

## The Story of Leo Dreyfus and his family

As part of Holocaust Memorial Day, we would like to tell you about Leo – a refugee from Germany

Leo was Jewish and his parents sent him to England in 1938 aged 17 years. This was before the war started here, but in Germany the Jews were being persecuted so they sent him to Wigan for his safety.



This photo is Leo as a child in Germany and his mum Matthilde Dreyfus and his dad Professor Julius Dreyfus.

Leo lived in Orrell and went to school and university. He eventually worked in Wigan College as a maths teacher. We worked with him for a while and when we set up BETA in 1991, he came to visit us at least twice a year. Leo was full of admiration for what we had done in setting up BETA and the number of people we had helped, he called us his “two lovely girls”. Leo died in 1999 aged 78 years and is buried with his adoptive Wigan parents in St. Luke’s cemetery Orrell

In 2015 we were contacted by Rolf Schmitt from Bruchsal, Germany he was researching the Dreifuss family and a commemoration plaque was being placed outside the house where they lived. Leo’s parents were killed in the Holocaust, his father Julius in Theresienstadt Ghetto, Czechoslovakia on 16th November 1942 from Enteritis and Mathilde his mother was sent to Auschwitz on 2nd September 1942 and died there on 23rd January 1943. Mathilde was sent to Auschwitz from Theresienstadt with 2017 other people and out of these 2012 were murdered, sadly only 5 survived.