

Escaping the past - embracing the present

Escaping the past - embracing the present

In our event with Dame Esther Rantzen on National Kindertransport Day, u3a members with ties to the Kindertransport are sharing their stories

In 1938-1939, some 10,000 Jewish children travelled to Britain to escape Nazism before the start of the second world war. Their lives, and those around them, changed forever. Some will be taking part in a special u3a online event on National Kindertransport Day – 2 December. Hosted by Dame Esther Rantzen, the event will consist of a presentation and interviews. We will hear personal experiences from the 'Kinder' themselves, from the next generation hoping to ensure their family's remarkable stories are not forgotten, and from the British hosts, who have grown up calling the Kindertransport refugees family.

One of the Kindertransport children, John, wrote in his diary, "Although I could not have known it at the time, my arrival in the UK was the start of my life as an outsider, a state of affairs which was to prove irreversible for the rest of my life." His wife Una, has submitted his recollections as part of the project.

Towcester u3a member Norman recollects how "My mother had made a hard decision; she applied for me to leave Germany and my family. The plan was for her to join me in England soon after---how this was to be accomplished, I do not know."

The presentation will be hosted by Steve Williams, a Holocaust Education advisor at the Centre for German Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex. He is a member of Arun East u3a.

Interviews will be conducted by author, broadcaster and u3a columnist Dame Esther Rantzen.

[Book your place on the event now.](#)

Not yet a member of u3a? [Join us now.](#)

*Photo: the Goldberger Siblings, including Markus Goldberger, father of Sue of Shepway u3a*