

# Holocaust project set to keep heritage alive

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**FUNDING DELIGHT:** Lilian Black, above, Fabian Hamilton and Fiona Spiers

**BY SUZANNE MCTAGGART**

A NEW project run by a Leeds-based Holocaust charity has been awarded a grant of £146,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The two-year project, which is the brainchild of The Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association (HSFA), is called *The Holocaust: Sustaining the Legacy for Future Generations*.

It will focus on the heritage of Holocaust survivors who settled in Yorkshire, including those who survived in hiding, ghettos and concentration camps.

As part of the project, the stories of survivors will be

explored and documented, with vital training given to new volunteer speakers – including the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.

Newly-accessible collections of surviving Nazi archive material will also be used in the project, including prisoner identity cards, transport lists, sickness certificates and photographs.

Speaking of her delight at receiving the funding, HSFA chair Lilian Black said: “Our small dedicated team of speakers go out every week to speak to groups of young people and adults.

“They relive the horrors which they once endured to alert the wider community to the dangers of scapegoating, bigotry and persecution

which can, and did, lead to the genocide of a whole people.

“It is vital that we find a way to pass the living legacy on.

“We owe this to the memory of our loved ones who perished and to future generations so they may learn from our sad history.”

The HSFA is run entirely by volunteers and has 120 members, including 85 first-generation survivors, their families and other interested individuals.

Fiona Spiers, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Yorkshire and the Humber, said: “The HSFA is the only northern organisation meeting this demand in the UK, and while the number of Holocaust survivors is di-

minishing, more people are opening up for the first time about their experiences, coming forward, and wanting to share their stories.

“This project offers a new opportunity to train more volunteers as speakers so we can pass on knowledge and understanding of these terrible events to future generations so people can learn from them.”

Leeds North East MP Fabian Hamilton added: “I’ve visited Auschwitz on several occasions and it’s vitally important that the stories of the Holocaust are not lost. The members of the HSFA in my constituency and across the region will ensure that doesn’t happen.”

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