

Helen Stone - Biography

Helen was Head of English in a Pupil Referral Unit but has now retired officially from her teaching career. She does, however, continue to teach part-time and on a voluntary basis. She became involved with Holocaust education about four years ago after the death of her mother, Emmy Golding, who escaped from Germany in May 1939 at the age of 25.

Emmy was born in a small village near Cologne and grew up in a loving Jewish family. She attended a Convent Secondary School and her best friend was Gerta Krusing, a Catholic girl. After Hitler came to power she was forced to flee Germany and came to England as a domestic servant. She helped her parents to escape to England also and they arrived just two days before war was declared. After many initial hardships Emmy married and made a good life for herself and her family in Britain. She died in July 2010 at the age of 96.

Since 2012 Helen has been using her mother's life story in order to bring home to teenagers and young adults the realities of living in and escaping from a fascist regime. Helen is a keen singer and a member of the Zemel Choir. She also plays the guitar and has entertained for various charities. She is married and she and her husband, Robert, have between them five children and eleven grandchildren and step-grandchildren.