

Dany and Isi Metzstein

Where our Stories Met



Saint Andrew's & Saint Bride's High School
Dylan Gibson



Dany and Isi Metzstein

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The Distant Noises project was developed and managed by Magic Torch Comics CIC with the support of National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The script was developed from the interview transcripts of testimony from Isi and Dany Metzstein. Original recording and transcription by Gathering the Voices.

The comic adaptations were developed by pupils of Saint Andrew's & Saint Bride's High School; Lewis, Amelia, Eilidh, Andrianna, Chrissy, Kaitlyn, Kasey, Sean-Thomas, Saul, Ellie, Zach, Leiah and Iryna. Interior cover photos by James.

Thanks to the staff of Saint Andrew's & Saint Bride's High School for their support and especially to Susan Brownlie for supporting the pupils in exploring and sharing these stories.

Artwork and cover by Dylan Gibson.
<https://www.dylangibsonillustration.co.uk>

'Gathering The Voices' comic strip first appeared in 'Common Good Comics', artwork by Catriona Laird.

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Introduction

Isi Metzstein (1928-2012) is known internationally for his significant contribution to British post-war architecture. From the mid twentieth century, he was central in designing many award-winning buildings in Scotland and other parts of the United Kingdom, including Roman Catholic churches, schools and university buildings too. However, the story of how Isi Metzstein came to Scotland was not previously known to staff and pupils within St Andrew's and St Bride's High School in East Kilbride even though one of the buildings Isi helped design is our school church, St Bride's. This incredible building is only a stone's throw from our school.

St Bride's was opened in 1964 but it wasn't until 80 years later, in 2024, that we learned that Isi had come to Scotland from Nazi Germany just before WWII broke out. He had travelled via the Kindertransport, arriving in Scotland just before his 11th birthday. Isi was one of around 10,000 child refugees brought to Britain, prior to the outbreak of war in 1939, from Nazi-occupied territories.

On making the connection between Isi, the Kindertransport and St Bride's Church, we knew that it was important to research and record his story for future generations of our learners. We made a short film called *In Plain Sight* through which we also came to realise the importance of the contributions refugees, just like Isi, continue to make to their new communities today in so many different ways.

Isi's oral testimony, recorded by the charity *Gathering the Voices* before his death at the age of 83 in 2012, was a huge help to our pupils when researching his childhood in Berlin and his family's reasons for leaving Germany. Researching Isi's adult life, again using his testimony, meant we then listened to his wife Dany's recorded testimony too and we discovered she too made a significant journey to Scotland, her early life shaped by the Nazis' occupation of France during the War. We were delighted when *Gathering the Voices* then asked us to help to capture both their legacies in the form of a new digital comic.

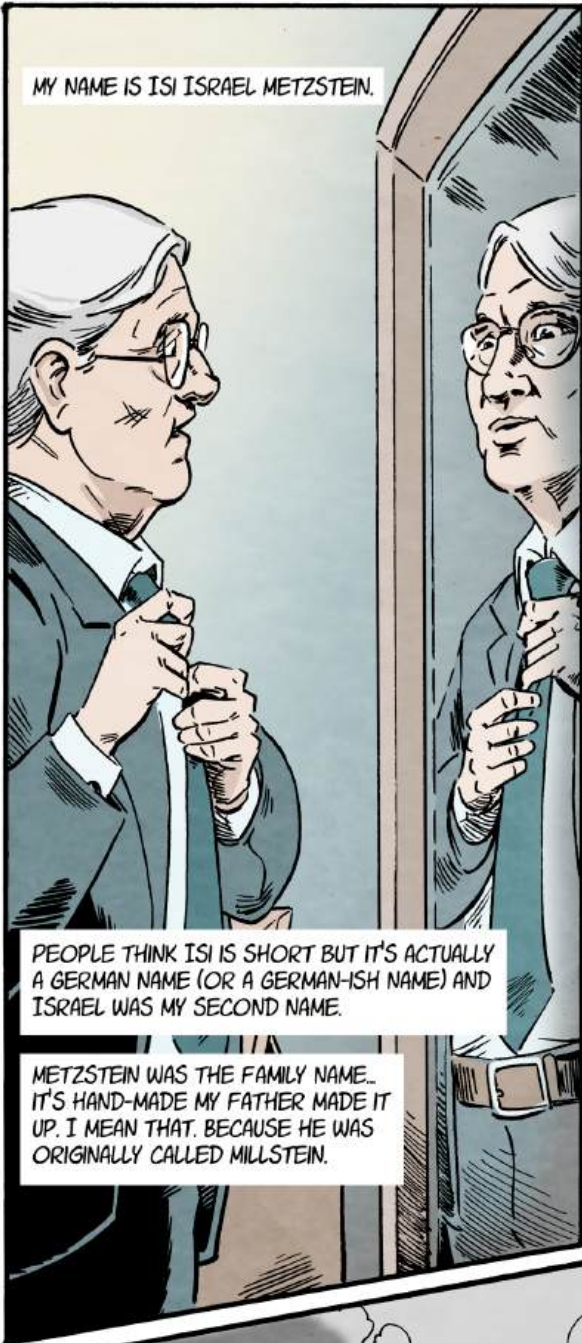
A group of 13 S2 pupils, including some who made our short film and others with a love of illustrating and of comics and graphic novels, came together. Through working closely with Paul Bristow and Dylan Gibson through *Magic Torch Comics*, the Metzsteins' stories will now be told in a new and very visual form.

We've tried, really carefully and sensitively, to stay true to the oral testimonies recorded by *Gathering the Voices* with Dany and Isi. In fact, the written text in the comic comes directly from the transcripts of what they said. We all hope the comic will bring new audiences to their incredible stories.

Susan Brownlie
Saint Andrew's & Saint Bride's High School

“I think as a
young child,
you deal with
it differently,
you know,
and I don’t
know, it’s in
the past...”

Dany Metzstein



MY NAME IS ISI ISRAEL METZSTEIN.

PEOPLE THINK ISI IS SHORT BUT IT'S ACTUALLY A GERMAN NAME (OR A GERMAN-ISH NAME) AND ISRAEL WAS MY SECOND NAME.

METZSTEIN WAS THE FAMILY NAME... IT'S HAND-MADE MY FATHER MADE IT UP. I MEAN THAT. BECAUSE HE WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED MILLSTEIN.



I THINK HE WANTED TO BE MORE GERMAN PERHAPS.

THEY WENT TO GERMANY FROM POLAND. WELL WHEN RUSSIA BECAME POLAND THEN THEY WENT TO GERMANY IN THE EARLY TWENTIES...



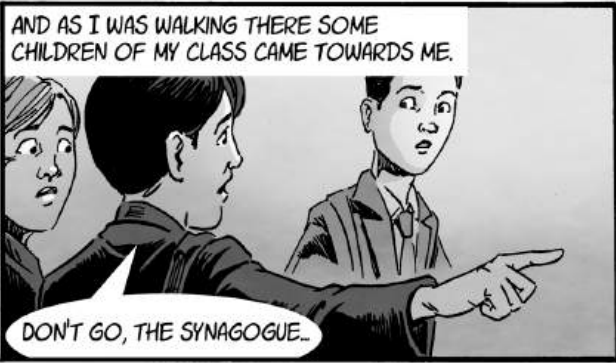
I WAS BORN IN BERLIN IN 1928.

I REMEMBER QUITE A LOT.



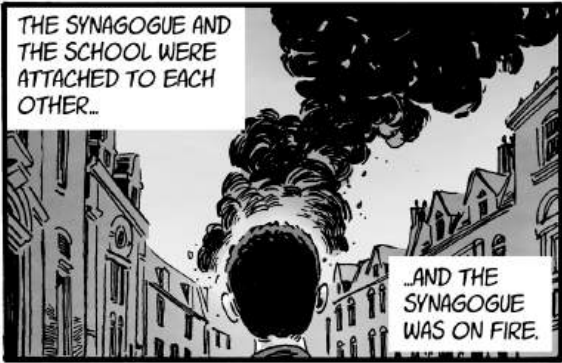
I REMEMBER CLEARLY KRISTALLNACHT.

I WENT TO A SCHOOL, IT WAS A JEWISH SCHOOL, YOU COULD WALK TO, IT WAS ABOUT 10 MINUTES WALK.



AND AS I WAS WALKING THERE SOME CHILDREN OF MY CLASS CAME TOWARDS ME.

DON'T GO, THE SYNAGOGUE...



THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE SCHOOL WERE ATTACHED TO EACH OTHER...

...AND THE SYNAGOGUE WAS ON FIRE.



SO I WENT TO LOOK.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHY IT WAS ON FIRE, I JUST THOUGHT 'IT'S ON FIRE'.



NOW I REALISE IT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST DANGEROUS THING I'VE EVER DONE IN MY LIFE, BUT NOBODY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ME.



I SAW THE SYNAGOGUE WAS BURNING...

THE FIRE HAD SPREAD TO THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL...

...AND THE FIRE BRIGADE WERE STANDING BY MAKING SURE
THAT NONE OF THE NON-JEWISH PROPERTY WAS ON FIRE...

BUT THE SYNAGOGUE WAS
ATTACHED TO THE SCHOOL.
LITERALLY PHYSICALLY
ATTACHED TO IT.

...AND EVERYBODY LOOKING AT IT AND ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

THE NON-JEWS I MEAN.

AND I JUST WENT BACK HOME.



IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT I DISCOVERED THAT THIS HAD BEEN PART OF A MAJOR ATTACK ON THE JEWISH...

THERE WERE SOME BIG SYNAGOGUES IN BERLIN AND THEY WERE ALL BURNT OUT, MOST OF THEM.

AT THIS STAGE HITLER WAS VERY POPULAR AND THIS TREATMENT OF JEWS WAS SEEN AS EITHER A VERY GOOD THING...



OR SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.

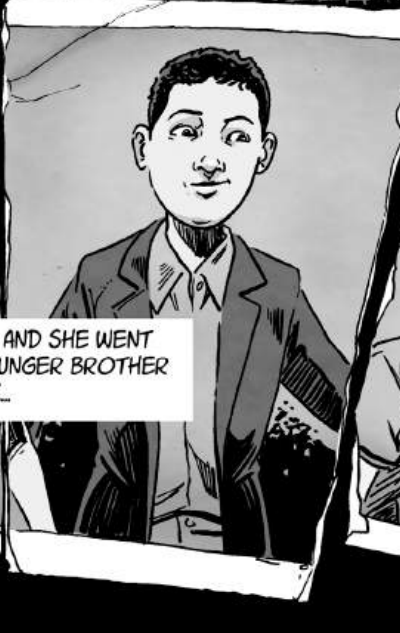
MY OLDER SISTER'S TEACHER, HAD CONNECTIONS IN SCOTLAND WITH GROUPS OF PEOPLE -CHRISTIANS. AND THEY WERE TAKING INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN INTO THEIR HOMES.



I ARRIVED IN SCOTLAND ON THE 28TH JUNE 1939. I WAS JUST A FEW DAYS SHORT OF ELEVEN.



MY TWIN SISTER. SHE CAME OVER AND SHE WENT TO PEOPLE IN CLYDEBANK. MY YOUNGER BROTHER WENT TO PEOPLE IN KILMARNOCK.



...WE WERE SEPARATED.

THE FAMILY I WENT TO WERE VERY ACCOMMODATING
THEY HAD A BOY THE SAME AGE AS ME...

FREUT MICH.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN AS STRANGE
FOR THEM AS IT WAS FOR ME.

TO HAVE A STRANGE CHILD, JEWISH CHILD,
WHO COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH, ARRIVE IN
THEIR MIDST...

I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT LANGUAGES, BUT I WENT TO A
LOCAL SCHOOL IN DUNTOCHER AND WITHIN SIX WEEKS,
I COULD SPEAK TO THE OTHER CHILDREN.

THERE WAS NO BULLYING. THEY THOUGHT
IT WAS VERY STRANGE AND ASKED ME
FUNNY QUESTIONS BUT I WAS A KIND OF
EXCITING NEWCOMER.

EVENTUALLY THOUGH, THERE
WAS A CERTAIN DOUBT ABOUT
GERMAN OR STRANGE CHILDREN
BEING AROUND I THINK.

ALSO, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SET UP
A HOSTEL IN SKELMORLIE FOR LOCAL
EVACUEES AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED
PEOPLE SENT THE JEWISH CHILDREN
THERE.

I CAME BACK TOGETHER WITH MY BROTHER
AND SISTER IN THE HOSTEL.

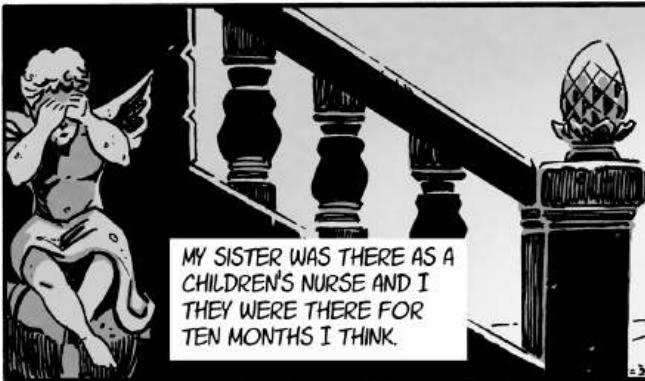
MY MOTHER HAD COME OUT BEFORE THE WAR. SHE WAS IN DORSET WITH MY OLDER SISTER, AS A DOMESTIC COOK AND NURSERY MAID.



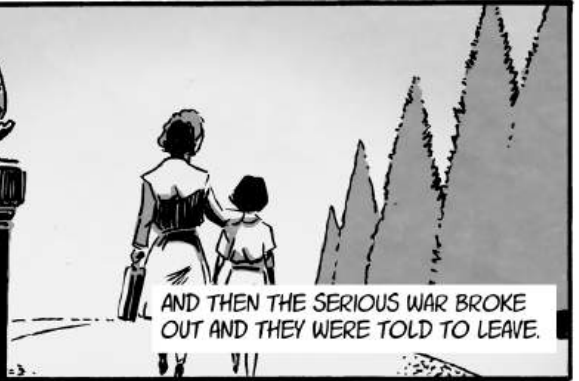
IT WAS QUITE AN EXPERIENCE FOR HER, BECAUSE SHE HAD TO DISEMBOWEL DEER AND COOK VENISON AND PORK AND THINGS.



I MEAN THAT'S SOMETHING SHE WOULDN'T HAVE PHYSICALLY TOUCHED NEVER MIND BEEN INVOLVED IN COOKING IT.



MY SISTER WAS THERE AS A CHILDREN'S NURSE AND I THEY WERE THERE FOR TEN MONTHS I THINK.



AND THEN THE SERIOUS WAR BROKE OUT AND THEY WERE TOLD TO LEAVE.

THE AUTHORITIES THOUGHT THAT PEOPLE OF GERMAN ORIGIN WERE POSSIBLE SPIES AND THEY MIGHT SIGNAL TO THE GERMAN SUBMARINES.



SO THEY HAD TO LEAVE DORSET AND THEY CAME UP TO GLASGOW. TO BE CLOSER TO US.

MY MOTHER WAS QUITE RELIGIOUS,
WE HAD BIG BATTLES ABOUT THAT.



SHE WANTED ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
BY THE TIME I WAS ABOUT 14, I HAD LOST
ALL INTEREST IN RELIGION, ANY BELIEF IN GOD.



SHE WENT TO GARNETHILL
SYNAGOGUE.



I NEVER WENT TO THE SYNAGOGUE
SO I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CONTACT
WITH OTHER JEWISH PEOPLE.



I HAD QUITE A LOT OF CONTACT WITH
THE RESIDUAL KINDER TRANPORTEES
- THAT WAS THE ONLY REAL CONTACT
I HAD WITH, WITH ONGOING
JEWISHNESS.



I'M NOT NOSTALGIC ABOUT
BERLIN. WHEN THEY HANG A
LITTLE LABEL ON TO YOU
AT THE KINDERTRANSPORT,
I OBJECT TO THAT.



A WEE LABEL
SAYING BERLIN.

I DON'T KNOW ANY PEOPLE
HERE WHOM I KNEW IN GERMANY.



I DON'T KNOW WHY, THE DAY I LEFT SCHOOL, I DECIDED I WANTED TO BE AN ARCHITECT.

NOT THAT I KNEW WHAT ARCHITECTS DO. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DO!

BUT I JUST DECIDED THAT I WANTED TO BE AN ARCHITECT.

WHEN I FIRST WENT THERE WAS NO WORK THAT INVOLVED DESIGN BECAUSE IT WAS POST-WAR.

BUT IT CAME TO THE MIDDLE OF THE 50's, ANDY MACMILLAN AND I DID A LOT OF CHURCHES, INCLUDING ST BRIDE'S IN EAST KILBRIDE.

WE BUILT A SEMINARY AT CARDROSS THAT'S QUITE FAMOUS. NOTORIOUS NOW BECAUSE IT'S IN RUINS.

WE BUILT A FEW SCHOOLS, QUITE A FEW OF THEM WERE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

AND I JUST WANT TO EMPHASISE - I'M NOT SMUG ABOUT IT - OTHER PEOPLE MAY HAVE HAD, DIFFICULTIES - I HAD NO DIFFICULTIES.

IT WAS A POSITIVE THING THAT I WAS A BIT EXOTIC. AS FAR AS MY CAREER IS CONCERNED AND EVEN MY SOCIAL LIFE - I'VE HAD NO PROBLEMS.

MY NAME WAS DANIELLE KAHN, I WAS BORN IN MONTPELLIER, IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE, IN 1942.

DANIELLE
DARRIEUX

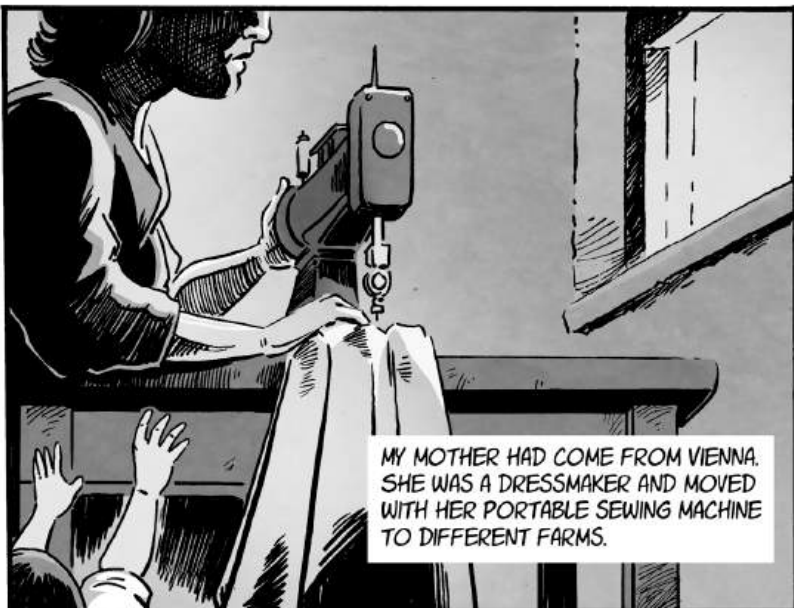
DOUGLAS
FAIRBANKS

I THINK MY MOTHER
WANTED A FRENCH NAME.

AND SHE THOUGHT OF DANIELLE DARRIEUX,
WHO WAS A FRENCH ACTRESS AT THE TIME.



MY MIDDLE NAME WAS JEANNETTE,
WHICH WAS MY GRANDMOTHER'S
NAME, WHO WAS YENTL.



MY MOTHER HAD COME FROM VIENNA.
SHE WAS A DRESSMAKER AND MOVED
WITH HER PORTABLE SEWING MACHINE
TO DIFFERENT FARMS.



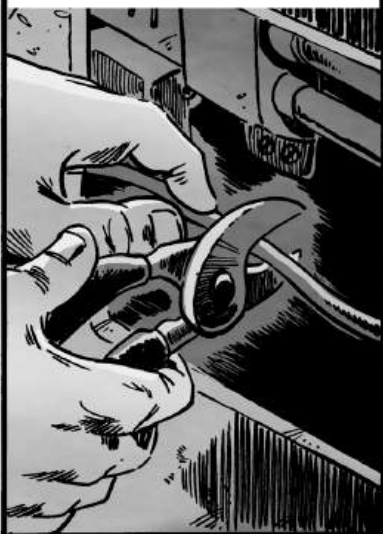
MY FATHER WAS A HANDYMAN,
HE DID EVERYTHING THAT WAS
NEEDED TO BE DONE.

HE WAS IN THE MAQUIS.



AND THEY HAD FALSE PAPERS.

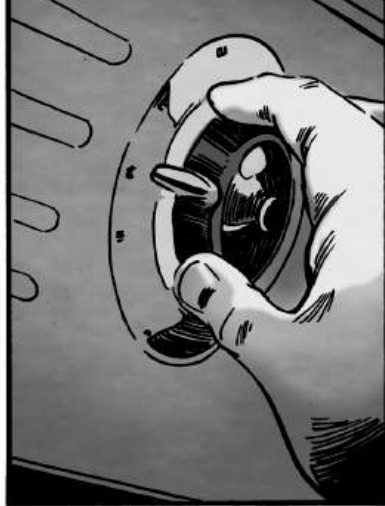
THE MAQUIS WAS AN UNDERGROUND ORGANISATION THAT EXISTED TO SABOTAGE THE GERMAN OCCUPATION.



MY MOTHER AND FATHER BOTH SPOKE GERMAN, BUT PRETENDED THEY CAME FROM ALSACE LORRAINE. THEIR FRENCH WAS NOT GOOD AT THAT TIME.



AND THEN THEY WENT ON BEING IN HIDING UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR.



MY MOTHER HAD MOVED FROM VIENNA AND MY FATHER HAD MOVED FROM GERMANY, THEY MET IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE IN A LITTLE PLACE CALLED MIALET.

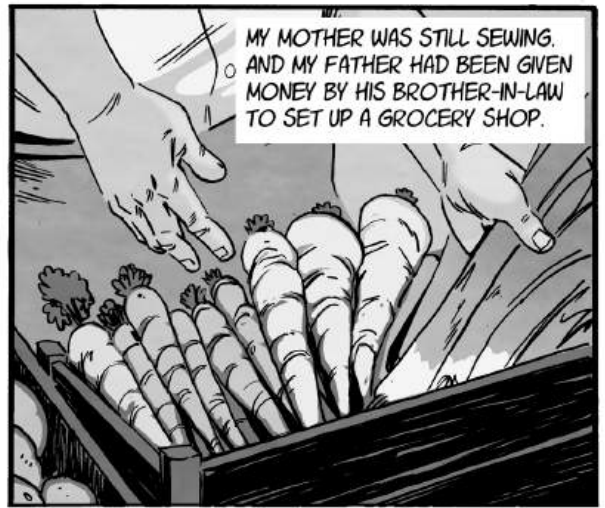


IT WAS A HALFWAY HOUSE FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE TRYING TO FLEE TO SPAIN, MOSTLY JEWISH PEOPLE. THE HOUSE BELONGED TO ONE OF MY FATHER'S SISTERS.

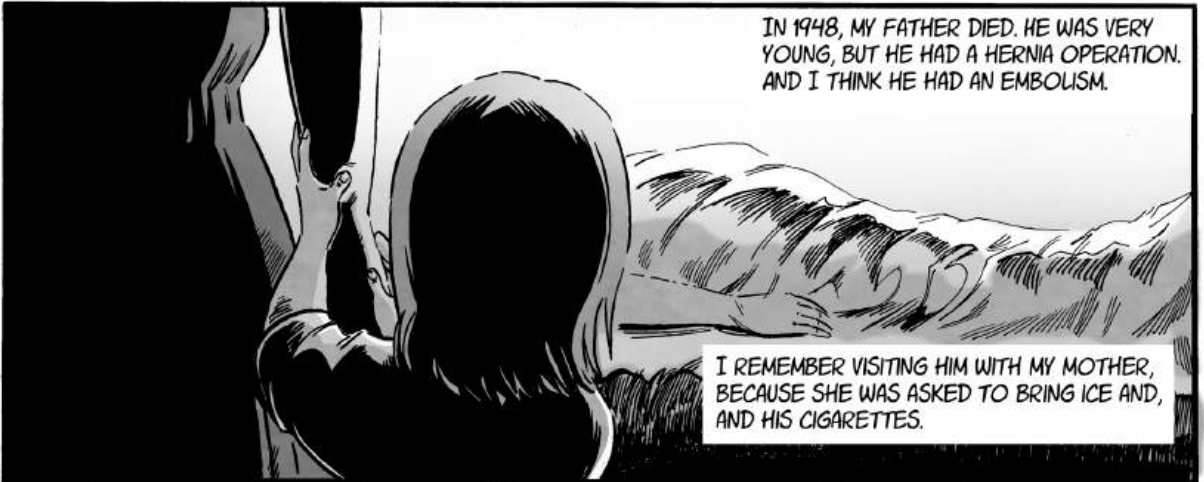
THERE WAS A BIG HOUSE WITH LITTLE FARM ATTACHED THAT WAS WELL HIDDEN AMONG THE CHESTNUT TREES. IT WAS FULL OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WAR WITH MAPS ETC AS IT WAS USED BY THE MAQUIS.



MY BROTHER WAS BORN IN 1945, JUST AFTER THE WAR. WE MOVED AROUND A LOT AND I THINK WE WERE LIVING IN LIMOGES.



MY MOTHER WAS STILL SEWING. AND MY FATHER HAD BEEN GIVEN MONEY BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW TO SET UP A GROCERY SHOP.



IN 1948, MY FATHER DIED. HE WAS VERY YOUNG, BUT HE HAD A HERNIA OPERATION. AND I THINK HE HAD AN EMBOLISM.

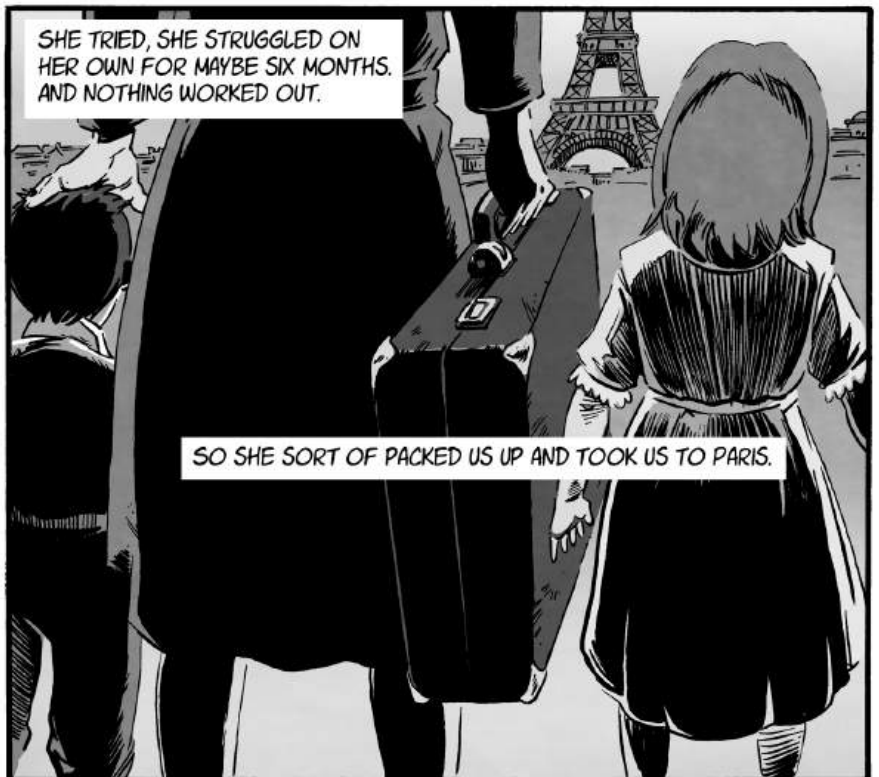
I REMEMBER VISITING HIM WITH MY MOTHER, BECAUSE SHE WAS ASKED TO BRING ICE AND, AND HIS CIGARETTES.



AND THEN HE DIED VERY SUDDENLY. I WAS SIX AND A HALF,

MY BROTHER WAS THREE YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME.

VERY DIFFICULT FOR MY MOTHER, HER PARENTS HAD BEEN IN VIENNA, AND THEY PERISHED IN THE HOLOCAUST.



SHE TRIED, SHE STRUGGLED ON HER OWN FOR MAYBE SIX MONTHS. AND NOTHING WORKED OUT.

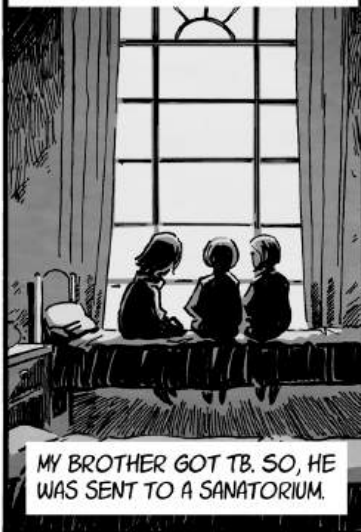
SO SHE SORT OF PACKED US UP AND TOOK US TO PARIS.

IN PARIS, I WAS SENT
TO AN ORPHANAGE...

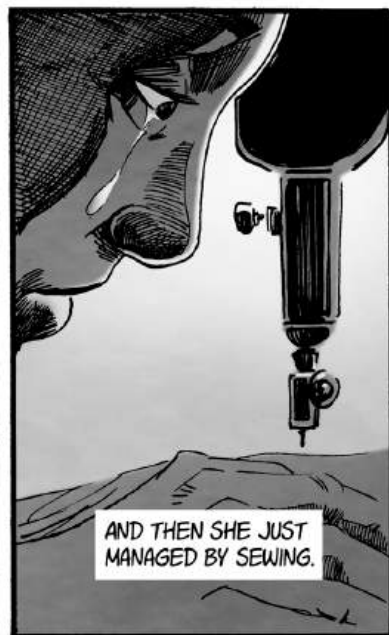


...BECAUSE THAT WAS QUITE NORMAL
TO DO. IF YOU HAD ONE PARENT
MISSING OR BOTH YOU WERE
ENTITLED TO A JEWISH ORPHANAGE.

I REMEMBER WE ALL THOUGHT IT
WAS SUCH A COINCIDENCE THAT
WE'D LOST A PARENT OR TWO.



MY BROTHER GOT TB. SO, HE
WAS SENT TO A SANATORIUM.



AND THEN SHE JUST
MANAGED BY SEWING.

MY MOTHER EVENTUALLY
MARRIED AGAIN.



AND THEN MY STEPFATHER GOT
A JOB IN SCOTLAND.

SO MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHER
AND I PACKED UP AND WENT TO
MOTHERWELL. AND IT WAS HEAVENLY.



WE HAD A BATH. PEOPLE WERE
INCREDIBLY NICE TO US. WE WERE
THE STARS IN MOTHERWELL.



PEOPLE WERE LOVELY. THEY
COULDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND
WHY WE SAID WE WERE FRENCH
BUT SPOKE GERMAN AT HOME,
OR HOW WE COULD BE NEITHER
CATHOLIC OR PROTESTANT.

BUT PEOPLE ADOPTED US AND
IT WAS LOVELY. IT REALLY WAS.

I'M NOT A HOBBY KIND OF PERSON,
BUT MY MOTHER BY THAT TIME HAD A
WORKSHOP WITH SEWING THINGS.

I USED TO GO AFTER SCHOOL AND
WORK THERE AND IRON AND THINGS.



SHE WAS DOING DRESSMAKING,
AND SHE GOT TO KNOW SOME
OF THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE
WHO'D COME TO GLASGOW.



OTHER JEWISH FAMILIES... WERE QUITE ESTABLISHED.



WE HAD A VAN AND THEY HAD
BIG CARS AND THAT KIND OF
THING. IT WAS A BIT DIFFICULT.

BUT MY BROTHER HAD HIS BAR MITZVAH,
SO WE MET MORE JEWISH PEOPLE THAT WAY.

GLASGOW JEWISH
REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL



I WAS AT UNI BY NOW, STUDYING
PSYCHOLOGY. MY MOTHER WAS
FRIENDLY WITH SOMEBODY
CALLED GERTRUDE BENTHEIM
AND GERTRUDE WAS THE
CHAIRWOMAN OF THE WIZO.

WE PRIDE OURSELVES
ON BEING VERY INCLUSIVE.



WELL I'VE BEEN COMING HERE
AND NOBODY'S EVER INVITED
ME BACK TO THEIR HOUSE.

SO SHE BECAME FIRM FRIENDS
WITH GERTRUDE AND SHE
INTRODUCED ME TO ISI.

GERTRUDE HAD A COCKTAIL PARTY.



SHE INVITED MY PARENTS AND SHE INVITED ME.



...SHE INVITED ISI FOR
THE PURPOSE OF
MEETING ME.

AND IT WORKED.

WHEN I MET ISI I WAS DOING SENIOR HONOURS.



AND I DROPPED EVERYTHING BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT TO DO ANY MORE STUDYING.
I JUST WANTED TO BE WITH HIM.

MY MOTHER THOUGHT IT WAS ISI'S FAULT
I DROPPED OUT OF UNIVERSITY SO SHE
DIDN'T LIKE HIM FOR A START.



WE MOVED IN TOGETHER.
WHICH WAS EVEN WORSE.



SHE WAS VERY PLEASED WHEN I GOT MARRIED,
EVENTUALLY EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A REGISTRY OFFICE.

THEN I HAD THE CHILDREN AND STUDIED SOCIAL WORK AT NIGHT AT STRATHCLYDE AND THEY SAID TO ME YOU REALLY SHOULD DO A DEGREE.



SO I FINISHED THE DEGREE I HAD STARTED AT GLASGOW UNIVERSITY. I ONLY DID SOCIAL WORK FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

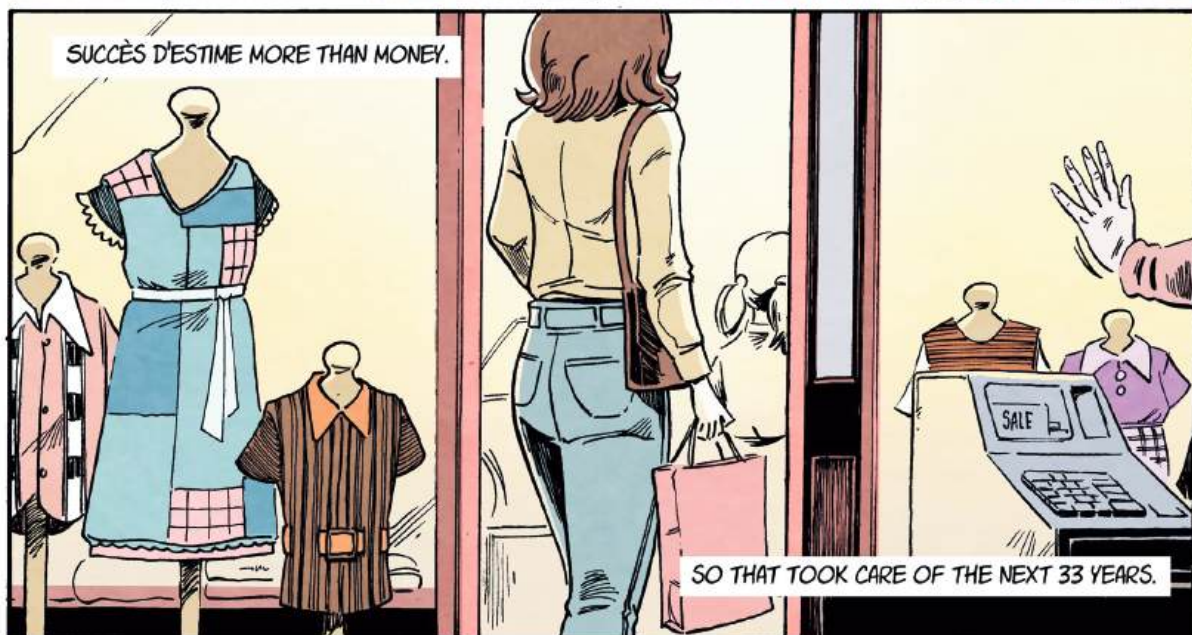
DIDN'T LIKE IT. I FOUND IT TOO DEPRESSING.

AND THEN I DECIDED TO OPEN A SHOP SELLING CHILDREN'S CLOTHES - STRAWBERRY FIELDS.

IT WAS CONTINENTAL MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE AND MY MOTHER HELPED ME A LOT AT THE BEGINNING, AND IT JUST WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL.



SUCCÈS D'ESTIME MORE THAN MONEY.



SO THAT TOOK CARE OF THE NEXT 33 YEARS.

WE HAD A LOVELY LIFE. ONCE I HAD THE CHILDREN, MY MOTHER WAS LOVELY TO THEM.
AND BY THAT TIME MY STEPFATHER HAD DIED SO SHE WAS THERE VERY OFTEN.

AND IT WORKED OUT.

I THINK I'VE BEEN VERY, VERY
LUCKY BECAUSE MY LIFE STARTED
OFF NOT REALLY VERY GOOD,
BUT IT BECAME BETTER AND
BETTER.

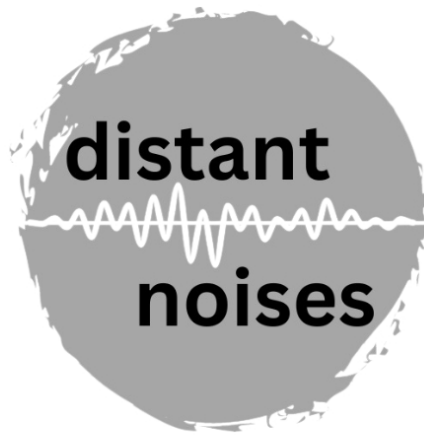
SO I'M VERY GRATEFUL
FOR THAT.

I'VE NO REASON TO
BE BITTER.

I THINK AS A YOUNG CHILD, YOU DEAL WITH IT
DIFFERENTLY, YOU KNOW, AND I DON'T KNOW,
IT'S IN THE PAST AND...

...I THINK MY MOTHER HAD A
MUCH HARDER TIME OF IT.





Distant Noises is exploring, recording, illustrating and sharing stories from a range of community archives throughout 2024 and 2025. The stories will be shared as a collection of graphic novels and audio dramas / podcasts / soundscapes.

The project is delivered by Magic Torch Comics CIC with the support of National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The stories will include tales of the Inverkip Witch Trials, the journeys of Jewish refugees in World War 2, the people of the Glasgow Panopticon 'freakshow', folk tales from the School of Scottish Studies and a look inside the diary of a polar explorer.

All of the material will be available to read and download for free on our website.

If you would like to find out more about the project, please email info@magictorchcomics.co.uk





The Gathering the Voices Association is a charity comprised of six volunteers, who gather audio and video testimonies from Holocaust refugees about their experiences before and after they came to Scotland. The volunteers work to educate current and future generations about the resilience of these refugees.

There are many testimonies available on the group's website, and you can read or listen to the stories of Isi and Dany Metzstein by scanning the QR codes below or by visiting <https://gatheringthevoices.com>



Isi's Story



Dany's Story

Isi & Dany Metzstein circa 1980

GATHERING THE VOICES

GATHERING THE VOICES ARE THE SIX PEOPLE YOU SEE HERE. THREE COUPLES.

THE REASON WE STARTED IT WAS BECAUSE WE KNEW THE SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST WERE GETTING OLDER, AND WE WANTED TO BE SURE THEIR STORIES WERE RECORDED AND REMEMBERED.



IN PARTICULAR WE WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT THE WARMTH AND WELCOME THAT THEY RECEIVED IN SCOTLAND WHEN THEY SETTLED HERE AND THE CONTRIBUTION THEY THEN MADE TO SCOTTISH LIFE.



WE WANTED TO CHALLENGE NEGATIVE STORIES ABOUT REFUGEES, TO HELP NEW SCOTS FEEL AT HOME.



AND WE WANTED ALL THOSE STORIES OUT THERE, FREELY AVAILABLE. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO PAY TO ACCESS TESTIMONY.

FOR MANY YEARS, WE HAD VOLUNTEERED WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES, HELPING OUT AT THEIR AFTERNOON TEAS.



PEOPLE WOULD CHAT, AND TELL THEIR STORIES. OVER THE YEARS A BOND OF TRUST DEVELOPED. THAT'S WHY THEY GAVE US THEIR TESTIMONY.

WE BORROWED RECORDERS FROM GCU AND STARTED TO GET ORGANISED. IT TOOK A WHILE FOR PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED...



I RECORDED MY TESTIMONY.

OH DID YOU? WELL MAYBE I SHOULD DO MINE.

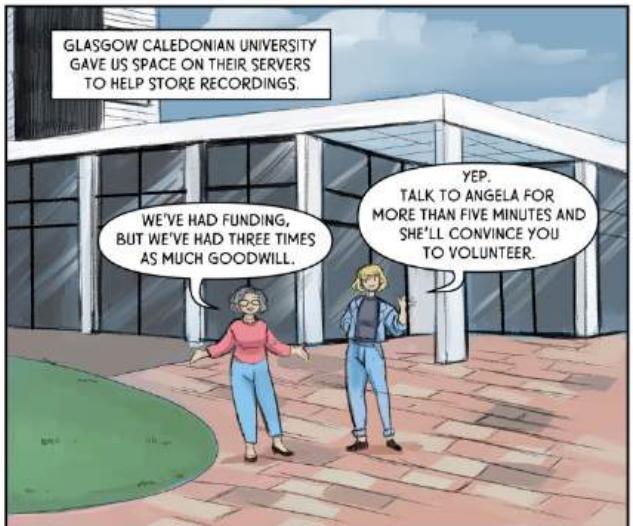
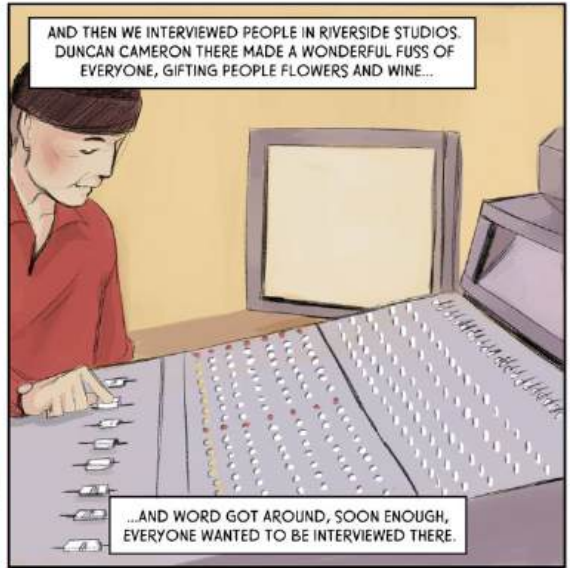
BUT EVENTUALLY, MORE AND MORE WANTED TO SHARE.

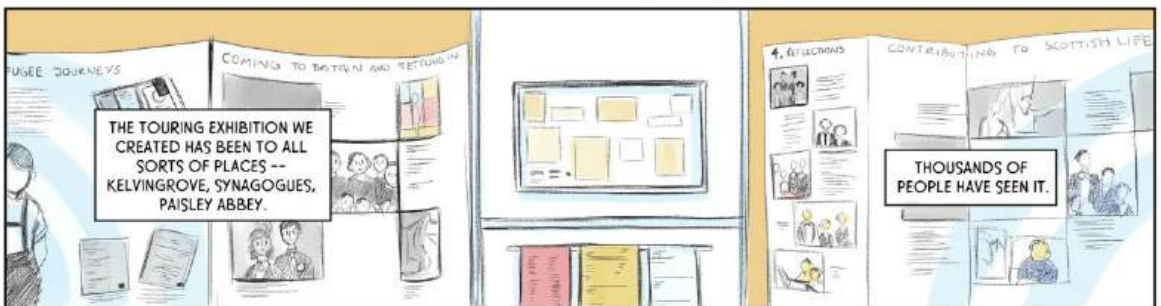
SOME INITIAL FUNDING FROM SENSE OVER SECTARIANISM, KICKSTARTED THE PROJECT, MANY OTHER COMMUNITY TRUSTS AND PUBLIC BODIES HAVE SUPPORTED US SINCE.



PEOPLE WELCOMED ME HERE AS A FRIEND. BUT IN THE PLACE MY FAMILY HAD LIVED FOR GENERATIONS, PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO MURDER ME.

BECAUSE OF MY RELIGION.





WE CREATED A COMPUTER GAME, WITH GCU GRADUATES AND SCHOOL PUPILS BASED ON THE TRUE LIFE JOURNEY OF ONE PARTICULAR FAMILY, AS THEY FLED ACROSS EUROPE.



THERE'S ALWAYS AN EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO OUR VISITS FROM CHILDREN WHO HAVE COME HERE AS REFUGEES, WHO HAVE A SHARED EXPERIENCE.



ONE PROJECT WE DID WITH THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND, A DRAMATIZATION OF DORRITH SIM'S BOOK 'IN MY POCKET'.

IT WAS PERFORMED IN OAKGROVE IN GLASGOW, A SCHOOL WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS -- AROUND 50 LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN.



AFTER THE PERFORMANCE THE CHILDREN ASKED QUESTIONS...



IT'S THE FACT THAT WE ARE TELLING OUR FAMILY STORIES THAT RESONATES FOR PEOPLE.



AND THESE PEOPLE LIVE RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THEM, THEY ARE NEIGHBOURS.

AND THAT PERSONAL CONNECTION TO SCOTLAND -- MAKES IT ALL MORE REAL. NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED FAR AWAY.



THESE STORIES COULD HAVE BEEN LOST FOREVER. SADLY, MANY PEOPLE WE'VE SPOKEN TO HAVE SINCE PASSED AWAY.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR SURVIVORS' FAMILIES. IT'S SOMETIMES EASIER TO RECORD SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTHER OR FATHER THAN YOUR OWN. BUT EVERYONE'S GOT A STORY.

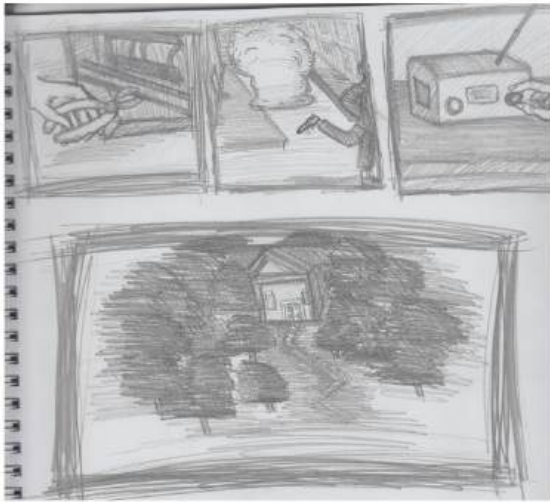


The collage consists of several elements:

- Top Left:** Sketches of buildings, possibly synagogues or houses, with windows and doors.
- Top Center:** A photograph of an older woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue scarf, looking towards the camera.
- Top Right:** A large sketch of a young man's face with short hair and a serious expression.
- Middle Left:** A sketch of a stick figure holding a sign that says "HUP?" and another stick figure holding a sign that says "Don't go Don't move". In the background is a sketch of a building with a clock and the word "SCHOOL" on it.
- Middle Center:** A photograph of a group of people, mostly young women, sitting at tables in what appears to be a library or study hall.
- Middle Right:** A sketch of a man's face, looking slightly to the side.
- Bottom Left:** A sketch of a man and a woman standing and talking. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right, wearing a headscarf.
- Bottom Center:** A photograph of a man with long hair and glasses, looking towards the camera.
- Bottom Right:** A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, looking towards the camera.
- Bottom Center (Text):** A list of handwritten notes or a transcript, partially obscured by other elements. It includes phrases like "I had quite a lot of contact with the residual Kinder Transport", "I'm not nostalgic about Berlin", and "I don't know any people here".

was quite religious we

...the right thing and by the time I was about 14, I must ac-
...the religion of my belief in God.
...site religious, and we had big battles about that.
...but I never went to the synagogue so I didn't have much contact with
...I had quite a lot of contact with the residual Kinder Transport
...Glasgow - that was the only real contact I had with, with
...I'm not nostalgic about Berlin. When they hand
...Kindertransport, I object to that. I was labeled
...important to me that I was out of Berlin.
...I don't know any people here.
...Two blacked out
...IZZY and
...A



A small selection of some of the artwork produced by pupils of Saint Andrew's & Saint Bride's High School during the development of this graphic novel.



