



REP PRESENTS

The Voice of the Jewish Representative Council

www.jewishmanchester.org

twitter @JewishMCR

facebook: jewishmanchester

Spring 2017

Issue 32

Purim 5777

Queen Honours Sharon

Sharon Bannister, President of the JRC, received the British Empire Medal for services to the Jewish community in the New Year's Honours list reports Jonny Wineberg, JRC Chair of Executive.

Sharon has been an outstanding worker and leader in the Jewish community for the last two decades, committing herself to public service through her work with the Jewish Lads & Girls Brigade and Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region. She commits almost all of her free time in representing the Jewish community to civic and other leaders across Greater Manchester as well as to the wider Jewish community in her role on the Jewish Leadership Council and Board of Deputies of British Jews.

In the last two years, Sharon has overseen major changes to the Jewish Representative Council, enabling it to become more proactive and attract younger, more dynamic members. She has also been at the forefront of responding to the challenges faced by the Jewish community, including bringing the community together to present a united front when under anti-Semitic attack and working with the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester to protect our communities' rights to religious slaughter.

Sharon became Director of the Jewish Youth Project in 1995 overseeing its innovative work until it closed in 2009. The amazing



Sharon Bannister, President of the JRC

outcomes of the Project's work were evidenced both through surveys that showed

improvements in young peoples concerns over issues as well as the young leaders who emerged through its programmes. Sharon also volunteered as a member of the assessment team for the Manchester University Community Work Unit, giving advice and guidance as well as support to prospective Workers.

Sharon has served as a Trustee and Honorary Secretary of Counselling Direct, a small counselling charity in Bury, supporting local people with issues such as teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, debt and mental health. She has also been a member of a fundraising committee for the 'Rob's Day Unit' - the day patient facility for the Young Oncology Unit at The Christie, since 2005. This was set up in memory of one of the young people who attended The Project who died from cancer aged 19.

Through her commitment, public spirit and selflessness, Sharon has earned the respect of her peers. She is a role model to our community and an inspiring figure for society as a whole. Her award is hugely deserved and we know that Sharon will continue to serve the community with great distinction.

Civic Reception at The Town Hall

The Jewish Leadership Council and the Jewish Representative Council jointly hosted a Civic Reception for Jewish Community Leaders and local politicians at Manchester Town Hall in December reports Clive Moss-Barclay.

The event was the first of its kind to be held in Manchester and saw close to 50 of the region's MPs, Councillors, Ceremonial Mayors as well as many Leaders within the Jewish

community enjoy a pre-Chanukah afternoon tea together. Simon Johnson, Chief Executive of the JLC, chaired the event and said: "Today's civic reception has been an excellent opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate alongside leading figures in the region. Supporting Jews across the UK is central to the JLC's work and we are pleased to be able to bring members of the community and local politicians together to discuss key issues."

Speakers included Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, Graham Brady, MP for Altrincham and Sale, and Sharon Bannister, President of the Jewish Representative Council. Sharon commented "This was a fantastic new initiative and was very well attended by both

representatives of the Jewish community and politicians from the many boroughs where we live, giving us all an opportunity to meet and share our thoughts and views.

Attendees included Carl Austin-Behan, Lord Mayor of Manchester; Ivan Lewis MP; Rebecca Long-Bailey MP; Rabbi Daniel Walker; David Walker, Bishop of Manchester; Paul Dennett, City Mayor of Salford; Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and PCC; Rishi Shori, Leader Bury Council; Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky; Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and many more.

Marc Levy, North West External Affairs Manager for the JLC, who organised this prestigious event said: "We were delighted to be able to hold this event in Manchester, and give the community and their local politicians an opportunity to talk and ask questions. The turnout was fantastic and we'd like to thank everyone who attended."



Sir Richard Leese addressing the Civic Reception

Salford Interfaith Network Neighbourhood Has Big Bash

Barbara Goldstone, Chairman of the Salford Interfaith Network (SIN) and JRC Executive Member, reports on the work of the Network.



I-r: Imran Kotwal - Salford College Chaplain, Rabbi Arnold Saunders, Barbara Goldstone, Revd Canon Steve Williams, Tony Lloyd - GM Mayor and Colleen Donovan-Togo

The Network was launched in 2010 at a prestigious meeting held at the Copthorne Hotel which I attended on behalf of the Jewish Representative Council. We met regularly in the multifaith room at Hope Hospital where on one occasion we celebrated the opening of the Shabbat Room with the Mayor and Mayoress of Salford, the Bishop of Manchester, the late Rabbi Yehuda Brodie z'l and other important dignitaries from different faiths.

I became the Chairman of SIN in 2012. We organise four functions a year, embracing as many different faiths as possible and people of all faiths are made welcome at our meetings.

One of our most successful meetings was in June 2016 at Pendleton Gateway, when we

hosted a debate "My Salford, My Vote" when a panel that included Councillor John Merry, Revd Keith Archer, Seamus Martin (UKIP) and Judith Hayman discussed the EU situation from a moral aspect.

The Network has strong contacts with Salford University chaplaincy and we have held faith meetings at the Multifaith Centre. Every year the Network holds a competition for the 12 secondary schools in Salford and winners are presented with their certificates and prizes in the Mayoral Parlour. This year we are holding a Photography competition.

Further information about the Salford Interfaith Network can be found on its Facebook page @Salford Interfaith.

The Big Neighbourhood Bash was a multifaith event held last December on Cheetham Hill Tesco's car park.

The Jewish Representative Council's stand offered information about the work of the Council. Free cake, courtesy of Osem, was available for all who visited our stand and free Chanukiah (courtesy of the local Lubavitch) for those wishing to celebrate the festival of Chanukah.

Participants also had the opportunity to take part in quizzes on different faiths, enjoy a bouncy castle, get faces painted and much more. Over 1,000 people visited the event which provided a great opportunity for improving relationships between different faiths.



Susan Isaacs (left) and Filis Rosenberg on the Jewish Representative Council's stand at the Big Neighbourhood Bash.

Social Media & Advocacy Training

November's Council Meeting was held at the Bayit and was followed by a 'Social Media & Advocacy Workshop' reports Clive Moss-Barclay, JRC Publicity Officer.



Above (l to r): Presenters Edward Moss, Paul Corrick and Jonny Wineberg

This event was attended by 25 representatives from a range of affiliated organisations. Presenters Jonny Wineberg, Edward Moss, and Paul Corrick explained the role and functions of social media and how online communities and networks operate.

Edward Moss talked about tweeting and the value of Twitter. He talked about the

differences between personal and advocacy accounts, how to sign up, who to follow, and how to make the best use of such accounts for advocacy purpose. Jonny Wineberg talked about Facebook and cautioned members on the dangers involved in creating social media accounts for advocacy and how best to protect oneself when posting online. He also

discussed how to use Facebook to promote organisations, websites, and causes. Greater contact with more people can be achieved by linking websites with Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

A range of tools to enhance the impact of websites were discussed. These include blogs, podcast, photos and videos. Consistency is an important aspect for social media sites whilst the main aims should be to educate, entertain and empower readers. The value of other social media tools such as Snapchat, Instagram, Pinterest, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, Google+, Tumblr, Vine and Meetup were also discussed.

Paul Corrick discussed Israel Advocacy and how to handle related issues online. He discussed "rules" of effective Israeli Advocacy as proposed by the author Neil Lazarus and listed useful websites, videos and blogs for people to access.

These include standwithus.co.il; bicom.org.uk; theisraelproject.org; i24news.tv; jpost.com; webelieveinIsrael.org.uk; david-collier.com; and timesofisrael.com.

The workshop proved to be a great successful and was appreciated by all the attendees. It is hoped to repeat it again in the future subject to demand.

Outreach Wins Again!

The Jewish Representative Council held its Annual Community Challenge Quiz for the Leslie Donn Challenge Cup in November, reports **Clive Moss-Barclay, JRC Publicity Officer.**

Eighteen teams from across Greater Manchester gathered at the Hilton Suite in Prestwich to put their knowledge to the test on questions posed by quiz masters Malcolm and Adam Simon and Jonny Wineberg. Linda Jacobs and Barbara Goldstone were in charge of the organisation for the evening, ensuring everything went smoothly and the catering kept everyone fed and watered.

The Quiz was won by Outreach who collected the first prize of £650. Runners-up were Yeshurun Synagogue whilst Pennine Wayfarers won the random prize of £100 for teams outside the top two. The evening was great fun and enjoyed by all who attended.



Sharon Bannister, JRC President, with members of Outreach's winning team.

Smeeth Fights Back!

Labour MP Ruth Smeeth, who has previously worked for CST and BICOM, spoke at December's Meeting of the Jewish Representative Council reports **Clive Moss-Barclay, JRC Publicity Officer.**



Ruth Smeeth, MP, addressing the JRC Meeting

Ms Smeeth described how she has been trying to cope with the storm of anti-Semitism. She has received 25,000 pieces of hate mail and 6 death threats over a period of 6 months.

According to Ms Smeeth there have always been people in the Labour Party with anti-Semitic views but recently these people have been empowered by the attitude of the current leadership. Ms Smeeth felt that she has a responsibility to ensure that the main UK

opposition party has no room for anti-Semites and racists. She encouraged people not to lose faith in the Labour Party but, instead, consider joining the Jewish Labour Movement to work on a solution together and to fight anti-Semitism from the inside the Party.

In response to a question, Ms Smeeth pointed out that Labour has always been a very emotional Party and that this has in the past led to public breakdowns. The Party has always recovered and fought back, however. Ms. Smeeth explained that times are changing very quickly and that causes a lot of fear. Politicians need to learn how to address these fears, and that is what she is planning to do.

Ms Smeeth described her recent successful trip to Israel with Tom Watson and three other Labour MPs. When asked about the language of anti-Zionism Ms. Smeeth explained that the line between anti-Zionism, anti-Semitism and anti-Israel can often appear blurred. She encouraged everyone to question people's underlying beliefs as anti-Zionism is a term that can so easily move from being anti-Israel to anti-Semitic.

In response to another question, Ms. Smeeth stated that she does not believe that British Jews should be scared to the extent of planning for their survival elsewhere. There are systems in place in this country that are committed to protect Jews and she herself is committed to fight for the community. She felt that despite all the problems that we are currently facing, the UK is still the safest place for Jews especially with the level of protection being afforded us by the present UK Government.

Fire Service Consults

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service recently held a consultation session that was attended by **Filis Rosenberg on behalf of the JRC.**

The Fire Service is seeking fresh insights to help make its services and facilities the very best for local people.

Across Greater Manchester, the Fire and Rescue Service has 41 community fire stations, most of which have community facilities which welcome people in on a daily basis. The Fire Service makes visits to thousands of households every year, sometimes accessing some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in the region.

According to Mr Paul Argyle, Deputy County Fire Officer, the Fire Service wants to make sure that its stations are welcoming and accessible for everybody and wants communities to know that any time they use one of its free-to-use facilities; it will be suitable for their own unique requirements.



l to r: Colin Barnes from the attraction recruitment team, Filis Rosenberg, Paul Argyle and Yasmin Bukhari, Bridging Cultures Co-ordinator

"This isn't just about being compliant" said Mr Argyle "this is about going above and beyond with the service we provide to our communities. We want to make sure that we're doing everything we can to make our facilities inviting and suitable for lots of different people, with different needs."



invite you to
THE 2017 COMMUNITY SHERMAN LECTURE



Professor Abigail Greene
Professor of Modern European History,
Brasenose College, Oxford University

**1845 to 1945:
A Century of Jewish Liberalism**

5.30pm, Thursday, 11th May 2017

at


Contact the Jewish Representative Council

Tel / Fax: 0161 720 8721

Email: office@jewishmanchester.org

RepPresent's Editors: Clive Moss-Barclay and Filis Rosenberg

Check the Communal Diary before arranging your event to reduce the chances of clashing with other events. Phone or email us to add your event to the Diary.

Remembrance Sunday Parade

David Bannister reports on the recent Remembrance Sunday Parade that he attended in Bury together with Officers of the Jewish Representative Council.

Jackie Buchsbaum, JRC Vice-Chair, and Michael Rubinstein, JRC Secretary, represented the Jewish Representative Council at this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade in Bury. We marched from Bury Town Hall to the Cenotaph with the Mayor, civic dignitaries and representatives of many local and national organisations.

A large crowd had gathered in the town

centre to pay their respects and witness the proceedings. After the Last Post was sounded two minutes silence was impeccably observed at 11.00am. This was followed by the respectful placing of poppy wreaths on the Cenotaph by the various organisations represented.

A Service of Remembrance took place after the parade in Bury Church.



“Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things”

This is how Mike Connolly, Mayor of Bury, described the volunteers and charity workers whose work is so vital to the people of Bury reports Clive Moss-Barclay, Publicity Officer.



Mike Connolly, Mayor of Bury, at the JRC Meeting

Mayor Mike Connolly and his Consort, Ian Hargreave, attended the February Council meeting of the JRC. In her introduction the President talked about the wonderful work that the Mayor has done for Bury and how he is an inspiration to all who know him.

Mayor Connolly thanked the President for her invitation to speak and gave a brief biography of himself and his career of 22 years

on Bury Council. He was born in Bury and has lived there all his life. He is very glad to be the Mayor of his home town and confirmed that it is the best job he has ever held.

The Mayor explained what his role entails and remarked on how he has seen many different aspects of the borough as its Mayor. He stated how important volunteers and charity workers are to the people of Bury, where “ordinary people do extraordinary things”. He talked about his love of visiting people and the many visits he has made and is still to make before his year as Mayor finishes. The Mayor mentioned the wonderful welcome he has received from the Jewish community. He has visited Heathlands, Brookvale, Kind David School and Langdon College and is very impressed by the facilities provided by Jewish organisations for its Community.

He recounted various amusing anecdotes that have occurred during his time as Mayor of Bury and talked about the three local charities that have been nominated for support by the Mayor: Anabelle's Challenge, Joshua Wilson Brain Tumour Charity, and the Bury Alzheimer's Society. He is confident they will be able to raise a total of £20,000 for these charities.

The Mayor concluded by saying that it has been a wonderful experience for him.

Living with Difference

The Faith in Modern Britain Conference last November encouraged the people of Greater Manchester to work together to overcome extremism through community cohesion reports Jonny Wineberg.

Over 70 people of different faiths and none came together at Spotland Stadium to discuss the role of Faith in Modern Britain and the importance of living with difference. The conference was a joint initiative by the Inter Faith Groups of Greater Manchester, including Faith Network 4 Manchester and Near Neighbours, and was supported by Rochdale Borough Council.

The Conference is an annual event in support of Inter Faith Week in order to celebrate the diversity of communities across Greater Manchester. This year's conference offered a variety of workshops that looked at

how places of worship can be of service to the wider society; how we challenge extremism by building stronger dialogue and communication; and how faith communities can make better use of technology to promote collaboration and peace.

Keynote speaker Suzanne Kochanowski, Head of Race Equality and Faith Engagement for the Department for Communities and Local Government, affirmed the commitment by her department to address the issues we face in society. She emphasised that conferences such as this are vital in the current context and political climate.

Pantry Packers Save Lives

Russell Conn informed the February Meeting of the Jewish Representatives Council that nearly 2 million people of all ages are living below the poverty line in Israel.

The aim of Pantry Packers is to provide food aid to almost everyone in Israel who is in need of support. The project has been set up with the help of the Israeli government and in partnership with Leket, an Israeli food aid provider.



Russell Conn addressing the JRC Meeting

Mr Conn encouraged all those who visit Israel to donate 90 minutes of their time to spend in Pantry Packers' warehouse in Jerusalem where food is packed and distributed to needy families. People from all over the world have volunteered and found it a very rewarding experience. Their names and hometowns are put on the packages so that people receiving help know who helped packed it.

Community Awards Better Than Ever

Manchester's community volunteers were honoured at the sixth 'Jewish Community Awards' organised by Jewish Representative Council, Jewish Telegraph and Jewish Volunteering Network (Manchester) reports Clive Moss-Barclay, JRC Publicity Officer.

The event was held at the Hilton Suite before an audience of more than 300 people. Journalist Angela Epstein compered the event with 15 year old saxophonist Marcus Gradel providing the warm-up.

JRC President, Sharon Bannister, introduced the evening with Rabbi Eisenberg of Shrubberies Synagogue who read a message from Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. The judging panel was chaired by Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies, who spoke of how Manchester is a community of vibrancy, diversity and energy and is the fastest growing Jewish Community in Europe.

The event ran for nearly 2 hours during which time many people received awards for all the volunteering work they have done for the community. Award categories included Young Volunteer, Communal Employee, Building Bridges Organisation, Volunteer Team, Friend of the Community, Special Recognition, Lifetime Achievement and many more.

The award ceremony was an example of the Manchester Jewish Community at its finest

and showed how much people are prepared to give of their kindness, generosity and time to others.



Rabbi Dovid Eisenberg (left) presents Dr Israel Mintz with a Special Recognition Award looked on by his son Jonny and grandson David.

SACREs Oversee Religious Education in Schools

SACREs are the Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education. Every Local Authority legally has to have one. Jeremy Michelson, JRC Executive Member, describes the work of the Salford SACRE.

The Salford SACRE includes representatives from all the major faiths, councillors, teachers unions and a Council official. Alex Klein and I represent the Jewish community on Salford SACRE.

The main item for discussion at the last

SACRE meeting was Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in Salford and how it should be organised. The other major discussion point was the work of the primary and secondary R.E. co-coordinators to help teachers deliver the new locally agreed R.E. Syllabus.



Below: JRC Executive members Jeremy Michelson (centre) & Alex Klein (right) with delegate Cllr Heather Fletcher (centre) and, above, attending a meeting of the Salford SACRE



North West Holocaust Memorial Day Events

At the February meeting of the Jewish Representative Council, President, Sharon Bannister, talked about Holocaust Memorial Days which had been held over the past weeks.

The JRC managed to send representatives to almost every event happening around Greater Manchester Region. Sharon herself attended both Bury and Manchester's HMDs with Past President Barbara Goldstone also

What is the Jewish Representative Council?

The JRC was established in 1919, and although times have changed its work is still as important today as it was then.

The JRC is a lay body made up of over 80 communal organisations both large and small which represents, defends, protects and promotes the best interests of the Jewish Community across Greater Manchester and Region.

It links with statutory bodies in many ways, representing the Jewish community on public bodies and giving advice where it can. The following are just some examples of the work currently being undertaken by the JRC:

- Discussing health issues relating to the Jewish community with local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- Speaking with Council departments in relation to diverse issues and currently working closely with Salford, Bury and Manchester on the North Manchester Jewish Community Demography project.
- Representing the community on Independent Advisory Groups to Greater Manchester Police. The JRC Chair, Jonny Wineberg, Co-Chairs the 'We Stand Together Initiative'.
- Liaising with Tony Lloyd, Acting Greater Manchester Mayor, and currently working closely with Jim Battle, his Deputy, on Faith and Mental Health issues.

• Representing the Jewish community on Local Council Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACRE)

The JRC also links with the many interfaith bodies across Greater Manchester addressing issues of equality and cohesion, and the JRC Chair currently convenes the Greater Manchester Interfaith Network.

JRC runs Jewish awareness sessions with schools and community groups and holds Election Hustings to enable candidates to address the Jewish community. We will be doing this again this April for the Greater Manchester Mayor election.

The JRC leads campaigns for Jewish rights such as protecting religious slaughter and circumcision and works closely with its partners when it comes to defending Israel. The JRC challenges the media when it harms the community and commends them when they help us. It has its own newspaper 'RepPresents' to promote its work to both the Jewish and wider communities.

The Jewish Representative Council is the Jewish Community's link to the wider community; uniting, defending, protecting and serving its community for nearly 100 years.

attending Manchester as well as Salford and Jonny Wineberg, Chair of Executive, attending the events in Salford, Rochdale, and at GMP Headquarters. The GMP event was particularly poignant with Chaim Ferster z'l speaking and playing Hatikvah on the violin.

The President thanked all the members who attended on behalf of the JRC and the Jewish community and stressed the importance of this support for the local authorities who are remembering this day.

Update From Marc Levy



Marc Levy in conversation with MP Steve Rotherham

The vast majority of MPs, Council Leaders and Representatives with whom I have held meetings tell me that they have never met with a representative from the Jewish community writes Marc Levy, the Jewish Leadership Council's North West Regional Manager .

It is essential to put forward the community's perspective during these difficult times and I would encourage people to utilise the lines of communication that have been established to make contact with their MPs and Community Leaders.

I have undertaken meetings with the region's Universities in conjunction with UJS, Chaplaincy and J-Soc to ensure the voices of Jewish students are heard and that any issues that may occur on Campus are dealt with appropriately by University management.

I have also assisted with the development of closer ties between the Manchester and

Merseyside Representative Councils and it has been a pleasure to work closely with their Presidents in this regard. I have chaired a meeting between several Manchester based Zionist organisations to discuss agendas and ensure improved co-operation.

Moving into the New Year my meetings are continuing at a frenetic pace and I am currently in the process of arranging Parliamentary days to introduce the region's MPs to JLC stakeholders.

I am looking forward to fostering and developing closer relationships with the people I have met.

JRC Puts Pressure on GMP

The JRC is pressing the GMP to formally establish more flexible working arrangements suitable for Orthodox Jewish recruits reports Filis Rosenberg, JRC Executive member.



Filis Rosenberg with Deputy Chief Constable Ian Pilling

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has decided to recruit 500 new police officers per year over the next four years. GMP intends to use this recruitment programme to transform the diversity of its officers, making the organisation more reflective and representative of the communities it serves. This will help to address historic issues of under-representation of minority groups within the police force.

Although there are a few police officers within GMP who define themselves as Jewish, the Force is keen to attract further recruits from Manchester's Jewish community. It has made great efforts to ensure religious observance need not be a barrier to a successful career in the police force and has established flexible working arrangements that help to address this.

Jonny Wineberg, JRC Chair of Executive, said "The Jewish Representative Council will be happy to endorse GMP's recruitment efforts when there are no obstacles to observant Jewish recruits, specifically that they will not be required to work Shabbat or Yomin Tovim."

Thank you Doreen

Doreen Gerson has retired as Executive Director of the Israel Information Centre after 32 years in office, reports Filis Rosenberg, Executive Member.

Doreen has been the driving force of the IIC in Manchester which is a source of information and assistance to the general public, covering a wide spectrum of subjects including the Political, Economic and Social aspects of Israel. The IIC organises speakers including representatives from the Embassy of Israel, visiting Israeli experts and Israeli academics. Doreen has spoken on behalf of the IIC at Universities, schools, church groups as well as Zionist organisations.

Doreen has also been instrumental in the successes of the Labour Friends of Israel of which she is a founder member. She has taken over 30 Trade Union delegations on trips to Israel and has been an excellent representative of the Israeli Embassy in the Northwest of England.



Doreen Gerson receiving a special presentation from Jonny Wineberg, Chair of the JRC

Doreen said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the JRC for your support of the Israel Information Centre and I hope our paths will cross again in the not too distant future." Doreen will be greatly missed and we all wish her well in her retirement. Doreen's successor is Ria Manwell who has taken over as the new IIC Director.



in association with



THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF GREATER MANCHESTER AND REGION

The ZCC and Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester invite the community to the:

Sir Sidney and Lady Hamburger Annual Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 8.00pm

With very special guest speaker



TIM MARSHALL

Tim Marshall is a Journalist, author, and broadcaster, known for his analysis of developments in foreign news and international diplomacy, and was formerly diplomatic editor and also foreign affairs editor for Sky News. He has worked for the BBC and a number of national newspapers including the Times and is often a guest presenter of LBC.

Tim is founder and editor of news web platform thewhatandnewhy.com, a site for journalists, politicians, foreign affairs analysts and enthusiasts, to share views on world news events. Tim has written four books and his latest is 'Worth Dying For - The Power and Politics of Flags'

RSVP to zcc.man@zen.co.uk or telephone 0161 720-8721

Together at Heaton Park Synagogue

Members of Rochdale's Multi-Faith Partnership supported a 'We Stand Together' community cohesion event held at Heaton Park Synagogue last September reports Jonny Wineberg, JRC Chair of Executive.

'We Stand Together' is a police initiative which encourages people to come together as one and celebrate their differences in order to build a safer and stronger United Kingdom.

Among the group was Father Paul Daly from Our Lady and St. Joseph's Catholic Parish, Heywood, who was accompanied by Father Marcin Sadowski, a visiting colleague from the Diocese of Plock in Poland. Father Daly said: "I was privileged to stand in Auschwitz last month with Bishop John and ninety young people from Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

That terrible place and the horrors of the Shoah powerfully bring home the evil that arises from hatred and intolerance. That's why it is so important that we meet together, not just to learn from each other but also to work together. We need to speak humbly but confidently of God in a world that needs to hear of him. Together we can pray for each other and for our world."

Saiqa Naz, of the Multi-Faith Partnership, acknowledged how Judaism and her own faith of Islam share the same historic roots. This was her first visit to a Synagogue and she was very keen at the prospect of being shown around.

Also speaking was Hani Singh of the Sikh community. Mr Singh spoke from the perspective of helping young people to be more involved for themselves in community cohesion events. Often older people speak too much on their behalf rather than listening to what they have to contribute, he explained.

Rabbi Daniel Walker led a tour of the Synagogue and answered questions from the group about Judaism and worship at the synagogue. The synagogue provided buffet refreshments whilst visitors were able to network and get to know each other.

Robin Parker, Chairman of the Multi-Faith Partnership, said: "The great thing about this gathering was that it enabled people of different faiths, including Christians, Jews and Muslims to enjoy each other's company as ordinary British citizens Without prejudice, away from domestic and world tensions where, sadly, similar communities may experience racism, xenophobia and oppression."



#WeStandTogether at Heaton Park Synagogue

Hindu Jewish Forum

The Hindu Jewish Forum held their Annual Meal at Pagoda reports Sharon Bannister, JRC President



The food, atmosphere and company were excellent and the noise from all the discussions was at times deafening! Speeches were short and to the point and everybody had a great evening.

Special thanks go to Louis Rapaport, Co-chair of the Forum, for organising this very enjoyable event which, by popular request, we will be repeating again towards the end of the year.

Details will be available on the JRC Communal Diary at www.jewishmanchester.org so don't forget to check the date and put it in your diary.

JAFFA Coming Soon!

Starting with a Food, Wine & Art Event on Sunday July 2nd at Manchester Jewish Museum, the Jewish Arts Festival For All is something to put in your diary for this summer.

Also in the planning stage are a Comedy Spectacular at the Comedy Store with Adam Bloom, Mark Maier, Sol Bernstein and more; an art competition and exhibition for children and a big concert.

Help Wanted

You can also get involved with helping promote the festival and with running events during the festival. We are particularly looking for individuals with marketing and social media skills. If this would be of interest and you have skills and time please email the JRC office: office@jewishmanchester.org or call us on 0161 720 8721.

GREATER MANCHESTER MAYORAL ELECTION 2017

HUSTINGS

Sunday 2nd April 7.30pm to 9.30pm

King David High School, Eaton Road, Manchester M8

We hope you will join us to discuss and explore key issues with the candidates



Sean Anstee
Conservative

Jane Brophy
Liberal Democrat

Andy Burnham
Labour

Shneur Odze
UKIP

Will Patterson
Green

If you wish to submit a question to be put to the candidates, please email office@jewishmanchester.org 3 or 4 questions will be asked from those submitted and then questions will be taken from the floor



JRC Showcases Manchester Talent

The JRC organised its first Variety Show of Music, Comedy and 'more' to celebrate the draw of the Big Annual Raffle reports Susan Isaacs, JRC Executive Member.



Jewish Theatre Company Choir at the JRC Variety Show

The show was organised and compered by Steven Pearlman, and showcased some of Manchester's extremely talented performers. It kept an audience of 180 people entertained all Sunday evening at the Bury Shul Hall.

30 members of the Jewish Theatre Company Choir launched the event with a medley of songs. Other singers included Aliza

Arad, Katrina Corrick, our very own JRC Chair of Executive, Jonny Wineberg, and Dalia and Jordan Kay. The audience was kept amused by comedians Marilyn Berg, John Blaskey, Johnny Hill, Lynne Nathan and Paul Corrick. Musicians included Rai Fayette on the electric guitar, Simon Nevitt on piano and Elliot Sayers playing his ukulele. Brian Rose recited his poetry whilst Omri Simon fascinated the audience with a mentalism act.

First prize in the 'Big Annual Raffle' went to Mr John Berg. The event was a great success and the Chairman gave a big vote of thanks to all the performers for making it such an enjoyable evening for everyone.

What We Eat Affects Our Health

It is well established that British Asians and Ashkenazi Jews have a much higher incidence of diabetes. This was the topic of a meeting of the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester last November reports Jonny Wineberg.

The event was attended by Muslims, Jews and others. The speakers were Dr Jackie Lewis, Mohammed Amin and Jonny Wineberg. They explained how eating healthily can reduce your risk of heart disease and diabetes, and shared strategies for dealing with diabetes if you already have this condition.

Dr Lewis took the audience through two hypothetical restaurant meals: a kosher meal and a curry meal. She explained the pitfalls of each by looking at the individual foods and pointing out the high levels of both fat and sugar. She explained that sugar is in 75% of processed foods and is a risk factor for raised blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, cancer and dementia; so the 'sugar tax' is important for reducing ill health.

Mohammed Amin's key advice was to look at all packaged foods to see how many calories

they contain, as some foods contain far more calories than others. When cooking at home, he recommended the use of a 'nutritional scale', which is quite cheap. This allows you to weigh food, and when you key in the food's code it will tell you how many calories are in the food on the scale.

Jonny Wineberg explained that he has had diabetes since 2006 and has learned to manage this with diet and a single medication. He also discussed exercise and promoted its importance both for diabetics and everyone else..

The speakers were introduced and thanked for their informative contributions by



Members of the Muslim Jewish Forum

the Forum Co-Chair, Councillor Heather Fletcher. The attendees also enjoyed a healthy light refreshment buffet consisting of fruit, vegetables and nuts. The audience were attentive and responsive throughout and the speakers hoped that they will now be inspired into leading a healthier lifestyle.

Community Events Diary

- Sunday 5th March: **JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING; 10.30am**
Jewish Genealogical Society of GB (Manchester); 2.00pm
Langdon Quiz; 7.00pm
- Wednesday 8th March: **Hamburger Memorial Lecture; 7.30pm**
- Monday 13th March: **A Night to Celebrate Israel; 6.00pm**
- Thursday 23rd March: **Maccabi Football Section Whisky Tasting Event**
- Friday 24th March: **The Friendship Circle Domestic Goddess Coffee Morning; 11.00am**
- Sunday 2nd April: **Maccabi Football Section Quiz Night; 7.00pm**
GREATER MANCHESTER MAYORAL DEBATE; 7.30pm
YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION EVENT
- Monday 24th April: **The Fed Appeal Dinner; 7.30pm**
- Thursday 27th April: **JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AGM MEETING; 10.15am**
- Sunday 7th May: **Charity Quiz in Aid of Mesothelioma; 7.00pm**
- Thursday 11th May: **Community Sherman Lecture, Prof Abigail Greene; 7.30pm**
The Friendship Circle Singing for Friendship; 7.00pm
- Wednesday 17th May: **The Fed Child Rearing Debate; 7.30pm**

FOR DETAILS OF ALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS, CONSULT THE COMMUNITY DIARY AT WWW.JEWISHMANCHESTER.ORG

To receive our Weekly Email Digest of Communal Events, email us at office@jewishmanchester.org