

Bernhard Verstanding

Bernhard was born in January 1926. He was born in Leipzig and moved to Berlin with his family when he was young. Bernhard has strong memories of Kristallnacht – he was 11 years old when the synagogues and buildings were burnt down and ransacked. He left Germany two weeks before the outbreak of war and arrived in England in August 1938 on one of the last trains to reach safety.

Bernhard lived in the outhouse at the back of a bed and breakfast in Margate which was a Jewish hostel.

The children were taught to assimilate very quickly into British society and worked very hard to learn English.

The children were considered to be aliens of the state and had to learn English before they could become 'naturalised'.

Bernhard is married with two daughters and 2 grand daughters. He celebrated his second Barmitzvah this time last year. He is now 84 years old.