



The RepPresents' Addendum

This addendum contains articles that were either edited or omitted due to lack of space. Here they have been reproduced in full.

Contents

Page

More Support for Manchester pledges new BOD President	2
The Jewish Voice of Human Rights	3
Placing the Jewish Viewpoint on the Political Agenda	3
Innocent Jews Interned in Bury	4
GMP Innovations Benefit Applicants Applying for Promotion	5
Manchester to Mallorca with the Muslim Jewish Forum	6
Michael's Mission to Document Liverpool's Jewish History	6
Heathland Village hosts 76 th Anniversary Annual AJEX Parade	7
Muslim Jewish Forum Annual Iftar	7
NASACRE Chair Visits Salford	8

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More Support for Manchester pledges new BOD President (Page 2)



Sharon Bannister, JRC President (left) with new BoD President, Marie van der Zyl

The challenges facing Anglo Jewry and the importance of serving the needs of Jews not only in London, but also throughout the country, were the main subjects of newly elected Board Of Deputies President, Marie van der Zyl's address to the Jewish Representative Council's June meeting held at the Nicky Alliance Centre.

The importance of Jewish communities outside London, and in Manchester in particular, was evident by the fact that Marie was spending the first days of her presidency in our city. She paid tribute to Manchester telling the audience that she applauded the joined-up thinking the JRC and other community bodies employ in the pursuance of education, social care and welfare policies.

Under her regime, she hopes to underline a non-London centric strategy by convening regional meetings of the BOD and to establish funded regional advocacy hubs and regular meetings with Representative Council presidents throughout the UK.

Among Marie's other plans is the rekindling of interest in the BOD among the 18 to 40 age group. The BOD is planning an annual youth plenary as well as additional support to the Union of Jewish students, especially in the light of the challenges that Jewish students face in the form of anti-semitism on university campuses, the BDS movement and the recent Israel Apartheid Week which is starting to weaken.

The BOD is working closely with the Jewish Leadership Council on countering anti-semitism, particularly in connection with the Labour Party and its leadership. She emphasized that there has been some progress on this problem but that there is still a long way to go.

She also revealed that the BOD is deeply involved in dialogue with the Icelandic and Danish governments on the threats to the practice of brit milah and shechita.

Marie commented on the recent incident of a small group of young Jews who said Kaddish for the 62 Palestinians killed in protests against Israel. She branded the incident as hideously offensive, sentiments which were echoed by Representative Council President, Sharon Bannister, who added, "However, they should not have had to receive the abuse they did on social media, as well as the abuse they sent back."

After questions from a large audience, Marie was thanked for a most interesting and informative insight into her future plans for the BOD. She later met over lunch with the Officers of a number of Northern Representative Councils.

The Jewish Voice of Human Rights (Page 6)



Mia Hassenson-Gross

Director, Mia Hassenson-Gross, describes how René Cassin, a small charity that relies on the support of individuals and organisations for its funds, works to promote and protect universal human rights drawing on Jewish experience and values.



According to Mia, René Cassin celebrates the timeless and universal nature of human rights values and protections, whilst recognising the distinctive Jewish contribution to the current landscape of international human rights. René Cassin is proud of the particular historical role played by their namesake, Monsieur René Cassin, to the development of contemporary human rights values in the aftermath of the Second World War.

As 'the Jewish voice for human rights' René Cassin works within the Jewish community, building support for human rights values amongst British Jews. René Cassin also works in the wider community to bring a Jewish perspective to human rights debates, especially on issues affecting vulnerable minorities.

Mia feels that in the present era characterised by Brexit, Trump, the rise of nationalism, and weakening of international norms and institutions, the underlying principles of human rights, and even of the rule of law, are coming under sustained attack.

Principles that have been hard fought for and had appeared firmly entrenched are now being questioned and attacked. Mia feels that the system of human rights protections, largely rooted in the Jewish experience in Europe from 1933-45, is being casually discarded.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, Mia says "There has never been a greater need for a strong Jewish advocate, actor and partner making the case for the contemporary importance of human rights, values and protection." For further information visit the website: www.renecassin.org

Placing the Jewish Viewpoint on the Political Agenda (Page 10)



Marc Levy (left) with David Rutley – Conservative MP for Macclesfield

Marc Levy is the North West Regional Manager of the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC). To mark his second year working for the JLC alongside the JRC, he discusses ways in which his organisation facilitates political engagement on matters that impact on Jewish communities across the country.

By the end of September, I will have been in contact with around 100 MPs, including several Front Bench members from both sides of the House of Commons. Among the Labour Members, a significant number have voiced their concern that the Party did not adopt the full International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition on anti-Semitism.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority and almost every local authority have, with my encouragement, taken the important step of adopting the IHRA definition. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, and the entire grouping of Manchester Labour leaders, are on record as

saying that the failure of the party to root out growing anti-Semitism within its ranks is sending a worrying and dangerous message to the Jewish community indicating the Party does not care for them as much as the others.

As part of my focus on political engagement, I have organised in excess of 50 meetings for the Community Services Trust (CST) in order for them to discuss with MPs their critical work in protecting our community. These meetings also allowed the CST to describe their cross communal work with other faith groups. This subject also formed the backdrop of a joint meeting with Andrew Gwynne MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and World Jewish Relief who discussed their programme to integrate Syrian refugees - a project that Andrew is keen to visit in person.

With regard to faith schools, I have been working closely with PaJes, the education arm of the JLC. So far, I have introduced them to the Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Angela Rayner MP, and the Shadow Minister for Education, Mike Kane MP.

Mental health and social care are issues at the top of the agenda for many MPs and I have arranged and participated in meetings between the region's politicians and The Fed. Most recently, The Fed hosted a delegation of Trafford Councilors to discuss the current challenges being faced by social care providers. I also had the pleasure of accompanying Damien Moore MP to JAMI, the Jewish community's mental health charity and also to Jewish Care in London.

Working in partnership with UJIA, we have initiated a series of business breakfasts and have already hosted the new Manchester City Council Chief Executive, Joanne Roney, to discuss her vision for the City; and Andy Burnham, who discussed his vision for the Northern Powerhouse.

Innocent Jews Interned in Bury (Page 10)



The story of a World War II internment camp located in Warth Mills in Bury was the subject of a talk given at the July meeting of the Jewish Representative Council by Errol Gross from the Manchester Regional Group of the Jewish Genealogical Society of GB.

"Collar the lot" was the instruction given by Winston Churchill regarding Austrian, German and Italian citizens living in England at the start of the Second World War. In summer 1940, 2000 innocent men were held in atrocious conditions at Warth Mills.

The camp was an abandoned cotton mill where buckets were provided as toilets, floors were covered in oil from abandoned machinery, windows were broken and rats roamed free. Although only in existence for a few weeks, the terrible conditions remained seared on the memories of those who experienced detention at Warth Mills or "Wrath Mills" as it was termed by one of its inmates.

Henry Wuga, 94, is the last known survivor of Warth Mills Internment Camp. Born into a German Jewish family in 1924, he escaped from Nazi Germany on Kindertransport, before being arrested and interned months later for writing to his parents. His story forms part of the Warth Mill Project which has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This summer, the Project Team has had the opportunity to share the untold story of Warth Mills and its internees through a programme of public events including exhibitions, art showcases, musical performances and illustrated talks. Further information is available at:

www.warthmillsproject.com

It was not possible to include the following articles in this autumn's edition of RepPresents due to lack of space:

GMP Innovations Benefit Applicants Applying for Promotion

JRC Executive member Filis Rosenberg responded to an invitation from Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to be an observer during various stages of officers going through their promotion application procedure. Afterwards Filis met with Donna Hope, Team Leader, Workforce Department who explained some of the recent changes to these procedures.

These include significant adjustments to the assessment and promotion practices made over the past 18 months in line with the new National Police Promotions Framework (NPPF) as a means of removing the potential for bias within the process. The overall aim is to make promotion processes fairer and more transparent.

Other key changes include removing the requirement for line managers to give formal approval to candidates who wish to enter the assessment centre process; better diversity in terms of assessors, role players and panel members; multiple mini interviews where candidates are asked each interview question separately by a different panel, with candidates being provided with the interview questions on the day and also being given time to prepare their responses.

Officers from under-represented groups are also invited to take part in a programme to develop diverse leadership where discussions take place about the importance of workforce representation and its link to improved public confidence, trust and legitimacy. Role models from under-represented groups then share their experiences of working for GMP and inspire and encourage potential candidates to enter the promotion process and facilitate a more inclusive and representative organisation at all levels. An overview of the process also helps to build officers' confidence in its fairness and transparency.

Commented Donna, "Another important change is our engagement with community members who are able to observe all the assessment activities within the assessment centre and provide feedback about the appropriateness and context of the activities they have observed. This enables us to better review our practices from a different perspective and improve".

Head of Organisational Learning and Workforce Development (OLWD), Chief Superintendent Arif Nawaz said, "Becoming representative and reflective of the communities we serve is essential. To achieve this ambition we are trying new and innovative ways of attracting diverse applicants to join Greater Manchester Police. In doing this we are reliant on the support of community members to help us and to offer us advice as we strive to continually improve".

Manchester to Mallorca with the Muslim Jewish Forum



Five members of the Executive Committee of the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester visited the Spanish Balearic island of Mallorca in July. This was the Forum's 9th overseas trip following trips to Krakow & Auschwitz; Granada & Cordoba; Marrakech; Dubrovnik; Paris; Brussels; Lisbon; and Copenhagen. The Forum's goal on these trips is to visit places of Muslim and Jewish interest during their overseas travels.

Before their expulsion in 1492 there were a significant number of Jewish people in Mallorca. In 1435 there were approximately 4,000 Jewish people on the island, most of who resided in Palma. After the order to leave or convert, some Jews stayed by converting to Christianity. A few stayed and practised their religion secretly, though risking being found out by the Spanish Inquisition. Today out of almost one million people on the island of Mallorca there are only about 250 Jewish people residing there.

Similarly, there were significant numbers of Muslims before the 1492 expulsion. Today just under 3% of the entire Spanish population are Muslim, as a result of recent immigration.

The group visited the Abdur Rahman Mosque in Palma and saw the Almudaina Palace (Moorish Palace) and also the old Jewish quarter in Call Major, Palma, where the Jewish community settled in 1300AD.

Cllr Heather Fletcher said, "I find sightseeing holidays so enriching and I am very interested in the history of Jews and Muslims where ever I travel. It is good to travel with fellow members and bond together in a more relaxed atmosphere which is one of the objectives of the Forum".

The Forum aims to develop cultural and social ties between the Muslim and Jewish Communities of Greater Manchester; to educate members of the Muslim and Jewish Communities in relation to their shared values and common Abrahamic tradition, heritage, history, and culture; and to promote better understanding within the wider community of the interests and values that are common to the Muslim and Jewish Communities. For further information go to:

<https://www.muslimjewish.org.uk/>

Michael's Mission to Document Liverpool's Jewish History

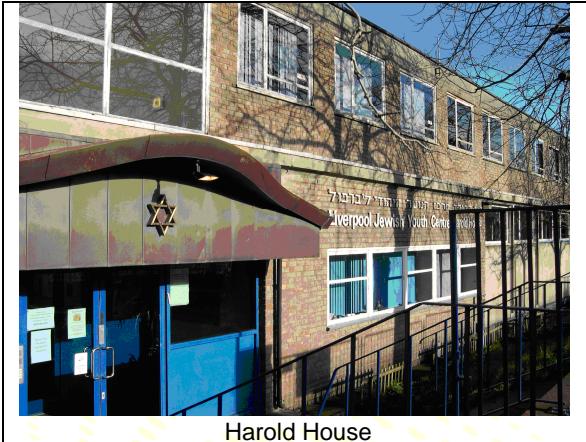
Documentary filmmaker Michael Swerdlow is a man with a mission – to keep alive memories of the Liverpool Jewish Community in its heyday.

His first production, 'Chicken Soup and Scouse', was an important piece of social and communal history, as well as being educational and highly entertaining. This lavishly illustrated 75 minute documentary charted the history of the Liverpool Jewish Community from the 1700s to the present day. It also related the story of the birth and development of other Jewish communities, introducing such elements as immigrants, traders, wartime and social trends, as well as the contribution the community has made to the success and culture of the City of Liverpool and beyond.

Now, in his latest production, Michael has turned his attention to a sequel, 'The Story of Harold House'. This documentary is not only a trip down memory lane, but an important piece of Liverpool's communal history. Harold House provided for the Jewish people of the City a wide range of social, cultural, religious and sports programmes and facilities, as well as housing a

Kosher restaurant and acting as the home for most communal organisations. This led to it being known as the Heart of the Community and it was used by practically every member over four generations.

The film relates how Harold House began in 1897 as the head quarters of the Liverpool Battalion of the Jewish Lads' Brigade and unfolds its full history right up to its demise. Sadly Harold House no longer exists. It closed its doors three years ago and was demolished.



Michael has always been closely involved with the building since his childhood and, over the years, has accumulated old cine and video footage, as well as a mass of material from the Harold House Archive for which he was its caretaker. He has woven this wealth of material into a lovingly prepared and fascinating 95 minute documentary film. It features interviews with members, workers, volunteers, managers and visitors who relate their memories and anecdotes with affection. If you ever visited or came into contact with Harold House, it's possible that you are there in some of the footage. To obtain your copy, contact Michael by email at michael@swerdlow.co.uk.

Heathland Village hosts 76th Anniversary Annual AJEX Parade



The Parade commenced with a general salute by AJEX Manchester chairman, Mr Joe Flacks, accompanied by AJEX National chairman, Colonel Martin Newman MBE.

David Teacher MBE read the exhortation and Rabbi Councillor Arnold Saunders lead the service. In attendance were Ivan Lewis MP, Jane Black, Lord Mayor of Bury, Ronnie Wilson, Lord Mayor of Salford, Jay Charara and Susan Isaacs, Honorary Officers from the Jewish Representative Council.

Muslim Jewish Forum Annual Iftar

The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester organised their annual Iftar, the Muslim meal after a day of fasting during the month of Ramadan, on Sunday 27th May. For the second year running Khizra Mosque on Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester, kindly hosted the event which was addressed by an impressive line-up of speakers.

In a difficult week following the first Anniversary of the Manchester Arena terrorist attack, all of the speakers shared their perspectives about the need for unity. Each welcomed the rich tapestry and diversity of people who had made Manchester their home over the last couple of centuries. The Dean of Manchester stressed the need for all people to work "side by side" to achieve things together, illustrating this with a story about Shimon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan taken from Lord Sacks' book "The Dignity of Difference".



Seated from left to right:
Forum Executive Member June Rosen, Ceremonial Lady Mayoress of Salford Pat Wilson, Ceremonial Mayor of Salford Cllr Ronnie Wilson, Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr June Hitchen, Forum Co-Chair Mohammed Amin MBE, Forum Co-Chair Cllr Heather Fletcher and The Very Reverend Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester.

Mohammed Amin mentioned how Muslims and Jews had worked together in London in the successful judicial review application against Mary Hassell, senior coroner for inner north London, regarding the need for early burial in both faiths. Cllr Fletcher recounted how Muslims and Jews in Europe had helped each other for many years. For example, Albanian Muslims had saved Jews in World War 2 and Jews had saved Muslims in Sarajevo during the Bosnian War

Within her vote of thanks, June Rosen shared a personal observation: "There is a well-known saying that 'What Manchester does today, the world does tomorrow.' If this evening is what Manchester does today and what the world will do tomorrow, this could be the greatest gift that this great and proud city has ever given."

NASACRE Chair Visits Salford



Jeremy Michelson, JRC Vice-Chair (Education) and Alex Klein, Salford SACRE Chair (standing) with Rabbi Saunders (right), Paul Smalley, NASACRE Chair (fourth from right) and other members of Salford SACRE.

Paul Smalley, Chair of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education, attended a meeting of the Salford SACRE which is responsible for advising on the teaching of RE in Salford schools reports Alex Klein, JRC Delegate and Chair of Salford SACRE.

Salford SACRE includes representatives of the different faiths in Salford, together with

primary and secondary School Governors and City Councillors. It has met recently in Eccles Mosque and Prestwich Hebrew Congregation.

The SACRE advises on how to improve children's understanding of the various diverse communities in Salford through RE. It also liaises with Salford City Council each year on the planning and organisation of Salford's Holocaust Memorial Day events.