



Merseyside Jewish Representative Council
2025 Annual General Meeting
Bundle of reports

Item	Page
Report from MJRC Chair	2
Treasurer Report	6
Board of Deputies Report`	10
Receiving the council's the demographic report and the Archivist's report.	11
Presidents Report for MJRC AGM 2024	12
Merseyside Jewish Community Care	13
Reports from sub committees	
Holocaust Memorial Day	17
Yom Ya'shosa	19
Yom Hazikaron, Yom Ha'atzmaut	20
Café Connect	22
Website	25
Interfaith work	26
Mitzvah Day	27
October 7 th Memorial	29
Community Development	30

The Chair Report



We want to begin by paying tribute to the immediate Past MJRC Chair Max Marcus who stepped down at last years AGM having served as Chair for four years. Max worked tirelessly for the community and continues to do so much behind the scenes. As you will know he has not been very well and we wish him a Refuah Shlema.

It has been a great honour to work with such wonderful people in our community and to be given this opportunity to thank them.

May we start by thanking Zarah Ross, our fantastic Hon Secretary. As Max said last year, Zarah has amazing energy and abounds with ideas and a wonderful sense of community and has a realistic sense of what we can achieve. We are so every grateful to Zarah for taking on the role of organising the dispensing of our lottery fund award and her considerable help with the three Yoms. The Merseyside Jewish Showcase she recently helped to organise with Lisa Bloom, Henry Churney and Beryl Greenberg was just outstanding with an amazing turnout. We know she wants to build on this. Our thanks too to Zarah for organising the executive and general meetings and of course taking the Minutes.

We are very grateful to Michelle Hayward for her continued guidance generally and more specifically for her work as the Liverpool Town Hall Civic Liaison Officer. This of course includes the colossal amount of work she did in organising the recent MJRC Civic Service. It was by all accounts a huge success. Michelle does so much for our community including lots of work around interfaith and speaking to school children. She really is an incredible honorary officer.

We thank Howard Simon for his continuing dedication in his invaluable role as our honorary treasurer.

We thank Phil Sapiro for all his hard work with the demographics report, which is so important in terms of community future planning. In August Phil was quoted in a blog from Hidden Archives (the umbrella organisation for Jewish Archives in the UK) about our Jewish community archive.

We have had the great pleasure to see the development of the MJRC Website under the dedicated commitment of our website coordinator, Lisa Bloom. Lisa has worked incredibly hard on many community initiatives including The Merseyside Jewish Showcase and Café Connect, which continues to go from strength to strength.

We would also like to thank Rabbi Natan Fagleman for his regular attendances at the executive meetings, which considerably enriches the experience of all attendees, and for all his help and advice. He spoke magnificently at January's Full City Council Meeting against Anti Israel motion that had been put forward. We would also like to thank our one Jewish local councillor, Richard Clein for his attendances at MJRC meetings and communal events and for all his help and assistance with particular issues including an Anti Israel motion at January's Full City Council Meeting.

We continue to be delighted at the consistently high standard of editorial work, appearance and content produced week after week in the community newsletter. The editor Denis

Salamon is an able communicator. The newsletter grows in popularity weekly and in respect of which we only ever receive positive feedback.

We are grateful also to Alan Rae who continues to dedicate himself to the Year Book with an exceptionally keen eye for making each year's edition efficient. In March this year we had a dedicated Executive meeting solely repurposed to deal with the Year Book and hopefully that meeting will make the Year Book more profitable.

We thank October Wright who has the role of Assistant Honorary Secretary. October organises Yom Hashoah each year, which is always so moving. She also does a lot of interfaith work, including being on the new Harmony Group which has representatives on there from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities. October is a consummate professional and the community should be grateful to her for her hard work and dedication.

We thank the Community Development Volunteers Henry Churney and Beryl Greenberg for all their hard work on behalf of MJRC particularly with Café Connect and the Merseyside Jewish Showcase they recently helped to organise with Zarah and Lisa which was a great success.

The President

Barry Levene, a former Chair of the Rep Council took on the role of President from the 8th April 2024 and he is doing brilliantly, representing our community with distinction at so many civic and communal events. Barry is a main 'go too' man for both of us and Zarah and without Barry we would be greatly diminished as a Rep Council and as a community.

May we take this opportunity of thanking our Junior President Abe Wright who represents our community with distinction at many civic events including at the Liverpool Town Hall Chanukah Menorah lighting, where he lit the Menorah, at the Holocaust Memorial Day service and of course at the recent Civic Service.

The year

A very brief recap on some of the people and events of the last year would include having Councillors Tom Cardwell and Peter Norris addressed our AGM in April 2024. Dr Alessandro Bucci, Director of Holocaust Centre North, and Andrea Silverman, Paperweight National Services & Community Liaison, addressed MJRC General Meeting in December.

Following the horrific stabbings in Southport, we wrote letters on behalf of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council, to the Leader of Sefton Council, to the Mayor of Sefton, to the Southport MP and to Muslim Leaders in Southport to convey our deepest sympathies to the families and friends affected. In September Michelle Hayward attended an Interfaith Unity Event in Southport which provided faith leaders with a space to listen and learn from each other and share ideas for how to rebuild community cohesiveness. This event had support from the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Faiths Forum for London. President Barry Levene came together with other faith representatives to call for peace and unity following the horrific attacks in Southport.

We must mention Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation's 150th anniversary Heritage season programme expertly put together by Robin Makin. The Civic Ceremonial event held at the

Great Hall of St George's Hall on 10th September was outstanding. It was addressed by the Chief Rabbi and it was fantastic to welcome him back to the city. Chief Rabbi Mirvis also unveiled the Metquarter plaque in tribute to city's first synagogue. Thanking Ray Morron for all the hard work he did on the Metquarter plaque on behalf of MJRC.

We were delighted to welcome the President of the Board of Deputies Phil Rosenberg to Liverpool on the Shabbat before the Labour Conference. Whilst in the city he delivered a presentation to all Jewish pupils at assembly at King David High School and over Shabbat visited and spoke at Liverpool Reform Synagogue, Allerton Synagogue and Childwall Synagogue. On the Sunday Phil visited Princes Road Synagogue to meet with trustees and have a tour of the Synagogue.

Labour Party Conference was held in the city in September and Jeremy attended The Jewish Labour Movement's annual drinks reception held in the Liverpool Pub as well as Labour Friends of Israel Annual Reception, which was addressed by Dame Louise Ellman, Deputy Prime Minister The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, Tzipi Hotovely, Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the hostage families. Jeremy was brought to tears from the words of the hostage families at the LFI Annual Reception and had the privilege of speaking with them privately after they had delivered their speech.

On 19th September, Jeremy, Ray Morron, Chairman of the the Liverpool Branch of the Jewish Historical Society and John Cowell, Vice Chairman of the the Liverpool Branch of the Jewish Historical Society attended the first meeting of the new Maritime Champions Network at Maritime Museum. Redevelopment is underway of the Maritime Museum and International Slavery Museum. In developing the new galleries, the Museums are looking to co-curate content about Liverpool's diverse communities, and is keen to represent some of the stories of the Jewish community and migration to Liverpool.

MJRC were involved with the 'Councillors seminar,' which took place on 1st December at the King David Campus. The seminar, which was a roundtable discussion entitled 'Merseyside Regional Governance & the Jewish Community: Strategic Engagement & Relationship Building,' was in conjunction with The Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council.

An Anti Israel motion was on the agenda at January's Liverpool City Council meeting and Jeremy made strong representations against it to the Leader of the Council and to other Liverpool Councillors. An amended motion passed. Jeremy organised for Rabbi Natan Fagleman to address the Council meeting to speak against the original motion. The Rabbi got a huge round of applause from those present after he finished his speech. Cllr Richard Clein also spoke brilliantly. The amended motion that passed was far more balanced than the original - although not ideal. The points that are concerning are the points around pushing for divestment. A lot of work [went on](#) behind the scenes to get to the position we got to and so we would like to thank representatives from the Board of Deputies, the Jewish Leadership Council, UK Lawyers for Israel as well as MJRC colleagues for their incredible advice and support. Also, we thank the Leader of Liverpool City Council for listening to our concerns. We thank Cllr Richard Clein and Rabbi Fagleman for their incredible speeches at the Council meeting and for all their advice and support in dealing with the motion.

Jeremy, as Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Planning Group at Liverpool City Council, helped to organise HMD service at Liverpool Town Hall. Guest speaker at the service was Francine Palant. Francine's mother family all perished in Auschwitz as did most of her father's. He survived miraculously and returned to Paris nearly half his body weight. At Full City Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd January, HMD Reaffirmation statement motion was passed unanimously with cross party support. Basically with this motion, Liverpool City Council reaffirmed its commitment to advocate awareness of the Holocaust. Cllr Richard Clein approached Jeremy suggesting we should organise a speaker from the public on the Reaffirmation statement motion. Francine Palant kindly agreed and addressed the Council meeting, receiving a standing ovation. Jeremy also helped to organise the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority HMD commemoration event at their headquarters in Mann Island as well as Unite Against Fascism Merseyside's 10th annual Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration, held in Liverpool Central Library on the evening of Thursday 30th January.

As part of MJRC work across the area we have worked to develop relationships across the area, In January we have met with Angela Eagle MP at her constituency office along with Jewish members of her constituency, which then led to a social event being planned for members of the Wirral, Chester and surrounding areas in March to come together for a bagel breakfast. Both events were well attended, and will be the start of more activities in the area.

In March we had the Civic Service. The address was given by Dr Edward Kessler MBE, President of the Woolf Institute.

We thank all of the MJRC Executive individuals for their attendances at meetings and their invaluable contribution, experience and opinions given, all of which are very much appreciated. I cannot provide an exhaustive list but the names that spring immediately to mind are Barry Levene, Michelle Hayward, Zarah Ross, Denis Salamon, Gordon Globe, Ray Morron, Roy Stone, Ellis Haft, Alan Coleman and of course Philip Ettinger whose hospitality at Stapley we continue to enjoy.

Paul Levinson and Jeremy Wolfson

April 2025

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2024



Treasurer's report balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year.

I am pleased to present the Finance Report as Treasurer of Merseyside Jewish Representative Council for the year ended 31 December 2024.

As, in previous years we have not yet received the audited accounts to present at this AGM and these will be produced by the accountants later on in the year. However as our bookkeeping is administered at Shifrin House we are able to receive details of our income and expenditure and from this I have produced management accounts which I am able to report on.

Our total income for the year ended 31/12/24 amounted to £11,355. Income received from the Year Book amounted to £5,110 which is a comparable figure to the previous year. Other income includes Affiliation Fees, Shul Levy's, Gift Aid and Donations. We have also received income from School Visits which Michelle Hayward kindly undertakes and this has raised an additional £1,100 this year. I would like to thank Michelle for providing these talks to the schools and for allowing the income to be received by MJRC.

Our total expenditure amounted to £11,497, which includes costs for events together with our running costs of Printing, Postage, Insurance, Subscriptions, Accountancy Charges and Administration Support Costs to Shifrin House.

The excess of expenditure over income of £142 which is deducted from our General Fund, giving us a General Fund balance of £20,524 at the end of the year.

From the Bookshop Fund, which is a Restricted Fund we have purchased books for pupils at KDHS, made a donation of £1,000 towards the Holocaust Memorial project at the KDHS, and a donation to LOHC of £500 for display boards in relation to the 150th anniversary events.

The Community Development Lottery Fund had expenditure of just over £3,000 on events held during the year and by the end of March had expended all the available funds on the Showcase Event held in February and other Community Development activities. Last year we had also received a grant of £17,000 from the Rothschild Foundation for covering the cost of an Archivist to catalogue documents held at the Central Library. During the year Philip had appointed a suitable candidate to this post and salary paid to the yearend amounted to £3,046 leaving a balance of £11,760 in this ring-fenced fund.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to Mechelle Walker and all the staff at Shifrin House for their assistance with the administration and bookkeeping services provided.

Howard Simon

Hon Treasurer 16th March 2025

Merseyside Jewish Representative
Council
Income & Expenditure Account
Year Ended 31 December 2024

		2024		2023
General Fund		£		£
INCOME				
Donations	General	310		221
	Mitzvah Day	0		344
Gift Aid		407		528
Synagogue Levy		1,400		1,400
Delegates Fees		825		875
Year Book		5,110		5,145
Events				
Yom Haatzmaut	Takings	310	1,192	
	Sponsorship	0	<u>2,007</u>	3,199
School Talks		1,104		350
Deposit Account Interest		1,726		570
Sale of Candles		163		128
TOTAL INCOME		<u>11,355</u>		<u>12,760</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Insurance		141		135
Postage & Stationary		437		358
Printing		0		55
Sundries		494		380
Year Book Printing		1,951		1964
Events				
Yom Haatzmaut		1,219		2,008
Others		660		385
Subscriptions		695		695
Donations	General	100		100
	Mitzvah Day	0		344
Bank Charges		80		88
Administrative Costs		5,000		5,000
Accountancy		720		720
		<u>11,497</u>		<u>12,232</u>
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the Year		<u>-142</u>		<u>528</u>

Restricted Funds

	Bookshop	Mitzvah Day	Stapely Mortuary	Kehilla Choir	Lottery	Rothschild Archivist
Funds at 01 January 2024.	15,392	5	13,841	1,600	9,655	17,000
Received	0		1,550	10	0	
Expenditure	1,823				3,046	5,240
At 31 December 2024	13,569	5	15,391	1,610	6,609	11,760

Merseyside Jewish Representative Council
Balance Sheet
31-Dec-24

		2024		2023
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Debtors	500		500	
Prepayments	342		419	
Bank Accounts	69,346		77,960	
	<u>70,188</u>		<u>78,879</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	720		720	
	<u>720</u>		<u>720</u>	
Net Current Assets		69,468		78,159
NET ASSETS		<u>69,468</u>		<u>78,159</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted Funds		20,524		20,666
Restricted Funds		48,944		57,493
		<u>69,468</u>		<u>78,159</u>
		<u><u>69,468</u></u>		<u><u>78,159</u></u>
Movement in Funds				
	At	Net	At	
	01/01/24	Movement	31/12/2024	
Unrestricted				
General	20,666	-142	20,524	20,666
Restricted				
Educational	15,392	-1,823	13,569	15,392
Stapely Mortuary	13,841	1,550	15,391	13,841
Kehilla Choir	1,600	10	1,610	1,600
Mitzvah Day	5	0	5	5
Lottery	9,655	-3,046	6,609	9,655
Rothschild Archivist	17,000	-5,240	11,760	17,000
	<u>57,493</u>	<u>-8,549</u>	<u>48,944</u>	<u>57,493</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>78,159</u>	<u>-8,691</u>	<u>69,468</u>	<u>78,159</u>

BOARD OF DEPUTIES REPORT

BY GORDON GLOBE

MERSEYSIDE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THURSDAY 3RD APRIL 2025

I have attached below an **annual briefing given by the Board of Deputies of its activities over the past year.**

I want to add how pleased I was to welcome and accompany the Board's President, Phil Rosenberg to Liverpool on 20 September 2024. We met at the King David school where he addressed the pupils. Later that morning I accompanied him with a visit to the Leader of Liverpool City Council, Liam Robinson. This was followed by a meeting with Emily Spurrell, the Crime Commissioner. Later that day we met with Steve Rotheram, the Metro Mayor. At all of these meetings the President introduced himself and spoke of the activities of the Board. On erev Shabbat, Phil attended the Reform Synagogue. On Shabbat morning the President attended Allerton Synagogue and later in the day he attended Mincha and Seuda and Maariv at Childwall Synagogue. I would especially like to express my thanks to the President and my colleagues, the Deputies of the three synagogues mentioned, Benjamin Globe, Victor Huglin and Sue Hadden. Finally, on the Sunday following, the President attended Princes Road Synagogue and met with the government's Faith Minister, Lord Khan.

The Board is being led by a dynamic and inspirational President who has already made his mark on the national and international scene. Together with his honorary officers, their tireless and dedicated work on behalf of British Jewry is to be commended.

Gordon Globe
Deputy MJRC

•

Honorary Archivist's report for the period April 2024 to March 2025

In last year's report, I announced that the community had been successful in being awarded a grant by the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe (RFHE) to fund a temporary project archivist to catalogue a backlog of 50 boxes of material, but that staffing shortages at the Central Library had put the project on hold. I am pleased to report that last summer the City Council appointed an Archives Team Leader and we were able to commence our project. We interviewed a number of candidates for our project archivist role and the successful candidate started work, working two or three days per week, in September 2024. Our project archivist has proved to be most enthusiastic and diligent and the majority of the material (now comprising 60 boxes due to further documents being received) has indeed now been catalogued.

Examples of the newly catalogued material include: 20 years of correspondence relating to the Merseyside Amalgamated Talmud Torah; circumcision records for 1942-1979; minutes of the Liverpool Hebrew Bread and Flour Society; minutes of the Jewish Children's Holiday Fund; documents from the King David Primary School; press cuttings and scrapbooks of the Liverpool 35s group (Campaign for Soviet Jewry); records, photographs, and stories of the Thursday Club; and (currently in progress) a large amount of documentation, publications, and event memorabilia relating to Harold House.

New acquisitions in the last 12 months (also now being catalogued) include material relating to the Historic plaques project, Merseyside Jewish Ramblers, Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade weekly orders and other items, and a number of items relating to the Liverpool Progressive Synagogue.

Our RFHE project will conclude with some form of event or exhibition in the Central Library, later this year.

Our archive is housed in the Liverpool Record Office in the Central Library in William Brown Street, where the staff are very co-operative. The catalogue for our extensive archive can be found on line at

<http://archive.liverpool.gov.uk/CalmView/Overview.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog>

and any items can be viewed in the Search Room on the 3rd floor of the Central Library by anyone with a valid City of Liverpool library card, by making an appointment to reserve a seat by emailing archives@liverpool.gov.uk

I've responded to about 20 queries from the public or organisations during the course of 2024/25 – the majority have been genealogical or to do with burials.

Finally, I am always on the lookout for material which might otherwise be lost, destroyed, or damaged, particularly when organisations cease to exist or merge with others, or new people take up office. In particular, as this is the twenty-first century, we can now deposit digital (as opposed to paper) documents with the record office. If you have something which you think might be worth preserving – please just email me at mjrcarchive@gmail.com.

Philip Sapiro, MJRC Honorary Archivist 13 March 2025

Presidents Report for MJRC AGM 2025



I have had the privilege to be the President of the MJRC for the last year and so it is now time to report on the activities and events that I have had involvement with over the last 12 months.

As Pesach was late last year, our AGM was before the festival, and thus my first duties involved explaining Pesach to a variety of different groups in the wider community.

I then attended the Annual Civic Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral before we arrived at the Yoms events within the community. This culminated in the unveiling of the Holocaust memorial at the KD Campus.

The month of June was dominated by the 80th anniversary of D-day with a range of events in various parts of the city. There was also the commemoration of the Rwandan massacre some 30 years ago.

The end of July saw the awful event in Southport in which three young girls were murdered followed by the communal disorder that followed. I was invited to speak with other faith leaders about this tragedy on a motion of the City Council and to condemn the rioting that followed, mainly due to social media misinformation.

September 8th saw the start of the 6 months of events planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Liverpool Old Hebrew congregation, known as Princes Rd, to many of us. The initial event was well attended by many dignitaries including the Chief Rabbi.

The next morning, I was invited by the city to take part, with other faith leaders, in the annual 999-day, Emergency Services day, service of celebration at Liverpool Parish church. I took part in the act of commitment by the Faith Communities, where we thanked the emergency services for keeping our city safe and pledged to support them in all they do.

At the end of September, we were able to welcome to Liverpool, the newly elected President of the Board of Deputies, Phil Rosenberg for a weekend of visits to shuls to hear his vision for the future of the Board.

As October began, the first anniversary of the October 7th massacre in Israel loomed large and I spoke to a number of local media outlets on this subject and then was involved in the very moving event we held in Childwall shul. Shortly after this I was in attendance at the Lord Mayor's Civic service. November included the wreath laying on 10th as part of Remembrance Sunday and in December I was privileged to be invited on board HMS Prince of Wales, the largest ship in the British navy.

The first three months of this year included the excellent HMD event at the Town Hall along with other events related to the Holocaust, a service of commemoration and reflection for Ukraine and then the 5-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic as well as our own Civic service.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the community at these many varied events.

Barry Levene March 2024

MERSEYSIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY CARE

Report to MJRC AGM

3 April 2025

MJCC's main objective is to provide welfare and wellbeing services that improve the quality of life of members of the Merseyside Jewish Community.

Many of the people who benefit from our services are elderly. But we provide help and support from the newborn to the elderly.

Ours is an ageing and numerically declining community. However, the demand for our services has not declined and in many areas, it has increased. This reflects the trend for infirm and elderly people to stay in their homes longer than has been in the past and has reduced the need for social services support in the city.

Our current services:

- Geshar Support Group (Weekly)
- Visual Support Group (Monthly)
- Supported Living
- Citizens Advice (Weekly)
- Monday Luncheon Club (Weekly)
- Tuesday Luncheon Club (Weekly)
- Wednesday Lunch Circle (Monthly)
- Bridge Club (Weekly)
- Art Club (Weekly)
- Meals on Wheels (Weekly)

Clients and their family members tell us in letters, on the phone and in person that we have made a difference. Our staff have daily face-to-face contact with clients and their families. Some clients will come into Shifrin House daily to seek help and support.

Some examples give a better picture of the support that MJCC provides to members of the community requiring support.

1. A man who struggled with severe mental health issues and received daily support from the care team sadly passed away last year. He was consistently kind and polite, expressing gratitude for the assistance he received from various agencies. Unfortunately, his mental health and physical health problems eventually took a toll on him. He was sectioned and transferred out of town before being brought back to Liverpool, where his condition worsened.

While in a care facility, he was attacked, which led to a significant decline in his health from which he could not recover. His death had a profound impact on the entire care team.

2. This lady was reliant on MJCC because she had no family. She would call the office two or three times a day just to speak to someone. She was regularly taken out and attended all the parties, which she loved. She would always be the first on the dance floor and danced until the music stopped. Despite her many disabilities, she never complained and genuinely enjoyed the company of the other clients. MJCC's clubs were her main lifeline, as she often felt lonely, and she considered all the staff at Shifrin House to be the family she didn't have. Everyone at Shifrin House always had time for her.
3. An elderly lady, who faced numerous health challenges, eventually lost one of her legs and became wheelchair bound. She received considerable support from the care team. Unfortunately, her daughter lived outside of Liverpool and did not wish to be involved in her mother's care. The family's dynamics were highly dysfunctional, adding significant stress to an already difficult situation.

Although her grandson visited her quite often, it seemed his visits were primarily for pocket money, and no one else in the family appeared to care for her. As a result of her loneliness, she befriended some unsavoury neighbours who took advantage of her kindness, leading to financial abuse. Despite our attempts to advise her, she refused to listen.

In the later stages of her life, she struggled to cope, but she found great joy in listening to the radio and discussing politics. She had a remarkable talent for gardening, with her window ledge filled with beautiful plants she had grown from seeds. This hobby brought her immense pleasure.

4. An elderly gentleman struggled with several mental health issues, which his late wife had always managed to keep under control. Unfortunately, on the day she passed away, he was financially coerced into giving away all their savings. This led to a strained relationship with his children, who stopped speaking to him and refused to have any contact. Feeling very lonely, he adopted a dog and named it after his late wife. However, the dog was never house-trained and was not taken for walks, resulting in his home becoming extremely unkempt.

In an effort to find companionship, he took in a homeless man to live with him. Sadly, this decision backfired as the man began to abuse him, stealing his money and using aggression and bullying tactics to intimidate him. Although the police were called multiple times and would remove the homeless man from the house, he was always allowed back in.

Despite our efforts to help improve his living conditions, the gentleman was unwilling to change his lifestyle. Ultimately, he passed away alone in a nursing home.

5. A woman with a severe hoarding issue received substantial support from the care team with shopping and daily living activities. Taking her to the supermarket was particularly challenging, as she lacked social skills and would often throw the fruits and vegetables. Additionally, her serious alcohol problems made the situation even more difficult, and her paper hoarding created an even bigger challenge.

When she moved into a nursing home, the care team had the daunting task of clearing out her house. They had to wear protective clothing to remove the accumulated rubbish, food products, and bottles she had collected over the years. In total, we filled roughly 70 large black bin bags, which we transported to the local tip in our own cars.

6. An elderly man, who always seemed to have no money—believed to have spent it on prostitutes—frequently came to the office seeking financial assistance for food. He often arrived at our clubs to get a hot meal and interacted primarily with the men there. He did not believe in bathing or washing his clothes and was consistently filthy. Despite the team’s best efforts to encourage him to take better care of himself, he seemed much happier being dirty and smelling unpleasant.
7. MJCC has funded five charity funerals for individuals without family or assets. Four of these individuals lived in Liverpool but did not engage with the Jewish community and were not known to MJCC or the synagogues.
8. Citizens Advice hold a weekly outreach service and many members of the community have had assessments done and are now receiving financial support to enable them to live a better lifestyle. This service has proved to be invaluable.
9. Low-income families have been supported by small grants to fund school uniforms, shoes and coats to ensure that their children are able to attend school dressed appropriately.
10. Pesach parcels make a huge difference to the lives of people who are too frail to shop for themselves or are on a low income.
11. MJCC has two supported living flats that enable the tenants with mental health challenges to lead independent lives with the support of our care team.
12. Clients who have different disabilities are supported through the Gesher group which provides activities and the opportunity to learn life skills supported by MJCC's care team and experienced facilitators.
13. Clients who have visual impairments receive support through the Visual Support Group.

Many of our services rely on the almost 100 volunteers who give their time and skills to helping others. Each and everyone of them are amazing.

In recent years MJCC has received legacies and we are extremely grateful for them. They are left in the knowledge that this money will help improve the quality of life of disadvantaged, vulnerable, sick, lonely and isolated community members in the future.

This together with the support that our Pesach and New Year Appeals received demonstrates that MJCC's services really are needed and are valued by the community - and that the Liverpool Jewish community is indeed a caring community.

Andrew Ross

MJCC President

Reports From Sub-Committees



Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 Report by Jeremy Wolfson

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 marked 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 30 years since the genocide in Bosnia. These are really significant anniversaries. A special HMD service is held each year at Liverpool Town Hall to raise awareness of antisemitism and hate crimes in the UK and I help to organise the service in my capacity as Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Planning Group at Liverpool City Council.

Monday 27th January commenced with a private wreath-laying at St John's Gardens. Those in attendance included Lord Mayor, Cllr Richard Kemp, Rabbi Natan Fagleman and the president of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council, Barry Levene. They were joined by pupils from Alsop High School, Liverpool Lib Dem opposition leader Carl Cashman, Liverpool council leader Liam Robinson and Cllr Richard Clein.

Following the wreath laying there was an invite-only service at Liverpool Town Hall. The event opened with a performance by King David High School musicians. The Lord Mayor gave a welcome address. There was candle lighting and a one minute silence. Rabbi Fagleman recited a prayer and there was an Act of Commitment by Leaders of Faith Communities. Guest speaker at the service was Francine Palant. Francine's mother family all perished in Auschwitz as did most of her father's. He survived miraculously and returned to Paris nearly half his body weight. Students from Alsop High School did a presentation on the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The Belvedere Academy focused on the 30th Anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

At Full City Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd January, HMD Reaffirmation statement motion was passed unanimously with cross party support. Basically with this motion, Liverpool City Council reaffirmed its commitment to advocate awareness of the Holocaust. Cllr Richard Clein approached me suggesting we should organise a speaker from the public on the Reaffirmation statement motion. Francine Palant kindly agreed and addressed the Council meeting, receiving a standing ovation.

1:30pm on 27th January commenced the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority HMD commemoration event at their headquarters in Mann Island. The ceremony was organised by LCRCA Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead Julia Daer and Norman Hunter the UNISON branch Education Officer. Julia and Norman worked with me and Reverend Yigal Wachmann from Princes Road Synagogue. The ceremony was opened by LCRCA Assistant Director Corporate Development followed by Reverend Wachmann delivering a prayer in Hebrew and English. Francine Palant delivered a moving testimony. Shaun Benzon from the LCRCA Prayer Group lead a short prayer to remember all the victims of the Holocaust. Barry Levene, the President of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council delivered the pome, First They Came by Pastor Martin Niemöller. The event was closed by UNISON branch Secretary Mal Ferguson.

The evening of Thursday 30th January was Unite Against Fascism Merseyside's 10th annual Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration, held in Liverpool Central Library. I helped put this together with Paul Jenkins, North West Regional Organiser, UAF. It has been a privilege to have worked with Paul now for 10 years. The Commemoration included

readings of Holocaust Survivor Testimony, the lighting of the memorial candle and a minute's silence. Those who read extracts of Holocaust Survivor Testimony included:

- Patrick Hurley MP for Southport;
- Michelle Hayward, Merseyside Jewish Representative Council;
- Cllr Tom Cardwell, Liverpool City Councillor;
- Councillor Brian Kenny, Wirral Deputy Mayor, and CWU Mersey Branch Political Officer & Vice Chair;
- Myself
- Cllr Paul Stuart, Wirral Councillor and Wirral Council Leader;
- Emily Spurrell, Merseyside PCC;
- Cllr Liam Robinson, Liverpool City Councillor and Leader of Liverpool Council;
- Alessandro Bucci, Director, Holocaust Centre North.

The Town Hall, St George's Hall and the Cunard Building were lit up in purple to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Yom Ha'shoah 2024 by October Wright

The Yom Ha'shoah service of commemoration was an extremely successful commemoration – October Wright organised the event, drawing on her recent participation in the Yad Vashem Teaching The Holocaust one week Programme in Israel and the subsequent programme she and colleagues devised and delivered at King David High School. Built on the success of 2024's commemoration Yom HaShoah this year became a collaboration between MJRC and King David High School, involving students from across the year groups. The theme of the service was: **Humanity in the darkness** – with October using artefacts recovered from the camps as a way of focusing on the individual rather than the collective. All guests were given an envelope which contained the last words (usually through a letter they had written) to a loved one of different victims of the Shoah.

- Adam Jacobson, KDHS Jewish Captain and Ruby Endfield delivered a moving presentation around their participation in the Lessons From Auschwitz Programme
- KDHS students, Ezra Wright, Noah Lipton and Sam Levensohn and MJRC President Barry Levene read out final testaments of Holocaust victims) before they lit remembrance candles for each of letters' authors.

Audience members were then given a moment of silence to read the last words within their envelopes and consider the person behind the words.

Rabbi Fagleman led the prayers and the communal singing of Hatikvah, bringing the service to a close

Holocaust Sculpture

Alongside the involvement of KDPS students in Yom Ha'shoh, King David High School has always underpinned the commitment to ensuring Holocaust education becomes a key feature of the school curriculum. This year saw the unveiling of Liverpool's only memorial to the Holocaust.

King David High School Art teacher, Elaine Ball, to work closely with local artist Julian Taylor (creator of Superlambanana and Hillsborough Band of Light worked collaboratively with staff and students which resulted in the stunning sculpture which now sits proudly in the grounds of King David Campus and in full view of passers-by. **“The beauty of the sculpture is that we, the community, the evidence that Hitler's evil plan did not ultimately succeed, are the sculpture and Julian has built it in such a way that the light will always shine through the sculpture tiny figurines.”**

The sculpture was supported by Steve Rotheram, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, MJRC and donations from the community

Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut 2024 By Zarah Ross

In Merseyside as in many places across the world Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut are two celebrations that roll into each other. Previous years we had held Yom Hazikaron and after a 10 minute break then began our & Yom Ha'atzmaut, celebrations. This year MJRC came together and decided that it would be inappropriate to have a day of reflection and a day a celebration at the same event. The decision was taken to run two separate events on two separate days to ensure that both events were given the place that they deserved within our Community's calendar

Yom Hazikaron is a poignant date in the Jewish Calendar where we gather to remember the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the future of Israel and this is always marked by a deep sense of reverence. In Liverpool this year the tone of the event very different to previous Yom Hazikaron events as the sound of the sirens at the start of the event was more poignant than ever as we all living with the events of October 7th, its aftermath both within Israel and the wider diaspora of Jews across the world.

The event was held at Allerton Shul and included the testimonies of serving soldiers, and videos highlight the impact of October 7th and was attended by over 100 members of the community. The moving event was led by members of the Liverpool Israeli Community Ruthie Osterman, Inbal Israel, Liat Horen, Roe Horen, Vivian Morris & Music by Jessie Eisen. The memorial prayers were given by Rabbi Fagleman

Yom Ha'atzmaut

The theme of the event this year was 'Sending birthday wishes from my Liverpool Home to My Israeli friends' With the organisers wanted to underpin the deep connections between Liverpool and Israel, and to show support to all the members of the varied Jewish community living in Merseyside.

Barry Levene MJRC president welcomed people to the event, As part of the ceremony Rooe Horen shared why he wanted to come to Liverpool, what he wanted to bring from Israel to the community, and what he will take back to Israel. Rooe then introduced this years Beacon Lighting Ceremony. The beacons were lit by Harry & Charlie Cohen, Tomer Israel, Maia Samson, Erin Gallagher, Rohan & Lemmy Ross, Ziva Taxman, Eitan Mont, Ayala Horen, Shay & Shaker Cooper, Noga Ken-Dror, the children were chosen as either they or their parents were in Israel, and other who were from UK families This is to underpin that connections with our Israeli brother and sisters, wherever they are to show we are with them.

We will light the beacon to send **hope** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside
We will light the beacon to send **light** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside
We will light the beacon to send **peace** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside
We will light the beacon to send **love** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside
We will light the beacon to send **community** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside
We will light the beacon to send **happiness** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside
We will light the beacon to send **friendship** to families living in Israel and in Merseyside

The evening included music provided by Jessie Eigan, and included renditions of Let it be/Ler Li

Od Yavod Shalom Aleinu, Oseh Shalom, Hallel, and the last song You'll Never Walk Alone to underpin our values of suort, togetherness and community.

Once the formalities of the evening were over there was food, dancing, inflatable and celebrations.

MJRC wishes to thank Childwall Synagogue, Eliat Elfasi, Jessie Eigan, Gilli Manzor, Moti Haflan, Judith & Paul Lever, Zarah & Joel Ross for volunteering their time, and making memorable event

Cafe Connect 2025 MJRC AGM Report

Members: Henry Churney & Lisa Bloom

What is Cafe Connect?

Cafe Connect is a concept from MJRC, offering an informal safe space for people, regardless of affiliation, to connect with others, talk and to reduce social isolation. The idea behind this was inspired by the work of JAMI (The Jewish Mental Health Charity based in London) through their Headroom Café. This is a community hub where coffee, conversations and connections are made. It provides a relaxed and welcoming space, where wellbeing support and education are accessible to everyone in the community. After a visit to London Henry felt that this could be beneficial in Liverpool and we have started a monthly meeting for 2025. Very informal support group, Henry and Lisa are actively involved to help run these events to help support the community. We also have other volunteers on hand as well to chat with.

Why it is needed?

It is valuable that people in our community they feel able to get together to chat about issues that are important to them, they are welcome talk about any other concerns in an informal and friendly setting. We want this to be open to provide a cultural but non-religious place for fellow Jews just to come and meet, connect and chat.

Cafe Connect, has been delivered as part of the Community Development programme under the direction of MJRC, continues to thrive as an inclusive group open to all adults over the age of 18. Serving attendees ranging from 18 to 90 years old, Cafe Connect represents the diverse strands of the Jewish community across Liverpool and the surrounding areas. It welcomes attendees from Israel and other Jewish communities overseas, fostering a truly global and inclusive atmosphere. In 2025, we achieved significant milestones and strengthened our commitment to enriching lives.

Key Achievements in 2025

****Hannukah Special (December 2024):****

Organised under the Community Development programme, the Hannukah Special brought together the community to celebrate with themed activities, traditional storytelling, and live music, fostering a joyous and inclusive atmosphere.

MJRC Marketplace (February 2025)

Following the plan submitted at the previous AGM, the MJRC Marketplace launched successfully. The Jewish Life Showcase attracted participants from Liverpool, the surrounding areas for a whole day of culture, creativity, and community spirit.

Cafe Connect Monthly Sessions

Cafe Connect held monthly sessions throughout the year, welcoming participants from across the Jewish community. These sessions provided opportunities for social engagement, knowledge exchange, and skill-sharing.

Community Impact

Took our shared skills and guest-led discussions as opportunities to explore themes around wellbeing, fostering community knowledge and engagement.

Acknowledgement

We are deeply grateful to:

Volunteers: For their dedication and commitment.

Donors and Sponsors For their invaluable support.

Event Organisers: For ensuring the success of events like the Hannukah Special and the Jewish Life Showcase.

Community Members : For actively participating, representing the vibrancy of the Jewish community both locally and globally, and helping shape our initiatives with valuable feedback.

****Plans for 2025/2026****

Our aim is to offer at least one Cafe Connect per month. (To enable us to do this, we intend to work with the Community Co-Ordinator Lead, Zarah Ross and JAMI to train a number of Cafe Connect facilitators. We are fortunate that a number of people have expressed a keen interest in leading the discussion in these groups. This is very encouraging).

Building on the progress and achievements of 2025, Cafe Connect, as part of the Community Development programme, aims to:

To offer sessions in various settings on different days/times across our community to ensure the offer is inclusive and reflects the wider community's profile, from for example parents to retired people, etc.

Explore transport/escort offers to ensure Cafe Connect is accessible to all.

- Attract more attendees by expanding outreach efforts and tailoring activities to meet the evolving needs of the community.
- Take a deeper dive into monitoring and evaluations, with the aim of measuring social impact more effectively.

- Extend its offerings to include social prescribing activities, providing additional opportunities to enhance wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
- Explore virtual and hybrid event formats to ensure greater accessibility.

****Conclusion****

In 2025, Cafe Connect has exemplified the values of the Community Development programme, becoming a vital initiative for improving wellbeing, fostering community cohesion, and reducing social isolation across Liverpool, the surrounding areas, and beyond. With strong representation from local and international Jewish communities and exciting plans for 2026, we look forward to continued growth and meaningful engagement.

Next sessions

Sessions are planned for the following dates:

Stapely Coffee Lounge – Sundays 10.30 am - 12 noon

20th April	20th July	16th November
18th May	17th August	21st December
15th June	19th October	

Thanks to:

Max Marcus for his belief, encourage and participation in making this idea come to life.

Stapely Care Home for generosity and creating a welcoming space to hold these sessions.

Lisa Bloom who helps run and support this initiative.

Zarah Ross for her support in working with us to help to make this a resources and hopefully, a future sustainable offer.

Website Report for MJRC AGM April 2025



The MJRC website has been operating for over a year, and the project team to developed the infrastructure and the content are ready to hand this the website over to another group to ensure that the website remains current.

Using Analytics we know that the majority of the users who are accessing it all from Liverpool or our local area with a few from wider areas, London et cetera. It was decided or encouraged that the website was should be outward looking to encourage people to see what is an offer in the area, as people who are local to the city may get information about current events et cetera via the synagogues or via the newsletter.

Maintenance & development of the website,

Web pages: MJRC would like to recruit a volunteer web supported to oversee the website in the interim to kind of check that the content is up-to-date and the contact numbers are correct etc. The site will not directly promote events on the website **and to start opening up via social media. Due to the time constraints, CST etc. This perhaps can be looked at longer term, Maybe even tied into a funding bid as mentioned above.**

Emails: MJRC are also seeking to identify someone to check the emails and move them on.

Future Plans: Action points:

- 1. To identify appropriate funding pot, Digital exclusion/capacity building**
- 2. to recruit a volunteers to oversee the web and email, full training/handover will be given**
- 3. to continue to liase with** Josh Woolf at Community Security Trust (CST) for best practice
- 4. Update relevant images, this is in progress as result of Community development Funding**

MJRC Wishes to thank the following for their input, and wish them well in their next endeavours.

bsite Group Members

Lisa Bloom, (Website Co-ordinator)

Liat Ken-Dror, (Website Administrator)

Denis Salomon, (ex-President of MJRC; Editor of the MJRC Weekly Community Newsletter)

Max Marcus, (Ex Officio /ex-Chair of MJRC)

Interfaith Engagement

Visits to Shuls by schools and workshops on Judaism in schools and universities in Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire. GCSE revision courses on Jewish Studies have also been undertaken for teachers and students.

Interfaith workshops with other religions, including Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and, also, Humanism have been delivered.

Dialogue Society Online prayer meeting on Zoom on August 11th 2024 and Iftar on 25th March 2025.

Attendance at the Dr Agnes Grunwald-Spier Guest lecture at Liverpool Hope University on May 14th 2024

Attended Faith Leaders' meeting with the Lord Lieutenant 9th October 2025 at the Bishop's House.

Represented MJRC at the Southport Hebrew Congregation, BoD and Faith Forums for London Interfaith Unity Event on 2nd September 2024.

Interfaith Symposium on Justice and Reconciliation in the Holy Land 15th May 2024 at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral organised by Liverpool Hope University and attended by Rabbi Natan Fagleman, Rabbi Warren Elf and Michelle Hayward at which all three addressed the audience.

The Annual MJRC Civic Service on March 9th 2025 was hosted by the Liverpool Reform Synagogue at which the Guest Speaker Dr Ed Kessler spoke about his wealth of interfaith activities.

The Harmony Group established by Max Marcus and now ably led by October Wright has continued its work with Ibrahim Sayed. October Wright has also formed an interfaith partnership with students at King David High School and Archbishop Blanch, which has included dialogue, challah bake and an Iftar.

Michelle Hayward April 2025



Mitzvah Day Nov 22nd November 2024

Mitzvah Day is a day in which communities can come together and get involved in a whole community activity, social action. Through Social Actions the Mitzvah Day organisers believe that through social action and by working together, we can make the world a better place. On Mitzvah Day we come together to support local charities, and we each make a tangible difference to our communities through the projects we complete and the relationships we build.

This Year MJRC asked the community to gather items together. to support a local charity. Liverpool in Arms.

People from across the community were involved through

- Donating items
- Coming to Mitzvah Day event to sort donations
- High schools students were invited to help sort items

Liverpool in Arms. a local charity that goes out to the streets of Liverpool on as many days/nights as they can giving out warm food, snacks, drinks, warm clothing, footwear, sleeping bags, tents and a listening ear.

Nicky Cohen from Liverpool in Arms was at the event to answer any questions.

In addition, Clive Nagus made, on the premises of Childwall Shul, cakes or petits gateaux representing each of the hostages still in captivity. All proceeds were sent to Magen David Adom, a medical emergency service saving the lives of Israeli citizens regardless of faith. These were sold by Bernie Morron.

Finally, Tephillen Booth was available supported by Rabbi A Kievman will be there to deal with your enquiries.

Commemoration of the Events of October 7th 2023

MJRC decided in September that it was important to not only commemorate the Yartzeit of the events of October 7th , but also mark the secular date so that it was not an act of remembrance, but a memorial to the human impact of the events. The event was held at Childwall Synagogue, and was for members of the Jewish community, and our friends who have supported us (e.g. council Christian & Jews etc).

Honouring October 7th: A Day of Reflection and Unity Main report by Yonit Sharabi, Previously published in Jewish Community Newsletter 11.10.2024

On October 7th, marking one year since the tragic and ongoing events that profoundly impacted so many lives, the Liverpool Jewish community came together to remember and reflect. This gathering was not only a moment of solidarity for the Jewish community but also a chance for the broader community, including Israelis living in Liverpool, friends of Israel, and advocates for peace, to unite in shared remembrance. Though modest in size, with 150 attendees, the event held deep significance for everyone present. The non-religious ceremony highlighted the fact that the events of October 7th, 2023, were not just a tragedy for the Jewish people, but for the world as a whole.

One of the evening's central elements was the lighting of seven candles, each symbolising a core value: memory, pain, courage and bravery, community, healing, hope, and peace. Each flame captured both the sorrow and resilience of those who have been affected. The commemoration featured readings, videos, and songs, offering moments of reflection on the ongoing impact of these events. The performances and speeches served as powerful reminders of the lasting effects of this tragedy, which continues to unfold to this day. In remembering and reflecting, the community sought not only to honour the past but to look ahead on how it can support each other. While small in scale, this gathering was part of a broader international movement to honour those affected by the events of October 7th.

The evening was a testament to the strength of community and the importance of standing together, not only as Jews, Israelis, or friends of Israel, but as people united by a common commitment to remembrance. As the candles burned, the message was clear: the violence continues, and the struggle is far from over. We must remember, we must reflect, and we must continue to strive for peace.

Barry Levene MJRC President opened the event and lit the first of seven candles for Memory and concluded with "Bring Them Home, Am Yisrael Chai!". Other speakers included Lee Lingwood, Daphne Lunday, Yonit Sharabi, Eden Sharabi, Zarah Ross, Bill Bygroves and Jesse Elgin.

Postscript: The synagogues did not see increased numbers on Simchat Torah for the Yahrzeit, so maybe in hindsight we could have added a religious element to the remembrance event, something to consider if we repeat the event in 2025

Community development Update for AGM 2025

MJRC were awarded funding by the National Lottery to develop our range of initiatives for the Merseyside Jewish Community, there are also other activities delivered which are not lottery funded. These were delivered and planned by a group of committed volunteers. Community Co-Ordinator Lead Zarah Ross, Community Activity Co-ordinators- Lisa Bloom, Henry Churney Beryl Greenberg & Max Marcus.

The lottery asked that we build up a young adult's network, look at fundraising/sustainability, identifying community spaces, Volunteer recruitment and training, Engage the non-engaged in the community & Monthly activities.

MJRC also requested the group supported some of the events that fall into the communal calendar, these included Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazkaron, Yom Ha'atmaut, October 7th Commemoration, Mitzvah Day.

Key drivers in the work was to engage the non-engaged, the Community Development Team worked closely to develop relationships with all the synagogues, Rabbi's, members of the Israeli community, schools to identify members of our community who may not be synagogue member, do feel a connection to the Jewish community/faith, and to provide activities and invitations to engage them.

Historically the Merseyside Jewish community was the one that was seen to be in decline, however the latest demographic report produced on behalf of MJRC shows that for the first time in a number of years the under 60s and the number of under 60s community was equal, this has been partially due to an expanding Israeli community choosing to make Merseyside their home, and the number of families relocating to the area. The rising numbers of Jewish children has been seen in both the Primary & High Schools, along with numbers increasing within both the MATT Cheder and the Liverpool Reform Cheder provision

As part of the work of the team the following events were supported or delivered in 2023/4

Delivered

1. Supported community members to attend Antisemitism Marchs (Not lottery Funded)
2. Mitzvah Day
3. Israeli Event
4. Restarted Israeli Dancing in Liverpool,
5. Café Connect - Mental health/coffee mornings & discussions groups
6. Jewish/community wellbeing event (Showcase event) attended by over 200 members of the Jewish community, and over 14 workshops run by volunteers, (See fill report below)
7. Chanukah celebrations events hosted at Allerton Synagogue
8. Researched, and built links with Jewish organisations, businesses and organisations in Merseyside
9. Interfaith Walk
10. Mitzvah Day 2023 & 2024

11. Nosh & Natter – Event for Wirral based members of the Jewish Community
12. Commissioned films to highlight the Jewish Community
13. Articles written for Jewish Telegraph & Community Newsletter

.Future Plans

The Volunteer Community Development team are looking at ways to expand the work next year as well as looking for funding sources. Based on the work that we've done this year we are looking to seek funding and develop the following plus this is not an exhaustive list and we would welcome any comments or suggestions

- Showcase 2026
- Social/secular lunches based in all areas of Merseyside
- Friday Night Dinners (Bring and share)
- Student mentoring programme with Merseyside Community Members
- Developing an online presence to attract Jewish people to move to Merseyside/Cheshire
- Cafe Connect
- Hannukah pop up shop - artisan fair with Jewish businesses
- Women's leadership development - can expand
- Men's mental/physical health - social activities
- Digital training for people not yet connected
- Scouse to Ivrit a hybrid (Zoom and in person) an extended language course for beginners
- Jewish Heritage workshops of Liverpool and surrounding areas
- Women the needs and development of women in our community.
- A comedy course for wellbeing!

For more information or to get involved email: Jewishcommunitydevelopment@gmail.com
or call 07990573652

Merseyside Jewish Showcase welcomes over 200 people to community event

The Merseyside Jewish Representative Council was proud to host the inaugural Merseyside Jewish showcase on Sunday, The National Lottery Community Fund made an award to the MJRC to develop a range of activities, and to recruit and support volunteers to make a difference in the community, the showcase was a culmination of over two years' work by a group of dedicated community development volunteers. Over 200 members of the community attended, and there was a good mix of people synagogue members, cultural & secular Jews, Israelis, with ages range from 4 months to 94years

Over the past two years the volunteers have established relationships with various aspects of the Liverpool Jewish community both secular and religious. A number of events and activities that have taken place with the aim of developing an enshrining community cohesion. The four volunteers behind the event Lisa Bloom, Henry Churney Beryl Greenberg & Zarah Ross hoped to highlight the range of services and Jewish owned businesses in the area, and to showcase the activities and skills within the community. The vibrant marketplace was filled with informative stalls showcasing local businesses, along with a variety of fun activities designed especially for children, these activities included a dedicated Little Ones: Baby & Toddler Space, and an Olive garden containing arts, craft, lego, circus toys and inflatables.

Members of the community were greeted at the doors by Honorary Officers of MJRC Paul Levinson & Michelle Heywood, and volunteers that included group of Young Presenters. The young presenters Ollie & Hannah were recruited through the University Chaplaincy via Rabbi Fagleman, and from young people who had taken up roles of leadership and responsibility within the Liverpool Jewish Community, which included 3 past Junior Presidents of MJRC Ruby Endfield, Edden Sharabi & Lemmy Ross. Alongside welcoming duties the young presenters also conducted a series of interviews with community members at the event to gather their opinions, and hear the experiences of members of the community.

Throughout the day, there was series of engaging workshops These workshops were a fantastic way to dive deeper into specific topics, such as Anti- Semitism, History of Liverpool Jewish Community, Maternity Matters, A unique service - An army chaplins story. Also included in the programme were a series of workshop designed to support the well-being of the community, workshops such as Poetry for Life, From Mayfair to Merseyside; Natural Skin care & Photography, Chair Based balanced breath, Israeli Dancing, Scouse to Ivrit, Ready Steady Cut where members of the community learnt and made their own flower arrangements, these workshops were led by members of the Liverpool Jewish Community.

The event was also filled with the delicious smells coming from the food workshops in which participant were given the opportunity to make Isreali Street Food, and to create Healthy Snacks for children.

The event organisers were delighted to incorporate elements of the LOHC heritage season, and these included talks by on Beyond Judea, Jewish artists and art in Liverpool, 1767-

2022 by Dr Lee R Kendall, and Solomon J. Solomon's Samson: a Jewish masterpiece in the Walker Art Gallery by Julian Treuherz.

The focus of this year's event was to bring together Jewish businesses and services with the community to show the breadth of activities that are going on next year organisers hope to secure funding to make the event even bigger and to bring other agencies such as health, fire and rescue and screening services to the event to offer them the opportunity to engage with the Merseyside Jewish community

Quotes:

- It was very impressive and inspiring to see that there are younger members committed to the future of the Liverpool community.
- Thank you much for inviting me today. I really enjoyed it very well organised a lovely atmosphere and enjoyable food .met a lot of people I hadn't seen for a long time
- Just wanted to say that today was fantastic! Lots to do, things for every one. Lots of people came, it was a success!!
- What an absolutely wonderful atmosphere created today. Please pass on my thanks to all of the organisers. We have a wonderful community and we just need to continue showcasing it. The team at MJRC are doing an amazing job

Workshop Leads & Stall Holders

Support services: included Jewish Women's Aid, WIZO, Merseyside Jewish Community Care & Paperweight, Community Safety Trust, Liverpool Bambi's & JAMI.

Businesses: Financial solutions, Good Market; Brother's Wish Genealogy Service; Agenda Vintage Style Crafts; LRS locksmith; House of Row; Travel Counsellors; Penn Road Studio; Sandra Hepworth textile art; GM furniture; Tropics/Bespoke Travel; Ada Reign Jewellery, Laugh for Life CIC,

Community Activities : Jewish Community Film Club; JLGB; Merseyside Jewish Archive; Jewish Historical Society; Chabad-Lubavitch Liverpool ; Merseyside Jewish Representative Council; Liverpool's Hebrew Library; Liverpool Jewish Youth Club; and a Pop up Second Hand Jewish Bookstall;

Workshops,

Scouse to Ivrit
An exploration of Anti Semitism
Ready Steady Cut – make your own
flower arrangement
Israeli Street Food
Early History of Jewish Community
Chair Based balanced breath
From Mayfair to Merseyside; Natural Skin
care & Photography

Solomon J. Samson A Jewish Masterpiece
Ready Steady Cook
Poetry for Life
Chair Based balanced breath
Beyond Judaica, Jewish Artists & Art
A unique service
Israeli Dancing
Maternity Matter