The Living Stones Project

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### Courageous Brothers ing Britain in Times of War

Engineering Bravery: zi Vienna to England's War Effort

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How did Samuel get from Stryj to High Wycombe?

Where did he learn to play the violin, and with whom?

The "Book of Stryj" can be found online at https://tinyuri.com/sbecher

### Honoring the Legacy of Harry Ellis Solicitor and Community Leader

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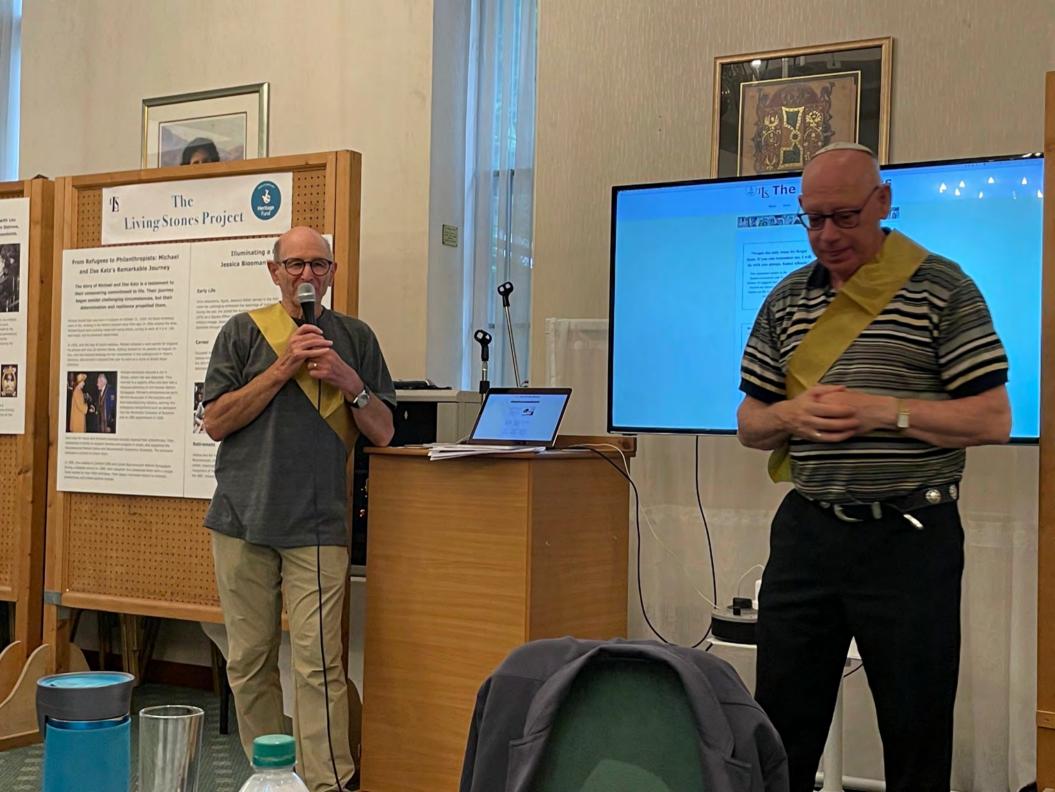
















### The Courageous Brothers Supporting Britain in Times of War

**Engineering Bravery:** From Nazi Vienna to England's War Effort



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# Living Stones Project

To describe and preserve the community's heritage by researching and documenting the lives of those buried in the lewish cemeteries.

### How?

We photograph the headstones, recording the dates and names.

We record oral interviews to capture memories and stories.

We research, seeking information to write stories about origins, successes, failures and contributions to the life and the economy of

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Moreover, Harry's compassionate leadership saved Hannah Levy House from closure in the 1980s when Jewish Care withdrew its support. Thanks to his wise counsel, the home flourished for over three decades, providing a haven for those in need.





A remarkable individual, Harry Ellis, passed away in 2016, leaving behind a legacy that inspires all. His son Jonathan and cherished grandchildren Hannah, Daniel, Noah, and Daisy carry his spirit forward. Harry's life serves as a shining example of the power of dedication, resilience, and making a profound impact on the lives of others.

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### Contributions to the War Effort

In 1936, Ludwig founded the Loewy Engineering Company in London. Their products gained recognition from Lord Beaverbrook, Minister for Aviation, as World War II approached. To protect against bombings, Ludwig relocated the entire staff and equipment to Branksome Grange in Poole. His dedication to the British war effort was acknowledged in January 1942 when he was granted British citizenship. Remembering Their Legacy: Tragedy and Tribute

### Tragedy and Tribute

In July 1942, tragedy struck as Siegmund passed away at 45. Just three months later, Ludwig, aged 55, also succumbed to illness. Over 80 telegrams expressing condolences poured into the Poole office from Members of Parliament and officials. The company's esteemed reputation led to a road in Poole being named in their honour. Branksome Grange, the site where their business thrived, was later gifted to The Shaftesbury Society, a charitable organisation caring for disabled children.

Ludwig Loewy and his brothers' legacy is a testament to their remarkable courage, resilience, and invaluable contributions during challenging times.

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# Rescued by Kindertransport: The Inspiring Journey of Herta and Walter Kammerling

The dark shadow of the Nazi Party forever changed Herta and Walter Kammerling's lives. Born in Vienna in the 1920s, they faced the horrors of Kristallnacht in 1938, witnessing the destruction and persecution of Jewish communities. Walter's family recognised the danger and decided to send him on one of the first Kindertransport trains to the UK. Tragically, he never saw his parents and one of his sisters again, as they perished in Auschwitz.



Life was challenging for a fifteen-year-old in a foreign land without family, but Walter persevered. He worked on a farm in Belfast and eventually went to London, where he joined an Austrian youth movement. In 1939, Herta and her younger brother Otto also arrived in London, seeking refuge from the growing darkness in their homeland. Herta worked in the clothing industry while training as a nursery nurse. Fate brought Herta and Walter together when they met at the "Young Austria" club and married in 1944.

After World War II, Herta and Walter returned to Vienna with a vision of rebuilding their shattered city and combating the remnants of antisemitism. However, by 1957, they realised that their hopes for a new beginning were overshadowed by persistent bigotry. They returned to England, settling in Bournemouth, where Herta's parents resided. Embracing their Jewish heritage, they became active members of the Bournemouth New Synagogue and the wider Jewish community. Herta's leadership extended to serving as the Women's Guild's chairman and later president. She also played a vital role in establishing the Bournemouth Jewish Community Day Centre. Meanwhile, Walter dedicated himself to synagogue affairs as a council member, chairman, and president.

Walter's profound belief in personal choice, lifelong learning, and community involvement guided his path. Despite enduring the unimaginable hardships of the Holocaust and the loss of his family, he committed his later years to travel across the UK, sharing his testimony with students through the Trust's Outreach Programme. His unwavering dedication to Holocaust education and awareness earned him the prestigious British Empire Medal in 2019, recognising his invaluable contributions.



The extraordinary journey of Herta and Walter Kammerling serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Their unwavering commitment to rebuilding lives and fostering understanding stands as an inspiration for future generations.

## **An Artistic Genealogy**

The Katz family has a rich artistic heritage, with Lou Simmons, a drummer and bandleader, and Ilan Ostrove, an actor, among Freda and Joseph Katz's descendants.

Lou Simmons, born in London in 1907, began his career as a salesman while simultaneously honing his skills as a drummer and orchestra leader. He performed at renowned venues and worked with the BBC, captivating audiences with his music. One notable event was a concert at the Cafe de Paris in 1941 during an air raid, where a German bomb tragically altered the course of Lou's life. Despite losing sight and sustaining injuries, he continued to contribute to Bournemouth's vibrant music scene until his 70s.





Lou's headstone, shared with his wife Hannah, is a tribute to his musicianship. Hannah fought to include Lou's cherished drums in the design. She found herself at the Chief Rabbi's office through determination and persistence, where her efforts were recognised. The community understood the significance of Lou's music, securing his drums' rightful place.

We find Ilan Ostrove, born in 1975, on the other side of the family. His passion for acting bloomed during his school years, and he earned a spot at the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School. With notable appearances on TV and the stage, including roles in "Simon and the Witch" (1987) and "Mother Goose Stories" (1990). Tragically, he passed away at 22 due to meningitis, profoundly impacting the theatre world.



In the family line, Cynthia, Lou's eldest daughter, distinguished herself as a Coronation Champion for her remarkable charity work during the investiture of King Charles. Her dedication to making a positive difference inspires all, carrying on the philanthropy established by her family.

# The Living Stones Project



# From Refugees to Philanthropists: Michael and Ilse Katz's Remarkable Journey

The story of Michael and Ilse Katz is a testament to their unwavering commitment to life. Their journey began amidst challenging circumstances, but their determination and resilience propelled them.

Michael Rudolf Katz was born in Cologne on October 21, 1918. He faced hardships early in life, working in his father's butcher shop from age 14. After closing the shop, Michael found work building roads and laying drains, cycling to work at 4 a.m. Life was tough, but he remained determined.

In 1939, with the help of Dutch relatives, Michael obtained a work permit for England. He arrived with only 20 German Marks, bidding farewell to his parents on August 14. Ilse, who had endured beatings for her involvement in the underground in Hitler's Germany, also arrived in England that year to work as a nurse at Bristol Royal Infirmary.



Michael eventually secured a job in Bristol, where I lise was stationed. They married in a registry office and later had a religious ceremony in the Hendon Reform Synagogue. Michael's entrepreneurial spirit led him to success in the butchery and food manufacturing industry, earning him prestigious recognitions such as admission into the Worshipful Company of Butchers and an OBE appointment in 1999.

Ilse's love for music and Michael's business success inspired their philanthropy. They established a charity to support libraries and projects in Israel, and supported the Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra dedicated a concert to honor them.

In 1980, they settled in Canford Cliffs and Joined Bournemouth Reform Synagogue. During a Shabbat service in 1999, their daughter Ann presented them with a unique Torah mantle for their 80th birthdays. Their legacy motivates others to embrace philanthropy and create positive change.

## Illuminating a Life: Jessica Blooman's Journey

### **Early Life**

From Alexandria, Egypt, Jessica's father served in the RAF, while her upbringing embraced the teachings of Judaism. During the war, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) as a Signals Officer in AA Command. Beyond her military lineage, Jessica actively advocated against anti-Semitism through the Reform Movement and AJEX.

### Career

Equipped with a Social Work qualification from the London School of Economics, Jessica embarked on a captivating career in Probation. She left an Indelible mark as the UK's first female Chief Probation Officer for Berkshire. Even in retirement, she dedicated her expertise to the Jewish Welfare Board and Hannah Levy House.

### Voluntary work

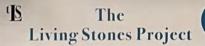
Jewish youth organisations shaped Jessica's life profoundly. Her passion for guiding led her to influential roles within the Jewish Advisory Council of the Guide Association and at Guide HQ, where she had the privilege of meeting royal family members.

### Retirement

Jessica and her husband Charlie embraced retirement in Bournemouth, cherishing a life enriched by marriage, a successful career, meaningful voluntary work, and treasured friendships. In recognition of her remarkable contributions, she was honoured with the OBE, following her father and brother's footsteps.









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The story of Michael and Ilse Katz is a testament to their unwavering commitment to life. Their journey began amidst challenging circumstances, but their determination and resilience propelled them.

Michael Rudolf Katz was born in Cologne on October 21, 1918. He faced hardships early in life, working in his father's butcher shop from age 14. After closing the shop, Michael found work building roads and laying drains, cycling to work at 4 a.m. Life was tough, but he remained determined.

In 1939, with the help of Dutch relatives, Michael obtained a work permit for England, the arrived with only 20 German Marks, blidding farewell to the parents on August 14. libe, who neal endured beatings for the involvment in the underground in Historia Germany, also arrived in England that year to work as a nurse at British Royal.



Michael eventually secured a job in Bristol, where the was stationed. They mention in a registry office and taken has a mention in a registry office and taken has symmetric manufactured by the stationary of the

lise's love for music and Michael's business success inspired their philanthropy. They established a charity to support libraries and projects in Israel, and supported the Glyhydebourne Festival Opera and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra dedicated a concert to honor them.

In 1980, they settled in Canford Cliffs and Joined Bournemouth Raform Synapopue. During a Shabbat service in 1999, their dauphter Ann presented them with a unique Torah martle for their 80th bithdays. Their legacy motivates others to embrace philanthropy and create positive change.

### Illuminating a Life: Jessica Blooman's Journey

From Alexandria, Egypt, Jessica's father served in the RAF, while her upbringing embraced the teachings of Judaism. Ourning the way, site joined the Audiliary Ferninsia Service (ATS) as a Signals Officer in AA Command. Beyond her military lineape, Jessica active advocated against anti-Semitism through the Reform Movement and ALEX.



לפי שנה לירושלים

Equipped with a Social Work qualification from the London School of Economics, Jessica embarked on a captivating career in Probation. She left an indelible mark as the UK's first female Chief Probation Officer for Berkshire. Even in retirement, the dedicated her expertise to the Jenish Welfare Board and Hannah Levy House.



### Voluntary work

Jewish youth organisations shaped Jessica's life profoundly. Her passion for guiding led her to influential roles within the Jewish Advisory Council of the Guide Association and at Guide HQ, where she had the privilege of meeting

Sournemouth, cherishing a life enriched by marriage, a successful Governmenth, cherishing a life enriched by marriage, a successful Career, meaningful voluntary work, and treasured friendships. In recognition of her remarkable contributions, she was honoured with the OBE, following her father and brother's footsteps.



