

Celebrating 25 years of the Anne Frank Trust and marking the retirement of Gillian Walnes MBE

25 years ago, Gillian Walnes MBE founded the Anne Frank Trust in her own home in Bournemouth, after being inspired by the exhibition Anne Frank in the World, which she then took around the country. Since then the Trust has grown to a staff of 35, working across the whole United Kingdom, empowering young people to challenge prejudice in all its forms. After 25 years at the Trust, Gillian Walnes has stepped down, assuming the role of Vice President.

To mark these two occasions, a ceremony was generously hosted by Berwin Leighton Paisner at their City of London offices. Over 150 guests celebrated the achievements of Gillian and the Trust, including Holocaust survivors Eva Schloss and Lillian Levy; and guests from the Anne Frank House in Holland and the Anne Frank Fonds in Basel.

Speaking at the party, Gillian Walnes thanked her family, friends, donors and staff, and said: 'Anne Frank understood when she wrote that we are all living lives that are different, but are all the same under the skin; thank you all for keeping Anne Frank's ideals going.'

Reflecting on Gillian's achievements, Ronald Leopold, Director of the Anne Frank House said 'We have admired your dedication to your staff, and to the young people you've worked with. Both Anne and Otto Frank could not have hoped for a better ambassador.'

Current CEO Robert Posner said 'Gillian has been an inspiration over the past six years I've worked with her, and you have created an amazing charity, and I'm sure your legacy will carry on for a long, long time to come.'

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1. The Anne Frank Trust UK** is a not for profit educational charity set up in 1990 by British family and friends of the late Mr Otto Frank, drawing on Anne Frank's life and diary to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. The Trust partners with schools, local authorities, criminal justice education services and others, to deliver education to young people in a variety of settings, predominantly in schools. The interactive and impactful programme includes an exhibition of Anne Frank's life and diary, combined with workshops, peer education and an ambassador programme. Last year, the Anne Frank Trust worked with 40,000 young people.

www.annefrank.org.uk