

Agenda item 10

Holocaust Memorial Day 2019

Theme this year: Torn from home

The 27th January marked Holocaust Memorial Day and events in Devon organised by a small committee led by Ed Pawson were well attended and much appreciated by schools.

Sat 26th Jan

Buckfast Abbey

7.30- 9.00pm

Shoah: A Holocaust Cantata, performed by the Brent singers and choristers of Buckfast Abbey. [Attended by 250 people who were moved by the work composed by Phil Arkwright, Master of the Music at the Abbey.](#)

Sun 27th - Mon 28th Jan

The Guildhall, High St, Exeter

Exhibition on the Holocaust and other genocides with some excellent examples of work from Devon schools. Refugee Support Devon, Abide and Exeter Library Service were also present.

Mon 28th Jan

Exeter Cathedral was the venue for the opening ceremony this year. Over 200 people attended and it is clearly a good development as the Guildhall restricts numbers to 100.

Opening ceremony addresses from:

Lord Mayor of Exeter: Cllr Rob Hannaford

Chairman of DCC: Cllr Caroline Chugg

Dean of Exeter Cathedral: Jonathan Greener

Chair of Devon SACRE: Jeremy Roberts

Deputy Lord Lieutenant: Robin Barlow

Student ambassadors (King's School, OSM): Jess Board and Jasmine Potbury

Newtown Primary school choir provided a wonderful performance as the focus for the opening.

Southernhay URC was the venue for schools activities for the seven schools that brought groups including:

Torn from home: talk by Syrian refugees Walaa and Mohamed Haji .

Presentation by West Exe students who have visited Auschwitz.

Public talk. Barnabas Balint: Understanding genocide and paying tribute to its victims

Exeter Synagogue hosted guided visits throughout the day; an opportunity much appreciated by schools.

Closing Ceremony, Moments of Reflection & Candle Lighting led by Tony Reese (Jewish Community)

This also featured short addresses from Students from Torquay Boys Grammar School and Rev John Hall (Abide).

Thurs 7th Feb

Southernhay URC, Exeter

Holocaust Survivor talk. Agnes Grunwald-Spier: Women's Experiences in the Holocaust

SACRE records its thanks to the Jewish Community of Exeter, DCC, Exeter City Council for their material support, The Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral for hosting the opening ceremony and the members who give their time throughout the year to plan, organise and lead HMD. Particular thanks go to Ed Pawson for his leadership and commitment to HMD.