



Ruach רוח

The Magazine of Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation

2025

Rosh Hashanah

5786

שנה טובה

Mazal Tov!



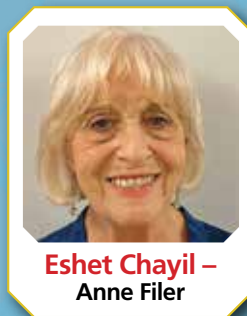
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Ruach רוח

EDITORIAL

As we look forward to the Yomim Noraim it is not unnatural for us to reflect on the year which has gone past. A year which has seen the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation acquire new premises, and shortly our community will move to its new home on the East Cliff.

We will leave behind memories both happy and sad, of people and of events, as we leave Wootton Gardens and go forward to our new home. However the move will ensure the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation will continue to flourish as a vibrant Jewish community.

Sadly at this time anti-semitism has appeared to be growing in this country. We are fortunate in Bournemouth to have some very staunch non Jewish supporters of the Jewish Community and of Israel. They have attended vigils and meetings, and reached out to us at the difficult times we have faced during the year.

Unfortunately the peace in Israel we all have prayed and longed for has not yet transpired. At the time of writing the Hostages have not yet been released, and we hope that their freedom will come soon.

May Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis and the Community be blessed with good health and happiness and that the New Year will bring peace to Klal Yisrael.

Mazaltov to our Chatanim Ivor Weintroub and David Harris and our Neshei Chayil Rhona Taylor and Anne Filer on their very well deserved honours. We are sure you are all an inspiration to others.

CORINNE REIN – Editor

ROSAMUNDE BLOOM – Assistant Editor

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The Editors of Ruach wish to state that the views expressed in articles are those of the contributors.

Contributions for the Chanukah edition to be received by 10th November 2025.

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ROSH HASHANAH 5786 (2025)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BETTINA GOULD

As I reflect on my first few months as Chair of this wonderful Kehilla, I feel a deep sense of honour and privilege at being entrusted with this role. Stepping into the position at the AGM in May, I have been continually inspired by the energy, dedication and warmth of our members.

It has been a time of both celebration and challenge — and above all a reminder of the resilience, unity and vibrancy of our community.

This summer we marked our historic 120th Anniversary with a full week of celebrations that truly reflected the breadth of our Kehilla. The Shul was alive with exhibitions, talks, guided tours and special services, alongside educational visits and community events that brought people together in learning and reflection.

From engaging speakers and cultural programmes to heritage displays and a memorable celebratory Kiddush, the week captured the essence of BCHC — vibrant, welcoming and rooted in tradition while looking confidently to the future.

Looking ahead to Simchat Torah, we are proud to honour:

Ivor Weintroub – *Chatan Torah*

David Harris – *Chatan Bereshit*

Rhona Taylor and Anne Filer – *Neshei Chayil*

This year, we will also posthumously honour Shiri Bibas o'h and her young sons Ariel z'l and Kfir z'l. Shiri's bravery during the Hamas attack on 7 October touched the Jewish world.

In remembering them, we stand with all the families of the hostages and victims and we continue to pray for the safe return of those still in captivity.

The transformation of our new premises on the East Cliff, is now well advanced, marking one of the most significant moments in the life of our Kehilla.

The refurbishment has been planned with great care to create a sacred and practical home for the congregation, one that blends our rich heritage with modern functionality.

Accessibility has been a guiding principle throughout. A new entrance ramp from Manor Road, level flooring, wheelchair-accessible entrances and upgraded restrooms will ensure that every area of the building can be reached with ease.

Clear sightlines within the synagogue, function room and entrance ways, together with a safe level outdoor area, will make social engagement and

participation more welcoming for all.

Assistive technologies, including hearing loops and improved signage, are also being introduced to support those with mobility or sensory needs.



The ground floor has been completely rebuilt, with new flooring, ceilings, lighting, heating and air conditioning. Natural light is being maximised, enhanced by creative lighting to bring a sense of space and inspiration both to the Shul itself and to the new multi-purpose function and resources room.

The Shul interior is being custom designed with comfortable modern seating — a prayer hall that combines a true 'wow' factor with a homely warmth.

Our memorial boards, Holocaust memorial and stained-glass windows are being sensitively integrated, while replicated light-box panels will add depth and offer new opportunities for dedication.

Communal spaces are also being renewed, with an upgraded kitchen, enhanced restrooms, improved office facilities and better storage, including for our shop. Technology has been modernised throughout.

Upstairs, the Shaare Tzedek Prayer Hall remains intact and refreshed, while the new resources room will support study and learning.

As we prepare to move from Wootton Gardens, our new home on the East Cliff will stand ready to welcome us.

This is not only a change of address but a renewal of spirit — ensuring BCHC continues to be a beacon of Jewish life in Bournemouth for generations to come.

To achieve this, we will be looking to our whole Kehilla for support. A major fundraising drive will be launched in the coming weeks and every member, friend and supporter will be invited to play a part.

Whatever the level, every contribution will help us furnish, equip and complete the building, ensuring it is ready to serve as a spiritual and communal home for all. Together, we can make our future as strong as our past.

Regarding the Mikveh, steady progress is being made to secure the future of the Bournemouth Women's Mikveh.

Our focus is on retaining the existing facility rather

than constructing a new one so that it continues to serve the wider Bournemouth community for years to come.

A special mention must go to Bob and Pat, our devoted caretakers, who have been at the heart of BCHC for over 25 years.

Always willing and always present, they have quietly gone above and beyond, ensuring the smooth running of countless events and day-to-day life at the Shul.

As they prepare to retire at the end of October just as we move to our new home, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their years of dedication and look forward to honouring them at a farewell Kiddush in September. They will always remain part of our BCHC family.

Alongside them, a heartfelt thank you goes to all our volunteers across the Kehilla. Week after week, so many of you give your time, energy and goodwill — sometimes in visible roles, and often quietly in the background — to make sure that BCHC continues to flourish. It is this willingness to step forward and give of yourselves that makes our Kehilla strong.

Your contribution, whether large or small, is invaluable and together you are the lifeblood of our community.

We also look forward to welcoming Phil Rosenberg, President of the Board of Deputies, to BCHC on the weekend of 19th–21st September, just before Rosh Hashanah.

This will be his second visit since last year and he will join us for Shabbat and address us in Shul, as well as address the community on the Sunday — a valuable opportunity for us to share our concerns and perspectives at a national level.

As we head towards the Yomim Noraim, our thoughts turn to the sacred days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur — a time for reflection, prayer and renewal.

We look forward to welcoming back Michael Rowe, who will be leading us over this period and adding his voice and spirit to our Tefillot.

It is also fitting that, before we move from Wootton Gardens, the Sephardi community will gather for their final communal meals in the building.

These shared moments remind us of the richness of our heritage and the strength we draw from joining together as one community.

In this year's Kol Nidrei Appeal, as usual we will divide the Appeal into four equal parts, supporting BCHC Chessed Fund/Bournemouth Jewish Social Services (BJSS), Macmillan Caring Locally Christchurch Hospital, Kisharon Langdon in London and Youth Aliyah Child Rescue in Israel.

These four causes reflect our commitment to helping those in need both within our Kehilla and beyond, and I encourage you to give generously.

And finally, we will shortly approach the end of an era at Wootton Gardens, and come together for one of the most significant weekends in our history — the final Shabbat in our beloved Shul.

On Shabbat 25th October we will daven together for the last time on Shabbat in this building, marking the close of 120 years of prayer and memory within its walls.

The following day, Sunday 26th October, promises to be unforgettable: our farewell concert followed by the Hachnosas Sefer Torah ceremony.

Internationally acclaimed performers Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld and Chazan Jonny Turgel, accompanied by Josh Nesbitt, will join us in celebration, making this a truly once-in-a-lifetime occasion.

Booking forms have already gone out to the community and we warmly encourage you to secure your seats by 30th September to be part of this historic farewell to Wootton Gardens.

At the time of writing, we remain deeply mindful of the hostages in Gaza and pray constantly for their safe return.

Their absence leaves an ache in the heart of Am Yisrael, felt as if they were our own family. PG, by the time you read this, our prayers will have been answered and we will rejoice together at their release.

On behalf of Keith and myself, we wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis, the Trustees, Executive and Board, all our Members, Volunteers and Friends of BCHC **שנה טובה** Shana Tova and **גמר חתימה טובה** Gmar Chatimah Tovah.

May you all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy and peaceful 5786 and for Am Yisroel.

Bettina Gould



Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5786

A few months ago, while recording some podcasts in Israel, I interviewed hostage campaigner Dalia Horn. Her family's pain is unimaginable: her brothers-in-law, Yair and Eitan, were both taken hostage by Hamas on October 7th. Yair, who was released after nearly five hundred days of unspeakable torture, shared a story with Dalia which she recalled during our conversation.

At one point during their captivity, the two brothers were forced to run for their lives through a tunnel deep beneath Gaza. Eitan collapsed. Broken and exhausted, he begged his brother to leave him behind. But Yair refused. He bent down and lifted him up, with two Hebrew words: "Achim anachnu" – "We are brothers".

After his release, Yair asked Dalia, "Who will be there to lift Eitan now, when I no longer can?"

Dalia's answer became her mission, and her message to the Jewish world: We are all brothers and sisters. And it is our responsibility to lift one another.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we read the story of the Akeidah – the binding of Isaac. In its aftermath, Hashem famously blesses Abraham: "I shall significantly increase the number of your offspring so they will be like the stars in the heavens above and like the sand which is by the seashore."

The Midrash asks: why both stars and sand? Both seem to symbolise incalculability – so what is the difference?

The answer is that stars are high, untouchable and secure. They represent the Jewish people in times of safety and strength. But sand is trampled underfoot. It symbolises us in our moments of danger, pain and vulnerability. And yet, this is part of a blessing. How so?

Because the reference here is not merely to "sand". It is "sand by the seashore". Wet, compact and pressed tightly together by the tide, the individual grains are bound together as one.

This was Hashem's deeper blessing: that even when we are under assault, when we feel trampled or cast aside, we will not scatter. We will draw together. We will hold each other up.

As we mark two years since the atrocities of October 7th – atrocities that have left deep scars across the Jewish world – we can reflect with pride not only on our survival, but on the way that we have stood together. We have felt the loneliness of facing down hatred, and the weight of grief and fear. And yet, like the sand on the shore, we have held firm, bound together by a heritage that is ancient, unshakable and sacred.

Achim anachnu: We are brothers. We are sisters. And we do not let one another fall.

As I write these words, Eitan Horn remains in Gaza. He is one of fifty whose families still await their return. May this Rosh Hashanah bring healing, strength and redemption. For our hostages, for our homeland, for every Jewish soul still waiting to be lifted and for everyone whose lives have been shattered during these exceptionally challenging times.

Shanah Tovah!

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



FROM RABBI LEWIS A MESSAGE FOR ROSH HASHANAH

THE IDEAS BEHIND THE FOODS WE EAT ON ROSH HASHANAH

The Gemora in the tractate of Kerisus (6a) states "Abaye said 'Now that you have said that an omen is significant, at the beginning of each year, each person should accustom himself to eat gourds, fenugreek, leeks, beets and dates...'"

Because of this Gemora, it is a custom to eat these listed foods, as well as other foods, which represent good things. (We will soon explore how exactly these foods are representative of good things.)

The issue that must first be addressed is why do we "indulge" in omens at the beginning of the year, on Rosh Hashanah?

As we will soon see, there are many, many different omens and customs. Why do we eat these foods on this occasion?

Rabbi Yehuda Prero explains that the goal of these omens is to act as a reminder. By eating all of these foods that have positive connotations, a person realizes that now is the time he needs to be asking for these good things, because now is the time he is being judged.

As soon as the person realizes that now is the time that he is being judged, he will realize that omens alone will not be enough for his salvation, and that repentance is needed.

Therefore, eating these omens, which are a reminder that now is the time for repentance, is extremely appropriate for Rosh Hashanah.

Another reason given for why we eat these "omens" has to do with the "spirit" of the holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

If one looks over the prayers on Rosh Hashanah one will find that the basic theme is one of proclaiming the kingship and greatness of Hashem.

Although Rosh Hashanah is the day on which we are being judged, we do not make requests for sustenance, health, long life, etc.

We instead demonstrate how we have accepted Hashem as our king, and that we will listen to Him and follow His dictates.

Yet, asking Hashem for one's needs really is not so far out of the realm of proclaiming the kingship of Hashem. By asking Hashem for our needs, we vividly illustrate the fact that Hashem is our superior, and that we depend on Him for everything.

In reality, if we asked Hashem for our needs, it would demonstrate how we are the subjects of Hashem, and that we have accepted Him as our king.

In order to reconcile these two realities, we have the omens. By eating these omens (and with some, saying the accompanying liturgy), we are covertly asking Hashem for our needs.



We do not want to do such blatantly, as that is not in the strict spirit of the day. However, as it does demonstrate that we have accepted Hashem as our king, and today is the day we are being judged, we "ask" Hashem that we be remembered for a good year in a fashion that is not outwardly a request.

2 The Omens Themselves

The foods mentioned by the Gemora all are omens because the food itself symbolizes a good or because their names connote or sound similar to words that indicate some sort of good thing.

These words are used in the liturgy which is said upon eating the food, known by its first two words "Yehi Ratzon..." "May it be your will..."

The first food that the Gemora mentions is gourds, or "K'ra." The word "K'ra" sounds both like the word for "read/proclaim" and the word for "tear." When we eat the gourd, there are two possible "Yehi Ratzons" that can be said.

The first goes "Yehi Ratzon milfanecha... _ sheyikaru'u lifanecha zechuyo'seinu" "May it be your will Hashem that our merits _ be read/proclaimed _ before you." The other is "...sheyikora g'zar de'nainu." "...that the decree of our sentence should be torn up."

There are varying customs as to this Yehi Ratzon, and a prevalent custom is to recite both endings together in one Yehi Ratzon.

The second food mentioned is "Rubia," or fenugreek. The word "Rubia" sounds like the word "yirbu," the word for "increase." We therefore say a Yehi Ratzon that contains the request "may...our merits increase."

The word for the third food, "Karsi," leeks or cabbage, sounds like the word "kares," "to cut off/destroy." We therefore say a Yehi Ratzon that asks "may... our enemies be destroyed."

The word for the fourth food, "Silka" or beets, sounds like the "siluk," meaning "removal." We

therefore say a Yehi Ratzon that requests "may our adversaries be removed."

The word for the fifth and final food "Tamri" or dates, sounds like the word "sheyitamu," "that they be consumed." Hence, we say a Yehi Ratzon that implores "may... our enemies be consumed."

Dip the Apple in the Honey

Another food that we eat is honey, because of its sweet taste. We dip Chalah and apples in honey. Upon eating the apple and honey, we say a Yehi Ratzon that beseeches from Hashem that "You (should) renew us for a good and sweet year."

Why do we eat apples? The Maharil explains that we find in Bereishis 27 that Yaakov disguised himself as Esav in order to "trick" Yitzchok, his father, into giving him the blessings of the first-born, which Esav had previously sold to Yaakov.

When Yaakov came close to Yitzchok, who was blind, Yitzchok noticed a sweet smell emanating from Yaakov.

Yitzchok commented (Bereishis 27:27) "See, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which Hashem has blessed."

He then continued to bless him with blessings of wealth and power. According to many

commentators, the "field which Hashem has blessed" refers to an apple field, and the smell of that apple field is also the smell of the Garden of Eden.

The Vilna Gaon continues to explain that this incident with the blessings occurred on Rosh Hashanah.

It is therefore fitting to eat an apple, a fruit whose smell is associated with the blessings of Yaakov (which were given on this day) as well as with the Garden of Eden, on the day on which we ourselves want blessings.

May we all be blessed that Hashem will make all our enemies disappear and all our captives return safely to their families and that this new year should be one of the sweetness of good health and happiness for our Bournemouth congregation and the whole community of Israel.

**RABBI ALAN &
REBBETZEN MIRIAM LEWIS**



A CALL FOR HELP AND INFORMATION

If you have family members or friends who are buried in Boscombe, Kinson or Throop then please help us to document their family connections and stories of their time in Bournemouth.

We have a team of people willing to help you complete a form online, on paper, or record an interview with you.

Without your help these stories will be lost.

For more information please contact

Barbara Lurie 07932 123116, barbara.lurie@bhcshul.co.uk or
Howard Freeman 07866 736640, howard.freeman@bhcshul.co.uk

The Living Stones Project Team



This has been a year of profound challenge, enduring resilience, and purposeful action.

Our community has continued to face challenges and anxiety.

We have seen a sickening rise in antisemitism after the attacks of 7th October 2023 and it has now been nearly two years that Jews have been subjected to increased levels of hate on our streets, online and in civil society.

Despite these challenges, I have seen extraordinary strength. From Manchester to Glasgow, Cardiff to London, I have spent time with proud and flourishing Jewish communities. We - the Jewish people - have resilience in our DNA.

Since my election as Board of Deputies President last year, we have identified five priorities for building a brighter future for our community and we have significant achievements in each area:

Fighting antisemitism

The *Commission on Antisemitism* – backed by the Prime Minister – is a review of anti-Jewish discrimination across public and professional life co-chaired by political heavyweights Lord John Mann and Dame Penny Mordaunt. They have produced a powerful report filled with practical recommendations. Our advocacy has led to a change in the law which will push protests away from our synagogues.

Standing up for peace and security in Israel and the Middle East

We have been campaigning tirelessly, for the hostages with weekly vigils in Westminster and Edinburgh, our Adopt a Hostage scheme, and campaigns at Sukkot, Chanukah and Pesach. We are working constantly to ensure our community's hopes for lasting peace and security for Israelis, Palestinians and the wider Middle East are heard by governments in the UK, Israel, the US, Arab states, and beyond.

Defending our religious freedoms

We are constantly working to ensure our religious freedoms are protected. Our revised *Employer's Guide to Judaism* is helping Jews in the workplace and we are working with other faith communities to have Judaism classified by government as an ethnicity as well as a religion, which will help ensure the protection of Jewish rights in all fields.

Making our community more united, inclusive, and outward-looking

Within weeks of my election, I launched with Muslim communities the *Optimistic Alliance* to tackle anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hatred; challenge extremism; support mainstream voices; and to defend shared religious freedoms.

Celebrating our faith, heritage, and culture as British Jews

Next year we will have our first British Jewish Culture Month – an uplifting celebration of our history, arts, and contributions to society. It's an opportunity to demonstrate who we are, where we have come from and to share our unique heritage.

In short, we need Less Oy, and More Joy!

May the coming year bring peace to our people and our world.

Wishing you and your families a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah.

Phil Rosenberg
President



MAZAL TOV TO OUR CHATAN TORAH

IVOR WEINTROUB

Thank you to the Executive, Trustees and Board for the honour of being Chatan Torah.

I was born on the 21 September 1946 (25 Ellul 5706) which means, if my calculation is correct that my Brit Milah, which was performed by my maternal grandfather, Rev. M. L. Gordon (z'l), who was a Chazan Shochet Mohel and Minister to the Southampton Hebrew Congregation, must have been on the Fast of Gedaliah. I did not realise the importance of my birth or the significance of my Brit Milah until much later. My mother Bertha o'h was a housewife and mother. My father, Sidney z'l, was a University lecturer Reader in Physics at Southampton University. Both of them kept an open home to visiting Jews, Jewish students and visiting Jewish dignitaries.

My father was the visiting chaplain to the prisons on the Isle of Wight and Winchester and was also chaplain to the Jewish Students for many years as well as being a President and Trustee to the Southampton Hebrew Congregation. I have a sister Judith, now B"H 88 this month, married to Jack with children and grandchildren. Until I was about 11 it was like having two mothers.

My childhood was pretty straightforward. I went to a Church of England primary school and was as far as I can remember the only pupil who didn't go to church. I then went to Taunton's Grammar School, which claimed Benny Hill and disgraced Post Office Minister, John Stonehouse as pupils. We were not encouraged to follow them, although Stonehouse performed his disappearing trick after I had left the school which is now a Sixth Form College. Neither event was connected. For five years I was the only Jewish boy at the school. This was not a disadvantage as I made many friends, never experienced any anti-Semitism and played Hockey for the school. Some of these friends I am still in contact with via email. One with whom I shared the rare experience of us both being judges in the same court. I enjoyed school where I developed a love for modern history.

After 'A' Levels, in 1965 I went to Birmingham University where I studied Law. The Jewish Community there was very hospitable, especially that of Pershore Road Synagogue. The University Jewish Society was strong of which I was for a time Vice-Chairman. Without doubt I enjoyed my University years. In my second year I was Publicity Officer for Rag Week, convincing a load of Physics students to perform a stunt that unfortunately shut the centre of the City down for a time and evacuation of the patients from the Dental Hospital that was then still in the centre. It was the year of the 67 War when after The Magic Roundabout the TV room in The Student Union was packed with Jewish and Arab students on the first day



awaiting the news. By the end of the bulletin there were only Jewish students left. Even then there was anti-Israel/Zionist propaganda on the campus, but nothing comparable to that which the students have to cope with now. I graduated in 1968 and embarked on qualifying to become a solicitor.

I was admitted in March 1971 becoming a partner in a small practice in Shirley Southampton which amalgamated with another in 1974, and from which two of my partners and I formed our own practice in 1981. After qualifying I met a Jewish student studying Physiology and Biochemistry, about which I knew very little, but everything else about her seemed very attractive.

I married Irene in 1975 at Finsbury Park Synagogue by the then Rev. Binstock and Rev. Malcolm Weiseman. The reception was at St Petersburg Place. A trip across the West End was taken in a Rolls Royce with lots of people waving at us. We started married life in a house in Calmore outside Totton. In our first year of marriage Southampton won the F.A. Cup and there was a drought although I cannot be sure that events were causative or consequential.

However I was then seriously ill, and Irene looked after me. I was lucky enough to have brilliant medical care. We were told after my treatment that it was uncertain whether children would happen. Within one month thereafter Nicola was on the way, followed three years later by twin boys Simon and Daniel.

I had alternated with my father by this time, as President and Secretary of Southampton Hebrew Congregation. Irene had been teaching the local children in the Cheder. In 1983 we realized that the move to Bournemouth was necessary for the Jewish environment of a much bigger Congregation. In January 1984 we settled in Bournemouth.

As a solicitor in practice I specialized in advocacy in criminal, divorce and children cases appearing in Magistrates and County Courts throughout Hampshire, occasionally in Dorset and the odd appearance elsewhere including London. In 1983 I was appointed a Deputy District Registrar of the High Court and County Courts (now district Judges) Although aware that I had been recommended by Judges for appointment I was not aware that I had been appointed until I received a phone call in my office from Winchester telling me I was sitting in Aldershot County Court the following week. Appointments are handled somewhat differently now!

After moving to Bournemouth Irene helped in Yavneh. I was elected to the Board after a couple of years, also then serving then on the security team. Irene and I chaired one half of the first Shul Aid group which ran a number of functions and was a great success for a number of years. It was quite surprising what could be done with a chicken dinner! In 1989 I was honored as Chatan Bereshit and then privileged to serve as Vice-

President to Arthur Appleton z'l. I first met Arthur at a conference with Counsel in Southampton, where he was serving pupillage to become a barrister. Arthur served tea. Arthur was one of the most literate and knowledgeable people that I have known, a true gentleman.

In 1980 until 1983, I assumed the role of President, with Stephen H. White serving as Vice-President. After two weeks, for better or worse, I had abolished top hats and the need to wear black jackets and pinstripe trousers in the box on Shabbat and dinner suits on Kol Nidre.

I also, along with Geoffrey Feld managed to secure agreement from Dorset County Council for the Congregation to purchase the land at Throop, now the Congregation's cemetery, the land having been previously identified by Sam Marks z'l and Stephen R White. With the agreement of the Board I also instructed Stephen R White to launch an appeal against the refusal of Bournemouth Borough Council to grant planning permission for the use of the land for a cemetery.

I gave evidence at the appeal which was conducted for us by Jonathan Fulthorpe of Counsel from Chambers in Southampton. The appeal succeeded and as a result of the generosity of Sam z'l and Hilda Marks o'h and Marilyn and Stephen H White and the design of Leon Taylor the Congregation has one of the finest land-scaped Jewish cemeteries in the country. During that time Rabbi Simon Harris was appointed Minister to the Congregation and then left us to become Chief Rabbi of Ireland. Reverend (now Rabbi) Shisler succeeded him and served the Congregation until 1990.

After my first term as President I was involved in a number of matters concerning the Shul and have continued to be so until now. I was again President in 1990 and a few times afterwards. At a Special General Meeting I persuaded the Congregation to appoint Reverend (now Rabbi) Rosenfeld as minister, he serving the Congregation for almost four years when he gave notice to me again as President to return to Marble Arch Synagogue.

In 2005 the Congregation celebrated its 100th Anniversary under my Presidency, the celebration dinner being in the Menorah Suite (now the Thelma Cowan Hall) where a number of past ministers, the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and the Mayors of the three Boroughs and other local dignitaries were present.

In 1990 I was responsible for rearranging the financial arrangements of the Congregation by merging the Bournemouth Hebrew Burial Society, a separate charity with the Congregation and for re-writing the second constitution. In 1993 I wrote a report on the future of the Congregation containing a number of recommendations, all of which have been implemented, and the main one recommendation now being on the brink of reaching fruition I was also responsible for making the Congregation into a corporate charity with a Constitution to fit.

In all the work I have done for the Congregation I have benefitted from the support of many members and

particularly when asked for successive Executive of the Ladies' Guild, now the Guild whose formation I had something to do with. Without the support of the Ladies and their Guilds the Congregation could not have celebrated the many Simchot it has and achieved so much.

I continued to practise as a solicitor in Southampton after the family moved to Bournemouth. In 1984 I was appointed to the newly formed specialist Law Society panels for representation of children in Care cases and mentally ill patients before Mental Health Review Tribunals. Some of the cases I appeared in make television drama look tame.

In 1992 I was appointed a District Judge of the High Court and County Courts initially sitting at Portsmouth. Then in 1998 transferred to Bournemouth. In 2003 I was appointed a Recorder (Deputy Circuit Judge) to sit on Crime Civil and Family work. As Recorder I sat in many courts on the Western Circuit.

I retired as full-time District Judge in 2013, but continued part-time as Recorder until 2016. During this time I obtained a Master's degree from Birmingham University, by distant learning in Military History. I did start a course for Ph.D at Southampton University at the History Department which was now situate in my old School, to research the effect of the Jewish Revolt on British Society but had to stop due to a number of unfortunate health matters.

However I then started running history courses for U3A until 2024 in which a number of subjects were covered, from the American Civil War, Zionism and campaigns in the Second World War.

I have enjoyed my career and serving this wonderful Congregation as Vice-President, President, Honorary Life President and Trustee.

It has been a pleasure particularly to see the achievements of the Executive and Board in moving the Congregation to its new site on the East Cliff. I have been quite happy to step back and watch others assume the mantle of running this wonderful kehilla, and will further retreat in the coming year

None of the work I have done would have been possible without the support of my wife, Irene who not only surrendered the prospects of a career in her chosen field to look after me when in ill-health but to keep the home and care for our children who also had to put up with so much because of 'Shul business'.

My daughter Nicola learnt for her Bat Mitzvah in the Shul and the boys shared their Bar Mitzvah in the Shul. Irene achieved so much on computing, writing the Congregation's first data-base, teaching in the Cheder; taking the lead of the Israeli dancing group after Natalie Rosenfeld left, until her own ill-health stopped her doing so.

Irene and I wish the Congregation much success in its new home on the East Cliff, and congratulate all those responsible for facilitating the move. May the Congregation grow and thrive there.

MAZAL TOV TO OUR CHATAN BEREISHIT

DAVID HARRIS



I was born into a traditional, observant home in Cheetham Hill in Manchester's Pale of Settlement. When I was ten, my parents and I moved to the more salubrious suburb of Prestwich and I went to Bury Grammar School, an ancient seat of learning to the north of Manchester. My older brother, Geoffrey, however, having qualified as a doctor, went to work in Israel for a year. As a teenager, I was a madrich in Bnei Akiva, sang in the choir of the Holy Law Synagogue, and watched Manchester United and Lancashire CCC. I played football, cricket, tennis and the piano but the latter demanded practise, so I retired, something I have come to regret. Nonetheless, I did play the piano in The H2SO5, the worst pop group known to humankind.

From age eight until just after my bar mitzvah, I attended Balkind's cheder, a unique institution whose principal and proprietor, Reb Yonah Balkind, was an amazing character about whom I could write a book. Following cheder, I attended Manchester Yeshivah thrice weekly but I didn't last very long. Yeshivah study is very challenging and, me being me, I found something easier elsewhere.

Seven months after my bar mitzvah, we suffered a massive blow when my dad had an unexpected and fatal coronary. At thirteen, when I needed a father so much, I, alone among my friends, suddenly found that I didn't have one. Geoffrey was married and living in London and although I had uncles and a grandfather, nobody could replace a father. Also, my mum now had to single-parent a stropky teenager. However, we managed and after A Levels it was off to London to study.

In the summer of '67, before my aliyah to London, I went to Bournemouth with a couple of friends. One had a girlfriend staying at the Majestic Hotel and visiting one afternoon, we met Londoner Vivien whom the girlfriend had befriended. Vivien and I became friends, which friendship led to our chuppah in Kingsbury Synagogue in August 1972.

My carefree student years included serving as Education Officer on the IUJF (Inter University Jewish Federation) executive but eventually the spectre of employment had to be faced. Vivien and I were engaged, I needed a job and what do you do with a degree in English? During my undergraduate years, I'd taught in Hebrew classes. I quite enjoyed that so I decided on a teaching career, enrolling on the newly created PGCE course and, in September 1972, I stepped into the classroom for real, teaching English and some History to the boys of Lascelles Secondary Modern in Harrow.

Lascelles wasn't a bad place to cut my teeth and after five terms I left for a promoted post at Mellow Lane School, an 11-18, mixed comprehensive, near Uxbridge. There it was that I trod the boards for the first time, playing Mr Bumble in "Oliver!". Bitten by the bug, I would reprise Mr Bumble elsewhere and play other parts including Jack in "The Importance of Being Earnest" and the Defendant in "Trial by Jury". I also sang in various staff choirs and in the massed choir of Harrow schools. After four very happy years, I left Mellow Lane to be Head of the English Department at Park High School, a 12-16 mixed comprehensive in Stanmore and I remain

very proud of what that department achieved.

In 1986, I joined JFS as a Deputy Headteacher. The school had just taken the revolutionary step of appointing a female Headteacher, the "redoubtable" Jo Wagerman, and she laid the foundations for JFS becoming the number one choice for London's Jewish parents. I loved JFS - remaining there for the rest of my career - and it was a privilege to serve it. Being involved in the establishment of the School in its new home in Kenton was especially exciting and stimulating. (We also demonstrated excellent judgement in appointing a certain Vivien Harris as Recruitment Officer).

Vivien and I moved to Kenton in 1977 and, over the years, I've been synagogue Vice Chair, chaired the Adult Education Committee and acted as a "lay minister" to a Youth Service of around 170 young people. I also lein and daven and have the privilege of leading the congregation for nei'lah and leining Megilat Esther - tutor Rabbi Geoffrey Shisler, formerly of both Kenton and Bournemouth. (The silly megillah voices, however, are original). I was involved in creating a monthly Shabbat hashkamah (early morning) minyan which lasted almost twenty-five years until Lockdown and departures saw it off and, a few years ago, I started a monthly programme of speaker visits, SNAK (Sunday Night at Kenton). En passant, the SNAK programme benefitted from my Bournemouth contacts. During Lockdown, SNAK went onto Zoom and the most successful event, by some distance, was when Geoffrey Feld spoke about Bournemouth's kosher hotels. And in pre-Covid times, I had the pleasure of interviewing Michael Feedland z"l when he came to Kenton and shared in front of a sell-out audience his choice of Desert Island Discs. We were going to repeat that in Bournemouth but events overtook us when Michael was so sadly and suddenly taken from us.

Our son, Daniel, was born in Kenton in 1979, attending Sinai Primary School (where, for three years, I chaired the PTA), followed by JFS and Cambridge. In November, we shall be celebrating our granddaughter, Maya's bat mitzvah. Her teacher says she doesn't wind him up as much as her father did!

We've always loved Bournemouth and, in 2015, we bought our flat in Hinton Wood. Since then we've tried to spend as much time here as possible and I've been delighted to help out with leining and davening. I play table tennis at the shul and join Hayley's keep fit class when possible. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, I volunteer at the Heritage Centre at Willesden Jewish Cemetery, teach "The Greatest Hits of English Literature" at U3A and play badminton and tennis, table tennis and pickleball.

In conclusion, I want to wish Ivor, Anne and Rhona a hearty mazal tov on this occasion. I also want to thank most sincerely those responsible for choosing me for this honour; I feel seriously humbled. Vivien has been a constant source of support, and I owe her everything. And finally, finally, let's hope we can all look forward to peace in Israel and a Shanah Tovah U'm'tukah, a Sweet, Healthy and Happy New Year.

MAZAL TOV TO OUR ESHET CHAYIL

RHONA TAYLOR



I am now very old. I was, of course, once very young. Born in 1936, I have always lived in Bournemouth. My maternal grandparents arrived in 1919 for a holiday after World War One, decided to open a drapery shop here and never returned to live in the East End where they had settled after arriving from Russia in 1899.

My father's family came from Poland, although one of six, he was born in Britain. His older brother opened "The Trouville Hotel" in the 1920s, the second Jewish hotel to open in Bournemouth. There was one shul here, Wootton Gardens. From the 1920s the Jewish community flourished. I am proud to belong to one of the longest established families here. Most of the local families were in business, shopkeepers, of course, mainly in the fashion and fur trade. The children stayed and went into the family business.

In 1940 my father joined the Royal Navy, became a Stoker 1st Class on a destroyer, and served the war in the North Atlantic on Russian Convoys. (Horror upon horrors!). During the war my family lived in the three apartments above the family business at the Lansdowne, a Confectioners and Tobacconists, now the Post Office. I went first to St Pauls school, when we moved to Boscombe, to St Johns school and then age 11, to Bournemouth School for Girls. Cheder was held in the Beth Hamidrash in the Gertrude Preston Hall.

Despite very many service personnel being billeted in hotels along the cliff tops in Bournemouth during World War 2, we were never evacuated. I was playing with a friend in our garden when during a bombing raid over Bournemouth on 23rd May 1943 the Metropole Hotel at the Lansdowne was hit. Sadly around 60 young Canadian servicemen and plus some of other nationalities as well as civilians lost their lives that day. It felt wrong that no memorial had been erected in their memory and was pleased to join a committee who wanted to ensure they were not forgotten. It was with sadness but pride we finally achieved this and on the 70th Anniversary of this tragic event a Stone of Remembrance was unveiled at the Lansdowne, directly opposite our former shop.

When the war was over three young ex servicemen who had returned to Bournemouth started the 5705 (1945) youth club in the shul hall (now the Gertrude Preston Hall) I was too young to join as you had to be 16. How I longed to be 16! The Bournemouth Jewish community thrived, with many families moving here. We had three Kosher butchers would you believe!

At last I was eligible and it became my social life. We put on plays, talks and of course dances. We had 7 teams in the local Table Tennis League, we played badminton, and after every Wednesday evening we all went to the Swiss Restaurant (now Classic Eyes) for coffee – the latest mishugas. From 1945 to the late 1950s there were about sixty marriages came from meetings at "the club", including my sister who met her husband, Herbert, a Kindertransport refugee, there.

It was the era of the Bournemouth Jewish hotels who were very hospitable to us, allowing us to join their Saturday night dances, especially in the winter, probably to lower the average age of their visitors, and liven up the dance floor. In summer the hotels were packed with families and their teenagers swelled the numbers at the 5705.

When I was about 17, I had an electric portable record player – wow! Jive had just become the thing and we needed it at the club to play records as the one at the club had worn out. I was happy to lend mine but how to get it to the club each Wednesday? To the rescue came a knight in shining armour or in his case a Morris Minor Traveller car which he shared with his brother. So every Wednesday he collected the gramophone and me.

My parents were very protective, which was not unusual at the time, and whenever I had been out in the evening had to report back as to where I had been and who I had been with. Would you believe it when I was 20 I started going out with my knight. On our first date we decided to go where no one would see us and decided on a dance hall in Boscombe! How wrong we were! His cousin, probably doing the same thing saw us. Arriving home quite late and went to report to my mother where I had been she told me exactly where I had been – my knight's cousin had told his mother, who phoned her sister in law, (my knight's mother) who phoned her friend who was also a friend of my mother, who phoned her. You couldn't do a thing without the whole town knowing.

As the years passed teenagers no longer joined their family business but went away to university and did not return to Bournemouth. The Jewish hotels gradually closed as travel abroad, especially to Israel became easier. In common with most youth clubs 5705 had served its purpose and became history.

My knight, Leon, proposed when I was 21. A year later we were married in Wootton Gardens Shul and Thank G-d we are still together almost 70 years later and have three children Stephen, Geoffrey and Sally and five grandchildren.

After leaving school I went to secretarial college and then worked in an insurance company. I left that job and, following our marriage, joined Leon's family firm with its furrier and dress shops on Westover Road. Within 3 weeks I was "enrolled" as a member of the Ladies Guild by the indomitable Mrs Freda Saipé o"h and Mrs Bella Sanis o"h.

I feel privileged to have served on the committee of this remarkable charitable organisation for so many years, acting as its secretary and eventually being elected as a Trustee and then Life President.

My sincere thanks to the Executive and Trustees for giving me this special honour. Together with Leon I wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis and the community a happy and healthy New Year, and peace to all Israel.

MAZAL TOV TO OUR ESHET CHAYIL

ANNE FILER



I was born on Friday 13th April 1945, a month before the end of World War II, the first child for Sonia and Peter Packer and first grandchild for Betty Kasmir, whose husband Harry is commemorated in the trio of beautiful stained glass windows in Wootton Gardens for the work he did for our Shul. Betty and Harry moved to Bournemouth in 1917, during the First World War, and were very much part of the fledgling Jewish Community in those early days. Their three children, Doris, Sonia and John were all born in Bournemouth, making me a second generation Bournemouth "Sabra".

During the war, Bournemouth was a closed town, the beaches were covered in barbed wire, and the piers had been deliberately destroyed to prevent the Germans from invading. My mother's father died suddenly during the war, and Betty moved into the Kosher East Cliff Manor Hotel, where there were many other Jewish families, some of whom had been bombed out of London and other large cities.

It was there that my father, a newly qualified dentist from Chatham, Kent met my mother, they married when she was just nineteen years old and a year later, I was born. I was brought up in Moy Domic, the Kasmir family house in Boscombe, with my grandmother, my sisters Lesley and Elizabeth and our life at home was definitely chaotic. Moy Domic means "My little house" in Ukrainian, my grandma having been born in Odessa.

Despite my father's hope that I would follow him into dentistry, I was a good linguist and hopeless at sciences – and I knew academia wasn't for me. And so I spent some months perfecting my French at the Sorbonne in Paris, followed by a secretarial course, and then found my dream job at Vogue Magazine, in Hanover Square, at the height of Swinging London.

Jewish life in Bournemouth in the 1960's was fantastic – there were so many young people, Bnai Brith Youth Organisation started up when I was thirteen with well over one hundred members and many of its alumni have become eminent Jewish leaders.

And the icing on the cake was the plethora of Kosher hotels, which filled up all year round with young Jewish boys and girls from all around Britain. These hotels all had resident bands, and tolerated us local youngsters coming in to join their guests. It was enormous fun and introduced me to friends I still keep in contact with today.

I met my wonderful husband Michael at a party, soon after I started working at Vogue. The Filer family are from Portsmouth and as soon as I met him, I knew that he was the one for me – thus, he had little chance to escape! We were married in Wootton Gardens by Rabbi Indech in 1965, and the guest Chazzan for our ceremony was Portsmouth's Rev. Israel Cohen, whose operatic singing entranced us all. Soon afterwards, he moved to BHC in Bournemouth and enhanced our services for so many happy years.

Michael was always a political animal and within a few

years he was elected to Bournemouth Council. I was not in the least interested in politics and my role was to raise our four children, Lucy, Katy, Sam and Sadie. Michael became Mayor of Bournemouth in 1984/1985 and soon afterwards he retired from the Council to concentrate on his career.

Outside of politics, Michael was a very keen sportsman, with cricket his main love. He was eagerly pounced upon by Alan Argeband z"l of

the excellent 5705 Cricket Team and our summer Sundays were spent all around Dorset in battle with the village cricket teams. A highlight was when the Bournemouth 5705 team became the first foreign cricket team to tour Israel, in 1969 – this was my first visit to Israel and I absolutely adored our wonderful country.

Combining politics and our love for Israel brought Michael and me to deciding to invite Netanyahu to become our Twin Town. And that connection has continued to this day. I have organised over twenty twinning visits to Netanyahu, including councillors, religious leaders, business people, academics, artists and musicians, hoteliers and all have been a resounding success and given us many staunch friends amongst people who would otherwise not had the opportunity to see Israel in depth.

Towards the end of the 1990's we both felt our lovely Bournemouth was being very badly run and Michael was itching to get back on the Council. By now, our family were grown and I decided to stand for the East Cliff ward with him. I was elected – and still represent this wonderful area of Bournemouth today, having been lucky enough to have been the first woman to be elected to the high office of Mayor twice – in 2007 and again in 2023. I really believe that party politics have no place in local council work and it really grieves me to see how political infighting is destroying so much of what we love about our town.

I am a true child of this Congregation and I love it. I sit in Shul and feel the shades around me of all those beloved people now departed, who did so much to build our Congregation. I remember Kol Nidre nights with the ladies in evening gowns and the men all in top hats and dinner jackets. I remember how impossible it was to find a seat in Shul for Yom Tov. I remember how many children there were, how there was always a boy eager to recite Anim Zmirot. How the rising tide of chatter from the Ladies' Gallery was met with a loud Shusssh from downstairs.

How it has all changed. Yes, it is a shame that we are leaving Wootton Gardens, but our Congregation has changed beyond recognition and how exciting it is for us to have a new beginning in a much more appropriate location.

I thank the Executive and Trustees for this great honour, and together, may we go from strength to strength.

Together with Michael I wish Rabbi Alan and Rebbetzen Lewis and the Community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



PROGRAMME CLOSING 31ST OCTOBER 2025

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HONOURING SHIRI BIBAS o"h, ARIEL z"l AND KFIR z"l

At Simchat Torah each year, our Kehilla pauses to recognise individuals whose lives reflect dedication, love of Torah, and service to the community. This year, alongside our Chatanim and Neshei Chayil, we are bestowing a special and unusual honour — one given posthumously.

We remember Shiri Bibas o"h together with her two young children, Ariel z"l and baby Kfir z"l, who were taken in the horrific events of 7 October 2023. For long months we prayed and hoped for their safe return, only to learn the devastating truth of their fate. In that same attack, Shiri's devoted parents, Margit o"h and Yossi Silberman z"l, were also murdered. The family now rest together in Israel, bound in Eternity.

The world knows Shiri as the "lioness mother," clutching her two red-headed boys in an image that has come to symbolise both love and defiance in the face of evil. Yet that one terrible moment is not all she was.

Those closest to her remember a modest and gentle woman who valued her privacy, never posting a photo of her children, and who would have been embarrassed by the fame thrust upon her.

She grew up in Kibbutz Nir Oz, and chose to remain there with her husband Yarden, building a home filled with music, laughter and love. Their bond was like something from a fairy tale — full of humour, playfulness and devotion.

Together they brought Ariel and Kfir into the world, both crowned with the family's unmistakable ginger hair.

Shiri was deeply connected to her sister Dana, and to her parents. Like them, she had a strong artistic sense. She delighted in creating events for the kibbutz and making costumes for her children. She was a loyal friend, known for her warmth, honesty and humour — whether in serious conversations or simple moments of laughter. Her positive energy and thoughtful perspective left those around her uplifted and inspired.

She also had her passions: a love for Robbie Williams that led her to buy a ticket to his concert in Israel even while pregnant with Kfir, determined to treat herself no matter what; and, true to her Argentinian roots, a joy in family gatherings around well-cooked meat.

These details paint a picture not only of her courage in tragedy but of her vibrant spirit in life — a devoted mother, wife, daughter and friend who lived with kindness, loyalty and quiet strength.



Shiri Bibas o"h with her children

To honour Shiri as Eshet Chayil is to recognise all of this: her bravery in shielding her children, her goodness in daily life, and her unwavering devotion to family.

The choice to remember Shiri, Ariel and Kfir at Simchat Torah carries particular resonance. On this festival we complete the Torah and begin again from Bereishit. It is a reminder that even as chapters end, the story of our people continues.

Though their lives were cut short, their memory becomes part of the greater story of Am Yisrael — a people who endure, who rebuild, and who hold fast to faith and to life.

By remembering them in this way, we also embrace all the hostages who have lost their lives, and those who remain in captivity.

As a community, we continue to pray for their release, and for strength for the families who wait in anguish for their return.

May the memory of Shiri, Ariel and Kfir, together with Margit and Yossi, be an everlasting blessing.

May their love, their courage and their resilience inspire us to live with hope, with unity and with faith in the future.

יְהִי זִכְרָם בָּרוּךְ – Yehi zichram baruch – May their memories be a blessing

BETTINA GOULD

OUR NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2025-2026

Congratulations to our new Board Management who took office following the AGM of the Synagogue, which took place on 18th May 2025.

HON LIFE PRESIDENT & TRUSTEE	Stephen H White	CHAIR	Bettina Gould
HON LIFE PRESIDENT & TRUSTEE	Ivor Weintroub	JOINT VICE CHAIRS	Marilyn Dexter & Simon Pinner
TRUSTEE	Mahir Ozdamar	WARDENS	Jonathan Marriott & Ellard Roberts
HON LIFE PRESIDENT	Geoffrey Feld		

Executive Committee

Lucy Avissar	Chessed/Guild Liason	Len Ostrove	Israel/BAFI Education
Mandy Glazer	Kiddush/Functions House	Corinne Rein	Fund Raising
Mark Glazer	Chair Relocation Committee	Paul Solomons	
Simon Lurie		<i>Board of Deputies Representative</i> Marilyn Keen	



Stephen H White



Ivor Weintroub



Mahir Ozdamar



Geoffrey Feld



Bettina Gould



Marilyn Dexter



Simon Pinner



Jonathan Marriott



Ellard Roberts



Lucy Avissar



Mandy Glazer



Mark Glazer



Simon Lurie



Len Ostrove



Corinne Rein



Paul Solomons



Marilyn Keen

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

SINCE 119th AGM (19th MAY 2024)

Full Members

Mr Derek Gold
Mrs Pearl Harris

Mr Harvey and Mrs Miriam Mozer

LAUNCH OF 120th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

The opening ceremony for the commemorations took place on Wednesday, 16th July 2025, which corresponded to the Hebrew date of 20th Tammuz when the shul was founded in 1905.

Rabbi Alan Lewis and Life President Ivor Weintroub both spoke on the incredible history of Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation, of the outstanding achievement and devoted service of the founders of the community and the by those leaders who have followed them.

At that time women could not take part in the

running of the shul, but by 1918 a group of women had organised the Bournemouth Hebrew Ladies Guild whose initial purpose was concentrating on visiting the sick and needy, and raising funds for their support, and whose charitable works continue to this day.

Both referred to the exhibition displayed on all the walls of the Thelma Cowan Hall put together by Loraine Berlyn and



Loraine with board showing her grandfather, Rabbi Indech z"l



Marilyn White, Loraine Berlyn and Bettina Gould cutting the ribbon



Ivor speaking



Rabbi Alan Lewis speaking

Marilyn White, which since its opening has been viewed by hundreds of people at events in the hall and at every Kiddush on Shabbat.

CORINNE REIN

Three days later on Shabbat, after the service, a Celebratory Kiddush was held in the Thelma Cowan Hall. It gave people, including a number who had spent their youth in Bournemouth, an opportunity of viewing the Exhibition and enjoying finding themselves, their family and friends from past years displayed there. Fond memories were revived and, in some instances, friends were reunited.

The following day after Shacharit the celebrations continued with a Big Bagel Breakfast, when the diners, who in addition to bagels, enjoyed a wide variety of fare, including smoked salmon, eggs, dips fruit and cakes.

The Big Bagel Breakfast





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**We wish Family, Friends and the whole BCHC,
Chag Sameach Umetukah.**

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120th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Joint Bournemouth Action For Israel and Council of Christian and Jews Event

As part of the 120th Anniversary celebrations, we were delighted to be joined by nearly 100 people from across the local community, taking the opportunity to have a guided tour around the shul before we move, and to hear speakers from across the community who are very supportive of Israel as well as the local Jewish community.

Following an introduction from Rabbi Lewis smaller groups then toured the synagogue. My thanks to our very capable tour guides, Rabbi Lewis, Eric Kurt, Stephen H White and Adrian Levey, who talked about the main features of the synagogue chamber, including our beautiful stained-glass windows.

At the end of the tour, Rabbi Lewis, with the able assistance of Eric, took a Sefer Torah onto the bimah and explained the background of the hand-written parchments and their significance to our religious services.

Moving to the Thelma Cowan Hall Peter Malpass (Chair of CCJ) in his introduction and welcome included details of the Parkes Institute, who had loaned us their fascinating "Wandering Jew" exhibition, and to Bishop Adrian Glover, who read Psalm/Tehillim 133, which was a very timely and fitting expression of unity and brotherly love.

We then heard from Bishop Elaine Glover, regarding her recent trip to Israel, and Henry Schachter (OBE), who shared his memories of the shul, and how a chance meeting with Josephine Jackson had led to him sharing his experiences, with schools, of being a hidden child with a Christian family during the Holocaust.

Stephen H. White then spoke about his work with Crisis in Israel (Bournemouth). Following a couple of his recent experiences of antisemitic behaviour, he voiced our widespread concerns regarding the upcoming motion to suspend the twinning arrangement with Netanya and urged everyone to email their local councillors. He echoed Bishop Elaine's closing words, that we need to build bridges between communities and not foster division.

Lastly, our keynote speaker, Erika Lindsay, spoke about her work (along with husband, Martin) with the Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA) and her other efforts in this area, including close liaison with Dorset Police. Erika covered the various local challenges we face, starting with the motion to end the twinning arrangement with Netanya (NB: As some of you will now know, after this the motion did not succeed and Bournemouth continues to be twinned with Netanya).

She then gave an insightful overview of what can be done, both locally and nationally, to combat antisemitism and stand up for Israel.

Following some excellent questions, Bettina thanked all our speakers for their outstanding speeches, and I would add my thanks to Bettina for all her tremendous support, and to Lynda Ford-Horne and Adrian Levey for their help prior to the event. Lastly, many thanks to Rabbi Lewis for all his support.

LEN OSTROVE



Rabbi Lewis addressing attendees



Stephen White at beginning of event after the tours



Adrian Levey speaking to his group



Groups assembling in Sanctuary

120th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

"Wandering Jew" Exhibition, Cream Tea and Video Presentation.



Charlie Knight speaking to audience

We were privileged to be joined by Charlie Knight PhD from the Parkes Institute of the University of Southampton, who gave an insightful presentation on the "Wandering Jew" Exhibition (on loan from Parkes), and on Refugees of the Holocaust, which included a fascinating lady with a very special local connection, Jeanette Franklin Kohn (1888 – 1974).

In 1933 while living in Bournemouth she assisted with bringing hundreds of Jewish-German children to safety. If that was not enough, Jeanette was a gifted sculptress and, in her youth, an active suffragette!

The full "Wandering Jew Exhibition" can be found online at <https://thewanderingjewexhibition.co.uk>.

Charlie, who had travelled down from London for the day, took some very thoughtful questions and comments from the packed audience.

Many thanks to Charlie, and also to Anoushka Alexander-Rose PhD, who created the exhibition and arranged for its temporary loan from Parkes for the 120th Anniversary Week.

After all that intellectual stimulation, we then moved on to our delicious cream tea and watched Loraine Berlyn's superb video presentation with greetings and recollections from past and present members of BHC.

In addition to hearing from many community members, there were also contributions from Chief Rabbi Mirvis KBE, Rabbi Lionel and Rebbetzen Natalie Rosenfeld, and, of course, our own Rabbi Alan and Rebbetzen Miriam Lewis.

Our thanks to Loraine Berlyn for all her hard work in putting the superb video together, and to Bettina



Jeanette Kohn displayed on screen



Viewing Part of exhibition

for her overall management of this event, and indeed, the whole week's splendid programme.

LEN OSTROVE

BOURNEMOUTH COMMUNITY HEBREW CONGREGATION



**The last chance to see our beautiful Synagogue
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followed by

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Tickets will be allocated on receiving a donation. Final Date for booking – 30 September 2025

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF THE WOOTTON GARDENS PRAYER HALL

Since the Prayer Hall was given a Grade II Heritage Listing in October 2018, it has been my pleasure to host annual tours every September (except the Covid years of 2020 and 2021), sharing the architecture and symbolism of our beautiful Shul with groups of mainly non-Jewish visitors. As we prepare to re-locate elsewhere, the final tours take place this September.

Many of our congregants have had mixed feelings

about leaving the building, particularly those who have dedicated stained glass windows to their family members.

Although it is not possible to include all of them we felt it would be a fitting tribute to include photos of some of those windows in this the last edition of Ruach to be published from Wootton Gardens.

ANNE OZDAMAR



SYNAGOGUE PRAYER HALL: Stained glass window above Ark. From the original building, relocated from the original building which was opened on this site in 1911.

We apologise if your family window is not included, but possibly in the future we can include it and a reference to the part they played in the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation.

However we hope you will enjoy a selection of them as a poignant reminder of how their exquisite designs silently increased our enjoyment of services in Wootton Gardens.

Corinne Rein



"In loving and Devoted memory of my dear wife Anne. Presented by her husband, Solly Field"



"In everlasting memory of my dear parents. Presented by their son Simon Henry Ritterband"



"Harry Kasmir. To Honour his memory. Presented by his son John, daughters Doris and Sonia"

"Harry Kasmir. Rendered valuable service to this Community. By the Executive and Committee"

"Harry Kasmir. In loving memory of my dear husband. Presented by Betty Kasmir"



"Presented in loving memory of Patricia Lassman and Barry Cole by their joined families Judy. Brian. Jeremy. Timothy. Anthony. Philip. Sophie. March 29th 1997"



"In loving and devoted memory To my dear wife Sylvia. Presented by Sam Sussman"



"In memory of Eric John Barnett died on active service June 30th 1944 5705. "In a soldiers grave, in a foreign land, lies one we love so dear." Devoted son of Dolly Barnett and dear brother of Herbert"

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★ ★ MAZAL TOV! ★ ★

The wedding of Sophia Rein, daughter of David and Diane Rein, granddaughter of Corinne Rein, to Akiva Solomon son of Eliezer Shlomovich and Johanna Bork Shlomovich, took place at The Rockleigh, in Rockleigh, New Jersey USA on 22nd June 2025.



The wedding of Asher Dworkin son of Colin and Karen Dworkin, grandson of Gerald and Celia Dworkin, to Rikki Yellon daughter of Avi and Ruthie Yellon took place at Ponsbourne Park, Herts on 8th of June 2025.



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THE END OF AN ERA

When Reverend, now Rabbi, Lionel and Natalie Rosenfeld came to Bournemouth in 2001, they brought with them the joy of singing and dancing. Lionel brought us the beautiful services, and Natalie taught us to dance.

Dancing was her passion, and she wanted to share it with us. There were about 25 ladies who came to the early sessions, and we started with Nigun Atik, walking round in a circle for five steps, then stopping and doing four claps to the right, and four claps to the left, repeat. At the end of the session, we were all hooked! Tuesday night became dancing night and nothing was allowed to interfere.

When Rabbi Lionel and Natalie left Bournemouth, Irene Weintroub took over. I have the greatest admiration for people who are able to look at a video and understand how to dance from a screen. For most of us, we require 3D to learn a dance, and as for knowing our right from our left, most of us struggled, spinning off in the wrong direction.

We originally had two classes, one for Beginners/Intermediate, and one for Advanced. Whilst Irene led the Advanced and learnt the new dances for us, I taught the Beginners/Intermediate and passed on the dances that I'd learnt from Irene.

Even after Natalie left Bournemouth she would return every few weeks on a Tuesday evening to teach us new dances and there were a couple of occasions when a group of us visited Natalie at Marble Arch Shul on a Sunday for Rikudei Am in their hall followed by a meal in a kosher restaurant.

We mastered over 100 dances and as part of the Shul's centenary celebrations we held a special evening and danced 100 dances for 100 years.

We had several public performances, mostly on Yom Ha'atzmaut where we became a regular part of the entertainment. Such was our popularity that we entertained at the New Ambassador Hotel one Tuesday evening at the request of a JACS group from London who were staying there. One Purim, I had a group of men on the stage, dressed as women and performing one of our dances, much to the amusement of the audience. One year, Irene and I did a performance of "Toy", which had just won the Eurovision Song Contest for Israel with Netta.

Obviously, the numbers dropped off for various reasons, but there was a core of about fifteen of us who have kept going for decades.

We even continued during Covid lockdowns, dancing in our living rooms with Zoom! It was an interesting concept but we made it work.

One of the plus sides of learning Rikudei Am was



Irene Weintroub, Rosamunde Bloom, Lise Rossano, Marilyn Dexter, Hillary Harth and Andrea Harris

for those of us visiting Israel we were able to join in with the dancing whether we were in Eilat, Tel Aviv or Jerusalem when the classes are very often held outdoors. It is a national hobby there and people of all ages join in, even the men!

Like so many other things, post Covid saw a drop in numbers. We merged the two classes and we did keep going, our motto was that if we could form a circle, we would dance.

When we started having our Shul winter services in the Menorah Suite, we were displaced up to the Gertrude Preston Hall and we had to settle in to new surroundings. Sadly, as the years have passed, the numbers have dwindled. Most people have stopped due to ill health. The will didn't go, but the ability did. When Irene had to give up, Beverley Smith took over and she has kept us going.

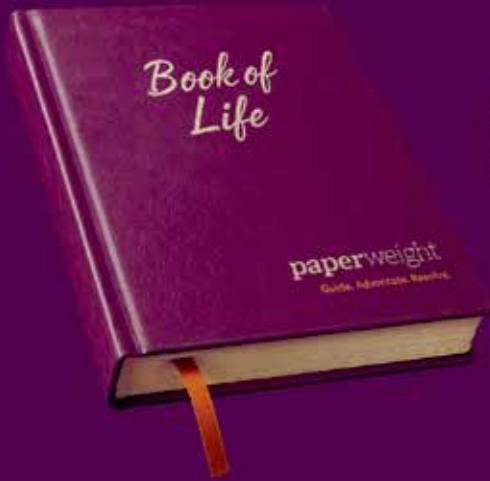
In recent years, we have gone down to three of us, with an occasional four. Beverley decided that it wasn't enough participants. It was more of a triangle than a circle. So we came to the sad decision to end it all.

On 13th May, 2025, I sent out a message to our What's App group to tell them that Rikudei Am in Bournemouth is no more. Everyone was sad but understanding.

As the Shul moves to our new home in November, perhaps we might then be able to consider a monthly dancing session if Beverley would be willing. Perhaps the era hasn't quite ended, who knows

MARILYN DEXTER with additional information from ROSAMUNDE BLOOM

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MY ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Despite all the on-going difficulties in Israel Pearl Dale worked this summer as a volunteer at a children's facility there. Her thoughts are below.



The buggy/pram park at the kindergarten

It is a late summer morning in Kiryat Moshe on the outskirts of central Jerusalem. From a bright blue cloudless sky, the sun shines with intense heat. It is 9am. In the quiet religious neighbourhood, most parents have gone to work.

The last of their young children are being delivered to Emunah Child Day Care Centre. The gated three storey building's courtyard has been transformed into a pushchair park.

The Day Care Centre was a gift to young families of Kiryat Moshe, donated with love by Sam z'l and Hilda o'h Marks of Bournemouth.

It has probably seen children arrive every morning, except Shabbat, for over 40 years. The three storey purpose built centre caters for 100 children from the ages of 3 months to three years, every day,

Their parents are thus enabled to go out to work, secure in the knowledge that their children are in a place of safety, where their needs will be attended to from 8am to 4pm every day,

The daily routine is simple. Each child is welcomed individually with "Boker Tov" and their name. A nourishing breakfast of boiled eggs, white cheese, tomato and cucumbers for breakfast is served. A brief lesson when Modeh Ani and Shema are said.

A short lesson about road safety. Then playtime

outside in a shaded area. Lunch is served at 11.30, the up to 19 month olds remarkably managing to feed themselves. Lunch is often chickpeas, orzo and soup. Much ends up on little faces, arms, bibs and the floor. Each child has his or her own identity and character, evident at this young age.

These sweet little people, from diverse backgrounds will, in 18 years time, wear the uniform of the IDF, and be responsible for protecting our borders and the People of Israel.

After lunch, small mattresses are put on the floor for those who no longer use a cot. Eventually everyone sleeps for a few quiet hours.

The home is now showing signs of many years of providing care for the children of Kiryat Moshe. The Day Care Centre is capably run by Iskar, a quiet, sweet Charedi woman.

Her office is the only room in the building which is not air conditioned so it is very hot.

The centre would benefit from modernisation: - upgraded toilets and wash basins for all ages, a fresh coat of paint and modernisation of all the rooms, including the kitchen, new toys for all ages, a fresh stock of ample mattress covers so that a clean sheet is provided daily. These beautiful children deserve the best.

PEARL DALE



NEW YEAR GREET

BAKER – Beverley and Steve wish everyone in the community a Happy, Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

BARZILAY – Diana and Richard wish their family, friends and all the community a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

BERLYN – Loraine and family, wish Rabbi Alan and Miriam Lewis, family, friends, and the entire Jewish Community a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

BLOOM – Rosamunde and Neal wish the entire community a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and an easy Fast.

BOURNEMOUTH HEBREW GUILD wish, Rabbi Alan and Rebbetzen Miriam Lewis, all our kiddushim helpers and the entire community a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful, and safe New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in our new Shul.

BOURNEMOUTH SEPHARDI ASSOCIATION wish the BHC and the whole of the Jewish Community Shana Tova Umetukah. A year of good health, peace, joy and a meaningful fast. We look forward to welcoming you at our Sephardi Services and Communal lunches.

BRADLEY – Celia and Brian wish a Happy and Healthy New Year and Well over the Fast to Rabbi Lewis, Rebbetzen Miriam, The Executive and Board, family, friends and all members of BHC.

BURMAN – Esther and Norman wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis and all members of the community, family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

CITRON – Tova and Lewis wish good health, Mazal and Brochot and safety to our dear friends, their families and for all our soldiers, our people and Eretz Yisrael.

COHEN – Ken wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

COSKY – Megan sends best wishes to all her family and friends for a Happy, Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

DEXTER – Marilyn and Bernie wish all family and friends a Shanah Tova and Peace in Israel.

FELD – Susan and Geoffrey wish all their dear family and friends a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

FRANSES – Beverley and Jeff wish their family and friends a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

GOLDBERGER – Ilana and Michael together with all their family wish the community a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

GOULD – Bettina and Keith wish the entire community 'Chag Sameach' and a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Sweet New Year, and well over the Fast.

HARTH – Syd and Hillary wish their family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and an easy Fast.

JACKSON – Juliette and Ronald wish our family and friends a Healthy and Safe New Year

KAYE – Mandy and Larry, together with their children and grandchildren, wish all their family, Rabbonim and friends, a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

KEEN/WHELAN – Marilyn, Alexandra, Olivia, David and Sophia wish Rabbi Alan and Rebbetzen Miriam Lewis, family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

KEYNE – Jan and Simon wish their family, friends and all the community a Happy, Healthy year and well over the Fast.

LASSMAN – Brian and Judy wish their family and friends and the entire community a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

LEVEY – Adrian and June Noah wish family, friends, and the entire community a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

LINZ – Lynne and David wish their Bournemouth family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

LURIE – Barbara & Simon Lurie – **Shanah Tovah U'Metukah** With heartfelt wishes to the entire community for a **Good Yom Tov** filled with **good health, joy, and great happiness**. We are looking forward to celebrating **5786, Moving Forward** to our new Shul on the East Cliff. **"Together, everything is possible."**

LURIE – Jean wishes family and friends a Happy, Peaceful New Year.

MENTON – Judith, Jonathan, Jessica and Joshua wish family, friends and all the community a Happy and Healthy New Year.

MILESTONE – Sandra and Alan wish their dear children and family together with all our friends old and new a happy and healthy New Year.

MILLER – Cyndy and Tony wish all their family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

MYERS – Hilary Hoping this year will bring lasting peace in Israel. With every good wish for the coming year to Rabbi Lewis and Rebbetzen Miriam, and also to my family and friends.

MORRIS – Ruthie and Graham wish the Rav, Rabbanit and all the Community a k'tivah v'chatimah tova and thank all those who have kept the daily minyanim, the shul shop and all the other essential services running throughout the year.



OZDAMAR – Mahir and Anne together with Karen, Harry and Georgie, and Liza, Gavin, Jacob and Elana, wish their friends and the Community a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

PINNER – Simon and Zara offer warmest greetings for a happy and healthy New Year 5786, with a safe and peaceful year to follow.

RABBI ALAN and REBBETZEN MIRIAM LEWIS wish the Community a Happy and Healthy New Year and hope 5786 will bring peace to all Israel.

REICHWALD – Marion and Peter wish all our wonderful friends in Bournemouth a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

REIN – Corinne together with her family wish Rabbi Alan & Rebbetzen Miriam Lewis, the Executive and the community a Happy and Healthy New Year and peace to all Israel.

ROBERTS – Di and Ellard wish all family, friends, and all the community a Happy New Year and well over the fast. May we all celebrate peace in Israel ASAP.

ROSE – Tony and Coreen wish all their Bournemouth family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

RUBENSTEIN – Louisa wishes Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis, her beloved family and dear friends a Happy and Healthy New Year. May we live to see peace in Israel this year.

SAUNDERS – Ruth and Richard wish their friends and the entire community a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

STROM – Elfrida and Leonard wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis together with all members of the community and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

TAYLOR – Leon and Rhona wish all their family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

WALKER – Gilian, together with Bernie Cohen wish Rabbi Alan and Rebbetzen Miriam Lewis and our many dear friends, a Sweet, Peaceful and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

WEBB – Katarina and family wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis, Reverend Barry and Angela Sklan and all members of the community a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

WEINTROUB – Irene and Ivor with all their family wish their relatives, friends and all the congregation a very Happy New Year and a Peaceful Fast.

WHITE – Marilyn and Stephen wish their dear children, grandchildren, family and friends a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful New Year.

WOLFERS – Edward and Paula wish family and friends Happy New Year.

WOOLFSTEIN – Hazel and Cyril wish their dear family, friends and Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis a Happy and Healthy New Year.

PERSONAL

BLOOM – Rosamunde and Neal wish to thank Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis, the Executive of BCHC and their family and friends for their good wishes on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

BRADLEY – I am so grateful for the incredible support from my family, friends and our loving, caring Community while I am recovering from a hip fracture. The phone calls, messages and offers of help have really been very special. Thank you all so much. I'm making good progress. Celia Bradley

KNELLER – Audrey sends her deepest appreciation and thanks to Rabbi Alan and Rebbetzen Miriam, the Executive and Honorary Officers of BCHC, and Bournemouth Hebrew Guild and our dear family and friends for all their kindness, their visits, cards, gifts, phone calls, WhatsApp messages and emails, all of which lifted my spirits, during my stay in hospital and rehabilitation. Appreciated most of all was the love and care lavished on me by my beloved husband, Alan and my sister Yvonne who instead of flying

home from Chicago to California, diverted to London for a week's stay in Bournemouth. Her visit was the best medicine money could buy.

NOAH – June would like to thank all her friends in Bournemouth for their good wishes, cards and gifts following her recent operation.

REIN – Corinne thanks everyone for their warm wishes on the marriage of her granddaughter Sophia Rein to Akiva Solomon which took place in New Jersey, USA.

THOMPSON – Hilary would like to say "thank you" to Rabbi and Rebbetzen Lewis, Marion Reichwald and the Guild, and all her friends in the community for their cards, telephone calls, messages, gifts and kind messages on her recent health condition and recovery.

WOOLFSTEIN – Hazel and Cyril Woolfstein would like to thank their dear Family and Friends for the beautiful cards, gifts and flowers they received on the recent occasion of their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

FAMILY VALUES

I was honoured to speak on Erev Shavuot at the Tikun Leil - a night dedicated to learning, reflection, and connection. This year, I wanted to dedicate my words to family — not just my own, but all of us, here together as one community, one extended family.

What follows is the talk I gave. Many people, including myself, found it emotional and I was asked to share it. So what better forum than Ruach?

In Judaism, we're not just individuals — we are part of a people bound by shared history, shared purpose, and shared memory. And with this being the **final Tikkun held in our current Shul**, that sense of togetherness, of legacy and belonging, feels especially powerful and deeply moving.

A Tikun Leil is based on a custom dating back to at least the 16th century, with the idea that since the Israelites are said to have overslept on the morning of *Matan Torah* — we now "repair" that spiritual lapse by staying awake and learning through the night, in eager anticipation of that **momentous** event.

Tonight, I want to share with you a personal **momentous** event — and then I'll show you how, in my mind at least, it all comes together.

In 1908, my grandfather — just 10 years old — and his two older brothers, were sent away from Odessa by their father for their safety. They were given some food and a few coins, and — believe it or not — they walked across the entire mainland of Europe, arriving at Hamburg. They came to England, landing at Tilbury where they connected with family, who had already made that journey. My grandfather stayed in the UK. One brother went to America, and eventually another continued on to Buenos Aires. The families stayed in touch for a while — I remember my family corresponding with them in the 1970s — but it was difficult. Communication back then was slow and unreliable, and with the horrors of Argentina's Junta in the 70s and 80s, many feared the worst. And for decades, there was radio silence.

I had always wanted to know more about our family — but with the passage of time so much was lost. In 2019, my wife, Bettina, and I were going to South America. I collated all the information my mother had and decided to take one last 'roll of the dice' to see if I could find my family in Argentina.

A week before we were due to fly, I contacted the Jewish Centre AMIA in Buenos Aires and asked if they knew of a private investigator who could help. They said, "You're not the first to ask." I got in touch with a man who said he wasn't sure he'd be able to trace anything, but I gave him what names and information I had — and I said a prayer. We were flying on a Sunday. The Tuesday before, he contacted me — he'd found the death certificate of my great-uncle. Each day, he uncovered more and more. And then, on the **Thursday before we flew**, he messaged: "I've found your cousins." How? He had spoken to a friend of his, mentioning my search. The friend said his daughter was on a trip with her best friend and he recalled that the best friend's father knew there was link to family in the UK.....so he called his daughter, spoke to the father of the best friend and put him in contact with the investigator

That night, I spoke to my cousin on an emotional WhatsApp call.

A miracle - A family reconnected.

My second cousin Mariano and I formed an instant connection. From the very first call, it felt like we had known each other all our lives. We spoke every week — sometimes more than once — and built a relationship filled with warmth, laughter, and the kind of closeness that usually takes decades to form.

Tragically, Mariano passed away in October 2023. Though sudden and heartbreaking, the bond we shared has never faded. Bettina and I have remained close to his children and to his mother, visiting when we can, speaking and sharing our lives across the miles — continuing the connection, continuing the love. Because family doesn't end with one generation. It's a thread that weaves through time — stronger, even, when we hold on to those who are no longer here.

So tonight, I am sponsoring this evening in memory of Moshe Ben Yosef - Mariano Shapiro z"l. Genealogy isn't just about tracing names — it's about discovering identity, preserving memory, and understanding the journeys that brought us to where we are. It's about recognising that our stories didn't begin with us — they were handed down, often in whispers, photographs, and fragments.

And this where I believe it all comes together as that's exactly what Shavuot is about.

At Mount Sinai, we didn't just receive laws — we received legacy. The Bnei Yisrael stood together, not simply as a group of people, but as one extended family. Bound by shared history and shared purpose.

And the Midrash tells us something remarkable — that **every Jewish soul**, past, present and future, stood at Sinai. My grandfather, with his coins. Mariano's family in Argentina. All of us here tonight. We were there.

The Torah isn't just a covenant — it is our family document. Our spiritual inheritance. It connected every generation, wherever they ended up — Odessa, Stanmore, New York, Buenos Aires, Bournemouth.

So tonight, as we learn together, we're not just keeping tradition — we're joining hands with those who came before us and those who will come after us. Reaffirming that we are part of something ancient, resilient, and beautifully alive.

After all, I believe that our history is our constant Sat-Nav — unless we know where we have been, we cannot know where we are going.

I have a final footnote to add to this. When I spoke to my parents about their family history, they didn't see it as important to begin with. As I questioned them, and used Ancestry to uncover information, my dad said "I wished we had asked our parents these questions". The Living Stones project, created and run by Barbara Lurie and Howard Freeman is an incredible example of how much interest we have in our past.

So I urge each and every one of you, to write down your stories/memories/family history. Your future generations will thank you for it.

Chag Sameach

KEITH GOULD

SIMON TAMMAM - A RABBINIC INTERVIEW

Simon Tammam has had a remarkable life, which Rabbi Lewis skilfully managed to uncover as the interview progressed. Simon was born in September 1947 Erev Yom Kippur in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, which between 1918 until 1943 was an Italian colony.

During the Second World War Libya fell to the British Army and was governed by the British until granted independence in 1951. In the 1940's the Jewish population in Libya amounted to over 50,000 and following various pogroms most left for Italy and Israel with only around 5,000 remaining during the 60's.

As he was growing up around 5,000 of the 300,000 population of Tripoli were Jewish. In Tripoli alone there were 50 active Synagogues. Today, following the pogroms during the Six Days War, no Jews remain in Libya.

Simon felt he had a comfortable childhood. His father was a tailor and owned the tailor shop in the American base in Tripoli, he was in demand from the American and British service personnel stationed in their bases in Libya.

In the morning he went to an Italian school, where, a few years above him, Muammar Gaddafi had been a student. Simon returned home for lunch and then in the afternoon went back to the school to learn Hebrew and Torah. Amazingly he is fluent in Italian, Hebrew and Arabic as well as English.

Simon was nineteen and anticipating going to University, when, in 1967, the Six Day War occurred. The latent anti-Semitism in many parts of Libya emerged, with mob rule in some areas. Like so many other Jewish families they decided to leave Libya and go to Rome.

The Libyan King decided to let the Jews move out in the July of that year, although his father's business and their family home were confiscated, and they were only allowed to take one hand luggage and equivalent of £20 each. Like all the Jews who fled they started from scratch and managed to overcome the upheaval.

It was obviously a terrifying ordeal, and five other families came to hide in their house as being situated near the King's palace it was a safer place. It was not safe to go out, he had family members attacked and lynched when they did. Their basic food necessities were brought secretly by a non-Jewish friend, as they waited until word came for them to make their way to the airport where seats were available on a flight to Rome.

Jewish organisations in Rome helped them to acquire refugee status and he lived for five years in Italy. He had intended to study architecture but unfortunately the student revolution began and the University closed for a year. Simon instead went to college and graduated as a Master Photographer.

He worked for a photographic agency, had various assignments including one of taking pictures of places of interest in Israel for them. On his return he was



Simon Tammam being interviewed by Rabbi Lewis

commissioned by the agency to take photos for the American Times Magazine of the Vatican Treasures. He was taken into the vaults at the Vatican and still remains stunned by their astounding contents.

1969 saw Simon join an Ulpan in Israel on a kibbutz. This enabled him to become fluent in Ivrit so that he could study Architecture in Israel. Although in different ulpan classes he and Diana, who was later to become his wife, met through a mutual friend. Diana found a good job in cinema production and lived with an aunt in Tel Aviv. Simon went on to study architecture and qualified as an architecture technician in 1972. During the evenings with a group of friends, he also ran a 120 seat restaurant, Il Mafioso, at the Marina in Tel Aviv.

Simon and Diana got married in 1972 in Tel Aviv. Two days after the Yom Kippur war started in 1973 their son, Johnathan, was born. In 1978 they took the decision to move to the UK. Diana being an only child, wanted to be near her parents, who lived in Poole.

With their fully laden VW Beetle, Johnathan jammed into the back in his car seat, they set off by ship from Haifa to Naples. From here they drove stopping at Rome and Milan, then to the Channel ports where they took a ferry crossing to Calais, then drove to Poole.

As he would need UK qualifications to work with architects in this country, Simon instead used the bookkeeping skills learnt in Tripoli to work for a small leather importing company in London but decided the weekly commute was not good for family life, especially after their daughter, Lucy, was born at Poole Hospital. He decided to use his cooking talents and was taken on as a pizza chef in a busy Italian restaurant in Bournemouth.

A few years later together with his friend Alfie Boyle z"l he opened a kosher deli, Jacob's Larder, and shortly after a kosher licensed restaurant, Falafel. Both ran successfully but following the opening of a second licensed deli they decided to close as it was not sustainable to remain open.

Although not mentioned during the interview Simon has for many years run a printing business in Poole which

Continued on page 34

Simon Tammam - A Rabbinic Interview (continued)

is still active now.

He also is very involved with the Sephardi Minyan, of which he is the President, and uses his cooking skills to provide their Kiddushim and the Rosh Hashanah meals in shul.

Another activity for Simon, is breeding and exhibiting canaries, and being an international canary judge, he is the president of the World Ornithological Judges Organisation UK branch.

Thank you, Rabbi Lewis, for giving us the opportunity for discovering the extraordinary life so far lived by Simon Tammam.

Footnote. It seems unbelievable, but Muammar Gaddafi studied at Bournemouth College at the Lansdowne. He would go over to Lansdowne Fortes to have coffee with fellow students. They included a friend of Richard Barzilay, who confirmed this with him, and how then Gaddafi was "just a normal person" at that time.

VOICE FROM THE HEART

Jayne Wynick, author of *"Voice from the heart, a year of war"*, an anthology of her online writings during the past year spoke to an audience of over sixty people, who were moved by her sentiments. She had brought copies of her book, proceeds of which are going to the soldiers at Shuva Junction in Israel. The anthology is available from Amazon.

These were sold out but orders for further copies were taken. Copies also can be purchased from Amazon. Below is the summary of her talk, written by Jayne, which she kindly forwarded to us.

AFTERWORD

Today is February 28th 2025. As I finish the final edit of Voice from the Heart, I am saddened that Israel is still at war, antisemitism is rife and worse still hostages are still in Gaza.

The last five weeks, as we have seen hostages released, both alive and dead, have been the hardest yet. The macabre shows that Hamas has put on in these weeks are beyond evil.

There are no words for what we have witnessed and what the hostages have been through. Over 60 are still held by Hamas as we await a second phase of the ceasefire.

The overarching themes of the book have been the hostages, the world looking away and antisemitism. These themes were repeated because the world kept repeating the same reactions.

Our hearts grow sadder but also stronger. We see people heading to Israel to volunteer, we see life go on there, we see life in the diaspora continue too, albeit feeling more precarious.

The babies, Kfir and Ariel, ever present in the book, are now laid to rest with their mother, Shiri. My heart is always with them, and Yarden, their father. If there was ever any doubt about which side is evil and which side is good, you only need to look at their faces.

My support for Israel will always be unconditional; I will leave the politics to Israelis, but I will support it as one day, it may support me.

I still feel the absence of a lack of voice for peace from Palestinians and moderate Muslims. We know there are a few amazing voices but we need more to really fight for peace. We need a partner.

Speaking out about antisemitism is now a part of me. The antisemitism we have all witnessed has changed us but made us stronger together. Since writing this book, the Jewish slogan of Never Again has been replaced with 'Never Forget, Never Forgive'.

The emphasis, we have learnt, has to be on protecting ourselves. We have seen that we cannot rely on anyone else. The thought that Holocaust survivors survived long enough to see this further round of antisemitism erupt is one we should reflect on with sorrow.

My writing continues and evolves as this book reflects. I did not know I was a writer or an author. It has connected me with thousands and brought many new people into my life. Since the end of the first year, I have continued writing and sharing even more widely and I thank everyone who reads my posts and this book.

My writing comes straight from my heart and will always do so. It seems to be spreading across the world, even into African communities.

I feel there will be a sequel to this book; certainly, my heart and my voice still need to speak. I long for the day when I have no more to say on this subject, when all I can write about is peace and hope.

Should there be a sequel, my biggest hope is that the next book ends with peace.

Peace for Israel, peace for Palestinians, alongside Israel, peace for every Jew. And, that every hostage is home and also at peace.

COFFEE MORNING IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

As we remain painfully aware of the constant fear faced by our brethren in Israel, the difficulties facing the IDF and the heartbreak and trauma faced by the hostages and their families, it seemed that now was the time to get together and show our collective support and generosity for Eretz Yisrael.

In July a coffee morning was held under the umbrella of Crisis in Israel Bournemouth to raise funds for the IDF Widows and Orphans Organisation and Leket, who support vulnerable organisations in Israel.

Close to sixty people from across the community supported the coffee morning held at the home of Mandy and Mark Glazer enjoying coffee, cake and conversation.

We were delighted to have guest speakers Rabbi Lionel and Natalie Rosenfeld streaming live from their home in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Lionel spoke about the current situation

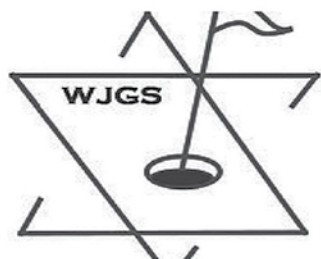


Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld addressing on Zoom from Israel those attending Coffee Morning

with personal anecdotes of family members serving in the IDF and enthused us all with his optimism and warmth.

A live auction boosted the funds raised and we were delighted to raise over £2,000, which was sent to our two chosen Israeli charities.

MANDY GLAZER



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HOSPITAL VISITING

Please inform the office if you, a member of your family or a friend is in hospital and would like to be visited.



Because of data protection law, this information is not given to the synagogue or to our teams of visitors to the hospitals.

To ensure that everyone hospitalised is contacted please pass on details as soon as possible.

REBBETZEN'S RECIPES

By popular request we are publishing Rebbetzen Miriam's recipe for wholemeal mezonot rolls - the more astute amongst you will notice the similarity to the challah recipe published last year!

If you have a favourite of the Rebbetzen's dishes and would like the recipe, do let us know.

Wholemeal mezonot rolls (recipe makes approx. 15-18 rolls).

Ingredients:

- 22 oz (50 gm) fresh yeast or 1/3 of a 100gm tub of Allinson's easy bake dried yeast
- 5 oz (125 gm/ 2/3 cup) sugar
- 18 oz (500 gm/ 4.5 cups) wholemeal spelt flour (e.g. Dove's Farm organic range)
- 18 oz (500gm/ 4.5 cups) wholegrain seeded bread flour (e.g. Sainsbury's Taste the Difference range)
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 4 fl oz (125 ml/ 1/2 cup) sunflower oil
- Just under 1 pint (500 ml) apple juice
- Approx. 2 handfuls mixed seeds (pumpkin, sunflower – any of your favourites) – toasted in the oven for 15 minutes
- 1 egg (for glazing)

Method:

1. In a bowl mix together the yeast, sugar and apple juice, and leave to ferment at room temperature for 30 mins.
2. In another large bowl, put in both flours

and half the toasted seeds and mix together. Make a well in the middle; run the salt around the edge of the well, and then the oil.

3. Pour the fermented yeast mixture into the well and start kneading. Knead until the dough comes together, for about 7 minutes, adding a little more water if necessary. Throw the dough into the air about 10 times to make it lighter. Leave it in the bowl, covered first with cling film then with a teatowel, to rise at room temperature for 45 mins – 1 hour.

4. Prepare a baking tray and line with parchment paper. Divide the dough and make into small round balls; place them on the prepared baking tray.

5. Crack the egg into a small glass bowl and beat it; paint the rolls with the egg, sprinkle over the remaining seeds, and leave to stand for 15 minutes.

6. Bake in a preheated oven at gas mark 7, 425°F, or 210°C for 25 minutes.



Enjoy!

The New Year can be a new chapter with Paperweight by your side

As the High Holy Days approach, we reflect on the year gone by and look ahead. In the solemn moments of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we pray to be inscribed in the Book of Life - a reminder that while we cannot change pages already written, we can shape chapters to come.

At Paperweight, we help people do just that. Life's challenges - debt, housing insecurity, navigating the benefits system and family law complexities. Each can feel overwhelming. But with Paperweight by their side, no one need face these alone.

Our Helpline Assessors and Caseworkers offer guidance and practical support, helping people move from crisis to clarity and turn the page with dignity and hope.

This work is only possible thanks to you. Your support keeps our services free for all who need them.

As we enter the new year, we do so with gratitude, for the trust of those we help, the compassion and dedication of our volunteers and the community around us.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah - may the coming year bring you stability, strength and new beginnings.

For more information, to volunteer, or to access Paperweight's services contact...
info@paperweight.org.uk or call the Helpline 0330 174 4300

www.paperweight.org.uk



Bournemouth Jewish Support Services

Registered Charity number 1209413

A Team Here for the Community

BJSS continues to provide our completely free, broad range of confidential information, advice and support services across the Community. Our Volunteers are reference/security checked and fully trained.

As well as our Initial and regular Refresher training, we have been active in expanding the skill set of the Volunteer team with specialist training in the following areas:

- ➡ Dementia Awareness and Support**
- ➡ Sensory Awareness for Sight and Hearing Loss**
- ➡ Bereavement Support**
- ➡ Adult Social Care and Carers' Support**

As our Charity evolves, we are identifying new opportunities to develop our Volunteers and provide more comprehensive support to our Clients.

We also have strong, external partnerships with other charities and organisations, to share resources and information.

As an example, here's a link to a monthly "What's On" guide, jointly funded by Nightingale Hammerson & Jewish Care, listing events and activities in the Southern Counties.

It's designed to help people connect, tackling social isolation.

register (<http://eepurl.com/hAfDNf>) or go to <https://jewishcare.org/our-services/community-services/southerncountiessupport>

Do contact BJSS if you, a family member, friend or neighbour needs our support.

We also have good opportunities for new volunteers and would love you to join us, so do get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Telephone: 01202 298817 Email: info@bjss.org.uk Website: www.bjss.org.uk

**Janet Gee, Tova Citron, Zara Pinner, Jan Opas, Janet Gilbert
BJSS Admin Team**



Community, Security & Trust

CST wishes all of our **community** a Chag Sameach and a better year ahead.

We also want to thank you for the last two years. We want to thank you for the **trust** and the support you have given to CST as we do our utmost to give you safety and **security**.

We want to thank you for being determined to lead the Jewish lives of your choice: because that is why CST does our work. If we have helped to give you strength, then that is our privilege.

Security begins with the partnership between you, your communities and CST. We know that security measures can be annoying, but they need to be there for when times are tough.

The last two years have shown the need for security. There has been far too much anti-Jewish hatred, including the threat of terrorism. Even if Israel somehow finds peace, it will take a very long time for the hatred and the terrorist threat across Britain to meaningfully decline.

Our partnership is with you, every member of our Jewish community. Your reports of antisemitism and suspicious behaviour give us what we need to best organise our security, and to get the support of police and politicians. When you follow our security advice, it not only helps your own safety, it also helps the safety of your family, friends and fellow congregants.

Your resilience and keeping calm, especially in tough times, are vital in projecting the basic strength of our community.

Our community is strong and so is CST. We are not separate to our community, we are part of it. You give us our personnel and we give the training, teamwork and skillset. That is how, in two years, we have more than doubled the number of events we are guarding, working three times the number of hours.

CST's professionalism means we manage £18m of government money that pays for commercial (not CST) security guards to work at our schools, shuls and community centres. Hundreds of those sites have CCTV and radio connection to our 24/7 National Security Control Centre.

We still need more people to help in this vital work. If you are physically capable of joining us please do so and don't leave it up to others.

A deep thank you to all of our volunteer security personnel. Some of you have protected our communities for a very long time and then, after 7 October 2023, you stepped it up to yet another level. Others have joined us after that fateful day, bringing more strength when we really needed it.

Thanks to all of our community for supporting CST. From all of us, we wish you a Happy New Year, and a safe and meaningful fast.

Chag Sameach

Report suspicious activity and antisemitism to CST at cst.org.uk/report

EMERGENCY National Emergency Number (24-hr) **0800 032 3263**

NON-EMERGENCY London **020 8457 9999** | Manchester **0161 792 6666** | Leeds **0113 237 1980**

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

Help to protect
our community
**VOLUNTEER
FOR CST**



SCAN TO SIGN UP

OUR KOL NIDREI APPEAL 5786 – 2025

In this year's Kol Nidrei Appeal, as usual we will divide the Appeal into four equal parts, supporting BCHC Chessed Fund/Bournemouth Jewish Social Services (BJSS), Macmillan Caring Locally Christchurch Hospital, Kisharon Langdon in London and Youth Aliyah Child Rescue in Israel.

These four causes reflect our commitment to helping those in need both within our Kehilla and beyond, and I encourage you to give generously.

Macmillan Caring Locally – Supporting Dignity and Comfort at Life's End

Macmillan Caring Locally is a small but remarkable charity based at Christchurch Hospital. Independent from the national Macmillan organisation, every penny raised remains in our area, funding the renowned Macmillan Unit and vital services such as outreach care, bereavement counselling, and family support.

Many within our Bournemouth Jewish community have seen first-hand the kindness, dignity, and compassion shown by their staff and volunteers at life's most difficult moments. By supporting this charity through our Kol Nidrei Appeal, we help ensure these essential services remain available to local families when they are needed most.

Kisharon Langdon – Enabling Potential, Building Community

Kisharon Langdon offers education, opportunity and support for people within the Jewish learning disability and autism community and their families throughout life's journey.

Through supported living, employment programmes, youth and holiday schemes, social enterprises and education from nursery through

college, individuals are empowered to thrive.

At its heart lies a vibrant Jewish community where friendships are built, individuality is celebrated and everyone has a place.

By supporting this charity through our Kol Nidrei Appeal we can help Kisharon Langdon continue to break down barriers, foster inclusion and ensure every individual feels valued, supported and able to contribute meaningfully.

Youth Aliyah – Creating Safe Futures for Vulnerable Children in Israel

Youth Aliyah provides safety, education and hope for vulnerable children in Israel through its network of youth villages.

In response to urgent needs since October 2023 it has created emergency centres for children at risk, expanded therapeutic support for those traumatised by conflict and renovated bomb shelters to provide safe, reassuring spaces.

The charity also honours the memory of Jake Marlowe z"l through a scholarship that offers life-changing opportunities to young graduates, ensuring his values live on.

By supporting this charity through our Kol Nidrei Appeal we help Youth Aliyah give children protection, dignity, belonging and the chance of a brighter future.

Please support this years' Kol Nidrei Appeal generously.

The chosen charities need your support to continue their life saving/ changing work.

To donate by credit or debit card visit:
www.bhcsul.co.uk/donate

Or Online by bank transfer to:
Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation
Sort Code: 40-13-07
Account Number: 82766205
Reference: KNA [your name]

DIARY

September 2025

Tuesday 6th/17th	Dorset Architectural Heritage Week Tours at Shul
Shabbat 20th	Nitzavim Kiddush – In Tribute to Bob and Pat Nixon And to welcome Phil Rosenberg President of BOD. Phil Rosenberg will address the Congregation
Sunday 21st	Cross communal talk by Phil Rosenberg in Thelma Cowan Hall – 10.00am
Monday 22nd	Erev Rosh Hashanah Light Candles – 18.46
Tuesday 23rd	First day Rosh Hashanah Light Candles after 19.53
Wednesday 24th	Second day Rosh Hashanah Yom tov ends 19.51
Thursday 25th	Fast of Gedaliah Begins 5.44 Ends 19.39
Friday 26th	Shabbat Candles 18.37
Shabbat 27th	Vayelech Shabbat Shuva, Ends 19.44

October 2025

Wednesday 1st	Kol Nidrei Festival and Fast, Begins 18.26
Thursday 2nd	Yom Kippur (Yizkor) Ends 19.24
Friday 3rd	Shabbat Candles 18.22
Shabbat 4th	Ha'azinu Ends 19.19
Sunday 5th	Decorating the Sukkah
Monday 6th	Erev Sukkot, Light Candles 18.15 Meal in Sukkah
Tuesday 7th	First day Sukkot Light Candles after 19.22
Wednesday 8th	Second day Sukkot
Thursday 9th	Chol Hamoed Sukkot
Friday 10th	Shabbat Candles 18.06
Shabbat 11th	Shabbat Chol Hamoed
Sunday 12th	CCJ Sukkot Event
Monday 13th	Hoshana Rabba Light Candles – 18.00
Tuesday 14th	Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor)
Wednesday 15th	Simchat Torah Celebratory Kiddush in honour of our Chatanim and Neshei Chayil
Friday 17th	Shabbat Candles – 17.50

Shabbat 8th	Bereshit Mavarachim Hachodesh Shabbat ends 18.57
Sunday 19th	Stone Setting Kinson – 1.30pm The late Mrs Irene Kreeger o"n
Wednesday 22nd	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Thursday 23rd	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Shabbat 25th	Noach FINAL SHABBAT IN WOOTTON GARDENS KIDDUSH
Sunday 26th	Concert to be followed by Hachsanat Sefer Torah Ceremony

November 2025

Shabbat 1st	Lech Lecha FIRST SHABBAT IN NEW SHUL New Building Celebration Kiddush
Shabbat 8th	Vayera
Shabbat 15th	Chayei Sarah Mavarachim Hachodesh AJEX SHABBAT
Sunday 16th	AJEX March London
Friday 21st	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Shabbat 22nd	Toldot
Sunday 3rd	Mitzvah Day
Shabbat 29th	Vayetzi Jewish Women's Aid Shabbat
Sunday 30th	Stone Setting Throop – 12 noon The late Mrs Janet Pins o"n

December 2025

Shabbat 6th	Vayishlach
Sunday 7th	Stone Setting Throop – 11.30 am The late Mr Arnold Talisman z"l
Shabbat 13th	Vayeshev Mavarachim Hachodesh
Sunday 14th	First night Chanukah
Monday 15th	First Day Chanukah
Shabbat 20th	Shabbat Chanukah Mikketz First Day Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Sunday 21st	Second Day Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Monday 22nd	Eighth Day Chanukah
Shabbat 27th	Vayigash
Tuesday 30th	Fast of Tevet Begins 6.57 ends 16.58

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