

# gesher magazine

2020 ROSH HASHANAH EDITION 5781



The Hale Community Magazine

Proudly Sponsored by

BEAVERBROOKS

# FROM INEQUALITY

UJIA is committed to improving the lives of children and young adults in Israel. Over the past few months, we have had to go further, as the corona pandemic threatened to make life even worse for those on the periphery or at risk. We have worked with the vulnerable to ensure the gaps that already exist do not widen during these challenging times.

Here in the UK with Israel Tour and Birthright not able to take place this summer, we have been working on new and innovative ways to ensure that our young people are still engaged with Israel, even when they cannot visit.

This Kol Nidre our appeal to you is to help us close the gaps in Israeli society by changing inequality into opportunity and working with us to ensure that future generations of British Jews retain that unbreakable lifelong connection.

To support the work of UJIA today, you can donate online at [ujia.org/kn20](http://ujia.org/kn20) or contact Yael Mohaliver on **0161 740 1825** or email [yael.mohaliver@ujia.org](mailto:yael.mohaliver@ujia.org)



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## Editors' Message

Welcome to our Rosh Hashanah edition of Geshher, our second production since our lives have been catapulted into new territory due to Covid-19.

This forced us to change our modus operandi in terms of preparation – instead of pleasant and sociable meetings in each other's homes with Ian jovially announcing that he would like to deal with his business and then 'leave you ladies to it', we have managed very successfully and probably more efficiently by keeping in constant touch via WhatsApp, communal use of a Geshher Dropbox and meeting very occasionally via Zoom. The content of this magazine very much reflects our own experiences.

By far the winner of the most popular platform is Zoom! We have lots of really engaging reads about Zoom activities during lockdown – look out for Louise Leinhardt's 'Lockdown Ladies Singing', Linda Price's 'Grandparents Who Live in the Phone' and Debbie Hilton's 'Zoom Dancing'. We conducted interviews via Zoom too – we even interviewed the 'Zoom Gabbai in Exile' via Zoom about his Zoom minyanim experiences!!

Other contributions include Adult Education presentations via Zoom – Craig Lewis tells us about hosting shiurim with a range of quality speakers including Rebecca(!), Jonathan Feingold tells us about 'The History of the Turkish Jews' and Maurice Gould discusses presentations related to two inspirational women.....all of this via Zoom.

The Levy family have been busy developing new businesses during lockdown. On our wish list in more normal times may be 'Travelling the World' with Ari and right now Yoel tells us how to 'Keep Fit' outdoors.

There is so much more. We have introduced a new 'Chesed' section as a nod to the wonderful role that so many of you have played in supporting those shielding and vulnerable during lockdown.

And Anne Rosenfield writes about being on the receiving end of the community's Chesed and we also include an announcement from our new Hale Shule Bereavement Service.

We hope you enjoy this bumper edition of Geshher and remind you that, for several reasons, in discussion with Rabbi Binstock, we have decided to continue with a jam-packed read at Rosh Hashanah and to produce a Geshher Lite (not a bumper!) at Pesach. One of the reasons for this is to keep our Treasurer happy. We rely totally on the generous sponsorship of advertisers to fund Geshher and many thanks indeed for their support. If you are interested in advertising, please contact us at [gesher@haleshule.com](mailto:gesher@haleshule.com).

Finally, we should be very proud of the massive amount of work and effort our Shule management has put into protecting us from the risks of coronavirus – see Adrian Polak's informative and helpful article. Maintaining their standards, we have compiled Geshher and arranged for packing and distribution via a Covid-19 secure packaging company.

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova U'metukah and well over the Fast.

**Candice, Ian, Nikki, Linda, Gillian and Natalie - Geshher Editing Team**  
[gesher@haleshule.com](mailto:gesher@haleshule.com)

Mazal Tov to Aurelia Rosenberg and proud parents, Vicky and Dan. Aurelia was runner-up for her age category in the Israeli Embassy's Yom Yerushalayim drawing competition.



Thank you so much for sharing your drawing with us all, Aurelia! We have proudly placed it for all to see on our front cover!

**DISCLAIMER**  
Please note that the ideas, views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the individual author(s). They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Editors, the Rabbi, Executive or Council of the Hale and District Hebrew Congregation.

## Notable Dates For Your Diary

### SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER / ELLUL – TISHRI

Friday 18 September	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Shabbat 19 September	Rosh Hashanah 1
Sunday 20 September	Rosh Hashanah 2
Monday 21 September	Fast of Gedaliah
Sunday 27 September	Kol Nidrei
Monday 28 September	Yom Kippur
Shabbat 3 October	Succot 1
Sunday 4 October	Succot 2
Shabbat 10 October	Shemini Atzeret
Sunday 11 October	Simchat Torah

### DECEMBER / KISLEV - TEVES

Friday 11 December	Chanukah 1
Friday 18 December	Chanukah 8
Friday 25 December	Fast of Teves

### JANUARY / SHEVAT

Thursday 28 January	Tu B'Shevat
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### FEBRUARY / ADAR

Thursday 25 February	Fast of Esther
Friday 26 February	Purim

### MARCH – APRIL / NISSAN – IYAR

Shabbat 27 March	Erev Pesach
Sunday 28 March	Pesach 1
Monday 29 March	Pesach 2
Shabbat 3 April	Pesach 7
Sunday 4 April	Pesach 8
Thursday 8 April	Yom HaShoah
Thursday 15 April	Yom Ha'atzmaut
Friday 30 April	Lag B'Omer

### MAY / SIVAN

Monday 17 May	Shavuot 1
Tuesday 18 May	Shavuot 2

### JUNE - JULY / TAMMUZ – AV

Sunday 27 June	Fast of Tammuz
Sunday 18 July	Tisha B'Av
Saturday 24 July	Tu B'Av

### SEPTEMBER / ELLUL

Monday 6 September	Erev Rosh Hashanah
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## Shule Service Times

All information was correct at the time of going to press and in accordance with Government Covid-19 regulations.

Services take place in the main Shule at 2m distancing, and outside when possible. Details are subject to change so please check on the Shule website ([www.haleshule.com](http://www.haleshule.com)) or call the Shule office. Pre-registration is essential - thank you.

For those unable to attend Services in person, all Weekday Services will continue to be streamed live via Zoom using the usual login link

<https://bit.ly/2W4UlgN> Room Number 980 884 6666

### MINYANIM ARE HELD FOR ALL SERVICES

Sunday & Bank Holiday	Mornings – 9.00am
Monday – Friday	Mornings – 8.00am
Sunday – Thursday	Evenings – 7.00pm
Shabbat	Morning – 9.30am

Shabbat Mincha usually takes place 1 hour and 10 minutes before the termination of Shabbat in the Shule, followed by Seudah and Ma'ariv. All Shabbat and Shabbat Service times for any particular week are published in our weekly newsletter and appear on our website.

Please note that where times announced for the commencement of Shabbat in Hale are earlier than those printed elsewhere, all members of our Congregation should follow Hale times. For services times over the Yamim Tovim please refer to separate timetable.

## Shabbat Pram & Buggy Pushing Service

S.P.S. has been set up in order to preserve the sanctity of Shabbat whilst, at the same time, facilitating young mothers to go to Shule and elsewhere to share Shabbat with family and friends.

A non-Jewish child minder can be pre-booked to walk with you and push your child on Shabbat.

Bookings can be by email to [sps@haleeruv.co.uk](mailto:sps@haleeruv.co.uk) up to 1.00pm on Wednesday in any given week. A voluntary donation is requested for those using this service.

**A HALE ERUV PROJECT** following Government guidelines on how to contain the transmission of coronavirus. (As at Geshher deadline there is no admission to Shule to children under 12 yrs.)



## Useful Contacts

### SHULE OFFICE

Open Monday – Thursday	9.30am to 1.30pm
General Enquiries	0161 980 8846
Fax	0161 980 1802
Email	<a href="mailto:info@haleshule.com">info@haleshule.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.haleshule.com">www.haleshule.com</a>

### RABBI YISROEL BINSTOCK

Office	0161 980 8846
Email	<a href="mailto:rabbi@haleshule.com">rabbi@haleshule.com</a>

### REBBETZEN LEANNE BINSTOCK

Email	<a href="mailto:leanne@haleshule.com">leanne@haleshule.com</a>
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### EXECUTIVE

President	Jonathan Steinberg
Vice President	Barry Price
Honorary Secretary	Jonathan Hamburger
Honorary Treasurer	David Zucker
Gabbai	Adrian Polak
Ladies' Representative	Debbie Horne

### GESHER

Candice Dwek	07778 668 515
Nikki Lee	07801 398 210
Linda Price	07967 731 321
Gillian Rowe	07940 268 857
Natalie Zimmel	07800 950 675
Email	<a href="mailto:gesher@haleshule.com">gesher@haleshule.com</a>

### NURSERY

Manager	Kat Tilbury - 0161 903 9486
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### KIDDUSHIM

Susan Sallon	0161 980 1016
Email	<a href="mailto:susansallon@gmail.com">susansallon@gmail.com</a>

### CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Stephen Lentin	0161 941 1612
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## Useful Contacts

### CHEVRA KADISHA

Linda & Barry Price	07860 462 007
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### SOUTH MANCHESTER MIKVA

24 Hours	0161 904 8296
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### HALE TRUST

Adult Education Programmes	
Email	<a href="mailto:learn@hahet.co.uk">learn@hahet.co.uk</a>

## Chayim Arukim

Ruth Benson on the loss of her mother

Jennifer Brim on the loss of her husband

Jeffrey Caplan on the loss of his mother

Sandra Feingold on the loss of her mother

Caroline Herz on the loss of her father

Luis Labaton on the loss of his mother

Peter Leinhardt on the loss of his brother

Susan Lentin on the loss of her daughter

Suzanne Margolis on the loss of her father

Louise Marshall on the loss of her father

Charmaine Mattison on the loss of her mother

Joan Middleweek on the loss of her husband

The family of Victor Miller (a founder of the Shule)

Murray Patt on the loss of his mother

Barry Price on the loss of his mother

Gillian Rowe on the loss of her mother

Sandra Stewart on the loss of her mother

The family of Irene Varley

Lorraine Wolff on the loss of her husband

Fraser Wolff on the loss of his father

## From The Rabbi's Study

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Dear Friends,

**I am sitting down to write this message for our Geshher Rosh Hashanah magazine which will hopefully reach your doorstep in a few weeks' time, and I can't help thinking – who knows what the world will look like by the time you get to read it? The world may have changed so much in a few weeks that the message may no longer be relevant! And in some ways, this encapsulates the challenges we have been facing in recent times.**



This has been a year like no other. Nothing could have prepared us for what we encountered this past year with the outbreak of Covid-19, and although things seem to be gradually getting back to normal, we still don't know what the new normal will look like or how long it will take to get there.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, the only constant we have is that we know there will be uncertainty. We recall those words we say in the famous Unesaneh Tokef prayer "Who will live? And who will die? Who in their "due time...?" And who before their due time?... Who by plague?" Who could have imagined...? Our thoughts are with those whose lives were tragically cut short this year. We wish comfort and consolation to the mourners, many of whom weren't able to mourn as they should have been able to and we wish a speedy refuah shelema to all those who need healing.

We also wish Mazel Tov to everyone who has had simchas during this time. With so many cancelled plans and rearrangements, we look forward to celebrating completely together in the future.

The way we have responded despite the challenges has made me so proud to be a part of this community. How we looked out for each other during difficult times has brought us closer together despite our social distance. There were dozens of people volunteering to help out with shopping, errands or regular phone calls to members of the community who were isolating. So many people needed help, so many were offering help, and quite a few were on both lists simultaneously, myself included, and I'm incredibly grateful to all those who helped us (and the many more who offered)

when things were difficult with Leanne being unwell. Thank G-d, Leanne is doing a lot better now and we are thrilled with the exciting news that Leanne is expecting a new baby.

We have had to learn to adapt almost daily to the changes that have been taking place around us, and we were fortunate to have a team of volunteers who set us up to be able to have prayer services and shiurim on Zoom and Facebook. We saw our Shule Facebook group grow from 30 members to over 300 in a matter of weeks and I was so pleasantly surprised to see hundreds of people tune in to our online davening services and shiurim!

Individual members of the community have stood up and made things happen at a time when they were needed and I'm delighted that so many educational programmes have been arranged with guest presenters from all over the world.

I would also like to draw your attention to a new Bereavement Support Service which has been set up by members of the community to offer discreet and confidential support at a time of need - just another example of how members have identified an area where we could support each other better and have taken the initiative to offer support.

We have also just recently said farewell to Rabbi Aharon and Elisheva Bloch who have been our wonderful HAHET Education Directors for the past four years and have now returned to Israel. It has been an honour and a joy to work with them and their educational impact in the community will be felt for years to come. We miss them tremendously, and work is currently under way to find fantastic replacements for this position.

Rosh Hashanah this year will be different. I really enjoyed my first Rosh Hashanah with you last year and had thought of some new ideas for this year, most of which will have to be put on hold for future years. I am delighted that we have secured the services of internationally acclaimed singer, Eli Tamir to lead our prayers for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I have known Eli for a long time, and have always been impressed, not only by his musical range, but with his "kavanah", his ability to attach meaning and emotion to his music. And while all our pre-Covid-19 discussions had been about filling our beautiful Shule with the sound of uplifting song, things have changed, and we've had to adapt.

## From The Rabbi's Study (continued)

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Although we won't be able to join in with any singing, I've spent a lot of time working with Eli to try and ensure that we will still have beautiful and inspiring services in Shule.

I'm also aware that for many people coming to Shule is simply not an option at the moment, no matter how robust our health and safety measures are. No one should feel pressured into coming to Shule if they do not feel it is safe for them to be there. The thought of being at home for Rosh Hashanah may be difficult, so we've arranged to send something to your home to help with this. It's a booklet called: "A really practical guide for meaningful prayer for this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur if you can't go to Shule at all, or only for a while". It has been written by my good friend, Rabbi Rafi Zarum, specifically for people who cannot come to Shule due to coronavirus and it introduces a range of ideas for how to get the most out of praying at home. I do hope you will enjoy it - even if you are coming to Shule.

I'd like to end with a blessing and prayer for all of us. The past year has been a year of uncertainty, fear and much sadness. Personally, I went through dark times with concerns about the health of my family and I'm incredibly thankful to Hashem that this darkness is turning into light, and we are being blessed with the potential for new life. I pray that, as a community, we should all share this blessing, and all our fears and troubles should become sources of light, and we should be inscribed in the book of good life for the year ahead!

Leanne, Motti, Didi and Atara join me in wishing you and your families a Shana tova umetuka, a year ahead full of health, happiness, sweetness and joy.

**Rabbi Yisroel Binstock**

## Chevra Kadisha - Rosh Hashanah 2020

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### Covid-19 Coronavirus has hit our community hard.

It's affected every aspect of communal life. At the end of March, we represented the Shule together with Rabbi Binstock at a Zoom meeting hosted by the United Synagogue. We listened to several experts and took Halachic guidance regarding safe working practices from the Chief Rabbi's office. Over 300 people from all over the UK took part. We learned that new safety measures would be required by law, covering all aspects of Chevra Kadisha duties and these had to be implemented immediately. Guidance was also sought and taken from the Manchester Beth Din.

We were also bound by the further local measures of Trafford Borough Council. This meant that 2 funerals which took place at Dunham could not even allow direct mourners to attend. Zoom funerals then became a 'thing'.

We, unfortunately, had personal experience of this dreadful situation when Barry and Gillian's dear mum, Rosalind, passed away from Covid-19 in April. It was at the height of lockdown and the peak of the global pandemic in the UK.

Their other two sisters were not able to travel to the funeral and had to watch via Zoom. It wasn't until months later that they were allowed to visit their mother's grave. There was no chance of Shiva visiting and all four siblings had to sit Shiva alone. Saying Kaddish was not possible as all minyanim were

illegal. It was four months before the first Kaddish was said.

All Shule services were held on Zoom only, at that time. Rabbi Binstock and Zoom Gabbai, Michael Rappaport, ensured that anyone attending, who should have been saying Kaddish, was invited to recite a memorial prayer.

Sadly, several Shule members lost someone to Covid-19 in those months of lockdown. It is a great tribute to their fortitude and resilience that no rules were broken in order for them to honour their loved ones in the correct way.

The Hale Chevra Kadisha helped many other communities at that time to ensure that funerals were able to take place. Rabbi Binstock supported the mourning families at this most difficult time.

Our procedures are most definitely changed. For how long, nobody knows. Covid-19 restrictions dictate that many members of the Chevra Kadisha are now 'banned' from participation in this mitzvah due to their age or medical condition. So never has our need to seek your involvement been greater. Please get in touch so we can discuss.

**Linda & Barry Price**  
**Linda 07967 731321 Barry 07860 462007**

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 RENTALS: 0161 941 6767 rentals@watersons.net  
 212 Ashley Road, Hale, WA15 9SN 208a Ashley Road, Hale, WA15 9SN

91-93 SCHOOL ROAD, **SALE** CHESHIRE, M33 7XA  
 SALES: 0161 973 6688 sale@watersons.net  
 RENTALS: 0161 973 2266 rentals@watersons.net  
 91-93 School Road, Sale, M33 7XA



## President

### Dearest Family Hale

**Shanah Tova, Happy New Year! I hope you are reading this in good health and good spirits. I am honoured to be writing to you in my new role as Shule President.**

I understand that, "it is a challenging role but it does have its rewards". I have a feeling they may be in the next world! Nonetheless, I am here to serve this amazing community with a full heart, enthusiasm and - with your blessing - we will work together in harmony.

Hashem made us with many amazing faculties. One of them is the ability to get used to things. We can adapt to change pretty quickly. The shutting down of our Shule at the beginning of the Covid-19 situation was quite shocking, but then it quickly became the new normal. Those of us who were regular users of the Shule certainly missed aspects of the communal offering: prayer, social interaction, learning or cultural activities. But, after months of closure, we adapted to the new Shule - to Zoom, to being alone in our prayer, to social distancing, to the new world. But it never felt quite right. Yes, it is true that we can get used to anything but being separate is not how we are meant to be.

Community is all about being together, about coming together whenever and however we can. In a way, it is a mirror or a microcosm of an aspect of G-d. We say in the Shema, "Shema Yisrael.....Hashem Echad". Hear Israel, (which means "listen up people, work it out") Hashem is ONE. There is a universal consciousness, a universal ONENESS of which we are all part. The extent to which we move towards that oneness is the extent to which we feel and become truly part of it. The more we contribute to it, the more we benefit from it.

So it is with community...it has everything we need. Just come and take. But like all things, it needs energy to survive and thrive. The energy is the community itself! We will get out of it what we put in, both personally and communally.

There are not many who have given more than Ben and Michelle. They have given everything they possibly could to the Shule over many years, and even more so during Ben's presidency. So, on behalf of us all, I say a huge "Thank You", Ben and Michelle. Please do not think this means you can retire, but you may be allowed a little time off.

A friend once told me that when he went to his Shule he felt he was ignored. Ignored by the Rabbi, ignored by the

members. He felt that this was not a place for him and that frankly, it was clear he wasn't wanted. However, as he slowly became more involved over the years in his Shule's activities, he began to see that the exclusion he felt had actually been a mirror of his own behaviour. He had been self-excluding, and it had appeared to him as the actions of others.



I liked the story because it reminded me of myself. Ginni and I have grandchildren living in Israel. Thank G-d we also have a home there, and so, pre-Covid-19, we would go there as often as we could. I would go to a Shule, sit myself down and wonder why no one was engaging with me. When I look back, I sat at the back, I was not particularly outgoing, I wouldn't initiate conversation and so on. But over time, as I interacted more, I got more out of it.

As President, my dream is for everyone to be involved. Involved in more ways than they are now. Is that asking too much? Is it really just a dream? Maybe it is a dream, but the whole Jewish story is a dream. In a way, the story of our Hale community is a dream.

So, I call on you to become involved. Do you have a skill you can share? A story to tell? Something you want to put into action? It doesn't matter how small the involvement is. Just a few examples - we constantly struggle to make a minyan, men. Come and be part of it! Ladies, tell your husbands to come and be part of it - even once a month would work. We need people to maintain the siddurim and machzorim, we need help with marketing, children's services, the nursery - the list goes on and on.

Dear friends, we are facing challenging times ahead. David's Treasurer's report may make for sombre reading, but it is his job to state the facts. He is dealing with numbers, but the heart of the community is people... is YOU!

We have incredible potential with our wonderful new Rabbinic couple, Rabbi and Leanne, and I am confident we can, together, rise to the challenges we face. Please come and be part of it.

I am available at all times to hear from you, but that means you coming and telling me what you want to do, not what you want to see done for you!

Ginni and I send you our love, blessings and heartfelt wishes for a year ahead of peace, good health and success.

Shanah Tova  
Jonathan Steinberg

# WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS

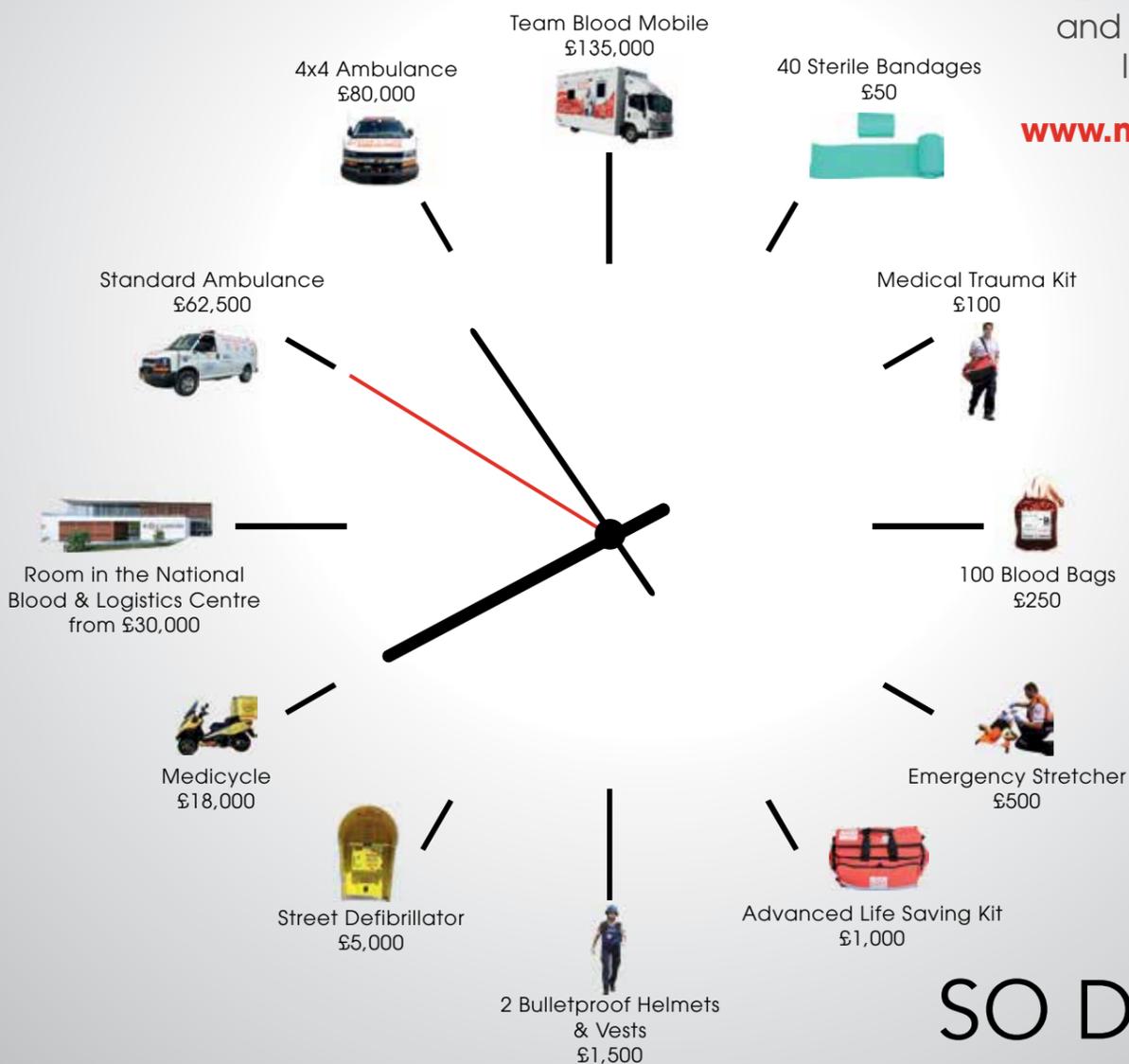
At Magen David Adom, we know that speed is critical. The faster we arrive at the scene of an emergency, the more lives we can save.

This is why we have developed an army of 23,800 volunteers, working tirelessly together to save lives across the length and breadth of Israel. This is why MDA is Israel's only National Medical Emergency Service running a fleet of 1,716 ambulances, mobile intensive care units and medicycles.

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# SO DOES EVERY POUND



Registered Charity No. 1113409

## The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5781

**As I reflect on an extraordinary year, my first thoughts are with those whose lives were tragically cut short by the Coronavirus. May their memories be for a blessing and may their families find comfort in their sad loss.**

My heart goes out to the many whose health, whether physical or mental, has been affected and to those who are facing severe financial hardship or crises in their personal relationships. The restrictions on social interaction, abrupt changes to our routine and the grip of deep uncertainty have dramatically impacted the fabric of all of our lives in ways that we could never have imagined.

In the years to come, while many will admirably recall our resilience and forbearance during these most trying of times, ultimately the success of our response to this Pandemic will be judged not by how we felt, but by how we acted.

The Torah portion of Nitzavim, which is always read immediately prior to Rosh Hashanah, commences with these words: "You are all standing this day before the Lord your God; your heads, your tribes (shivtechem), your elders and your officers". In this list of national leaders, 'tribes' appears to be out of place. Mindful of the fact that 'shevet' also means 'staff' or 'sceptre', our commentators explain that the leaders of our people are being referred to according to the item that they carried that symbolised their role. In the same way as 'the Crown' refers to the monarch and 'First Violin' refers to an orchestra's lead musician, a person who leads is known by the instrument of that leadership.

The message that emerges is extremely powerful. You are defined by what you do. The essence of a person is measured according to what they have achieved. For this reason, we call community leaders 'machers' (makers). 'Macher' is a role that conveys respect, because the people who change the world are not the dreamers and thinkers; the people who change the world are the 'doers'.

On Yom Kippur, we read the book of Jonah, in which the prophet informs the inhabitants of Nineveh of their impending doom. In response, they fast and repent for their evil ways. The text captures that epic event in just a few words: "God saw their deeds". Their words of apology and their fasting were merely steps towards a life-changing moment. What concerned God was not their protestations, but their actions.

This year, without any preparation whatsoever, every one of our communities was plunged into a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Your response has been simply magnificent. With our Shuls closed, our communities redoubled their creativity and their altruism. We have never known such an outpouring of compassion, such acts of selfless care for the vulnerable and such generosity in charitable giving.

I have no doubt that such action will remain at the heart of our Covid-19 response for as long as it takes us to overcome the dangers it presents to all of humankind.

As we commence 5781, may Hashem inscribe and seal each and every one of us in the Book of Life, good health, peace and fulfilment.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
September 2020 • Ellul 5780



## Treasurer's Report

Attached you will find the Shule Financial Statements and Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

These are the first accounts of the new Company limited by guarantee (CLG), and take a different format from previous accounts, making comparisons with previous years difficult. Also, as per previous accounts in the prescribed Charities format, these are difficult to interpret for the layman.

Below is a summary, splitting each cost centre, General, Nursery, Legacy Fund and Burial Fund. I have also split out essential and optional expenditure. Essential expenditure includes salaries, insurance, utilities, maintenance, etc. Optional expenditure includes festivals, events, seudahs, kiddushim, etc. All figures are nett after taking account of income and expenditure on each item. In some cases, optional expenditure has been subsidised by funds from HAHET and other donors.

### GENERAL ACCOUNT

We have a cash loss of £15,284 before exceptional, non-recurring costs.

### ESSENTIAL EXPENDITURE

Total income and essential expenditure are roughly in balance, although we do expect to see reduced fee income in the current year, due to the economic impact of Covid-19.

The deficit of £15,284 includes nearly £27k spent on the Shule's refurbishment programme. This is the first year of a 10 year programme, the outcome of a professional survey

of the building, and will cost approx. £30k per annum. This is apart from general ongoing maintenance.

### OPTIONAL EXPENDITURE

We now allocate expenditure by festival and know exactly what each event costs us. For example, Succot and Simchat Torah each cost nearly £4,000 after donations. In future, all events around festivals can only happen if new funds can be found to cover the costs. The Shule cannot fund these events from its general income.

### EXCEPTIONALS

Sadly, this year we incurred redundancy and severance costs. We also had to close the Cheder which was running at a loss for very few children, half of whom were Bowdon members. These costs will not recur.

### NURSERY ACCOUNT

The Nursery has struggled for some time with falling pupil numbers. Whilst it broke even before exceptional costs, that figure conceals the fact that we were in significant surplus in the 1st half of the year, all of which was lost in the 2nd half of the year, as pupils left to go to primary school. This trend is not exceptional to us, with falling numbers in the South Manchester Jewish population.

2019-20	General Account Unrestricted	Nursery Unrestricted	Legacy Fund Designated	Burial Fund Restricted
Total Fees	£333,590	£253,538		£45,713
Other Income	£16,556			
Total Income including fees	£350,146	£253,538	£51,523	£57,139
Essential Expenditure	-£342,546	-£253,439	-£331	-£11,128
Optional Expenditure	-£22,884			
Surplus/Deficit pre exceptionals and depreciation	-£15,284	£99	£51,192	£46,011
Exceptionals				
Redundancy/Severance/pay in lieu/cheder	-£24,520	-£13,500		
Surplus/Deficit before depreciation	-£39,804	-£13,401	£51,192	£46,011
Depreciation on Shule Building (Restricted Fund)	-£40,072			-£1,413
Nett Surplus/Deficit	-£79,876	-£13,401	£51,192	£44,598

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

July numbers are slightly up as some parents decided to send children back to Nursery, when they could see that it was a safe environment. However, they will fall again when Primary School reopens in September, and a review of staffing costs has been undertaken to put the Nursery's finances on a more stable footing. Our cost base will be more robust and we expect to be able to break even with a smaller number of pupils.

### LEGACY FUND

This is a Designated Fund. This means that the donations made are intended for the improvement of the Shule building and possible extension. As such, the funds are not available for the general running of the Shule. As at the end of July, we had £119k in this fund with further donations due this year. Originally, this fund was expected to reach £180k, but this will be affected by the current economic situation. Any use of these funds for a different purpose should be referred back to the donors for approval.

### BURIAL FUND

This is a Restricted Fund, and fees raised are specifically for the purpose of the burial of Members who subscribe to the Fund. All fees are kept in a separate bank account. At the end of October 2019, after a selection process by Executive and Directors, £250k from the bank account was transferred to CCLA, the largest investment management company in the charities sector. As of 31st July 2020, the fund stood at £260,693. This is a long-term investment and, with a conservative return, along with continuing fees at current levels, funds should be sufficient to meet our long-term obligations to our Members.

The Fund cash surplus of £46,011 is in line with expectations. At this stage in the Shule's lifetime, we need to be building surpluses, in anticipation of the Fund being drawn upon as the membership falls, many years from now. An actuarial review was completed in March 2018, to confirm that funds were sufficient. Whilst normally this would be carried out every 7 years, I will be recommending that we do it again in the coming year.

### HIGH ELM ROAD

As flagged in last year's report, we have a contingent asset of £450k in Rabbi Portnoy's High Elm Road property. We expect this to be realised in this financial year. But if we use that to cover ongoing costs, we will be spending the family silver and storing up problems for those who follow us. The money needs to be retained for an investment in a Rabbi's house at the appropriate time.

### YK APPEAL 2019

The Appeal raised £58,028 and there was a carried forward balance of £9,545, making a total to distribute of £67,573. This was all distributed as follows –

	Israel 35%	Local 10%	Shule 55%
MDA	£3,379		
United Hatzalah	£3,379		
Zichron Menachem	£3,379		
Zaka	£3,379		
Israeli Guide Dogs	£3,379		
Shaare Zedek	£3,379		
Shema Kolenu	£3,379		
Friendship Circle		£1,689	
NCJPS		£1,689	
The Fed		£1,689	
Chai Cancer Care		£1,689	
HAHET			£25,000
Shule Youth & Adult Education			£12,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,651</b>	<b>£6,757</b>	<b>£37,165</b>

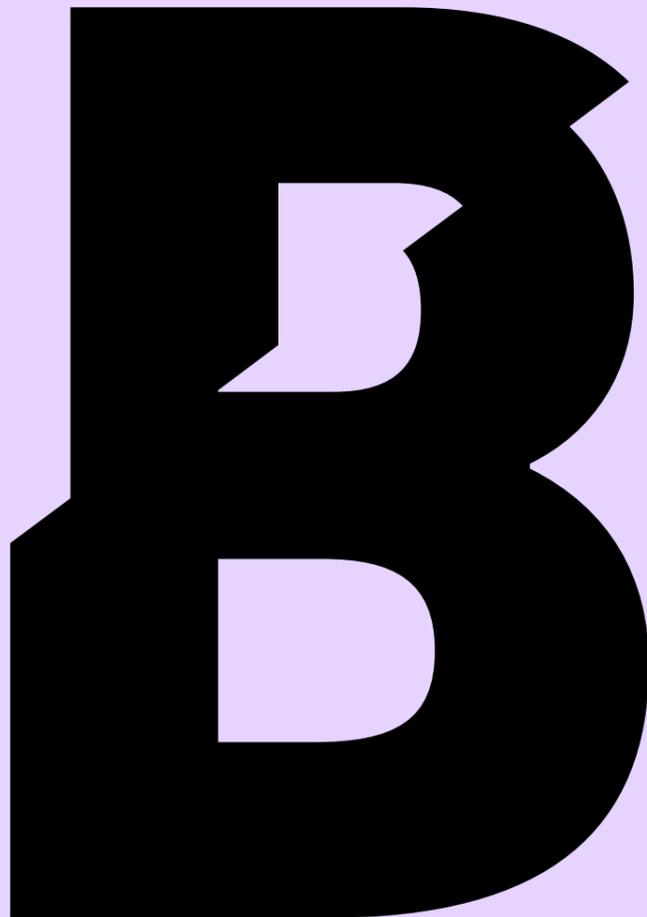
### CURRENT YEAR

It is concerning that £53k cash flowed out of the Shule in the year to 31/3, albeit £38k comprised one-off costs, related to redundancies and cheder closure. This year will be exceptional as we have reined in all costs and I anticipate a cash break-even/small loss. We will have savings on caretaking and insurance, but increased costs elsewhere, and reduced fee income. We must keep a tight hold on our expenditure.

Finally, a thank you to all who have supported me in managing our finances, with the additional challenges that Covid-19 has brought – Suzanne, Josie and Janet, Maurice Gould on Nursery credit control, and the invaluable advice of Edward Cobb, Tony Woolf and Stephen Quinn.

Wishing all our members a good Yomtov and a healthy year ahead.

David and Jennifer Zucker



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## Executive Ladies' Representative

### People often ask "what is your role on the Executive?"

Contrary to people's opinions, I'm not the tea/coffee maker or responsible for ensuring that everyone has pens and paper - although if we meet off-site, I do arrange the sandwich platters and snacks!!!! Neither am I on the Executive as a token gesture to females!!!! (And somehow the 'Ladies' Rep' title doesn't really seem to suit me!!!!)

Yes, I do have a voice and get involved and add my opinion on all sorts of Shule /Community matters. I am most definitely here to represent the women of the community - I want to hear your views and ideas:-

*\* What would you like to see more of?*

*\* What don't you like?*

*\* What sort of events do you think would work well?*

*\* What would you like to see happening in Shule Services?*

My own views are irrelevant in this - if you have any particular requirements or suggestions of different activities then I'm here to try and sort things for you. If I can't give an answer, I hope I can always point you in the right direction.

I also do my very best to ensure that all members in our community can access any help/kindness (Chesed) if needed whether it be meals while someone is recovering or sorting shopping for those who cannot get out and even to arrange visits so that caregivers can get out for a couple of hours.

We are so blessed within Hale our Community to have the most amazing, kind and giving people. Just some examples during the current Covid-19 challenges:-

I'm not going to name individual names, but the meal rotas that have been put together without any fuss have been life-savers for some. We kept The Bulls Head full of meals and treats while our unbelievably hard working NHS staff stayed there. (See article – Ed).

Parcels were taken to nursing homes for staff and clients just to try and make things a little easier.

I do have to mention one particular person, Ian Halpern, who has been so amazing, using his years of professional and pure chesed experience, always smiling and, I know, bringing a great deal of happiness to people.

So many people have been willing to put themselves out there and do for others - that's who we are as a community. We continually strive to improve and provide more of what you want.

SO, LADIES, WOMEN AND GIRLS.....get in touch with me if you have anything you would like to discuss.

REMEMBER LADIES - if we don't know about things we can't help you and, importantly.....behind every great man is an even greater woman!!!

L'Shana Tova U'metukah.

Wishing you all a year filled with good health and happy times.

Love Debbie x

Ladies' Representative

07900 698265 debsfeldmann@aol.com



Hale Walkers enjoying a walk in the beautiful sunflower field, Oldfield Road, Dunham.

## President's Report August 2020

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**Three years have gone quickly as President! 18 years on Exec and Council not so quickly.... but in recent years as the front man, I must take a higher level of responsibility for what has and hasn't been done. I'm glad to share a summary of my closing moments...**

I took the Presidential ticket in support of assisting Rabbi Portnoy in separating himself from 30 years of 'avodah' in Hale toward making Aliyah. Also to create a robust and fair process to find the best Rabbinical team to lead us forward, and that we did...

During the last 3 years, the Executive has rewritten and modernised the constitution, changed the legal status of the community to a limited company charity, appointed a new and dynamic set of Directors, implemented renovation plans for the Shule building, taken a more involved management position on Hale Educational Trust and of course welcomed our news stars, the Binstocks.

Did I do any of this myself? Certainly not. Did I rely on members of the team who have dedicated huge amounts of time and talent on ensuring the continuity of our great community? Most definitely. You and I have much for which to thank the Exec and Council – they have been tremendous.

I am proud to be the first President for over 30 years to have completed a full term of 3 years without needing an extension – we are ready to hand over to a capable and enthusiastic new President. Much of the unsaid planning toward ensuring continuity has been the most challenging and unsaid aspect of the job and I look forward to not worrying about that as the team now in place suits the new style of leadership more than mine!

If the Presidential role is about making our community better and making sure the impact is sustainable passing onto others, I feel confident in having achieved that. But there are many questions that need to be asked, now more than ever.... To question the core role of the Shule in our modern society, the relevance of promoting religion in Hale for the next generation and what parameters are a measure of success for a community such as ours? Do we plan to expand our communal reach or mothball for the next 20 years?

As a team, we have started to explore and act upon some of these issues, but on the ground (or from Zoom most of the time!) we have been firefighting with Covid-19 in recent months...

Indeed, these have been challenging times for individuals, families, workplaces, schools and communities. I wish to thank Rabbi Binstock and those who have openly and privately carried out Chesed in Hale during lockdown. If we can't show what it means to care for others during this difficult time then we are lost. It is with thanks to those amazing

people, that our kehilla can hold its head high in stating we are a true contributor to our local society and not a passive membership. You know who you are...we are all sincerely grateful.

I have also served as the youngest President. As a result, perhaps other younger members might consider this rewarding challenge too. I mean that in every respect. To be there for people in the happiest and saddest moments, (I truly hope we have done...), to make decisions which can affect the lives of so many in a wonderful and spiritual way. It is an honourable job and it has indeed been an honour to serve.

My best moments in office have certainly been our own simchas! During my presidency, Michelle and I have had two Bar Mitzvahs and one Bat Mitzvah! No doubt they would have been amazing either way, but to be President at that time was extra special for us.

So we haven't built the extension yet and haven't had a chance to talk of the E word (Eruv!), but I suppose I needed to leave something for the next in line to get their teeth into! As we cautiously open up Shule in compliance with Coronavirus on our doorstep, there is plenty to get our head around!

Heading into Rosh Hashanah and YK, I wish to apologise for any shortcomings during my time in office. If we didn't live up to your expectation when you needed us, or if the Shule missed opportunities to support/inspire your family over the last 3 years, I take responsibility for that and will duly pass on any comment or concern to improve.

We are always glad to hear when we got it right, too! I hope that even during these challenging days the Rabbi with our Gabbayim, Adrian and Jonathan, will deliver a Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur that will be a positive and uplifting experience for those able to join us. A huge Yashakoach to their team to allow us to pray together at this time.

It's interesting to note that Jews have consistently been faced with restrictions on religious practice over the millennia, normally under some sort of terrible persecution. This generation also will experience restrictive practice but with a great sense of gratitude, in finding legal ways to continue to practice our prayer and communal life, as restrictions are lifted without the persecution! Making every effort to safely pray together in the upcoming Yom Tovim will no doubt feel strange, but with our particular history in mind, quite meaningful, too.

## President's Report August 2020 (continued)

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Lastly, my thanks to Hashem for this amazing time in office, for the support of my loving wife, Michelle, the patience of my kids, Sol, Raf, Liora and Tali, the inspiration of my parents, the respect of the Exec and Council, the guidance of our new Directors, the team on Gesher, my partnership with Rabbi

Binstock and to all the amazing members of our much loved community in Hale.

**Le Shana Tova bli corona!  
Ben**

## Rosh Hashanah - Reflections of Lockdown Memories

---

**I remember flopping on to the couch at the end of a long day, only one kid was in bed, and the others would somehow have to find their beds on their own... the couch was calling.**



It felt like many long weeks had passed with the kids off school because of Covid-19 and my aims and goals had become just as blurred as the days of the week.

As I sat on the couch, I received an influx of messages from a good friend. Pictures came through of her kids, all clean and 'pyjamaed', holding up the artwork and schoolwork they had done with their mummy that day. Wow, I thought, what a productive day they have had! What an organised mum! What an accomplishment for these adorable kids! And here I am, exhausted, with not a piece of school work in sight!

A while later, I said the bedtime Shema with my four year old. He couldn't stop chatting about his day, about our new board game we were playing, and how he loved making smoothies, and that he wants to have another family picnic in the garden for supper tomorrow night. He seemed so content, so happy. Maybe I did have something to feel accomplished for, even though I had no photos to show for it? Maybe "the end" results I was looking for came in another form. Maybe it's not about the finished product we hold up at the end of the day, but more about the moments in the middle.

In the Rosh Hashana davening, right in the middle of the mussaf Amidah, there is the section of Zichronos, the theme of Hashem's eternal memory. The prayer asks rhetorically: Mi lo nifkad khayom hazeh – Who may be overlooked on this day, when the memory of every being comes before You? And as the prayer continues, it is apparent that Hashem's memory is not limited to the achievements in which we sometimes pride ourselves. Our choices, our plans, our intentions and impulses are all taken into consideration together with our achievements and accomplishments.

What looks like an accomplishment in our eyes might not necessarily be the accomplishment that G-d is looking for. The piece of artwork that is finally finished or the high score on the maths exam might give us some sense of achievement, but more important than the results is the process. In truth, the process is all we really have anyway. The process, that middle bit, is the only part that is in our hands. The outcome is not always up to us. In fact, it is often out of our control. We leave that part up to G-d. Hashem doesn't just judge us on the outcome, He is more interested in the "how" we did it, and the "why" we did it. Our attitude and our conduct is what really builds ourselves and our children, and you can't capture this on social media posts.

I always keep the photos of my children proudly holding up their arts and crafts at the end of a long corona lockdown day, just like we always keep the pictures of us in our graduation gowns – these pictures capture how we perceive our goals and targets, but in reality, our true accomplishments contain so much more. Rosh Hashanah reminds us that the paths we take, the effort we put in, and how we conduct ourselves during the process, will ultimately be our measure of success.

**Wishing you all a lovely Yomtov  
Rebbetzen Leanne**

## A Message from Eli Tamir our new Chazan for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur

It is an absolute pleasure to be joining you all in Hale once again!



It has been too long since my last visit. Thank you for having me back - and this time - for the first time as your Chazan for the High Holidays.

We are living through unprecedented times. The current regulations, unfortunately, don't afford us the opportunity to sing all the wonderful tunes

together. So I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to hum along together if possible!

But the fact that the congregation's vocal participation has to be somewhat limited should not mean that our services have to lose any meaning or emotion.

In order to imbue the service with an extra sense of understanding, inasmuch as may be possible given the circumstances, I thought I would briefly explain some of the thinking behind my choice of tune at various parts of the day. I do hope that this helps those of you who may be struggling with the new format of the services!

Songs-wise, I have tried to include a little something for everyone, as I know from my extensive experience in performing at weddings, that there's a whole host of different tastes out there. Some of the choices may seem a little 'left-field' or unfamiliar. This is by design. I have tried to keep it interesting, especially given you will be hearing a lot of me and will sadly be singing very little, if anything, yourselves!

I sincerely hope and pray that my prayers with you (albeit more difficult without your full help!) will go some way towards softening that blow and making you feel fulfilled from your own prayer.

I hope to do you all proud in that regard!

**Shana Tova**  
Eli

PS Please look out in Shule on Rosh Hashanah for the notes explaining some of the tunes that will be used this year.



### Biography

Eli Tamir is a London-based professional wedding singer, event planner and seasoned chazan, who has performed internationally for over 13 years.

Eli, 33, whose father became one of the most famous Jewish wedding singers in Europe before him, regularly travels (often with one of the two bands he runs) to destinations around the globe to perform for his wide range of clients.

Eli comes from a family deeply rooted in Sephardi heritage with both his parents hailing from Iraqi traditions.

As a young child he was already singing the popular Sephardi tunes at home and at the synagogue. But having studied in prominent Ashkenazi institutions, Eli has also had a lot of exposure to European Jewish cultures and has, over the years, familiarised himself with all the Ashkenazi tunes to the point where contemporary Jewish music is now a large part of his performance repertoire.

This versatility and sensitivity to different types of communities has helped Eli to become as in-demand as he is now, and has led him to serve

as Chazan for the high holidays in synagogues of all denominations around the world, including most recently in San Diego, California for the last few years.

Eli has a number of Hale-based clients and our community has fond memories from the wonderful Shabbat UK concert he performed for us a few years ago.

We are delighted that he will be joining us (Covid-19 permitting) for the High Holidays, to enhance our davening and help us start the new year in an uplifting and inspirational way.

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# Hale Shule Reopening

**When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK earlier this year and lockdown restrictions were imposed back in March, initially it was unclear and rather confusing to understand what 'lockdown' actually meant, let alone to imagine exactly what has transpired since. What is for sure is that these are strange and unprecedented times we are currently living in.**

## REOPENING TASKFORCE

As the Gabbai of Hale Shule, I was asked by the Executive to put together and deliver a plan for reopening Hale Shule once lockdown restrictions eased. A reopening Taskforce was created; comprised of Rabbi Yisroel Binstock, Jonathan Steinberg (Gabbai Sheini), Michael Rappaport (Sgan and Zoom Gabbai), Linda Price (Director and H&S Committee Rep) and myself. Together, with support from the wider Executive and the Hale Shule H&S Committee, we met (and continue to meet) on numerous occasions to plan, process and implement new policies and procedures for reopening Hale Shule and restarting Services safely and in a Covid-19 compliant way.

## GUIDELINES AND GUIDANCE

We closely followed and continue to monitor Government guidelines together with detailed guidance from the Chief Rabbi's Office and the United Synagogue in order to both reopen our Shule building safely and to ensure the personal safety of each of our members, as well as to offer Services which adhered to these new regulations, conformed to Halacha and were still spiritual and meaningful.

## REOPENING PROCESS

Throughout this process, the key and overriding considerations were to do this safely and cautiously through a steady and phased approach. Although Places of Worship could legally reopen from Saturday 4th July, we wanted to ensure everything was in place to do so safely and to allow time to observe the initial effects of lockdown easing in the wider community. As Rabbi Binstock so aptly put it in our first meeting: "I would much rather be last to reopen, having done so safely following the right processes, than first to reopen, having not mitigated the risks or prepared appropriately."

We are not sorry for adopting a cautious approach. Evidence from around the world suggests that Places of Worship have been centres of outbreaks. As much as we all wished to return to as close to 'normal' as possible, it was our responsibility to do so in a controlled and careful manner, particularly at the start, as we got used to implementing and managing a new way of running our Shule.

## NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Following several site surveys and updated risk assessments, new policies and procedures were established and a number of Covid-19 safety measures were put in place to ensure

the safety of all Hale Shule attendees and so that the Shule building remains a safe environment, including:

- various signs, posters and markings being put around the Shule building and grounds
- operating a one-way system through the Shule building following visual markings
- maintaining social distancing at 2 metres wherever possible, both indoors and outdoors
- face coverings being required to be worn indoors at all times by all attendees
- PPE being made available, including protective screens, vinyl gloves and hand sanitisers
- quarantining of all sefarim for 72 hours following use
- Covid-19 Steward and ushers on hand to assist during Services
- new cleaning and disinfection protocols, including additional cleaning after all Services

Following advice from the Chief Rabbi's Office and the United Synagogue, our Shule Services have also had a temporary makeover to safeguard and minimise the risks to all Service attendees, including:

- pre-registration - essential for attendance at each Service
- all Services taking place in the main Shule
- seating capacity allowing 64 seats downstairs (including the Pearl Suite) and 39 seats upstairs
- only using available seats, spaced 2 metres apart, clearly labelled 'PLEASE SIT HERE'
- protective screens placed on the Bimah either side of the Chazan / Leiner
- refraining from singing or responses in a raised voice
- refraining from kissing the Sefer Torah, Mezuzot or Tallitot
- being unable to accommodate children under the age of 12 years at this time
- shortened Service times to reduce the length of time spent in Shule

## REOPENING HALE SHULE – WEEKDAY SERVICES

In order to ensure that all new processes worked well and that the site remained Covid-19 secure, we decided to begin by reintroducing Weekday Services, which are smaller and more straightforward, before building up to a Shabbat Service, which is more complex and challenging.

After 4 months of closing our doors, we successfully reopened Hale Shule for Weekday Services on Monday 20th July. Although a rather surreal experience, it was a great feeling to be back in Hale Shule Davening with a Minyan.

## REOPENING HALE SHULE – SHABBAT SERVICES

After successfully reopening for Weekday Services and learning from the experiences of other communities around the world, we decided the time was right to reopen Hale Shule for Shabbat Services a couple of weeks later.

Despite our most careful planning and being ready to go, lockdown restrictions were re-imposed in Greater Manchester on the eve of our planned first Shabbat back which, unfortunately, delayed our return. It reminded me of the old Yiddish proverb "Mann tracht, un Gott lacht", meaning "Man plans, and G-d laughs". (Plus, here was me thinking Hale is in Cheshire!!)

Thankfully, the following week on Shabbat 8th August, we successfully restarted Shabbat Services in Hale Shule.

Of course, we recognise that many people may either not be able to or choose not to leave their homes or wish to attend Shule at the moment (whatever the reason). There is absolutely no pressure for anyone to attend Shule Services until they feel safe and comfortable or are in a position to do so and we respect each individual's personal choices. For those unable to attend Services in person, all Weekday Services will continue to be streamed live via Zoom.

Even with the face coverings and the various safety measures we have put in place, it does feel great to be back in Shule, davening together as a community again - and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in their own time.

## THANKS AND APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Executive and Council, I would like to thank all our members for your understanding, patience and support as well as your great community spirit, love and chesed shown to each other. We also request your continued full co-operation in adhering to our new policies and procedures to ensure the ongoing safety for all.

I am very proud to serve and represent our wonderful community on the Hale Shule Executive and feel honoured to have overseen the reopening process of our beautiful Shule. However, this was truly a team effort and I am very grateful to be supported by such a strong and active Shule management team.

In particular, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- **RABBI BINSTOCK** for always providing clear, apt and pragmatic Halachic guidance
- **BEN SALLON** for directly liaising with CRO and US as well as all your support, advice and direction
- **JONATHAN STEINBERG** for all you have done (including being armed with measure and tape!)

- **BARRY PRICE & SHLOMIE ABENSON** for all your operational support and especially Service booking software
- **MICHAEL RAPPAPORT** for ensuring continuity on Zoom and ongoing Services planning
- **ANDREW STONE** for all your work and advice as Chair of the Hale Shule H&S Committee
- **ADAM GOLDWATER** for all your sound and practical security advice as Head of Security
- **NAOMI WRIGHT** for all your time and advice in relation to Covid-19 safety measures
- **KAT TILBURY** for working so hard along with your staff to keep Nursery open, safe and fun
- **MIGUEL (CARETAKER)** for all the extra cleaning and disinfecting which you do so diligently
- **PAUL (SECURITY)** for coordinating Nursery parents and Minyan attendees and keeping us all safe
- **LINDA PRICE** for everything: you have been integral to this process and absolutely amazing!
- **MY WIFE, SARAH** for always being wonderfully supportive and an amazing Mummy to our girls

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Aharon and Elisheva Bloch for all their time, effort, hard work, spiritual guidance, unconditional love and friendship during their time in Hale over the last 4 years in their roles as Directors of Adult Education. They will be missed but we all wish them well as they return to Israel.

## NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

In ordinary times, Hale Shule is not just a 'Shule' but, as well as housing the Nursery, Shule offices and 2 Mikvaot, is also a community hub hosting daily Services and learning programmes, educational and cultural events, social get-togethers, youth programmes, life cycle events and much, much more. We look forward with great excitement to all of these functions returning hopefully in the not too distant future and restoring Hale Shule back to the warm, bustling and active community centre it should be.

Although recent times have been challenging and difficult with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting everyone and in different ways, it has also been a time for us all to reflect, take stock and introspect. With the onset of the Yamim Noraim, it is likely that both our individual and communal prayers for renewal and new beginnings will have greater perspective and even more meaning this year.

Sarah, Lily, Mia and I wish you and your families a k'tivah v'chatimah tovah, l'shanah tovah u'metukah! May we all be written and sealed for a happy, healthy, successful and sweet new year!

**Adrian Polak**  
**Gabbai Rishon / Senior Warden**

# CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe New Year



It is CST's mission to protect our Jewish communities up and down the country. We are committed to you, and ensuring your security, so that Jewish life can continue to exist and thrive in the UK.

The past year has been filled with challenges, both individual and collective. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, some in deeply tragic ways. The ability to physically meet with friends, family and in community – the networks that can make the most difficult and uncertain of times more bearable – has been removed. Where there is crisis, anger and blame follow, often directed at Jewish people. Now that we can gather together once again, CST is here to make sure it happens safe from prejudice and physical harm.

We wish that the security we provide were not necessary, but sadly terrorism, although rare, is a reality that can happen anywhere. Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by

a neo-Nazi. Using a homemade gun, he tried and failed to enter the synagogue, but did kill a passer-by and a customer at a nearby kebab shop. It was the cooperation of the congregants and shul staff, simply properly closing the door behind them, that saved the lives of those inside the service.

CST is here to protect you and facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life. This works best when you work with us. Please be mindful of basic security procedures and of our many dedicated volunteers who are devoting their time and efforts to ensure our safety, allowing us to spend the High Holy Days in peace. We wish you a safe, happy New Year, and a meaningful fast.

Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

## Security In A Crisis

Printed on the award certificate of every CST member to pass a security training course with the organisation, is a quote by the late Mordechai Anielewicz, that reads as follows: "The last wish of my life has been fulfilled. Jewish self-defence has become a fact. Jewish resistance have become actualities.

I am happy to have been one of the first fighters in the ghetto". Mordechai was the leader of the Jewish Fighting Organisation, which led the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – the largest Jewish insurrection during the Second World War, inspiring further rebellions in ghettos and extermination camps across the Third Reich.

We are all familiar with the consistent and repeated persecution faced by the Jewish people over the centuries, culminating in the horrors of the Holocaust. There are numerous and complex reasons as to why our people weren't able to mount greater defences in the face of such an evil and existential threat, but where it was possible, we resisted, we fought back and we defended ourselves. With the creation and advancement of the State of Israel, Jewish people now have a formidable armed force, one of the greatest in the world, powerful and undefeated.

The Holocaust may sometimes seem like a distant memory, but the realities of it are etched into most of our memories. Whilst we are lucky enough to live in a democratic and free society, we must always remember our past and what is possible. Far-right extremism is a real and growing problem around the world and it is incumbent on each and every one of us to stand tall in the face of this threat.

Regardless of your frequency of Shule attendance or levels of observance we are all Jews, with the same shared history and responsibilities to the past. Standing by a door or gate for a short time every few weeks may seem unimportant, unnecessary or inconvenient. On a practical level, taking part in Shule security provides a deterrent and offers physical protection to the rest of the synagogue. But on a symbolic level it is so much more important.

We are all part of a community. We are a community of Hale Shule-goers. We're also part of a larger community of South Manchester Jews. Today, we are now in a position that Mordechai and many other Jews like him would have been proud of – we have the ability to stand up, defend ourselves and face down any and all threats to our religion, our freedoms and our way of life. And this starts at home, with each and every one of us. As a security volunteer you are committing not only your time, but to stand together with the rest of your Jewish friends, family and community in solidarity with each other, and in memory of every Jew that has come and gone before us. If you are not yet part of the security team, please consider joining and donating 45 minutes of your time every two months. If you are already part of the team, please continue to give the role the attention it deserves.

Adam Goldwater

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London (Head Office) 020 8457 9999  
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## Social & Community

### Dave Morgan Interview

On 12th August, I had the opportunity to interview our local Conservative Councillor for Hale Barns as I felt it was important to get the lowdown on our local lockdown - an informed and up to date view.



CD Thank you so much, Dave, for agreeing to have a chat with me about the latest situation facing us all in Greater Manchester, and more specifically the area of Hale and Hale Barns. The number of Covid-19 cases seems to have recently spiked in our area, and I wondered whether you might have something to say about this?

DM There has been a real case locally (which has spread beyond Hale and Hale Barns) of 15-25 year olds. It's people who have been tested and diagnosed, but not necessarily showing any symptoms, amounting to just under 100 cases out of around 250,000 people in Trafford, which, at one stage was the fifth highest borough in the country per capita, but now the 22nd. Still a high statistic, but going in the right direction. This spike was hopefully a blip, as the number of cases reported in the following week was around half the previous week. However, it's now starting to hit the 30-50 year old age group, which is concerning.

CD What do you think about the latest Sky News report from yesterday that proves that the "Track and Trace" procedure in restaurants and pubs in the Manchester area is not taking place in all establishments? If businesses are not taking this seriously, it's only going to cause more problems for everyone, and will not give the customer the confidence they need to dine or drink out.

DM I do know that the Council are taking this very seriously, and if people do have items to report then Licensing are following this up. Locally, I personally haven't had any issues but I'm not someone who spends a lot of time in pubs!

CD What advice can you give to our members to stay up to date with all the latest information?

DM I'm hoping that by the time this interview is published we will be well out of this lockdown. However, if this isn't the case, I suggest everyone continues to check the NHS website and the Trafford Coronavirus website. It's best to constantly keep checking the news about what the latest guidelines are and stick to them. The current advice is not to socialise with people in a group of over 6 (and for groups of 6 or under to remember to socially distance if meeting up in a public place) and currently not to visit anyone in their homes or gardens.

I've recently been tested at our local drive-in test centre at Manchester Airport. (We also have one at the Etihad Stadium in East Manchester). I phoned up in the morning, got a slot within an hour and got the results back later that evening. It's very quick and simple to request a test, if you have any suspicion that you may have symptoms. As it's such an easy and straightforward process, get tested if you have any thought that you might have the virus. Don't delay. It's nothing to be frightened of.

#### Call 119 now to book your test!

If any member has any concerns at all, they can always contact me by email (dave.morgan@trafford.gov.uk) or on any of the social media sites. I'm always more than happy to answer any of your queries.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone in your congregation Shana Tovah for the New Year.

CD Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer questions on behalf of the Hale Shule community.

Candice Dwek



## Social & Community

### Social Media Through Lockdown

At the start of lockdown, as I'm an asthmatic, I was told I was at high risk and needed to be at home, so I was limited with what I was going to be able to do to help others in our community but still wanted to do something.

As the Shule Council member most heavily involved with the Hale Shule Facebook Group, I thought it would be a good idea to increase our presence on Facebook and use it as a way for our members, especially those who might feel more isolated, to still feel connected to the Shule.

There are now 314 members on the Shule Facebook page and there is usually something posted every day, by either Rabbi Binstock, Rabbi Bloch or myself.

Following advice from CST, prior to lockdown, we changed from a Facebook page that anyone could view to a closed Facebook Group of approved members.

The Shule newsletter is posted every week on the Facebook page and the Kabbalat Shabbat and Rabbi Binstock's sermon is broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook every erev Shabbat and is a delightful way to bring in Shabbat.

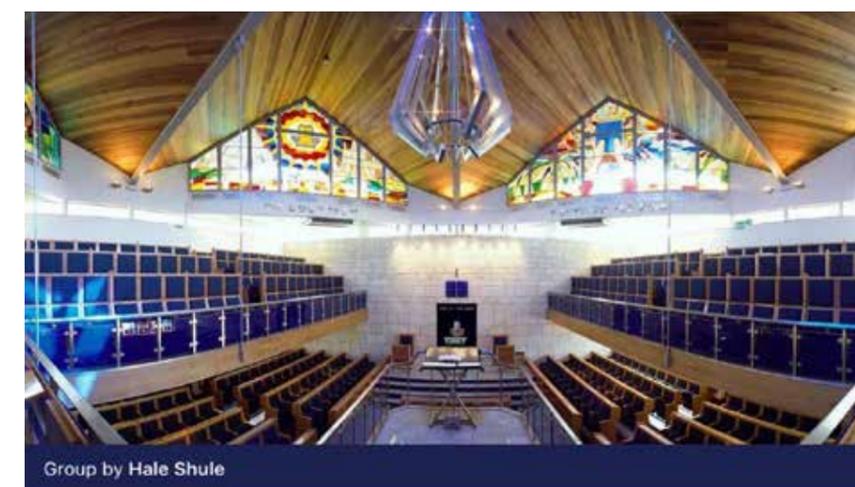
We've done our best to post a diverse range of different things, with hopefully something for everyone, from the nursery children singing with the Rabbi on a Friday morning, the occasional President's podcast, youth events, weekly Zoom singing on a Tuesday evening with Mally Blank, a Zoom cooking demonstration by the talented Sharon Hart, Zoom minyanim, photos showing the wonderful meals that members of our Shule prepared for key workers staying at the Bulls Head, various invitations to interesting and stimulating lectures by eminent speakers and talks on Zoom.

We have also done our best to keep the community updated with what is happening in the Jewish Community both here and nationwide, including messages from Rabbi Binstock, the Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Sachs, other local Shule's and the United Synagogue, as well as information that directly concerns our Shule and community. Our Deli and other kosher caterers, who have been offering a take-away service during lockdown, regularly post to let us know what they are offering.

We really love it when members engage with our posts and also do their own posts, especially ones that make us smile. We even had past President, Mark Savinson, modelling his eclectic shirt collection for a few weeks.

We are always looking for ways to improve what we do and any suggestions members might have would be gratefully received.

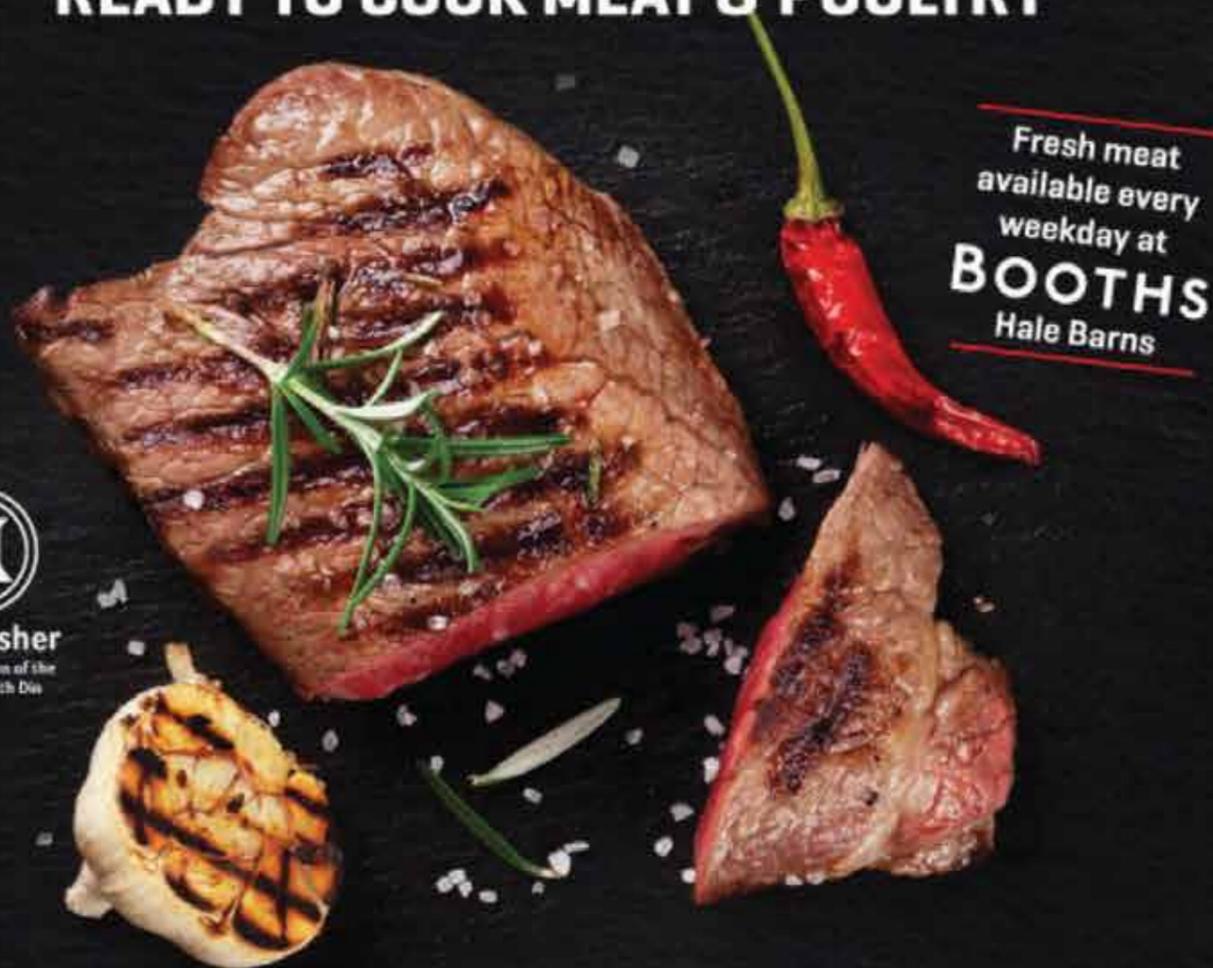
Julia Harris



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## Social & Community

### Mazal Tov!

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Simon & Sarah Ellenbogen on the birth of two granddaughters

Georgina & James Esterkin on the birth of a son

Ginette & Nigel Esterkin on the birth of two grandsons

Jonathan Ferster on the birth of a grandson

Colin & Marsha Gee on the birth of a granddaughter

Michelle & Raymond Green on the birth of a granddaughter

Lauren & Ross Jackson on the birth of a son

Kitty Joseph on the birth of a great-granddaughter

Suzy Kaitcer on the occasion of Sophie's engagement to Dani Dennison

Roy Kaitcer on the occasion of Sophie's engagement to Dani Dennison

Howard & Suzy Klepper on the birth of a grandson

Freda Klepper on the birth of a great-grandson

Itzhak & Shirly Klimov on the birth of a son

Stephen Lentin on the occasion of Jonathan's engagement to Lauren Harris

Ella Lentin on the occasion of Jonathan's engagement to Lauren Harris

Caroline & Charles Levine on the birth of a granddaughter

Yvonne Myers on the birth of a granddaughter

Dan & Gaby Rodden on the birth of a son

Victoria & Daniel Rosenberg on the birth of a daughter

Stacey & Brian Rosenberg on the birth of a granddaughter

Alan & Marilyn Segal on the birth of a grandson

Denise & Gary Simon on the birth of a great-granddaughter

Lady Beryl Steinberg on the birth of great-grandson

Ruth & Raymond Taube on the birth of a grandson

We apologise if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list.

We will always be delighted to share your good news. Please contact the Shule Office.

## The Bulls Head Project

**It's a month into lockdown and the Hale baking frenzy has hit fever pitch.**

Almost every Jewish kitchen surface in the area is groaning with all manner of calorific, culinary delights. You know how it is – just one more of those yummy cookies as you go past... it's only a little one..... how much damage can it do? How can we channel this need to feed?

At the same time, everyone was asking "How can we show our appreciation for the fantastic NHS workers other than going out to clap on a Thursday evening (having put the chicken soup on first, of course!)"

Fortunately, help was at hand! The Bulls Head on Wicker Lane was hosting NHS workers working at Wythenshawe Hospital who, for various reasons, couldn't live at home. As the Pub was closed, it meant that no meals were available in-house and the residents had to make their own eating arrangements. A chance conversation with lovely Nicky Lee who manages the Pub and Hotel revealed that, as much as the residents loved the cakes and biscuits generously

donated by the local community, what they really craved at the end of a gruelling day, was a proper home-cooked meal. A perfect match! Hale Ladies didn't need telling twice! Offers of help poured in immediately and over the next six weeks (until the Bulls Head emptied significantly) twenty-two ladies lovingly prepared and delivered approximately 130 meals-for-one, a range of tasty soups, melt-in-the-mouth bread rolls, assorted desserts, cakes, biscuits, cheeky gingerbread people and milk. Many included a thank-you message from the donating family on behalf of Hale Shule. Our helpers were from all Shule's and other Faiths who were keen to volunteer when they heard what we were doing. We certainly showed that Hale Shule is ready and able to play its part in the wider community. Especially where food is concerned. Long may it continue!

A very special Thank You to everyone who volunteered because you really made a difference.

**Suzanne Cobb**

*Continued overleaf*

## Social & Community

### The Bulls Head (continued)

#### Interview with Nicky Lee (Manager of The Bulls Head)

##### Whose idea was it to give The Bulls Head to NHS workers during lockdown?

The idea came from William Robinson. He certainly didn't do it for the publicity and didn't want it to be about Robinson's or the pub, but about the NHS – he wanted to provide somewhere the workers could feel safe and comfortable.

He'd heard that City Centre hotels were offering their rooms and thought, why couldn't The Bulls Head do the same? He approached Wythenshawe Hospital and they created a group to look after the accommodation needs of doctors and nurses, who would apply to them, and in turn, would get allocated a room – a very slick operation, although it took a while to put in place.

##### Was the scheme run in other Robinsons' pubs?

Only at a pub in Sheffield that was near enough to a hospital to be of use.

##### How did you adapt your regular policies to be Covid safe?

We followed government guidelines but also developed our own policies in terms of "being safe". Once a guest had checked in no one was allowed into the room until 24 hours after the guest had checked out. This meant that they had to clean their own rooms throughout their stay. We left clean bedding and towels out in the corridors for them to help themselves.

##### How did you manage without any staff?

We relied on volunteers to run things – we were inundated with offers of help from the community - all from 2 messages put out on Facebook. One valuable source of help came from the ladies of Hale Synagogue, whom Suzanne Cobb rallied round. They provided home-made fresh bread and ready meals every day with fresh milk being organised and delivered twice a week. Other donations flooded in with one kind gentleman donating £400 worth of toiletries, which we distributed throughout the rooms. Other ladies offered help in cleaning and preparing the rooms for when the guests changed over.

##### How long did it take to get things up and running? Can you tell us about some of your guests?

It took about 3 weeks from the beginning of lockdown until we had our 1st guest booked in from Wythenshawe - on 20th April. We never had masses of guests – it was very manageable - but most of the guests tended to stay for more than a couple of nights.

We had one lady who came up from London to work in the Infectious Diseases department and she stayed 3 weeks, only going home at weekends.

She used to walk there and back to the hospital, saying that she needed that time to clear her head of what she was dealing with whilst there.

Another lady stayed 7 weeks – she was local and lived with her father who was classed as vulnerable. She worked in ICU so she moved into The Bulls Head to shield her father – huge adjustment to both of their lives. This lady actually made a life-changing decision during this time, realising how she was loving the independence of being away from her father (her culture dictated that women stay at home until they marry). After 7 weeks she moved into her own apartment in Altrincham.

We had a couple who stayed, that were moving here from Wrexham – the husband was starting a new job at Wythenshawe and didn't want to leave his pregnant wife behind.

### Basic Challah Recipe



#### Dissolve

7g dried yeast (16g fresh) – 1 tsp sugar and 1 tsp flour in 200ml tepid water.

Allow the yeast to activate until frothy.

w

#### Add

500g flour - 30g sugar

50g sunflower oil - 1 egg - 1 tsp salt

Mix together and knead until smooth.

Leave for first rise in a warm place approx 2 hours until 2 x its size, or overnight in fridge, then brought to room temperature.

Knock back and shape as required.

For rolls, weigh out 60g pieces roll into a sausage and knot. Makes 2 good sized challot.

Leave to rise until double in size. Brush with egg and sprinkle with sesame seeds or poppy seed.

Put in a cold oven and turn temperature up to 190°C. Bake until golden and hollow sounding when tapped underneath. Approx 30 mins.

Sara Crammer

We had a couple of young nurses, who had been working in Australia on a training scheme, came back home to help but couldn't move back in with their families, so stayed with us at The Bulls Head.

##### What was the reaction of the doctors and nurses when they arrived?

They were blown away by everyone's generosity and found it incredible that the community wanted to give such practical help and support.

##### What was your role in the whole scheme, Nicky?

I was around to oversee everything, basically being on call 24/7 for our special guests from Wythenshawe Hospital. I found it a total joy and was so happy to be able to help, as was the whole community. As well as all the practical arrangements, I was happy to lend an ear whenever anyone needed to vent or offload their day's experience. However, I made a point of not asking questions or being too intrusive.

##### So what's next for The Bulls Head?

Before lockdown we had just closed for a big refurb. So we're excited to re-launch with a new look and new menu in the pub. We have large gardens and will also be putting up a marquee to ensure customers' safety.



Customers will be able to order food and drinks online and have it served to their table. The lodge will re-open to the public but we are keeping back 2 rooms for Wythenshawe Hospital staff. We are thrilled that we have been able to help and also forge fantastic ties with our local communities. We are very keen to maintain these relationships with our new friends and locals!

Interview conducted by Gesher's Nikki Lee!!

### Raspberry Crumble Recipe

#### Ingredients

1 lb self-raising flour

8 oz caster sugar

8 oz margarine. I use the hard Tomor to keep it pareve

1 and a half packets frozen raspberries

#### Method

Using a medium-sized loaf tin, put in the raspberries with four tablespoons of granulated sugar and a tablespoon of water.

Put in a medium oven to heat through.

To the crumble mixture, rub the margarine into the flour and when like large bread crumbs add the sugar and a pinch of salt.

Take out the raspberries, drain off excess juice whilst retaining some or else it will be dry.

Sprinkle the crumble mix over the raspberries and cook in a medium oven till golden brown.

Delicious warm with pareve vanilla ice cream or with fresh cream for a milk meal.

Sorry this is in ounces as I am very old!! I generally make a batch of the crumble mix and keep it in the freezer for when needed.

Sonia Lee

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## Social & Community

### Zoom Minyanim

I didn't realise that there was a [virtualminyanim.com](http://virtualminyanim.com) website until way after we re-opened our Shule doors for weekday services!

What a website, with a long list of American Shule's presumably inviting people, from as far flung as Hale, to join them! I have no desire to join them or know how other Shule's run their services, but the site did prompt me to share with you my thoughts and memories about how we at Hale dealt with our own virtual minyanim. There could have been none better!

Unlike many, I certainly did not suffer from Zoom fatigue whilst we needed the platform during the strictest period of Covid-19 lockdown and I was more than happy to be (self) elected to orchestrate and play my part in the weekday Shule service attendances.

First off, a little information about how we ran the services:

- 15 minutes before each start, I sent out a message (drafted by an Exec member as I was clearly not to be trusted) via our Minyanim WhatsApp group.
- We held weekday, morning and evening services, plus Kabbalat Shabbat services led by Rav Aharon or Benji Fine with a mini-sermon by Rav Binstock
- The attendance for weekday services ranged from 8 to 20 and from 25 to 60+ for Kabbalat Shabbat. The figure of 60+ was reached when Warren Ferster read his Barmitzvah haftarah before Kabbalat Shabbat to celebrate his 70th birthday
- As we were not a minyan in the halachic sense, there was no leining from the Torah and no Kaddish - instead we leined from the Chumash (without aliyot) and the rabbi said a memorial prayer composed by the Chief Rabbi during which attendees could mention the name of the family member for whom they would be saying Kaddish in normal circumstances
- We read the usual psalms at the end of davening and the rabbi made a refuah shelema every morning
- And finally, of significant importance.....I was entrusted with being able to choose who led the services!

What I really loved about the virtual services:

- The people!! With apologies for any omissions, our regulars, in addition to me and in alphabetical order to avoid upset, included Craig, David, Howard, Jeff, Peter, Raymond, Rav Aharon, Rabbi Binstock, Simon, Stephen, Stuart, The Potato Farmer and Warren.
- We became a happy band of daveners engaging in light banter before and after davening and I also had the dubious pleasure of receiving almost daily messages of various degrees of unimportance from The Potato Farmer. The whole experience was not only spiritual but it was also warm and sociable with a sense of togetherness and community. Strangely, at the time, the Zoom setting seemed more intimate than a largish building where people are rushing in and out with little or no time to chat.
- And a special mention for Barmitzvah boy, Jack, who made his first public appearance with his tefillin.

In summary, I experienced a most positive experience during the three or so months when the Shule doors were locked.

And, now....at the time of writing....it is the the Zoom doors which are locked to our weekday minyanim, our services having returned to the Shule on Monday 20 July.

Let's just say that I thought I would miss all of the above when we switched back from the virtual to the actual but I was wrong! I reckoned that there would be no chat or warmth as we navigated our way round our new Covid-19 safety measures and again I was wrong.

The first minyan on the morning of Monday 20 July 2020 was absolutely fabulous, unbelievable, the best! The happy band of daveners was once again together in Shule under the watchful and caring eye of our Covid-19 Steward, Linda.

We are all teetering our way around our new 'Shule normal', a place where we can be together again in person. And, of course, the experience is still warm and sociable with a sense of togetherness and community for which we at Hale Shule can be proud.

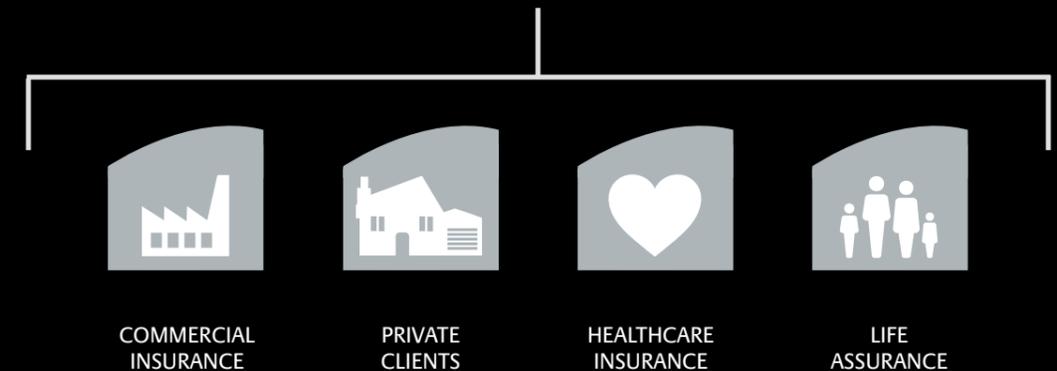
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## Rosh Hashanah Wishes

Rabbi and Mrs Yisroel Binstock And Family Together With The Members Of Hale & District Hebrew Congregation Wish Their Families And Friends And All Israel, Peace And Happiness In The Forthcoming Year.

### A

Fiona, Paul and Leo ABRAMS  
Jeanette, Ronnie ABRAHAMS Mark Ilan,  
Melanie and Danny, Claire – Colette and Jackson  
Gerald and Elaine ADLESTONE with Caroline Adlestone  
Gabrielle, Mark, Tara, Rafi, Chlöe,  
Greg and Libby ADLESTONE  
Patricia, Tony, Jordan and Harriet ALEX  
Karen, Neil and Milly ALLWEIS

### B

Lynne and Steve BLOCH  
Barrie BLOOM and Family  
Alain de BOTTON  
Sonya and Roger BOWER and Family  
Gill, Jonathan, Ben and Amy Jo BROWNSON  
Sharon, Ian, Charlotte and Matthew BUCHALTER

### C

Suzanne, Edward and Charlotte COBB, with Hannah,  
James, Akiva Tzvi, Naftoli and Hadassah Silvert  
Angela and Anthony COHEN and Family  
Gillian and Stephen COHEN together with  
Rebecca and David and children and Maxim  
and Chana and children  
Rachel, Jonathan, Harry and Eva- Lily CRAFT  
Sara and Raymond CRAMMER and Family  
Dinah and Tony CRYSTAL and Family

### D

Mark, Josie, Adam, Alex, James and Emily DAVIES  
Lauren, Martin, Daniel and Simon DAVIES  
Rachel, Matt, Lucy and Maya DAVIES  
Sylvia, Jonathan, Sammy and Harry DOBKIN  
Candice, Jonathan, Gianina and David DWEK

### E

Nigel and Ginette ESTERKIN and Family

### F

Steven and Amanda FALK  
Sharon and Warren FERSTER and Family  
Shelley and Stuart FERSTER and Family  
Nicola and Simon FINE and Family  
Anne and David FINESTEIN and Family  
Susan, Lawrence, Joshua, Joel and Daniel FRUHMANN

### G

Gail and Roy GABBIE and Family  
Zoë, David, Harlow and Sloane GABBIE  
Larry and Robert GOLDWATER and Family  
Angie, Rob, Poppy, Maddy and Frankie GOODALL  
Bernice and Michael GREEN and Family  
Michelle and Ray GREEN and Family  
together with Kitty Joseph  
Anne, Francis, Joshua and Michaela GREIBACH  
Vivianne and Charles GREIBACH and Family

### H

Marianne, Jonathan, Theo and Mia HAMBURGER  
Sharon and Jeremy HART and Family  
Caroline and Nicholas HERZ  
Wendy and Jeremy HERZ and Family  
Shirley HORWICH

### J

Rabbi Dovid and Rochel JAFFE and Family

## Rosh Hashanah Wishes



### K

Brenda and David KAY, Jonathan and Anthony  
Ian and Vivienne KELLER and Family  
Stephanie and Howard KLASS and Family  
Ian, Wendy, Jeff and Ruby KNOFF  
Hilary, Terry, Georgia, Philip, Imogen and Ethan KRELL

### L

Debra, Andrew and Libby LAZARE  
Nikki and Stephen, Josh, Robyn, Alex,  
Livvy and Giorgia LEE  
The LENTIN Family  
Howard and Debbie LEWIS and Rosie and Miri Nicholls  
Jacqui and Norman LUFT

### M

Simon, Suzie, Jack, Dan, Harry and Sadie  
MARGOLIS and Jennifer Brim  
Maxine and Stuart MARKS and Family  
Tracy, David, Benjamin and Jakob MARSH  
Louise, Scott, Sigal, Mimi and Gabrielle MARSHALL  
Emma, Daniel, Jack, Charles and James MASLIN  
Rochelle and Maurice MILLER  
Jackie and Jonny MOND and Family with Grandma Muriel  
Jenni and David MOND and Family  
Rema and Samuel MOND Phoebe and Demi  
Vivienne and Barry NEWGROSH and Family

### P

Adrienne, Michael and Natalya PAUL  
Linda and Barry PRICE and Family

### R

Gillian and Tony RAYNES and Family  
Jacqueline and Josef RICH and Family  
Barbara and Emanuel ROSEN and Family  
Stacey and Brian ROSENBERG and Family  
Anne and Harvey ROSENFELD and Family  
Ruth and Gordon ROSENTHAL and Family  
Michelle, David, Janine and Nicole ROTHBURN  
Gillian and Ivor ROWE, Jack, Naomi, Toby and Millie

### S

Michelle and Ben SALLON with Solomon,  
Rafi, Liora and Talia SALLON  
Susan and David SALLON and Family  
Claire, Mark, Joshua and Susie, and Adam SAVINSON  
Philip and Linda SCIENCE and Family  
Nicola, Gary, Zak and Talia SCORAH  
Marilyn and Alan SEGAL and Family  
David and Sheilah SHELDON  
Jill and Steven SILVER  
Denise and Gary SIMON and Family  
Ginni and Jonathan, Max and Ilana  
STEINBERG and Family  
Lady STEINBERG

### T

Ruth and Raymond TAUBE and Family

### W

Nadine, Antony, Jamie, Holly and Bobby WAGMAN  
Laura, Sergio, Freddie, Joey and Antonia WEINGARTEN  
Nici, Paul, Jake and Shoshi WERTHEIM  
Melanie and Tony WOOLF and Family

### Z

The ZEMMEL Family  
Jennifer and David ZUCKER and Family

### Reflections

Having arrived into Manchester Airport on flight EZY821 near midnight on Thursday 24th May 2016, and already meeting some 'Halers' on the plane, we were greeted with a warm embrace by Rabbi Portnoy who had come to pick us up.

Timid, tired, and slightly overwhelmed, we stepped into the black sedan with our then only child Yosef, who was gazing curiously at the "Welcome to Hale" sign before realising that our exit was the one before the Marriott!

In those first days, we were whisked us off to Tesco by Ruthie where we learnt about the Kosher food list, Shira and Risa baked up a storm and Luis helped us get a car.

Soon we were preparing for our first Shabbos in Hale, the first Café Tefilla, the first Aliya where you do a celebration lap, shaking EVERYONE'S hands - remember those days? Late that Friday night Shlomie and Michal popped round to introduce themselves. Shlomie, the world's nucleus of positive energy and Michal always there for a friendly chat and comforting shoulder to lean on.

There it was – the beginning of our journey.

We were eager to get as many people learning as soon as possible but quickly realised that primarily we wanted to engage in meaningful relationships. There is no rule book or specific contract guidelines to teach how to make a real friend. However it happened, it was transformative!



We found ourselves creating programmes and events so we could get to know people better while providing valuable education opportunities.

The various programmes attracted different people within the community. What made it worthwhile for us were the relationships – many we hope will transcend the boundaries of physical distance.

Socialising in the Pearl Suite during a kiddush and being greeted every single Shabbos with such authentic warmth and love genuinely separates this community from many others. Watching people often discuss the Café Tefillah topic well after the discussion was what gave me tremendous nachas. It gave me even more nachas to see Jews arguing over something that had nothing to do with politics (Shule or otherwise).

Whether we got close to people through Babies and Bagels, Shabbos meals or standard Shule schmoozing, what stood out to me personally was the bond that was forged through Torah study. There is something about learning that so often engages a deeper level of your Neshama. The bonding of people through Torah leaves a specific mark - and that impression will last with me forever.

The Journey of Life that we are all on... when some Torah gets thrown into the mix and certainly when the double and triple portions turn into an integral part of life, the people and moments that truly enhance the journey, will forever be remembered.

Elishava will undoubtedly be remembered for her dedication to and love for everyone, and of never being afraid of speaking the truth. I, on the other hand, hope and pray that the Hale family remembers me as a man who stands for Jewish appreciation through education and not just someone who can 'out-Purim' anyone!

We have many individuals to thank - you know who you are! Thank you! We would like to publicly thank Rabbi and Ruthie Portnoy who believed in us, motivated and pushed us beyond what we thought possible. We are also confident - after a year plus, of excellent team work - that with Rabbi Yisroel and Rebbetzen Leanne at the realm, this community will, P-G, continue to prosper and grow.

We will miss you all tremendously but hope and pray that we will soon see you in Israel. The Hale community has a special place in our hearts. We love each and every one of you and look forward to hosting you in our new home.

#### Lots of love

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Rabbi Aharon & Elishava

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### Zoom Talks - The World Series Comes To Hale

Back in May, as 'Lockdown boredom' was really beginning to settle in, my wife Rebecca and I had an idea, in order to utilise the 'new' medium we were all embracing, to create a mini 'festival' for the community, including the wider South Manchester community – a series of Shiurim, talks and creative discussions for the whole community, across all age groups and for all interests – including Torah, politics and the arts.

Once we began raiding the contact book and sent out some preliminary emails asking about speakers' availability and interest in the project, it became apparent that we had a once in a lifetime opportunity within Hale to get some of the world's greatest speakers and educators to give up their time.

Due to lockdown, they were available, it was easy for them to attend the talk, using Zoom, and we were able to pull a program together quite quickly – indeed, after my initial contact with some of the speakers, I threw the idea over to Rabbi Binstock, who was wholly supportive, along with the Executive, and within two weeks, we had a program pulled together, for 6 talks to take place throughout July.

On the basis we would be cutting across the globe, discussing worldwide topics and ideas, it was decided to call the series The World Series...

The first Shiur was actually a home win – and not too difficult for me to arrange – my wife Rebecca gave a wonderful talk on the relationship between the Jewish community and the Black Lives Matter movement, analysing the halachic arguments over history, and looking at the contemporary issues surrounding this.

Following this, we were delighted to present Rabbi Dr Rafi Zarum – Dean of LSJS in London, Astrophysicist and all round encyclopaedia of Jewish knowledge – Rafi has been educating the masses for nearly 30 years and has trained many of our modern Rabbonim on how to be excellent educators. Rafi spoke about the idea of whether it could be seen to be a bit racist for Jews to see themselves as 'the Chosen People'. His brilliant analysis of the texts, along with wonderful insights around the subject made for a phenomenally interesting evening and prompted many questions from the community.

Next up we moved across to Israel, where Col. Miri Eisen, a Geopolitical scientist provided us with an amazing view of the politics of Israel and the Middle East – and specifically how Covid-19 has impacted on the region – no matter how much of an expert members of our community felt themselves, all agreed that Miri provided new information about the region, helping to better inform people in the diaspora of the situation today. Miri's relaxed presentation style and friendly demeanour makes her a natural presenter and whilst being incredibly interesting, participants found her utterly engaging to listen to.

One of the fun items we included in the program was a live tour of the Biblical Museum of Natural History in Israel with Rabbi Dr Natan Slifkin, who guided us around the brand new museum introducing us to the various live animals, some biblically native to Israel and some not, explaining the roots and development of their migration.

Our next talk was given by Guardian columnist, Hadley Freeman, who was in discussion with Rebecca Lewis about Hadley's latest book – the best seller 'House of Glass' – where she has spent the last 20 years researching her grandmother's family history, from pre-World War through the Holocaust, and their story of survival and devastation – a fascinating read and insight into French Jewish life pre, during and post Holocaust.

Finally we were treated to a detailed understanding of the Israeli political system and its current status regarding the annexation policy from Hagai Segal – lecturer at NYU in London – Hagai's knowledge was so comprehensive that he managed to provide a complete picture of the problems facing the Israeli State relating to the way the political system is set up and the challenges this poses, in just one hour – no small feat.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the series and hopefully we will be able to continue the programme after the Yomim Noraim – in the meantime you can watch many of the above talks on the Hale Shule website – [www.haleshule.com](http://www.haleshule.com).

Enjoy, and wishing everyone a good Yom Tov.  
Craig Lewis



Recordings of both talks are available on the Shule website

### Zoom Talks - A History Of Turkish Jews

For our community I try to arrange interesting, entertaining events.

With the very different times through which we are living, actual physical meetings are not possible or even thinkable at present. Therefore, our talks, have taken place on Zoom. I have a personal interest in history, as when you know what has happened in the past, you are able to better comprehend the present, and better foresee the possible future.

On 4th August we were privileged to be given a talk on the history of Turkish Jews under the auspices of Hale Shule, given by Rabbi Mendy Chitrik. He is President of ARIS (Alliance of Rabbis in Islamic States) and permanent member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of European Rabbis. He is fluent in five languages and has published several books in Turkish on Jewish life, and is probably one of the last rabbis in the world to deliver a weekly Torah Lesson in Ladino! He's writing a book on Turkish-Sephardic Minhagim and he is also a shochet and a mohel. He is Rabbi of the Yüksek Kaldırım, an Ashkenazi Synagogue in Istanbul where my wife, Sandra, and I got married.

This enlightened talk took us on a much longer history than the last 500 years of the famous Sephardi period, probably closer to 2600 years ago, to the earliest expulsions from Israel.

We were guided through the differing periods of Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, and Byzantium and Ottoman Eras. These were illustrated with photographs of the remains of synagogues that are 2000 years old!

It was an extensive talk covering a long period in Jewish history. I was especially surprised at the length of time Jewish people have lived in the modern-day lands of Turkey. I shouldn't have been as Mount Ararat is in Turkey, where Noah's Ark grounded.

We had upwards of 60 people attending online, more on Facebook, as well as those who watched the recording. We will certainly be presenting more on-line talks – and when safe to do so – in Shule when we can all meet together, please G-d soon.

Jonathan Feingold



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## A Profession Under Fire The Realities Of Teaching During The Pandemic

**During the months of April and May, when the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak, at 8pm on a Thursday evening people across the United Kingdom walked out of their houses en masse, in order to applaud those key workers rightly lauded for their heroic efforts.**

There was of course recognition of the doctors, nurses and carers, those on the front line in the fight against the illness. Additionally, delivery drivers, supermarket workers and even postmen and women were celebrated for their role in keeping the nation functioning at a time of unprecedented crisis. At no point were teachers mentioned. In fact, for those of us working in the education sector, there was no sense of appreciation felt by the other industries celebrated each Thursday evening. Instead, the partial closure of schools, the difficulties in offering appropriate home-learning provision and the seemingly impossible task of reopening safely and entirely in September have led to criticism of teachers and education leaders by politicians, journalists and even some from within the profession. However, the reality of teaching during the pandemic has been far different from the media portrayal of our perceived lack of work.

First and foremost, when schools were closed to most pupils by the government on March 23rd, they were actually ordered to stay open. Schools across the country have kept their doors open and their staff in attendance in order to offer care and education for the children of key workers. This scheme's importance should not be underestimated. This policy has allowed doctors and nurses and thousands others to keep working, whilst shielding grandparents from the responsibility of childcare and potential exposure to the virus. Even this partial opening has taken a huge amount of planning and preparation by all those involved in the running of a school, from the Headteacher to the cleaning staff.



In a similar vein, teachers have not been on an extended holiday since March. Speaking of my own experience, admittedly in a fee-paying independent school, I have been planning, setting, teaching and marking lessons for every pupil in every class, every day. I have recorded videos to teach them content, conducted live lessons in which the class can log on and work with me, have marked all of their work and have been available to answer their questions and queries throughout the week and often on the weekend, too. Every school across the country has conducted some variation of these home-learning strategies. Teachers have been juggling these responsibilities, alongside their own childcare responsibilities; I have often had to record a teaching video with my nine-month-old son on my lap. It has been stressful, time-consuming and has certainly not felt like a holiday.

Teaching is a difficult and stressful job. During the Covid-19 pandemic our job, like some many others, was changed immensely and in many ways made more stressful and difficult. The pressures and challenges now facing schools to reopen in September are immense and will be difficult to overcome. One thing of which you can

be certain is that teachers across the country will be working hard, maintaining their commitment and dedication to the profession and the development of our young pupils, to ensure that no child is left behind.

Max Lee Rodriguez



## Are The Best Things In Life Free Or Do They Have An Alternative Price Tag?

**"The best things in life are free" was one of the musings put forward by my husband Peter as we strolled down the centre of the car-less Dunham Road one early morning during lockdown, in a scene that would not be out of place in the dystopian film 'Mad Max'.**

I have never been one to allow Peter to make grand statements unchallenged, and so I pushed him on the point, asking, "Are they really? Or will there be an alternative price to pay?"



We breathed the newly clean air, and both fell silent, presumably stunned by the philosophical turn that our standard dog walk had taken.

History is defined by cultural and political moments that capture profound truths about the age that we live in. The Cold War, 9/11, the advent of social media, ever more extreme reality TV shows and the election of Donald Trump to name a few!

The narrative of this year has been dominated by a pandemic. Daily, we see how Covid-19 laid bare existing inequalities of wealth, class, ethnicity and gender...but we see newer divisions, too. Divisions that emanate from a rebirth of a different kind as we find alternative ways of living in the 'new normal'.

Peter has two new serious relationships in his once monogamous life with me. The first is with the kitchen. Peter, I am proud to announce, is now able to differentiate (after working from home for the past three months) between the symphony of beeps when the appliances have finished their various cycles. He is so proud of this new relationship that he seems to have confused being 'awake' to his wife's stresses with being 'woke' about gender inequality. I think the battle for equality has some way to go, my dear!

His second new relationship is with the delivery men/women who visit our home. Due to the limits on who we are allowed to see and from what distance, the Amazon and DPD delivery men, Josh and Ash, are now just two whom he is on first name terms with. So, Peter gains two friends - for free - but yet we pay the price of not being able to see the friends that make our community so important to us.

However, after 16 weeks of being together 24/7 in our home, our initial appreciation of 'freedom' - I use the term loosely - had a price tag, as it turned slowly but surely into a turf war of us vying for territory, the best WIFI signal and decibel domination!

The secret to our happy marriage these last 16 weeks has been working at separate ends of the home. But, as we both conducted Zoom conferences for work, the once sufficient WIFI bowed under the pressure of "joining calls" "scheduling meetings" and our family get-together before Shabbat! Pandemic or not, the freedom of Family Shabbat 'discussions' continued during lockdown and still miraculously came from London to Cheshire with their contentious issues.

Oh! And - a mute button!

Oh! The joys of a mute button and the power attached to it. When parents ask too many questions - MUTE! Complaints about life - MUTE! Everybody trying to speak at the same time - MUTE! (You know the zig). The price tag, however, was huge. The freedom to speak and then the price we paid after seeing them all meant we missed our Children and Grandchildren's presence and touch more than ever.

SO, are the best things in life free? We have breathed cleaner air, we have talked and walked, we have shared and compared, we have rethought friendships, we have reaffirmed lifestyles, but all this has come at a social distance. I fear the price we pay in the future belongs to those who understand the art of reinventing the wheel, and perhaps that time is now!

PS Peter has left the kitchen!

Shelley Stoll



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## Articles & Features

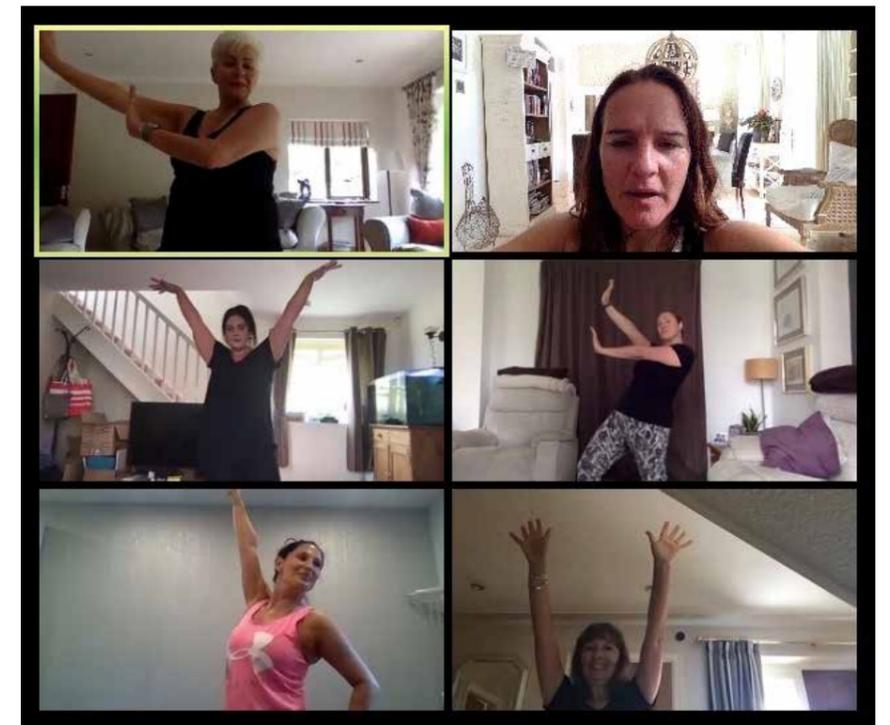
### Finding New Routines

Talking to friends and family, reading, scanning social media, it seems "Covidlockdown" forced us into discovering new ways of functioning. New ways of interacting facilitated by technology. As something of a technophobe, even I have to acknowledge the lifeline that has been Zoom.

I connected with my extended family more regularly than ever before, excited for our weekly Zoom Quiz. However, my biggest revelation has been finding that I can teach a dance class online, by myself, in my living room.

For a few years now, a group of us have enjoyed our regular Thursday morning dance in the Pearl Suite. When Covid-19 lockdown happened we were at a loss. However, some of the ladies wondered if an online option would be possible. I figured I'd give it a go... but was sceptical. How can this work with no direct contact? How can I motivate or have an exchange of energy at such a distance?

We tried it... It worked! It was fun, a bit strange at first but there was an energy exchange of sorts and then it felt fitting and wonderful actually to give ourselves that blast of joyful dancing and boost of endorphins at a time that was filled with uncertainty, fear and - for many - complete isolation. A week later, thanks to a mention in a Facebook post by one of our dancers, the wonderful wellness expert Suzy Glaskie, the new daily online morning dance class took on a life of its own, becoming meaningful to some, not least me! Mid-lockdown one lady



admitted that the class was the only reason she was getting dressed. Others were talking about how much fitter they were feeling and mentally agile after having to remember a sequence of steps each day.

For me it has been a revelation - the first time I have ever done anything EVERY morning for an extended period of time. I'm the opposite of a creature of habit, I get bored and distracted and lose motivation quickly, but the fact that I had others ready and waiting, friends from near and far (sometimes there were people logging in from their living rooms in Israel, London, Whitchurch, Whitefield, Broughton Park and Wilmslow as well as our local ladies - it was exciting to dance together in this new way) provided the motivation and sense of purpose that kept me on track.

The fact also that I was having to be creative in a way that I really enjoy and then delivering 40 minutes of happy movement was a much-needed focus for me and a real joy. On top of that, the boost of energy that I gratefully took with me into the rest of the day of homeschooling and intense parenting was an absolute blessing.

It is so interesting what can manifest when there is a desire, motivation and a bit of adversity. The class is still going and has definitely become part of my 'new routine'.

**Debbie Hilton**



### Grandparents 🧑🏻🧒 Who Live In The Phone

Since lockdown many grandparents have experienced this - kids believe their grandparents live inside the phone or computer. Welcome to our world 🌍!

We've been privileged to have some of the family living in Jerusalem for 13 years and stayed in touch through FaceTime and other technologies. We've enjoyed some fantastic moments with them. Of course, it's not the same. Nothing is the same when you live 2000 miles apart. Instead of daily or weekly face to face time, we visit two or threetimesayearandmake themostofeverymoment. Loads of hugs and cuddles, ice cream 🍦, pizza 🍕, Shabbat walks and trips to the park.

The rest of the year we rely on phone calls and Zoom catch-ups. Watching first steps, first foods and words via technology is fun. It's also a novel way to babysit and read stories 📖 to grandchildren. It's a bit tricky, trying to get the right camera 📷 angle for them to see the pictures and for you to see them. Once set up though it's a lovely thing to do. Our biggest bug bear 🐛 is when the kids pick up the phone 📱 and walk around with it. You get this awful sea sickness 🤢



feeling as the phone goes up and down and drops on the floor occasionally. The kids also get bored sometimes. They leave the camera facing the ceiling and I'm sure they ignore our voices squeaking from the phone mic 🎤. Eventually the parents come to the rescue. The pandemic 🦠 has made this familiar experience a reality for so many families who live just around the corner from each other. It's tough and it hurts not to be close. It's great that we get to be in their lives via the phone and sooner or later they'll know that we actually exist in real life, too. Until then we can continue to Zoom and look forward to creating the new normal, without social distancing or travel ✈️ bans.

Linda Price

### IAF 5 RAF 0

An obituary in the Daily Telegraph (12th July 2019) caught my eye. The name of the deceased was one Douglas Liquorish – a name to chew over!

His claim to fame was that on 7th January 1949 the RAF Tempest, which he was flying over the Sinai desert near the border with Israel, was shot up by Israeli Spitfires, one of which was flown by Ezer Weizman. We must look at the sequence of events leading up to the downing of the RAF planes. The War of Independence was drawing to a close. The last major operation was to expel Egyptian troops from the Negev and harass them into the Sinai. This action (22nd December 1948 to 7th January 1949) was code-named Operation Horev. Egypt sued for a ceasefire to commence on 7th January at



Douglas Liquorish

1400 hours. The British involvement in Egypt goes back to the 19th century (Suez Canal etc). The Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936 provided (amongst other things) that the UK would arm and train the Egyptian army and assist it in the defence of the Suez Canal in time of war. It was well known that Israel had no designs on the canal and as such the terms of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty would not be invoked. This did not stop the British Embassy in Cairo agitating for the RAF stationed near the Suez Canal Zone to go and see what was going on at the front. (It is worth noting that in

all diplomatic messages from the British Embassy in Cairo, Israelis were only referred to as Jews whereas US diplomatic messages only referred to them as Israelis.)

Back to 7th January: The RAF was ordered to go and see what was happening in the Sinai bearing in mind that the Egyptian Air Force was not performing well at all. A flight of 4 Spitfires was dispatched. Flying low, the Spitfires flew over Israeli ground forces who immediately shot down 2. The remaining Spitfires were engaged by their Israeli counterparts and quickly dispatched. Of the 4 RAF pilots, 1 was killed, 2 captured and the third schlepped back across the desert to Egyptian lines. The non-return of the RAF Spitfires resulted in an aerial search being ordered. The RAF sent out 19 aircraft to fly in battle formation: 4 Spitfires and 15 Tempests. Israeli Spitfires – 4 in number – engaged the RAF. The result was 1 RAF Tempest shot down (the pilot being killed), one probable (not counted) and others damaged. The RAF broke off the engagement and returned to base. It was in this engagement that the Tempest flown by Douglas Liquorish received an autograph from Ezer Weizman flying IAF Spitfire 2016/21. The above action was somewhat replicated on 30th July 1970, but with Soviet MiG-21's replacing British Spitfires over the Sinai with the same score - IAF 5 Soviet Union 0.

Stephen Cohen

### The Masked Bris!

On the afternoon of 16th June, twelve days after their baby was born, Lauren (née Ferster) and Ross celebrated their son, Leo's bris, at home.

From the time Ross found out in hospital that he was the proud new father of a little boy, he was gearing himself up mentally to become Sandek, as he knew that, thanks to lockdown, he would be the only man present at his son's bris. This initial fear of dread soon turned to pride when he was told by Mohel, Yaacov Hibbert, of the great privilege and honour that was about to be bestowed on him - something that would normally have to wait until you become a grandfather.



Some time leading up to Leo's birth, Lauren's excited mum, Lynne, self-isolated so that she could move in with Lauren and Ross prior to the due date. She was an invaluable source of help around the home, and being on grandma duty. However, Lauren told me somewhat wistfully, that her time leading up to Leo's birth wasn't quite what she had originally planned... birthing classes, special shopping trips with mum, sister and friends, choosing items for the baby and nursery, time out enjoying herself and relaxing outside of home before the responsibility of becoming a full-time mum arrived. She had to source baby items online and quickly become an expert on all the best websites to satisfy her needs; birthing classes took place on Zoom and there were no social get-togethers with friends - just quiet time inside the home, or in the garden when the weather allowed it. She didn't see any family for 11 weeks, other than meeting them on her driveway, which was hard going.



As is a common phenomenon, the bris date was set the day before it took place. Lauren and Ross knew that it was going to have to be a small and intimate event, with only Lynne and them present, other than the masked Mohel. It was particularly sad for them that grandparents from Leeds and Manchester were unable to be there, holding their new grandson for the first time. So they decided that they would hold a Zoom bris, which Rabbi Binstock coordinated and sent out an invitation link to family and friends of the couple. This way, those from near and far would be able to watch the proceedings and share in the simcha of the day. Thanks to Zoom and the afternoon timing of the bris, 'guests' from abroad including Rabbi Portnoy and a good friend from New York participated. There were around 70 'Zoomers' in all, including close family who were getting to see the new addition to the Jackson family for the very first time.

Both amusingly and sensitively, Lauren added that one of the useful functions of Zoom was that she could mute the baby's crying so that it was more bearable for people to watch. Speaking frankly, she said that one of the advantages was that she could literally switch off Zoom immediately after the ceremony, which helped her and Ross switch off at home, and just be able to have some peace with baby Leo and Lynne, without additional visitors.

When asking her what stood out as the most special part of the day, she said it was definitely Ross holding him and also being able to finally call him by his name, thereby giving him an identity. As he had been jaundiced, leading to the postponement of the bris by 5 days, it was tricky not being able to refer to him by name. But since then, Leo (or Eliezer - named after late great-Grandpa Lord Leonard Steinberg) has had a name to be proud of.

Candice Dwek



### Graduation During Lockdown

When I returned from my Year Abroad in Buenos Aires last year, I felt refreshed and full of optimism about entering my final year of University.

I was excited about being on the Burst student radio committee, interning for Kahal: Your Jewish Home Abroad, and devising, designing and producing my own physical theatre piece for Gradfest (our final year showcase, which is the highlight of every Theatre student's degree).

Instead, I was sent home mid-March, without having said goodbye to anyone, and finished my degree from my bedroom. No photos of me proudly holding my Spanish dissertation outside the School of Modern Languages; no post-exam chatter or celebratory drinks with classmates; no theatre performances for our friends, family and the public.



Rebbetzen Chaya Singer from Chabad of Bristol (far left) hosting me (far right) and friends at the mobile Sukkah on campus

My final term of University was cut short, and I miss my Bristol life. Chabad is my home away from home, always creating a warm and cosy shabbatmosphere and creating fun events for us, including an unforgettable Mexican-themed Purim party earlier this year (which was the last social event I attended before lockdown). They have been providing meals and resources for students still living in Bristol during lockdown and are continuing to do an amazing job engaging the local community. Chaplaincy also played a big role in supporting me this year pastorally, and have been checking in with me regularly since leaving Bristol. I'm sure others would agree that there's something special about being part of a Jewish student community, and I do wish that I could be part of the one at Bristol for a while longer!



Watch this space as my website, milipili.co.uk will be launching soon!

I thought finishing my degree after 5 years of hard work would feel amazing, that I would become a different person now that I had no stress and endless possibilities. But the reality is that "graduation" (if receiving a certificate in the post counts) was the biggest anti-climax of my life so far. My lack of a proper graduation means that I have no sense of closure, and I can't even hold my own celebrations with friends. I know that I am not the only one. My thoughts go out to all the other graduating University, A Level and GCSE students who are feeling robbed of their end of exam celebrations.

I am also anxious about what the future holds for my career, especially as the arts are suffering immensely during this difficult period. JDC Entwine had selected me for the Jewish Service Corps Fellowship with the Gabriel Project Mumbai, but due to the pandemic, it has been postponed or possibly even cancelled completely, which is a huge disappointment. Meanwhile, I have been trying to make the most of this down time by starting a small ethical clothing enterprise project. If you would like to buy some unique tie dye loungewear, you will soon be able to log onto [www.milipili.co.uk](http://www.milipili.co.uk) (shameless plug, I know!). 10% of all proceeds will go to four charities, of which two are Camp Simcha and GIFT.

Gianina Dwek

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### Inspiration On Zoom

#### Where would we have been without Zoom over the past few months

It has enabled us to see family and friends, take part in online services, join in Simchas and unfortunately less happy events as well. There have also been many educational and inspirational talks arranged by so many diverse organisations.

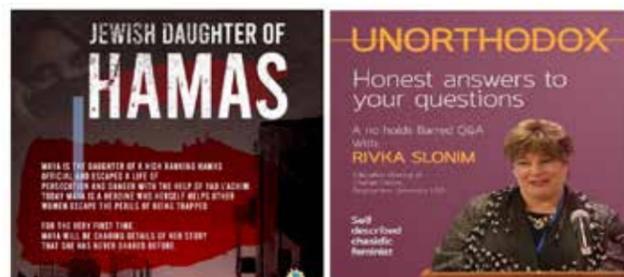
Two such talks were particularly interesting - one telling the story of "Maya – daughter of Hamas" and a talk by Rivka Slonim about the book and Netflix drama "Unorthodox". These two women came from very opposite backgrounds and upbringings, and yet it became clear how similar their lives had become through their Jewish identity.

Maya's story is one that needs to be heard to be believed. Maya was born to a Jewish mother and Arab father, but at the age of 3 was placed with a non-religious Jewish foster family. Her childhood was not happy and aged 14 she decided to find her natural parents. The authorities had lost touch with her mother but were able to put her in touch with her Arab father – a very wealthy and religious Muslim Sheikh. After meeting him she decided to return with him to his village. Here she learned the Koran, and for the first time lived a relatively happy life as a young Arab woman and felt like she belonged.

At 15 Maya was married off to a 22 year old Arab man but the marriage soon became an unhappy one. At 6 months pregnant Maya was so badly beaten by her husband that she had to be hospitalised and lost the baby. Maya had come to accept that being beaten was part of her education as the Koran had taught her that "women should accept punishment as something for their own good".

When Maya was 17 a kind Uncle helped her escape, and on a shopping trip to Jerusalem she jumped off the bus and ran to the safety of a group of Israeli soldiers. With little money and no family to turn to, Maya lived rough and stole what she needed. Eventually, a social worker managed to get Maya a bed in an establishment for the homeless. Here Maya was persuaded to go to the Kotel on Yom Kippur where she had an epiphany, and thanked G-d for her second chance at life. She began to learn Torah, became more religious, and got back on her feet.

By chance Maya met one of her old Jewish girlfriends, who at the time was dating an Arab man. Maya told her friend about her own experience which led the friend to end the relationship. Maya realised that if someone had helped her when she was 14 her life could have been so different. Helping trapped women became her life's mission and she now works with a charity called Yad L'Achim (a hand to the brothers) <https://yadlachim.org/>. Since joining she has helped to contact and rescue many Jewish women and children from Arab villages. Maya is now



happily married, has three children and leads an Orthodox life in Jerusalem. Having listened to the story of Maya who was so badly treated as an "orthodox" Muslim woman it was interesting to then listen to Rivka Slonim discussing "Unorthodox". This tells the story of a young woman brought up in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community and how her upbringing deeply affected her life.

Rivka Slonim is an Education Director for Chabad in New York. She is an internationally recognised activist and lecturer who focuses on the relationship between traditional Jewish observance and contemporary life. She is also a self-confessed feminist which added extra depth to her views on "Unorthodox" and the way the Netflix drama portrayed the life of ultra-orthodox Jewish women.

"Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots" is an autobiography of Deborah Feldman's life growing up in the Satmar ultra-Orthodox community in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The author's rebellion against the strict way of life started with sneaking off to the library and hiding books. However, at 17 she had an arranged marriage and after finally getting pregnant, she realized she wanted something more for her child and planned an escape from the community.

The Netflix drama is a dramatization of the book with the twists you would expect from a TV production. Nevertheless, it showed the harshness of life experienced by the author growing up and marrying in such an ultra-Orthodox community.

The talk was advertised as a no-holds-barred discussion. Rivka answered questions honestly and did not try to defend some of the difficult issues portrayed. She very eloquently explained that the Torah teaches that our ultimate purpose is to fill the universe with G-dliness and spirituality by performing Mitzvot. Rivka explained that women have equal obligations and privilege in bringing G-d's plan to fruition but they have their own strengths, modes of expression, and areas of concentration.

Maya and Rivka Slonim are strong women - proud of their Jewish identity and their achievements. Although from very different backgrounds, their commonality now is their lives as Orthodox Jewish women who draw on their personal experiences to educate communities around the world on the role of Jewish women in modern society.

Maurice Gould

# Every New Year brings hope, mixed with trepidation.

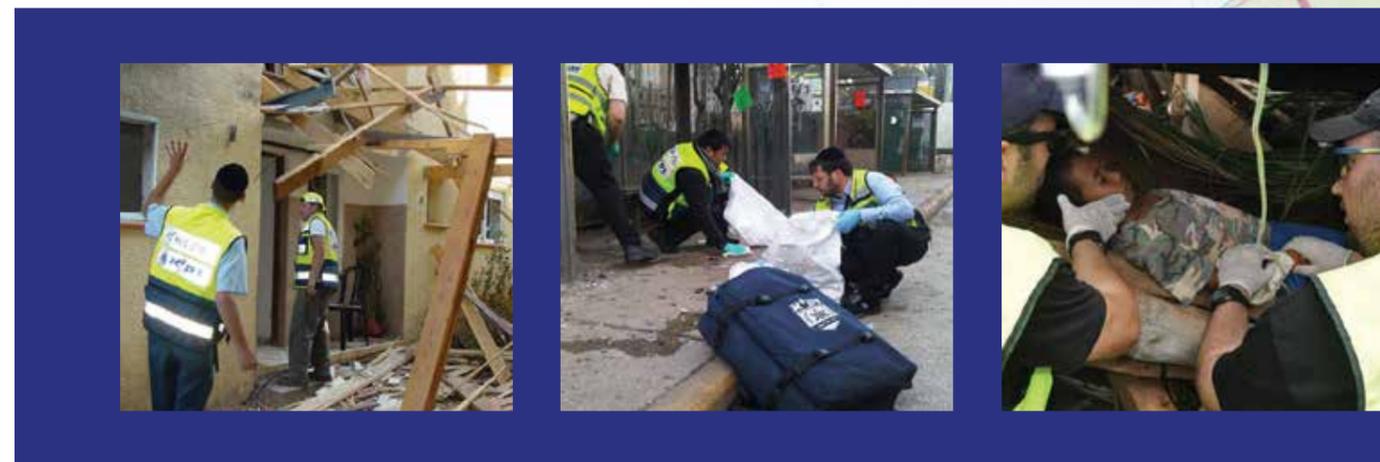
At ZAKA, we approach this New Year with awe – at the size and scope of the task ahead.

As Israel's premier search, rescue and recovery volunteer organisation, ZAKA is constantly training and improving its abilities and equipment to respond to multiple challenges. Be it terror, natural disaster or any mass casualty incident in Israel or globally, ZAKA volunteers are ready to provide emergency first response and specialist rescue and recovery services.

**But we need your support!**

Being ready and prepared to respond at a moment's notice comes at a high price. We must ensure that all relevant emergency medical supplies and search and rescue equipment are in place and up to date.

This Rosh Hashanah, please donate generously so that ZAKA is indeed ready for whatever tomorrow brings...



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### Enjoy The Chagim And Keep Fit How Is That Possible?

**Back in March, I was looking forward to completing my Sports Business and Finance degree at UCFB Wembley.**

My daily routine included waking up early, going for a swim and working in the gym before my lectures started. Yes I was a student! But this was my perfect way to start my day!



Then came lockdown and life changed for us all. I went home as did my sister, Hannah. She needed to shield so we all stayed in to protect her. I took this time to complete my dissertation and start my online #Livewellwithyoel presence. I also qualified as a Level 3 PT (personal trainer). This was a natural step for me, to follow my passion for health and fitness. Exercise benefits me mentally and physically and has been a valuable personal discipline during lockdown that has helped me cope better. Now I want to help others improve their personal health and fitness.

There are occasions when advice about our physical and mental wellbeing comes directly from our heritage, or in this case, an Aish article in 2018! Michael Kaufmann wrote that Maimonides taught about exercise being the supreme preventive medicine. Inactivity "is as great a detriment to health as activity is a benefit." He urged people to be physically active: "Vigorous exercise preserves the body . . . while inactivity and lack of exercise weakens the body." So, there you have it! Halachically, prophetically ordained advice for the here and now.

Lockdown aside, the Jewish traditions don't always help us to lead the most physically active, healthy lifestyles, especially for us men! Food is central to so many of our traditions. Friday nights. Shabbat lunch. Festivals. S'machot! Oy! We do enjoy our food. But, oy, how to work it off?

So, can we have our honey cake and eat it? YES, YES and YES. There are so many exercise regimens out there, but I really want to focus on helping Jewish people up their fitness levels. My aim is to help you balance our Jewish culture with exercise.

At a basic level, you can start to improve your fitness, health and mental wellbeing by taking these three simple steps:

- 1 Become more active eg go for a daily walk.
- 2 Reduce the amount of processed food and add in more nutritious foods to your daily menu.
- 3 Sleep - aim to get around 7 hours' sleep. This will really help you feel more energetic during the day.

To support you at this level, I have an idea that I'd like to share with you. Every Sunday I propose to do a local 5K run. So why not do the same? You can walk or run! Get outdoors, go to the park or go to the gyms. Let's get South Manchester active. The hardest part is getting started. I'm here to offer advice, support and encouragement. Eat and enjoy your honey cake - in moderation of course - in the knowledge that you'll be active on Sunday mornings. This is a great stepping stone to greater fitness.

If you are already active, I can help you to take your fitness up a level.

I specialise in High Intensity Interval training - HIIT

I can also help you:

- Fit in exercise during your busy schedule.
- Achieve your running goals.
- Improve your core strength.
- With weight management.
- Improve cardiovascular endurance.

Since the early part of this year, I've built up a following on my Instagram and YouTube pages where you can find over 80 workouts for all abilities, freely available. You can do these from the comfort of your own home. Give it a go! See you online!

So, let's get moving - with an halachic imperative to look after ourselves physically and nutritionally, what's stopping you?

I look forward to seeing you out on a Sunday morning running or walking, like a Jewish Parkrun. Just get in touch. We may even create our own tee shirts!

Wishing you all a truly happy and genuinely healthy Shana Tova!

**Yoel Levy #livewellwithyoel**

### My Covid-19 Bar Mitzvah

**As soon as Boris Johnson announced UK lockdown measures, back on 23rd March, I realised that I could not have my Bar Mitzvah as we originally planned.**

My dad cancelled the venue for the Sunday dinner party as we took the hard decision to scale down the Bar Mitzvah so that we could have full control of plans. Obviously, due to national uncertainty during these unprecedented times, we could not go ahead with planning.

By that time, I had already finished learning my sidrah, but I continued to prepare twice a week with my teacher, Rabbi Natan Fagleman, over WhatsApp video call.

At first, my family and I were very upset at the news. However, we had to look at the good side of things. I was actually very lucky. Many of my friends were unable to have any face-to-face celebrations at all. However, I believe I was the first legal post-lockdown Bar Mitzvah in the country and hence felt very special to be given such an opportunity.

Originally, we were going to eat at home and daven in Shule across Shabbos. Then, on Sunday night, have a large dinner party with over 200 people. However, due to the government's guidelines, we were unable to do so.

About a month before my Bar Mitzvah, as things seemed to be getting back to normal, my family and I took a bold move.

After speaking to the caterer, we decided to go ahead with celebrations at home. After much discussion (and one or two arguments!), we decided to do the following:

**On Sunday 28th June (my English birthday): we had a pre-Bar Mitzvah rehearsal/run through of my sidrah with my family.**



**Friday 3rd July: we davened Mincha, Kabbolos Shabbos and Ma'ariv in the garden followed by dinner.**

Shabbos 4th July (my Hebrew birthday and call up): Shacharis and Mussaf in the garden. I also had the opportunity to lein, get called up and recite Haftorah Balak. This was followed by a lovely lunch. We then davened an early Mincha, where I was the Shaliach Tzibur, followed by Seudah Shlishis in the garden. After the termination of Shabbos (this was very late due to it being very close to the summer solstice), we davened Ma'ariv followed by Havdalah.

Obviously before the outbreak of Covid-19, my idea of celebrating this coming of age was completely different to what it gradually became. After the fact that I could not have a 'normal' Bar Mitzvah settled in, I was actually gladdened by the fact that I could have a more 'intimate' experience with my family and a few close friends.

In preparation for this unique yet special weekend, we had to collect multiple things to be able to do what we did. We borrowed a portable Aron Kodesh from Rabbi Fagleman's shul in Liverpool, my Papa Laurence Gordon's Sefer Torah from Whitefield and a portable bimah and many siddurim/chumashim from our Shule. My amazing parents also organised a Pagoda-style stretched tent which covered the garden and allowed us to keep dry. It was obviously completely different to what would have been expected before the pandemic!

The Shule and Rabbi Binstock were also very helpful. Due to places of worship being allowed to legally open from 4th July, they were very willing to open especially for me. However, we decided to stick with the celebrations at home in the garden.

Many of my friends were also affected and hence had to quickly change their plans. We all offered support to each other by sharing ideas. Everybody that I know of had celebrations over Zoom during the week. Despite this being a very unique and memorable experience, we decided that this wasn't for us!

I would say that, despite this obviously not being what they had originally wanted/expected, Bar Mitzvah boys and Bas Mitzvah girls should make the most of it, as celebrating in lockdown is a very unique experience!

For me, the most amazing moment of my Bar Mitzvah weekend was on Friday night. It was a very special experience to have my family and some friends singing zemiros around a table celebrating.

**Jack Rosenthal**

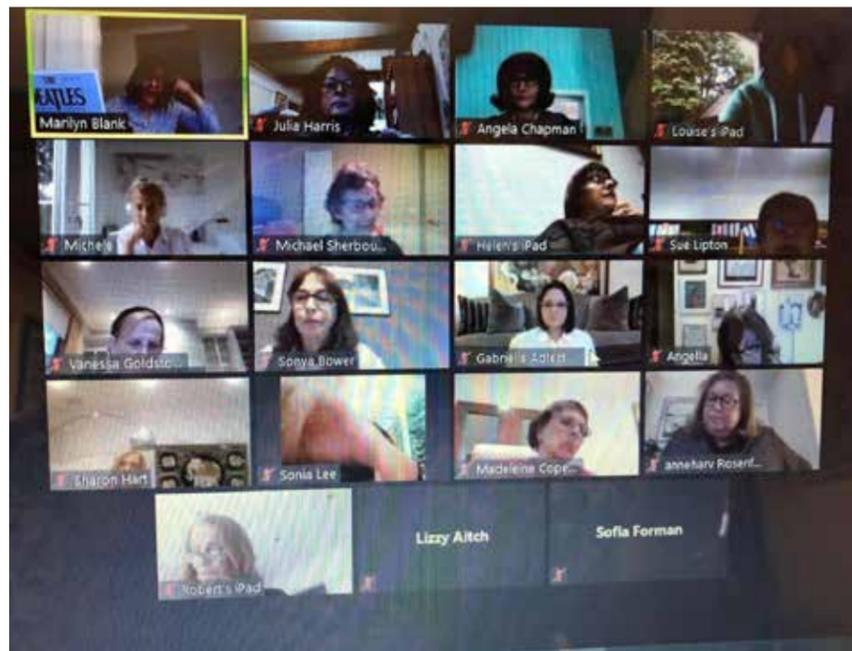
## Lockdown Ladies

Probably 4 years ago, my dear friend Gillian Cohen came up with the idea, amongst others, of a singing group to foster better relations between not only South Manchester Shule's but Jewish women in general.

Over Rosh Hashanah lunch, Gill casually slipped in the question, "Will you join a singing group that I'm trying to set up?" Horror shot through me - as my family will testify. Singing is not my strong point, to say the least. My reply was the predictable, "But I can't sing." Gill was not taking no for an answer and I felt the need to support her in this. Privately I thought I'd go once or twice to placate her. Little did I know how addictive singing en masse can be. This was the beginning of the Southside Singers.

We rocked up to the Shule hall one dark Thursday night. Gill was laden with thermos flasks of tea/ coffee, a bottle of water and kichels from the Deli. She had roped in the wonderful Mally Blank to provide musical accompaniment. I don't recall how many turned up that evening but, over the next 2-3 years, Mally wove her magic and numbers up to 18 came. The songs in part didn't 'really' matter. It was Mally's stories recounted between songs that sealed the deal. It was meeting girls who I knew from Shule but didn't really know. It was the sheer joy of belting out a song (badly) that really made this group infectious. I really hadn't factored in that first night that, not only would I enjoy it, but actually really enjoy it!

Gill soldiered on canvassing girls to join us each Thursday night and numbers fluctuated. We had trouble setting the Shule alarm, even having to disturb a



council meeting for help. We fumbled with keypads on the gates to let girls and cars in, with the lights and the heating.

We put chairs out and put chairs back. We even had to decamp to Sha'are Sedek, on Wicker Lane, at a moment's notice one night as we'd been locked out of Hale.

Last Autumn Gill stepped down to concentrate on her private voice training work and briefly Gillian Rowe and Lesley Sher took over.

Then came the birth of the "Lockdown Ladies" on Zoom. Who knew a disaster, such as Covid-19, could actually prove positive? Julia Harris stepped into the breach, as our IT aficionado, to organise weekly meetings via messages on WhatsApp. All Gillian Cohen's communal ideas came into fruition. We have 20 - 30 ladies join the Zoom group each Tuesday evening. Mally suggested themed weeks and in our own inimitable way we have sung amongst others, Beatles and ABBA favourites.

Ladies from across South Manchester join us together with Michelle Schaffer from Whitefield and Julia's mother, Madeleine, from London, to name two. Older ladies, not happy to come out in the evening but who are IT literate, also log on. The group is truly for all Jewish women.

We sing individually in our homes on Zoom, happily oblivious to the sound we are making. We wave warmly to each other and chat between songs. It really has been a very enjoyable experience and I would encourage more to join our little group.

Can't sing - who cares?

**Louise Leinhardt**

## Milan Under The Surface

Glittering fashion, opera, awesome cars and the cuisine, that was my impression of Milan before paying it a visit at the beginning of the year.

There is, however, a dark underbelly to this iconic city which does not readily spring to mind and is hidden from view unless you are determined to seek it out. There is a secret platform hidden away from public view under the 'Central Station' in the centre of Milan. Most Holocaust memorials, although a vital reminder of the past atrocities, are fairly prescriptive but this is unique, particularly to someone like myself with a lifelong fascination with railways.

The Milan Central Station was built between 1921 to 1931 with a vast subterranean train yard used for mail wagons and goods. After the Italians surrendered on 8.9.1943 followed by the occupation of German forces,

Milan became a centre for dealing with Jews and Resistance Fighters. Far away from prying eyes, this area was requisitioned by the Nazi occupiers to run special trains to concentration and death camps.

It took only 3 months for the first Holocaust train to leave with 169 Jews on board, out of which only 5 survived.

A survivor gave the following description of conditions:-

"No time was wasted with feet, fists and truncheons herding us into the livestock wagons. Everything had taken place in the darkness of the sub levels, illuminated with powerful spotlights only in strategic points, amidst shouts, barking dogs, whistles and terrifying brutality. As soon as it was full, the doors were bolted shut and the wagon lifted in an elevator up to ground level."

7,800 Italian Jews were transported in total and murdered before Italy was finally liberated in 1945.

It was largely forgotten for 40 years until a local Catholic organisation made the Jewish Community aware of it. In 2002 work began to turn the site into a memorial.

My abiding memory was the straw strewn across the bottom of the cattle wagons and the bucket for ablutions in the corner. The eerie sound of trains passing overhead. There was the smell of the wooden wagons and the railway track leading to the elevator allowing daylight into this dungeon.

Marcia and I found it difficult to locate and spent some considerable time at the Central Station asking for directions. It was unique and like no other Holocaust Memorial I have ever encountered, and one I shall never forget.

**Ian Halpern**

## SHANA TOVAH FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

MAXINE, STUART, OLIVIA, TAMMY, LOUIS & CHARLIE MARKS



### Rubik's Cube

**As I write this article, Netflix is about to release a new documentary all about the Rubik's cube, and more specifically, the world's two greatest cubers (yes, that's a thing) of all time.**

Which tells me two things. One, Netflix have way too much money. And two, there must be at least some interest amongst the general population in Rubik's cubes. Who knew?

I remember being interested in the Rubik's cube from an early age. My Dad always had one lying around the house, and despite the fact that he swears he could solve one, I never once, ever, saw him do so. So we'll put that in the "probably never happened" pile, Dad.



For those that don't know, the Rubik's cube was invented in 1974 by Erno Rubik. Hundreds of millions have been sold worldwide, making it the world's top-selling puzzle game. It purportedly has 43 quintillion combinations. If you had one standard sized Rubik's cube for every permutation, you could stack them in a tower 261 light-years high! How can one not be fascinated by something that has so many potential configurations yet can be solved by an actual human person?

In terms of solving the cube, times have reduced from around 38 seconds in 1981, down to under 4 seconds in the last year or so. It is said that the theoretical lower limit for any human being to solve the Rubik's cube is 3 seconds. But then they also said something similar about the 2-hour marathon and the 4-minute mile, and we all know how they turned out.

I never really attempted to solve a Rubik's cube when I was younger, bar some random, half-hearted spinning. It seemed to me a completely impossible task. The more I tried to solve it, the more mixed up it became. There didn't appear to be any way of achieving such a statistically-unlikely thing. So I forgot about it for a long time, until sometime last year, a supplier came to visit me at work and pulled one out of his

briefcase. He assured me that he could solve it even as I scoffed in disbelief. Sure enough though, about 4-5 minutes later, I was staring at a fully-solved cube.

Before that point, I remember thinking that the solving of a Rubik's cube seemed to be as close to magic as I was ever likely to see. Watching someone solve it completely blew my mind. How? Just.....how? I must have been in the presence of a genius. I didn't think there was any way that I would ever be able to learn such a thing. But my interest was piqued and so I purchased an original Rubik's cube and set to work.

Solving a Rubik's cube quickly relies on skill, memory, dexterity and a bit of luck. Any cube can theoretically be solved in 20 moves, although it takes the experts around 30-40, and everyone else much longer. Solving the beginner's method involves completing the puzzle in 6 stages, using a series of set moves or "algorithms" that you have to memorise.

When I finally solved my first cube from start to finish, I remember being in awe of myself. Now my family might, with some degree of truth it's fair to say, point out that this isn't an uncommon feeling for me. In fact it could even be said to be my default setting. However this time was different. I was clearly one of the smartest people to have ever lived and insisted on my wife and children referring to me as "Professor Goldwater" going forwards. As I solved more and more cubes, I was able to get my time down to 1 minute and 28 seconds, my fastest time using a standard cube.

During lockdown and looking for something to do with my time, I decided to purchase a speed cube to give me something to do and was able to, almost immediately, get my time down to 54 seconds.

After watching a few videos of the advanced methods and initially deciding that the training and effort required for this was virtually impossible, I did start to make some progress. It quickly became apparent though, that to master this next level of ability and be able to solve the cube in less than 30 seconds, would take a degree of time, effort, concentration and skill that I am severely lacking.

And so, I have resigned myself to the fact that I will never be a true "cuber". I'll never be a world-record holder or indeed even a semi-pro. My abilities, such as they are, will forever be confined to impressing my children, or occasionally solving the cube for a visitor with a vague or passing interest.

So for now it's time to hang up (or is that put down?) my cube and find something more worthwhile, productive and fulfilling to do with my time. Now where did I put that Lego set?

**Adam Goldwater**

### Working On The Frontline

**Many of our amazing community members have been working on the NHS Frontline over the past few months during the Covid-19 crisis, in various capacities.**

I know I echo everyone's sentiments in expressing the enormous thanks we owe to each and every one of them for all that they did, and are continuing to do, during these challenging and unprecedented times.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, Wendy Levenson has worked tirelessly on the frontline, as a pharmacist in Intensive Care in Macclesfield Hospital, which is part of East Cheshire NHS Trust.

During our virtual interview, she describes her recent experiences as a healthcare professional.

**Wendy, please tell us exactly what your role is in the NHS?**

My day usually starts with attending the multidisciplinary ward round in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with the consultant anaesthetist, registrar, nursing staff and physiotherapist. My role is to advise on dosing of patients' medications, ensuring the combinations of medications are appropriate, how to administer medications e.g. if a patient has a feeding tube this may affect how the drug can be given, supply of medications, organising the production of total parenteral nutrition which provides nutrition through the vein if the patient is unable to eat. I am also the pharmacist responsible for the medical admissions ward where I have a team of pharmacists who review all patients' medications on admission. My role as lead pharmacist for Education & Training involves training of pharmacists, doctors, nurses and medical students.

**How did this role change during Covid-19?**

Like many other centres, we had to open up a second ICU unit to separate Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients. This happened very quickly, and I had to ensure sufficient drugs were available. Patients were requiring much higher doses of medications to ventilate and sedate them - this was potentially going to lead to a national shortage - so we had to consider sourcing alternative drugs that all the rest of the UK would also require.

Throughout many units, including ours, nursing and medical staff were redeployed to work in ICU due to the increase in workload there and their area may have reduced in workload e.g. operating theatres. I helped them regarding drug treatment in what became a very busy, stressful and overwhelming period. The Covid-19 patients were different

to what we were used to seeing in ICU - this included increased risk of clotting and prolonged duration on ventilators.

It was crucial to keep up with the surge of medical information that was updated continuously and much of my time was spent, while not at work, keeping informed.

**What was it like working with full PPE at all times?**

As the picture shows, we were protected from head to toe. However, it was really hot and difficult to hear people talk. Obviously, being safe was the most important thing.

**What were the most positive and negative aspects that stand out?**

The hardest thing during this extremely busy and unprecedented period was that patients were not allowed visitors. For those able to communicate, we did have electronic tablet devices available where they could speak to their loved ones remotely.

The positive for me was when I actually became unwell myself. My husband, Victor, was working round the clock and the Hale community kindly came to the rescue by leaving cooked meals at my door. I hadn't even met some of those people before so I would like to say 'thank you'.

**How have staff coped with emotions and exhaustion during this period?**

Staff have been able to access various wellbeing support services. There was an influx of gifts being sent to ICU including food and toiletries. Staff have also been encouraged to take annual leave.

**Is there any message you would like to give?**

I know there are many other health professionals in the community who have also been working tirelessly during this time and I am sure they would all give the same message - stay safe and follow the current guidance.

**Natalie Zimmel**



### From Travelling The World To Selling The World

**You know the scenario, you make your plans and through no fault of your own, they get swept from under your feet. It happened before Pesach this year to everyone!**

For me, my work in the entertainment industry was hit hard! Total shut down!

Prior to Lockdown, I was travelling the world working with The Blue Man Group. My schedule included Israel, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Germany, Netherlands and Saudi Arabia (where with one fresh passport, I was known as Harry, much to the amusement of my colleagues.) In January 2020, having finished our three-month stint in China, we arrived home with a few weeks to unpack, unwind, reset and go again. Next stop Cairo!

But it didn't happen. That was when the world changed. Doors closed, borders shut, audiences told not to go to any live events, travel was banned and the roads and skies went silent. As the situation in the UK went from bad to really bad, it was apparent that the next gig was not going to happen for many months.

So, what do you do when all the doors are closed in your face? You open a new door to follow your passion! Travell!

But before I get on to that, my lockdown experience has had other positives, too! Family time has been great. Hannah came home to shield with us, Noah and Yoel returned from London and maestro Yonni came back from LA. I took charge of online shopping.

But travel is in my blood. It's what I've been doing the last 6 solid years. I can't remember the last time I was home for more than three weeks. Throughout this time, I booked flights for friends, hotels for colleagues and packaged holidays for anyone that asked but couldn't be bothered with the hassle. My nickname became 'Ari Air, he'll get you there.'

I've wanted to find a way of turning this into a business. I just needed some time to take the right approach. Turns out in March, I had all the time I needed!



So now, thanks to my partnership with Not Just Travel, I am living my passion for providing everyone with an unforgettable experience when going away whether for business or pleasure.

Whether you're looking to soak up the sun in Tel Aviv next summer or want to create for yourself personally, a bespoke trip to any corner of the world, you can rely on me. Spare me a few moments of your time and I'll provide you with travel inspiration. Got plans in mind? I can take it from there. Having access to over 200 suppliers, I'm able to provide seemingly unlimited travel options. New Year, New Beginnings, New Opportunities, New Adventures.

Shana Toval

**Ari Levy**  
[www.arilevy.notjusttravel.com](http://www.arilevy.notjusttravel.com)  
 07879073589

### Good Things And Small Packages!

**I first met Dinah Crystal in the 1980s, whilst we were both practising solicitors. I knew that Dinah was married to Tony, that she was a working mum and that was about it!**

Forward wind to the last several months and I have had the pleasure and privilege of learning what lies behind the attractive, petite appearance of the real Dinah Crystal OBE. By the way, Tony discovered that very quickly. He proposed to Dinah on their first date in 1974 and they are proud parents of five children and have eleven grandchildren!

Dinah was one of only six girls out of her year of 90 law students at Leeds University. She qualified as a solicitor in 1976, when her first son, Roger, was born and worked part time throughout as her family grew.

Dinah practised as a solicitor for many years, not at all daunted by attitudes towards her gender from clients:

*"I wanted to see a real solicitor!"*

and employers:

*"she successfully won a salary increase when she found out she was being paid less than her male colleague."*

In 1990, an opportunity arose for business development in the School of Law at Manchester University. It was time for the change that would really define Dinah's career, challenges and successes.

Dinah's role as Business Development Officer grew to include Admissions Tutor for Home and Overseas resulting in lots of foreign travel, especially to South East Asia as well as forging connections with large City law firms.

By this stage Dinah had earned the role of Director of External Relations and Legal Clinical Education at the university. She introduced 'employability sessions for students' into the academic curriculum as "knowledge of the law in itself was insufficient to make a living".

This was all great 'business' but that wasn't enough for Dinah who had been raised with an awareness of giving to the community and charity and so she took it upon herself to develop legal advice centres where the privileged Manchester University law students would offer pro bono advice to clients and help them develop skills. This was pretty ground-breaking in its time - Dinah had to fight for funding to set up the centres. She went on to help other support groups, from the Women's Chinese Centre in Manchester, a Clinic in East Manchester at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre to as far afield as Taylor's University in Malaysia, to set up their own

legal advice centres. Dinah's last proposal was to commence establishing a pro bono advice for the Deaf Centre.

The list goes on! Dinah was also involved in diversity issues including Pathways to Law for Less Privileged and BAME.

In 2008, Dinah was granted an OBE for contributions to Pro Bono in the North West and in 2016 she hung up her well-used legal and business working boots, although is still in touch with all that she created.

During her career and beyond, Dinah also directed much of her natural energy towards initiatives in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities having been heavily involved in Jewish Women's League, Director of Habonim Dror, Gingerbread, and let's not forget, her role as wife of the Shule's President! Dinah is currently sitting on various Access to Justice committees to raise funds and highlight the problems of litigants in person.

With an over-abundance of choices, I asked the very modest Dinah of what she is most proud - to which she answered "My family and friends - who have had to put up with my dismal cooking over the years!"

"Oh, and creating the Legal Advice Centres."

Of course, as yet, there is no final chapter to the achievements of Dinah Crystal OBE.....she has recently been appointed as South Manchester Team Leader for Paperweight\*, a charity which she describes as a sort of CAB for the Jewish community. Highly confidential with nationwide case workers, Paperweight\* offers telephone and video guidance to those requiring practical support with debt issues, welfare benefits, probate and beyond, and is obviously making her mark as they are considering setting up their first legal advice centre.

I chatted with softly spoken Dinah from a social distance in her chocolate box courtyard garden one sunny day in July. All very relaxed and muted but the air was filled with dynamism. Good things indeed!

**Gillian Rowe**

\*see page 62 for details of the Paperweight charity



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## Articles & Features

### Myerson Solicitors

**Cheshire law firm Myerson Solicitors was founded over 37 years ago and has been working with the Altrincham and Hale community ever since.**

The award-winning firm is well known for acting on behalf of local clients, across a range of services and sectors. Recognised as Top Tier by the Legal 500 and commended in The Times Best 200 Law Firm 2019, the firm has come a long way.

Celebrating his 25th anniversary at Myerson, CEO Carl Newton said: "In 1990 we had 5 Partners and 20 employees working from a row of separate cottages in Altrincham. Now, in 20,000 sq ft of grade A office space, we have grown to a team of 115 employees and 23 Partners. Since we moved to our fully refurbished office, we have seen the firm and the team flourish, enabling us to provide our clients with high quality legal services across a range of sectors. Over the 25 years I have worked at Myerson, the ethos and culture of the firm remain the reasons for the firm's success. I couldn't be more proud of what we have achieved together. One of our greatest achievements has been the recruitment and growth of amazing individuals. Everything we do is about finding the right team to ensure we deliver the best service, in a personal, yet professional way. Working and living alongside our clients, and involving ourselves

in the community, is very important to the firm, enabling us to provide a more efficient, collaborative and partner-led approach; working as our clients' trusted advisers and providing added value. I can also say I am not the longest-serving Myerson team member at the firm, and I imagine that is quite rare within most businesses."

Myerson regularly collaborates with local businesses through sponsorship, legal advice and support. Jeremy Lee, Partner at Myerson said; "It is important for businesses to support one another as well as the individuals who live within the community. Having myself worked alongside the Geshher magazine and local community for many years, we would like to recognise and thank the magazine as one of the businesses which regularly supports others. We would not have come as far without local support."

To find out more about Myerson Solicitors you can visit [www.myerson.co.uk](http://www.myerson.co.uk) or email [lawyers@myerson.co.uk](mailto:lawyers@myerson.co.uk)



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## Camp Simcha's Light Continues To Shine

### Back in March, I took the tough decision to cancel a fundraising theatre event.

This was in aid of Camp Simcha - a charity very close to my heart, and for which I have Hale Shule to thank for making the shidduch between me and Tanya Persey, a Trustee, during a Ladies' evening with Caroline Pactor several years ago.

When liaising with Camp Simcha staff to find out how they have been dealing with the challenges of Covid-19, I am in awe of this most wonderful organisation. The creative way in which they have found themselves having to work since March is nothing short of a miracle. Unfortunately, the harsh reality is that despite this crisis, children are still being diagnosed with serious and life-threatening illnesses - cancer, serious heart conditions, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and many others - and new referrals are made regularly. Camp Simcha have always vowed to be there whenever, however and for as long as families need them... and nothing has ever been truer than during the pandemic.

These are worrying and uncertain times for everyone, but exceptionally difficult for Camp Simcha's vulnerable families. Seriously ill children face additional feelings of anxiety, isolation and depression, while exhausted parents juggle the constant challenge of their ill child's complex medical needs with their siblings' needs, and school closures make even greater demands on them.

Camp Simcha staff team, Family Liaison Officers, therapists and consultants in Manchester work tirelessly to ensure families feel special and looked after while their incredible volunteers find creative ways to support them. Remotely, their FLOs are in constant contact with parents via Whatsapp and Facetime, virtual support groups and coffee mornings, and every need is met: arranging crisis household support and food packages - demand for which has gone up by 70%; organising hospital transport for ongoing treatment admissions and medical emergencies; and safe night-time respite support for worn-out parents of children requiring 24/7 care.

Since lockdown started, qualified therapists who look after families' emotional well-being, have been delivering online arts at home and counselling sessions - hundreds of arts, crafts and games packages and bespoke treats have been distributed to lift the spirits of quarantined children in the Manchester community. They also set up a user-friendly website with a parent portal with activities for children, from magic shows to educational advice and exercise classes; and invaluable online recreational and educational resources

for homeschooling. They even arranged a 'My Little Pony' themed party remotely for a 3 year old. They are quite simply the very definition of 'chesed'.

Sadly, one of the summer highlights - Camp Simcha's Family Retreat - was cancelled, along with other highly anticipated face to face programmes - Camp USA and the Keshet programme - all will be rescheduled when safe and viable to run them.

Judith, mother of Shloimy, with Neuroblastoma, who would have been benefitting from the summer Family Retreat this year, writes,

"Since becoming part of Camp Simcha the Retreats have been the highlights of our year. Our journey with Neuroblastoma has been long, tough and often very lonely. Receiving Camp Simcha's support is like coming into the welcoming arms of family. We feel understood, cared for and supported. It is liberating to be able to share our experiences with those who have undergone similar journeys and to see that despite the hardship and tears we can still smile and be happy."

Covid-19 has placed Camp Simcha in a vulnerable position with fundraising events cancelled such as mine at the Hope Mill Theatre back in March, or the postponement of bigger events and sponsored challenge activities on which they rely. They've worked hard to reduce costs and maintain income, but with no government funding, they regrettably have to draw significantly on their reserves to sustain their core services throughout the pandemic.

If you feel you can help replenish their funds in any way, to assist in their continued support of families who desperately need Camp Simcha in Manchester, please go to their donate page <https://www.campsimcha.org.uk/donate/>. For more info on Camp Simcha, go to <https://www.campsimcha.org.uk/>. To get involved in fundraising/volunteering please contact me by email ([candwek@gmail.com](mailto:candwek@gmail.com)) or phone (07778 668515).

Candice Dwek



## Jewish Women's Aid

### I recently joined the Board of Trustees for Jewish Women's Aid, having been involved in their education programmes for 10 years.

Did you know that Domestic abuse occurs in all walks of life? Women of any class, religion, nationality, socio-economic status, or level of education can be abused. It is the same in the Jewish community, and Jewish Women's Aid supports secular, traditional and orthodox Jewish women on a daily basis.

Throughout their lifetimes, one in four women will be affected by domestic abuse, and one in five women will be survivors of sexual violence; Jewish women are no different.

The main types of abuse are: physical, emotional/psychological, financial, sexual, spiritual and social isolation,

and abuse is characterised by an imbalance of power and control in close family relationships.

Jewish Women's Aid is the only specialist organisation in the UK supporting Jewish women and children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

JWA supports over 700 Jewish women across the UK annually. Services include: domestic abuse and sexual abuse helplines, a new web chat service launched in May 2020, practical and emotional support counselling and children's therapy. We also do prevention work with young people and training for communal professionals.

Here are some culturally specific considerations for Jewish women when they are experiencing domestic abuse, most of which apply, regardless of level of religious observance:

- Fear of bringing shame on the family and wider community
- Fear of being known in the community
- Fear of not being believed because the perpetrator might be known
- Language and immigration issues - fear of losing the right to stay in the UK
- Fear of losing the children
- Fear of the perpetrator denying her a 'Get' if she speaks out
- Fear the Rabbi will side with the perpetrator
- Fear of being ostracised from Jewish schools

JWA research found that on average, Jewish women take about 2 years longer to report domestic abuse than the national average - 11.5 years instead of about 9.5 years.

How we can all help to combat domestic abuse in our community:

- Have an awareness that domestic abuse can be happening to any woman, regardless of any preconceptions we might have about her or her partner
- Look out for any signs
- If you are concerned for a woman you know, you can start a conversation gently, conveying your concern. You could ask about things you have noticed, something like: "You haven't been in touch much lately. Is everything OK?" or "I've noticed you seem a bit down. Has anyone upset you?" or even "I'm worried about you, you seem scared."
- If she tells you she is being mistreated, listen with a supportive attitude and an open mind. The important things to convey are that you believe the person, that they are not to blame for the abuse, that you are concerned and worried about them and that you want to help
- Try not to blame or criticise the perpetrator as this can shut the conversation down
- Thank her for confiding in you
- Tell her about Jewish Women's Aid and that she can contact us to speak confidentially
- You can also call JWA for advice on how to help your friend

Gabrielle Adlestone



JEWISH WOMEN'S AID

## Charities

### About Paperweight

**We are the Jewish Community's Advice Bureau...and that is just the start.**

In the course of its rapid development since inception 10 years ago, Paperweight is constantly breaking new ground, with its focus on the provision of community support for the disenfranchised, to those lost "in the system" and to those at their wits' end.

We offer free and confidential pro-active solutions utilising 170 trained caseworkers to provide guidance and assistance with debt issues, benefit applications and appeals, family law matters, LPAs, probate, advocacy, practicalities post bereavement, utilities, correspondence with banks and building societies and more, and tackling all manner of bureaucratic obstacles and administrative pitfalls.

Our assistance is immediate, always practical and wherever possible we visit the client at home.

The roll call of our now 2,500+ clients have been helped in any combination of scenarios which create massive turbulence in life with several shock waves, some of which seem endless.

They may be summarised as Elderly, Bereavement, Dementia, Divorce and Debt. They all pull in their wake a bureaucratic nightmare.

Paperweight, in these circumstances, listen, advocate, communicate and correct injustices.

We complete reams of forms. We attend meetings. We write, email and phone. We step in and erect a defensive wall around the client that declares "Deal with us". And this works.

We gain rebates, reprieves and respite. We allow our clients to breathe. And we charge not one penny.

Our goal is reached when the client can sleep easier.

We cherish their right to independence but understand that they have been plunged into a whirlpool of manila envelopes, legal threats, aggressive creditors and unwelcome attention in many arenas.

Our caseworkers are not superhuman. Just intelligent, dogged, determined and compassionate. Sympathetic and empathetic too, and with the backup of a whole range of professional knowhow.

That is Paperweight.

And that is why every single social care charity in the Jewish sector, elderly care charities London-wide and Local Authorities, regularly refer their clients to us. They know we will deliver.

For further information: [www.paperweight.org.uk](http://www.paperweight.org.uk).

If you need help, wish to volunteer or make a donation:  
0161 507 5480.

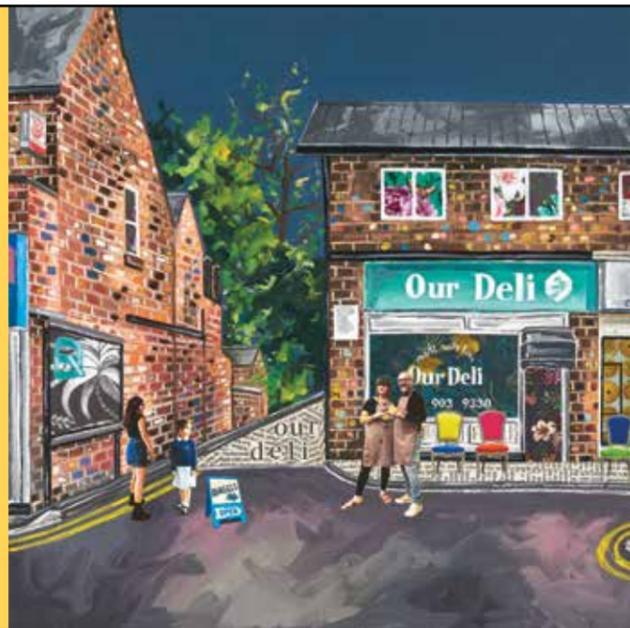
Or email: [info@paperweight.org.uk](mailto:info@paperweight.org.uk)

# paperweight

**Don't get overwhelmed, get help.**



Our Deli wishes all the community a happy new year and well over the fast.



## Charities

### What's for dinner tonight?

**Lockdown meant everyone was eating at home 24/7 giving Jane Lazare the inspiration to create "What's for Dinner Tonight?"**

A simple request on Facebook " Post your daily dinner menu and recipes" resulted in the most amazing response.

The group rapidly expanded from being local to national to international offering a platform for some money to be raised for charity.

£20,000 later it is still going strong. The charities being supported at present are Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem, Mind UK and Victim Support, with future funds from sales to be dispersed among other Jewish charities..

To read this fascinating story and enjoy mouth-watering recipes the book can still be bought from Jane at [whatsfordinnertonight320@gmail.com](mailto:whatsfordinnertonight320@gmail.com)



## Making a simcha, have an event?

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### The Personal Crisis Continues

As we write, the worst of the UK-wide coronavirus crisis is over - for now at least.

For many people, sadly, the personal crisis continues. But The Fed's Community Advice and Support team (CAST) brings hope and the chance of a safer, happier future for:

- teenagers who are self-harming, involved in drug abuse, or being groomed for sex
- parents dealing with a child's violent behaviour
- people forced out of their home due to a partner's abusive behaviour
- families unable to afford to buy food

After months of home-working from kitchen and dining-room tables, CAST which also supports adults, older people and carers, is back in the office.

Manager, Sara Ogden-Thomson, and Support Worker, Zoe Guerrier discussed how the Covid-19 lockdown has affected how they provide support:

Sara explains: "We are a 'hands on' team, trained in face-to-face contact to quickly establish trust so we can help people. Covid-19 has forced us to work in a more detached way."

"I worry people might be struggling with things that we're missing," voices Zoe. "When we normally visit a new client, we pick up on cues which tell us if they are struggling. Does the home look chaotic? Are there signs of there not being enough food in the house? Any indication of neglect or abuse?"

"If something's amiss, we gently coax a client to open up and, if necessary, challenge them to help them make positive choices."

Home visits have been limited to doorstep calls - delaying the full picture emerging. Support has been by phone, emails and Zoom calls.

Lockdown created a surge in referrals by 58% from February to March, with many requests for help with children's challenging behaviour from parents already known to CAST due to difficulties with their children, or mental health issues, plus others who had no previous issues or Fed contact.

Zoe explained, "One family has young children who were physically and verbally abusing the mother, throwing things, being destructive. Others had youngsters absconding at night, ignoring lockdown restrictions."

"We help parents put boundaries and routines in place. We encourage them to walk away from the situation to let go of their own anger; give their child space but let them know 'I'm here when you're ready', perhaps by pushing a note under the bedroom door."

The team has kept in phone contact with the parents of children with disabilities and additional needs, who usually attend The Fed's Children's Centre.

"Families have been very hard-hit by the closure. Parents have missed the break from caring and the youngsters have lost out on a lot of fun with their friends. We were hopefully planning to reopen in August for up to three children at a time, but this wasn't able to happen due to local lockdown restrictions and operational considerations." says Sara.

Meanwhile a partnership between The Fed and The Feinmann Trust will respond to increased demand for social care services across south Manchester.

The Trust will fund an additional CAST social worker to complement the south Manchester Volunteer Service, led by Avital Gilbey over the last 18 months.

She already has established links with several south Manchester Shule's. The new funding will mean that their members will now be able to access advice and support from a qualified social worker, working closely with her, to deal with loneliness, financial concerns, poor mental health or planning care in later life.



When we put out a call for emergency support to get us through the Covid-19 crisis the **Manchester Jewish Community** opened its heart without hesitation.

You enabled us to be there for the **1 in 8 households** which benefit from our services during these dire times.

**The Fed is immensely grateful for the overwhelming generosity which helped us save lives, both at Heathlands Village and in the community.**

### But.

Although the peak of the pandemic has passed, for too many people in our community, the personal crisis continues:

- children are being **groomed for sex** with drugs and alcohol
- teenagers are **self-harming** or involved in **drug abuse**
- parents are struggling to manage a child's **violent** behaviour
- people are suffering due to a partner's **abusive** behaviour
- families are struggling to manage the care of a child with **complex learning difficulties**
- families are living in **poverty** and unable to afford food and other basics

**The Fed's dedicated, professional community teams are supporting, guiding and advising people living in dreadful circumstances - helping to give them safe, healthy, positive futures.**

The virus has, for now, receded but we are still **having to save lives.**

So, forgive us for **having to turn to you again** - to ask you to support our Rosh Hashanah Appeal.

**Because for too many, the crisis continues.**

To donate visit [www.thefed.org.uk/donate-online/](http://www.thefed.org.uk/donate-online/) or call our fundraising team on 0161 772 4800.

## Hale Shule - Here For You

It has certainly been an unusual and challenging few months since lockdown and one I hope and pray we shall never have to experience again.

First and foremost, I must thank the efforts made by our volunteers, who have shown such kindness and resolve to the members of our community who have been in need of help.

Those of retirement age, self isolating, shielding and in particular, living alone were allocated a volunteer. Their role was to keep in touch by telephone, where necessary provide food deliveries and be a reference point if problems arose. Each volunteer had a small number of community members allocated to them and all the feedback I received was positive and complimentary.

If problems arose, they were referred back to me and dealt with speedily and in absolute confidence. Hale, like any small community, can be a 'gossip shop' and I was determined this should not happen in relation to anything relating to lockdown as well as private circumstances.

From a personal point of view, I had dealings with members of our community not previously known to me and hope I was able to offer hope and reassurance in the most difficult of circumstances. My medical training enabled me to have insight and understanding into these difficult situations.



We are now in a better place, though some help is still needed and I thank those who still continue to serve the needs of our community. It seems strange to know an individual's name and voice but not be able to put a face to them. Hopefully this can soon be rectified.

Spreadsheets and IT are essential nowadays but scant substitute for human kindness and chesed.

Ian Halpern

## Hale Shule Bereavement Service

We are a small group offering confidential and discreet support in your hour of need.

Bereavement is a testing time for partners and families and whilst we are not trained counsellors, we would like to offer an ear of friendship.

We understand that everyone's needs differ so do not intend to intrude, but be at the end of the phone to offer support, whether it be practical or emotional.

Contact

Ginette Esterkin 07754 460 201

Francis Greibach 07770 773 197



## Living With Shielding

Our story could have been one of woe and despair as so many truly dreadful things happened, as I am sure it did to many, but one thing it brought home is how wonderful family and our community are, and how we have had our own personal miracle.

At the beginning of lockdown, I had just had knee surgery and was struggling. Unfortunately, my husband Harvey took extremely unwell. His medication for Parkinson's which he had been taking for 18 years suddenly had an adverse effect on him. There was no help, no advice and no-one medical to turn to. All departments at the Parkinson's unit disbanded. I couldn't walk and my husband couldn't move.

My children have done so much but, as they're not on the doorstep, they asked the community for help with the things they couldn't do. We had meals from the community, people did our shopping, we had positive calls, physio advice and people just asking how we were. My friends were so wonderful but also people who we didn't know so well were so kind and caring and kept in touch.

Slowly medical help began to filter in, too. Harvey had to slowly withdraw from the pills which turned out to be the best thing that could have happened. All his side effects disappeared. Even though it has changed his mobility, he is so much better. It was our own personal miracle.

I was regaining my strength then, but unfortunately I fell, as I was still unsteady and rushing about. I have torn one of the tendons in my shoulder and I am now waiting for surgery once more!

However, on the positive side, Harvey is so much better and I truly thank Hashem as it is night and day to how he was.

We were shielding all this time but, quite frankly, we couldn't have gone out much anyway!

I looked forward so much to seeing our family. I missed my daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren more than I can say. My daughters were an amazing support emotionally - and technically - as they taught me all the things I've never been able to do on a computer! As soon as they were allowed to, my eldest daughter and her family who live in North Manchester would visit us in the garden, which felt so special. Unfortunately, as I write this we are back in a type of lockdown. We had only just been to them in North Manchester to have a meal for the first time when the new restrictions came in.



We have an incredible community. They have supported us when life was bleak. We are not the type who ask for help but, my goodness, when we did, how amazing was the response: the phone calls; Our Deli; the people who shopped; the people who cooked; the people who offered practical advice and our wonderful family and friends who were just there for us. We couldn't have managed without you all. Thank you.

The Shule Zooms were fantastic, the lectures entertaining, I particularly loved the singing group, and Harvey enjoyed the Kabbalat Shabbat services so much.

I am so sad that I haven't been able to hug my children and grandchildren, and I have only seen my daughter and her family who live in London on FaceTime. As we all know, due to the new measures that have been put in place, them coming to visit went out the window.

People are fabulous. When the chips are down, we all pull together. As I said in the beginning, it could be a terrible tale of woe but in fact, our community made it a story of positivity and kindness. I can't thank them enough.

Anne Rosenfield



# Hale Youth Over Lockdown!



In the short time that we've been in Hale, we have engaged strongly with the core of the In Hale Shule, there are approximately 52 Teenagers ranging from the ages of 11-18. Over the past year we have engaged with over 60% of the Shule database and many more from other local communities. We have had an amazing time meeting all the youth and their families. Thank you for welcoming us with such open arms and for all the positive feedback and helpful suggestions. To all the youth we haven't met...there's still plenty of time so please don't be shy and do get involved!

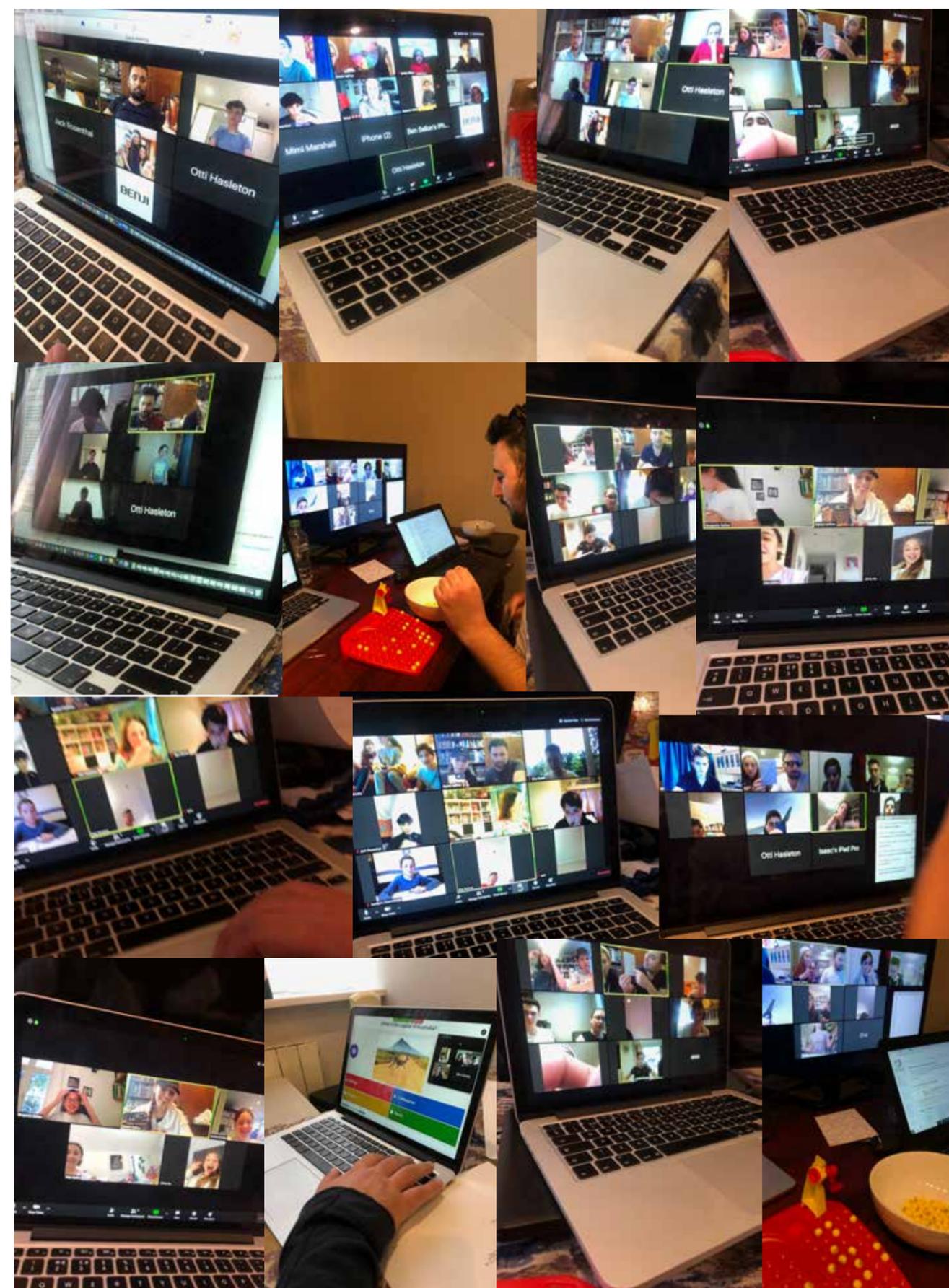
Pesach and Shavuot took place in unforeseen times when the world went into lockdown. Before Pesach, we sent to all youth members in the post a Tribe Pesach Activity Pack to play around the Seder table, with a personalised note to all the youth. For Shavuot, we joined the Yonaton Razel Youth Concert and made a 'Monopoly Deal' Shavuot Version to play over Chag. We created a Whatsapp group with the Bat Mitzvah girls to keep in touch and discuss ideas. We also had a couple of Zoom meetings and together we created a Shavuot Activity Pack for the younger youth to enjoy.

Over lockdown we have put on various Zoom events (Pictures Below) to ensure the youth have some form of social interaction and to keep busy and entertained when school and life paused. These events have included: Bingo Night, Wheel of Fortune, Kahoot! Quizzes and a weekly discussion/shiur club with different speakers.

**Wishing all the Youth and Community a Happy sweet new year!**

**Tamara and Daniel Haffner**

**Please get in touch on 07807132772**



## Children and Youth

### News from the Nursery

#### Well, it's been a strange old year, hasn't it?!

I'm sure none of us were expecting a global pandemic to change life as we know it.

This year has seen many changes in our Nursery, the main one being that we said farewell to our dedicated Manager Pauline, after 20 years of service. I think Lockdown may have altered a few of her immediate retirement plans, but I'm sure she will be able to start enjoying her time once things become a bit more normal. I'm sure many of you will remember her with fondness and wish her all the very best.

I should like to take this opportunity to tell everyone how hugely proud I am of every single member of Staff from Hale Synagogue Nursery for the efforts shown on our return after Lockdown. For something that



could have been quite an unpleasant experience, our team made it a fun, happy and safe place for the children's return. The joy on their faces every morning made it all worthwhile and the whole team made that happen. On a serious note, the whole team and I would like to thank the community for their continued support and the

Management Committee for giving us the opportunity to reopen our doors during such a turbulent time. I'm hoping that the latter part of the year goes a little smoother.

Since their return, the children have enjoyed numerous activities, from bear hunts to baking, painting and colour matching - even the odd sneaky cuddle here and there.

We are pleased to say that the nursery is once again open for all age groups and we hope to welcome many new starters in the coming months. Please feel free to give us a call and we can arrange for you to have a look around. You will find the nursery has a family feel about it, warm and inviting, with a team of people who care for the children like they are their own. The nursery follows the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and integrates a Jewish curriculum, where the children will learn about their Jewish heritage, weekly Sedras and Shabbat traditions.

On behalf of myself and the nursery team we wish you all L'Shana tovah u'metukah

All the best  
Kat Tilbury, Nursery Manageress

#### From Nursery Mum, Nicola Kaye

During lockdown and to complement homeschooling, we have engaged in many activities with our two girls, Charley 5 and Talia 8.

We have baked challah, cakes and pizza dough which they both loved. We all completed a 1000 piece Disney jigsaw - that took about a week! We made salt dough and a handprint model to remind us of our lockdown. We had our first virtual seder and made our own craft seder plates. And last but certainly not least, we welcomed our new puppy Bailey into the family at the start of lockdown. Charley had always been afraid of dogs but now Bailey is her best friend.

Shana Tovah  
Nicola



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