

## Extend the project locally - looking at special exhibitions.

Visit to the temporary exhibition in the Northern Imperial War Museum

February 2023

A special photographic exhibition was displayed in the Museum, illustrating Jewish people who had fled their country of origin and settled locally in the Manchester/ Salford area.

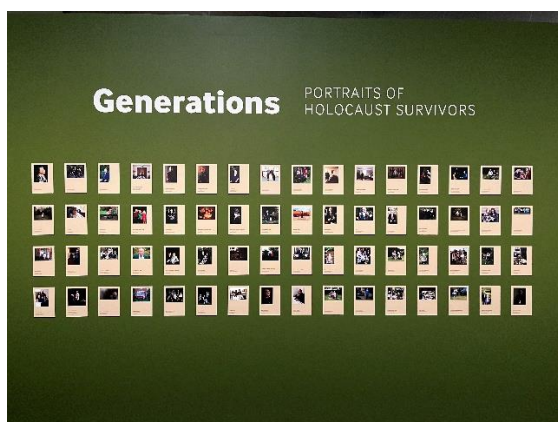
Whilst we as a group from England and Sweden were viewing there were also a couple of school parties. The children showed a real interest, and I overheard two boys commenting about the photograph of one gentleman that they recognised.

Can something be heart warming and chilling at the same time?

The photographs – a different art form to be considered- showed wonderful illustrations of ‘Love and Family’, whilst the accompanying text could clearly be defined under the theme of ‘Strength and Power’.

The most obvious theme that we had considered was ‘Refugees and Migrants’ but clearly, we should also not have disregarded ‘Freedom’.

A visit to an exhibition such as this, which is not permanent, serves to help us view things through a different lens. By using our themes as a focus we have been able to ‘see’ this exhibition for its greater worth. A skill and attitude we ought to be developing and sharing as educators.



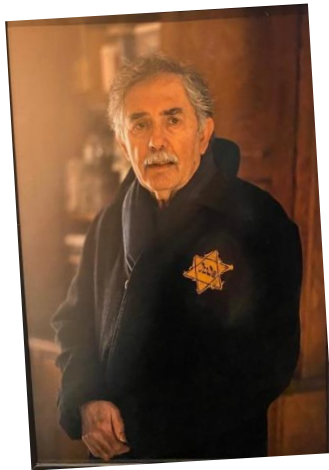
The persecution and attempted annihilation of Europe's Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945, led to the displacement and murder of millions of people. Some of those who survived established new lives and families in the United Kingdom.

Through a series of individual and family portraits, including a series taken by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, the photographs in this exhibition give an insight into those survivors, their lives and experiences.

Made by some of the UK's most creative photographers the portraits reflect on their stories, celebrate the lives they have lived and the legacy which their children and grandchildren will carry into the future.

A selection of the photos follows, some with families and some with treasured possessions. What would you bring with you, perhaps a rather age dependent reflection? Sadly, one so relevant, so often in our world.

Without trying it is easy to consider yet another theme 'Our World' and it's imbalance – perhaps the holocaust could be considered through the Sustainable Development Goals.



The statements which were alongside photos have been separated to give strength to the diverse situations and struggles that the Jewish people faced at the time in Europe.

They do not necessarily match with the photographs chosen. (This is not intended to lessen the importance of these personal statements).

'I am not able to fully express my sincere gratitude that I really feel to have been saved from certain death. My life has been fortunate and happy, and all the people here were always friendly and kind.'

Ester was born in 1929 and arrived in England in December 1938 with a group of children from Vienna, Austria on a *Kindertransport*.

Ester was photographed in London with her daughter Miriam, grandson Dovid and great granddaughter Riva.

Manfred was born in 1930 in Kassel, Germany. During the war he and his family were deported to the Riga ghetto from where they were sent to five different camps, the last being Stutthof Camp in Poland. In 1943 they were moved to Preçu concentration camp where his brother Herman died.

In 1946, he and his mother joined his father in the UK. Manfred has four sons and twelve grandchildren.

Elsa was born in Berlin in 1927, as Else Karplus. After the November Pogrom in 1938 her family were desperate to leave Germany and, in March 1939, she came on a *Kindertransport* to England with her brother.

She studied at London University, became a teacher, married, and had two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In 1943, just one week old, Robert was secretly placed on a train from Amsterdam to Delft where a Christian couple had agreed to take him in. It took his mother at least a year to find him when he was three years old.

Robert later worked at a metal trading firm and, in 1966, he moved to their office in London. He later married and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Ruth was born in Vienna in 1938 and was smuggled to France as a baby. She was hidden in various parts of France and eventually reunited in Paris with her parents after the war. She came to the UK because she fell in love with an Englishman.

She worked as an antiquarian book dealer and is now retired. Ruth has two sons, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren.

Agnes was born in 1932 in Hungary. Her Auschwitz-bound train was diverted to Austria where she was forced to work as a child labourer. She lost half her family.

Agnes is a powerful pioneering female role model, an engineer, the third woman in UK history to be elected as Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a researcher, teacher and author, mother to two daughters and grandmother to five.

John was born in Budapest, Hungary, 1937. In 1944 his mother was removed to a concentration camp. He survived the horrific conditions of the Budapest ghetto and was freed by the Soviet Army. He moved to Vienna where he queued outside the British embassy for hours to get permission to emigrate to the UK. He arrived in England in 1957 where he worked in the hotel and tourism industry.

He married and has one daughter, one son and four grandchildren.

Anne was born in Warsaw in 1938. In 1941 as Germans marched her family from their home, her mother pushed her through a hedge, to the waiting milk woman, who saved her life. Anne never saw her parents again.

Anne spent the war years as a hidden child. She later emigrated to South Africa and became an optometrist. She married Maurice, had three children and moved to Manchester. Anne is pictured with one of her sons, Jon, and grandchildren Monty and Elana.