



The Right Worshipful Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Alex Houghton, said: 'Bert's story was shared with the council **by the children and staff of Sholing Junior School** and all agreed that his unwavering and unrelenting commitment in the support of returning service personnel, their families and in remembrance of those who had passed had to be recognised by the City. <https://www.sholing-jun.co.uk/pshe/>

**In September 2020, the children began writing letters to the council, requesting that Bert receive the Highest Award the City could bestow on a resident in recognition.**



Richard Hutchinson, Deputy Headteacher at Sholing Junior School added: *"As a school, we are very proud of the children for raising his story with the council and their continued commitment to working closely with the Mayor and the City Council to gain this outcome. We are of course very proud of Bert, and the whole school has learnt how important it is that his kindness, compassion and resilience over the years should be shared and celebrated. We are all delighted that Bert has this recognition and very special award."*

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/news/article/world-war-two-prisoner-of-war-survivor-receives-honorary-freedom-of-southampton/>

**Sholing Junior School honour a man who defended the city from attack. Of the nearly 3,000 aircrew who fought in the Battle of Britain, only one was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry. Despite being awarded his VC for defending the city, there was no memorial remembering James Brindley Nicolson.**



The children of Sholing Junior School recognised this, and they will be unveiling a memorial plaque in Guildhall Square in Southampton. The children said, "Nobody we spoke to knew about the bravery of James Brindley Nicolson and this is something that the children, teachers and wider school communities desperately wanted to change. We aimed to recognise the excellence within the city, by raising awareness of James Brindley Nicolson's contribution in its defence. It is of great importance that a lasting memorial should be put in place, in a prominent location to remember him, his bravery and the sacrifice of his friends."

Solent University offered a location for the memorial plaque, in Guildhall Square.



**The school council has been working closely with James Nicholson**, nephew to James Nicolson VC, to honour his uncle. Attendees of the unveiling included children who have worked on the project, the RAF, MPs, the Mayor and Mayoress, Solent University vice chancellor and Bert Warne, a Southampton resident who survived three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

If the conditions are appropriate, a Chinook will fly directly over the civic centre.

**Professor Graham Baldwin, vice chancellor at Solent University, said: "As soon as I heard about the campaign by students at Sholing Junior School, to have wing commander James Nicolson recognised in Southampton, I was struck by their**



passion and enthusiasm to create an opportunity to have him commemorated in the city. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zoYXCBE5Gw>  
**Children at a school in Sholing Junior School hosted a unique and sentimental ceremony in honour of the 75th Holocaust Memorial Day. The ceremony took place at Sholing Junior School and centred on a newly planted tree in the school garden which grew from an acorn once found in Auschwitz by Helen Ashton, over 14 years ago.**



Helen was a close friend of the school who regularly supplied books to the school library. She picked up the acorn, found in the grounds of Auschwitz – synonymous with the darkest chapter in human history, and brought it back to Southampton in the hope of growing new life. Sadly, in 2008, Helen passed away from cancer. She was 37 years old.

**Year six pupils and school council members at the school presented the tree in a ceremony dedicated to Helen and all of the victims of the Holocaust by reading extracts of their understanding Holocaust Memorial Day, and placing roses next to the tree.**

"Helen was an amazing person. To go to somewhere of such misery and find a way to bring back life is indicative of the person she was. It only seemed fitting to plant this as we commemorate up to the 75th anniversary of Holocaust Memorial Day. I'm unbelievably proud of the children in terms of how much they have learnt and understood. Also the teachers, who have taught them so sensitively and carefully. The children shared all their work so beautifully at the event."



Also attending the ceremony was a priest who shared a prayer, Helen's family who read out a speech about her, and her since remarried husband Trevelyan.

Dave Ashton, Helen's father, said: "This was such a brilliant time to plant the tree. This isn't just Helen's tree, this is Auschwitz's tree and this is Sholing's Tree."

Trevelyan May, who won the National Primary School Teacher of the Year Award, while teaching at the school in 2005, praised the school's "lovely gesture". He said: "This is exactly the kind of gesture this school makes. It has always been about compassion, family and community here."

<https://www.sholing-jun.co.uk/pshe/>

**Sholing Junior School has achieved the Platinum Modeshift STARS Award. The award is the highest on offer and recognises the school's outstanding efforts to make the journey to school healthier, safer and more active**

Sholing Junior School has become the **first school in Southampton** to achieve the coveted Platinum Modeshift Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition Scheme (STARS) Award for its outstanding efforts in promoting walking, cycling and scooting to school. The Platinum award is the highest accolade awarded by Modeshift STARS, a national scheme acknowledging schools that have excelled in encouraging active travel on the school run. Sholing Junior School has continued to work tirelessly to change travel behaviour and tackle poor air quality on the school run.

Led by a dedicated team of Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs), the school takes every opportunity to participate in all the activities delivered and supported by the council, including the Inter-School Scooter Challenge; Walk to School Week; No Idling sessions; Travel Tracker monitoring and Sustrans' Big Pedal competition – to name but a few. These active and motivated team make sure they go even further by devising their own independent activities such as the creation of 'No Idling' posters, the Babs travel diary and the distribution of badges to all classes.

Parking has been a big focus for the school, which previously delivered an 'Awesome Parking Notices event' awarding certificates to parents for responsible parking, and a 'Park and Stride' poster competition signposting parents to the nearby Veracity area for parking. Kiddie cones are also a familiar feature and, along with recently installed camera enforcement in the area, help to further prevent parking on the zig zags outside the school's main entrance. These efforts have translated into promising results, with the number of families choosing to park and stride having increased from 17% in 2015/16 to 31% in 2019/20.



The school is dedicated to tackling poor air quality and previously hosted an 'Air Quality at our School' presentation with support from Southampton City Council's School Travel Officer. The event was attended by pupils, parents and residents and included an air quality presentation from Professor Ian Williams (University of Southampton) while a selection of children had the opportunity to read out their letters to their local MP about their concerns around air quality and climate change. Most recently, the school received an Airly air quality sensor from the council to help monitor and raise awareness of the air quality in the local area.

[In July this year, the school was also crowned just one of eleven 'Schools of the Region' in this year's National STARS School Travel Awards.](#) These successes provide just a snapshot of the many more initiatives and activities which the school has been involved in and which collectively attest to the school's evident and lasting commitment to improving travel behaviour and air quality.

Angela Manore, Sholing Junior School Travel Champion: "I am so proud of what we have achieved at Sholing Juniors to improve active travel and reduce air pollution. We have an amazing team of Junior Travel Ambassadors, who are passionate about reducing pollution and improving our air quality. They continually work hard to promote active travel within our school community and they are so dedicated year upon year. I thank all of the current JTAs and those who have moved onto other schools. This award is wonderful and we will continue to keep promoting active travel."

Rachel Oliver, Sustainable Transport Officer, added: "**Sholing Juniors have worked tirelessly to encourage active travel**, promoting a healthier lifestyle and reducing pollution around their school. The Platinum award could not have been achieved without the tremendous support from Angela Manore and Junior Travel Ambassadors. Collectively they continue to inspire and encourage both the students and staff at Sholing, in the hopes of building a better more sustainable future. A massive congratulations to all involved, this award is such a great achievement!"

Councillor Jeremy Moulton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth, said: "This is an excellent achievement and is testament to **the outstanding efforts of Sholing Junior**

**School, which is truly leading the way for a healthier, more active school run here in the city.** Staff, pupils and families alike should all be exceptionally proud.

**Sholing Junior School are working closely with Leonardo UK to encourage more women to engage in a career in engineering. This has been achieved through a number of projects specifically designed for our children.**

We are extremely fortunate to have been invited to take part in an engineering project led by Leonardo UK. Leonardo UK, based in Southampton, is a company that works in fields such as elite sport, naval defence and space.



Usually only open to secondary schools, Leonardo UK have offered our children the opportunity to take part in a project entitled 'Rampaging Chariots'. This will involve them designing, engineering and building a robot which will compete in a number of tasks against other school's robots. Leonardo UK will be sending in one of their engineers to work with children and staff with specially designed, pre-fabricated materials for them to use. This is the first chance we have had in taking part in such a venture.



**Sholing Junior School children will also be joining this year's INWED Livestream STEM Activity. The Smallpeice Trust will be running a half-day virtual glider challenge on 23rd June 2022, broadcast to only 8 primary schools across the UK. Two engineers will also be sent to the school to support this project.**

Sholing Junior School has developed purposeful links with King Edward's School (KES) in Southampton. The valuable link with KES, allows greater opportunities for our children through activity days, residential opportunities and creative learning experiences.

The school community aims to continue their support for the refugees leaving Ukraine and work closely with the RNLI – who have identified our webpages as a model example of good practice for other schools - to raise awareness of water safety nationally. The school also intends to be a dementia friendly school over the coming years.



**ifeboats**