

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Jeremy Michelson P2

From the editor P2

248 community action network P3

Community Stars P3

Message from the President BOD P4

Where's my candle? P5

Helping the Uyghur people P6

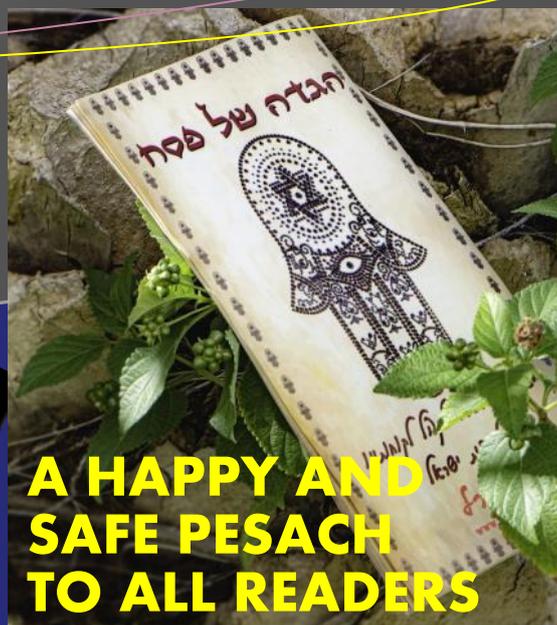
From the Jewish Leadership Council P7

SCH Zoom meeting report P8

Sara Radivan report P10

Soapbox P12

Communal diary P14



**A HAPPY AND SAFE PESACH TO ALL READERS**



## ..... FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT

I never dreamt that by Pesach 2021 we would be still in a lockdown and pinning our hope on any return to normality on the vaccination programme. Throughout the crisis the JRC has done its utmost to keep the community safe, fed and informed.

I want to pay particular attention to the amazing work everyone in the JRC has done throughout the past 12 months.

We have had to adapt to a new norm and engage remotely as never before.

The officers, executive and the council and **Laurie** our administrator, have striven to do their utmost and for this I thank you one and all. As a council we have gone above and beyond what was expected.

I should also like to thank **Sara Radivan** who was appointed by the **BOD** last April and **Marc Levy** for all their hard work during the last 12 months. They both in their own way bring so much to the community and we are very lucky to have both of them based in Manchester.

When the pandemic struck in March 2020 we quickly realised that the community had to produce a response and this had to be as quick as possible.

The JRC along with **CST** and with the

help and expertise of **Marc Levy** formed the **Strategic Group** last March right at the start of the crisis. And the work it has done and the things which have been achieved could never have been contemplated before 2020.

The very makeup of the Strategic Group has enabled it to function so well and create the environment where cooperation and engagement on a scale never seen before could take place.

I would like to pay a particular thank you to those members of the Strategic Group from the ultra-orthodox section of the community **Misaskim**, **Hatzola**, **HW**, **Shomrim**, who along with the service providers **The Fed**, **The Nicky**, **L'Chaim Food Bank** and local **Rabbonim**, have worked tirelessly to support the community and we owe each and every one of you a very special thank you .

For years we were led to believe that engagement wasn't possible, these last 12 months have proved this is not so and my fondest wish is that this new cooperation and collaboration will continue for the benefit of the whole community.

We will enter a new era after the AGM in May and changes will occur slowly but I can reassure everyone that there is a very bright future for the JRC and it

will eventually regain its role and position as the fulcrum of the community.

All being well we will have a CEO in place and this we hope will transform the way the Rep Council operates.

There is hope the vaccination programme will eventually return society to a new normal and once again we will be able to do again those things a year ago we took for granted.

I am encouraging the JRC and the Strategic Group to send out positive messaging, we have spent 12 months of gloom and doom and we need some positivity to help us through the next few weeks and months.

As a community we will emerge stronger and more resilient, the national bodies have realised that there is life beyond London and the South East, that there needs to be a greater distribution of resources for the good of the whole of British Jewry. Life will never be the same but together we can build a bright future.

**It only remains for me to wish each and every one of you a Chag Kosher Pesach, keep safe, follow all the Government guidelines and may we all emerge from this period of isolation stronger and more resilient.**

**Russell Conn - President**

## Fighting on several fronts at once – life as Vice Chair (Education) of the JRC

Am I bored with lockdown? Chance would be a fine thing! My laptop is crying foul – when will he stop pounding the keyboard? There is much to do and it's a case of what comes first?

**Misinformation about Judaism.** A few weeks ago, I was alerted to a document that was available online for teachers about Judaism that was appalling! We are told that Judaism began in the 9th Century BCE, emerging out of Canaanite culture. In other words, the whole of the Torah was a figment of our imagination! This might be an academic's point of view, but it is certainly not one which our community would understand. For non-Jewish teachers who know nothing about Judaism and approaching the subject for the first time this is not what they should be told. Having written to **Culham St Gabriels**, the organisation that published it, I had a meeting with **Kathryn Wright** the CEO who immediately agreed to take it offline and have it completely re-written. Before it is published, they will show it to me. YES – a result, and I didn't even have to threaten them with the Big Bad Board of Deputies!

**My baby is growing up!** Some time ago I helped bring a baby into the world. A scattered group of Holocaust teachers together under the banner of the **Northern Holocaust Education Group**. Under **Ernie Hunter's** chairmanship they are going from strength to strength. They now have a number of carefully moderated presentations ready to go into schools and I am helping to mentor several presenters.

**It's that time again**, don't mention the "P" word! Pesach is fast approaching. **Susan Isaacs** (Youth & communities Officer) and I have been working with **Alan Slater**, social cohesion Officer at **Bury MBC**, to run a demonstration seder online. It was to be a street event but that isn't possible. It is aimed at the non-Jewish public.

Those who book in will receive a pack of Seder goodies and recipes of how to make other things. They will also receive an illustrated Seder plate.

**Children from Bury and Whitefield JPS** will be recorded singing parts of the Seder, such as **Mah Nishtanah**. It will take place on Wednesday March 24th and hopefully will be great fun and be very educational.

Wishing you all a Chag Sameach!  
Jeremy Michelson Vice Chair (Education)

## FROM THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE BEARD



It is a very sobering thought, that we are soon going to be celebrating our **Festival of Freedom, Pesach**, yet again, without being totally free !!!

It highlights that freedom to do anything you want, that is affordable and legal, is one of the most precious things in life.

Most of us took freedom totally for granted, until the outbreak of Covid last year. I had planned to have sederim, like many of you, with all my children and grandchildren. We consoled ourselves with the thought, that this year we would be able to all get together !!!

It is a real disappointment, that this is again not possible for us all.

However, I am a "**glass half full person**" and we need to be thankful that we have a vaccination, even if like all medical procedures, it is not 100% effective.

This is huge progress. relatively quickly !!!

We also need to count our blessings and help people who have not been so lucky during the pandemic and who have had health issues, been bereaved, or suffered serious financial issues. We can do this by helping and supporting people we know, or by doing voluntary work for an organisation or shul.

Whenever I write my editorial, I think about my dear departed friend, Rabbi Tony Walker Z"L. I was looking forward to many years of close friendship with my new good friend.

Although his sudden passing curtailed this, he was the person who got me very involved in the JRC and for that, I will always be thankful.

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank the Editorial Team, David Marks, Filis Rosenberg and of course, the amazing Ed Moss, who during an extremely busy work schedule, has yet again, worked his magic, with his excellent layout, of this issue of "RepPresents."

Thanks so much Ed for your hard work !!!

Together with the Editorial Team. our President, Chair, Officers and Committees, I wish you all a healthy, happy and kosher Pesach.

"Next year, in Covid free UK !!!"

R. Graham Gordon - Editor



The **248 Community Action Network** is intended for Jewish Doers based in Israel and globally who want to form a network of like-minded people that want to become more involved in their community or bring something new to it. It's run in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel along with the Jewish Federations of North America and the Pincus Fund for Jewish Education. This year's cohort includes people based in Israel, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, England and the USA.

It's about introducing initiatives into the community to invigorate communal life, something that is sustainable and replicable.

So why did I join the network?

It's simple, its about getting in touch with other doers to share ideas about what we can do to add value to our communities. To learn from other people and be inspired by them, to share ideas and help each other achieve our goals.

Asking my fellow participants their reasons for getting involved and the responses were similar. People have ideas to strengthen their communities, and want to get involved with like minded people who can help reach their goals.

The best description of why 248 can be found here in this short video by Avraham Infeld

<https://youtu.be/EY5m6DOiO4k>

**Emma Pearlman**



Community Stars is an event being organised by the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region to celebrate and recognise the many who brought a smile and gave support during the Covid pandemic.

A call for nominations was requested for the community to nominate someone or a group:

- ◇ Who made a special effort to look out for a neighbour or neighbours
- ◇ Offered practical help and support to those who are vulnerable
- ◇ Befriending someone new to the community
- ◇ Made people feel safer just by being there and had regular contact
- ◇ Offering practical help to someone such as gardening, shopping, filling in forms, making a phone call, etc
- ◇ Gave up free time to help tackle community issues
- ◇ Bringing people together for events to combat social isolation while observing social distancing and Government guidelines
- ◇ Fundraising for good causes
- ◇ Looking out for the elderly
- ◇ A community volunteer
- ◇ Organised online activities
- ◇ And much, much more

The event will be streamed online on 25th May. **Details on how to register for this online event will be circulated on social media and on [www.jewishmanchester.org](http://www.jewishmanchester.org)**

**Please join the Greater Manchester and Region Community in celebrating and recognising these acts of kindness and initiatives but also we will be taking a moment to remember those that are no longer with us.**



## Pesach message from the President of the BOD



This time last year I wrote in my Pesach message about the pandemic which had suddenly overtaken all of us and which was already taking a heavy toll on the Jewish community. I am very sad that one year later this terrible virus is still claiming lives in our community and affecting the way we live.

Once again, Seder Night will not be the packed, joyous family event we all love. We will, for the second time, be holding intimate events with our closest family and then only if we are lucky enough to live in the same house or bubble. My thoughts are with all of you who are alone at this time or unable to see your nearest and dearest. This past year has taken a toll on all of us but I have seen great acts of generosity and kindness. In some ways, this terrible situation has brought out the best in people – from the small things, like a grandchild baking for his or her grandparents who are shielding, to those such as Captain Tom, whose fundraising made millions for the NHS, before his sad passing earlier this year.

Now, with millions already vaccinated and infection rates falling, we have a sacred duty to ensure that lives are saved. Every death in our community has been a tragedy for someone's family. We must ensure that we do everything to save lives. This is the most fundamental imperative of Judaism.

Over this year, the way the Board of Deputies operates has changed, with home working for our staff and Zoom for our plenary meetings. Our online BoDCast events have engaged thousands of people from across the country and across the world and our achievements have continued to grow.

We continue to work with all parts of the Jewish community to ensure that they have access to the best available information about the Coronavirus pandemic and make decisions about when to open and when to close facilities. This has included working with the Cabinet Office to get guidance translated into Yiddish for sections of the Charedi community who do not have English as a first language.

We have been working tirelessly to ensure that the Labour Party, under its new leader Sir Keir Starmer, acts firmly and decisively to excise the antisemitism which had flourished under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. On this, good progress has been made but we need to see even more.

We have also worked hard this year on ensuring that Jews do not face hatred online, by coming up with proposals to ensure that new Online Harms

legislation protects us all from abuse social media platforms. Online is the new frontline in the fight against antisemitism – and not just antisemitism, but misogyny, anti-Muslim hatred, homophobia and racism and bigotry against other religions, ethnicities and minority groups. We are working hard to ensure we are better protected. In the meantime, we have acted to stop antisemites selling their poison online by working with Amazon to ensure Holocaust denial works are removed from its platform.

We may be the Board of Deputies of *British Jews* but some of our most important and successful work has been in support of a group which are neither British nor Jewish. The Chinese Uyghur Muslims are subject to terrible persecution, and I was not the only one to see echoes of the Holocaust in their treatment by the Chinese authorities. I wrote to the Chinese Ambassador following a harrowing interview on the Andrew Marr Show and as an organisation we worked tirelessly to persuade MPs to support the Genocide Amendment to the Trade Bill, which would allow Uyghurs to get around the broken UN system and be able to take their call for justice in a British court.

In a year in which the world mourned the racist murder of George Floyd in the USA, we felt a responsibility to ensure that our community was one in which Black Jews and Jews of Colour do not feel alienated. To this end we set up the Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community with Stephen Bush as Chair. We hope that the recommendations that the Commission makes will make our community a model of inclusivity in the coming years.

Despite the tragedy in the world there have been some beacons of light in the past 12 months. I have seen our community come together like never before. Despite the physical distance, we have been looking after each other and this has been so necessary and heartwarming. We have also seen remarkable progress in Israel's relations with its Middle East neighbours. The Abraham Accords were signed between Israel the UAE and Bahrain. We also saw an agreement with Morocco. One of the highlights of my years was lighting the Chanukah candles in an online event with the ambassadors of the UAE and Bahrain – something I never thought I would see.

We have been enduring difficult times. It is my earnest wish that we all stay safe and look forward, as we always do at this time, to better days ahead. Pesach Sameach to you and your families from everyone at the Board of Deputies.

**Marie van der Zyl**

**President, Board of Deputies of British Jews**

# WHERE IS MY CANDLE?



This year I was again honoured to be asked to attend The Holocaust Memorial Day service being run by Blackburn with Darwen Council and to be one of the candle lighters .

However unlike previous years, and in line with all other local Holocaust Memorial Day services, this service was being held online, and I hadn't given I thought as to what that meant, in respect of me being a candle lighter .



Unlike my normal self I was actually prepared and logged on a couple of minutes before the service commenced. I was however thrown into utter panic when a minute before the service was due to start somebody said “now would be a good time for the candle lighters to get their candles ready”, it was then that it dawned upon me that I would need my own candle.

I spent the next minute vainly scrambling around trying to find a candle but to no avail, and I realised I would have to return to the ceremony and think of an alternative to use.

Fortunately about a minute into the service somebody who had seen me running around like a headless chicken, came and gave me a large candle and lighter

and I was able to relax and take in the memorial service .

The service contained the usual elements including a moving speech from Rabbi Saunders and the now obligatory refrain of all zoom events “Derek you've got to unmute yourself”

The Blackburn with Darwen service also includes representation from the youth of their community. Pupils from five Blackburn with Darwen schools took part in a competition to creatively explore the theme of this year’s commemorations “*Be the light in the darkness*” . The two winners were:

1. a poem exploring themes around humanity and hope, and how we can all be the light in someone else’s darkness, and
2. a sculpture of a candle with teardrops representing the lives lost in the Holocaust, and hands to represent the survivors.

The two young authors of those works delivered them at the service via zoom.



**BLACKBURN**  
with  
**DARWEN**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Whilst it is traditional to have testimony from survivors at these events there was a novel take on it this year. As part of an ongoing programme the testimonies of survivors were being recorded. As part of the service the clips of recorded testimony from a couple who had survived The Holocaust was played together with the couple themselves giving additional commentary upon the clips.

Finally there was an announcement that we were going to have a minute’s silence and would the candle lighters please use that opportunity to light their candles. So in silence I lit my candle to mark the end of a very moving and inspirational communal service, which demonstrates just what can be done despite the issues of the pandemic and the lockdown.

**Jacky Buchsbaum**  
**Chair of the Executive**

# HELPING THE UYGHUR PEOPLE

On Sunday 8th November at 7.30pm, more than 60 people attended a Zoom webinar co-hosted by the **Antisemitism and Human Rights Committee** of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region and **Rene Cassin** The Jewish Voice for Human

rights. The people of China are not aware of the brutalities that the Uyghurs have to undergo daily.

The Uyghurs are mostly Muslim, where around 11 million live in the Western China province of Xinjiang. Their culture is ethnically close to Central Asian nations and their



language is similar to Turkish. In recent decades there has been a mass migration of Han Chinese (China's ethnic majority) to the Xinjiang, this has put the culture and livelihoods of the Uyghurs under threat.

**Michael Rubinstein**, chair of the Antisemitism and Human Rights Committee opened the event, followed by an introduction by **Mia Hasenson Gross** of Rene Cassin who gave an insight into the persecution of this oppressed people.

**Rahima Mahmut**, a Uyghur living in the UK and separated from her family who she has not seen for several years then spoke about the plight of prisoners in camps where the conditions are cruel and incomprehensible.

There are reports that the children are taken from their parents and are punished for speaking their own language. The prisoners are tortured, physically and mentally and are given indoctrination sessions, to denounce their religious beliefs, and to give praise to China's President. Many of the women are sterilised and raped whilst in the

**Dominic Raab**, the foreign secretary accused China earlier this year, of gross abuses of human rights against the Uyghurs and that he would not rule out sanctions and would consider Britain boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The Antisemitism and Human Rights Committee feel that we can't let these atrocities continue. As Jews must be empathetic to the hostilities and brutalities that the Uyghur people are forced to endure.

**Rabbi Hillel** said: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?"

**Karen Solomon**

# STATISTICS

With the most recent census data having just been submitted, it may be of interest to see some facts and figures relating to Jewish statistics. The results of the UK 2021 census will be published in due course.

In 1951, the Jewish community of the UK was estimated to be 420,000.

There are 263,346 Jews in England and Wales according to the last census although due to the voluntary nature of the question on faith and under-reporting, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research estimates that the actual figure is 284,000.

Jews represent 0.5 per cent of the UK population. They are the fifth largest religious community in the UK after Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs.

There are Jews living in every one of the 348 local authority areas in England and Wales, including 4 in Merthyr Tydfil and 4 in the Isles of Scilly.

There are 54,084 Jews living in the London Borough of Barnet accounting for one in five (20.5%) of all Jews in England and Wales.

Three out of every five UK Jews live in Greater London.

Over 6,000 people speak Hebrew as their first language and almost 4,000 say that their main language is Yiddish.

The median (most common) age for Jews living in England and Wales is in the band from 50-54; in contrast it is 75-79 in Bournemouth and 0-4 in Hackney.

While world Jewry reached a population of 16.6 million right before the start of World War II, the current worldwide population of Jews stands at 14.7 million.

Israel's 6.7 million Jews make up 45 percent of the world total, the USA 5.7million and Argentina is home to around 180,000) Jews.



I focused the majority of my previous RepPresents contribution on the unprecedented communal response to the ongoing pandemic. I have spoken at length about the revolutionary Coronavirus Response Group that brought together our diverse community to ensure the vulnerable received care and assistance.

We also made certain that the latest government messaging was received by the community whilst providing an effective forum with representatives from local and national government. This close collaboration internally between our fantastic communal organisations and externally with those elected to represent us has huge benefits. Our community forged close working relationships with each other and utilised the platform to engage with our elected representatives in a positive and constructive manner.

When writing prior to Rosh Hashana, we had formalised the Response Group into the Jewish Strategic Group. Our first meeting had taken place and the links between our communal organisations had been retained and further developed.

It is a privilege to co-ordinate the meetings and I am delighted that under the chairmanship of Mark Adlestone, the group continues to gain in strength and influence. It is always pleasing to be approached by charities and individuals who have heard about our work and wish to attend and contribute at our meetings. The success of the Strategic Group was recently recognised by Christian Wakeford MP in the House of Commons. Christian has been an integral member since our inception and we

are all grateful for his support.

Alongside Mark, I have undertaken extensive political engagement to ensure that MPs along with leaders and chief executives of local authorities are aware of our work. Together, we have met the Greater Manchester Metro Mayor, Andy Burnham along with the Deputy Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner, Baroness Beverley Hughes. Along with Christian, we have also spoken with Sir Graham Brady MP, Mary Robinson MP, Mark Menzies MP and Graham Stringer MP. The established partnerships with local government is absolutely critical. Senior elected and professional members attend every meeting. As a result, we have worked to ensure that the leaders and chief executives of Salford, Bury, Manchester, Trafford and Stockport are aware of issues affecting our members.

In addition to this work, I am pleased with my continued engagement with national government. Arranging the opportunity for JLC member organisations to speak with MPs who have a vested interest in their work has always been a priority. The JLC have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with government and I recently appreciated being able to thank the Conservative Party Chairman, Amanda Milling MP and the team at CCHQ for their support.

Many will have noted the challenges being faced by Jewish students on campus and I have organised for UJS to speak with a cross party group of

MPs. I also arranged a Westminster Hall Debate to discuss the adoption of the IHRA definition on antisemitism across campuses. I hold weekly meetings alongside CST to discuss their work, recent incident figures and key policy issues. Obviously Jewish schools have faced huge challenges over the previous year. I have been grateful to the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb and Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Kate Green MP for taking the time to meet with Pajes. As we continue to rebuild our damaged relationship with the Labour Party, I have been in contact with a large number of their MPs including several Shadow Secretaries of State.

It is also essential to mention that we are approaching the delayed local elections on the 6th May. I have worked with key communal stakeholders and alongside the Representative Council and Strategic Group, a full manifesto has been produced for candidates participating in the election for Metro Mayor. This document will be widely distributed and used to highlight key asks of local and national government whilst simultaneously demonstrating the work of our amazing charities. I have also arranged a virtual hustings via Zoom that will enable the community to pose key questions to the candidates.

**Finally, on behalf of the team at the JLC, I would like to wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach**

**Marc Levy**



# REPORT ON ZOOM MEETING HELD BY SALFORD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ON 26/02/21



This was a highly informative meeting, hosted by **Jay Charara** of **Salford Healthy Communities**. Our speakers were **Professor Alan Silman**, epidemiologist, who served for 12 years on the MRHA (Medicine and Health Regulation Agency) committee. **Dr Adam Schogger**, local GP and **Mr Lance Gardner**, Chief Executive, **Salford Primary Care Together**.

## Current Situation

Professor Silman opened the meeting by giving current information about the Coronavirus epidemic. He emphasised that this virus has proved to be an ‘implacable enemy.’ Without the vaccines there is no way that the epidemic will come to an end on its own and normal life may resume. If we show any relaxation in the current strict rules, the virus will continue to spread at the high rates we have seen previously. He told us that there is no successful treatment, at the moment, to stop people from getting sick as soon as they catch the virus.

We do have treatments which can be helpful when people become seriously unwell, which have helped to reduce the death rates. For these reasons, the development of the vaccine has been crucial. There are two main vaccines licensed for use in the UK- those manufactured by: Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca, (with a third available in the USA from Moderna.) All three have been shown, without doubt, to improve the response to the virus, essentially ‘taking the sting out’ and helping vaccinated people to have better outcomes.

## Why people who have suffered from Covid-19 should still be vaccinated

He explained why all adults should ideally be vaccinated, even those who have had a previous Covid-19 infection. This is because the immunity after a natural infection may not be as long lasting nor as strong as after a vaccine, especially if the symptoms of infection were mild. We also need all adults to be vaccinated. This applies even to those in their 20s, because although they themselves are less likely to have a serious outcome with Covid, they will be helping to protect other more vulnerable members of the

community. If we can achieve vaccination in a very high proportion of the population, we can then stop the virus in its tracks. Dr Schogger stated that both the vaccination programme and continued social measures are crucial in achieving this.

We are awaiting data from Israel on the impact of the vaccine on reducing the rates of infection in the whole population, but early signs are very promising.

## Safety

The vaccines all work in similar ways, by giving instructions to the body to produce its own version of the coronavirus ‘spike protein’ – the bit of the virus that does all the damage- but which on its own is harmless. The body then produces antibodies to the spike protein. At a future date, if we contract an infection these antibodies ‘knock out’ the spike protein of the real virus and thus protect us from serious infection.

All the vaccines appear to be very safe. No short cuts have been taken by the government body advising on the safety of this vaccine. In clinical trials the vaccines can reduce the number of people with a serious infection by nearly 90%. Around 7 million people in the UK have already been vaccinated and we would know by now if there were to be significant early side effects, which hasn’t been the case. Early mild symptoms include arm pain, headache, raised temperature and nausea do settle very quickly.

## Allergies

There is no issue for people with egg allergies for the currently used vaccines as none are grown on egg. There are other Ingredients which include the chemicals polyethyleneglycol (PEG) and polysorbate. Allergies to these are exceedingly rare. People with a history of severe allergic reactions, such as anaphylaxis, should ideally request the AstraZeneca vaccine in preference to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, should notify the vaccination service on arrival and should stay under observation for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

## How Soon Are You Protected?

You should not consider yourself to be properly protected until you have had two doses of one of these vaccines and waited a further week.

For Pfizer/BioNTech, the spacing was initially advised to be 3 weeks. For AstraZeneca the immunity appears stronger if the gap is nearer to 3 months. Ideally one should have the vaccine and be patient waiting for the 2nd dose. There is no reason to believe that the Pfizer-BioNTech will be less effective with a 3 month gap.

## The New Variant

The first cases in the UK of new variant started off in Kent

and this has a much more rapid rate of transmission. We do not know whether this variant causes more serious disease but we do know that the current vaccines should also work against this new variant. On the news very recently, it has been announced that the Moderna vaccine is effective against the Brazilian variant and so it is most likely that the other 2 vaccines would be effective against this variant also.

So far we have no evidence that any of the variants will not respond to the vaccines which are currently in use. If in the future there are new variants which are not responsive to the vaccines it will be quite simple for the vaccines to be modified very quickly. It is possible that every year there will be a need for a top up vaccine, similarly to with the flu. The world capacity production can be geared up to produce enough vaccine for everyone.

### Long Term Side Effects

These appear unlikely to occur but it is too soon yet to be sure. Unlike many vaccines used in the past, the Coronavirus vaccines do not use a live virus. This minimises risk of conditions such as Guillain-Barre or narcolepsy. We are certainly all too aware of long-term health issues from a Covid-19 infection in an unvaccinated individual, with as many as 1 in 10 people affected suffering from 'long Covid'.

### Pregnancy

The vaccines have not been tested in women who are pregnant. There is no theoretical risk from vaccinating pregnant women against Covid and this is done routinely in other countries including Israel. In the UK, women are advised to discuss vaccination with their doctors and it is most often given to pregnant women who are front-line workers e.g. working for the NHS. There is an awareness that pregnancy is a time of reduced immunity.

There is has absolutely been no link found between the coronavirus vaccinations and reduced fertility in females or males.

### Children

The available vaccines are not licenced for use in children under 16yrs. The risk of coronavirus infection is very low in children and serious illness is rare.

### The Elderly

Numbers of people over 65yrs taking part in the Astra Zeneca trials were relatively low, however in lab testing the immune response to this vaccine was similar for all ages. Prof Silman's conclusion is that the AstraZeneca vaccine is most likely to be very effective in the elderly.

### New Vaccines

Several new vaccines, including the Novovax vaccine are being produced but none of these are yet licenced for use in the UK.

### Local Services

Doctor Schogger and Mr Gardner spoke about local services. In Salford, the vaccine is now starting to be given to the housebound elderly, but it will take GPs a few weeks to reach everyone. The Salford care homes have already received the vaccine.

Dr Schogger said that most people are being very careful and considerate of others but there are still people in our community who are ignoring the rules and guidance, including through holding illicit street minyonim. He described this situation as very regrettable. Most people are keen to receive the vaccine when offered. Halachah obligates us to take care of our health and the health of those around us. 17 very distinguished rabbis and dayanim have signed a letter encouraging people to accept the coronavirus vaccine when offered.

Individuals cannot choose which vaccine they are given. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is only given at 3 'super vaccination centres' in Salford: Clarendon leisure centre, Eccles leisure centre and Irlam leisure centre. Up to 1000 vaccines a day are given at each of these 3 sites. There are no suitable buildings in Broughton to act as super vaccination centres as the government have set detailed criteria for these centres. A community facility for the AstraZeneca vaccine is soon to be set up in Broughton. Salford is now inviting everyone who is over 70yrs and the clinically extremely vulnerable to attend. Over 10% of the population of Salford have already been vaccinated!

### Spare Capacity

The vaccination centres invite some people to wait at the end of the day to receive left over vaccines e.g. care workers and birth doulas.

### False Hope

People should be aware that there are adverts circulating offering false cures at great expense.

### In Conclusion

If people are all rigorous in their social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, eating nutritious foods and avoid unnecessary social contacts and combine this with a high rate of vaccinations this will give us the best chance of defeating the virus. We need to work with both of these 'weapons'.

### If Infected

If you do develop a coronavirus infection, it is valuable to make contact with your GP, especially if you are a man aged 50 or above or a woman aged 55 or above or are overweight (BMI 30+) or have an underlying health condition. They can arrange to put you in contact with the local Covid Hub if needed. Sometimes an oxygen monitoring device may be made available to you (or through Ezracare). It is also important to make contact again with NHS 111 or Hatzolah if your breathing worsens or you become more unwell.

## From Sara Radivan, Board of Deputies' regional Co-Ach manager



At Purim 2020, we were all social distancing and by Pesach 2020 we were all in lockdown with only immediate family members sitting around our Seder table. Purim and Pesach 2021 will be much the same, but we have all learnt to adapt to social distancing, with no socialising at all in our homes or synagogues. At Pesach we reflect on the suffering of the Children of Israel in Egypt and also celebrate their freedom from slavery and from Pharaoh.

Let us hope and pray that as we go through the Seder this year and talk about freedom, that the Covid 19 vaccination programme, which has now commenced in earnest, will free everyone from this terrible pandemic enabling us to live in freedom again, socialising with our family and friends and holding services again in our synagogues.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews is the only democratically elected, cross communal representative body in the Jewish community. It comprises over 300 Deputies directly elected by synagogues and communal organisations, from youth movements, to social welfare charities and regional councils. Many Manchester synagogues have Deputy representation. The Manchester Jewish Representative Council is well represented by Jay Charara. He joins the Board of Deputies' meetings with the Regional Deputies for discussions of key issues facing the regions and facilitating the sharing of best practice. This information is fed back to Government.

We have seen in Manchester and nationally, a wonderful and unique spirit of altruism that has developed as a result of this pandemic, with people volunteering to ensure other people receive the assistance that they need.

There is no facet of Jewish life, region or denomination where the Board of Deputies does not speak up for the community's interests be that its safety, religious freedom or Israel's security and right to exist. This is the work the Board of Deputies undertakes for all our UK Jewish communities over a vast range of issues and we will continue to safeguard our rights and speak out on the issues that matter to us all.

Monthly meetings of the regional Jewish Representative Councils continue to be convened. These meetings are informative and beneficial, with the Board of Deputies offering support where necessary, and where the regional Jewish Representative Councils have learnt and shared ideas

with each other. We are delighted to welcome President Russell Conn, Chairman Jacky Buchsbaum and Vice-Chairman Jeremy Michelson to these meetings.

Working closely with the Jewish Representative Council of Manchester, an excellent joint BoDCast was held at the end of November 2020 in honour of the annual Commemoration Day of the Plight of Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries and Iran with Edwin Shuker, Vice President of the Board of Deputies and a refugee from Iraq himself, in conversation with journalist Joseph Timan, a British born Iraqi Jew. This event also featured acclaimed musician Yoav Oven who inspired and brought us all together with traditional Mizrahi music.

The Board of Deputies again worked closely with the Manchester Jewish Representative Council, preparing a BoDCast with Christian Wakeford MP in conversation with the Board of Deputies' Public Affairs Officer Daniel Sugarman. President Russell Conn took part in both BoDCasts. These BoDCasts, together with other BoDCasts produced by the Board of Deputies can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBoardofDeputies/videos> On each BoDCast panel there has always been regional representation.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Board of Deputies has been monitoring the number of Jews who have sadly lost their lives to Coronavirus, working closely with the Jewish burial boards to collate a cumulative mortality figure for the Jewish community for presentation to the Government. At the time of writing, the number of Jewish people who have died from Covid is 854. Each death is a tragic loss. We urge people to proceed with caution and carefully adhere to Government's guidelines.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission report was a damning verdict on what Labour did to Jews under Jeremy Corbyn and his allies and proved why British Jews were so distressed. It disgraced those who attacked us for speaking out against anti-Jewish racism.

The Board of Deputies commended the strong speech Sir Keir Starmer made promising full acceptance of that report and a determination to root out antisemitism from within Labour and we welcomed the decision of the Labour Party to suspend Jeremy Corbyn, and subsequently, after he was shamefully reinstated by a panel from the Party's National Executive Committee, we

commended Sir Keir Starmer's decision to withdraw the Labour whip from Jeremy Corbyn meaning he now sits as an independent MP. Having presided over the descent of a proudly anti-racist party into one that broke equalities law in its treatment of Jews, Corbyn's shameless comments following the release of the report shows that he remains part of the problem. The scale of the challenge that lies ahead should not be underestimated.

Whilst the Board of Deputies continues to see this determination for change, we will continue to work with our communal colleagues, and with Sir Keir Starmer and his team, to defeat antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Social media has become the new battleground for hate with online platforms becoming a convenient, far-reaching, anonymising and secure-feeling environment for those who wish to voice and incite hatred.

Indeed, following a direct bomb threat made against the Board of Deputies via Facebook, and their unsatisfactory response that 'this post does not violate our community standards', the Board of Deputies publicly criticised Facebook's inaction.

Eventually, after three long weeks, and correspondence with Facebook's senior management the account of the user was finally removed. With communal colleagues, we have met with the public policy teams from all social media platforms to discuss more effective methods of tackling antisemitism and Holocaust denial on these platforms.

The Board of Deputies was delighted to announce, the day before National Holocaust Memorial Day, that Amazon had removed 92 works of Holocaust denial from sale across its websites. However, there is still more work to be done. Amazon stated that it

wants to continue to work with us to discuss the removal of further similar publications. We will be calling on other publishers, booksellers and distributors to follow Amazon's example.

I continue to meet with regional Deputies to have ongoing dialogue and communication with them. We discuss the Board of Deputies' engagement with their respective communities, we discuss further Deputy engagement and future work together. These meetings have all proved to be most mutually beneficial and productive. The Board of Deputies has been delighted to welcome many new regional Deputies representing regional synagogues and organisations.

In conclusion, the Board of Deputies offers the Manchester Jewish Community continued good health and strength. We are living through difficult and challenging times but the tenacity with which the Jewish community is responding is something of which we can all be proud. We know that the Jewish community in Manchester will continue the fundamental duty to practise social distancing to protect the NHS and to adhere to all Government guidelines, to ensure this virus is defeated.

I look forward to continuing to work with the regional Jewish Representative Councils, the Manchester Strategic Group and the regional Deputies to bring 'Co-Ach' (strength) to the regions and individual communities.

I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy and Kasher Pesach.

**Sara Radivan**  
**Regional Coronavirus Advice Capacity Help**  
**(Co-Ach) Manager**  
[sara.radivan@bod.org.uk](mailto:sara.radivan@bod.org.uk)



**Test and Trace**

**Check your coronavirus symptoms easily with the NHS COVID-19 app.**

**NHS COVID-19 APP**  
**DOWNLOAD NOW**

App functionality as of 20/10/20



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## ED MOSS RACES ALONG ON HIS LOCKDOWN SOAPBOX CALLED 'SARCASM'

**The iPhone "Pro" designation.** Does this now infer that we non-iPhone Pro mortals have been using mere **amateur** phones ever since Alexander Graham Bell dialled in his first order with *Just Ye Eate*? Is there a 'pro' or 'amateur' status we have to declare prior to phoning, texting or gluing to all the mediocre social channels full of witless banter and fake news?

And what's this business with three lenses on the phone (yes, remember, it's a **phone**)? Is it really necessary? The advertising is all about '*lenses on the camera*' and '*sparkling photographs*'. Apple might as well be honest and sell it as a camera that you can make phone calls with, send texts from and access the internet to follow those 'wunnerful' social influencers who all appear totally clueless regarding the subjects they are sponsored to fib to us about!

Instead of a phone made in China costing in excess of £1,000, you can buy a fine Japanese camera with a superb multi-glass zoom lens for half that price and then spend part of the remainder on a phone that does most of the stuff you'd expect a modern-day phone to do anyway! Come on world. Wake up to an equally superb smartphone costing far less.

Meanwhile, lockdown has done nothing to assuage continuing destruction of spoken English. Current standards would have had my secondary school English teacher throwing his wooden duster at us, as he always did in the event of us dropping an 'h', or a 't'. The lovely Alex Jones from the vapid BBC *One Show* is paid almost £½million per annum of licence payers' money to dispense with the 'g' at the end of every 'ing' word (called a 'gerund' dear reader) she utters. In fact, were it us, my English teacher would have possibly thrown the actual blackboard instead.

### **So what on earth is happening to spoken English?**

Everything is now **SUPER**. People are super excited. Others are having super fun, whatever super fun is. Jamie Oliver, the TV chef declares nearly every part of every recipe he cooks is super easy and super simple. Me, I'm super fed-up with lockdown, but worry not. Town centres will hopefully soon be back

to super normal, despite Debenhams having gone into super liquidation. Presumably, this now means that reality stars (the ones who can't even pronounce their own self-descriptive word 'celebrity' correctly, insisting, as they do, on pronouncing it "sell -eh-brih-ee") are now classed as super wastrels.

Also getting way out of hand is this 'pre' nonsense, for example **pre-order**, something nigh on impossible to achieve. That infers "**order before you order**"! Either you order something or you don't! You simply cannot pre-order. Then there's 'pre-owned' (=second-hand) and the incredibly meaningless 'pre-loved'.

An Italian restaurant in North Manchester took the lockdown initiative and decided to sell pizza kits for making their pizzas at home. They invited people to **book a pre-order (see below)**, which in essence means "**book an order before you order**". Nonsense! Meanwhile, a restaurant in Whitefield unfurled its huge banner inviting the world to "**pre-order from our menu**". No. No. No! It's very simple. "**Order from our menu**" is all you can do. It's not pre-order. Do yourselves a big favour and "**un-pre**" yourselves. This total "pre" affectation makes you look so very silly.

I then had to check it was lockdown when I phoned my broadband/TV provide to query why, as an Aluminium . . . . or maybe it was Platinum, I don't really take much notice . . . . subscriber of some 11 years standing, I was paying £19 more for a lower level of service provision than my neighbour.

The very friendly and helpful lady who answered the phone from a galaxy far, far away didn't in any way convince me why this was so. She then told me she would '**take me on a journey**' to further explain.

I was excited. A journey! I hadn't been on one of those for nearly a year, unless a schlep to Shefer's (**other delis are available**) is classed as a "journey". During the entire phone call she kept constantly referring to **my television journey, my broadband journey, my telephone journey**, yet ne'er was there a plane, ship, train or coach in sight. Or even a dreaded RyanAir voucher with one of their typical



To book a pre-order please ring 0161 [REDACTED] and speak to a member of our team

**Experience Level:** Expert

I need to create a compelling and/or funny elevator speech when people ask me what I do. I own Peace of Mind Pest Control. Just saying I own a pest control company or we do pest control is really boring boring, people loose interest very fast. So I wanted to be creative in the way I approach answering that question and creating the opportunity for them to

riders such as **“can only be used on a day without a ‘y’ in it”**. Why is it that everything has now become a “journey”? I keep being helped on various “journeys” but never seem to go or get anywhere with them?

Then there is boardroom bull, as you can see from the **elevator speech** rubbish above. What on earth was he talking about? (Answers on a **super postcard** only please). Am I expected to offer to write him a speech to present in a lift? Or indeed maybe even write it **in** a lift? Presumably it adds to “pitch decks”, “sales funnels”, “curating” and “web scraping”, all similarly stupid, unbelievably meaningless American marketing window-dressing terms that really need eradicating. Or is it just “my bad”? **My bad?** . . . . . My bad **what** ? Yet more jingoistic rubbish!

Finally, expect, when we do get out of lockdown, for everywhere to be run by zombies. Or maybe lifeboat volunteers. At least I am assuming this will be the

case, based on the number of people who no longer send emails, write letters or pick up the phone. Arms outstretched, they all now **reach out**. Despite this being what lifeboat crews do with their arms when dragging you out of the water. Reach out to you. And yes, it’s also what zombies do. They also reach out to you. But they reach out to try and grab and bite you and turn you into a fellow zombie or a TikTok dancer.



I suppose it saves you wandering the streets with your head stuck in your iPhone Camera Pro with three lenses. Which would be your super bad. **Have a super Pesach all**, and not too many pre-Seder super Matzahs or super L’Chaims please . . **Ed Moss**



**Neshomo**

A befriending service for people with ongoing mental health issues in the Jewish Community  
www.neshomo.co.uk  
07741 625345 (men)  
07512 578587 (women)

**JAMH (Jewish Action for Mental Health)**

Collective organisation representing most mental health organisations in Manchester, helping to find you support  
hello@jamh.org.uk  
07510 204 844

**Pathways Nesivos**

Guiding you on how to reach the best counsellor for your needs  
0161 696 4511

**Care Concern Bereavement Counselling**

0161 796 0807 (leave message)

**Jewish Women’s Aid**

For Jewish women aged 16 or over, whose lives have been affected by domestic abuse  
www.jwa.org.uk (includes for ‘web chat’)  
0808 801 0500

**העלפליינס אין מאנטשעסטער:**

**נשמה**

א פריינדשאפט באדינונג פאר מענטשן מיט רפואת נפש שוועריקייטן אין דער אידישע קהילה  
[www.neshomo.co.uk](http://www.neshomo.co.uk)  
07741 625345 (מענער)  
07512578587 (פרויען)

**JAMH (Jewish Action for Mental Health)**

אידן טוען פאר רפואת נפש  
אן ארגאניזאציע וואס רעפרעזענטירט רוב רפואת נפש ארגאניזאציעס אין מאנטשעסטער, וואס העלפט אייך טרעפן שטיצע  
[hello@jamh.org.uk](mailto:hello@jamh.org.uk)  
07510 204 844

**נסיבות Pathway**

אנווייזונגען ווי אזוי צו טרעפן דער בעסטער קאונסעלאר (counsellor) פאר אייערע באדערפענישן  
0161 696 4511

**Care Concern Bereavement Counselling**

שטיצע פאר די וואס האבן פארלוירן באליבטע לאז א מעסעדזש  
0161 796 0807

**Jewish Women’s Aid**

הילף פאר אידישע פרויען 16 יאר אדער עלטער, פאר די וואס האבן געליטן פון שטוב-געוואלד (domestic abuse)  
דאס האט דער מעגליכקייט צו שמועסן ([www.jwa.org.uk](http://www.jwa.org.uk)) מיט מעסעדזשעס אנליין)  
0808 801 0500

**Achieve דערגרייכן**

שטיצע פאר דערוואקסענע אדער יונגע מענטשן וואס ווילן זיך היילן פון דראג און אלקאהאל אפהעניגקייט.  
דערוואקסענע  
0161 358 1530  
יונגע מענטשן  
0161 358 1858

# COMMUNAL DIARY

Please check on the JRC website for event status due to the Covid pandemic <https://jewishmanchester.org/communal-diary>

The JRC/JLC/The Fed Present the Greater Manchester Mayoral Hustings – Chaired by Mark Adlestone OBE DL

**Apr 8 @ 7:00 pm – 8:45 pm**

JRC Council Meeting – Guest Speaker: Naomi Dickson, CEO of Jewish Women's Aid

**Apr 11 @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

UJIA Yom Ha'atzmaut Crowdfunding Campaign

**Apr 12 – Apr 19 all-day**

UJIA Yom Hazikaron Tekes

**Apr 13 @ 8:00 pm**

UJIA Yom Ha'atzmaut Virtual Business Breakfast

**Apr 15 @ 8:00 am**

The Fed Annual Fundraising Appeal (Date Confirmed)

**May 9 all-day**

The Board of Deputies of British Jews Presents 'Educate for Peace: Stop Funding Incitement in the Palestinian Curriculum'

**May 9 @ 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

JRC AGM – Guest Speaker: President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Marie van der Zyl

**May 16 @ 10:15 am**

UJIA Merchavim Thought Leadership Seminar

**May 24 @ 8:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**The JRC Community Stars Event**

**May 25 @ 7.30pm**

Week for Chai

**Jun 6 @ 9:00 am – Jun 13 @ 10:00 am**

Magen David Adom – 91st Birthday Celebrations

**Jun 6 @ 10:00 am – Jun 7 @ 5:00 pm**

JRC Council Meeting

**Jun 6 @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Trek4thefed 2021

**Jun 13 all-day**

Maccabi Live Screening of UEFA European Championship – England v Croatia

**Jun 13 @ 2:00 pm**

Maccabi Movie Week (outdoor screening)

**Jun 14 @ 7:00 pm – Jun 20 @ 9:00 pm**

Maccabi / The Friendship Circle Summer Fair

**Jun 20 @ 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Maccabi Live Screening of UEFA European Championship – England v Czech Republic

**Jun 22 @ 8:00 pm**

Manchester Maccabi Presents: England/Scotland/Wales Football Q & A Evening

**Jun 24 @ 7:00 pm**

**JRC AGM, 16th May at 10.15 AM**

Manchester is involved with the national online Yom Hashoa event, on 7th April in the evening. For further details, please contact Laurie, at the JRC - [office@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:office@jewishmanchester.org)

JRC Council Meeting

**Jul 4 @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Maccabi 24 Hour Football Challenge (in Aid of AstroTurf Pitch Replacement)

**Jul 4 @ 5:00 pm**

Maccabi Live Screening of UEFA European Championship Semi Finals

**Jul 6 – Jul 7 all-day**

Maccabi Live Screening of UEFA European Championship Final

**Jul 11 @ 8:00 pm**

Golf Day for Chai

**Jul 21 all-day**

UJIA Drive-Through Dinner – TBC

**Sep 12 @ 7:00 pm**

UJIA Drive-Through Dinner – TBC

**Sep 13 @ 7:00 pm**



The poster features the Jewish Representative Council logo at the top left. The main text reads '25th May 2021 Community Stars' in a large, stylized font. Below this, it says 'A CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SO MANY WHO BROUGHT A SMILE AND GAVE SUPPORT DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC'. At the bottom, it provides details on how to register and the website [www.jewishmanchester.org](http://www.jewishmanchester.org). The poster is decorated with a yellow background and blue stars.