**A "free" translation of the newspaper article to convey the essence of the text, in easy to read English. Inaccuracies and omissions of the original German text have been corrected and added to the English version below.**

 **On the trail of the persecuted Ansbacher family**

Jewish citizens from Leutershausen had to leave their homeland – Descendants from Scotland and Canada welcomed at the town hall (Rathaus) by Manfred Schmaus, Deputy Mayor) Stefan Diezinger ( local historian) and Rainer Horn ( Reverend of local church).

**LEUTERSHAUSEN – Hakenkreuz [swastika] on the wall, shattered windows at the parents’ business – these are the last memories for Martin Ansbacher before he left his hometown of Leutershausen in the year 1932. Increasing anti-Semitic abuse made life in their Franconia homeland more and more difficult for the Jewish family. Now, the two sons of Martin Ansbacher have come back to visit Leutershausen and search for traces of their family.**

Steven Anson from Glasgow, Scotland and his brother Howard Anson from Edmonton (Canada), together with their families, took the opportunity to visit their father’s city of birth during a trip to Germany. The descendents of the Ansbacher family were welcomed in the town hall by Leutershausen’s deputy-mayor, Manfred Schmaus.

This has been a place of high emotion and nostalgia – until 1932, the Ansbacher family had been living in that house at the marketplace which nowadays serves as entrance and central building of the town hall. During the official reception, the two sons recalled the fate of the Ansbacher family.

The grandfather of Martin Ansbacher, Heinrich Ansbacher, was born in Jochsberg. After moving to Leutershausen, he incorporated his business in the house right next to the former, smaller town hall. The business was continued by Martin’s father Gustav Ansbacher, together with his wife Babette. Martin Ansbacher suffered abuse from anti-Semitic classmates already in the 1920's while attending the “Humanistisches Gymnasium” in Ansbach, which now known as “Gymnasium Carolinum”.

Martin's passion for soccer also came to a sudden end: the soccer team of Leutershausen – also known locally as “Jewish team” due to the high percentage of Jewish team members – were forced by the Nazis to excluded their Jewish players. At that time, Martin Ansbacher started resistance against National Socialism and became engaged in the organization “Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold”. The consequence: smashed windows in his parents' house.

In the year 1932, the Ansbacher family decided to escape the anti-Semitic climate in Leutershausen by moving to the catholic town of Landshut in Lower Bavaria. It was in that town, where the family suffered the indignities of arrest during the Reich's Pogrom Night (Kristallnacht 9 November) in 1938. After having been arrested, he was sent to the Dachau Concentration Camp.

After being released , Martin Ansbacher managed to emigrate to Gt. Britain.

In the Scottish town of Glasgow, he built a new life for himself, and after the war, changed his family name to the more English sounding “Anson”.

After a guided tour through the old town of Leutershausen, it was important for the two sons of Martin Anson to visit the city’s war memorial. There the name Selma Ansbacher, a family relative, is the first name carved in stone. He died in 1914, as patriotic Jewish fighter for his German fatherland and was one of the first causalities in World War 1 .

Deputy-mayor Schmaus was very pleased with the announcement of that his guests are planning to send some of their own documents belonging to their father to the town of Leutershausen to enable further research. The stories of Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution is close to the heart of Steven Anson: he (with Hilary Anson with 4 other volunteers) initiated the project “Gathering the Voices”, recording the testimonies of Shoah survivors who settled in Scotland to escape the racism of Nazi dominated Europe, and is available on the Internet.

An interview with Martin Anson can also be read and listened to on the website of www.gatheringthevoices.com