



# AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

## Tastes of home

When my grandmother arrived in Britain from Germany she couldn't boil an egg. By her 80s she managed to fry steak and potato croquettes, followed by M&S ice cream. And yet my mother grew up to be a wonderful cook and never better than at Christmas, which in our home was a curious mix of German, British and Polish traditions. Carp on Christmas Eve was my mother's concession to my father.



*Stollen* in the Herman house was always homemade

We had turkey, roast potatoes and parsnips on Christmas Day, but also farfels and red cabbage. The rest of Christmas was German, though roast goose was postponed till January 3<sup>rd</sup> for my father's birthday treat.

The highlights were the biscuits and cakes. *Lebkuchen* were bought but the

*Stollen* was homemade. We never called it *Weihnachtstollen* (and certainly not *Christstollen*). There is nothing better than a large *Stollen* fresh from the oven, the marzipan just so, the candied orange and lemon peel so tasty, the texture soft, never ever dry or hard. Upstairs, you could smell when the *Stollen* was ready.

*Continued on page 2*

## WELL MARKED

The last few weeks have been extraordinarily busy for AJR and many of our members, as organisations around the country marked the 80th anniversaries of some of the most significant events in our history.

We are delighted to share reports from St James's Palace and Westminster Abbey on these historic occasions. We also carry coverage of other recent AJR events, including the launches of *My Story* and our Annual Celebration.

We hope you appreciate reading these and other articles and we wish you all the very best for the secular festive season, however you are spending it.

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## Tastes of Home (cont.)

The aroma was unmistakable.

One of the best treats, though, came in the post. My grandfather, a mysterious figure who had returned to Germany after the war, would send chocolate marzipan from Hamburg. There was nothing like it in Britain.

We like to think of culinary national traditions as pure and unmixed. French croissants, Italian pasta, British fish and chips or roast beef. But it isn't true. Many of us grow up among strange compromises. After all, the very idea of a Jewish Christmas is a pretty strange idea to begin with. And like most things that happen in families, these compromises never get discussed. They just happen. Here a taste of Jewish Warsaw, there a taste of Jewish Berlin and lots of bits of British Christmas. And no one ever talked about where these strange hybrids came from. Like so many aspects of refugee life it was shrouded in silence.

Neither parent was dogmatic just as long as they got their favourites. It was typical of my mother that her favourites were sweet and sugary and all my father wanted was savoury, carp and goose, oh, and rye bread for the sandwiches. But what he wanted most of all, of course, were farfels. With the turkey and the goose and lashings of hot gravy. The ultimate comfort food for someone who had good reason to want comfort.

Each family has its own very different culinary traditions. A dear friend, the daughter of a great German-Jewish émigré designer, always cooks roast goose and dumplings on Christmas Day. No farfels. And very English home-made mince pies. Just as every refugee family's experience of displacement and loss was different, so their favourite Christmas delicacies were different too.

Proust had his *madeleines*. The scene with the biscuits that suddenly remind Marcel of his childhood is one of the most famous moments in modern literature. Why so? It's obvious. For all of us, food opens a treasure house of childhood memories. The tastes and smells remind us of so many precious moments. And terrible ones. When people are torn from their homes,

their memories are often desperately unhappy. The smells and tastes of beloved meals remind so many of people left behind, cups and plates forever lost, kitchens never to be seen again.

There is a beautiful moment in EJ Hobsbawm's memoir, *Interesting Times*, when he describes how a "bottle of good Tokay, which I had saved from the old home, had somehow disappeared in my absence." The bottle of wine stands for the moment when his extended family leave the orphan Eric and set off for South America, leaving him alone in Britain. A bottle of wine stands for that moment of complete aloneness. Nothing more needs to be said.

When I moved to north London, many years later, married, with my own family, I was happy to give up the carp and goose, though I loved to go to Ken and Marie's and see the carp in a big bucket. Only one thing was non-negotiable. Farfels. But where to get them? For years, Waitrose on the Finchley Road (or John Barnes as the real veterans still called it) was the go-to place for continental Christmas goodies. *Lebkuchen*? No problem. Farfels? Of course. It was a home from home. That was then, back in the mid-1980s. Today, it's harder. Sometimes they run out of *lebkuchen*. Not enough in stock. They used to have Zum Fest now it's Waitrose own brand. And then one year they no longer stocked farfels. I went to Joseph's Bookstore. Michael Joseph had the solution. Moishe's down the road, he said. Problem solved. Christmas saved.

Rye bread for turkey sandwiches is easier to find but where to get the best rye bread? Every reader will have their favourite. My own favourite is from Roni's Bagel Bakery in West Hampstead. Pre-sliced. Not black rye. Turkey sandwiches on rye, with mayonnaise and redcurrant jelly. Or Hungarian salami. I'm not sure where this strange tradition of mine started. The great screenwriter, Emeric Pressburger, used to have a room in his house in Hampstead just to keep his Hungarian salamis.

You could write a social history of North London based on when they stopped stocking certain continental delicacies – and what replaced them. That would be just one chapter in a history of central

European refugee shops and food. Ackerman's chocolates, of course. It started in Kensington Church Street and moved to Goldhurst Terrace in 1956. Dobrin Chocolates had shops in the Suburb and on Edgware Road. The carp at Ken and Marie's, later the Belsize Deli, now no more. The croissants at Cosmo's. Well, everything at Cosmo's.

The Cosmo served standard central European fare: herring salads and herring fillets, Sauerbraten with raisin sauce, red cabbage and dumplings, Wiener and Holstein Schnitzels, beef goulash and bratwurst with Czech lager. Pastries, croissants and bitter coffee were favourites in the café. The croissants were unique in their texture, made fresh each day by the Cosmo's own on-site bakery. The most popular exhibit at the wonderful *Continental Britons* exhibition was the recreation of Cosmo's. It was at the heart of *Finchleystrasse*. Nobel Prize-winning author Elias Canetti was a regular. So was actor James Mason, comedian Kenneth Williams used to take his mother there, while James Fox and later Dudley Moore, Rowan Atkinson and Harry Enfield also had favoured seats and favoured dishes. The Dorice, further along the Finchley Road, was a long-time favourite of the Amadeus Quartet. Their *Stammlokal*, Muriel Nissel called it. And then there was Louis, with a piano. How continental was that? Over in West Hampstead was Patisserie Weil which according to the doyen of refugee historians, Anthony Grenville, "offered Mandelberg cheesecake, Viennese Apfelstrudel and Zwetschkuchen." Or if you wanted Czech food there was always the Czech Club further down West End Lane where Herbert Lom was a regular.

All gone. Ackerman's, The Cosmo, The Dorice, Patisserie Weil, Ken and Marie's. Only Louis is still there, up the hill in Hampstead, but not the same. No more Doris Balacs at the Dorice or Graziella at the Cosmo. Someone once said Graziella could flirt with customers in five different languages. And who eats Bratwurst or Zwetschkuchen now? A vanished world. But I hope one day, when I am long gone, my children or grandchildren will still be having farfels and *Lebkuchen* at Christmas.

David Herman



# A Royal welcome

**On 20 November His Royal Highness Prince Charles personally hosted a reception at St James's Palace for 80 AJR members who came to the UK on the Kindertransport.**

AJR member William Kaczynski sent us this report straight afterwards:

"This special event marked the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport. It really was an honour to now, for the second time, have met Prince Charles.

"I myself was born in Berlin and came to England on 15 July 1939, just six weeks before the War. I was extra lucky as I came with my younger brother Edward, who was just six months old, together with our parents. We were extremely lucky as most of the children who came, now called the Kindertransport Children, never saw their parents again.



HRH The Prince of Wales greeting some of the AJR members



HRH Prince Charles with AJR Trustees

"The reception started at 12 noon with superb sandwiches followed by delicious cakes, tea and coffee. There were about ten tables, each with 7 or 8 guests and one empty place. This was where Prince Charles came and was seated with his personal chair and cushion, where he personally greeted each and every one of us, spending

nearly half an hour at each table."

Another AJR member, Susie Barnett, wrote: "With the Queen's son and heir sitting at the table chatting I couldn't help wondering what my parents would have thought. I had to pinch myself to believe it. It was so very special."

## AJR IN BREXIT SPOTLIGHT

The AJR's role as the voice of Britain's Jewish refugee community was heavily exercised last month in response to official Government figures which show that, since the UK voted to leave the EU in July 2016, there has been a 40-fold increase in the number of British Jews applying for German citizenship.

Figures show that in 2016-17 there were 1,667 applications for German citizenship from refugees' descendants, compared to just 43 the previous year. This provided the British media

with yet another strand for their Brexit speculations, which in turn has brought many journalists and researchers to the AJR's door.

Chief Executive Michael Newman was quoted as an expert commentator in several national newspapers, including the FT, The Times, the Daily Express and, of course, the JC.

In Michael's opinion, the growth in applications is "... mainly about practical considerations for some people. For others it is also about reclaiming something that belonged to them or their parents. It's part of their identity. A small number may also be doing this as protest against Brexit, but of course it is not the AJR's role to comment on this"



# KRISTALLNACHT AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY



The Belsize Square Synagogue Youth Choir sings *Guten Abend*



AJR member Rolf Penzias lights a candle

## Numerous AJR members and their families attended the Service of Solemn Remembrance and Hope on the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 8 November.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, who told the full congregation: "We shall mourn with respect and love not only the victims of that night but all the victims of Nazi persecution. Here in this holy place at the centre of our national life, we shall

pray for a growth in mutual respect and understanding between the children of Abraham: Jews, Christians, and Muslims. We shall pray for trust in the God who makes and loves his people. Our prayer together will itself be a sign of hope."

Holocaust survivor Lilian Levy, who lit one of six memorial candles at the event said: "To be part of an interfaith Service at Westminster Abbey was very moving. In those ancient and beautiful surroundings one feels powerfully that one is in a long line of worshippers down the centuries, irrespective of religion or denomination. It was an honour to be invited, together with my daughter, to light a candle in memory

of the six million who died in the Shoah.

"Choirs from Belsize Square Synagogue, West London Synagogue and the Zemel choir performed beautifully, especially in the wonderful acoustics of the Abbey. Their performances interspersed powerful testimonies of survival from three AJR members: Bea Green, Freddie Knoller and Leslie Brent."

AJR member John Fox, who attended the service, wrote afterwards "It was a most moving experience and I would like to thank the AJR and anyone else who made it possible."

## ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND

### "I arrived in England on the first Kindertransport on 2 December 1938.

We arrived in Harwich and were taken by bus to the Dovercourt Bay summer camp, which was vacant in winter.

Every day people came from London and elsewhere to collect children. Some were selected by childless people, some as companions for their offspring, some of the girls as mothers' helpers. I was part of a small group collected by the Bournemouth Refugee Committee, who opened a hostel for 20 boys in a vacant Scout camp in Swanage.



Unfortunately it was a very severe winter. The windows in the bunk-house were unglazed and the water pipes were frozen, so the facility had to be shut down. We stayed with local residents until the committee rented a house in Bournemouth.

I remember the Hawses, who housed me for a while and had two children, Robin and Maggy.

I also remember staying with Roger Browne, whose mansion overlooked the Channel. I remember Miss West, the mayor of Corfe Castle village, who

This image will be on display at the Poole Museum throughout January as part of an exhibition that commemorates the Holocaust and looks at how Dorset responded to it.

helped raise funds for my mother's rescue, plus Dr. Woodruff and our hostel warden, Philip Carter.

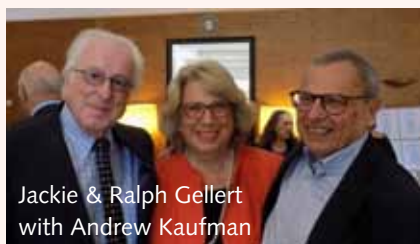
I am always in awe at the efficiency of the process: 9 November 1938 was the date of Kristallnacht, which made the global headlines and led to the Kindertransport legislation. Following this, the Kindertransports were organised, transportation planned, the arrival and housing of the arrivals provided for, all within four weeks."

**Alfred Batzdorff**





Astrid Kersner & Genia Neugarten



Jackie & Ralph Gellert  
with Andrew Kaufman



Janos Korn, Barry Rees, Liz Rees &  
Ernie Goldmann



Autumn melodies



Eve & Peter Newman, Erica & Tony Matthews



# Autumn Melodies

Chairman Andrew Kaufman welcomed dozens of AJR members to our Annual Celebration for good food, Royal Opera standard entertainment and, above all, a chance to enjoy each others' company.

Speaking proudly about the legacy of the contribution that our former refugees have made to Britain, Andrew said he cannot help but think what our unique community makes of the current political climate and the messages that are being sent about the relationship between ourselves and countries in Europe, and beyond.

The fracturing of Europe is, of course, not the only challenge faced by AJR members. "While it is scarcely believable that in the lifetime of refugees and survivors there are deniers and those who dare to diminish or trivialise the Holocaust, it is equally unfathomable that the scourge of antisemitism is no longer the preserve of the far right," Andrew said.

Countering these threats by promoting effective and impactful Holocaust education is critical, and the AJR is playing a key role. "While we have an unwavering focus on delivering social welfare services to the first generation, we are developing our grants programme such that we are now the largest benefactor of Holocaust educational projects in the country," Andrew explained.

Sharing a verbal snapshot of some of the many different educational projects that AJR is supporting, Andrew also talked about our leading role in Holocaust remembrance and commemoration. "All this in no way distracts from our primary task: to continue to deliver transformative social and welfare services to the AJR members. This year alone we will disburse close to £6m in direct assistance in Homecare and emergency funds while AJR social workers, volunteers and outreach teams continue to provide personal attention and life-changing help," he said.

The event finished with a fabulous musical performance from soprano Glenys Groves, baritone Jonathan Fisher and tenor Alexandre Naomenko and Scilla Stewart on piano.

# Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication.

## TAKING TO BERLIN

I wonder if you could let David Herman know how much I enjoy his articles. He wrote a really excellent one on the Kindertransport. I will be reading it to the 27 people who I am taking to Berlin to commemorate Kristallnacht on 8 November.

*Helen Hyde DBE, Radlett, Herts.*

## RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

I enjoyed reading David Herman's article on Righteous Gentiles (Nov). In particular I was interested in what he had to say about Gerhard Hirschfeld's book which explains why so many organisations responded to the plight of refugees from Nazism, especially Quaker organisations. The Quakers never ask or expect recognition for saving thousands of Jews from Nazi Europe by organising Kindertransports, giving guarantees and offering employment.

I was born in Vienna. All my family were saved by Quakers. I had all my education at Quaker Boarding Schools and, on 8 November, I am invited to Germany to give one of my presentations on "What the Quakers did for the Jews of Nazi Europe". My Thesis on this subject, "The Missing Chapter", was accepted by Yad Vashem and they now have it permanently in their library.

*Peter Kurer, Cheadle, Manchester*

In David Herman's article on Righteous Gentiles there was no mention of the 49 Swiss who were granted this special honour. I bring just two of these to your attention.

Swiss Consul Carl Lutz represented the British interest in Budapest. Thanks to Lutz' initiative at least 60,000 Hungarian Jews were saved. This is most likely the biggest number of Jewish lives saved by a single person during WW2.

In 1944, after the Germans entered Hungary, Consul Lutz approached Eichmann with the aim of saving Jews. Eichmann refused so Lutz went over his

head to Berlin, which gave him the right to issue 1000 Schutzbriefe (letters of protection). Lutz interpreted this to mean that a Schutzbrief would protect a family rather than just a single person. He put a number of houses under Swiss Protection, and there Jews found shelter. The Glasshouse in Budapest was one of these.

Another hero was Police Commandant Paul Grüninger, who saved about 3,600 Jews who had illegally crossed the green border into Switzerland. He even backdated their documents to the time when legal entry was still possible. As a consequence he was dismissed from the police force, convicted of misconduct, heavily fined and stripped of his pension. He died in poverty in 1972.

The efforts of Swiss Jewish organisations and individuals in rescuing Jews from German-occupied lands are not well known. Based in Geneva were Gerhart M Riegner, head of the World Jewish Congress, Nathan Schwalb, representing Hechalutz and the Histadrut; and Heini Bornstein, representative for Hashomer Hatzair. Their combined efforts saved more than 200,000 lives.

As director of the Swiss Office of the American JOINT Distribution Committee, Saly Mayer - based in St Gallen - also helped save many lives.

There were also Kindertransports into Switzerland. It was then a country of barely five million citizens who saved more Jews per capita than any other country but sadly, in absolute terms, only 20,000 found safety inside Switzerland.

*Shulamit B Spain, Scotland*

Regarding David Herman's article on *Righteous Gentiles: Then and Now*, the 5,595 Dutch men and women who have been honoured as righteous among the nations deserve our greatest appreciation and respect, but we must also understand and acknowledge that there is another number: 90 percent of Dutch Jews did not survive the Holocaust. No other Western European country suffered such

a high percentage of loss. Compared to the number of Polish Jews lost, the number of Dutch Jews who perished is tiny. But the 90 percent of Holland's Jews who perished is as high as the much better known Polish percentage.

In his book *After the Holocaust the Bells Still Ring* Rabbi Joseph A. Polak, himself a survivor, repeats the words of Judith Miller, author of *One by One by One*: "The Dutch poured millions into the Anne Frank House to give the impression that every Dutchman hid a Jew in his attic, when this was tragically very far from the truth."

*Eve Kugler, London N3*

## HONOURS IN COLOGNE

I left my home in the Roon Strasse, close to Cologne's large synagogue, on 18 January 1939 with the Kindertransport of the Yawne School. The next time I had contact with Cologne was as a qualified air gunner flying over the city on the 8 May 1945. The cathedral was still standing as was my home, although damaged by bombing.

In 1988 my sister (who survived four concentration camps) and I were invited by the city of Wesel (North Rhine Westphalia) on the 50th anniversary of the Kristallnacht. Since then I have visited the district over 30 times to give talks to schools, students and adult assemblies. On my 90th birthday the city conferred on me the honour of "Ehrenbürger" approved by the mayoress, city council and the leaders of all political parties (unanimously). I am now the sole survivor of the one-time Jewish community of Wesel and so represent those who are no more.

*Ernest Kolman, Greenford Middlesex*

## HUNGARIAN JEWS

I read with great interest your comment in the November journal regarding the contribution Hungarian Jews have made to the UK and wonder whether the name Dr Maurus Banyai has come up? He was my maternal grandfather and a renowned pre-war textile engineer to the extent



that Brussels University awarded him an Honorary doctorate in 1930. In 1945 he established a company in Ayr, Scotland called British Replin Ltd to manufacture a product for which he had developed a Jacquard loom adaptation. He died in 1949 just as the business was getting established; the company changed hands several times and at some stage it became known as Replin Fabrics Ltd, based in Peebles. It is now part of a Leeds based textile company. During the war he worked on various other projects.

*Tom Kubie, Leeds*

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John Farago quite rightly points out that there are too few items in the Journal featuring the many Hungarian Jewish immigrants who contributed greatly to their adopted country.

*Janos Fisher, Bushey Heath, Herts*

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#### **AUTUMN MELODIES**

I used to be a schoolteacher and I know only too well how complicated and stressful organising a large event can be. At the Autumn Melodies lunch (see page 5) the fire alarm prevented real thanks being extended to the wonderful musical ensemble. Each year they perform so wonderfully for us. I am sure AJR members would also like to have thanked Susan Harrod and her team for all the hard work they put in to ensure members had a memorable afternoon. My personal thanks to everyone at AJR.

*Susie Barnett, Billericay, Essex*

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#### **HITLER'S HOLOCAUST RAILWAYS**

On 28 October Channel 5 showed the most moving programme I have ever seen on our amazing, unlikely survival. This video should be offered free to every school in the country in preference to the selective trips to former concentration camps which the new government budget supports.

*Hans L Eirew, Manchester*

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#### **SOMETHING MISSING IN BRNO**

I write this in some irritation at the

response of the rabbi who answered David Wirth's 'Something Missing in Brno....' (August) by stating that he had a pleasant holiday break there at the invitation of the Jewish community. Personally, I am surprised that there is a Jewish community in Brno.

The simple answer to David's bemusement at the lack of an adequate holocaust memorial in Brno is that it would merely invite desecration by the children of the fascists who made Brno such a hell-hole during WW2. Brno is in what was Sudetenland, where the most fanatical and vicious of Hitler's followers were located, and it was an area that promoted the holocaust without apparent guilt. My father, a Czech Jew, endured mistreatment in Brno before the war and fought with the Free Czech army for the liberation of Dunkirk and subsequently Europe. I would wish his courage to be remembered.

*Erik Svarny, London, W11*

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#### **NESTHÄCKCHEN**

I was astonished to see those three pictures of Nesthäkchen in the Journal (November). These were my favourite books as a child and I read every one of them. I named my daughter Uschi: she is 75 years old now. I asked many friends of my age who came from Germany about Nesthäkchen but they had no idea who I was talking about. I was so happily surprised by the pictures!

*Judy Benton (aged 97), Edgware, Middx.*

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#### **BEN URI ART GALLERY**

I assume that some of your readers may have seen the ludicrous proposal by the Ben Uri Art Gallery to shift its focus from Jewish art and artists to émigré artists collectively. The proposals can be accessed at <http://www.benuri.org.uk/about-us/>

Essentially, they propose that the unique nature of the Ben Uri is destroyed and that the organisation alters its mission statement to include "Continue to enhance our world-class collection adding

yet greater range across immigrant artists primarily to Britain so it is seen and explored across all boundaries".

It does nothing to either the Jewish or other immigrant position to stir up all cultural contributions into some obscure colloidal murky soup. Moreover the sale of a unique collection which has been painstakingly built up over generations does a disservice to previous benefactors and the Anglo-Jewish community.

May I suggest that placing a work by Chris Ofili next to a painting by Bomberg does nothing for either artist. Conflating their immigrant status is like deciding to have an organisation which concentrates only on work by artists born on a Thursday.

*Arthur Oppenheimer, Hove*

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#### **CREEPING AGEISM**

Changes in society appear to increasingly sideline or leave behind my generation of former hard-working and richly contributing citizens aged 80+. I wonder whether other readers of the AJR Journal are finding the same?

For example, many online websites are so complicated that I have to give up and seek old-fashioned ways of making contact. They seem able to make it easy for older people to spend their money online, but when something goes wrong, it is quite another matter. I got an email recently telling me an item I ordered had been delivered. It had not arrived and nor had a card to tell me I was out and how I could retrieve my purchase. It was a long and arduous battle.

I don't give up easily but I fear that the business world is moving towards 'digital only' and expecting consumers to fit in with this, irrespective of some who find digital programmes difficult or don't even have a computer. Our high street banks and post offices are rapidly disappearing. At least good solid paper books are still with us in spite of the advance of the kindle.

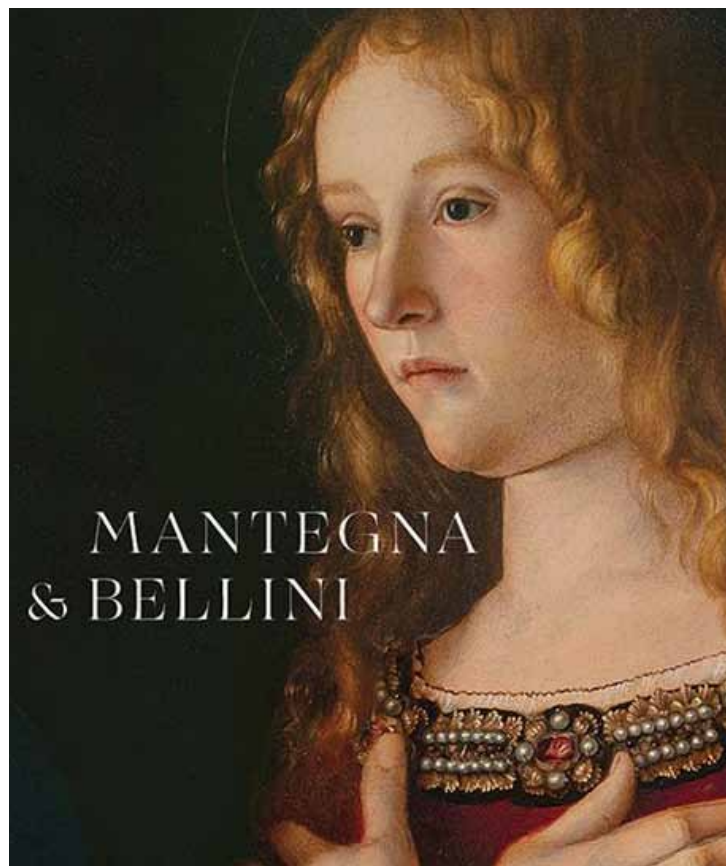
*Ruth Barnett, London NW6*

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# ART NOTES:

## by Gloria Tessler

The art of the High Renaissance may not have happened without the brotherhood-in-art of two men. The National Gallery's exhibition Mantegna and Bellini links two 16th century brothers in law (Mantegna married Bellini's sister Nicolosia) showing how they influenced each other, using religious themes to embrace the natural world. But they also worked against Catholic dogma, flying in the face of the papacy of the Doges, who believed nature was evil, representing the raw and unrestrained passions of mankind.



Both artists could be described as early Symbolists, working with light and prefiguring the future Dutch masters, such as Rembrandt. They influenced generations of artists to come, notably the pre-Raphaelites.

For Mantegna and Bellini landscape reflected the nature of man's nobler instincts, particularly in their religious works. Both worked through different media. Mantegna, a print maker and engraver, was among the first to paint his subjects against a black background emphasising their features. *His Virgin and Child*, devoid of haloes, accentuates love and motherhood. Unusually for this type of classical reverential painting, the baby actually looks like one, rather than an old man. Bellini followed his influence. Both artists represented Christ as the Man of Sorrows, inspired by the Florentine sculptor Donatello.

Born in Padua to a carpenter, Andrea Mantegna married into the prestigious Bellini dynasty. His brother in law Giovanni Bellini, equally gifted, introduced his observations of light and colour to his landscape paintings.

The National Gallery has grouped the subjects of both artists together to show their mutual inspiration and

experimentation. But there were differences. It was Bellini who pioneered the sense of landscape as emotion; Mantegna, on the other hand, was more into thought, contemplation and the intellect.

After seven years working together the brothers split. Mantegna moved to Mantua where he remained as court painter to the ruling Gonzaga family until his death in 1506. Bellini on the other hand stayed in Republican Venice, but the mutual exchange of their creative visions permanently shaped their work. Mantegna's *The Death of the Virgin* is unusual for the sheer vigour around Mary's death-bed. She is a tiny figure in a red velvet bed, surrounded by people in grey holding asymmetrical candles, who move in tandem with her dying breath. From the window is the lagoon of Mantua.

Both artists' paintings of *The Agony in the Garden* have hung side by side in the gallery since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Bellini's is deeply symbolist: the praying Christ looks to a spirit above him within the portentous clouds in a mountain-landscape reddened by sunset, with meditating figures disconnected from him. Mantegna's Christ prays towards five angels amidst three figures lying in a drunken stupor. The sky is dark and menacing; soldiers, a palace

and the rocky wilderness reflect palatial heights.

There is a coarseness in Bellini's *The Drunkenness of Noah* but in Mantegna's *The Descent of Christ into Limbo* the image of the descending Christ is disturbing, with one figure in opulent crimson, turned away from us while the others are grey, prayerful. The final room features Mantegna dipping into classical antiquity with his great triptych, *Triumphs of Caesar*.

All the works are exquisite. But if I had to choose one from each painter, it would be Mantegna's *Virgin and Child*. And from Bellini, the alluring *Virgin and child with Saints Catherine and Mary Magdalene*, which clearly prefigures the pre-Raphaelites.

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# LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



## THE LONGEST HATRED



The recent tragic events in Pittsburgh took my thoughts to Professor Robert Wistrich's seminal study

of antisemitism. Coining the phrase 'the longest hatred' to denote the phenomenon, and making it the title of his book, Wistrich describes the longstanding and widespread occurrence of antisemitism. In a subsequent tome, *A Lethal Obsession*, he traces in great and exhaustive detail the outbreak of the phenomenon across cultures, countries, nationalities and religions. Starting with the period of early Christianity, when the adherents of the new religion felt compelled to demonstrate their rejection of the ancient faith by denigrating its devotees, the book traces the many expressions of antisemitism throughout the ages up to the present day.

The ultimate culmination of antisemitism was of course the Nazi regime and the Holocaust, but the phenomenon could be found in every European country throughout the

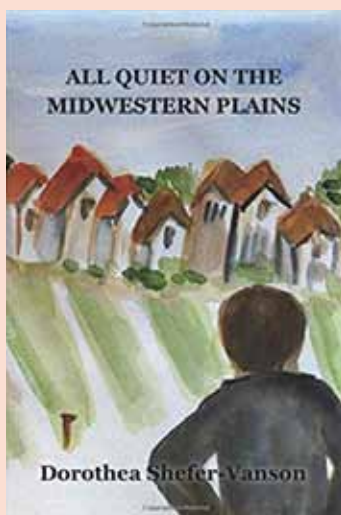
middle ages, at a time when modern nations had not yet been established in their final form. The crusades that sent countless multitudes of men across Europe to fight for the Holy Land did not spare the Jews living in the countries through which they passed, nor those in the Holy Land either. The massacres of Jewish communities along the Rhine have not been forgotten. Nor have the pogroms that devastated the Jewish communities of eastern Europe and Russia in more recent times.

It has been said that President Trump is to blame for the murderous attack in the synagogue in Pittsburgh. However, inflammatory rhetoric is just that, inflammatory rhetoric. Whether someone commits an act of violent aggression as a result of that rhetoric or of some internal mental imbalance is immaterial. Unless the machinery of aggression or annihilation is available, or the general situation enables acts of violence to be performed by the wider society, as was the case with the crusades, the pogroms and the Holocaust, words remain just words. It could be said that the general availability of firearms in America is to blame, and that claim does have some weight. But it cannot be denied that until this week's attack no similar act has been perpetrated against Jews, other than isolated incidents of beatings and desecration of cemeteries.

My own experience in the Midwest of the USA brought me into contact with the underlying enmity towards Jews (and Israel) and various minorities felt by some Americans, and I have described these individuals and their activities in my recent book, *All Quiet on the Midwestern Plains*. In real life, however, I did not encounter violence there, and the Jewish community was not subjected to acts of aggression.

Like many Jews in England, as a child I experienced some instances of antisemitic speech or acts, but nothing of any great severity. Instances of that kind may have been partly behind my decision to come and live in Israel, but many Jews, including several of my friends, have forged successful careers in England, the USA and elsewhere.

All that remains is to hope that irrational hatreds can be set aside and an atmosphere of tolerance towards minorities, whoever and wherever they may be, can be fostered. What is needed is for religions and communities to work together to combat the rising tide of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment that is evident throughout the Western world. After all, the paramount aspiration repeated in so many prayers of so many religions is the desire for peace.



## ALL QUIET ON THE MIDWESTERN PLAINS

by Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

It is 1985 and Israeli palaeontologist Avi Samuels is spending a year in the sleepy university town of Seabrook, Nebraska.

He encounters hostility from the head of his department as well as antisemitism in the local paper. His expedition to obtain rock specimens is beset by mishaps and bad weather, his wife has an affair with the art teacher at the local community college, and their children get into trouble at school. Finally, Avi reveals a plot by the neo-Nazi party to harm minorities and wreak havoc throughout America.

The book can be bought on Amazon and the author's website: [www.shefer-vanson.com](http://www.shefer-vanson.com)

# My Story arrives in Leeds

**AJR celebrated the publication of our first *My Story* books from within the Leeds community at the end of October.**

Through the *My Story* project AJR has been producing life story books of Holocaust survivors and refugees who live in Leeds over the past year. This project, led by Naomi Kaye, has been undertaken by volunteers who interview clients on an audio device, transcribe and edit to produce a professional book illustrated with the client's own photographs.

The *My Story* books are written in the client's own words and tell their story from childhood in Europe, through their escape from Nazi persecution, arrival in the UK and up to the present day. This project is a celebration of their lives, highlighting their achievements and contributions. AJR hopes that the books will contribute to future generations' understanding of prejudice and persecution.

Three Holocaust refugees who have participated in the *My Story* project were presented with their books by AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman. Liesel Carter, Heinz Skyte and Dr Martin Kapel were delighted to see their stories in print.



*My Story* launch in Leeds. From L-R Heinz Skyte, Liesel Carter, Lilian Black, Michael Newman

Heinz's son Peter Skyte said, "For many years my father preferred not to talk about his story because he would look forwards rather than backwards. The *My Story* book is very revealing of what people went through for the second, third and generations to come."

Liesel Carter, who travelled from Germany to England via Norway by herself in 1939 when she was just four years old, said: "The *My Story* project has been wonderful. My volunteer Dennis has become a real friend. Everyone should do it!"

Copies of the books were also presented to Lilian Black, Chair of the Holocaust

Survivors Friendship Association, for use at the new Holocaust Heritage and Learning Centre at Huddersfield University. Lilian said, "These stories will help us combat Holocaust denial in the future. We will hold your legacy dearly in Huddersfield."

We will be holding a similar event for the *My Story* books produced in London and surrounding areas on 6 December at the Jewish Museum London. We also hope to expand the project to other areas and anyone interested in getting involved should email [enquiries@ajr.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ajr.org.uk) or call the head office.

**Debra Barnes**



Naomi Kaye speaking at the launch event



Liesel Carter with her book



# SHIFTING POLICIES

In October the Second Generation Network and Wiener Library organised a special event focusing on 'The Shifting Policy of British Internment and Deportation 1939-1940'. Here Naomi Levy, one of two key speakers at the event, recounts her own father's story.

My father spoke little of his past, believing in moving forward. He was born in 1923, in Frankfurt-am-Main, an only child of Siegfried and Else Gutmann, who were murdered in Sobibor in 1943. He was sent to Wittingehame College, Brighton, in 1936. His original name was Hermann and on joining the Forces, he changed it to Dennis J. Goodman.

Growing up, I was vaguely aware he was in Australia during the War. I was 16 when I chanced upon his 1941 Diary in a filing cabinet at home. I was shocked to learn he was only 17 when deported. But it fell from mind until I visited the *Dunera* Exhibition in Melbourne in 2016.

My father died in 2007 and we never had a discussion about our different views on who was responsible for his internment and deportation. My father said it was Churchill who had issued the order "Collar the lot!" just as internment was drawing to an end and the younger friendly enemy aliens were rounded up.



Lea Goodman & Naomi Levy



Naomi's father, Dennis Goodman

In my view, the decision to intern Class C enemy aliens still at large and deport them to Australia was arrived at, not in a meeting of the War Cabinet, but rather through a series of meetings, formal and informal, of people in the Home Office, War Office and MI5 amongst others. I place centre ground the Home Defence (Security) Executive (tasked with making recommendations for action against persons who might constitute a Fifth Column) and in particular its Chair, Lord Swinton, along with two others, Colonel Harker, Acting Head of MI5 and Frank Newsam of the Home Office.

The idea of deportation to Canada was put forward on 4 June 1940 and to Australia on 13 June. Two weeks later, on 25 June, the internment scheme to bring in Class C enemy aliens still at large took effect. The first stage entailed bringing in all non-refugees with less than 20 years residence and all unemployed with certain exemptions. My father, being unemployed and living alone, was taken in on 2 July 1940.

The Commanding Officer at Huyton camp, from where my father left to board the *Dunera* on 10 July 1940, told him he was taking people under 18 who would have a better chance to survive overseas because he thought the War was lost.

My father arrived in Sydney on 6 September 1940 and was imprisoned in various camps until 13 October 1941 when he boarded the *Stirling Castle* and returned to the UK, arriving on 28 November 1941. He was able to leave Australia because he was accepted for enlistment in the Pioneer Corps, a classification for release from internment under the July 1940 White paper.

As a 'Desert Rat', my father took part in D Day+3. After the War, he joined the Review and Interrogation Staff in Neuengamme, near Hamburg, interrogating and assessing Nazis. He was demobilised in 1947 and married my mother, a Polish child Holocaust survivor and settled in London.

The other key speaker at the October event Roger Kershaw of The National Archives, shared insights about the workings of the Internment Tribunals and Assessment Boards and the experiences of Arthur Weidenfeld of 'Weidenfeld and Nicolson', Franco Berni of 'Berni Inn' and the artist Erich Kahn. There is lots of relevant documentation in the public domain, for example on [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) and on [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) under the 'Discover' section.

**Naomi Levy**

*Note from editor: The story of the Dunera Boys is an intrinsic part of the history of Australia in WW2 and in its aftermath. The injustice these 2000 men suffered through British internment in camps at Hay, Tatura and Orange is well known but less familiar is the tale of what happened to them afterwards. Readers may be interested in a recently published book, *Dunera Lives* by Ken Inglis, which tells that story in two volumes, one in images, and one in life stories. Most of the Dunera Boys returned to the UK, like Dennis, but some went to the US and a few stayed in Australia where they and their descendants have made a great contribution to the cultural and academic world.*

# REVIEWS

## THE LEGACY OF ANNE FRANK

By Gillian Walnes Perry  
Pen and Sword History 2018  
ISBN 978 1 52673 104 3

There will be many readers of Anne Frank's Diary who have little knowledge of her wider personal background. We are here told about her family, her friends and her last days. Even more readers will be unaware of the story's international impact, which is what this book is mainly about. This is not a report from the outside but from someone with a central role. Gillian Walnes Perry was a co-founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK in 1990 and has since been highly active in the many exhibitions that have spread information about Anne Frank and the holocaust. These exhibitions have 'so far been staged over 5,000 times in 95 different countries', none of them Arab, and been visited by over nine million people.

So the book takes us on a global tour, 'On the Road with Anne Frank' as one of the chapter headings indicates. Wherever there's been ethnic conflict, the story has had particular resonance. We follow it through Latin America, Bosnia, Ireland, the former Soviet empire, the Indian sub-continent, Japan and China among other places. In each instance we get a brief but skillful account of the relevant historical and political context. In a number of countries basic educational work was highly necessary. In the British colony of Hong Kong, for example, "There was clearly work to be done", for "Hitler was perceived as a strong leader to be admired". To take one more example, the exhibition was particularly influential in Argentina because of that country's own memories of dictatorship and antisemitic attacks. During the 'Dirty War' of 1974-83 the 'number of Jewish victims was hugely disproportionate to their population figure'. The exhibition toured twenty Argentinian cities where, consequently, 'contemporary

discrimination and human rights were openly explored' and Anne Frank's birthday, June 12, was deliberately chosen as the Day of Adolescents and Youth 'for social inclusion, coexistence, against all forms of violence and discrimination'. We also learn that Nelson Mandela read Anne Frank's Diary during his long imprisonment on Robben Island, and that Malala Yousafzai described it as the most inspiring book she has read.

The full story of Anne Frank must include not just her diary, not just her life and death, but also her continuing impact. This is what is covered here in this deeply moving and beautifully written account. All of you who have copies of Anne Frank's Diary would do well now to get this book to put alongside it.

*Michael Levin*

## ASHES TO LIGHT – A HOLOCAUST CHILDHOOD TO A LIFE IN MUSIC

By Nelly Ben-Or  
I.B.TAURIS  
ISBN: 978 1 78831 309 4

This book really is an amazing and inspiring account of survival, bravery and success against all the odds.

Born into a Jewish family in Lwow, Poland, in the early 1930s, Nelly Ben-Or was to experience, at a very early age, the trauma of the Holocaust. This narrative of her life's journey describes the miraculous survival of Nelly, her mother and her older sister. Her father was murdered by the Germans. With help from family and friends Nelly and her mother were smuggled out of the ghetto in Lwow and escaped to Warsaw. Once there, they were under constant threat of discovery and extermination. They then survived being taken on a train to Auschwitz.

No less miraculous was how her musical talent survived. Nelly became a pianist of international fame and is still Professor of Piano and Alexander Technique at the Guildhall School of Music.

The power of the book is in the blow by blow account of their terrifying

experiences, the nail-biting process of not knowing whether they will escape alive from one situation to another.

*Bronia Snow*

## FINDING NEMON: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF AN OUTSIDER WHO SCULPTED THE FAMOUS

By Aurelia Young with Julian Hale  
Peter Owen Publishers  
ISBN 9780720620375

The man who sculpted the Queen, Queen Mother, Prime Ministers and US Presidents and whose Winston Churchill statue graces the House of Commons was never accepted by his wife's family. They remained suspicious of this "Yugo-Slavian Jew" and during the war strenuously plotted to have him deported despite the fact it could well have led to his death.

Oskar Neumann who became Oscar Nemon was born in Osijek, eastern Croatia, and from the beginning showed prodigious talent, studying in Vienna, Paris (briefly) and Brussels. Even as Nazi power increased he sculpted the Belgian royal family and famously the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud.

Nemon eventually settled in London and took up with the aristocratic and highly-strung Patricia Villiers-Stuart who had been a beautiful debutante. Meanwhile his family remained in the Balkans where his mother, grandmother and brother perished and his sister survived despite extreme hardship.

But life was complicated. He divided his time between Patricia and another lover and fellow-sculptor Jessie Stonor, trying to join her in America even after Patricia gave birth to their son Falcon in 1941. Aurelia was born in 1943 but their parents remained unmarried as Nemon felt if Hitler invaded, the children would be in grave danger if connected to a Jewish father.

However when Patricia fell gravely ill with pneumonia next year they married while she still had drainage tubes sticking out of her ribs. Invasion was now unlikely and he feared if she died,



her parents would claim the children and he might never see them again. The young family settled in two joined-together prefabricated huts recently vacated by Italian prisoners of war at Boars Hill, Oxford. Funds were often very tight and - as his daughter Lady Young explains in her extensively researched portrait - they went from "feast to famine" as fees were spent.

But in the holidays the children – a second daughter Electra was born in 1950 – went to their maternal grandparents' massive country home in Norfolk. Here they were waited on by an army of servants and even egg cups were silver. His formidable mother-in-law Constance never relented and Nemon was banned from Beachamwell Hall.

Indeed some of the most fascinating passages stem from his in-laws wartime attempts to have him extradited, with persistent contacts made both by solicitors and personally in a climate of antisemitism. The Home Office also received reports from MI5 from a source who believed him to be involved in "espionage".

But despite all efforts to derail him Nemon remained in England finding work in high and political circles and was even sculpted by Churchill. Although he had a grace and favour studio at St James's Palace he remained an outsider, with commissions often overrunning, amongst other problems. Unfortunately "prestigious" assignments often proved not very lucrative with heavy casting and shipping costs. Vignettes are also drawn from Nemon's own 92-page memoir with vivid and amusing stories written shortly before his death in 1985. Princess Diana had just one sitting beforehand and a very sweet condolence letter from her to Lady Young is reproduced.

The book is extremely well illustrated with pictures of sitters and their sculpture. One can clearly see their remarkable likenesses and Nemon's gift for empathy enabling him to capture character exactly.

*Janet Weston*

# LOOKING FOR?

The AJR regularly receives messages from members and others looking for people or help in particular subjects. Here are some of the most recent requests – please get in touch directly with the person concerned if you can help in any way.

## SÜTTERLIN SCRIPT

Dr. Arthur Fleiss has letters written in Sütterlin script during WW1 between his grandfather and his grandmother. Despite being fluent in German he needs help in transliterating the letters. He would be willing to pay for the time and expertise involved in this work.  
[afleiss@waitrose.com](mailto:afleiss@waitrose.com)

## GWRYCH CASTLE

Between 1939 and 1941 a group of approximately 180 Kinder were based in Gwrych Castle in Abergele, North Wales. Andrew Hesketh is researching the story not only of the establishment of this community and how it was organised, but also of the people within it.  
07714 445 980 or  
[andrew\\_hesketh@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_hesketh@hotmail.com)

## THE SEARCH

The Search team at Blink Films would love to hear from anyone who found refuge in Britain through the Kindertransport for a new BBC documentary they are making. The contact is Rebecca Dale-Everett.  
020 3150 2734 or  
[thesearch@blinkfilmsuk.com](mailto:thesearch@blinkfilmsuk.com)

## AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

Emily Smith is a PhD research student at University of London who is focusing on the work of the Central British Fund in placing Jewish refugees on agricultural training farms such as the Whittingehame Estate (East Lothian, Scotland), Millisle Farm (Belfast), Gwrych Castle (North Wales), Great Engeham Farm (Kent) and Thornham Fold Farm (Manchester). Please contact her if you have any connection to these locations or if you have other insights about occupational re-adjustment and vocational training facilitated by the CBF.

[emily.smith.2013@live.rhul.ac.uk](mailto:emily.smith.2013@live.rhul.ac.uk)

## AUTHOR SOUGHT

Gerald Stern, who has an interesting and true family Holocaust story with original documentation mostly in German, seeks a willing and experienced German-speaking author.  
[gerald@sternmail.co.uk](mailto:gerald@sternmail.co.uk)

Gwrych Castle



# Around the AJR

*Most of these reports are summaries of much longer reviews which, due to lack of space, we are unable to include in their entirety. If you would like further information on the actual event please contact either the author or the AJR regional co-ordinator.*

## NEWCASTLE

Harry Markham, a student at Durham University, spoke to our group on the importance of arranging Israeli advocacy events and pro-Israel rallies. Harry started

his 'career' at the age of 13 at Speakers' Corner when he spoke on behalf of Israel as a response to the many pro-Palestinian speakers he had heard there.

He is a dedicated and passionate Zionist and works to motivate young people on behalf of Israel. From the Q & A session afterwards it was clear that he had a thorough knowledge of the subject, gained from many visits to Israel and discussions with people on all sides of the spectrum. *Mervyn Grunhut*

## BRISTOL

GP David Jewell spoke about his work with the Foundation of International Development for Family Medicine in Palestine, where he trains doctors. Lively discussion followed and developed into conversation about GP services in England

too. It was a stimulating meeting with an excellent lunch.

*Hazel Rank-Broadley*

## EDINBURGH & GLASGOW

We visited the newly constructed V&A museum in Dundee, designed by a Japanese architect to highlight Scotland's cliffs and shipbuilding history. The opening exhibition reflected the ocean liners, and other exhibitions on Scottish heritage were also extremely interesting. 24 members (mostly 2nd Gen) had a beautiful day, a comfortable journey and a private dining room.

*Ruth Ramsay*

## NORFOLK

After the usual fabulous lunch the eloquent speaker was 99-year old (!) member Alice Sluckin OBE who told us about her past and present work on Selective Mutism, where children will speak in some situations but are silent in others. Her most recent book *Tackling Selective Mutism* was published in 2015 when Alice was 96.

*Frank Bright*



Glasgow and Edinburgh members visit the new V&A in Dundee

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**Child Survivors' Association-AJR**  
Henri Obstfeld  
020 8954 5298 [henri@ajr.org.uk](mailto:henri@ajr.org.uk)

## DECEMBER GROUP EVENTS

All AJR members are welcome at any of these events; you do not have to be affiliated to that particular group. As the exact timings of these events are often subject to last minute changes we do not include them in the AJR Journal and suggest you contact the relevant regional contact for full details.

Ilford	5 December	Chanukah Party with entertainment by Nick Dobson
Pinner	6 December	Chanukah Party
Glasgow	9 December	Chanukah Party
Essex (Westcliff)	11 December	Claude Vecht-Wolf talking on the Beatles
Liverpool	11 December	Chanukah Party
Bromley	13 December	Social get-together at Lianne Segal
Leeds	13 December	Chanukah Party
Wessex	17 December	Desert Island Discs musical afternoon
Book Club	19 December	Book Club Social Get-together





David Lang with the Mayor of Barnet

## AJR MEMBER SOLVES WW1 MYSTERY

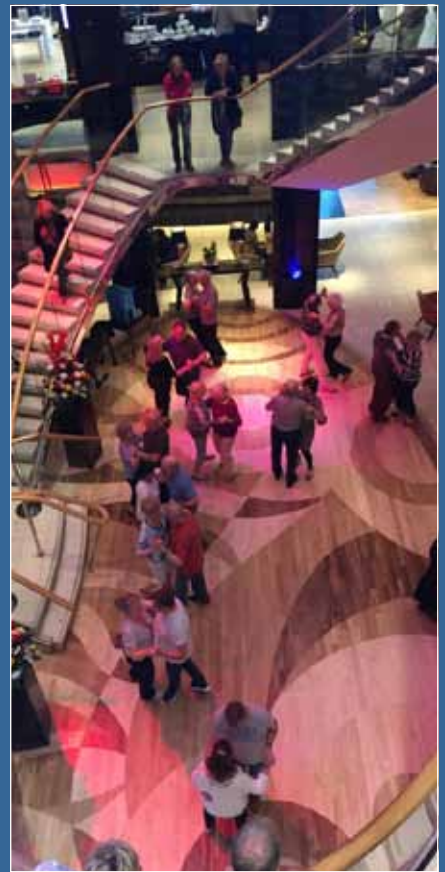
Congratulations to AJR member David Lang, whose aviation expertise and forensic research were instrumental in the solving of a WW1 mystery, namely the exact location of the crash of a WW1 prototype bomber, the Handley Page V/1500 B9463.

Thanks to Paul's painstaking research, a memorial plaque was able to be unveiled earlier this year at the site of the crash at 21 Garrick Avenue in north London, exactly 100 years to the minute of the tragedy.



## ZIONISTS IN NEWCASTLE

AJR's Newcastle members were all in support of student Harry Markham's call for more pro-Israeli advocacy.



## CRUISE CAPERS

A group of over 30 AJR members, accompanied by some of the AJR Outreach Team, recently enjoyed a wonderful cruise – including dancing – around the Mediterranean.

# WRAPPING UP LONDON

AJR was delighted to help facilitate the collection of thousands of coats for refugees and the homeless on the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport

The team behind Wrap Up London – the annual collection for old, unwanted coats – approached AJR for a second year for permission to feature the iconic Kindertransport statue at Liverpool Street Station in their campaign. Coat collections were held on three mornings in November at six tube stations, which collecting an astonishing 17,000+ coats



in just 12 hours (1,288 sacks full).

The coats are then distributed to charities that support the homeless, refugees, children living in poverty and people

fleeing domestic violence. According to the organisers, the number of donated coats was a massive increase on the "... 11,000 last year, so a huge thank you AJR for your part in this."

# From the Danube to the Dee

Newton Dee, outside Aberdeen, is a rural educational community on the banks of the picturesque Dee.

In its café I've enjoyed a light lunch, or a slice of home-made cake. In the autumn, I've stocked up on German Christmas treats in its shop. I knew that Newton Dee was linked to Rudolf Steiner's Waldorf schools. But it was only while watching a recent BBC Scotland documentary that I learned that Newton Dee was founded by another Austrian, a refugee from Vienna who reached Britain eighty years ago.

Today, Karl König is renowned as the driving force behind the worldwide Camphill movement – schools and communities where welfare workers look after children and adults with Downs Syndrome and other learning difficulties. Tardily, his wife has been recognised for her pioneering part in their joint achievement. The name Camphill came from the estate near Aberdeen where König and his colleagues – fellow refugees from Vienna – worked from June 1940. Newton Dee itself was acquired later, as the movement expanded.

Rudolph Steiner's original ideas about farming, medicine, education and religion influenced the young König as he grew up in Vienna. After qualifying as a doctor in 1927, König joined those who believed in *Heilpädagogik* – 'curative education'. Like other reformers, he rejected the way society stigmatised the 'handicapped'.

While attending the funeral in Vienna in 1927 of Steiner's sister, Leopoldine, König met another Steiner disciple, Ita



The first group at Kirkton House in 1939

Wegman. Born in today's Indonesia, she had qualified as a doctor at Zurich University, and had set up near Basel clinics for children and adults with special needs, Sonnenhof and Arlesheim. She practised homeopathic medicine, including the use of mistletoe to treat cancer.

König worked briefly at Sonnenhof, where he met yet another 'Steinerian', Mathilde – 'Tilly' – Maasberg. She persuaded him to work in her new clinic in Silesia. Her family were members of the Moravian Brethren. By the time the couple married in 1929, König had opted out of the Jewish religious community, despite being a rabbi's grandson. That, of course, did not protect him from persecution by Silesian Nazis. He was not allowed to title himself 'Dr', nor to lecture in public.

In 1936, he and his family fled Germany and began the odyssey that would bring them to Britain, via Vienna, Italy, Switzerland and France. In October 1938 Britain granted König and his family residency status.

Ita Wegman provided König with the opportunity to settle in what was for him a remote part of northern Europe. One of Wegman's cancer patients at Arlesheim had been Emily Haughton. The Haughtons said the Königs could use the empty manse, Kirkton House, near Inch. By the following summer, they had opened a clinic there.

Before he left the Continent, König had built up a mostly Jewish circle of like-minded young Viennese. Some of them joined

him in treating, initially, mainly disabled children of refugees and traumatised Kindertransport immigrants. But Kirkton House, which had neither electricity nor central heating, proved too small and isolated. Will Macmillan, of the publishing family, offered them Camphill House, on the outskirts of Aberdeen. He had a disabled son and had met König. While König and his male colleagues were interned as 'enemy aliens', their womenfolk carried out the move.

As König's ideas spread, he opened new schools and villages in Britain and abroad. *Picture Post* carried a feature in 1949, 'A School Where Love is a Cure'. It was illustrated with photographs by another Viennese refugee, Edith Tudor-Hart (née Suschitzky), today better known as the Soviet spy who recruited Kim Philby. Tudor-Hart put her disturbed only child, Tommy, in Camphill's care for a few years.

Small in stature and tubby in middle age, König tirelessly propagated his ideas, through writings and lecture tours. The Camphill movement flourishes today the world over. König left Britain in 1964 to found another community near Überlingen, a spa resort in Germany, and there he died in 1966.

## Martin Uli Mauthner

*Martin Mauthner has published books on German writers who found refuge in pre-war France, and on Hitler's Paris envoy, Otto Abetz, and the French writers he groomed.*





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AJR Head Office on 020 8385 3070.

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## AJR ANNUAL CHANUKAH PARTY All Welcome



Wednesday 12th December 2018  
at **New North London Synagogue**  
80 East End Road, London N3 2SY

Cost £10.00 per person  
payable at the door

(Places must be booked in advance)

Starts at 12.00pm Ends at 3.00pm

A welcome by the  
Chief Executive of AJR  
Michael Newman

A performance by magician Zap, who will  
perform table magic to amaze and entertain  
you during lunch.

After lunch we are delighted to be joined by  
the Choir of Akiva School who will perform  
a selection of Chanukah and popular songs  
for our enjoyment.

It is essential that we know  
exact numbers for catering.

Please call Susan Harrod  
on 020 8385 3070 or email  
[susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk)



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## AJR FILM CLUB

### PAPERCLIPS



on **Monday 21 January 2019**  
at **12.30pm**

**Sha'arei Tsedek North London Reform  
Synagogue, 120 Oakleigh Road North,  
Whetstone, N20 9EZ**

**Paperclips** is a 2004 documentary film  
written and produced by Joe Fab, and  
directed by Elliot Berlin and Joe Fab, about  
the Paper Clips Project, in which a middle  
school class tries to collect 6 million paper  
clips to represent the 6 million Jews killed by  
the Nazis.

**£8.00 per person**  
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# OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR LEWIS ELTON (formerly EHRENBERG)

Born: Tuebingen 25 March 1923

Died: Guildford 29 September 2018

**Prof. Lewis Elton was a German-born British physicist and researcher into education, specialising in higher education. The family moved to Prague in 1929 and to England in 1939.**

His academic career can be thought of as in two parts. Firstly, he was Professor of Physics at Battersea College of Technology which evolved into the University of Surrey. As Professor of Physics, he made a name for himself and wrote a widely-used text book on nuclear physics. He was made a Fellow of the American Institute of Physics.

In the second part of his career he left physics and set up his Institute for Educational Technology at Surrey University which researched into ways of improving teaching and learning in higher education. Universities did not have such units in those days and the fact that most universities now have some sort of support for teaching must be very much to Lewis Elton's credit. He went on to instigate a national course for university lecturers which led to a master's degree in teaching and learning in higher education, another first in its time. As a result he received invitations to act as a consultant and run short courses in universities all over the world. He was an excellent speaker and could hold an audience riveted.

When he retired from the University of Surrey, he became national advisor to the new Enterprise Project which was funded by the then Government Training Agency. Lewis Elton joined University College London where he founded what is now the UCL Arena Centre for Research-based Education.



He published widely – books, research articles and workshop materials - and his achievements have been internationally recognised. He was made a Fellow of the Society for Research into Higher Education, and was awarded the Times Higher Lifetime Achievement Award. He was always delighted when yet another of his research students gained their PhD, and he would proudly say how many professors his work had spawned – of whom I am one. Each professor, in their own way, carried on and developed the work that he started of improving teaching and learning in higher education.

### Professor Pat Cryer

Lewis Elton's daughter, Bridget, recalls: "In the mid '60s, Dad took my brothers and me to the Children's Gallery at the Science Museum, then a small, uninspiring collection in the basement. We pronounced it boring, and he agreed. He made us explain what we thought was wrong with it and used our comments to write a critique, which eventually resulted in the revamp of the Gallery in 1969. A couple of years later he started a gym club. He had done gym as a boy in Prague but in English schools in the '60s it wasn't really on offer. But Dad found a gym teacher locally, hired a room at Crystal Palace Sports Centre and advertised it amongst his friends and colleagues. I don't think it produced any future gymnasts, but 30 kids had a great time".

One of Lewis Elton's sons is the comedian, playwright, author and actor Ben Elton.

### Bridget Elton

## WALTER LAQUEUR

Born: Breslau 26 May 1921

Died: Washington D.C. 18 September 2018

**Walter Laqueur was an historian and political writer of extraordinary range and power, producing dozens of books and countless articles.**

His topics ranged from the Holocaust, the history of Zionism, German youth movements, to terrorism, guerrilla warfare and Vladimir Putin. In addition he wrote an autobiography and a collective biography of what he called *Generation Exodus*, the generation of young Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. In every area he touched, he made important and ground-



breaking contributions which helped make the great issues of the past century accessible to a wide audience.



## HENRY NOTHMAN

Born: Chemnitz 27 August 1926

Died: London 5 October 2018

**"When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." (Attributed to Mark Twain)**

The father Mark Twain was writing about wasn't like our Dad, because our glowing opinion of him never changed. From childhood through adolescence into adulthood, he and our mother – Ilse – have had a remarkable ability to stay the same. To provide unconditional love and support, and stability at all times. Rock solid foundations which allowed my brother Tony and me to flourish. It made us feel safe. It reassured us. And it enabled us to follow our dreams.

Like so many other refugees, that security and stability was never possible for our father. As a young boy, he had to deal with fear, uncertainty and persecution. Born in the German province of Saxony in 1926, his father was a director of a hosiery business. An only child, his schooling was interrupted by the rise of the Nazis. At the age of 8, as one of only two Jews in a class of 25, he was called to the front and slapped on both sides of his face for no reason. The teacher who did it was a member of the SA. Henry's parents complained to the Head Teacher. Nothing happened.

On Kristallnacht in 1938, his father was arrested and sent to Buchenwald. Fortunately, after a month, he was released. Many attempts to get visas to leave Germany failed, until through a former fellow director at his father's company, two work permits were obtained to come to England. Nine days before War broke out, Henry – or Hans as he was still known then – left with his parents on a train from Berlin. They went first to some friends in Holland just outside Amsterdam. His parents had a dilemma. They had visas – their son didn't. Would he be allowed into England? They thought it best to leave Henry behind in Holland until they could be certain he would be allowed entry.



Once that was guaranteed on the 28 August 1939 – the day after his 13th birthday – Henry was put on a night ferry from the Hook of Holland to Harwich. He didn't know anyone – he didn't speak English. He spent the entire eight hour voyage on deck looking out to sea, hoping someone would be there to meet him. His father was there on the quayside when he arrived.

Deprived of a proper schooling, Henry began work as an apprentice car mechanic at the age of 14. To improve his English, he used to gather up discarded letters at work, and scribble down valuable phrases. He spoke English with no trace of an accent.

Eventually, he became part of Nuffield Motor Organisation's Export Division, travelling across Europe and North Africa, and after a number of other jobs in the motor industry, became Managing Director of the County Garage in Gerrard's Cross. Here, in leafy Buckinghamshire, the boy from Chemnitz enjoyed dealing with a few of the well-heeled British aristocracy as they bought top range luxury cars. They were blissfully unaware of his background, and Dad was rather proud. Proud of what he had achieved. And proud too to be British – grateful to the country that had given him a second chance in life.

Together, all of us in his family thank him for giving us the love, support and stability to make the choices in life he was largely denied. He gave us the greatest gift anyone could give another person – he believed in us.

And in return, he was – and will always remain – our hero.

**Rob Nothman**

At the Wiener Library, he established the Institute of Contemporary History and founded (together with George Mosse) the Journal of Contemporary History, which continues to this day.

Walter led the Library through its greatest crisis during the 1970s and 80s, which saw much of the collection transferred to Tel Aviv University, but he found ways to keep the London-based Wiener Library alive and made an incalculable contribution to its rebuilding through the 1980s.

I knew him for around 40 years. He was a towering intellect and a man of almost superhuman curiosity about the world. He was an

imposing, restless and often impatient man for whom reading and writing was life itself. He was generous to new scholars starting out on their careers. He sustained close friendships over decades – he and my mother were close friends (they shared the experience of growing up in Breslau, now Wroclaw in Poland) and, together with his second wife Christa Wichmann, enjoyed fruit-picking in the summer and afternoon teas in the winter.

Walter was a giant of historical and political writing and will be remembered forever for his extraordinary output.

**Ben Barkow**  
**Director of the Wiener Library**

## Events and Exhibitions

### KT80 SYMPOSIUM



A three-day symposium will bring together scholars from across the UK, along with academics from the USA, Canada, Israel, Australia, Netherlands, Italy, Germany and France to present papers on all aspects of the Kindertransport's history, historiography, literature, representation and legacy.  
22 – 24 January 2019  
Institute of Advanced Studies (UCL), London  
[kt80symposium.eventbrite.co.uk](http://kt80symposium.eventbrite.co.uk)

### CHANUKAH PARTY

Join the AJR for our annual Chanukah Party and enjoy a delicious two-course lunch with entertainment from magician Zap and the choir of Akiva School.  
12.00 noon on Wednesday  
12 December 2018  
New North London Synagogue  
020 8385 3070 or [susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk)

### KINDERTRANSPORT CEREMONY

World Jewish Relief is organising a special ceremony at Liverpool Street Station to mark the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the first Kindertransport.  
3.30pm on Sunday 2 December 2018  
Liverpool Street Station  
[www.worldjewishrelief.org](http://www.worldjewishrelief.org)

### CANDLE LIGHTING

The Jewish Museum London is having a special candle lighting ceremony and reception to mark the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport.  
3.30pm on Sunday 9 December 2018  
Jewish Museum London  
[www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk)

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

AJR's annual HMD Service will take place on Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 2pm at Belsize Square Synagogue, followed by tea. Full details will follow in the January issue.  
2.00pm on 22 January 2019  
Belsize Square Synagogue  
[www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

## JOIN OUR SOUP WALK



As part of our programme to mark the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport AJR is joining forces with Manna Meir Panim to help raise money for Holocaust survivors living in poverty in Israel.

You can help on 2 June 2019 by joining our unique sponsored guided 10k evening walk through the historic Jewish East End of London starting at the Kindertransport statue. The tour will be led by John Steel of Tour De Force and a cup of delicious hot soup will be served at the end of the walk.

It costs just £20 to sign up and you need to raise a minimum sponsorship of £80.  
[www.mannauk.org/product/soup-walk-2019/](http://www.mannauk.org/product/soup-walk-2019/)

## Still in our hands

AJR is supporting a special series of events and exhibitions at the Jewish Museum London to mark the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

Running until 10 February the series includes a major exhibition 'Remembering the Kindertransport' and a photographic display based on AJR's Refugee Voices archives.

There are also talks from AJR members Bernd Koschland, Ruth Barnett, and



Ann and Bob Kirk and a reading of Diane Samuel's extraordinary *Kindertransport* play.

More information on  
[www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk)

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