail, the former assisting the project financially and the latter waiving the usual costs. We also had the benefit of being guided in Harwich by members of the Harwich Society. Let us hope that when he organises the centenary of



the Kindertransport he will have many more supporters. However, those few of us who were there thank him and his colleagues for a splendid event.

*Ernest Simon*



Dear Michael,

I took part last Thursday in the visit to Harwich organised by Peter Hadderly on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

I have already expressed my great gratitude to Peter for organising the event. Everything went extremely smoothly and efficiently. It was indeed touching and heart-warming how we were received on arrival on the Harwich station platform by the town crier, the mayor, various local guides, an odd councillor or two and not forgetting the smartly dressed young schoolchildren who presented each one of us with a lovely white flower and enquired eagerly about how we felt coming as children on the Kindertransport.

The tour that followed was informative, interesting and congenial. The local guides were very friendly and communicative. I was accompanied by someone who took me to see the plaque on the promenade wall commemorating the arrival of Kindertransport children in Harwich and then invited me to have lunch with him. He told me he was a great admirer of Israel and visited the country regularly, Pity there not more of his kind.

Kind regards,

Michael Brown

It has just occurred to me to mention that, following a request by the headmaster of the Harwich junior school who delegated 4 boys of his pupils to form part of the reception party welcoming us at the railway station last Thursday to write an account of my boyhood Kindertransport

experiences to pass on to his pupils. I sent him my version. He in turn made some kind remarks about what I had written, saying he would show it to his pupils. He also asked me if I would accept an invitation to visit his school and I replied that I would be happy to do so later this year.

Best wishes,

*Michael*

## **A further report on the visit to Harwich**

Philip and I experienced this very special anniversary arranged by Peter Hedderley at very short notice. He had arranged for a very special electric train to take us to Harwich. We left Liverpool St Station having first visited Frank Meisler's commemorative statue to Kindertransport on the forecourt.

There were only twenty of us in all due partly to the short notice, only four of us had been on the on the original transports to England in 1939.

We travelled First Class and were treated to refreshments on the way.

We arrived in Harwich about mid - day and were greeted by a Reception Committee consisting of the Mayor, the Town Crier, the headmaster of All Saints School, Richard Hopkins with one of his masters, Richard Spencer M.B.E. together with four of the pupils, two girls and two boys. The four of us who had travelled on the original trains in 1939 were each presented with a beautiful white gerbera wrapped in cellophane. Annabel, who gave me my flower, was much the same age as I was when I came to England. The Town Crier in traditional red robes welcomed us in his clear deep voice. We were then welcomed by the Mayor and Councillors.

After the reception, we travelled on a beautifully restored red bus with names of places in Central Europe whence the children had fled, clearly written round the upper deck. The tour took us round Harwich. We were accompanied by Heritage Guides who pointed out places of interest, particularly where Dovercourt once stood, and where so many kinder lived. It is now a housing estate.

We then attended a special service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at St Nicholas Church given by Rev. Peter Mann. John Gottesman A member from Colchester Shul recited a short prayer. We then went to the Electric Palace Cinema, privately run, built in 1911, a Grade II\* listed building , the second oldest in the country. We saw the BBC documentary Our World: Saving a Generation.

So sadly, the visit ended. We thanked all those kind people that made the visit so memorable for us. We got onto the bus to take us to the station to commence our homeward journey.

We would particularly like to thank Peter Hedderley for arranging such a memorable day for us, for his generosity and for accompanying us every bit of the journey.

*Lia and Philip Lesser, AJR West Midlands*

## Honoring the Kindertransport" - a tour of Europe

Last spring I took a bicycle tour of the Netherlands. While on the tour, I asked myself "Is this view; the flower fields, the canals, the windmills, the narrow brick buildings, what my mother saw out the window when she left Germany on the Kindertransport?" And the thought of a tour, primarily by rail, that followed a route of the Kindertransports started to take shape.

My mother boarded her Kindertransport in Berlin, as did many others, so I wanted Berlin as one city of Origin. I have seen many notices in the Kinderlink Newsletter from Kinder from Vienna, so I wanted that to be another city of Origin. And I heard speakers from Prague and saw 'Nicky's Family' about the Kindertransports from Prague, a third city of Origin. I wanted to take a ferry from the Hook of Holland to Harwich England and then take a train to London, continuing to follow the route of most Kindertransports.

I contacted Ayelet Tours, a small tour agency that specializes in tours of Jewish interest and significance. With their help and expertise, we developed this plan:

The tour will start in Vienna on Sunday 5 July, 2015. On Tuesday 7 July we take a train to Prague, and on Thursday 9 July we travel to Berlin. In each city, we will see sights significant to the Kindertransport, to the Jewish history of that city, and when ever possible to the new and re-emerging Jewish communities in that city. We will stay in Berlin over Shabbat.

On Sunday 12 July we take a train to the Hook of Holland, then take a bus detour to Amsterdam. While Amsterdam was not directly on the route of the Kindertransports, it would be a shame to travel through the Netherlands and not see the rich Jewish history of that city. We are in Amsterdam Sunday - Tuesday. Tuesday evening we take an overnight ferry from Holland to Harwich, England. On Wednesday, 15 July we will tour the Holiday camp in Dovercourt where many Kinder were housed and then go on to London. We will spend Wednesday afternoon until Friday in London, seeing the Wiener library, other sights about the Kindertransport experience, and (hopefully) sharing stories with Kinder, K1, K2, and K3 who live in England. More information about the tour is available at [www.ayelet.com/KindertransportJuly2015.aspx](http://www.ayelet.com/KindertransportJuly2015.aspx).

I hope that several AJR/KT members will join us for the entire tour. I also hope that tour participants from the USA will meet additional AJR/KT members during the time we spend in London.

Registering for the tour is through the Ayelet website. For questions and comments, I can be reached at [rachelrubingreen@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrubingreen@gmail.com).

Remembering is a richer, more meaningful experience when we can do it together.

*Rachel Rubin Green*

## COINCIDENCES

Mishpochology or the art of finding relations however distant or simply connections. You know the sort of thing I mean: "Do you know family X X in whatever town?" "Yes, they live down the road or they are my cousin's cousin from the other side." Well this account is one of connections. Some months ago AJR received an inquiry about a hostel in Great Chesterford (a village in Essex). The inquirer from that village was passed on to me. It hit bull's-eye. I rang Mark Gamble and explained who I was and said I knew all about Great Chesterford hostel \* as I have. He was interested to find out about it as he lived in the house where the hostel was located. He asked to come round to look at the archival material which he did. The result was that I was invited to speak to the local history group on the subject of the hostel as well as a little on Kindertransport in September.

A second coincidence is that the first warden there was Mr A Shapiro, who left to become the first Head Teacher of the Menorah Primary School in Golders Green. In 1964 he and I both joined the staff of JFS Comprehensive (then Secondary) School in Camden Town. It was only many years later when I read the archives that I found out his connection with the hostel.

I spent a few days in that hostel in 1944 to make up the minyan for the High Holy Days. On my lecture visit I stayed with Mark and Liz Gamble who lived in part of the White House, the house where the hostel was located. (After the war the house was made into two houses) I might well have slept in the same room as in 1944 when it was a dormitory.

I had a good attendance and enjoyed not just giving a talk, but also answering questions and meeting the wonderfully friendly people of Great Chesterford. In good tradition, the evening was rounded off with a drink in one of the two village pubs with those living in both parts of the White House.

But that still did not finish there. My host lent me a book written by one of the 'girls' from the hostel which contains a section on the White House Hostel. Thanks to the book, I got in touch with the author, Professor Gilda Haber and we have been in communication a couple of times. The book is called *Cockney Girl*, by Gilda Moss Haber, PhD. Published by Derby Books Publishing Co, Ltd (ISBN 978-1-780 91-003-1)

All this was the outcome of a simple inquiry to AJR.

*BK*

\*This hostel was for girls and run by the same committee that ran the boy's hostel in Tylers Green. The committee came from the Golders Green Beth Hamidrash (Munk's Shul).

#### KT in Japan

In August Mainichi Newspapers printed an article on Kindertransport by Takayasu (Taka for short) Ogura, Bureau Chief, Europe General Bureau of the paper.

Taka contacted me and came to my place where he interviewed me and took photographs as also with others in the article. We spoke about the Kindertransport generally and I mentioned our lunches of which he attended a couple. On a trip to the States, he detoured to Toronto to interview my sister Ruth (Neuburger) who took to him immediately and was most impressed with the interview he conducted.

Taka has done quite a bit of research and thus gives a general background to the Kindertransport. Whether that is the events of Kristallnacht, mode of transport to the UK, how Kinder settled down, a letter from foster parents in visiting the birth parents to come to the UK (which they did) –all this highlights our lives here. The stories of individuals are related of the following: Ruth Jacobs and Harry Heber, Penelope Putz, Erich Reich, the late Lord Atteborough, Rolf Penzias. Mentioned also are two Nobel Prize winners: Arno Penzias and Walter Kohn. Taka also paid a visit to Liverpool Street Station where he met a group of primary school children being shown the statue.

It is a great article, Taka; thank you. You have encapsulated so much in it. To see the article in full go to

<http://mainichi.jp/english/english/features/news/20140901p2a00m0na023000c.html>

*BK*

## Letters to the Editor



Dear Rev. Koschland,

I am writing to you in answer to your invitation for your readers to recount their experiences of speaking about the Kindertransport. For the last 5 years or so, my Synagogue, the Kingston Liberal Synagogue together with the local Orthodox Synagogue, have held combined Holocaust Memorial Day workshops, to which local schools send parties of schoolchildren. These consist of boys and girls from the age of 13 upwards and there are parties of from 60 to 200 children at a time, accompanied by some of their teachers. A Holocaust survivor will tell the children about his/her experiences, the children then divide into small groups with a facilitator and they will discuss the issues raised, a topic related to the theme of racial and religious intolerance etc. They are also shown short films related to the topic of the Holocaust, such as telling the story of righteous gentiles who have risked their lives to hide Jews.

One of our members is a survivor from Auschwitz, another was hidden as a little boy in Paris and I came from Prague on one of Sir Nicholas Winton's Kindertransports.

The morning or afternoon end with each child coming to the front to light a memorial candle, to hand to the speaker a paper on which they have written a few words as to what their story has meant to them and the speaker gives each child a bookmark with a message.

It is fascinating to read the messages from the children, most of whom say that reading about the Holocaust is not half as moving as meeting someone in person who has lived through that time. In my case they cannot imagine being parted from their families and loved ones at such an early age. Many ask 'why did your little brother not come with you?'

Some are thoughtful about being tolerant of other faiths and races. Some will say that in future they will appreciate more what they have, or that they will not nag if they can't have the jeans they want. One message, in particular I found very gratifying was "Thank you for sharing your experience today. Your journey has truly informed my future journey – to smile, enjoy and love every minute."

However this message is a truly unique one:- "It made me think about different faiths. I myself am a Christian. Have a good day, smile, Jesus loves you! Xxx"

We are planning for next end of January, beginning of February, six days of these Holocaust Memorial Day workshops, as there is a big demand from local schools.

As you can imagine, owing to our advanced ages, we are getting rather short of speakers. So, if there is someone out there who would be willing to come to speak to some of our children, we would be very grateful. Our address is generally in the region of 40 minutes, then there are a few questions and that is all.

*Bronia Snow*

(Kingston and Surbiton are best reached from Waterloo Station by train to SURBITON. It was my old "parish" for 5 years. *Editor*).

## SUITCASE

A video of the performance of Suitcase the show that toured train stations towards the end of last year is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwFd1nzFyUc>

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Could anyone please tell me what happened to Mr. Robert Blodek who worked for the Kindertransport and later changed his name to Harold Roberts? I assume he may not be alive anymore, but did he leave any offspring?

Chava Kopelman [<mailto:chava@kopelman.co.il>]

### Kindertransport farm is now listed.

(The story of the farm had already appeared in the AJR Journal, February 2010 and as it resurfaced in October, I felt it should be re-told briefly. *Editor*)

The Belfast Telegraph ran a story on October 21 about commemorations of the Holocaust in the European Union and focused on Missile Farm. Likewise the Jewish Tribune of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 had run a short story about the farm in Northern Ireland that was used as a refuge for Jewish children escaping Nazi Germany has been awarded listed status. The building, on the Ards peninsula in County Down provided a sanctuary for nearly 300 children between 1938 and 1948 after they were rescued by the Kindertransport. It is now considered a site of historical and architectural interest. The farm, Missile Farm, belonged to a Dublin man who had used it to bleach linen.

The local Mayor, Andrew Muir, had been battling to have the buildings listed for two years. He commented "I am delighted Kindertransport Farm has finally received the recognition it deserves and acquired listed status." He described the building as "one of Northern Ireland's key historic sites", which has been saved for future generations.

Victor Greenberg as survivor of Auschwitz who was brought to the farm at the age of 16 described a daily routine that began with Shacharit (morning service) in the farm's synagogue followed by a morning of English lessons. The children played sports and games in the afternoon whilst the stronger ones would do their share of market gardening.

Most of the refugees had lost their families in the Holocaust and were eventually moved on to the larger Jewish communities in England.

The only one who still remains in the area is retired civil servant Mr Larry Kitzler, he settled in the neighbourhood with his mother after his time at the farm.



(for more information Google Kindertransport in Northern Ireland)

*Views expressed in the Kindertransport Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Kindertransport Special Interest Group or of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.*