



An Englishman in Auschwitz

By Femke van Iperen

The Jewish Museum in East End Road, which aims to increase knowledge and understanding of Jewish life and its roots, is known for its wide range of exhibitions, education and outreach. But perhaps its most poignant account has been the story of 91-year old Leon Greenman, Auschwitz Holocaust Survivor, number 98288.

Mr Greenman, who survived slave labour and starvation in a variety of camps during the war, and lost his wife and child, exhibits his own life with photographs and personal belongings, such as the tiny shoes he had made for his son.

The exhibition which has been running since 1996, marks not only the extraordinary tale of one man's sufferings and survival, but poses questions for today's society, through Greenman's mission to combat racism in general. Most of the children he meets return home after a life-changing experience. "The trip made a lasting impression...it has changed my outlook towards racism, no longer will I sit back and let people make racist comments or jokes in my presence. I feel it is no-one's right to judge another person by their colour or race", wrote a pupil from a comprehensive school in North London.

Changing the world

Greenman published a book in June 2001, *An Englishman in Auschwitz*, and received an OBE from Queen Elizabeth in 1998 for his contribution to Holocaust Education in Britain. But his mission to tell the world started in 1964. "Sometimes people challenge me and they don't believe me.

I don't know why."

He lectures all over the country and he has been to Oldham, Bradford, Leeds, Lincoln universities, and also to Holland, birthplace of his grandparents. Schools from all over the country make appointments to see him. In a moving account, a mother from Essex wrote to Greenman: "My daughter visited the Jewish Museum on a school trip. She came home, after hearing you speak, saddened, angry, but full of questions and a determination that her generation would try and make the world better. She has told everyone she knows your story; you brought the Holocaust home to her in a way no TV documentary, book or film could ever manage."

Mr Greenman tells his story in a remarkable energetic, encouraging, truthful and informative way, making the exhibition worth a visit for all ages.

Leon Greenman Auschwitz Survivor 98288, an exhibition on the life of Leon Greenman, British Citizen and Survivor of Holocaust, at the Jewish Museum, East End Road London N3 2SY. Tel: 020 8349 1143

Nearest tube: Finchley Central. Opening Times: Monday-Thursday 10.30am-5pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30 pm. Admissions £2. Concessions £1.



Leon Greenman photo by Femke van Iperen

Institute Open Day

By Femke van Iperen

It was a sunny day for this year's HGS Institute Open Day and anyone who visited the yearly community event in Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, found something interesting to do or watch.

On the day, the Institute, which offers a comprehensive range of courses for adults and children, displays work, and teachers are available to answer the questions of prospective September students and interested visitors.

The demonstrations and workshops of its accredited and non-accredited courses filled the summer air with passionate flamenco, soothing classical music and singing, plus enlightening yoga demonstrations and a children's show which brought the Marquee area to a giggle.

In the garden, visitors admired sculptures and inside, the air heavy with incense and candle fumes, complementary therapies and health teachers were at hand for questions on Alexandra Technique or Tai Chi. There were displays of photography, painting, silk-painting, computer art and also foreign languages.

Richard Bradbury, Vice Principle, who has worked for the Institute since 1985, said: "We've always had an open

event over three consecutive evenings, but about 10 years ago we decided to change it into one open day, that's really worked well. The open day is much more fun than it used to be. The majority of people come to see the work done and decide to do something similar."

Inspiration

Preparing students for further education, work or simply to gain knowledge and experience, many students stay within the institute for years. Marilyn Kernoff, a practising psychotherapist, who is in her early fifties, learned to paint on 'Enjoy your Art' and has been doing it for two and a half years. "I find the course the most wonderful antidote to the work that I do. It inspired

me to go further and has given me confidence."

MP Rudi Vis and Garden Suburb Ward Councillors John Marshall and Jazmin Naghar visited, admired the work and spoke to students. Cllr John Marshall commented: "What is impressive is the very high quality of work done by a variety of students. It is a unique institute; it certainly offers the residents a wide variety of courses, which will enable them to further their potential still further. It has been a very successful and wonderful day with lots of people."

The Institute is based in Central Square NW11; Thomas More Way, East End Road; and 79 St James Lane, Muswell Hill. Contact The HGS at Central Square NW11, telephone 020 8455 9951.

Ahead of the Times

By Diana Cormack

Regular readers of *The Archer* will know that, over the years, we have sometimes been the first to print a story that has subsequently appeared elsewhere. A while ago we featured Duncan Mills, head teacher of Holy Trinity School, and his band Squawking Heads. This group is made up of eight Barnet primary school head teachers, plus a parent governor, who are becoming well known all over the Borough for their rocking performances at school based functions.

But now their fame is spreading, for the July issue of *The Times Educational Supplement* carried a long article about them and a large colour picture too. As well as giving the low down on the teachers and their role in the group, there were also details of some of the lyrics that they have adapted from well-known songs. These are used not only to appeal to their usual audience of people

involved in education, but also perhaps to work out some of the frustrations brought about by the pressure of their jobs, for example "I Can't Get No SATisfaction."

Top of the class

How long will it be before they appear on "Top of the Pops" (or should that be "Top of the Class")? If it did happen, the Squawking Heads could change the image of head teachers forever!

Hens Teeth Antiques

Antiques Bought and Sold

Restoration, Upholstery and French Polishing of Period and Modern Furniture

Call Martin Murray

0208883 - 0755

Mobile 07930 625 - 359

SEEDS SOIL

Mike, Tricia & Jimmy welcome you to flowers by



Josephine's

58/60 High Road, East Finchley
London N2
Tel: 020 8883 3598 & 020 8444 9569

GARDEN STAIRS PLANTS

EST 35 Years

PSYCHOTHERAPY and COUNSELLING

Local therapist registered UKCP BACP AHPP

Here and now approach to personal growth, dealing with relationships, feeling stuck or troubled.

Individual and couple sessions offered.

Gestalt therapy group starting September - call now to enrol. £18 per week.

Workshop on 14th September

Call Patti Owens
0208 365 4621

Email: contact@pattiwens.co.uk