



# REP PRESENTS

The Voice of the Jewish Representative Council

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# We Stand Together

The thoughts of the Jewish community are with all the innocents of Paris

**The Paris attacks in November shocked our community and made us even more aware of the need for heightened security.**

President of the Jewish Representative Council, Sharon Bannister, speaking at an interfaith gathering that weekend, said, "Community and world leaders are united in their condemnation of these brutal attacks. The thoughts and prayers of the Jewish Community are with all the innocent people murdered and their families. I know that interfaith events like today are more important than ever and the Jewish Representative Council recognises the importance of dialogues with other faiths; sharing ours and learning about others. But there needs to be more than just dialogue. We need meaningful communication that is honest and open, where we are able to express our concerns as well as saying we stand together and we refuse to be enemies."

The event, entitled Spread Hummus Not Hate, was part of the 8th Annual 'Season of Twinning', a period when Synagogues and Mosques and other Jewish and Muslim groups come together to

increase our understanding of each other. The project is the initiative of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

Attended by Sharon and Vice-President, Jonny Wineberg, the event at Bury Council's Elizabethan

Suite was organised by #WeStandTogether, The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester and FN4M (Faith Network for Manchester). 75 local people attended and shared pitta, several types of hummus and other

food whilst listening to speakers from both faiths and discussing what practical initiatives they could take to improve community relations in the next year.

Chief Inspector Umer Khan, who spoke at last year's Representative Council AGM, led a one minute silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris and around the

world. Many other speakers stressed the need for more events like this one which bring people of all faiths together, to show solidarity and strengthen relationships.

One first time attendee, Darren Niman, said, "This event proved to me that this is about real people who just want to live together and work together in peace and harmony, reaching out to each other for the common good of all communities, not letting external issues in the wider world get in the way. This is the way forward for a brighter, happier and peaceful future."

Jonny Wineberg, who Co-Chairs We Stand Together in Greater Manchester, said, "The importance of this type of event cannot be understated, especially in light of what happened in Paris only a few hundred miles away. We need communities to understand and respect each other and people to share their positive experiences of other faiths. We need to spread the message that we cannot achieve peace by subjugation of others. It is only through ongoing dialogue and mutual regard that we will achieve this."



President Sharon Bannister, centre, with other attendees at the Spread Hummus Not Hate event in Bury Town Hall

## Dynamic New Structure Sydney Remembered

**The Jewish Representative Council is to become the dynamic, effective body that the community needs and deserves.**

Delegates attending an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Jewish Representative Council in July ratified the organisation's new constitution which will become effective in Spring 2016 and is expected to result in major changes to the way the organisation is run.

President Sharon Bannister said, "This is a very exciting opportunity for the Representative Council that was first formed in 1919. We have continued to represent the community through difficult as well as positive times. Our new structure will ensure that we have a Council that can more accurately meet the needs of the Greater Manchester Jewish Community."

The new structure revolves around 6 Working Groups that will

focus the Council's role. These are Public Relations; Education; Publicity; Fundraising; Youth and Community; Anti-Semitism and Human Rights.

The Presidents role has been split with the addition of a Chair of Executive, who will be able to oversee Council operations, whilst the President will continue to chair Council meetings and deal with external relationships.

The new Executive will have a total of 8 Officers and 12 Executive Secretaries with clear roles allocated across the six Working Groups. Four more members can also be co-opted giving a maximum potential of 24 members on the Executive which is less than half the size prior to the change.

Vice-President Jonny Wineberg

said, "It is wonderful to see these changes about to be implemented. It is a credit to many colleagues who have taken this forward and gives the Council the opportunity to be the dynamic, effective body that the community needs and deserves. We are already seeing younger people getting involved as we start to implement changes which are now embedded constitutionally."

A new Executive advisory committee consisting of past Presidents and Chairs has been suggested as an alternative to previous officers having automatic positions on the Executive but this will have to be decided once the new structure is fully implemented.

For further information about these changes and their implications for the Jewish Community, please contact Jonny Wineberg at [jonny@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:jonny@jewishmanchester.org) or 07930 534422.

**The Representative Council, and indeed the whole community, suffered a great loss recently, writes past-Honorary Secretary, Rabbi Arnold Saunders, with the passing of one of our stalwarts, Dr. Sydney Baigel.**

Sydney served as a delegate to the Representative Council for over 50 years. He was recently honoured with a special presentation marking his 85th birthday at which he received an inscribed plaque marking his sterling service to the community.

He represented both the Holy Law Synagogue and Hillel House on the Council. Like a good MP, he was first and foremost a wonderful 'constituency representative', fearlessly representing the interests of his 'constituents'.

No issue was off-limits to Sydney. He could wax lyrical on virtually any subject. He took no prisoners and was fearless in putting forward his point of view!

However, above all he will be remembered (and indeed missed!) for his contribution to the Council's Annual Year Book. He not only edited it for many years, together with the late Sonny Fromson, but acted as the chief fundraiser. He would spend many hours on this. On every letter sent out by the office requesting an advert or the continuing support of existing advertisers, Sydney would append a handwritten note to the recipient.



Dr Sydney Baigel z"l

One contributor told me that last year he was thinking of not re-advertising but when he saw Sydney's personal note, his heart melted and he duly despatched the cheque! It is a tribute to his tenacity that this year, the Year Book will raise a record total of advertising revenue.

The Representative Council, in conjunction with the family, are considering how to appropriately honour his memory.

We wish Arichat Yamim - Long Life to his daughters Liz Tal of Israel and Melanie Werner, his sister Pauline, from the USA, and his brother Frank, the immediate Past President of the Council. Yehi zichro baruch.

### Contact the Council

Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region  
Tel/Fax: 0161 720 8721 E-mail: [office@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:office@jewishmanchester.org)

ON THE WEB AT

[www.jewishmanchester.org](http://www.jewishmanchester.org)

Providing a quick and easy-to-use guide to your communal organisations

[www.twitter.com/JewishMCR](http://www.twitter.com/JewishMCR)

[www.facebook.com/jewishmanchester](http://www.facebook.com/jewishmanchester)

Contact us by phone, fax or e-mail to add your event to the Communal Diary!

Check the Communal Diary before arranging your event to reduce clashes with other functions, and we will publicise your event to all our delegates and their organisations.

# Arkush on Values Siege at the Lowry

"British values and adherence to religious tradition are NOT mutually exclusive," according to Jonathan Arkush, the newly elected President of the Board of Deputies, who addressed the Council at its July Meeting, reports Clive Moss-Barclay.

Mr Arkush described how the Board had developed its new Jewish Manifesto in consultation with more than 300 organisations and individuals. It is the most comprehensive document ever produced by the Board covering 14 areas of interest including religious freedom, anti-Semitism, Israel, education, social care and social action. Copies of the Manifesto and its 10 Commitments, encapsulating the key aims of the document, had been circulated to every parliamentary candidate before the last election. Support for the Manifesto and its pledges had been received from all three main party leaders.

In education, Mr Arkush described how the Board has been working hard to maintain GCSE Ivrit and Biblical Hebrew and is promoting Judaism through its Jewish Living Experience exhibitions and tours, in which thousands of non-Jewish children learn about our faith every year. The Board has continued to fight for the protection of faith schools across all religions.

Mr Arkush told the meeting how he had worked with the Chancellor of Manchester University to curb hate speeches and how the policy developed in Manchester has been adopted by all UK Universities resulting in no academic boycotts of Israel.

The Board has been reaching out through Jewish Connection, which is supporting small communities all over the UK needing pastoral and social care, networking and advocacy support from the mainstream of the community. Thankfully, Jewish core beliefs and practices are not currently threatened in the UK. We must retain our ability to continue to practise brit milah and shechitah

and there should be an understanding of the importance of these traditions.

Mr Arkush stated that the Board's relationship with the Muslim communities of the UK is a priority. Jews have an important role to play in showing to Muslims and other faiths that it is not only possible but admirable to combine British values with adherence to religious tradition, and that these two things are not mutually exclusive.

Members of the Board have been working with the Government to safeguard the security of our community and the continuation of that productive relationship is a priority, particularly in light of the shocking rise in anti-Semitism. The fact that the Government has pledged millions of pounds to be provided outside schools, synagogues and other institutions is welcome but cannot hide the grotesque fact that such vigilance is still required because hatred of our community remains in some, albeit very limited, corners in our society.

Mr Arkush described some of the Board's London activities with Board staff meeting regularly with officials of various Government Departments and with Cabinet Ministers whenever opportunities arose. He expressed his concern that out of 300 deputies on the Board only 8 are from Greater Manchester. There is currently live streaming of Board meetings and it is hoped to roll out video conferencing shortly which hopefully will encourage greater involvement of the Jewish organisations in the provinces.

Mr Arkush thanked the Manchester Jewish Representative Council for giving him the opportunity to address the meeting and wished us every success.

# Siege at the Lowry

When the Representative Council became aware that the play 'The Siege' was due to be shown at The Lowry theatre in May of this year, serious concerns were raised for several reasons, reflects Executive Committee member Filis Rosenberg.

The theatre group launching it in the UK were the Freedom Theatre, from the Jenin Refugee Camp and its theme was the occupation by militants of the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002. The cast and directors saw themselves as 'resisting the conflict through theatre'.

We knew from experience that their perspective would lean in one direction particularly as some were friends of the militants and were in touch with them.

I have been a regular volunteer at the Lowry for some years (along with a handful of others in our community) and it was agreed by the Representative Council and our community partners that I should discuss our concerns with the Lowry - well ahead of the production's arrival.

I requested a meeting with Julia Fawcett, CEO of the Lowry, and in discussions with her and Tony Smith, Commercial Director, communicated our concerns as a community and highlighted the recent increase in antisemitic behaviour in Manchester. I also pointed out that the major incidents in Brussels, Copenhagen and Paris were in our thoughts.

I was given firm assurance that the Manchester Jewish community's concerns and anxieties had been heard and recognised by the Lowry. As such, when it came to discussing our presence on the night to hand out flyers giving clarity to the play's subject, we were generously invited to be inside the building rather than the usual alternative of standing outside - a first for the Lowry in their thirteen years of operation.

A team of the permitted maximum four people, consisting of the pro Israel organisations along with the Representative Council,



The Lowry Theatre in Salford

handed out flyers on the two nights that the show was staged. A Pro Palestinian organisation, in fairness, was also offered the same facility but chose to have a small group of their members outside.

Sharon Bannister, Council President, and I attended the play on the first night. The play was entirely in Arabic which meant that the majority of the audience had to rely on the over head surtitles to understand the story.

A post show discussion panel had been arranged to discuss 'the role of art in areas of conflict and tension'. Unfortunately some in the audience used the opportunity to

attack Israel instead of discussing the title of the discussion and Sharon and I felt there was inadequate control of the panel by the chair. I personally was very upset and I would have left early had I not been there to monitor what was going on. Overnight Sharon and I emailed Julia Fawcett about our serious concerns and disappointment. I attended the second night and felt there was more control by the panel of the audience on that occasion.

The Lowry was very professional and considerate throughout this episode and I am proud to be associated with them.

## Speaking out on Human Rights

Our Human Rights committee was set up as part of the Representative Council in response to our experience as Jews to millennia of discrimination and persecution, culminating in the Holocaust, writes Council Honorary Secretary, Michael Rubinstein.

In this country, whilst facing a few challenges, our position is possibly more favourable than it has been anywhere else in Europe in history.

I believe that it is our obligation, as Jews, but more particularly as members of the Human race, to work for the improvement in the way others less fortunate are being treated. We can look within Europe for some examples of abuses, for example, the Roma of Hungary are particularly being singled out by mainstream politicians, such as those in Jobbik, as indeed are our fellow Jews in Hungary.

In the UK there is still trafficking of women for the sex trade and the authorities have to deal with the entrapment of vulnerable people to be used as slave labour. At our doorstep thousands of refugees are being kept in camps and the term 'asylum seeker' is now used as a pejorative. As the son of an asylum seeker (kindertransport) and refugee (concentration camp survivor) I find this unacceptable.

This year we have established a small team of like-minded people to work in this area and so far I have been interviewed in the media about antisemitism. Our initial aim is to inform the community of those

problems of which most people tend to be unaware and we intend to do this by means of social media and public events. We are in the early stages of planning a discussion/training event on what 'Human Rights' actually means and will be putting on an event examining the nature of anti-Semitism in the UK currently.

If anyone would like to help us in this we would be very grateful and I can be contacted through the Council office on 0161-720 8721 or office@jewishmanchester.org.



Michael Rubinstein - committed to Human Rights



l-r: Phil Langer, Treasurer, Louis Rapaport, Past President, Robert Shields, Menorah Synagogue Representative, Jonathan Arkush, Michael Rubinstein, Hon. Secretary, Jacky Buchsbaum, Vice-President, Sharon Bannister, Raymond Solomon, ZCC President, Frank Baigel, Past President, Barbara Goldstone, Past President

## VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

The Jewish Representative Council seeks enthusiastic individuals to undertake the following roles:

### Yearbook Database Developer

With IT, communication and design skills to help digitise our annual publication

### Community Reporters

With excellent writing skills to contribute reports for our website, social media and RepPresents

### Event Planners

With a range of planning and fundraising skills to help run community fundraising activities

To express your interest in any of these positions, please email office@jewishmanchester.org with brief information on your previous, relevant experience and skills.

RepPresents can be downloaded from  
[www.jewishmanchester.org/RepPresents](http://www.jewishmanchester.org/RepPresents)  
 where you can also find  
 up-to-date articles on the Council's work

# Lloyd Laments Shorter Lives

Tony Lloyd, Greater Manchester's Interim Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner, addressed the November meeting of the Jewish Rep Council, writes Clive Moss-Barclay.

Mr Lloyd expressed his concerns about a wide range of problems affecting the nearly 3 million people living in GM where life expectancy can be up to 10 year less than people living in Sussex.

Poor transport systems in GM and the NW have been hindering development and he hoped that these would improve following devolution of power and resources from Central Government. Local youth structures have been severely affected by lack of central funding and Mr Lloyd agreed with a delegate at the meeting that efficiencies might be achieved through collaboration of the Youth Trusts.

Health and Social Care is high on his agenda for change now that they are being joint funded by a devolved budget. He hoped that this would address the severe lack of suitable care places for the elderly which has resulted in the blockage of hospital beds. Long term underfunding in mental health has led to poor infrastructure which Mr Lloyd wants to see addressed.

With the establishment of the post of GM Mayor in 2017 he believes that the introduction of new local democracy will empower people to influence local decision making that affect their lives. Whilst certain strategies such as housing might be decided at GM level, its delivery will be by the Local Authorities at local level. Mr Lloyd said that it is important for people to define what is missing at GM level so that the necessary action can be initiated at the appropriate level.

Responding to delegates questions over anti-Semitism from protesters at the Conservative Party Conference he felt it unacceptable for anybody to come under such levels of abuse. Mr Lloyd wants the Conference to come back to Manchester as it is economically



Tony Lloyd addresses the Representative Council flanked by Sharon Bannister

good for the city. Mr Lloyd praised the CST and its good relationship with GM Police and complemented the Jewish Community for its ability on self-reliance. He stressed the importance of reporting all hate crime to the police.

Earlier this year Mr Lloyd had issued a press release calling on Greater Manchester to stand together as reported hate crimes against Jewish people rose by half. In his statement which was widely

circulated, he said that he was pleased that more people were coming forward to report these incidents confident that the police will listen to them and take them seriously. He stated that hate crimes and ignorant attitudes must not be tolerated and urged people to stand firm, undivided in the face of extremism and ignorance.

A full report on anti-Semitic incidents this year is available at [www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk).

## From the President

The President of the Jewish Representative Council automatically holds positions on various other committees, writes Sharon Bannister.



One such committee that I attend on behalf of the Jewish community is "The Faith Leaders Group" which is chaired by David Walker, Bishop of Manchester and meets in his home about six times a year. The Group comprises religious, spiritual and community leaders from the many different faiths across Greater Manchester. At each meeting those in attendance have the opportunity to raise any issues that may be facing their community either as a point of information or for discussion.

As you might expect, the range of subjects that we discuss is both wide and varied and all are relevant to at least one of the communities. Over the last few months we have discussed AIDS in Manchester; Racism including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; Chaplancies; Children in Care; Political Extremism; Radicalisation; Peaceful Protest; Equality in Health Care for different Faiths; Migrants; Refugees; Austerity; the attack on a Jewish group of young men at Bowker Vale; and Devolution. Occasionally the Group is addressed by a visiting speaker and we have had presentations

from The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, The George House Trust and Manchester Council of Mosques. We have also had the opportunity to meet with Gianni Pitella, leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament.

The Faith Leaders Group offers its members an excellent networking opportunity where relationships can develop between the leaders of the many Manchester faith communities. This has enabled closer contact and co-operation between faiths which is especially valuable for those occasions when the need arises. I view these meetings as a great opportunity to voice the opinions, position and needs of the Jewish Community to other faiths and to better appreciate the concerns and problems being experienced by other faith groups.

## Wider Education

Educating the wider community about Judaism plays a vital role in the successful integration of the Jewish community in Greater Manchester according to Jeremy Michelson, new chair of the Council's Education Committee.

The Education Committee seeks to improve the knowledge of the community, by ensuring that Judaism is taught properly in non-Jewish primary and secondary schools.

Every local Education Authority (LEA) has a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) which monitors the way that Religious Education is taught in schools. The Representative Council has representatives on nearly every SACRE in the North

West. We all work together to ensure that Judaism is being fairly represented in schools and on interfaith panels.

The Education Committee plans to broaden its activities by engaging with the Centre for Jewish studies at Manchester University on matters of mutual interest. In future we also hope to establish links with Limmud.

Jewish education in its broader sense covers an extremely wide range and hence there is much to do - exciting times!

# Connecting with Councillors

Local councillors from around the North West spent a Sunday at the end of June gaining in-depth knowledge of the area's Jewish community at an all-day seminar.

Bury South MP and then shadow cabinet member, Ivan Lewis, and Police Chief Superintendent Chris Sykes were among the speakers at the event, organised by the Jewish Representative Council in partnership with the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council.

Ivan urged councillors to work to keep their Jewish communities protected by working with the Police and the Community Security Trust. He added: "Education is very important. Our communities have more in common than dividing us. Interfaith relationships and contact between communities are crucial."

There were sessions on anti-Semitism, Israel, housing, media, social care and education at the event. Representatives of several affiliated organisations, including The Fed, Manchester Jewish Housing Association, the ZCC and Langdon, were able to give councillors an insight into the make-up, characteristics and issues of our community.

One Councillor commented, "A very enjoyable/informative & enlightening event - I have been

made aware of many issues for the Jewish Community which will help

me in my role as an elected Councillor. I've also been made

aware of a number of resources I can tap into for further education and information."

The event commenced with a panel including Board of Deputies

Chief Executive Gillian Merron, the Jewish Leadership Council's Chief Executive Simon Johnson and Jonny Wineberg, the Jewish Representative Council's Vice-President. Jonny gave an overview of the community, emphasising its diverse make up, proliferation of organisations, demographic changes and the many challenges being faced. Gillian spoke about key policy issues at a national level included in the Board's 'Jewish Manifesto' and Simon, returning to his City of birth, about the community's infrastructure and institutions.

Gillian said, "We were delighted to see so many councillors from across the North West giving up their Sunday to engage with us and to receive such positive feedback. It's a vital part of our work to build constructive relationships with those in local government and give them the background and knowledge they need to interact with, and serve our community."

"The seminar had an extremely positive impact on the councillors present," said Jonny. "We had several very positive comments and their evaluations gave it an average rating of 4.76 out of 5. It is definitely something we shall look to repeat in the coming years."



l-r: Simon Johnson, Phil Rosenberg (Board of Deputies), Gillian Merron and Jonny Wineberg

# Working Progress Yom HaShoah Reflections

The Council has established six new workgroups under its recently approved new constitution. Whilst these groups have only recently been constituted, extensive work programmes are already being formulated, focused on the needs of the Jewish Community, and considerable progress has already been achieved. This is a brief report on the progress made so far.

## Youth & Community

This Group has carried out a mapping exercise of youth provision. It is hoped to put this on line as soon as possible so that young people can identify what is available by type of activity, age and location. Resources will be needed to keep this updated and to carry out appropriate needs analysis.

The group is looking towards strategic planning of Jewish Youth Provision in Greater Manchester, bringing together those responsible from youth movements, synagogues, schools and other providers

The setting up of a Jewish Youth Council is also being considered along with the longer term ambition to see a professional youth worker for the region.

## Human Rights, Racism & Antisemitism

It is the aim of this Group to ensure that the government is working within EU guidelines on Human Rights & Anti-Semitism. This Group will circulate press releases across as many media outlets as possible. Work on the

social media campaign for refugees is going ahead although there is concern regarding security and the economic status of refugees. It is proposed to help with clothes banks and work with World Jewish Relief.

## Public Relations

The role of the Jewish Representative Council as a portal between the Jewish community and the wider community is a key focus of this Group which is developing a database of "expert" spokespeople who can attend events and speak directly to the media on behalf of the Jewish Community. All affiliated organisations have been invited to nominate their "experts" to be included on the database for whom media training will be available.

Ways to co-ordinate the work of the various Jewish organisations that cover similar areas is being explored with the aim of establishing shared resources and avoiding duplication. The Group will try to identify and fill gaps where the Jewish Community is not appropriately represented in the wider community.

Demographic changes in the

Manchester Jewish Community are being explored with the purpose of ensuring all sectors of the community are adequately resourced and represented. A joint strategic approach by leaders of all sectors will be necessary in order to ensure that assets remain within the community for whoever requires them.

## Education

This Group has been involved with the provision of Jewish representatives on the local Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACREs) which govern the locally agreed syllabus for religious education in all state schools outside the religious sector.

The Group is working with the Board of Deputies on responses to government actions on education and intends to examine appropriate ways to respond to calls from non-Jewish schools for support with assemblies. The Group is also considering its response to adult groups seeking some form of Jewish input into their organisations' work.

For those of us involved in the Yom Hashoah Commemoration the VIP's are the survivors, writes Representative Council Vice-President, **Jacky Buchsbaum**.

Unfortunately as time passes there are fewer and fewer survivors who are available to attend the commemoration. The organising committee, made up of members of the Representative Council and the Second Generation Group, decided that we should make an especially memorable event this year in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust.

In recent years the event had been well attended by the North Manchester community where it had been held, but not by the South Manchester community. The committee felt that the event should be held at a large central venue and the 'Event City' was booked. In addition to advertising the event, transport was arranged to and from the venue from both North and South Manchester. As a result, the attendance of 1500 far exceeded expectations and people were stood at the side of the hall in addition to the 1200 seated.

As the Hebrew date for Yom HaShoah coincided with the English date of the liberation of Bergen Belsen, it was agreed that particular

attention should be directed at this event. The committee decided upon 'Liberation' as the theme of the commemoration. In 1945 at the liberation of Bergen Belsen, there had been two individuals who had a significant impact on the liberation:-

- The BBC reporter Richard Dimbleby, who made a most harrowing and memorable broadcast from the Camp, which for many was their first awareness of the real atrocities that had taken place in the concentration camps.

- The Jewish Chaplain Rev Leslie Hardman who went into the camp and was trusted by the survivors and who tended to both their physical and spiritual needs.

We were honoured to have children of both these individuals address us at the commemoration and give accounts of their parents' recollections of the liberation. The event, with its mix of survivor testimonies and these presentations, was both moving and riveting. All those who attended, including many local politicians and civil servants, left with a better perspective of the Holocaust and its atrocities.



L-r Past Presidents Louis Rapaport, Frank Baigel, Manchester Lord Mayor Coun. Paul Murphy OBE, Hon Secretary Tony Walker, Past President Barbara Goldstone

## Meeting the Mayors

Hon Secretary Rabbi Tony Walker, accompanied by various members of the Representative Council visited a number of recently installed Mayors throughout Greater Manchester.

We were warmly received by them all and had the opportunity to discuss with them about the Jewish Community and its relationship with the State of Israel. The Lord Mayor of Manchester expressed his deep rooted respect and admiration for Israel. He spoke most vociferously about anti-Semitism and his dislike of all race related crimes. He and his Mayores also expressed great admiration for the Fed and its work within the community.

The Ceremonial Mayor of Salford spoke highly of the Jewish education system which he felt was a leader in today's society. He found it refreshing to find so many schools instilling a moral education with a regard for both religion and other

people. He was amazed at the breadth of the work of the Representative Council and felt it important that a group such as ours visited local councillors and discussed community matters with them.

We had a long discussion with the Mayor of Bury about Israel, where she has visited, and on Judaism in general. She and her husband had attended both Langdon College's AGM and several other events organised by the community and expressed her full support for the community, saying that her door was always open.

The Mayor of Bolton was very pleased that local historian, Hilary

Thomas, was on hand to discuss with her the local history of Bolton's Jews.

Oldham's Mayor had previously not equated Manchester Jewry with Israel but, after a short discussion, he came to appreciate how we are so intertwined. His only previous knowledge of Israel was based on what he had heard in Mosques and from co-religionists and it had not been favourable.

All the Mayors were most appreciative of the visits by the Council members. They were impressed by the Manchester Jewish community, its organisations, the way we support ourselves and our support for the wider community.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS DIARY

- Sunday, December 6 10.30am - JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING at the Nicky Alliance Centre. Contact 720 8721
- Thursday, December 10 - UJIA Sports Dinner. Contact: 0161 740 1825 or 07816 857 105
- Sunday, December 13 2.00pm - Jewish Genealogical Society at the Meade Hill Road Shul. Contact: manchester.genealogy@gmail.com
- Wednesday, December 23 - Ashley Blaker – Full length stand-up comedy show – "Unfiltered" at the Holy Law Shul – time to be advised. Contact: 740 1634
- Sunday, January 10 3pm - JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING at the Nicky Alliance Centre. Contact: 720 8721
- Sunday, January 10 3pm - Social@WHC – talk by pro-Israel Advocate (with crèche) at the Whitefield Shul Hall. Contact: Judith on 07771 802682
- January 17th & January 18th 7.30pm - "Don't Cry for Me Mother Russia" – ladies only event at the Whitefield Shul. Contact 0771 558 2479
- Saturday, January 23 7.30pm - Choral Extravaganza at the Menorah Synagogue. Contact: Sue Bayliss, Office Administrator, 0161 428 7746, email sue@menorah.org.uk
- Sunday, January 24 - Langdon Triannual Dinner – Contact Tania Farley 07966 399709 www.langdon.info
- Saturday, January 30 7.30pm - Bnai Akiva Fundraising Dinner. Contact Daniel Hamburger 0777 577 8741
- Friday, February 5 - Fed Friday. Contact: Zoe on 0161 772 4967, zoe.s@thefed.org.uk
- Sunday, February 7 10.30am - JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING at the Nicky Alliance Centre. Contact 720 8721
- Sunday, February 28 - Backgammon Tournament in aid of The Fed. Contact: Zoe on 0161 772 4967, zoe.s@thefed.org.uk
- Sunday, February 28 6.00pm - Jewish Book Week in Manchester at the Menorah Synagogue. Contact: 0161 428 7746, email arts@menorah.org.uk
- Monday, February 29 - Seed Manchester Dinner. Contact: Tsipi on 792 4457
- Wednesday, March 2 8pm - Jewish Book Week at the Yeshurun Synagogue. Contact: office@yeshurun.org.uk or tel 428 8242
- Sunday, March 6 10.30am - JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING at the Nicky Alliance Centre. Contact: 720 8721
- Sunday, March 6 6pm to 7.15pm & 8pm to 9.15pm - Jewish Book Week at the South Manchester Synagogue, Bowdon. Contact: Harvey Bertfield 928 2050
- Sunday, April 3 10.30pm - JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING at the Nicky Alliance Centre. Contact 720 8721

FOR DETAILS OF ALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS, CONSULT THE COMMUNAL DIARY AT [WWW.JEWISHMANCHESTER.ORG](http://WWW.JEWISHMANCHESTER.ORG)