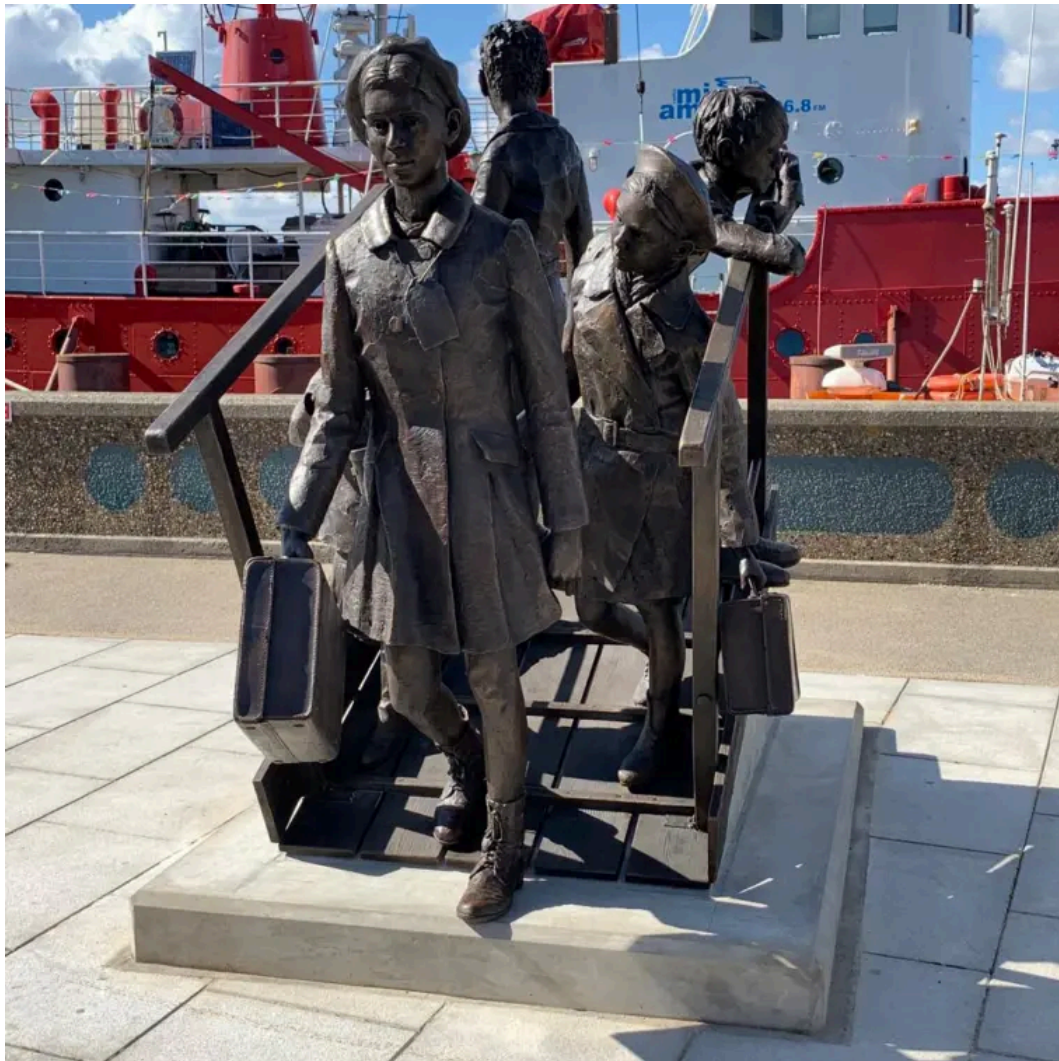


THE HARWICH KINDERTRANSPORT  
MEMORIAL & LEARNING TRUST

DECEMBER 2023

IMPACT REPORT

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**Website:** [kindertransport-memorial.org](https://kindertransport-memorial.org) **Twitter (X):** @KT\_memorial

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## **BACKGROUND**

In 2018 we embarked on a journey to create a new memorial statue and a supporting educational programme in the town which was the main point of entry for most of the nearly 10,000 children of the Kindertransport between 1938 and 1939. Most were from Jewish families persecuted and terrorised by the Nazis. Many hundreds of them spent their first weeks in this country at the nearby Dovercourt Holiday Camp.

## **THE STATUE & RELATED DISPLAYS**

The statue, created by Essex sculptor Ian Wolter, was nominated and shortlisted for the Public Statues and Sculpture Association 2023 PSSA Marsh Award for Public Sculpture.

We created three information boards to accompany the statue - throughout Historic Harwich, and in Dovercourt, where hundreds of kinder stayed in the cold winter of 1938-9.

An audio bench with four recorded testimonies was inaugurated in November 2022, at the Mayor's Garden public park.

## **INCOME**

The campaign to create the statue was established in 2019 and gathered momentum towards the end of the covid pandemic, in autumn 2020. The funding goal was achieved in Spring 2021; it covered all the statue creation costs, as well as the costs of initial educational resources development.

## **PEOPLE**

The Harwich Kindertransport Memorial and Learning Trust does not employ any staff. The major part of the work is done by volunteers (trustees and other sub-committee members) with some professional work, such as graphic design, done by freelancers with experience in the Holocaust memorial field. There are also professional volunteers who have been supporting the work since early days - including a Law specialist, and a PR specialist.

## **NEW KINDER STORIES COLLECTION**

Since the unveiling over 40 people have come forward to enquire about a relative who has been on the Kindertransport. They expressed a strong wish to contribute their story to archives and learning resources.

Several testimonies were recorded by authors and / or video crews, to be used as source material for educational resources.

## COLLABORATIONS

**The Harwich Society:** All tour guides include the Safe Haven memorial statue in their walks and have become well informed regarding the Kindertransport.

**'Kehilot' (communities) youth group:** Guided visit of a group of Jewish teenagers from Cambridge, as part of a series of six sessions titled 'The Kindertransport and refugee activism', funded by the European 'Kehilot' institute.

**Electric Palace Cinema:** Kindly hosted a number of HKMLT events and assisted with their advertising.

**SeaSide Explorers:** Guided co-organised activity for Refugee Week 2023 for two Year 6 classes.

**Red Box gallery:** Co-created and hosted the Refugee Week exhibition, inaugurated by Mayor Maria Fowler, June 2023

## EVENTS

**1 September 2022** | The memorial statue was unveiled, with over 250 invited guests in the audience. A specially-composed music piece played by the Tendring District brass band, and speeches made by representatives of the major donors. A souvenir booklet was printed and handed out.



**27 January 2023** | The Harwich Town Council held the first ever Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony, by the statue. It was attended by town residents, officials, local dignitaries and a class of Y5 pupils from a local school.

**25 June 2023** | The Refugee Week event was held in collaboration with local education professionals, creative professionals and academics. Over 50 children participated in an event that included a storytelling and illustration workshop, multilingual writing activity, and more. A free screening of a family film was held at the Electric Palace cinema, where cash donations were collected for Hope & Aid Direct.

## TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Numerous talks were given by trustees Mike Levy, Helen Brown, Michael Payne and Debbie Patterson Jones in:

- Schools and community centres in East Anglia (Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire)
- Reform and Liberal synagogues around England
- Rotary Clubs
- In collaboration with organisations such as B'nai Brith, Limmud, and The Harwich Society.

## **MEDIA, AUDIENCE & RESPONSE**

### **1. ON SITE**

The local trustees have been engaging with visitors around the statue for many hours. Some of the visitors have struck up conversations with us, and we wish to highlight one unique conversation that took place next to the statue in the summer of 2023:

“One week after the unveiling of the statue, I met a couple from New York who came to the UK specially to visit the memorial. The lady’s mother and aunt had arrived here as small children in 1939 and remained traumatised for the rest of their lives. Amazingly, their parents and 6 other siblings also managed to escape Poland and make their way, separately, to the USA, where they were all reunited after the war. The lady is writing a book about her family entitled ‘The Nine Miracles’. The lady said that, sadly, she and her siblings had inherited the family’s trauma of past events.” - *Sue Daish, Director and Harwich Society Guide*

### **2. WEBSITE**

The website was set up during the fundraising campaign in autumn 2020. Since then it has been visited by over 11,000 unique web users, of whom 32% accessed via Search Engines.

### **3. PRESS**

Dame Stephanie Shirley CH was interviewed on BBC Radio Four for the occasion of her 90th birthday in September 2023. She told the interviewer she had been honoured to unveil the new statue in Harwich.

### **4. TWITTER (NOW X)**

992 Followers, with mentions by leading media channels and public opinion leaders, including Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.

### **5. NEWSLETTER**

A monthly (during the fundraising campaign; now quarterly) newsletter has been distributed to a growing mailing list consisting of over 200 subscribers, with news about the statue, events, and learning activities.

### **6. SURVEY**

In August 2023 we ran a survey on site, over two weekends, with random and diverse participants taking part by filling in a 2-page anonymous form. Below are highlights from the consolidated results:

**43%** respondents said this was their first visit to the statue.

**88%** respondents came with friends / family.

**68%** agreed that by visiting they have learned much more about the Kindertransport.

**57%** of respondents intend to seek out more information about the Kindertransport.

**96%** felt that the statue is thought-provoking.

**65%** of respondents felt that the memorial could contribute to more constructive conversations about refugees in the UK.

**Over 80%** felt it is important that schools and youth groups would visit the 'Safe Haven' as part of their civic education.

**Some comments added on questionnaires:**

- ❖ "Visiting the statue was a spiritual experience for me."
- ❖ "It opens the eyes to the real past."
- ❖ "I am a local teacher. I think that it is important to educate children about this piece of history. The statue is a good talking point."
- ❖ "Our dad was one of the Winton children who landed here in July 1939."
- ❖ "My nana was a German migrant during the war and was moved to tears by the statue."
- ❖ "Our father [we are two brothers] was a Winton child who never, ever spoke about his past. When the family watched the 'That's Life' programme in which Esther Rantzen surrounded Sir Nicholas with many of the children he had rescued, our father simply raised the newspaper he was reading so they could not see his face."

## NEXT STEPS - 2024

Harwich Kindertransport Learning (HKL) sub-brand launched, to become an umbrella for education programmes and activities.



**HMD 2024** activities announced on 2 December, marking the day of the first arrival. These include:

- Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony co-organised with Harwich Town Council, Friday 26 January, 11am.
- Inauguration of a touring exhibition focusing on the personal story of Leslie Brent, while providing the historical context and references to other stories.
- Graphic and interactive resources for school children, accompanied by teachers' guidance documents and worksheets.
- May 2024 - we will be welcoming Melissa Hacker, Executive Director of the Kindertransport Association, with her colleagues, visiting from the USA.
- July 2024 - HKMLT Director Susan Daish will give a talk about the Kindertransport to the National Women's Register, upon their invitation.

## **BOARD & CONTACT INFORMATION**

Debbie Patterson Jones, Chair

Helen Brown, Secretary

Michael Payne, Treasurer

Sue Daish

Mike Levy

Karen Van Coevorden

Annabel Inbal Elad

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to the many individuals and organisations who have generously supported our work with a donation over the past few years and enabled this memorial to become a reality and to have this significant impact.

### **We would like to express our gratitude to the following supporters:**

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Federal Republic of Germany

The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism

Harwich Town Council

Tendring District Council

Essex Community Foundation Essex County Council

Essex Heritage Trust

Harwich Haven Authority

Grassroots Charity

CH Trust

2Simple

The Bridges Impact Foundation

The Alan & Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund

The Headley Trust

The Linbury Trust

Eligator-Sansom Foundation

Lord Marks of Broughton

The Rt Hon. the Lord Laming

Ms Janet Langdon

Sir Erich Reich

Denise Bardan

Dame Stephanie Shirley

We are also grateful for the generosity of numerous individual donors, not listed here, who have contributed to this commemoration.





*Pictured: Collage from the statue creation process*

## THE HARWICH KINDERTRANSPORT MEMORIAL & LEARNING TRUST

### HONORARY PATRONS

Lord Herbert Laming  
James Langdon  
Lord John Petre  
Sir Erich Reich  
Barbara Winton

### SUPPORTERS

Harwich Town Council  
Tendring District Council  
Bridges Impact Foundation  
University of Essex  
Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)

**AJR**

### PARTNERS

Harwich Society  
Liberal Judaism  
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT)

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Harwich Kindertransport Memorial Appeal is a restricted fund under the auspices of Priam the Gift Fund Registered Charity No. 1099682

Essex artist Ian Wolter is creating a bronze life-size statue which will evoke the arrival of the children by ship.

Wolter's work has received numerous prizes including the *Arte Laguna Prize* (Venice, 2016) and *Roma Art Sculpture Prize* (Rome, 2017) and he has been shortlisted for *Passion for Freedom*, London.

His most celebrated project *The Children of Calais* is a life-sized sculpture of six children in poses echoing *The Burghers of Calais* by Auguste Rodin, but dressed in contemporary clothing. It was unveiled in 2018, and was selected for the 2019 Florence Biennial.



Wolter with the first figure casting

### THE KINDERTRANSPORT MEMORIAL & LEARNING APPEAL



First arrivals in Harwich from Jewish orphanages, Germany, 2 December 1938. © Henry Library archive

[www.kindertransport-memorial.org](http://www.kindertransport-memorial.org)

### THE HARWICH KINDERTRANSPORT MEMORIAL

**WE ARE WORKING TO CREATE A MEMORIAL STATUE TO BECOME A POWERFUL FOCAL POINT FOR LEARNING ABOUT THE KINDERTRANSPORT PROGRAMME AND ITS RELEVANCE FOR TODAY.**

Together we are forming an authoritative organisation for research, resources and information about the Kindertransport.

Through the permanent memorial, innovative learning programmes, original research and commemorative events, we will ensure that the testimonies, experiences and contributions of all those involved are preserved and celebrated.



**The Power of Education**

We have teamed up with two significant partners in the field of UK refugee education: Schools of Sanctuary and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT). Together we will create a series of powerful lessons that teachers can use to educate today's generation about the past and present in our refugee history.

**GATEWAY TO FREEDOM**

Harwich was the main point of entry for most of the 10,000 children who came to Britain on the Kindertransport, from December 1938 to the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Nearly 2,000 unaccompanied children spent their first weeks in this country living at the Dovercourt Holiday Camp just two miles from the docks – this was a unique attempt at mass rescue.



Planned site of memorial

We are well on our way towards raising the £140,000 needed to create this historic new memorial.

**Join the campaign to complete the journey.**

**TO DONATE**

[kindertransport-memorial.org/donate](http://kindertransport-memorial.org/donate)  
info@kindertransport-memorial.org  
@KT\_memorial

*Pictured: The fundraising campaign brochure*

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*Pictured: (1) Directors Sue Daish and Michael Payne next to the audio bench, the Mayor's Garden (2) Talk at primary school by HKMLT Director*





*Pictured: Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony, 27 January 2023.*

*Photo copyright: Maria Fowler*

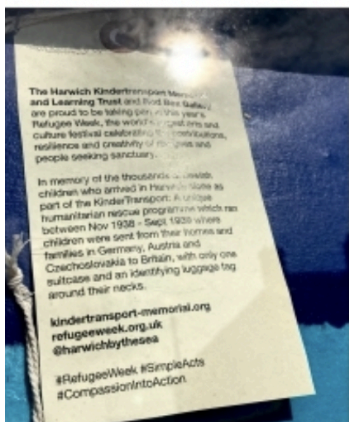
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*Pictured: 'Kehilot' (Jewish communities) youth group guided visit*





For more information, pictures and news please visit our website:

[kindertransport-memorial.org](http://kindertransport-memorial.org)