

WATCHMAN



OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE HULL JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

הצופה

הנה מה טוב ומה נעים שבת אחים גם יחד

How good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in harmony

Friday 31 January 2020

5 Shevat 5780

Issue 1289

Editorial Committee: B. Flasher, V. Sanders, G. Edles, and M. Westerman

Hull Hebrew Congregation

Times of Services and Shabbat:-

Friday	Shabbat	Shul Service	Shabbat ends	
31 st Jan	4.22 pm	5.30 pm	1 st Feb	5.39 pm
7 th Feb	4.36 pm	5.30 pm	8 th Feb	5.52 pm
14 th Feb	4.50 pm	5.30 pm	15 th Feb	6.04 pm
21 st Feb	5.03 pm	5.30 pm	22 nd Feb	6.17 pm
28 th Feb	5.17 pm	5.30 pm	29 th Feb	6.30 pm

Evening Service: Monday and Thursday 7pm

2020 SUBSCRIPTION

Thank you to all those who have already paid their Annual Subscription.

For those people who haven't yet paid, please send the Annual Subscription to:

Mrs. B. Flasher, 3, Cock Pit Close, Kirkella, East Yorkshire, HU10 7LG

OR pay **directly** into the account at:-

Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-94-44. Account number 01288659



THE NEW YEAR 2020



First let me wish all our readers, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, a very happy and healthy 2020.

I am not sure how many of you out there are aware that the Jewish religion celebrates not just one New Year, but FOUR!

The **FIRST** New Year is Rosh Hashanah, celebrated on the 1st Tishri. (30th September 2019). This year, 1st day Rosh Hashanah is Shabbat, 19th September.

The **SECOND** New Year celebrated on the 15th Shevat, is the New Year for Trees. It is a minor holiday known as Tu Bishvat. In Ashkenazi communities in Europe it was customary to eat 15 different kinds of fruit! In Eretz Yisrael many schoolchildren plant saplings.

This year Tu Bishvat is on 10th February.

The **THIRD** New Year is 1st Nisan (26th March 2020), corresponding to the season of the redemption from Egypt and the birth of the Israelite nation.

The **FOURTH** New Year, on 1st Elul (21st August 2020), is the New Year for the tithing of cattle. The tithe for cattle had to be made from cattle born in the same fiscal year, between 1st Elul one year and the next.

Hope you will add these dates to your diaries! Just in case you haven't already.

M. Westerman

(With thanks to Aish.com, where you will find much more information)



HULL JNF

JNF UK LOOKS FORWARD TO THE COMMUNITY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2020

For that SPECIAL occasion of:

A Birth, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a special birthday, an Engagement, a Wedding, a Wedding anniversary, Educational success or a Yahrzeit, YOU can plant a tree / s or make a DONATION to the JNF's latest Project:

PLEASE NOTE: the cost of a MATURE TREE is £50

HULL JNF PROJECT AT YERUCHAM

70th BIRTHDAY: A Donation has been made to the Project in the name of LESLIE (LES) SUGARMAN, a loving husband, a devoted father and father-in-law, by his wife Avril and sons Paul and Daniel and daughter-in-law Donna.

IN MEMORIAM: A Mature Tree has been planted in loving memory of MAUREEN STONE (z"l), by her dear friends at the Book Club, Avril Sugarman, Anita Coupland, Brenda Flasher, Laura Gold, Maureen Landa and Lynda Levy.

Should YOU wish to make a donation, or plant a mature tree/s, for that special occasion in YOUR life / lives, please contact Michael by email or telephone:

westernmans@gmail.com

01482 644987



JNF GREEN SUNDAY 2020

GREEN SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 9th

When you receive the telephone call, we hope YOU will respond as generously as you can, in support of those communities in the Negev close to the Gaza border.

HULL JNF looks forward to YOUR continued support of Green Sunday!

BLUE BOX

Does your Blue Box need emptying? Ring Michael NOW.



Should YOU wish to set up a Charitable Giving Account, please ring Michael NOW.

By automatically claiming Gift Aid tax on each deposit you make and depositing it back into your account, we save you the time and hassle of claiming with each donation, and leave you with 25% more in your account, to donate whenever and wherever you choose.

For details of all JNF services whilst Michael Westerman is out of town or unavailable,

visit www.jnf.co.uk Tel. 020 8732 6100

Column prepared by Michael Westerman

That was my final Month that was

Amazing General Election victory for the Conservative Party, gaining a Parliamentary majority of 80!

88 Peers called for former Liberal Democrat politician, Baroness Jenny Tonge to apologise over her "Israel lobby won election" remark on Facebook! She wrote, "The Chief Rabbi must be dancing in the street. The pro-Israel lobby won our General Election by lying about Jeremy Corbyn." Members of the House of Lords are required to conform to the highest standards of Public Life!

Waiting to hear that Baroness Tonge sent her wishes of "Long Life" to the Chief Rabbi on the sad loss of his father Rabbi Lionel Mirvis (z"l) in Israel.

Thank you for the Feedback received from 3 of our out-of-town readers, with their suggestions, regarding the FUTURE of the WATCHMAN article. Still waiting to hear from 2 volunteers to represent both Hull and the East Riding on the two separate SACRE Committees!

The Daily Telegraph featured an article highlighting the fact that Hamas was plotting terrorist attacks against Israel from Turkey as President Erdogan "looked the other way."

Great news that Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall are to make their first "official visit" to Israel to attend the commemoration for the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz, and also meet Israeli and Palestinian Presidents.

Wonderful to see so many people happy people (including visitors from Grimsby, New York and South Africa) at Pryme Street Synagogue, celebrating the first day of Chanukah and joining in the singing of "Ma'oz Tzur!" after the brachot, over the lighting of the Menorah. "Britain would not be Britain without the Jewish community"... the words of the Prime Minister during his Chanukah message.

A big word of thanks for ensuring a minyan at the "Shiva" prayers for the late Cyril Brown, Olev Hashalom, one of the last Jewish Ex-Servicemen in the city. Thanks also to the Standard Bearer, Jacob Grantham and Harold Flasher for the "Exhortation."

Shabbat 21st December owed a debt of gratitude to two visitors! Visitors from New York and London helping to ensure a Minyan.

Hopefully our local members will ensure a regular Shabbat morning Minyan and mid-week Minyan in the coming year! Another first for Pryme Street... Shabbat 21st December also saw the youngest person ever to sing the opening verses of Anim Zemirot by the Rabbi's youngest son, 5 year old Myer.

An excellent Melaveh Malkah at Pryme Street on the 7th day of Chanukah thanks to the hospitality of Rabbi and Rebbitzin Denderowicz and superb music by Naftoli, assisted by the Rabbi's young children, Aaron and Myer!

I wonder how many of our readers watched the "Lost Home Movies of the Nazis"? on BBC4? Just made me personally think just how recent events, are showing "history tends to be repeating things!"

Shabbat 11th January congregants at Pryme Street, enjoyed Yitzchok's (a young visitor) rendition of Anim Zemirot! Guess his Barmitzvah will be impressive!

On January 31st Brexit will happen at 11pm. The UK will officially be leaving the European Union! Britain will now be back in charge of its own destiny.

NOW OVER TO YOU READERS!

Should YOU feel like writing this page please let the Editorial committee know ASAP!

David K. Hakeney

T.V. Antiques Expert

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GREAT NEWS!!



G-D willing, we plan to have communal Sedorim on both nights of Pesach, with the food supplied by Hermolis.

The US have kindly given us a grant to enable us to be able to offer a fabulous 4 course meal, with plenty of matzo and wine, for the price of £20 per person, per night.

To register interest in attending, either or both nights, please contact Mrs Laura Gold, on 655539 or mobile: 07538968229.



GET WELL SOON!

I take this opportunity to wish all those members of the Community who are, or have recently been in hospital, or not feeling too well, a "Refuah Shleimah."

Just because some of you may have not been visited, or received no "Get Well Soon" cards, does not mean you have been forgotten. You certainly have NOT!

Please get well soon, and we hope you have the speediest of speedy recoveries!

On behalf of the Editorial Committee I wish all our readers and all members of the Hull Jewish Community a healthy year ahead.

Michael Westerman



Tu Bishvat 5780 and GREEN SUNDAY

The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar—celebrated this year on Monday, February 10, 2020—is the day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees.

Known as Tu Bishvat, the day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in Eretz Yisrael, emerge from their winter "slumber" and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.

The 15th of Shevat is "celebrated" by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah, in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land - grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.

On this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19), and reflect on the lessons we can hopefully derive from our botanical analogue.

Every year JNF has had a Green Sunday appeal when **ALL** members of the Community, can show their support of Israel by planting trees, or making a donation, marking that **special occasion** in YOUR life / lives, such as a birth, birthday, marriage or a yahrzeit etc.

9th February is GREEN SUNDAY

If you wish to support the Hull JNF project at Yerucham, please tell the caller that your donation is for Hull JNF.

Should **YOU** wish to make a donation, please let Michael know by phone: 644987, or email: westermans@gmail.com

Letter from Israel

I expect at some time or other most of you have pushed a pram. Not too taxing, even in a crowded area. Try negotiating a pram in an Israeli nursery. Firstly you have to put the code in the door (if you can remember it) and push it open. Easy so far, you're thinking. Get halfway through that very heavy door and you meet someone coming out. Now under normal circumstances, one of you would give way and frequently this happens (because a lot of the parents are Anglos and quite polite) but not always. So you let that person out in the hope they will then hold the door open for you (a lot of parents aren't Anglos and aren't polite). So far so good, stage one completed. Once inside you are surrounded by a traffic jam of prams, parked in the morning by parents who go straight to work. This being Israel, there are no health and safety rules of course. The remaining space is just one pram's-width wide and wouldn't you know it, there's always somebody coming the other way. So what to do? Back up or...just leave the pram at home and walk instead!!! Shin guards and knee-pads are recommended!

A couple of weeks ago we had a very pleasant surprise when we had an email from Rabbi Lifschitz to say he would be in Netanya for Shabbat. We were invited to the home of Susan and Neville Cohen (formerly of Leeds, who you may remember from their visits to Hull) for lunch. It was lovely to see him and catch up, but just a shame Shaina and the children weren't with him.

ISRAEL-one of the most technically advanced countries in the world finally get chip and pin as of 1st January. Now I need to remember my number!

ISRAEL We can identify incoming rocket launches, determine if they will land in an area that will cause damage and if so, accurately fire another defensive rocket at the incoming moving projectile - - - all in less than 20 seconds. We cannot find and deliver your Amazon package!

ISRAEL Railways has recently opened the long-awaited Jerusalem to Tel Aviv train track, to be

known as The King David Line. It now connects the 2 biggest cities, both emotionally and physically. It's 57 kilometres long, takes 28 minutes and goes over or under 9 bridges and 5 tunnels. It's 11 years late (why are we surprised?) and cost 7 billion shekels which is twice the original cost. It is situated 80 metres under ground, making it one of the 5 deepest stations in the world and can also be used as a nuclear shelter. In case anyone wants to know, the deepest is in Kiev, St Petersburg, Moscow and somewhere in N. Korea.

We hope 2020 brings you a happy and healthy year

Laurette and Eddie



GOURMET FOODS – IMPORTANT REMINDER

On the first TUESDAY of every month Les and Angela Gold will collect any orders from Gourmet Foods, Leeds.

Next Visits: Tuesday February 4th.

and

Tuesday March 3rd

Please place your order with Gourmet and confirm with Les Gold.

Please ring Gourmet with your order to **GLYN on 01132 682726, email: gourmetleeds@gmail.com**; then call **Les or Angela** on 01482 632437, in order that they know for whom they are collecting and where they are delivering to.

Orders will be delivered to each household during the afternoon of that day.

Please note the collection day, which may vary.

On behalf of ALL our readers, the Editorial Committee sincerely thank Les and Angela for ALL their most appreciated help!

Eulogy: CYRIL BROWN (z'I)

First of all I would like to say how much I appreciate your support. My father was born on the 21 August 1921, the final child of Casriel and Sophie Brown. He was the last of 4 children that survived. He was a twin, the other sadly did not survive birth and I think he was spoilt rotten as a child, by his parents, as his elder brother also died when he was very young.

I don't know much about his childhood as he never really spoke of it. He did spend large amounts of time becoming a champion table tennis player, playing for Hull Judeans as well as East Riding. The medals he won are now in the care of the Hull Hebrew Congregation archive. That and Rugby League were the sports he loved. Before the war he worked in the Hull City Council's Treasury department before being called up into the RAF, to work on Mosquito fighter-bombers, which he did for the whole of his service, first in England from airfields in Norfolk and then across Europe.

He was very proud of his and indeed my mother's service during WW2 (she drove the bomber crews out to the planes and hopefully but not always brought them back again afterwards). They cherished their service in the RAF, being active members of their squadron association and for many years my father organised the AJEX memorial service, at the Hull Shul, with everything precisely done to time and to the letter.

The thing he did always talk about was the time he attended the Nuremberg war trials, which made a deep impression on him, as by then he knew that all his family in Poland were missing.

After the war he went to work with his father and elder brother. There he stayed and built up "Brown's the Tailors", which was in business until the late 1980s.

He married my Mom, Connie, in 1950 and they had a happy marriage of more than 66 years - the latter part acting as my mother's principal carer, as her mobility declined. He was ably supported by the Hull Jewish Community Care and local Social Services. Three years ago she passed away and I was amazed how well he

coped and got on with life, being a member of "Probus", attending a Jazz Club, the Lions and Hull Shul events.

Unfortunately, in the last couple of years dementia kicked in and he had to be placed in a care home. He passed away peacefully on Monday evening 23rd December, shortly after a visit by myself, and the wonderful Carol Wilde. We made a fuss of him and he knew who we were, which was a blessing - I guess he just stopped fighting.

On the way to the funeral there was a rainbow in the sky, just like at my mother's funeral. My father always insisted on everything being neat, in the correct place and done at the right time, so that is a particularly appropriate coincidence. Thank you all.

Lawrence Brown

THE "VALUE OF CHAI" ...to life!



Chai (חַי) is the Hebrew word for life. The word, consisting of two Hebrew letters — chet (ח) and yud (י) — is a Jewish symbol, frequently appearing on pendants and other jewelry.

The Hebrew *chai* is pronounced with the same "kh" sound as in *challah*. Both words rhyme with "high," however.

Chai also refers to the number 18. That's because each Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent, and the sum of *chet* (numerical value of 8) and *yad* (numerical value of 10) is 18. As a result of its connection to the word for life, the number 18 is considered a special number in Jewish tradition. For this reason, Jews frequently make gifts or charitable contributions in multiples of £18.

In Hebrew, *chai* is often referred to in the plural form, *chaim* (חַיִּים), hence the boy's name *Chaim* and the toast "*I'chaim*" (לְחַיִּים), which, as anyone who has seen "*Fiddler on the Roof*" knows, means "to life."

M. Westerman.

THE LEGACY OF CHINESE JEWS



Having spent a fascinating trip to China, I was drawn to a recent JC article by Simon Rocker, which featured a young student, Nicholas Zhang, trying to keep alive the legacy of Chinese Jews.

Although not Jewish himself, he grew up in Hong Kong. His great-grandmother was on holiday in America in 1949, just before the Communist Party took over in China. Unable to return home, she was given a job at the Concord Hotel in the Catskills, by the Jewish owners, the Parkers. She finally returned home some 30 years later. Nicholas's mother's cousin married a Jewish woman, which meant he now has Chinese Jewish cousins.

His interest was with the Kaifeng community, founded by Jewish traders from Persia, more than 1,000 years ago.

On his website he wrote, "After centuries of intermarriage and milleniums of assimilation, these children of Abraham and Sarah, sculptured by teachings of Confucius and Lao Tzu, emerged with an identity and culture that is uniquely their own, unseen anywhere in the world."

Nicholas Zhang was speaking at the Limmud Festival of December 23rd. If any members of the Community were present and attended his talk, maybe they will let us know.

Should you be interested to learn more of the project, simply go to www.chinesejews.com

I can just imagine one day in the future, a young student desirous of finding out about the legacy of British Jews and, in particular, the Jews of Hull!

M. Westerman



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2020

This year the 27th January marked 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Holocaust Day committee invited the public to attend the Civic Commemoration, at the Hull Guildhall, on Sunday 26th January at 2 pm.

More than ever today, in today's troubled world, the wider Community needs to unite and stand together, in order to avoid division and the spread of further hatred and bloodshed. The theme of this year's event remarkably, was "Stand Together"... history must never be allowed to repeat itself!

The guest speaker was Michael Sharp, from the Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Group and director of the Huddersfield Holocaust Museum.

Other guest speakers were students from the Irena Sendlar Polish school.

Instrumentalists from the Albemarle Music Centre and the choir, "Cantabile" performed reflective music.

The announcement by the Royal Mail that it was issuing a Holocaust Memorial Day postmark should be welcomed by everyone! The announcement went on to say "The Royal Mail is proud to support the excellent work of the Holocaust Memorial Trust."

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge attended the Westminster Holocaust Memorial Day event, with Prince William giving a reading.

We would appreciate feedback from members of our community who attended the Civic Commemoration here in Hull.

M. Westerman

The Next Issue

The next issue (1290) will be on
Friday, February 28th 2020
Deadline for copy is noon, on
Tuesday, February 18th 2020

Copy should be sent to:
Michael Westerman
westermans@gmail.com

or
Brenda Flasher
brendaflasher21@gmail.com

The following issue (1291) will be on
Friday, March 27th 2020
Deadline for copy is noon, on
Tuesday, March 17th 2020

Please note that the **Deadline** date for receiving copy is **Tuesday**, prior to the week of publication.

Please make a note of this in your diary!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Watchman will be **bi-monthly**, commencing after the **March** issue (**there will be NO issue in April**).

Please check the Hull Hebrew Congregation website - www.hullhebrewcongregation.com for times of service etc.

Please read this!

Letters or articles published in the Watchman express the personal opinions of the people over whose name they are printed, and are not intended to be, **nor can they profess to be**, the opinion of the publishers (the Editorial Committee) of the Watchman, even if they are written by a **member** of that Committee, unless specifically stated.

Articles submitted for publication should ideally not exceed 600 words. However an article in excess of this limit may be included at the discretion of the editorial committee or agreed with the writer to be included as a series of inclusions in future editions.

HULL HEBREW CONGREGATION CHEVRA KADISHA

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Function announcement

**For ¼, ½ or a full page, please contact
the Hon. Treasurer, Brenda Flasher.**

**Full separate page insertion, including
postage (cost of printing extra) £40.00**



BIRTH

Laurette and Edward Pearlman are delighted to announce the arrival of their 4th grandchild, Sadie Lior Elisheva, born on 22nd December 2019, to Rebekah and Joel. Sister for Lev and 7th grandchild for Rabbi Mark and JoAnn Friedman, in New York.

minyan for years! It was also great to see Neal Coupland and his nephew again!

I would like to put on record my sincere thanks, to all those "minyan men" who regularly help to maintain the mid-week and erev Shabbat minyanim.

The entire community owes ALL of them a debt of gratitude! Thank you THE MINYAN MEN!

TOMBSTONE CONSECRATION



SILVER GERALD - The memorial stone in loving memory of Gerald Silver (z"l) will be consecrated at Ella Street Cemetery, Hull HU5 3AY on Sunday 15th March 2020 at 12pm.

Jakki and Debra would like you to join them for a L'Chaim and refreshments afterwards at Pryme Street Shul, Anlaby.

M. Westerman



COMMUNAL DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 18 Watchman Editorial Meeting
- 19 Friendly Circle at HHC, Pryme Street at 2pm

MARCH

- 9 Purim reading of the Megillah at HHC, Pryme Street : time tba
- 15 Stone-setting at Ella Street
- 17 Watchman Editorial Meeting

APRIL

- 8 Pesach commences with Seder in the evening
- 9 1st day Pesach and second night with Seder
- 10 2nd day Pesach
- 15 7th day Pesach
- 16 8th day Pesach festival ends in the evening



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

from Stuart Fredenthal

On behalf of the Hull Jewish Ex Servicemen / women, I wrote to Diana Johnson MP, to congratulate her on becoming a Dame Commander and she replied:

*Dear Stuart,
Thank you so much for the letter and very kind message upon my becoming a Dame. It means a great deal to me that you wrote on behalf of the Hull Jewish Ex servicemen/women as well as personally.
With very best wishes,
Diana.*

COMMUNAL DIARY - REMINDER

In order to avoid clashes would all organisers of communal activities please consult the communal diary before arranging/advertising their event.

The Communal Diary is now held by ANNA GRANTHAM, who will make bookings for the COMMUNAL DIARY, private and charity bookings for the use of HHC COMMUNITY HALL, and HEADSTONE CONSECRATIONS for Ella Street and Marfleet Cemeteries.

Anna can be contacted on **01482 448700** or **07802539667** or annabash@hotmail.co.uk

THE MINYAN MEN



THE MINYAN WANTS YOU!

A big word of thanks to ALL those gentlemen who were present on 25th December, to ensure a minyan for my late mother's yahrzeit (z"l), and also for the shiva of the late Cyril Brown (z"l).

A special word of thanks to the visitors from Grimsby and New York! I cannot recall there ever being so many attending for a mid-week

