

Holocaust Memorial Plinth



Above is the plinth which we hope to have funded for the Holocaust Garden with the wording below. It would also be good to have a WWII bench and a specially commissioned bench to commemorate the Kinder Transport which could depict a train, a sign and a representational outline of the statues at Liverpool St Station with the date of the arrival of the train in Lowestoft.

LEST WE FORGET.

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me

The official Holocaust Memorial Day Trust version of a poem based on the confession of Pastor Martin Niemöller

The poem leaves out one group that Paster Niemöller included in his confession which was the 'incurables' The 'sick, the so-called incurables' were killed in the euthanasia programme "Aktion T4", a programme that started in 1933.

It also leaves out other groups which were persecuted such as the Roma, Soviet citizens and Prisoners of War, Poles, Serbs, Slovenes, Spanish Republicans, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals. After the camps were liberated most were compensated apart from those who had been incarcerated because of their crimes and the homosexuals who still faced persecution and imprisonment.

This commemorative lectern was erected by Lowestoft Town Council and the Friends of Kensington Gardens with funding received from East Suffolk District Councillors Peter Byatt, Louise Gooch and Malcolm Pitchers and East Suffolk Council. The Holocaust Garden in which it sits is planted to recognise the colours of the identification badges worn by the prisoners.



Concentration Camp Identification Badge		Victim Groups
Star	Yellow*	Jews
Triangle	Pink	Homosexuals and sexual offenders
Triangle	Red	Political Prisoners, social democrats, socialists, communists, anarchists, Jewish sympathisers, Trade Unionists and Freemasons.
Triangle	Blue	Emigrants (Germans and Austrians who had lived outside of those countries for a significant time)
Triangle	Purple	Jehovah's Witnesses, religious pacifists including Bahaists**, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Esperantists (people who spoke Esperanto)
Triangle	Black (Usually with a letter of the alphabet on the triangle)	Asocial Individuals including: Roma & Sinti (Z), Mentally ill/disabled (Blod), Alcoholics and drug addicts, Vagrants & Beggars, Pacifists and Conscription resisters, Prostitutes, Lesbians
Triangle	Green	Convicts and Criminals
Triangle	Brown	Romani Males
Triangle (Inverted)	Red	Enemy (Allied) POWs, Spies, Traitors or Deserters

Inverted triangles were also used over a triangle of a different colour if a prisoner fell into more than one designation. A red bar over a triangle indicated that the victim was a political prisoner from that grouping.
*An inverted yellow triangle over a yellow triangle representing the Star of David

Jews were the highest number of victims followed closely by Soviet Citizens, Poles, Serbs and Roma. The highest number of non-racial victims were the disabled. Conservative estimates put the number of victims around

16,615,000

Putting this into context, if in 1939 in the UK you looked at the person to your right and to your left, one of the three of you would have died in a concentration camp. Even today that would be one in every four people in the UK.