

MANY KISSES FROM LITTLE ME

by Charlotte Lang

The article I wrote for the magazine last year has brought me so much good fortune because through writing it I have found family all over the world I never knew I had. Also because of my article I was put in touch with a group of people in my home town of Wolkersdorf in Austria having had no contact there since my parents and I were forcibly made to leave after the Anschluss in 1938. This group was mounting an exhibition called Wolkersdorf 1938 about the Jewish families who used to live there which I contributed to with documents and photographs. In addition I have been in friendly contact by email with pupils of the Wolkersdorf grammar school. They attended a big memorial event in May 2008 held at the Heldenplatz in Vienna 70 years after the Anschluss to remember all the Austrian Jewish people who perished in the Holocaust, including my Grandparents and my Uncle. A placard was put up there with my message to the people of Austria which included these words:

How could such evil happen in a civilized country like Austria. The Jewish people at the time enhanced the country in so many ways. The pictures of what was done to the Jews at the time of Kristallnacht and afterwards are beyond belief to look at. I just hope and pray that such evil will never happen again.



The panel was put up at the Heldenplatz in Vienna in May 2008.

Shortly before this memorial event by an amazing coincidence I was put in touch with a genealogist in Vienna who had also been contacted by someone in Perth, Western Australia who turned out to be my second cousin because his mother and my mother were first cousins and both had come to England from Austria in 1939 but shortly afterwards lost touch. Now almost 70 years later this branch of the family has been reunited with me. My Australian cousin has siblings here and we met for the first time recently and formed a close friendship. He has also introduced me to a cousin in Sweden and to one in California with whom I am regularly in touch.



The first meeting on 8th May 2008 with two of Charlotte Lang's newly found cousins Kathleen Pearce and Bernard Brady. Charlotte is in the centre.

When I met my new cousins they had a letter, which I did not know existed, sent just before the war by my mother to their mother when they first came over here. At the end of this letter I had written "Many kisses from little me". Now after all these years with almost no family it is wonderful to be part of such a loving family again.