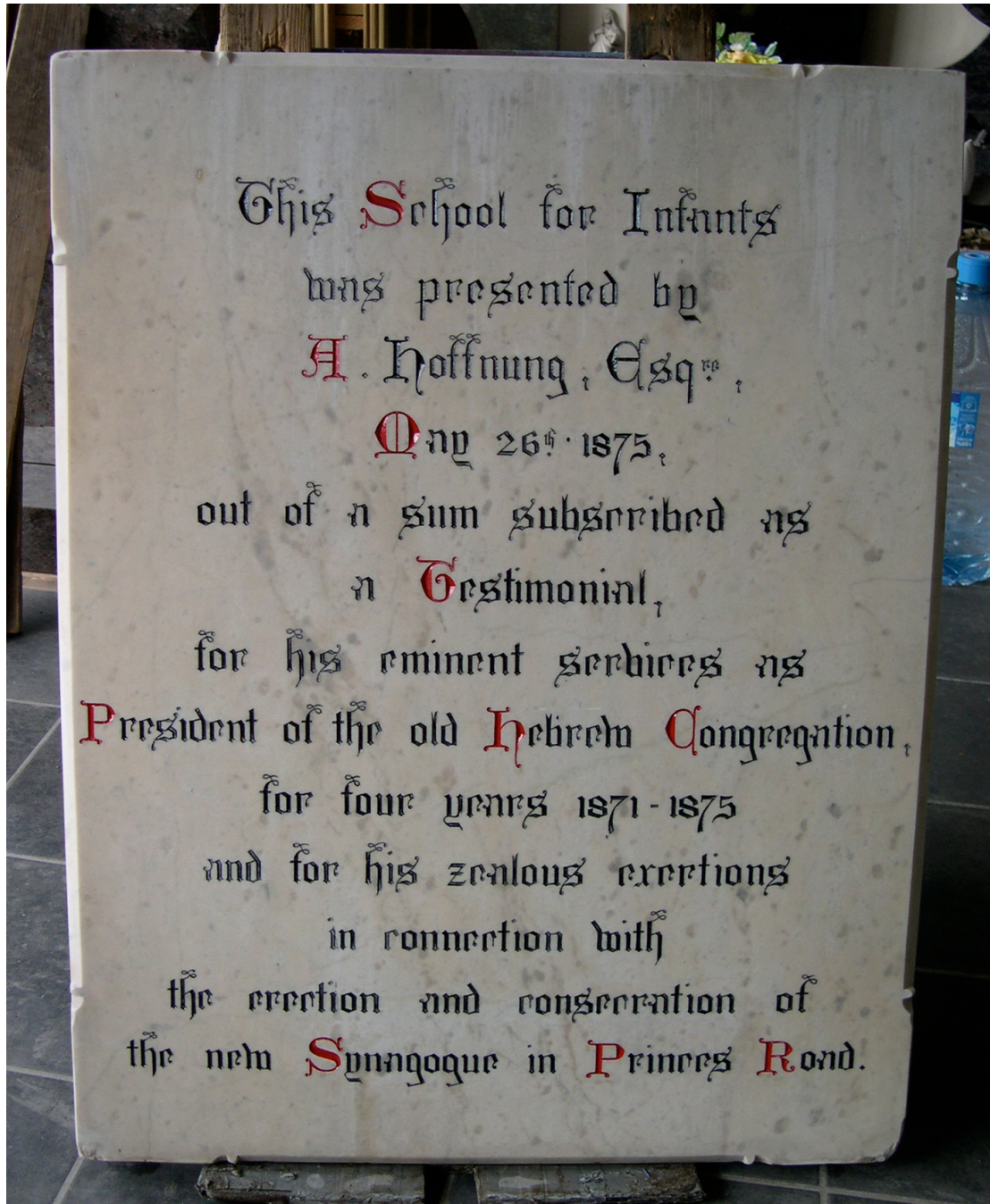


Together



The magazine of the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation
Princes Road Synagogue Liverpool

Rosh Hashana : Tishrei 5780 : September 2019



TOGETHER

The magazine of Princes Road Synagogue
and the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation

Rosh Hashana : Tishrei 5780 : September 2019

Synagogue Chambers, Princes Road, Liverpool L8 1TG

Tel: 0151 709 3431 : Fax: 0151 709 4187

Email: loh1@aol.com : Website: www.princesroad.org

Facebook: facebook.com/PrincesRoadSynagogue Twitter: @PrincesRoadShul

Editor Michael Swerdlow: email direct: michael@swerdlow.co.uk

© LOHC September 2019

From the Editor

Welcome to the Rosh Hashana 5780/2019 edition of Together which we hope you find a welcome addition to your yomtov reading. The Officers and staff of the Shul and the editor of Together wish all members and readers a happy and healthy new year.

Can we thank all who have contributed articles and reports to go in this twentieth edition of the magazine under its present editorship. In compiling the rest of the material it has become part of my job to fill in with a number of self penned articles. You may notice that several articles in this edition are on subjects connected with monuments, memorials and cemeteries and we don't want you to think we have a special or morbid interest in such subjects. Nevertheless, we thought we would throw in, for good measure, on page 30 a mention of a national report on Jewish Burial Grounds in which Deane Road got a mention.



During the recent refurbishment of the prayer room at Broadgreen Cemetery, I had the pleasure of supervising four very professional, efficient and enthusiastic workmen who had taken down and then reinstalled the Hebrew School Old Boys War Memorial Plaque while the walls were being resurfaced. Photo. There's a lot of impressive detail in the building work they carried out. Take a look at the work, and of course, the war plaques next time you visit the cemetery.

For this edition's special interview, I thought it appropriate to choose regular shul member and helper Naomi Brown as my subject. One of the questions I asked Naomi was about her mother Kay Fyne who many of you will remember fondly and who passed away in March this year. But you may not be aware that the plaque on the wall facing you as you enter the shul lobby was placed there by Kay's family in memory of holocaust survivors. This is referred to in articles here.

I asked in previous editions if you have a preference for the style or content of the articles and, as we have not received any suggestions, I can only assume I am getting the mix correct. But we still need more articles from you, on a wide but appropriate range of subjects, so please send them in. And don't forget to delve into your old family albums and scrap books to see if there are any photographs of events or celebrations that took place at the shul. The older the better as they make an interesting feature article. *Ed.*

THE CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANA MESSAGE 5780



On 23rd June 2019, something extraordinary happened in Turkey; something which provides an insight into how each of us might successfully navigate a society which feels more divided and despondent than it has for many years.

Increasingly, when faced with a major problem, public figures discover that they find acclaim by apportioning blame. Immediate, oversimplified solutions are promised and their impassioned rhetoric alone can be enough to generate widespread public support. Over time, those holding an opposing view feel compelled to resort to many of the same tactics in order to be heard and society becomes polarised. Those who might be cast as an obstacle to the success of one side or another are scapegoated. Before long, people become defined by their perceived 'allegiances' and a destructive culture of demonisation of 'the other' sets in.

Today, we call this populism. Its impact is felt across the globe, from here in the UK, right across Europe, the United States and even in Israel. These are times of disharmony, which many of us never believed we would see.

Citizens in every country are prompted to make a choice: Will we do the easy thing? Will we sit back and allow ourselves to be swept up by the dangerous currents of hostility to 'the other'? Or, can we find a port somewhere in the storm where we can remain considered and temperate; where we can be discerning about truth and justice within our fragile world?

The signs thus far have been less than encouraging, but earlier this year a Turkish man, Ates Ilyas Bassoy, provided a flicker of light in the darkness. Mr Bassoy had observed how actor, Robert De Niro had publicly insulted President Donald Trump at a high profile awards ceremony the previous year. His expletive-ridden remarks were greeted by a standing ovation, but they also served to motivate and embolden the President's supporters. Not surprisingly, anger generated yet more anger. Mr Bassoy concluded that a more effective strategy would be one of what he called 'radical love' - to meet aggression with peace, insults with praise and hatred with love. To most, it sounded like a naïve – if honourable – approach, but he was provided with an opportunity to prove it could work when he became the campaign manager for a virtually unknown district mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu. Mr Imamoglu was to stand for Mayor of Istanbul against the might of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's powerful party regime. Bassoy described his campaign strategy as having two simple rules: Ignore Erdogan and love those who love Erdogan.

Few people believed that his candidate stood any chance. After all, Istanbul had long been a stronghold of the ruling AKP party and President Erdogan had a large base of support in the Turkish capital. Astonishingly, on 23rd June this year, against all the odds, Ekrem Imamoglu was elected mayor of Istanbul, striking a blow for civility, selflessness and decency.

The lesson of this most unlikely political earthquake is that the port in the storm is not in fact beyond our reach, nor is it something that we must wait for others to provide. On the contrary, the answer is and has always been right under our noses.

Our societies can take a lesson from our Torah tradition:- דרכיה דרכי נעם וכל נתיבותיה שלום

“The Torah’s ways are pleasant and all its paths are peace.” (Proverbs 3:17)

It is within our power to break free from the cycle of polarisation. It begins by modelling what Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, referred to as ‘Ahavat Chinam’ – causeless love: making time to give of ourselves to others with no expectation of reward or reciprocity.

Our Sages taught: We become truly wise by learning from every person. We become truly mighty by conquering our own negative inclinations. We become truly honourable by honouring others and we become truly heroic by turning enemies into friends.

A highlight of our Yom Kippur services is the repetitive chanting of the 13 attributes of Hashem’s mercy. The Talmud explains that we do so in order to inspire us to emulate the ways of the Almighty: just as He is merciful, so too should we be merciful; just as He is kind, so too should we be kind. (Shabbat 133b).

Over the High Holy Day period, when we lower our heads for viduy (confession), we will admit to the sins of sneering, impertinence and obduracy; of disrespect, hard-heartedness and insincerity; of deception, tale-bearing and baseless hatred. Are these not among the most transgressed sins of the social media generation? In these times, when decency is no longer the norm and humility is mistaken for weakness, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur inspire us to buck the trend and to change ourselves so deeply that those around us cannot fail to be influenced by it. This is how the seeds for real global change are sown.

Valerie and I extend our heartfelt wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis : September 2019 • Tishrei 5780



ROSH HASHANA 5780 MESSAGE FROM RABBI ARIEL ABEL CF

Dear Shul member,

We enter 5780 with no idea what final outcome there will be for the UK in Europe. The unpredictable is the only thing we know for sure, after three years of foot-dragging and oscillation. The reason for all the delay seems to be doubt over what the people really want. But is it the *people's* lack of certainty?

Enough has been said in the media about majority result, leave means leave and casting people as remoaners as redoubters. Whatever one's decision was at the ballot box, it is not the people but it's leadership that has continued to work separately and to achieve different ends. It isn't *Parliament*, as a whole, which has not pulled together at any point to find a (cross-party) way forward for all of the electorate so that a highly sensitive key national question can be resolved with wisdom rather than by strong arm tactics.

What does Rosh Hashana teach us about Brexit over the last 3 years and ongoing? The Rosh Hashana prayers famously focus on the image of God's people as sheep. The shepherd not only represents leadership, but be able to safeguard them. This has not been the case for Britain. There was, from the start, no plan at all ready to cope with this other possible outcome to the referendum. Rosh Hashanah plainly has an outcome for all humankind; it is the day upon which all our fortune for the coming year is decided. Three factors weigh the balances one way or the other;- one is God's grace to forgive when we resolve to repent of our misdeeds; another is the merit we have for good deeds we have done. It is those factors which allow us to survive as sheep.

There is one other saving grace which we recite each time we blow the shofar in the Mussaf Amidah, which recasts humankind as either children, or slaves of God. "*Im ke-vanim, im ka-avadim*": if God sees us as children (*banim*) whom He wishes to indulge, then we ask Him to be merciful. If, however, He sees us as his house-servants (*avadim*), then we are not yet deserving of indulgence. In the latter case, "our eyes look longingly towards (Him) until He favours us and publicises our judgment, (for He is) *Kadosh* - Holy!"

Political leaders have not one, but two relationships with their electorate. One is pastoral, to take care of them as a shepherd does his flock. The other depends on the leaders attitude, to regard their charge as either a child, to indulge, or a servant who must wait in the corridors and dare not speak until spoken to. If it be God's wisdom to withhold judgment until He see fit, then He has every right to, for He is holy. For all human leadership, none can be so lofty as to hold the public in suspense. Whatever the outcome, no person should suspend any possible outcome from happening. Whilst for God such conduct is prerogative, for human beings it is unacceptable.

Thus Rosh Hashana teaches how to strike a balance between being indulgent and being assertive; between the pastor and the leader in us all.

Wishing every one a happy and healthy 5780,

Chag Sameach, Rabbi Ariel Abel

ROSH HASHANA MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN



It could be said that it's been a rough few weeks for Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation, or certainly for those of us running it.

Just a few weeks ago, we held an EGM at the request of Robin Makin, at which a number of important issues were discussed. It would be imprudent for me to recount in detail the content, or seek to interpret or analyse it in the public sphere. However, what I would like to do is thank all who attended for giving up their time in order to listen and contribute, often passionately, for the benefit of our beloved shul. I should also add that, given the time of year, a number of people were unable to attend,

who would otherwise have done so.

Running a charity isn't easy and I'm thankful for the strength, determination and unity shown by my fellow Honorary Officers and Charitable Trustees in the trying times we've been facing. We as a group, and myself in particular, have benefited from a great many kind words of support and advice from across the congregation, and this has heartened us as we've striven forward. There's a difference between a congregation and a community, and the sense of community has shone through these past few weeks.

As we look forward to the Yamim Noraim and the familiarity of the haunting melodies and sublime harmonies, we should feel privileged to be a part of something so special. Our congregation is over 250 years old, and our beautiful building nearly 150. Such history, like that of our very religion and culture itself, is desperately important to maintain and secure for future generations. It is within our power to do this and, as a community, I genuinely believe we will succeed.

See you in shul!

Saul Marks : Senior Warden

BACK PAGE STORY

More important plaques



The shul is full of plaques commemorating people and events. So in this edition of Together we thought we would focus on one or two of them which some members may have overlooked on their visits to shul. Our front cover story on the next page features the plaque describing the work of one of the LOHC's founders, Abraham Hoffnung.

In the interview with Naomi Brown on page 22 she remembers when her family commissioned and installed the plaque in the lobby (photo) linking her mother Kay Fyne and the memory of Kay's parents Hugo and Gretel Klein and the millions of souls who perished in the holocaust, the final resting places of whom are unknown. The family also commissioned the two black chairs that stand on either side of the Oren Kodesh.

COVER STORY

Plaque commemorates Abraham Hoffnung's work for the shul



Among the old plaques and foundation stones rescued by the Kind David and Harold House Heritage Plaques Project team in 2013, was a white plaster plaque with lettering barely distinguishable. It had been removed from the walls of the old Hebrew School in Hope Place when it closed down in the 1950s. Instead of rehangng it on the wall when they built the original King David School in Childwall, it had been left to rot in a shed at the back of the Primary School in Beauclair Drive. (photo left) When it was discovered, the team could just make out that it was dated 1875. Their first task was to get the plaque restored by shul contractor Dave Hollywood who not only re-etched the lettering but filled them in with red and black paint. (See magazine's cover photograph) The original idea was to hang the plaque along with others on the wall of the new King David School however there wasn't a wall strong enough to take the

weight. So another specialist contractor Dave Webster made a glass fibre replica which joined the other plaques in a montage on the wall of the school hall and is there to be seen by pupils and visitors.

The plaque had as much association with the LOHC and Princes Road shul as it did with the old school and so it was befitting that the shul found a place to hang the original plaque in the shul lobby. Below is the information panel which was placed alongside the plaque and makes an interesting addition to the story told during shul tours.

Rescuing the plaques and stones and putting them up in the school was only half of the project. Each year the team puts on a multi media presentation in front of the full year nine school which tells the pupils about the project but also the stories of each of the people whose names are on the stones. This brings to life the benefactors and founders of the school and Harold House but highlights how they were also the founders of the community. The presentation includes shul founders David Lewis, Harold Cohen, Professor Sir Henry Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, Henry Carr and several other LOHC key members.

The plaque reads, *"This School for Infants was presented by A Hoffnung, Esq're, May 26th 1875, out of a sum subscribed as a Testimonial, for his eminent services as President of the old Hebrew Congregation, for four years 1871 – 1875 and for his zealous exertions in connection with the erection and consecration of the new Synagogue in Princes Road."*

Here is the text of the information panel alongside the plaque;-

ABRAHAM HOFFNUNG COMMEMORATION PLAQUE



Abraham Hoffnung was born either in Kalisz in Western Poland or in Berlin in about 1832, arriving in England as a child in 1836, with his parents and brother. At the age of 12, he was apprenticed to a London merchant, before emigrating to Quincy, Illinois, and then Montreal, where he was successful in business. During his time in Montreal, he helped set up a synagogue.

Abraham and his family settled in Liverpool in 1866, where he worked as a commission merchant with great success. He served as Senior Treasurer of this congregation from 1870 - 71 and then as Senior Warden (President) from 1871 - 75. During this latter period, he was at the forefront of the process of funding,

designing and erecting this building, as a replacement for the congregation's existing synagogue in Seel Street.

On his retirement from office, the congregation collected a substantial sum as a testimonial to his efforts which Abraham declined requesting it be used instead to create an infant school. This was duly created, in the form of an annexe to the existing Hebrew School in Hope Place (photo) in order to accommodate nearly 100 Jewish infants.

In 1877 Abraham and his family moved to London. He became Hawaiian Commissioner of Immigration and then Hawaiian Chargé d'Affaires at the court of St James becoming the first Jew to enter the Diplomatic Corps. He later served as Treasurer of the Australian Chamber of Commerce. He at his home in Berkshire on 5 April 1912 died aged 79



To commemorate Abraham's gift that enabled the creation of the infant school, this stone plaque was erected on the wall of the school assembly hall. When the school moved to new premises in Beauclair Drive, Childwall in 1965, and was renamed King David Primary School, its governors rescued this plaque and several others and put them into storage in the new school. The building was itself demolished in 2011 to make way for the state of the art King David Campus incorporating the King David Kindergarten, King David Primary School, King David High School and a new Jewish community centre.

Keen to preserve the history of the community and the foundation of the schools, it was decided to display all the old commemoration stones and plaques from Hope Place and Childwall, some including this one, had to be replicated in glass fibre, creating a montage on the wall of the new school for pupils and visitors to learn about the school's founders and benefactors. This original plaque was adopted by the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation and mounted at the foot of the stairs in the shul lobby in April 2012, in the centenary year of Abraham Hoffnung's death.

TOURS CONTINUE TO FASCINATE OUR VISITORS

A report from Tours Manager Peter J Grant



As stated in my previous report our workload continues to increase in volume. Our average number of tours per month is about 12 whereas in March, June and July that number had more than doubled. We are now in a quiet season as the children have left school for the holidays but I am happy to report substantial bookings have been received from

mid September onwards. Our new guides have settled in and are giving excellent service for which we have received several commendations from our visitors. We have decided to tackle Heritage Open Day rather differently this year as we were very disappointed with last year's response. This year we will open only the Deane Road Cemetery on Sunday 15th September and will open the Synagogue on Sunday 22nd September. This will allow more of our guides and helpers to be involved.

We welcomed a number of interesting visitors such as a representative of the Board of Deputies, an American family with roots and past history in Liverpool about which we undertook some research on their behalf and one Sunday in June we welcomed 3 Israelis from Amiel Bakhela which is the name of the Department of Diaspora Studies at the Hebrew University. These men were not Shaliachs but were hoping to forge links between Israel and settled Diaspora Communities. They were entertained with a number of events involving all Liverpool congregations and we are happy to say that they were thrilled to visit Princes Road. a further visit is promised in the near future.

As usual I would like to thank all my guides, helpers, ladies of the shop and Petula for all their hard work over the last 6 months. *PJG.*

POPULAR HEBREW CLASSES

Run by Rabbi Abel

This year we held a very successful Winter and Spring term series of Hebrew lessons. It was a fine balance to strike, as some students favoured the study of spoken Modern Hebrew and others were classicists, preferring the Biblical or prayer-linked studies. Levels varied too, so to try and bridge gaps and not lose people I led a few sessions on introducing the basics of the Hebrew language and sharing knowledge that most of our faith (and not) have scarcely heard of, for example, the historic meaning of the names of the letters of the alphabet, and analysis of how to form verbs and construct sentences.

Thus, we built up an almost indiscernible way a bank of knowledge which I could then use to unite the group, as far as possible, at the same or similar levels of knowledge. We maintained a participating audience of fifteen which went down to seven in the second term. The classic language source we used was Weingreen's Hebrew Grammar, and we used texts for spoken Ivrit from a modern Routledge publication focused on the needs of a foreign visitor to Israel: the redoubtable "Peter Green".

Although some struggled at times, the overall effect was one of achievement, not due only to frontal teaching but by "work buddy" partnering and group work, where I quietly

“slipped in” a “stronger” student into a reading, writing or speaking student work group, to peer-assist the more challenged ones in those skill areas.

Naomi Hoyland sponsored a chalkboard which was very helpful in writing up examples throughout sessions. I am a bit of an “old-timer” and along with due respect for the decorum of the services I have a fondness for the old school chalk and board duster!

This last year had reawakened happy memories of tutoring Hebrew at Manchester University in 2012-2013. England is a country which, despite the many ethnicities and nationalities, behaves as a monolingual society, hence the opportunity to share and explore the rich and vast linguistic tapestries of our heritage has been a welcome opportunity for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in the 5779.

As we approach 5780, I consider the role of educator and lecturer of the Hebrew language to be a holy task. As part of my rabbinic mission, I hope to elicit further interest in the Hebrew language for our congregation and the wider community in the coming year. To this end I will try to keep in mind the words of the Biblical leader and revivalist of Judean independence, Nehemiah: 13:25: “Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples, and did not know how to speak the language of Judah.” Let us renew our Judean allegiance through better knowledge and use of the Hebrew language! AA.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY FORCES LOHC TO CUT BACK PAYING ITS DUES TO COMMUNITY WELFARE

Uncovering interesting archived history of communal organisations

In preparing an article for this edition of the magazine for our regular feature on communal history I referred to my copy of the souvenir brochure which marked the 100th anniversary of the Board of Guardians for the relief of the Jewish Poor of Liverpool. It was written jointly in 1975 by Karl Abrahams, the then communal archivist, Mannie Felton, who was the General Secretary of the BofG and Arthur Simpson. The brochure was presented to subscribers at a centenary dinner on 5th November 1975 in Childwall Shul Hall. The brochure does an excellent job relating the history of the community going back to 1730 but also of the formation of the BofG in 1875 and the welfare services it has provided for the community right up to the time when it built the precinct at Rex Cohen Court and moved there from its premises at 5 Oxford Street, in the centre of the old Jewish neighbourhood. At the time of the move the board changed its name to the Merseyside Jewish Welfare Council, but we now know it as Merseyside Jewish Community Care.

There are several references in the brochure to the LOHC for example its foundation and places of worship prior to Princes Road and how, before the formation of the BofG, “the duties of the LOHC included the relief of the Jewish poor of Liverpool which it shared with the New Hebrew Congregation (Hope Place). The latter contributed one third of the expenses and the remainder was borne by Princes Road. Dr S Lewis a pious and esteemed member of the LOHC acted for many years as the honorary Medical Officer to the poor and was unremitting in his disinterested service to them.” The brochure describes how both the LOHC and LNHC were asked for the grant of a subsidy for the foundation of the BofG from congregational funds.

In another section of the brochure it refers to archive reports;- “During the final years of the decade, the BofG’s financial difficulties persisted and grew more serious.”

It suffered a severe blow when, in June 1888, it received a letter from the LOHC advising, “that owing to the state of its finances it could not make its usual contribution during the ensuing year. Thus the Board was deprived of £100, an important item of income, as well as the congregation’s normal grant towards Passover relief. The letter from the LOHC also asked for the co-operation of the Board in ‘inducing some of the recipients of charity to attend synagogue to form a minyan,’ explaining that they had had to abolish payment to Minyan Men. The report for the last year of the decade 1889 stated that ‘the income of the Institution grows worse from year to year’ and its financial condition ‘continues to cause the gravest anxiety.’ The annual subscriptions (£163) had fallen off to the extent of £120 in the last seven or eight years and were lower ‘than at any previous period in the history of the BofG.” *Ed.*

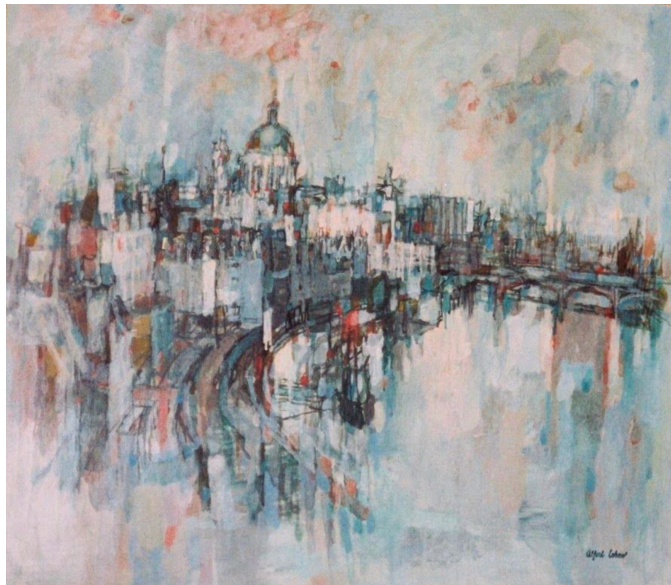
JEWISH HERITAGE DAY

LOHC always takes part in this national festival

Each year Bnai Brith UK organizes and publishes a programme of events that encourages Jewish organisations all over the country to open their doors to the public or to hold events to celebrate their diversity. This year the theme is ‘Heritage’ and LOHC opens its doors to the public at the shul on Sunday 22nd September and Deane Road Cemetery on Sunday 15th September. Copies of the programme are in our shul lobby in which you will see venues including Victoria and Albert Museum and the Bevis Marks Synagogue in London, the Plymouth Synagogue, The Old Synagogue in Canterbury.

IN SEARCH OF LOST ART

Ben Uri Gallery in London appeal for art by Alfred Cohen



Marking the centenary of artist Alfred Cohen 1920-2001, the Ben Uri Gallery in London are launching an exhibition of his work. The exhibition which will comprise 50 works by Cohen will take place at Bush House from March to May 2020. These will be contextualised by a small amount of work by major artists of particular significance to Cohen’s oeuvre including Frank Auerbach, Joan Eardley, Josef Herman, Oskar Kokoschka, Georges Rouault and Chaïm Soutine. The illustration here of St Pauls Cathedral is an example of Cohen’s art, however Ben Uri do not know of the painting’s whereabouts and

is searching for this and other missing works by the artist - probably one of a number of works exhibited within the exhibition, ‘Aspects of the Thames’ at the Kaplan Gallery, Mayfair in 1961. If you know of the whereabouts of this or any other Cohen works, Ben Uri would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Sarah MacDougall, Head of Ben Uri Collections, at sarahm@benuri.org All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

A FASCINATION FOR CEMETRIES

As described by Alaster Burman

Cemeteries have for many years been a fascination to me, reading grave stones and dates, imagining what lay behind all those names. So it was not a difficult decision to help the previous Chairman the late Mervin Kingston and take over the running of the Burial Board prior to 2014.

I have always enjoyed gardening so the improvement to the grounds to try to get it back to something of its former glory, the days when the cemetery had its own groundsman's house, there is a photograph in the Ohel taken around 1940 of the groundsman his dog and the very large flower bed in the entrance area, was challenging. Mike Bell and his boys have worked well, almost taking it personally to show how satisfying it has been to them to share in it's greatly improved appearance.

But there are many other reasons one can be interested, the fact that at the very top right end of the cemetery there is a large area of consecrated ground that contains the re internments of men and woman and possibly children from Upper Frederick Street and Oake Street cemeteries, leading me to believe Broadgreen has people born going back to middle to late part of the eighteenth century.

You may also be aware that Broadgreen is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, they look after eight graves of men buried there, each marked by a red poppy. In total I estimate thirty four men of the congregation gave their lives in the two World Wars, this figure does not include men woman children who were killed as a consequence of the bombing during the blitz. On visiting the cemetery you will see other graves with poppies placed within, these are family graves of the sons who made the ultimate sacrifice. There is a CWGC sign on the front gate post, and we have the memorial garden dedicated to all who made the ultimate sacrifice. Often when the gate is open, Alan Solomon or myself or the groundsman when working there, people will come in and ask if they may look around. Yes it's important people see our congregation and the wider community, did our bit, and it is appreciated, I know. AB

TOGETHER MAGAZINE

This magazine is only circulated to Princes Road Shul members. It's a way of keeping you in the circle with news, announcements, articles of interest, reports etc. If you would like to contribute an article on a topic you think would interest other members or a letter expressing your views about what goes on in Shul, then please drop us a line together with photographs and graphics if appropriate, preferably by email so that we don't have to decipher and type from handwritten notes. Please send them to the Shul office or direct to the editor at michael@swerdlow.co.uk

Any articles sent in to be considered for inclusion for the Pesach 2020 edition must be received by the editor no later than seven weeks before the festival to guarantee inclusion. Shul officers and the magazine editor reserve the right to edit or omit material sent in if space does not permit or is unsuitable for publishing. All facts, opinions and statements appearing in this magazine are those of the writers and editors themselves, and are in no way those of the Shul or its officers. Information in Together is gathered from sources considered to be reliable, but the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed. All original material created specifically for this magazine becomes the copyright property of the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation and should not be copied without the prior permission in writing of the LOHC.

A STONE SETTING 100 YEARS LATER

A family closes the chapter on their ancestor

Robert Blackburn was a renowned Liverpool artist and sculptor who converted to Judaism after marrying Bessie a local Jewish woman from a Yiddish speaking Hungarian immigrant family. Among some of his art commissions he was part of the team who designed the Victoria Monument at the top of Lord Street which was unveiled in September 1906. Local students under the leadership of CJ Allen contributed significantly to the design of the monument. Robert's award winning and much sought after art work was regularly displayed at exhibitions. He tragically died aged 34 on August 30th 1910 and was buried in Broadgreen Cemetery and although his death was acknowledged in an obituary in the Echo at the time (reproduced below) his family did not have the means to erect a headstone. And so his grave has remained unmarked for 109 years. When Robert died Bessie was five months pregnant with their only son.

Fast forward to a few years ago when Robert's grandson Keith Blackburn and his cousins had embarked on extensive research to trace Robert and their paternal lineage. They even purchased a copy of Chicken Soup and Scouse which they found useful along with other interesting details about Robert. In January this year this led them to Arnold Lewis the communal archivist who was able to trace Robert's burial in Broadgreen. However the plot could not be found easily because there was no headstone. At that point the family was encouraged by Rabbi Abel, Alaster Burman and other officers to put up a stone.

In front of a small group of family and friends Rabbi Abel and Eddie Marks conducted a warm, friendly and thoughtful consecration service on Sunday 17th August. Keith Blackburn travelled from London to join his family and recite kaddish. (photo)

Rabbi Abel reminded the gathering of the importance of remembering family in this way irrespective of the time gap. The Liverpool Echo featured an article to mark the occasion on 12th August. Keith told the gathering that the love Bessie and Robert Blackburn had for each other transcended any difference their two families might have had for each other. *Ed.*



Notable Liverpool Sculptor's Death. The late Mr Robert Blackburn.

A correspondent writes:- A promising young sculptor has been lost to art with the death of Mr Robert Blackburn, which took place at 106 Vine Street, Liverpool, on Tuesday, at the early age of thirty-four. He began life without any advantages. His early education was procured at an elementary school and he worked as a carpenter from a very early age. A born artist with positive genius he strove to acquire knowledge in the branch he loved at the end of arduous daily work.

Winning a studentship at the University he made rapid progress there. His health gave way under incessant toil and study, and for years he has made a gallant fight against great odds. So modest and retiring was he that but a few intimate friends guessed the hard truth. His work combined in a rare manner the qualities of vigour and extreme delicacy.

He showed regularly at the Liverpool Autumn Exhibition, and his work was much sought by leading exhibitions winning medals and honours. Two of his recent examples, three quarter life-size, entitled "The Thinker," and "Grief," are powerful male figures executed with such bold strength as is only found in the French school which he admired and followed, having studied in Paris a short time, whilst maintaining himself by working at his trade as a carpenter. His exquisite studies of childhood, which he interpreted with infinite charm and grace, are known to many art lovers, as these beautiful examples were what he generally chose to show at the Autumn Exhibition, where they challenge comparison with the best examples from the Paris salon.

He leaves a widow to mourn the loss of a true artist, endowed with the engaging personality of one of nature's gentlemen.



DEANE ROAD CEMETERY

Our heritage cemetery, past and present

Simply pay a visit to Deane Road Cemetery and you will instantly be impressed with the whole operation which is the result of constant work by their enthusiastic and dedicated preservation committee and team of volunteers. These photographs will show you what the grounds used to look like before the refurbishment programme started. An amazing transformation of this important site which was described by several non Jewish members of the original team as, "Not just an important part of Jewish Heritage, but of Liverpool's Heritage."



Following the theme of plaques in this edition of Together we show in the rare photograph below the replica artwork on the wall of the old prayer room at Deane Road Cemetery before the visitor centre was built and where a more prominent replica is now on display. The text of which was featured in the Pesach 2019 edition of Together.



A STONE FOR MAURICE

On Sunday 28th April 2019 at Broadgreen cemetery, a very befitting service took place to pay respects and remember shul member Maurice Levene. Rabbi Ariel Abel and Reader Eddie Marks addressed the excellent turnout of congregants and friends. A headstone was unveiled and past shul officer Stephen Ralph recited kaddish. Maurice was a regular shul attender and served the congregation as its assistant reader. Anyone who took the trouble to engage in conversation with Maurice found him to be the most likeable, enthusiastic and talkative person.

This magazine featured Maurice in its Pesach 2011 edition when your editor interviewed him. Not only was the interview revealing and fascinating, but Maurice had prepared copious notes in advance to hand to me. His flat in Rex Cohen Court showed that here was a well read man, no television, but a decent collection of vinyl albums of his favourite light entertainment singers and lots of books and a radio tuned to R4. After the interview he then sent me several more pages of hand written notes to add to the interview, with more notes written on the back of the sealed envelope. We still miss him. *Ed.*



FANCY MEETING YOU HERE

Your editor and our shul officer Jeremy Myers recall a chance encounter with others on the top of a Derbyshire hillside. (Copied from 'Rambling On,' the newsletter of the Merseyside Jewish Ramblers Association)



Many years ago, on one of our group's rambles in the Derbyshire countryside, we saw on the horizon of a distant fell what can only have been an equally large group of fellow ramblers. They must have been a mile away but our two groups were heading for each other on an almost collision course along the same path. As the gap between us got closer it was clear to see they were definitely another group of ramblers. We have that certain look about us.

Soon we got close enough to make out the clear but unrecognisable faces of our counterparts. Suddenly one of our members, Sandra Plotkin, yelled out, "It's Basil" The groups were now in close enough contact for one of their walkers to return the call, "It's Sandra." The two ramblers fell upon each other in a fond embrace witnessed in bewildered amazement by the joint gathering. After they had unraveled themselves from their embrace, they introduced each other to their fellow ramblers. We learned that *he* was Manchester lawyer Basil Herwald and *they* were the members of the Manchester based Jewish rambling club, The Pennine Wayfarers. And with that, on the side of that Derbyshire fell, the two groups engaged in instant conversation, like long lost relatives or perhaps tribes - as you do.

Basil was fascinated to discover that the Liverpool Jewish Community even had a rambling club. Sandra introduced your editor to Basil as our group's Information Officer, whereupon Basil invited me onto his live radio programme which he presented at that time, once a month, from studios at BBC Radio Manchester. The interview went well and Basil wanted to know all about our community, our shuls, our other social and cultural organisations and much more. For several years I became a regular guest on Basil's 'Jewish Hour' programme. In due course the BBC moved from studios at Oxford Road to its present HQ in the media complex at Salford Quays where the programme continued for a few more years until its closure due to cut-backs. Basil and his colleagues now present the programme every Monday 7 - 8pm on Salford City Radio, 94.4fm. If you can get it on your radio, give it a listen. It's very good.

Meanwhile friendships were cemented and the Wayfarers and the MJRA have conducted several joint walks over the years with one or two of our members joining their walks independently. We continue to receive invitations, as Jeremy Myers explains below. *Ed:-*

As Michael has just written, there is a great fraternity amongst fellow walkers. It might be simply the "Wainwright nod" as you pass another group, or alternatively stopping to chat for a few minutes. I have enjoyed many chats with farmers and locals whilst exploring new areas.

There are of course many similarities between MJRA and the Pennine Wayfarers (PW). As Jewish groups fixing a diary to walk on Sundays, to avoid Festivals, and to enjoy a Matzo Ramble, there is much common ground. Other similarities are a routine meeting point, car-sharing, grading of walks and arrangements for fuel costs.

This common ground has enabled us to undertake occasional joint walks. I believe that the last one was in Autumn 2012 when I led a walk in the Glasson Dock area of north Lancashire. It has been difficult to co-ordinate joint walks as matters such as frequent use of particular walking routes means that we cannot always find fresh ground to tread.

There are also a number of points in which MJRA and the PW vary. The most obvious is that PW has sufficient organisation and leaders to arrangements for walks weekly rather than monthly, which is a massive undertaking for the group's officers. There are more occasions when PW hold very strenuous and longer walks than we do, and also they tend to drive longer distances to walking areas.

I have kept up my links with PW from those early years, as a member and joining them on walks perhaps once or twice a year. I hope that by keeping open the links we can glean useful tips on walk arrangements from each other, and perhaps from time to time find a way to have joint walks and to learn from each other as well as enjoying each other's company, But do not fear - my first loyalty is to MJRA! Jeremy Myers

MORE JEWISH WALKS IN YORKSHIRE

Together's regular news from Nigel Grizzard on his excellent walks of Jewish interest

I am running three Jewish Heritage Walks in September in Bradford, Leeds and York and look forward to welcoming friends old and new. The walks follow on from two fantastic walks on July 7th with the Bradford Literature Festival which were both fully booked.

To book your places on the walks go to the Eventbrite links below, they include full descriptions of the walks and the meeting points. The walks cost £8 per person plus Eventbrite fees making a total of £8.92 The dates and times of the walks are as follows:

Leeds: Walking the Leylands and Chapeltown: Leeds Jewry's Historic Quarters Sunday September 8th at 11.00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walking-the-leylands-chapeltown-leeds-jewrys-historic-quarters-tickets-65023040665>

Walking Jewish Bradford Wednesday September 11th at 11.00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walking-jewish-bradford-tickets-65024415778>



Walking Jewish York
Sunday September 22nd at 11.00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walking-jewish-york-tickets-65023998530>

Photo of Nigel (left) starting one of his previous tours at Salts Mill in Saltaire. Nigel referred to the late Jonathan Silver who bought and renovated the old cotton mill and showed the group the other mills along the Leeds Liverpool Canal operated or converted into flats by Jewish property developers.

REMAINS OF AN OLD SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY IN GERMANY

Alan Swerdlow visits another Jewish site in Germany

On one of his travels in Germany Alan Swerdlow visited the town of Seligenstadt, in Hesse on the River Main. Seligenstadt is one of the oldest towns in Germany about 25 km south east of Frankfurt on the banks of the River Main. He and his partner were attending the 25th anniversary chamber music festival of the Henschel Quartet whose career they have been following since the musicians were students. He came across the remains of a synagogue and an obelisk commemorative monument. Photos 1 & 2 below show the remains of a mikvah.

More poignant however was a set of brass plates set into the adjacent pavement, shown in the third photograph. These of course are the now well known memorial plaques called Stolpersteine which is the German for Stumbling Blocks. The plates were the creation of German artist Gunter Demnig in 1992. Photos 5 & 6 below. Stolpersteine commemorate victims of the Holocaust in cobblestone-sized brass memorials marked with a name (or names of the family), date(s) of birth and a brief description of their fate. Usually, they state "Hier wohnte" (here lived), but sometimes it is the place the person studied, worked or taught. The ending is usually the same, "ermordet" (murdered) with the name of a concentration camp like Auschwitz or Dachau.

Unlike other memorials around a city dedicated to specific groups (such as the Memorial to Murdered Jews of Europe), this is an inclusive memorial for all of the victims of the Nazi regime. This includes Jewish citizens, Sinti or Roma, victims of political or religious persecution, homosexuals as well as victims of euthanasia.

The project has grown to include over 48,000 Stolpersteine not just in Germany, but in Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Norway, Ukraine, Russia, Croatia, France, Poland, Slovenia, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Slovakia, Luxembourg and beyond. Despite the small size of each individual plate, the project's vast scale has made it one of the world's largest decentralized memorials. There is hardly a German town without a Stolpersteine memorial. The capital of Berlin has the most with almost 3,000 Stolpersteine to commemorate the 55,000 people deported. A comprehensive list of locations in Berlin can be found online, as well as listings around Europe. To date, throughout Germany, 4,000 have been installed in pavements. There are 1,450 in Cologne, 960 in Hamburg and the rest in 60 other German cities, and growing daily. However, visitors like Alan usually come across the stones organically by just turning their gaze to the ground. When you catch sight or stumble over a stone, read the Stolpersteine's short story and remember those that called this city home. The installations have caused a controversy with some who argued it was like walking on people's graves. Demnig's answer was "This way you can never forget and besides, every time someone walks on the brass plates, it only makes them shine more. It's a small monument," he said, "but it will be big when you see thousands of them." For those interested in getting in touch with Gunter Demnig, email gunter.demnig@stolpersteine.com It is appropriate to include this story in this edition of Together which also features memorial plaques in other articles. There's lots more to read about this amazing memorial project at these two websites. *Ed.*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolperstein>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110706184505/http://www.jewishtribune.ca/tribune/jt-050922-19.html>



CAUTIONARY TALES ABOUT EMAIL SCAMS AND TELEPHONE CALLS

A few friendly hints and tips

A lot of our readers are computer savvy and one step ahead of scams. Nevertheless we all hear about other people being caught by scams by email or over the phone and to make sure you do not become one of these poor victims, you need to apply some common sense. If the email or phone call sounds too good to be true then it probably is. Remember people like your bank, paypal or ebay and supply companies never ask for your credit card pin number and no one will ask for passwords or pin numbers over the phone or by email so any one asking for it is bound to be bogus. The way scams work is that they send out hundreds of thousands of these every day and they only need one mug to fall for it to make it worth their while.

Make sure any website you go to, when you are buying goods and services online, shows the little padlock symbol to the left of their address line on the top of the screen, to denote that it is a secure site. If someone – usually a recorded voice – phones you and tells you your internet service has been compromised - put the 'phone down. What these very convincing calls are trying to do is to get you to press a button on your phone. This way they know they have reached a target and you have started the process of responding and following their bogus instructions to get your so called compromised broadband back online. You know it's a scam because if your line had been compromised you wouldn't be able to receive the bogus (or any) call. But if you fall for it, they will get you to continue the process only after paying them a bogus reconnection charge, which can only be taken off you if you give them all your bank details. If you do this, then you can expect, very soon afterwards, that your bank account has been emptied by the thieves.

If you get an email from your bank and it asks for anything - delete it. If your web browser - Safari, or Chrome, or Firefox, says "Call this number to have your computer fixed." - Force Quit the browser (from the Apple or MS menu on the top line of your screen), switch off your computer, and re-start. Do not respond to any of these messages.

Please don't get caught out by the thieves. And don't fall for any of the emails telling you that the writer has come into millions and is looking for someone (a sucker) to help them transfer the cash into a temporary account (yours) for a generous reward.

You are bound to know of the other classic, created by a clever virus that gets into the address book of an unsuspecting person's computer and where it latches on to and uses a recipient's first name. It then transmits dozens of personally headed emails where the bogus friend tells you he or she is on holiday abroad and has just been mugged losing their cash and credit cards and please will you send some money so they can return home. Believe it or not some people actually fall for this and have sent money together with all their bank details only to be the victim of money cleaned out of their account. I first detected one of these bogus emails some years ago because it was sent to me from the computer of an old friend who I knew would never dream of taking a holiday in that particular country and that, for fun, in our regular genuine emails we used to address each other with silly names like Cecilia Mousehabit and signing off with an equally silly name like The very reverend Seymour Clearly. When I told him his computer had been invaded, he told me I was the fourth person that morning to tell him of the scam.

I managed to fend off two scams recently. The scammers somehow find out when your television license is due for renewal. They then send you what looks like genuine notices to your computer but on both cases did not include my name at the top of the message.

Instead they put "Dear *my email address*." Of course their computer can search out millions of email addresses and put yours in the salutation. The real licensing authority will tell you that they would not send such a notice out and if they did, it would have your name and license number at the top of the message itself. The first scam notice told me that the license was due for renewal and wanted me to give all my bank details to renew the standing order. Thankfully I did not go further than the first page of the process before I realized it was a scam. A week later, the second notice came in telling me that my bank had refused to pay the standing order, which of course was not true. They simply wanted me to give them all my bank details to reinstate the standing order. Doing so would have obediently given them all they needed to empty my bank account. On this second notice they showed a license number that was clearly fake which was the second alert to the scam. Right on cue the genuine notice to renew came in by post, with my name and all the correct details on it. They didn't want my bank details but instead generously reminded me that I am now eligible for a free license being over 75. The problem with scams is that they prey upon people who automatically want to obey the systems and do the right thing on demand before they read and have suspicions about the wording first.

As mentioned above, don't spend time on the phone to people who call to tell you your internet is compromised - it isn't; Do not spend any time reading emails purporting to come from Apple or Microsoft UNLESS they address you by your full name; Do not spend time worrying about emails that ask you for a bitcoin payment to keep quiet - delete the email. If it mentions a password you still use - change that password; Do not worry if your web browser starts making a noise and says call Apple or Microsoft Support - it isn't the genuine people but scammers who are after your money. Never upgrade Adobe Flash if asked to by a website - it ALWAYS leads to trouble with your computer. And DO make sure that your computer is being backed up - the simplest method is to have an external attached disk or hard drive. Apple users can use their remarkable and trusty facility and software called Time Machine. *Ed.*

EXHIBITION IN LONDON

For those of you who like to visit museums and galleries in London, Together always tries to keep you up to date. The Jewish Museum in Camden has extended the date until 17th October, due to popular demand, of its current exhibition, 'JEWS, MONEY, MYTH.' This timely and important exhibition explores the role of money in Jewish life. *Jews, Money, Myth* is a major exhibition exploring the role of money in Jewish life. Discover the ideas, myths and stereotypes that link Jews and money over the course of 2000 years. Artwork includes Rembrandt's first masterpiece *Judas Returning the Thirty Pieces of Silver* and new commissions by Jeremy Deller and Doug Fishbone. This exhibition draws together art, film, literature and cultural ephemera from board games and cartoons to costumes and figurines. Follow the real and imagined stories of Jews – in finance, commerce and capitalism – up to the present day.

The critics say:-

'Next time I'm asked how antisemitism started, I'll say "go to this exhibition"'

The Times

'A jolting insight into the ambiguous, strangely persistent strand of anti-Jewish sentiment that continues to agitate contemporary western culture'

ArtReview

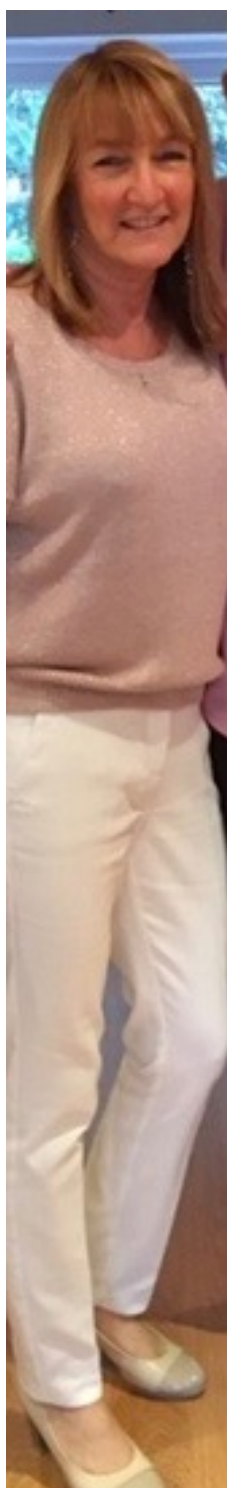
'The exhibition will explain why "fear is so close to the surface" for a community that people may dismiss as "settled, integrated, largely educated, well-off"'

New Statesman

Discover the ideas, myths and stereotypes that link Jews and money over the course of 2000 years.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

The Together Interview : Editor Michael Swerdlow chats to Naomi Brown



Tell me about yourself and immediate family.....

I was born in Liverpool in 1957 and went to both the old Hebrew School in Hope Place and the King David. However when I was 6, my father Norman Fyne took the family to Spain, on one of his searches for business opportunities so I received some of my education there. He ran a restaurant in Gandia near Valencia but after that adventure we returned to Liverpool in 1965. My parents felt the need to travel and it was in Israel where my sister Tamar was born. But we always returned to Liverpool where my brother Danny was born.

I went to Mabel Fletcher technical college from school and trained to be a nursery nurse. One of the ventures my dad ran in Liverpool was a yellow taxi company and I was one of the youngest people to get a taxi driver's license. After that I went to live in America. I also worked in my cousin's engineering company doing various jobs and working on a very early computer.

Tamar would have been happy to stay in Israel but at the outset of the war in 1967 mum and dad decided it would be safer for her to return to Liverpool where she has stayed to pursue her love of music. She was given guitar lessons in Spain by a pupil of Segovia. Dad was her manager when she played guitar and sang in groups like the Chiribim and with our cousin Lesley Beilinsohn. Like my dad, I love playing the piano and our two daughters Rosie 24 and Sarah-Jane 29 are also musical with a row of attainment certificates on the wall. Danny also stayed in Israel for a while and became a medical paratrooper in the IDF. While we lived in Liverpool, he was so passionate about airplanes, he used to play truant at school so that he could watch them landing at Liverpool airport. He eventually got his pilot's license flying cargo planes in and out of Speke then worked for Air 2000 flying commercial passenger planes. He is now a Senior First Officer for Virgin flying long haul routes in a Boeing Dreamliner. The girls currently live and work in Canada and so the family's love of travel continues.

Jonathan went to Plattsburg University in the USA on a business studies course and spent his free time playing football and other sports. He works as head of sales at Rayware Ltd in Liverpool. He too is a regular shul goer.

....and about you and Jonathan.

Jonathan once sang in the Childwall shul choir. He has always been a football fan and used to manage the Haroldeans football team. It was football that brought us together. We met while standing in the crowd along Queens Drive watching the Liverpool Football team on an open top bus returning an important trophy to the city after one of their legendary conquests. We got married in Princes Road in 1979 on a brief visit from the States and not long after the tragic fire which destroyed a lot of the building. During the ceremony the Ark was still covered by a screen. It must have been quite a day for the community as ours was one of five weddings at the various shuls that day. After we were married I trained as a bartender and worked in restaurants in upstate New York and Florida.

In 1988 Johnny and I started our own takeaway pizza business which lasted till 1990 then I had Sarah-Jane then Rosie. I spent many years bringing up my daughters and enjoying every minute of being a stay at home mum!

And what about your parents

Dad was born in 1924 and when he was only 15 was one of the many young men who was so keen to get into the army that he misled them about his age. After the war in 1947 he went to Palestine on a Zionist youth leadership course then decided to stay and fought in the War of Independence and decided to stay there. In 1948 he met my mum who was working as a cook on Kibbutz Kfar Hannasee. They married there and Tamar was born in 1949. However like a lot of kibbutzniks, they left to return to Liverpool because the facilities for young children while the parents were out working, left a lot to be desired. So they went off to the States in 1981 and opened a delicatessen and restaurant in Florida. Dad was another keen supporter of AJEX.

Tell me about your mother

Much has been spoken and written about my mother; She was born Kaethe Klein in Mittelstrau in Bavaria in Germany in 1926. She was known as Carmela but only in later years in England was known as Kay. At that age witnessing Nazi persecution including Kristallnacht and other atrocities would have been traumatic and must have had a lasting impression on her. She was one of five siblings who, in August 1939, was lucky enough to be included in the Kindertransporte programme to get young, mostly Jewish, people safely out of Germany before the war started. She was 13 years old and was on one of the very last transports out of Germany from the town of Bad Neustadt. She waved goodbye to her parents at Frankfurt Station and never saw them again. All her family perished in Germany. On arrival in England she and her siblings were sent to the Stotley Rough School near Haslemere in Surrey run by one of the special committees set up by the various Jewish and Quaker communities who found sponsors for them to find temporary and permanent accommodation. During her time at the school the British Red Cross delivered letters to and from her parents while they were still in Germany. Only 10 or 20 words were allowed. Then they stopped.

Mum was by now 15 and although she was not a staunch Zionist decided to join the groups of Europeans who saw Palestine as their ultimate destination. She found her way to Marseilles where she boarded a boat bound for Haifa where it was turned away by the British authorities. The passengers disembarked on Cyprus where mum worked for a year as an untrained nurse. Three of her father's siblings escaped Germany before the war and settled in the USA. After the war mum's four siblings left the UK and settled in the USA. Mum's brother joined the US Army and returned to Bad Neustadt in 1947. He was given letters by Christian neighbours of their parents. They had written heart rending letters telling their children never to forget them and to tell everybody what had happened. He didn't tell or show anybody about this until about 1990. They were then translated into English.

A few years later when the Stephen Spielberg Shoah Foundation was set up they showed an interest in the letters and interviewed mum who has also taken part in numerous Holocaust Memorial events over the years including a multi media event at the Philharmonic Hall.

Mum went back to Germany in 2001 for the first time since the war and her leaving in 1939. She was part of a group of 25 relatives and the mayor of Bad Neustadt made a big fuss of them at a ceremony to unveil a commemorative sculpture in the town. She returned once again in 2007 to take a look at the names they added to the sculpture,

of the families who were forced to leave, including her parent's names. She passed away on March 10th this year. One of the shul's true personalities.

Tell me about Jonathan's father, Arnold and his communal connections.

During the war Arnold was in the army and fought in Italy and North Africa. He also fought in Palestine to establish the State of Israel. He often returned to Israel as a guest of the Israeli government who treated him as one of their heroes. At the end of the war he ran a wholesale clothing business in Liverpool. His wife Stella (nee Richards) was born in Liverpool. Her mother was from Riga in Latvia and only spoke Russian and Yiddish which meant Stella only spoke Yiddish for the first five years of her life. As a member of AJEX Arnold never missed the annual remembrance parades for 34 years and at the age of 91 marched down Whitehall as well as Lime Street. He used to be a keen member of the Jewish Ramblers Club. He passed away in May 2016.

What does Princes Road mean to you and what are your own memories.

It has always given me enormous pleasure to have sat there on the front row, particularly when mum was alive and there would have been four generations of the family occupying lots of seats. A special memory for the family is when we wanted to create a memorial not only to my mum's own family who perished in the holocaust and whose final resting place would have been unknown, but in memory of all holocaust victims. So we commissioned a special plaque which went up on the wall of the shul lobby. (See article and photo on page 5 in this edition of the magazine) The family also commissioned the Dorfman brothers to make two special chairs as part of the memorial and they have commemorative plates on them.

How far back does the Fyne family connection with the shul go.

We used to be members of Allerton before we lived in Spain but on our return, we joined Princes Road where the family have been regular attenders. I continue to be involved in the shul and enjoy doing Kiddush duties.

Do you think the shul is female friendly enough



I do think the shul is female friendly, even though the rules have been broken with the mixed choir and women sitting downstairs with the men. My mother was very upset when she could no longer sit upstairs. One gets a whole different perspective from up there.

Does the shul have sufficient appeal to the next generation

Yes I think it does. With Rabbi Abel's all inclusive policy there will be an upturn in those converting to Judaism and affiliating themselves with Princes Road shul. Also, I think the hard part is getting the existing young members to bring their children from an early age and get into the habit of going on a Saturday. I think it's sad that not many parents bring their children on various festivals when the school is closed precisely for that reason. Here's hoping the shul remains attractive to new members and may it carry on for many years to come.

Photo: Naomi and Jonny on parade with AJEX at a memorial event at St Georges Hall.

What are your predictions for the shul's future

I think in due course the shul will become mainly a visitor venue and will be used for weddings.

What are your hobbies.

Music, keeping fit, cooking, travelling and reading.

Who would you invite to a make believe dinner party, people alive or dead.

The Queen was born 3 months before my mother so two nonagenarians whose lives took such diverse paths from one another. The Queen would be my ideal dinner guest as long as royal protocol went out of the window. I would have to be allowed to ask hundreds of questions.

SOUNDS A BIT FISHY

According to University of Haifa marine ecology expert Eyal Bigal, Israel has become an unlikely hub for sharks during the winter months, particularly around the country's coastal power stations, perhaps due to the higher temperatures, creating a jacuzzi effect

Bigal also points out that, because sharks aren't kosher, they're not being fished for. But some Israelis apparently swim with the sharks which surely is a big mistake because sharks know that Jews are kosher!!

THE SHUL SHOP

Alaster Burman reports



I know that our small shop is a small part of Peter Grants Tours programme. The fact is we have spent a considerable amount of time and money on fixtures and stock in setting it up, all those years ago and it has done quite ok and profit has been made.

We have a good number of volunteers to assist on adult tour days when the shop must be open and ready for business. On days when we have school visits unless the school asks for the gifts

and souvenirs, we don't open the shop. Now here is where it becomes more difficult and we need more help; Although we do have two people who do the buying, we no longer have management or one or two people to go in once a week to check stock, displays, generally to see everything in some sort of order.

ANYONE INTERESTED? It is not an onerous responsibility, maybe an hour or so a week, I would explain and train, see that all elements, volunteers, girls who do the buying. Petula, who does more than her share also helps in the shop when called upon to do so. The money that is taken in the shop really does make a difference.

Please contact me : Alaster Burman 0151 722 8000

SHUL NOTICE BOARD

Some of the happy and sad events since our last magazine

Social & Cultural

Commemorative Event

Heritage Open Day for Deane Road

Heritage Open Day for Princes Road Shul

Biblical Archaeology Talk - June 2nd

Srebrenica Memorial Kiddush - July 20th

Sunday September 15th

Sunday September 22nd

Special Celebratory Kiddush/Luncheon

Sponsored birthday luncheon by Karen Kennedy

April 6th

Sponsored Kiddush by Jessica Maden for son's barmitzvah

May 11th

Sponsored Kiddush by Ruth Raisman for birth of 2nd great grandchild,
Amichai Gilson

June 8th

Sophie Peel is sponsoring the Kiddush for the Shul June 10th

18th birthday Kiddush of Jasmine Williams sponsored by the Williams family

June 29th

Celebratory Kiddush to salute Michael Galley's special birthday

July 27th

Barmitzvah

Ori Solomon, son of Pesach & Naama Solomon

August 17th

Yahzeit Kiddush

Sponsored Yahzeit Luncheon to parents Arline & Maxwell Newman by Karen Kennedy
April 6th

Cyril Benson: Shmuel ben Yaakov dedicated by Johnny Stone in memory of
his Grandfather April 13th

Ena Max: Chaya bat Avraham Z'ev dedicated by Naomi Hoyland in memory
of her aunt May 25th

Prof Rodney Harris: Yehuda Meir ben Binyamin dedicated by David Grantham
in memory of his friend June 9th

Sam Canter: Shmuel Yitzchak ben Baruch dedicated by Philip Canter in memory
of his father June 15th

Ann Abrams: Hannah bat Avraham (Mother) & Ralph Hymans - Reuben ben Chaim
(Uncle) dedicated Karen Lipkin June 22nd

Prof Rex Makin: Elchanan Melech ben Yoseph Chaim dedicated by Robin & Mrs Makin
in memory of their father & husband July 6th

Stanley Goldstone: Shlomo ben Aharon dedicated by Dr Peter Grant & Mrs Carol Newman
in memory of their father August 31st

Bertha Pearl: Brina bat Godol dedicated by Geoffrey Pearl in memory of his mother
September 7th

Gerry Kleiman: Gershon ben Zvi Hersh dedicated by Doreen Kleiman in memory of
her husband September 21st

Ralph Churney: Ephraim ben Tzvi & grandparents Harry & Edna Churney Hershel ben Tzvi
and Sarah dedicated by Henry Churney & Karen Kennedy in memory of his
father and their grandparents September 28th

Deaths

George Goodman 20th March

Doreen Jones 12th April

Stella Gould 16th June

Naida Boher 31st May

Stonesettings

Maurice Levene April 28th

Robert Blackburn August 18th



CONTINUING CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Merseyside Jewish Community Care is a charity which provides a wide range of practical and financial support to people in need in the Liverpool Jewish community.

Unfortunately, there are people within our community who cannot afford to put food on the table, buy their children clothes and shoes or purchase essential items such as a fridge or a washing machine. MJCC subsidises services to enable people to improve their quality of life. There are people living in our community who experience disability, mental health challenges, debt, addiction, abuse, divorce and redundancy which all have an impact upon health and wellbeing and can lead to financial difficulties.

MJCC offers advice and assistance to our clients lending a listening ear and friendly positive advice on a range of services. The Citizens Advice Bureau hold a confidential surgery every Tuesday morning at Shifrin House to further assist with benefits claims, etc. Please ring Shifrin House to make an appointment. MJCC offers bereavement and carers support and can arrange for our clients to be assessed for care services through Social Services.

MJCC offers a shopping service where a shopper volunteer will collect a client and accompany them in order for them to obtain their own shopping. This might be the only time a client will venture out so this service offers companionship as well as practical help. We also offer a transport service for our clients to and from our Lunch and Activity Clubs and to hospital appointments.

The staff at Shifrin House continue to be as busy as ever offering many regular and new health and wellbeing services to our many clients.

MJCC hold many clubs during the week including:

- Monday and Tuesday Club, where a full three course hot Kosher lunch is provided, followed by entertainment.
- Tai Chi is held every Monday afternoon.
- The Feel Good Factor art club is also held every Monday afternoon, for any budding artist.
- Beginners Bridge sessions take place every Tuesday.
- On Wednesday we have Soup and Sandwich, followed by bingo.
- Knitting Circle is held alternate Wednesdays.
- Thursday mornings we run Memory Fitness Group, which is followed by "The Reader".
- Dance Club and Art Club both take place on a Thursday afternoon.

Along with these clubs MJCC also arrange meetings on the first Wednesday of each month for the Visual Support Group (formerly called Merseyside Jewish Blind Society). This group offers a social and support group for people with visual impairments.

Gesher is a social group which is designed for adults in the community with social difficulties who are differently abled. This group meets on Thursday afternoons starting with a bagel lunch and followed by an activity or outing.

MJCC arrange the Wednesday Lunch Circle, which is held on the last Wednesday of each month. A light lunch is followed by a speaker and /or entertainment.

We also offer a twice weekly Kosher meals on wheels delivery service. Each meal comprises a freshly cooked three course meal made in our Kosher kitchen by our cook and a team of volunteers.

All these activities are organised from Shifrin House by our busy administration team and run by our excellent care team, with the assistance of our many volunteers.

MJCC is indebted to our teams of volunteers and we will be holding a volunteers thank you event in June 2020 as part of National Volunteers Week so we can publically say thank you to our volunteers. More information will follow in due course. However, as our Clubs and Clients needs grow we need more volunteers. We will also be holding a volunteer recruitment event in September 2019. Any volunteer assistance is more than welcome and greatly received. If you would like to start volunteering for MJCC please phone Anthea at Shifrin House.

Funding welfare and wellbeing services for the future is vitally important. Leaving a legacy to MJCC is an opportunity to make a lasting difference and secure the future of our community. No amount is too large or too small - any amount, bequest or percentage is hugely appreciated. Specifying a percentage is a preferred option for many people because you do not need to quantify the sum to be left or take inflation into account when you draw up your Will. MJCC is always seeking funds to support our work within the community and legacy giving is another way to help.

Please help us to improve the quality of life of the Jewish Community in Merseyside by:

- Donating on-line: www.justgiving.com/merseysidejcc/
- Sending a cheque - no amount is too large or too small
- To make a payment by debit/credit card please contact the Finance Team at Shifrin House
- Setting up a Legacy to create a lasting gift in your name
- Contact the Administration Team at:
Shifrin House, 433 Smithdown Road, Liverpool, L15 3JL
Telephone: 0151-733 2292
Email: info@mjccshifrin.co.uk

***Thank you so much for supporting our work
in the Liverpool Jewish Community***

For further information on any of the above please contact Shifrin House on 0151-733 2292.

Lisa Dolan
Chief Executive, MJCC
www.mjccliverpool.com
July 2019

ROSH HASHANA MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

September 2019 / Tishrei 5780
Message from the President



Last year, my Rosh Hashanah message told of the way the Jewish community came together to proclaim in a loud and firm voice, “Enough is Enough” on antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Since then, the antisemitism crisis has not gone away. However, our campaign against those who pursue this most ancient form of racism has had great successes, notably the suspension of serial offenders including Chris Williamson and Peter Willsman and the expulsion of Jackie Walker.

There is understandable anxiety in our community about the way racists within Labour have been emboldened to express their disgraceful views by the indifference, and at times the collusion, of the party’s leadership. However, as I have been saying since I assumed the presidency of this great organisation in 2018, there is another story to be told.

This is the story of a longstanding community that has lived peacefully in the UK for centuries; a community which, since we were allowed back into this country by Oliver Cromwell, has had the freedom to practise our religion and live a truly Jewish life within a respectful society.

In return, our community has contributed great things, in the arts, in society, in business and in politics and science. We have produced major figures from Abba Eban to Amy Winehouse, from Isaiah Berlin to Mark Ronson. With the prevailing conditions of freedom and respect our community has flourished over the past centuries, and despite worries over the revival of mainstream antisemitism, most of us lead happy Jewish lives.

However, there is a reason that the Board of Deputies has existed since 1760; that is to protect those hard-won freedoms and to ensure that the Jewish community in all its forms and denominations, continues to flourish.

At the Board of Deputies, we are in constant campaign mode, challenging Labour antisemitism through advocacy in the media, and to those in Labour and outside who support us and can make a difference.

Of course, Labour’s antisemitism problem is not the only problem with which we are grappling. Brexit is an issue of enormous national significance, and it will impact on British Jews. We have been working with the Government to ensure that Jewish interests are safeguarded in all circumstances.

The Board of Deputies played a prominent role in campaigning for the terrorist group Hizballah to be banned in its entirety. The Government listened and responded last autumn by ending the artificial distinction between Hizballah’s political and military wings.

We continue to confront and challenge divisive and unhelpful boycotts of Israel. Through our Invest in Peace projects, where we bring Israelis and Palestinians to speak to interfaith audiences, we show that there are better ways to address and resolve differences over the conflict.

We made a significant intervention into the Government's legislation on organ donation. As we moved from an opt-in to an opt-out system, we acted to ensure that Jews of all denominations were protected. We also obtained compromises from the Department for Education on relationships and sex education that will allow all parts of our community to teach according to their ethos.

We work to educate non-Jewish children and adults throughout the UK on the Jewish way of life. One way we do this is through our mobile exhibition, the Jewish Living Experience which is visited by thousands of children and adults.

We ensure high standard of religious education in schools through our Pikuach inspection service – 'the Jewish Ofsted' which is accredited by the Department for Education.

Our honorary officers and staff reach out to local councillors at Local Councillors Seminars across the UK, to ensure that they understand and are sympathetic to Jewish concerns.

Through Milah UK, for which the Board of Deputies provides the secretariat, we campaign for the right of every Jewish boy to be circumcised according to Jewish law.

Our contribution to UK Jewish life is crucial. We will continue to represent you in the coming year to ensure we continue to live freely and safely as Jews as we have done here for centuries.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl
President

JEWISH BURIAL GROUNDS: UNDERSTANDING VALUES

A report by Barker Langham, Published 29 January 2016 on Jewish Burial Grounds:



This report is about understanding the diverse values associated with historic Jewish burial grounds and cemeteries so that they can be sensitively managed and protected. It sets out to answer the following key research questions: What place do burial grounds hold in Judaism, and how does this differ from other religious and cultural communities? What are the key Jewish legal considerations that need to be understood in the management of burial grounds? What are the main threats faced by Jewish communities in protecting their cemeteries? What are the values that individuals and Jewish groups have towards their cemeteries? How are these values manifest in and around burial grounds, and what are the implications of this for any future protection and management initiatives? What are the key organisations that should be included moving forward with any such initiatives, and what are the best methods of engagement for Historic England and other stakeholders?

This report can be downloaded as a pdf from the website of Historic England. We note that Deane Road Cemetery gets a mention as does Peter Grant and Denis Salamon.



PROTECTING JEWISH LIFE IN THE UK

Our goal at CST is to protect you. We want to ensure that you, your family, friends and community can lead the Jewish life of your choice.

We know that these are difficult times, with the terrorist threat and the overall political situation causing deep concern to British Jews. CST's volunteers and staff are absolutely committed to protecting our Jewish communities throughout the country.

CST exists to facilitate Jewish life. Yes, antisemitism is a serious problem, but there is also the very positive reality of normal, daily Jewish life. That day to day positive experience may not make the news, but we should keep it in mind when we look at how things now stand.

We have, unfortunately, seen terrible terrorist attacks against places of worship, including synagogues in the USA. After these tragedies, it has been truly humbling to be repeatedly thanked for keeping the UK Jewish community as safe as possible, but really it shows exactly why CST does its work, and why we need the total partnership of our whole community. We thank you for supporting our security work and ask that you report any suspicious or offensive behaviour to our security teams.

Finally, our warmest wishes for a happy Rosh Hashanah. Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. For more information, visit www.cst.org.uk. In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

www.cst.org.uk

[Community Security Trust](#) [@CST_UK](#) [CSTmedia](#)

National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**
 London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**
 Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**



Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)

AUBERGINE CHERMOULA

A delicious North African spicy vegetarian dish ideal as part of a mezze



Serves 6

Ingredients

Olive oil
2 aubergine trimmed and cut into 2.5cm cubes
Sea salt flakes
Half a large onion, cut in half and thinly sliced into half moons
3 cloves of garlic crushed into a paste with some salt.
1 teaspoon of ground cumin
Half teaspoon of ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon of sweet paprika
half a red pepper, cored deseeded and cut into thin strips, then halved
A handful of plump golden raisins
400 grams of chopped tomatoes
3 tablespoons of red wine vinegar
2 teaspoons of castor sugar
2 tablespoons of clear honey

Method

Heat the oil in a saucepan over a medium heat, then add the aubergine and sauté until golden brown, seasoning generously with sea salt half way through. Once browned remove the aubergine and set aside. Put the pan back on the heat, lower the temperature and add the onion slices and cook until caramelized ensuring that you stir them so that they cook and colour evenly. Just as they start to brown, add the garlic paste, cumin, cinnamon and paprika and stir, then add the pepper strips and continue to sauté until the vegetables soften and the peppers are no longer raw.

Add the raisins and a touch more salt and fry for a further five minutes before adding the chopped tomatoes. Cook for another five minutes, then add the vinegar, sugar and honey.

Increase the temperature and stir fry the mix for a minute to two making sure it does not burn. Then reduce the temperature to low and using a potato masher lightly mash the mixture and stir it to ensure it is evenly cooked.

Stir in the cooked aubergine. Cook over a low heat for about eight minutes. Serve warm with Eastern style focaccia or toaster challah.

Recipe taken from 'Persiana' a middle Eastern cookbook by Sabriana Ghayour



Holocaust Memorial : See stories on pages 5 and 24