



The Voice of the Jewish Representative Council

PRESENTS

REP

Contact the Council

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

ON THE WEB AT
www.jewishmanchester.org

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

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.

Spring 2015

Issue 28

The Omer 5775

Representative Council Initiative gets 135,000 to protect Shechita

On February 12, Sharon Bannister, President of The Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region became aware of a House of Commons debate scheduled for February 23 in Westminster Hall to consider an e-petition to “End non-stun slaughter to promote animal welfare”.

This petition was started by Sally Burnell, Director of Policy, Media & Strategy at the British Veterinary Association (BVA), and had received more than the required 100,000 signatures.

That same evening Sharon and Council Vice-President, Jonny Wineberg, rang Mohammed Amin, the Muslim Co-Chair of the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester, to suggest a joint petition supporting the protection of religious slaughter in the UK and EU. Without any hesitation, Amin agreed. Jonny prepared the draft, Amin finalised and uploaded it onto the Government's e-petitions website and by 8am on February 13 the petition was live at epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions.

The petition emphasised the

scientific evidence showing minimisation of suffering when religious slaughter is practised properly. It included a link to the website of the pre-eminent animal welfare academic, Dr Temple Grandin. It also made clear that abattoirs frequently fail to effectively stun the animal effectively, thereby causing suffering.

Starting from initial dissemination by the Mancunians, the petition was quickly picked up by national Muslim and Jewish organisations and shared very widely among Jews, Muslims

and others who care about freedom of religion in Britain.

Sally Burnell's petition to ban was started in April 2014 and promoted by the BVA. It had taken

around 10 months to gather the required 100,000 signatures. Our petition reached the 100,000 target in 9 days, not months, and after 10 days had overtaken the petition to ban. It was signed by Jews, Muslims and so many others who truly care about animal welfare and the freedom of religious practice.

What was most gratifying was how the strength of feeling shown through the petition was reflected in the debate in Westminster Hall, where it was referred to several times. It also seemed to influence the debate's proposer, Philip Hollobone MP, who took on board the appalling incidence of failed stuns and the need for improved monitoring by the Food Safety Agency.

As the closing date approached, the petition had received over

135,000 signatures. The success of the survey was due to excellent cooperation between the Jewish Representative Council and the Muslim Jewish Forum, along with some targeted marketing through facebook and emails and the great response of the Jewish and Muslim communities and our friends.

Having achieved this amazing impact, the Council hopes that the strength of feeling the petition has demonstrated will cause the BVA and FSA to focus on improving their monitoring of slaughterhouses and wider treatment of animals, rather than continuing to attack the religious practices of our two communities. We know that influencing the European Parliament and its institutions will be more difficult but hope that it will have contributed to some extent.

If you want to help further this, or other, campaigns, contact us by email at office@jewishmanchester.org or call us on 0161 720 8721

Open	Closed	Rejected
(5,511)	(27,325)	(28,040)
Listed below are any e-petitions that can be signed.		
e-petition name	Signatures	Closing
Protect religious slaughter in the UK and EU	135,298	30/03/2015
End non-stun slaughter to promote animal welfare	118,617	30/03/2015
Make CCTV mandatory for all slaughterhouses	111,197	30/03/2015

The petition topped the Government's e-petition list in March 2015

Awesome Advocacy

The Representative Council, in partnership with the ZCC and Stand With Us, held a hugely successful Israel Advocacy Event with Neil Lazarus of Awesome Seminars in March.

The previous evening, Neil had updated an audience of over 70 at South Manchester Synagogue on the latest situation in Israel. At the Bnei Akiva Bayit, he challenged the next generation of Israel advocates to rethink their approach to campaigning.

Neil's initial gambit was to play devil's advocate, throwing anti-Israel rhetoric at participants and giving them little time to gather their thoughts. As the evening progressed, he ran through a range of communication methods and strategies for engaging with anti-

Israel activists. Neil kept the audience totally engrossed with his different tactics and opened their minds to using more effective methods of discussion regarding any current situation between Israel and the Palestinians

Neil's book, 'The New Five Rules of Effective Israel Advocacy' is a must read for anyone getting involved in this work and if you go to his page at www.awesome-seminars.weebly.com you can join on of his online webinars.

Contact zcc.man@zen.co.uk to get more involved as part of a new advocacy group.



Sir Richard Leese spoke at the December meeting of the Jewish Representative Council, a month after the historic announcement of devolution to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.



Neil Lazarus speaking to a rapt group of seminar participants

THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday May 10th 2015 10.15am

Guest Speaker:

Chief Inspector Umer Khan

Officer with responsibility for Cohesion at Greater Manchester Police

For venue details, contact office@jewishmanchester.org

The whole community is invited to attend

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH OUR WORK

- Fundraising
- Publicity
- Education
- Antisemitism & Human Rights
- Campaigns
- Public Relations
- Media Response
- Youth & Community

Call 0161 720 8721 or email office@jewishmanchester.org to enquire

A Bishop for all

The new Bishop of Manchester, The Rt Rev David Walker, shares his thoughts on his return to our City and relationships with our community.

Returning to Manchester in late 2013, to take up my post as its new bishop, has brought a very welcome return to living in a place in which the Jewish community plays a visible and significant part. I'm grateful to the Representative Council for quickly making my wife Sue and myself feel welcome. Visits to homes and community events soon showed that good relationships have been built up and sustained between the Council and my predecessors.

My first trip to Israel, in November 2014, took advantage of the direct flights that now operate between Manchester and Tel Aviv. It will remain one of the highlights of my life to date. I had seen pictures of many of the places we visited before, yet it was surprisingly moving to be able to touch the locations of some of the most significant events in my religious tradition.

One of the most emotionally charged experiences was to stand at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and pray alongside the crowds who gather there day and night, knowing that I was also praying alongside those who have come to that holy spot for well over two thousand years. The stones I was touching as I prayed were the same stones that were touched by those great teachers and holy ones, Christian and Jewish alike, whose names have travelled down the intervening centuries and still inspire us today.

The mixture of joy and tension that is the Jerusalem of today, which I witnessed first hand, brought home to me something of the constant proximity and fear of antisemitism that is as much a part of modern Jewish life as it has been for countless generations; and is part of Manchester as much as the Middle East.

In my time as a bishop in Dudley I was privileged to work with a local MP, Ian Austin, whose father is a holocaust survivor. Ian worked tirelessly to see that schoolchildren

of all backgrounds were able to visit the death camp of Auschwitz and to share their stories with their fellow students and community representatives back home. That certainly helped me understand something of the individual impact of the Shoah, but nothing could have fully prepared me to realise what it meant in terms of a whole community.

It came home to me for the first time that the six million who were exterminated were not just an almost unimaginable number of individuals but the greater part of an entire people. The children and grandchildren of those who escaped or survived are also survivors, as will be their children and grandchildren yet unborn.

It was an extraordinary privilege for me to attend a ceremony in London recently, where Ambassador Daniel Taub presented "Righteous among the Nations" awards to the descendants of those who had hidden and protected Jews during the Holocaust. Not least, I was struck by the enormous efforts still being undertaken to identify those deserving to receive it, even 70 years after their bravery.

It has also been a privilege to stand alongside Jewish and other faith leaders, in response to the Paris massacre and for Holocaust Memorial Day. We are stronger as faith communities, and Manchester is stronger as a city, when we unite around the core values that our different religious traditions all seek to express, and work for the peace, wellbeing and flourishing of both our own people and all those who we live among.

As Bishop of Manchester, part of my role is to stand up for all those who would place faith at the heart of both private and civic life. In my second year I feel I am getting to know you all a little better, I hope that will allow me to better discharge the responsibilities to which I have been called.



The Bishop on a visit to King David High School earlier this school year

Ensuring Education

Barbara D Goldstone, Education Committee Chairman, reports on recent developments.

This past few months, due to the Trojan Horse situation in Birmingham, OFSTED has intensified their visits to faith schools. Their main concern is the law and attitudes in modern Britain today. Unfortunately, our own faith schools have suffered some backlash due to their own religious curriculum, and we are working with our colleagues at the Board of Deputies to address some of the concerns about religious sensitivity.

We are also concerned by the fact that many people, ignorant of our religious practices, are going into schools talking about the Jewish religion. We seek to ensure that those going in to schools are appropriately qualified and competent to do so.

Due to the lack of specialised teachers in religious education, particularly at senior levels, we have seen a large decrease in those taking the subject. This is another

area we are looking to address through our work on local SACREs (Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education).

We have representation on SACREs in all ten Greater Manchester Local Authority areas:

- Bury: Mrs Barbara Goldstone
- Bolton: Mrs Hilary Lewis
- Oldham: Mr Marcus Irving Keller
- Rochdale: Rabbi Tony Walker
- Stockport: Carole Weinberg
- Trafford: Mrs Sandra Stewart
- Salford: Mr Alex Klein
- Manchester: Rev. David Braunold
- Tameside: Mr Michael Lowe
- Wigan: Rabbi Arnold Saunders
- Macclesfield: Mr Frank Vigon

Anyone wishing to discuss matters of religious education, or get involved in our education work, should contact the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, Barbara D Goldstone and Jeremy Michelson respectively, via the Council office.

Training to Fire

Chief Inspector Patrick McKelvey recently arranged for several members of the North Manchester IAG (Independent Advisory Group) to attend a familiarisation session in order for the group to understand some of the aspects of the training of armed police, writes Barbara Goldstone.

The session was held at the Firearms Training Unit, Claytonbrook.

IAGs are made up of people with a range of experience and expertise. They reflect the variety of communities within a particular area, so that the Police can request advice from them, when dealing with Critical incidents. For the Jewish community, this is incredibly important to ensure we can respond to issues affecting our community. Several Jewish Representative Council members serve on IAGs, with Executive members Filis Rosenberg, Barbara Goldstone and Tony Walker serving on the one for North Manchester.

The group were shown the firing range, the armoury and a 'simulation' room, with the visit headed up by Inspector David Whittle- Head of Firearms Training for GMP and Sergeant Shaun Johnson.

The group gained a detailed understanding of the very intensive training process and had the opportunity to handle different guns (after strict safety procedures) and learn in what circumstances they (or tasers) would be used.

This visit dealt with the decisions that have to be made in split seconds and the training that goes in to preparing those involved. This was followed by the regular IAG

meeting for the extended group at North Manchester Police Headquarters during which Chief Inspector Alan Kelly made a presentation on 'Stop and Search'.

Chief Inspector Patrick McKelvey explained, "The visit to The Firearms Training Unit by the North Manchester IAG members allowed them to gain a greater understanding of the role of Firearms officer in policing and the professional manner in which they are deployed. The members asked lots of very challenging questions, which was the purpose of the visit. I am very pleased with their involvement and their greater understanding."



THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF GREATER MANCHESTER AND REGION

In conjunction with

'Victours'

cordially invite you to

Beth Shalom



THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM

June 28th 2015

8.30am prompt - 7:00 p.m.

Cost £20 (pre-payable) includes transport and entrance

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment

Coach will leave from a North Manchester venue

Please bring packed lunch, or a vegetarian lunch can be provided for a further £8.50 which must be pre booked

Please R.S.V.P. by June 14th to office@jewishmanchester.org

Tel No: 0161 720 8721

in partnership with

Faith Network 4 Manchester



Salford Interfaith Network



The Council of Christians and Jews Manchester DIALOGUE SOCIAL ACTION EDUCATION

RepPresents can be downloaded from

www.jewishmanchester.org/RepPresents

where you can also find up-to-date articles on the Council's work

Salford Interfaith debates the future

'FAITH, Fervour and Fanaticism: the next generation' was the intriguing topic under discussion at the Salford Interfaith Network (IFN) annual meeting at Pendleton Gateway on February 19th, writes **Judith Hayman**.

Chair of Manchester Council of Christians and Jews and Representative Council Friend of the Community 2014, Revd Canon Steve Williams, said: "Good fervour embraces G-d in the other person whilst bad fervour is when you only see G-d in yourself. G-d is bigger than us."

Turning from fervour to fanaticism he noted: "Fundamentalism is something we see in people other than ourselves."

Revd Williams quoted theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, who rose to prominence in the 1930s as a vociferous opponent to Nazism. Niebuhr said: "A tendency to claim G-d as an ally for our partisan values and ends is the source of all religious fanaticism." Rev Williams saw the humour of the older generation speaking for the younger when he quoted theologian John Courtney Murray who said: "I don't know what I've said until I understand what you've heard."

Rev Williams spoke of the part the Tiaze community in France had on influencing his Christian motivation to 'embrace the other'.

Rabbi Arnold Saunders of Higher Crumpsall and Higher Broughton Synagogue said: "I am

proud of being fundamentalist in one sense as I need passion and fervour to pass on faith to my congregants."

Salford City College tutor and Chaplain, Imran Kotwal, asked: "When does love turn to fanaticism?" He explained that Islam was a moderate religion and that the Prophet preached moderation. He said that the notion that not enough was being done to stop fanaticism in mainstream mosques was wrong. He said most Muslims were radicalised through the internet and foreign influences. He did not witness radicalisation in the 25,000 strong Muslim community in his town, Bolton.

The meeting was convened by Salford IFN chairman and Rep Council past President Barbara Goldstone. The aim of the IFN is to build friendship, goodwill and understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs, especially between Muslims, Christians and Jews through dialogue and action. Founder Salford IFN member Irfan Syed spoke of a sports initiative involving Israeli teenagers visiting Salford. He said: "People do not appreciate Israel until they visit it."

From the President

There are many trials and tribulations of being the President in 2015 writes **Sharon Bannister**.

Being President of The Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region is an honour, a delight and very occasionally a duty to be borne with fortitude!

I have talked before about my illustrious predecessors and I am sure that they in their time must have felt just as proud and pleased to have been chosen as President, whilst enduring some of the experience.

During the nearly 100 years of the Council's existence, our Community has thrived and continues to be highly valued by National and Local Governments, civil and religious organisations and the wider community too. We can rightly hold our heads high in any company and my experiences as President have not only confirmed this but astonished me by the respect shown and warmth with which I have been received at every event and function I have attended in my capacity as President.

Since the last edition of RepPresents, the rise in global antisemitism has sadly continued. The highly visible presence of police around our schools and institutions, supplementing our own volunteers is both a comfort and a frightening development. It is my fervent wish

that the need for such measures quickly vanishes although as a realist, my head insists that my heart is wrong in this instance.

The role of President is a dual one: ceremonial and administrative. It is the President's ceremonial function to be the visible representative of the Greater Manchester and Region Jewish Community, to attend external events where invitations have been extended, to host events of our own, to be seen in the wider community, to participate in Civil events and to ensure that as Jews we are represented. This be at anything from prizegiving ceremonies, lighting candles at International Holocaust Day, meeting with the faith leaders, mayors and visiting dignitaries to being the main speaker at one of our communal organisation's AGMs. In addition the job entails being a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and also the Jewish Leadership Council.

There are also the internal workings of the Council and Community, chairing the monthly meetings of the full Council plus the Executive meetings plus the Honorary Officers meetings plus discussions with local and national politicians, council officials, police, other communal leaders, fielding Press enquiries and all the other questions and queries that get through your way.

Put all that together and a career



in the Diplomatic Service may be not beyond possibility – except that to do it all well requires gigantic measures of knowledge, skill, experience, oratory ability, patience, wisdom and not least time, none of which is explained in the job interview!

As I write this President's piece in the aftermath of the Council's inability to attract sufficient delegates to vote on Constitutional change, I am saddened that the sterling efforts of many people over the past two years have not yet seen real change in the way we run the Council. The need for change was first suggested 15 years ago so I suppose that the fact that we now have firm proposals ready for a full Council vote on is some kind of achievement. I hope that we may quickly find some way around the impasse and that the Council can smoothly move towards our next 100 years.

News from Campus

The news from Manchester University is both positive and negative, reports **Harry Lesser**.

Positively, the Centre for Jewish Studies continues to expand its activities. The Bogdanov lectures on the Holocaust and the Moses Gaster project are just two examples; and a visit to the Centre's website is recommended. Negatively, the Centre, like the rest of the University, is impeded by administrative decisions which help neither teaching nor research. A key example of such a decision is the

one to end the teaching of modern Hebrew, which we hope the Representative Council and others can persuade those involved to reconsider.

As regards students, there appears to be a decline in the numbers of Jewish students, for reasons unknown. On the other hand, there seems currently to be no problem of anti-semitism, though it is always necessary to be vigilant.






COMMUNITY SHERMAN LECTURE 2015

Sunday, 26th April at 7.30pm

Professor Amy-Jill Levine

Speaking of the Middle East: Jews and Christians in Dialogue and Dispute

at the
Manchester Jewish Museum

This is a FREE event.

For more information see www.manchesterjewishstudies.org

67 Yom Ha'atzmaut Manchester

THE YH COMMITTEE IS HOSTING
THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR
ISRAEL'S 67 YOM HA'ATZMAUT FESTIVAL FOR ALL!

- ★ ISRAELI BAND & LIVE MUSIC ★
- ★ ISRAELI 'SHUK' MARQUEE ★ DANCING ★
- ★ AMUSEMENT RIDES ★ GAMES & CRAFT ACTIVITIES ★

AND BEGINNING A NEW TRADITION:
TORCH LIGHTING CEREMONY HONOURING MANCHESTER'S UNSUNG HEROES

ISRAELI BBQ
FROM TA'AM

PIZZA VAN
FROM MOZZARELLA

THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2015

GATES OPEN 5.30pm
ENDS 10.00pm
AT MANCHESTER MACCABI

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FOR BOOKING CALL MACCABI
0161 492 0040
£16 FAMILY, £6 ADULT, £4 CHILD

STRICTLY NO PARKING ON-SITE. ENTRANCES AT BURY OLD ROAD AND PARK ROAD.
DISABLED DROP-OFF AVAILABLE AT BURY OLD ROAD ENTRANCE.
SECURITY PROVIDED BY CST. FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: anyhcommittee@gmail.com



THE SHERMAN LECTURES 2015
IN JEWISH STUDIES

THE CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Jesus, Judaism and Christianity: Old Prejudices and New Possibilities

Amy-Jill Levine
University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt University

Monday 27 April Jesus in His Jewish Context: The Importance of Recovering History
Tuesday 28 April The Mistakes Jews and Christians Make About Each Other
Wednesday 29 April Is the New Testament Anti-Semitic?
Thursday 30 April Messianic Judaism, Conversion to Christianity, Inter-marriage, Inter-religious Households: Disputes for the Sake of Heaven

Daily 5.15 - 7.00pm. Arts Lecture Theatre, Samuel Alexander Building, The University of Manchester
www.manchesterjewishstudies.org

Get the Vote Out

The Council is working in partnership with several organisations to ensure our community has every opportunity to quiz candidates in the forthcoming General Election.

Three former MPs from the major parties will be at the first event on Monday 20th April along with a representative of the new Party on the block, UKIP. Ivan Lewis is looking to retain his seat and, possibly, become a Minister in a Labour-led Government.

Meanwhile Graham Brady's Conservative Party is looking to return to power, but the Chair of the 1922 Committee has shown no sign of wanting a Government post. Liberal Democrat Andrew Stunell, a former Minister in the Coalition Government, will not be returning to parliament as he is retiring from the Commons.

Looking to upstage them all will be Ian Henderson, who is hoping that a UKIP surge will see him become an MP. These special, North West hustings will be chaired by Angela Epstein, who is not known for being short of an opinion herself!

A week after these hustings, the Representative Council will partner with one of our affiliated Synagogues, Yeshurun, and two local interfaith groups, to host a local hustings for Cheadle. All seven declared candidates for the seat will be participating, which should be a

handful for the Chair, our own Jonny Wineberg.

We hope that as many of our community as possible will turn out for these events and ensure that issues important to both our, and the wider, community are addressed by candidates. We also hope that everyone able will use their vote wisely on May 7th and encourage others to do so.



Winners of our Annual Community Challenge Quiz were Outreach, seen here receiving their trophy from Council President, Sharon Bannister

Faith Network 4 Manchester



FREE training for Faith and small voluntary organisations

Faith Network 4 Manchester is holding several training sessions in the next 2 months

Please visit us at www.fn4m.org/content/training for more information.

Community Engagement

Improving the way local people and organisations have in services

Wednesday 22nd April 2015, 6.30pm-9.30pm

Activity Planning

Increasing capacity and capability to plan and deliver effectively

Wednesday 29th April 2015, 6.30pm-9.30pm

Supervising and Appraising

Increasing effectiveness of performance management and support

Wednesday 6th May, 1.00pm-4.30pm

Group and Team Work

Learn how to use effective team working skills

Tuesday 12th May, 6.30pm-9.30pm

Introduction to Fundraising

Maximising chances of eliciting support from grant making bodies

Wednesday 20th May 2015, 11am-4.30pm

All sessions at Manchester Multifaith Centre
77 Thompson St, Manchester M4 5FY



LOTTERY FUNDED



GENERAL ELECTION 2015

CHEADLE CONSTITUENCY HUSTINGS

Monday 27th April 7.30pm to 9.30pm

You are invited to a local hustings for the Cheadle Parliamentary Constituency. All seven declared candidates have confirmed their attendance

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

Yeshurun Synagogue, Coniston Road, Cheadle



Matthew Torbitt
Independent



Mark Hunter
Liberal Democrats



Helen Bashford
Independence from Europe



Shaun Hopkins
UKIP



Martin Miller
Labour Party



Drew Carswell
The Above and Beyond Party



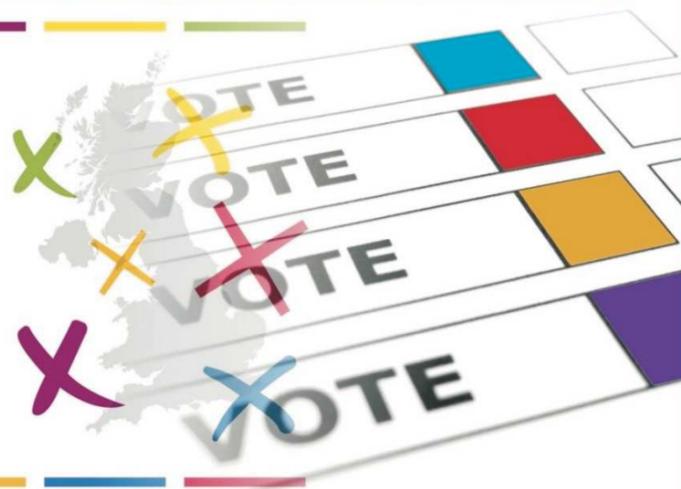
Mary Robinson
Conservative Party

If you wish to submit a question to be put to the candidates, please email jonny@fn4m.org
3 or 4 questions will be asked from those submitted and then questions will be taken from the floor

NORTH WEST FRIENDS OF ISRAEL and THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF GREATER MANCHESTER AND REGION

GENERAL ELECTION

2015



NORTHWEST HUSTINGS

You are cordially invited to our special hustings event to **QUESTION THE POLITICIANS** on issues relating to our community in the lead up the forthcoming General Election.

Conservatives



Graham Brady
Conservative Candidate for Altrincham and Sale West, Chair 1922 Committee

Labour



Ivan Lewis
Labour Candidate for Bury South, Shadow Northern Ireland Minister

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Rt Hon Sir Andrew Stunell
Retiring Liberal Democrat MP for Hazel Grove

UKIP



Ian Henderson
UKIP Candidate for Bury North

Chaired by **Angela Epstein**
Journalist, broadcaster, columnist and social commentator.

with **OPEN QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

MONDAY 20 APRIL 2015

Hilton Suite, Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 9WN

Doors open 7.30 - Main event 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Refreshments

NO TICKETS REQUIRED - EVERYONE WELCOME

Enquiries: info@nwfoi.org.uk / office@jewishmanchester.org

