

# For a Better Future



**Holocaust Memorial Day**

**Programme 2025**

# WELCOME

This Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the biggest Nazi concentration camp, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

80 years on from the liberation of Auschwitz, anti-semitism has increased significantly following the 7 October attacks in Israel by Hamas and the subsequent war in Gaza. Extremists are exploiting the situation to stir up anti-Muslim hatred. Many communities feel vulnerable, with hostility and suspicion of 'others' rising.

We hope that HMD 2025 will provide an opportunity for people to come together, learn from and about the past, reflect on our present precarious predicament, and take action to make a better future.

There are many things we can do to make a better future: we can encourage others to learn about the Holocaust and other genocides; we can speak up against Holocaust and genocide denial and distortion; we can challenge prejudice, discrimination, persecution and hate-crime.

As they do every year, organisations from across Newcastle have developed a programme to share with us for Holocaust Memorial Day that will enrich our knowledge and understanding. They encourage and enable us all to reflect on what we can do, on our own and together, to prevent further atrocities and distress. I hope they inspire you, and that they give you hope for a better future.

Cllr. Abdul Samad  
Cabinet Member for Culture, Music and Arts

**Representative Council of North-East Jewry  
Commemorative Event  
For a Better Future  
Atrium, Newcastle City Library  
Sunday 26 January, 2.00pm  
Tickets: By invitation only**

Inspired by this year's theme for Holocaust Memorial Day, the Representative Council of North East Jewry will focus on younger voices, the voices of the future, at the city's central commemoration event, and will remember the Jews of the Pardubice region of Czechoslovakia, all of whom were sent to concentration camps by the Nazis in 1942. Only a handful returned.

Hundreds of Torah scrolls were rescued from Pardubice after the war. One made the journey to the UK to be restored and was eventually adopted by a Newcastle synagogue as a 'survivor of the Shoah'. The Pardubice Scroll is now regularly used in services and by Barmitzvah/Batmitzvah children, serving as a poignant reminder that with human endeavour, out of the tragedy of the past there is always hope for a better future.

As in previous years, the event will feature a children's choir from local schools performing a new song, commissioned from members of the local Jewish community, based on this year's theme. Professor Yitka Graham of Sunderland University will share her family connection to the region, and her experience of visiting the Terezin concentration camp.

***A recording will be available on YouTube after the event - search for Representative Council of North East Jewry or access the link through [www.northeastjewish.org.uk/news](http://www.northeastjewish.org.uk/news)***

Exhibition/Installation  
'Numbers and Labels - The Jews of Pardubice'  
Newcastle City Library, Level 1  
16 - 30 January  
FREE

A unique installation created by a member of the Jewish community, representing the mass transportation of the Pardubice Jews to Terezin and onward to Auschwitz.

**Composers forced into Exile in the United States**  
**St James United Reformed Church, Jesmond**  
**Saturday 18th January, 7.00pm**

**CONCERT**

**Tickets:** [www.brundibarartsfestival.com](http://www.brundibarartsfestival.com)

**Artists**

**Violin:** Jack Liebeck  
**Violin:** Alexandra Raikhlina  
**Viola:** Benjamin Roskams  
**Cello:** Adrian Brendel  
**Tenor:** Alex Aldren  
**Clarinet:** Jessica Lee  
**Piano:** Danny Driver  
**Piano:** Yoshie Kawamura

**7.00pm:** Pre-Concert talk by Michael Haas PhD.

**7:30pm:** Concert

The concert explores works by composers who fled from the Nazis to the United States. All of the works were written during their years in exile. They convey a yearning for home, the composers' attempts at assimilation and, sometimes, a protest.

M.Castelnuovo-Tedesco: 3 Shepardic Songs  
E Krenek: Clarinet Trio op.108  
F.Waxman: Memories of Childhood

Interval

D. Milhaud: Quartet no.13  
E.Toch: Adagio for clarinet & piano  
A.Schoenberg: Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte



**Music, Migration and Mobility**  
**Gosforth Civic Theatre**  
**Thursday 23rd January, 7.00pm**

**EXHIBITION**

Tickets: [www.brundibarartsfestival.com](http://www.brundibarartsfestival.com)

Brought together by an international team of musicians, archival researchers, musicologists and geographers in one of the biggest research projects initiated by the Royal College of Music to date, this temporary exhibition charts the mobile lives, artistic output and impact on British culture of musicians who came to Britain from Nazi-ruled Europe during the 1930s and '40s. The research sheds new light on their experiences and contributions to national cultural renewal after the war. The project shares online story-maps that visualise where the musicians came from as well as where and with whom they worked, aiming both to reveal and understand the artistic relationships they formed with their British colleagues and with each other.

***Mooragh Internment Camp,  
Ramsey, Isle of Man, 1940***



**"What a Life?!" by Hans Gál**  
Gosforth Civic Theatre  
Thursday 23rd January, 8.00pm

**CABARET**

**Tickets: [www.brundibarartsfestival.com](http://www.brundibarartsfestival.com)**

**Artists**

**Director:** Robert Hersey  
**Violin:** Kyra Humphreys, Alexandra Raikhlina  
**Viola:** Anna Barsegjana  
**Cello:** Gabriel Waite  
**Clarinet:** Dov Goldberg  
**Flute:** Charlotte Ashton  
**Piano:** Yoshie Kawamura  
**Tenor:** Norbert Meyn  
**Baritone:** Simon Wallfisch  
**Actors:** Philip Harrison, Chris Connel

In May 1940, Nazi Germany launched a surprise attack on Belgium and the Netherlands. Faced with the threat of an invasion and in fear of sabotage, the British Government embarked on a policy of mass internment of German and Austrian nationals in the UK. Most of the prisoners were Jewish and other refugees who had escaped persecution by the Nazi regime and were ready to fight alongside the British. They were, nonetheless, interned for many months while the authorities dealt with each case individually. Most were held on the Isle of Man.

The composer Hans Gál (1890-1987) became a leading member of the arts committee at Central Camp in the capital, Douglas. After several successful classical music concerts, the committee decided to put on a comic revue to provide much needed light entertainment. It was the brainchild of the Austrian film director Georg Höllering (1897-1980), who had worked with Bertholt Brecht on the film 'Kuhle Wampe' in 1932. He asked Gál to compose the music and called it 'What a Life!'

The songs are parodies of life in the camp, making fun of the seagulls, the barbed wire, the gender separation, the fitness routine, cleaning up, sharing beds and observing blackouts. The text of the spoken dialogue does not survive. What we *do* have are the songs and instrumental numbers from Gál's manuscripts, and his diary *Music behind Barbed Wire*. In performance, the songs are interspersed with excerpts from Gál's diary which are included with the permission of Eva Fox-Gál.



**First Camp Revue**  
**Palace Theater, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1940**

**Closing Concert****“In Exile”****Kings Hall, Newcastle University****Sunday 26 January, 7.30pm****Tickets:** [www.brundibarartsfestival.com](http://www.brundibarartsfestival.com)**Artists****Violin:** Alexandra Soumm, Alexandra Raikhlina**Viola:** Dana Zemtsov**Cello:** Bartholomew LaFollette**Piano:** Katya Apekisheva, Anthony Hewitt**Oboe:** Julian Scott**Theremin:** Lydia Kavina**Programme**

S. Rachmaninov: Arrangement of Mussorgsky Hopak for violin &amp; piano

E. Toch: String Trio op.63

R.Kahn: 3 pieces for cello op.25

**Interval**

F.Chopin: Ballade no.1 in G minor

B.Martinu: Fantasia H 301

Aftab Darvishi: Special Festival Commission 2025: Dance With Me  
Under the Falling Ruins



### Remembering the Relief of Belsen

**Bewick Hall, Newcastle City Library**  
**Thursday 23 January, 5.30pm &**

**Community Room, West End Library**  
**Friday 24 January, 3.00pm Tickets: FREE**

Two events to commemorate and celebrate the role played in the Relief of Belsen in the spring of 1945 by one of our local regiments - the 113 LAA RA TA, affiliated to the Durham Light Infantry - when men from the Northeast helped Jewish, Roma and other survivors. There will be illustrated talks by local historian Peter Sagar and ex-MEP Julie Ward, and the screening of an interview with Frank Lavin from Hartlepool, whose father Wilf was part of the DLI detachment at Bergen-Belsen in April and May 1945. Young people from North Benwell Youth Project, many from a Roma background, will show how they have responded to the story through artwork.

### Roma Access CIC

## EXHIBITION & EVENT

### Acknowledging the Past for a Better Future

A programme which focuses on the often-overlooked persecution of the Roma people during the Holocaust, revealing their suffering and resilience and providing an opportunity to remember, reflect and learn. Audiences will have the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the past, and to recognise the profound impact of prejudice, discrimination and systemic violence.

**West Fifteen Business Centre, Wickham View, NE15 6UN**

#### Exhibition

**Friday 24 & Saturday 25 January, 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Photographs and documents which tell the story of the Roma Holocaust**

#### Commemorative Event

**Saturday 25 January, 3.00pm**

**Tickets: FREE**

A commemoration to honour all Holocaust victims, with a special focus on the Roma community. This reflective event will provide time and space to remember those who suffered and to renew our commitment to building a future free from prejudice and hate.

**Skimstone Arts**

**Turning to Face the Sun**

**Bewick Hall, Newcastle City Library**

**Thursday 30th January, 12 noon and 1.30 pm**

**FREE**

**EVENT**

A story-sharing and performance event, in which light, audio recordings and live performances, inspired by Ukrainian, Jewish, Palestinian, Kurdistan Iraqi and other war testimonies, help us explore what it means to look for hope and resolution, and to dream of a better future. What part can we play individually and collectively to make a difference? The event includes 'Manifestation' by UNITY Tree, a Ukrainian performance group based in the North East.



## North East Museums

### Peace is Personal

**Smajo Bešo OBE, Founder & Chair,  
NE Board of the Bosnian Genocide Educational Trust  
Bewick Hall, Newcastle City Library  
(on-line livestream available)  
Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2.00pm**

Tickets for in-person attendance and  
livestream FREE, but booking essential:  
[https://discoverymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/  
holocaust-memorial-day-talk](https://discoverymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/holocaust-memorial-day-talk)

Event supported by a British Sign Language interpreter. Personal hearing loops will also be available on request at time of booking.

Smajo Bešo (pictured) was born in Bosnia in 1985. His father and several male relatives were tortured in concentration camps as Bosnian Muslims became targets of genocide. Some of Smajo's close relatives were murdered. Smajo and his family arrived in Newcastle as refugees in 1994. Today he regularly shares his experiences and has played a vital role in organising Holocaust Memorial Day and Bosnian Genocide commemorations across the country. Most recently, he has been recognised with an OBE for services to genocide education and commemoration in the New Years Honours 2023. To mark the 30th anniversary, join Smajo at Newcastle City Library as he presents his first-hand account of the Bosnian Genocide.

**TALK**



## Newcastle Libraries

**TALK**

**When the Holocaust became the Holocaust: changing imaginations of genocide in the West**

**Bewick Hall, City Library**

**Thursday 30 January, 5.15pm**

**FREE, but booking essential at Newcastle Libraries Eventbrite**

Professor Ian Biddle tells the story of how we came to understand the term "Holocaust" and where it comes from. Who first coined the term? When did it become a proper noun? How did we first come to make sense of the systematic slaughter of millions of people in Europe? How has our understanding changed since its first use? The lecture will introduce some key moments in the history of our understanding of the term.

16th – 30th Jan | 10am – 4pm | Exhibition | Newcastle City Library  
Rep. Council of NE Jewry

18th January | 7 – 9.30pm | Concert | St. James' Church, Jesmond  
Brundibar Arts Festival

23rd January | 7 – 9.30pm | Cabaret | Gosforth Civic Theatre  
Brundibar Arts Festival

23rd January | 5.30 – 7pm | Talk/Event | Newcastle City Library  
A Living Tradition

24th January | 3 – 4.30pm | Talk/Event | West End Library  
A Living Tradition

24th – 25th January | 10am – 4pm | Exhibition | W15 Business Centre  
Roma Access CIC

25th January | 3 – 5 pm | Commemorative Event | W15 Business Centre  
Roma Access CIC

26th January | 2 – 4pm | Commemorative Event | City Library  
Representative Council of NE Jewry

26th January | 7 – 9.30pm | Concert | King's Hall  
Brundibar Arts Festival

29th January | 2 – 3pm | Talk Smajo Beso | City Library  
North East Museums

30th January | 5.15 – 6.30pm |Lecture | Ian Biddle, City Library  
Newcastle Libraries

30th January | 12noon & 1.30pm | Event | City Library  
Skimstone Arts

