

*Moishe Nurtman, who survived Buchenwald and Theresienstadt and came to England as one of 'The Boys', lights a memorial candle on Opening Night, with sons Mickey and Saul and granddaughter Joelle.*

# STAND TOGETHER WEEK

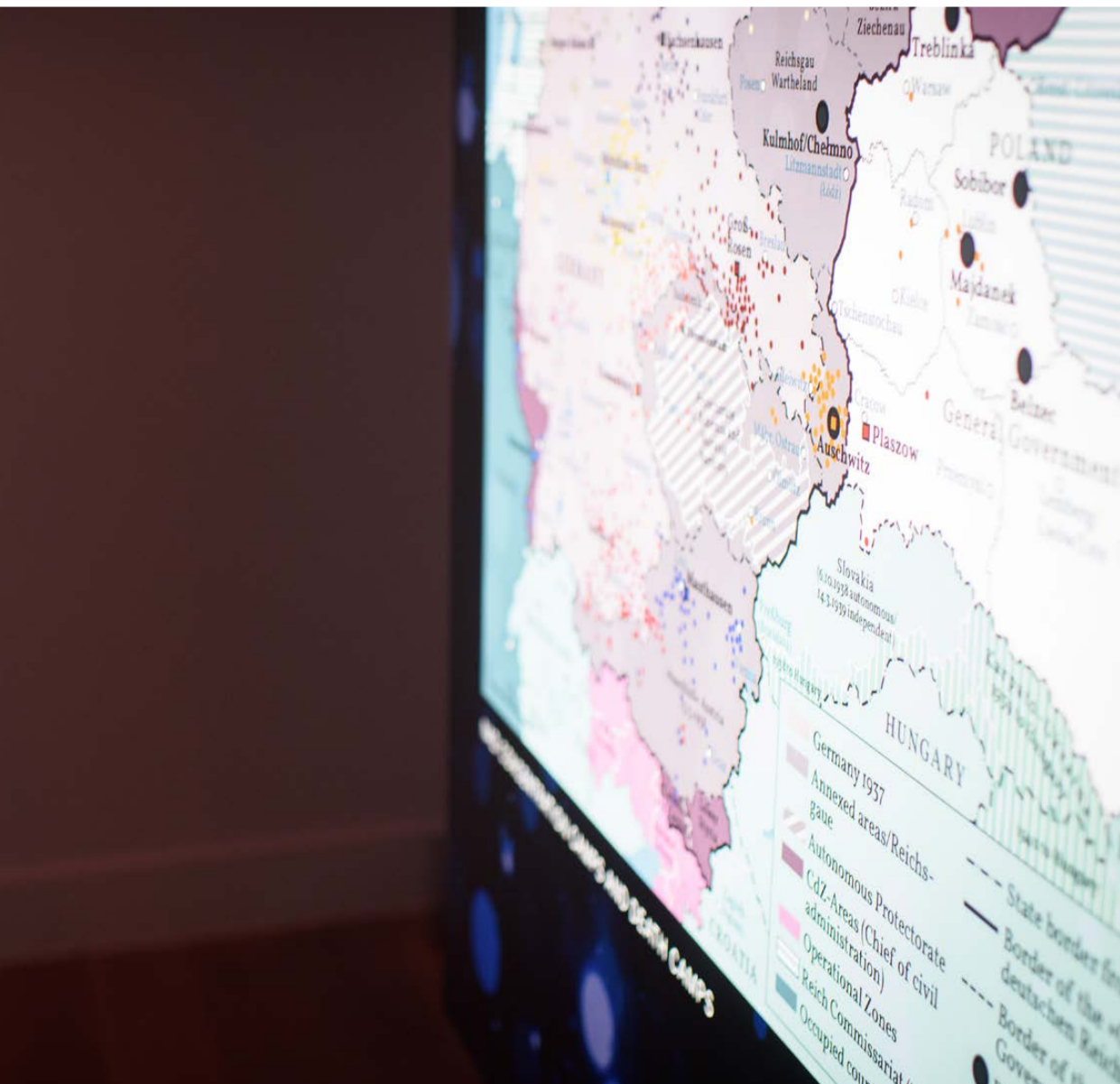
at South Hampstead Synagogue

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 was 'Stand Together'. Marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, it was an especially important year. So it was hugely gratifying to co-create 'Stand Together Week' at one of the UK's most warm, vibrant and noteworthy synagogues, South Hampstead.

This was a week of exhibitions curated by Caroline Marcus Associates and Marc Cave, and extensive local schools outreach led by Beth Shalom educators. We delivered learning to almost 700 local state school children over 5 days, both Primary and Secondary. Each age group had a programme tailored to them.

In our first major 'pop-up' in London, we used South Hampstead's superb new community centre to exhibit both *The Eye As Witness* and *The Forever Project*. Both formed part of the schools outreach programmes too, as did the touring version of *The Journey*.

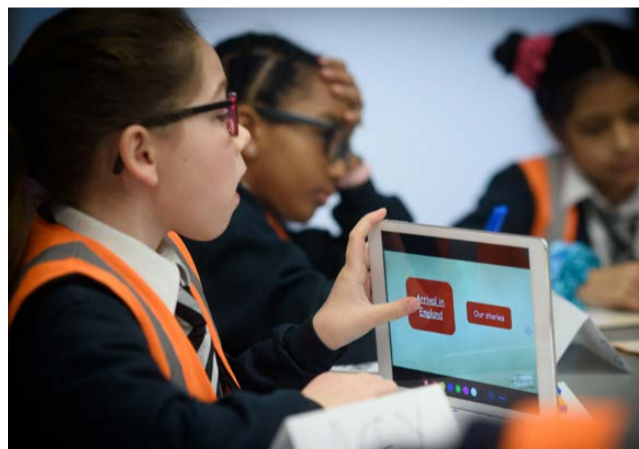
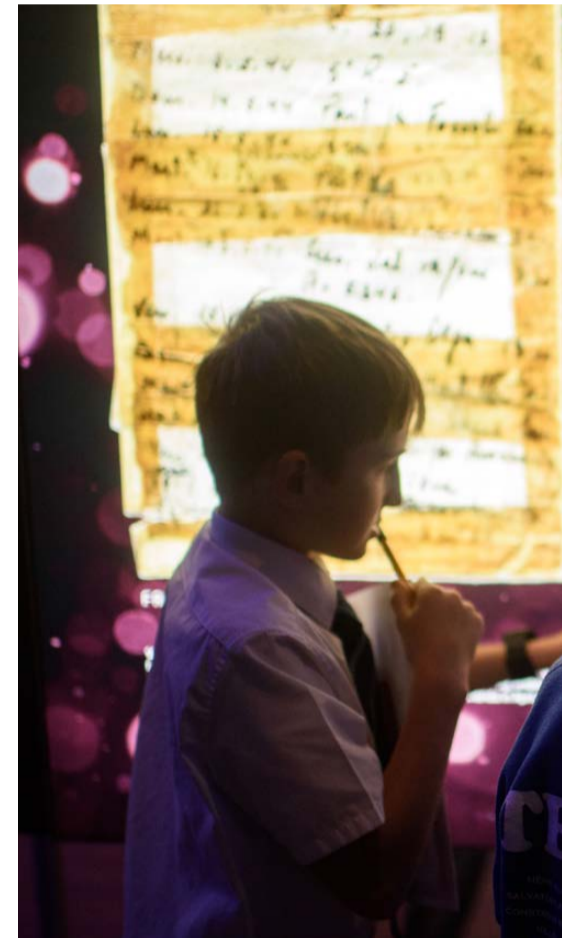




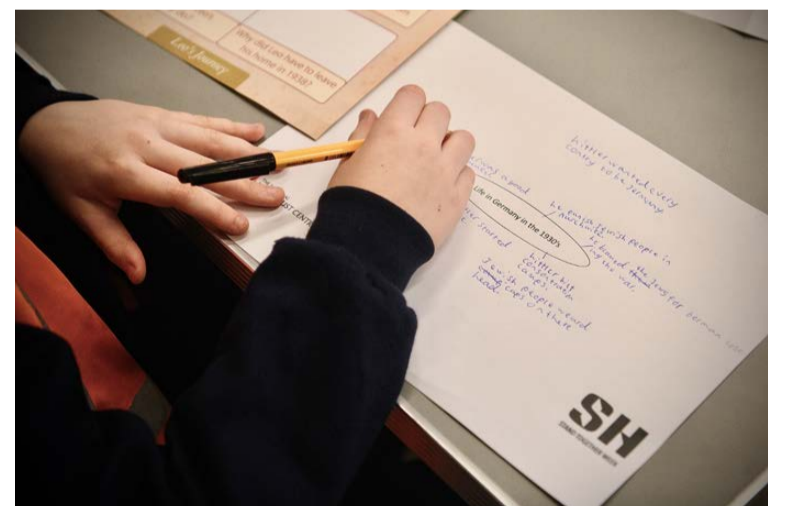
The programme began each day with a walk around the synagogue and an introduction for the children by Rabbi Eli Levin to Judaism as a living faith. The students' levels of engagement throughout the week was extremely impressive. There's nothing quite like the face of a child engrossed in learning. Or that desperately hand waving in the air: "Me, Miss, me!"



Rabbi Eli Levin shows local schoolchildren that Judaism is very much a living faith



Dame Helen Hyde, NHCM Trustee, generously gave her week to lead The Journey outreach programme at South Hampstead



The programme brought learning about the Holocaust which these children would not otherwise have had. As ever, they found their own unique ways to express what they had learnt. The words in the picture above read: "Hitler wanted every country to be Germany... he blamed the Jews for losing the war... Jewish people wear caps on their head".



# Stepping into the Warsaw Ghetto

In January of this year, we opened our first ever national touring exhibition at South Hampstead synagogue in London. Using Virtual Reality, *The Eye As Witness* begins by inviting us to step into a famous image of the Warsaw Ghetto.

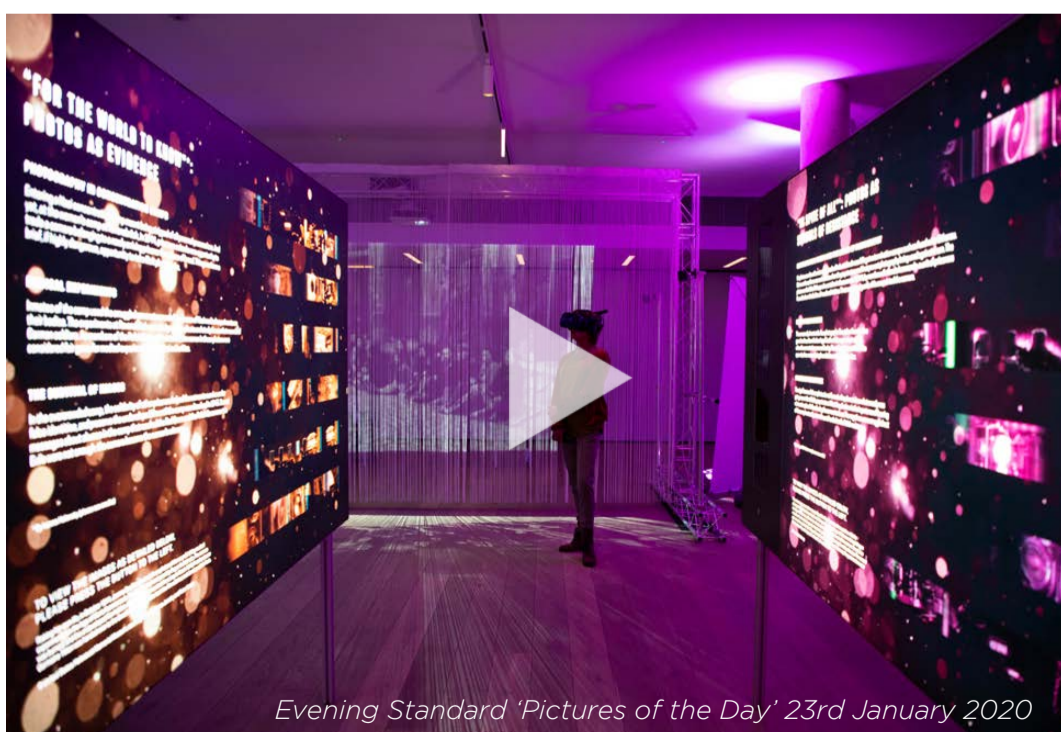
The exhibition explores the political and moral motives for witnessing and recording the Holocaust. A learning programme accompanies it.

The Warsaw Ghetto picture at the heart of the exhibition is in fact a Nazi propaganda image – as are the overwhelming majority of Holocaust images. Walking around the environment in which the picture was taken, and looking at the photographer from the victims’ point of view, lets us understand how the shot was contrived.

In this way, we understand the visual cunning of the Nazis and how it helped spread and normalise anti-Jewish hate.

In contrast to perpetrator photography, the exhibition includes images taken by prisoners and victims. They convey dignity and humanity, contradicting the depersonalised victimhood that the Nazis’ marketing machine wished to portray.

Whilst *The Eye As Witness* is an excitingly creative use of technology to reconsider the past, its purpose is chillingly contemporary. When you see an image or video posted on Twitter – of a victim of war or member of a particular minority group – ask yourself who recorded it and why. If pictures are worth a thousand words, then fake news is 1,000 times more sinister in photographic form. *The Eye As Witness* challenges us to think critically about the propaganda techniques used on social media today by the Hard Left and the Hard Right alike.



Evening Standard 'Pictures of the Day' 23rd January 2020



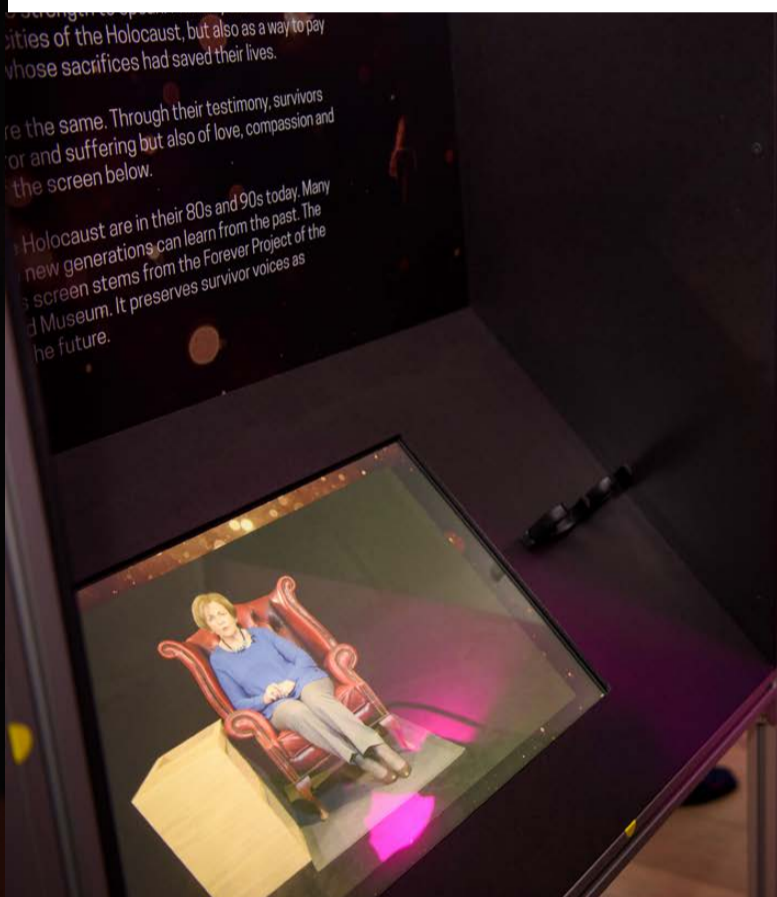


*Sir Trevor Pears KMG, an integral part of the National Holocaust Centre & Museum story, in discussion at the exhibition launch, with Lady Daniela Pears and our Director of Learning, Louise Stafford*





*Professor Maiken Umbach discusses an exhibit with long-time friend of Beth Shalom, Janice Parnes*



*Above: Mala Tribich MBE, survivor of Bergen-Belsen and Ravensbrück, puts questions to her digital self - using Forever Project technology as part of The Eye As Witness exhibition.*



*Left: Victoria Vincent's hand written record of the camps she had been in - a priceless artefact in the exhibition. She escaped from an Auschwitz death march on January 18th 1945 with it in her shoe.*



*Victoria Vincent with James and Stephen Smith, not long before her passing in 1996. May her memory be a blessing. Her son David was able to come and visit the Eye As Witness exhibition.*





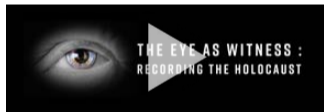
'The Weight of Images' installation within *The Eye As Witness*, by award-winning Swedish artist Lina Selander, reflecting on the gaps in our memory and understanding



The Rt Hon The Lord Eric Pickles, United Kingdom Special Envoy for post-Holocaust issues, steps into the image.

This ground-breaking exhibition was funded by Arts Council England. A big thank you must go to our good friend there, John Cairns, for his enthusiasm and support. And to Kate Bellamy, Director of Museums, who opened the exhibition.

It was created in close partnership with the University of Nottingham. We thank Dr Gary Mills, Associate Professor in History Education and Chair of our Academic Advisory Board. And above all, we salute the talent and energy of Maiken Umbach, Professor of Modern History who, together with Paul Tennent of its Mixed Reality Laboratory, made the impossible possible.



## Media coverage

**BBC NEWS**  
Virtual reality Holocaust: WW2 survivor 'impressed' by recreation  
© 13 January 2020  
The Holocaust

**Jewish News**  
Shoah centre opens exhibit where visitors 'step inside' Warsaw Ghetto photos  
Nottinghamshire-based organisation's 'The Eye as Witness' exhibit will run until late March, and includes an immersive 'virtual reality' using Nazi-produced Holocaust photographs  
By JEWISH NEWS REPORTER | January 24, 2020, 11:44 am | 36 shares

**ITV NEWS**  
MARC CAVE  
Chief Executive, National Holocaust Centre and Museum

**The Telegraph**  
Is it right to view photos of the Holocaust taken by the Nazis?  
The inhabitants of the Warsaw ghetto, as portrayed by a Wehrmacht photographer. Credit: NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WARSAW/GETTY

**et cetera**  
The Eye As Witness exhibition at South Hampstead Synagogue  
PUBLISHED: 15:08 22 January 2020 | Bridget Galton

**Ham & High**

**Paul Tennent/University of Nottingham**  
The researchers based their recreation on other photos taken on the same few days

**A Holocaust survivor who stepped back in to a Nazi ghetto thanks to virtual reality said it "brings it home".**  
Martin Stern, 81, was one of the first to experience what is believed to be a unique exhibit.  
Researchers have turned a photo of the 1943 liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto in to virtual reality (VR), allowing visitors to look around inside it.  
Mr Stern said he hopes it will better engage young people and make them ask questions.  
The retired physician, who now lives in Leicester, spent months in Theresienstadt as a child, a ghetto and transit camp in what was then Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia.