



L'Chayim

1st May - 30th June 2018

20th Iyar - 17 Tammuz 5778

Date	Parasha /Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
5th May Saturday	Shabbat	Special guest Clive Gilbert of Menorah Synagogue	B'har Leviticus 25:39-26:2	Redeeming enslaved kinsmen
12th May Saturday	Shabbat Blessing for Sivan	Richard Choueke	B'chukkotai Leviticus 27:14-34	Valuation of vows
19th May Saturday	Shabbat. Shavuot	Matt Suher	B'midbar Numbers 3:40-4:9	Redemption of the first- born
26th May Saturday	Shabbat	Joan Brooke	Naso Numbers 6:22-7:11	Priestly blessing;
2nd June Saturday	Shabbat	Mina Abram - Hebblethwaite	B'ha'alot'cha Numbers 11:30-12:16	Quails for food in the wilderness
Friday 8th June	Friday night service and chavurah	Fortune Chamberlain		At Mary and Harry Kessler's residence (Phone office for details)
9th June Saturday	Shabbat Blessing for Tammuz	Fortune Chamberlain	Sh'lach L'cha Numbers 15:22-41	Offerings for unintentional sins
16th June Saturday	Shabbat	Susan Fox	Korach Numbers 18:20-32	Tithes due to Levites and Priests
23rd June	Shabbat	Joan Brooke	Chukkat Numbers 21:1-20	Israelites speak against God.
30th June	Shabbat 70th Anniversary of our synagogue	Rabbi Laura Janner- Klausner	Balak Numbers 24:1-25	Defeat of Amorites



Refreshments are available from 10.30am., on Saturdays. Please ensure these are not taken into services. Services start punctually 11am on Saturdays, 7pm Friday nights.

Please ensure mobile phones are switched to not disturb the service.

Please mention to the wardens prior to the commencement of the service any special prayers or inclusions you wish for in the service.

Chavurah meals are always vegetarian.- please bring something suitable for this community meal so that your kindness can be shared by all.

Thank you for your cooperation.

For those receiving L'Chayim by e-mail, you can print off your own calendar for display at home.



**7th July is Benji Sachs' Bar Mitzvah. Rabbi Elf will officiate.
Please lend your support and enjoy the occasion.
The Sachs family kindly invite you
to join them for the kiddush after the service.**



On occasions when we are unable to offer a service, we have been advised we can go to The Home (81 Albert Road) to attend the service there. If you wish to attend, you must contact Mr Brian King (Chairman of the Home), tel. 01704 565621, no later than Thursday afternoon prior to the service for security reasons. The home is orthodox, men and married women will need to cover their heads.

The Synagogue's 70th Anniversary Celebration by invitation only



Saturday 30th June, 2018

at the Synagogue,
Princes Street, Southport, PR8 1EG

Shabbat Service at **10.45am**,
led by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner,
followed by a kiddush lunch, and an afternoon of sharing memories.

If you have not received an invitation, please contact the synagogue office,
by 30th May at the latest.

Member of the Movement
for Reform Judaism



Registered Charity 227576

Synagogue Office:

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Southport Reform Shul

EMERGENCIES: contact the office: if it is closed, there is a directive answer machine.

The Sternberg Centre
home to the Movement
for Reform Judaism



General Enquires:
02083495724

www.reformjudaism.org.uk



Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, the Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism, was born in London and raised in north London, and attended South Hampstead High School. As a young girl, Laura regularly travelled to constituency surgeries at the weekends with her father, Greville Janner, a QC and then a Labour Member of Parliament. Janner-Klausner's great-uncle, Emeritus Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Sir Israel Brodie, had a profound influence on her thinking. Her siblings are Marion Janner OBE, a mental health campaigner, and Daniel Janner QC, a barrister. Initially a member of Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, a congregation affiliated to the United Synagogue of Orthodox British Jews, Janner-Klausner has frequently cited her Bat Mitzvah as a pivotal moment.

Laura was so disaffected by the experience she left Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue the very next day. Laura subsequently became involved in youth activities at Alyth Gardens Reform Synagogue near Golders Green, developing a passion for Reform Judaism's values of egalitarianism and social justice and expressing interest in becoming a Rabbi as young as 14 years old.

After her degree in Christianity, she moved to Jerusalem where she lived for 14 years. She met her partner, David in Israel and they are blessed by three children, all born in Jerusalem. Rabbi Laura worked in education in Israel, with Jews at the Machon, the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad and at Melitz, where she worked as the Director of the Centre for Christian Encounters with Israel and in training Israeli-Palestinian dialogue facilitators and Palestinian tour guides in Bethlehem. Rabbi Laura has post-graduate degrees in Community Centre Management from the Hebrew University and an MA in Jewish communal service and education from Brandeis University, Massachusetts.

Laura returned to London in 1999 and completed her rabbinic studies in 2004. She worked at Alyth (North Western Reform Synagogue) from 2003 until 2011, when she became Reform Judaism's Senior Rabbi. In her position, Janner-Klausner represents a progressive Jewish voice to British Jewry and the wider public, speaking on affairs including Israel-Palestine, social justice, same-sex marriage and interfaith relations. Janner-Klausner is a regular broadcaster on programmes such as BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought and BBC One's The Big Questions and Sunday Morning Live. In November 2014, The Huffington Post reported that Janner-Klausner was "fast becoming the most high-profile Jewish leader in the country" and described her as "wildly likeable, emphatic, intense, and outspoken". She is currently writing a book on the theme of resilience.

Rabbi Laura has visited our synagogue previously. She remains supportive of our synagogue, enabling us to welcome Student Rabbis from Leo Baeck College. She is committed to supporting synagogues large and small within Reform Judaism. She is meeting in the next few weeks the Northern synagogue Chairpersons, in Manchester.

SHAVUOT

by Susan Fox

One of my favourite festivals in the Jewish calendar! Shavuot means "weeks" and originally had no greater purpose than concluding Pesach.

In the agricultural year, Pesach was the time of the barley harvest and Shavuot the wheat harvest, with the correct time to cut wheat being 50 days after the barley is ripe.

[Counting of the Omer (Hebrew: ספירת העומר, Sefirat HaOmer, sometimes abbreviated as Sefira or the Omer) is an important verbal counting of each of the forty-nine days between the Jewish holidays of Passover and Shavuot as stated in the Hebrew Bible: Leviticus 23:15–16. This mitzvah derives from the Torah commandment to count forty-nine days beginning from the day on which the Omer, a sacrifice containing an omer-measure of barley, was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem, up until the day before an offering of wheat was brought to the Temple on Shavuot.]

Shavuot commemorates the season of the giving of the Torah (z'man matan torateinu) and is a re-enactment each year of the giving and receiving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The focal point of the synagogue morning service on Shavuot is the reading of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 19 and 20, with the congregation standing, as though to symbolise the fact that we are receiving the revelation afresh.



The Haftarah that is associated with Shavuot is the Book of Ruth for several reasons.

Firstly, Ruth's coming to Israel took place around the time of Shavuot and her acceptance into the Jewish faith is comparable to the acceptance by the Jewish people of the Torah.

Secondly, it is said that Ruth was both born and died at Shavuot. Thirdly in relation to the harvest cycle, she asserted the rights of the poor to glean the leftovers of the barley harvest.

The eve of Shavuot is associated with the tradition of staying up all night to study (Tikkun Leyl Shavuot). Progressive Judaism allows more flexibility to participate in this, by holding a religious quiz instead, either on Erev Shavuot or after the morning service.

Traditional foods for Shavuot are dairy, to symbolise "the land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8) namely cheesecake, blintzes and bourekas (Sephardi tradition). Also, the physical nourishment gained from milk can be compared to the spiritual nourishment gained from the Torah.



Editorial



*Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,
editors of L'Chayim*

It has been a busy couple of months at the synagogue. This edition reports some of the events. Now that the AGM's afternoon tea is completed on 29th April, we can look forward to our 70th Anniversary shabbat, and the following week Benji Sachs' Bar Mitzvah.

For those that were present at the community seder night you will be familiar with Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk, who so competently led this year's seder. Emerging news, I am pleased to inform you, is that Peter will be leading our High Holy Days services this year. We can look forward to the end of the year knowing we have some great times ahead.

This L'Chayim reports on the new initiative for the community with regard to trying to make the synagogue more cohesive as a community. Sadly, we report two deaths, though also birthdays. The last edition reported on births. The synagogue, and this magazine tries to reflect life as seen by the community of Southport and District Reform Synagogue.

We are grateful to receive your correspondence and thoughts. Selwyn, as last year's Chairman has taken the opportunity of publishing the annual Chairman's report in this edition - a bit like the "State of the Union" report, only shorter!

Please support the other North Western synagogue's events, as they support us. We are off to Liverpool Reform Synagogue this weekend, to represent our synagogue at their 90th Anniversary shabbat service. Who knows where **we** will be in another 20 years?

You may want to see this superb promotional video about Reform Judaism sent to us personally by Rabbi Laura:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMUqtRFWp_M&feature=youtu.be



Many people read the newspaper religiously every day

Follow the synagogue on Facebook.

What better way to stay in contact with your friends?



Become a Facebook friend of the Southport & District Reform Synagogue. Circulate your photographs of our events and get together.

Make new friends. Keep in contact.

Facebook :

Southport Reform Shul



What do Angel's really have for breakfast?

Naughty but nice

The **"Not So Dead Jewish Recipe Society"**
event in our synagogue on Saturday 17th March -

a report by Selwyn Goldthorpe

All of us that were able to attend the shabbat service of 17th March (ParashaVa-yikra, Leviticus 5:1-23) found ourselves both educated, entertained, and well fed. What a great shabbat!

We were pleased, and honoured to welcome friends from Menorah Synagogue for the shabbat, Reuben Saffer (Chairman of Menorah Synagogue) as service leader, and 'The Not so Dead Recipe Society (Stephen and Judy). Was there life? Yes there was!

The shabbat was meant to have a bit of a food theme, after all there was the promise of a chavurah at the end of the service, and a quiz (with prizes!) about food. A subject next to most Jewish hearts (well, I did learn some anatomy). It was not a surprise that the service, like food, was a bit of a fusion. Southport and District Synagogue have our own, fairly unique, tunes and Menorah likewise. Reuben was deftly able to combine our service music with his, in what turned out to be a very pleasant service. It was nice to see, and hear Paul Lippa resume his singing; he was able to come to the synagogue after his serious injuries from a road traffic accident. We were all able to wish him well on the road to a full recovery.

Reuben read from the Torah with great clarity. The parasha is about sin (that's the naughty bit), how to atone for one's sins, as well as establishing the principle that you should only pay what you can afford. A principle of what should be our fair tax system? (We debated the merits of VAT after the service). Also, this is a principle of being a member of a synagogue.

Instead of a sermon there was a moral story concerning angels having breakfast at the heavenly table and noting how one religious man was able to forgo the right of communal worship so that the rest of his community was manipulated psychologically to carry out their religious obligations. I true fusion of sin and food, but for all the best of intentions. Well done Reuben at finding such a relevant Talmudic teaching for the day.

(continued, next page for the dessert)



If the service was the main course, the chavurah and food quiz was the dessert. Our visitors thought they were coming over from Manchester and would have few nibbles. There was our usual splendid banquet (all, both naughty and nice.) This is what happens when you ask shul members to bring along their favourite foods for a chavurah! There was so much of quality from the main courses to the desserts. It was impossible to eat it all. Unfortunately, I may have to have what is left of Gillian's tiramisu for breakfast (though why it was not mentioned to be at the angels' heavenly table, I do not know), for lunch, and for tea - and perhaps the next day as well. It is a Jewish thing to over cater!

The quiz, including pictures, was something of a challenge even for the 'foodies' amongst us. Although some questions were down to earth ("Before eating a tomato do you say the blessing for fruit of the tree or fruit of the earth?"), others were of a more prickly nature ("What is the fruit of the sabra"?). I merely put our (Neil and myself) relatively poor performance down to a life long lack of body weight. My Mother always told me that if I didn't eat fish I would lack brain food! Never argue with a Jewish Mother. Perhaps having tiramisu for breakfast will help?

It was a 'souper' quiz. Thank you. Our thanks, also, to Clarissa Hyman, food writer, food critic, from Menorah Synagogue, founder member of The Not So Dead Recipe Society, for providing the prizes. We were sorry you were not able to come over on the day to vote our chavurah the best in the North West - perhaps another occasion?

This shabbat was about sin (naughty), and it was really nice of our friends from Menorah Synagogue to come over to Southport for our shabbat. (see photo below) **Many thanks.**





In an age of change, some things remind us of the past.

Our Synagogue's Seder Night, Friday 30th March 2018



*Above, the synagogue ready for the seder
Left, Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk who so competently led this year's seder, and the shabbat Pesach service.*



*Just made the seder!
Selwyn Goldthorpe, discharged from hospital the day before, is compelled to sit still.*



It was a special occasion for Fortune Chamberlain - her birthday!

cont. next page



*A special passover cake
- made with matzos and filled with Nutella!*

Left: Fortune is presented with her seder night birthday cake.

We all sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A big thank you to all those folk that turned up to help, kosher the kitchen, set the tables, prepare the food, wash up, and tidy up. It was a great communal occasion. Our grateful thanks to Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk for his lovely, relaxed, service.

**Next year in Southport
and District
Reform Synagogue!**



Below: thank you received

Above: Fortune, Gillian, and Anne, prior to seder night, about to do terrible things in the kitchen wearing rubber gloves

31/3/2018

Thank you to everyone at the shul for a very nice Seder night. It was lovely being able to participate in a very special evening.

The service evoked lots of memories of Seder nights with my family when I was a girl.

The food was delicious. Many thanks to everyone for their hard work.

Love from *Ruth* (Bord)



Celebration evening of Israel for **Yom Ha'Atzmaut** with Student Rabbi Iris , Friday night, 20th April , and the shabbat.



You are never too young to celebrate a birthday, even if in her Mother Laura's arms, baby Delilah Hoskin will not remember this in 70 years time.

There are not many of us around to remember the formation of Israel. However, we were treated to rare, personal insights of what it meant to be living in Israel when the Yom Kippur war broke out. Shelly Yavetz gave us a moving account of her personal view of the war, and how Israel is a developing nation (see below)

Due to the interest shown in the parasha , and making the most of having Student Rabbi Iris Marie-José Gonzalez learning, we were unable to utilise the time needed to learn of the development of the Israeli educational system from Shelly. That must wait for another occasion. We only just managed to get Iris back on the train home with 15 minutes spare, such was the amount that was crammed into this Yom Ha'Atzmaut shabbat.

Our thanks to Neil and Fortune Chamberlain for the decorations in the shul. The learning, the music, the great food, all went to make this a rather special birthday celebration.

(ed. Selwyn Goldthorpe).



My 42 Year Sojourn in Eretz Israel

or

“You can take the girl out of Israel

but you can’t take Israel out of the girl”

By Shelley Yavetz



The story of my life in Israel would be incomplete without talking about, “ How I got there”.....

I grew up in a traditional Jewish home in Liverpool. My family were regular orthodox shul-goers and we has a strong sense of community identity. My father had always been an ardent Zionist and our blue JNF box was regularly filled with coins, emptied and refilled for more contributions. Dad would read me books about Jewish History and about the struggle to establish the modern state of Israel. He encouraged my brother Mike and I to attend Zionist youth movement

Shelley, teaching at Kibbutz Kfar Menachem in 1987

- “Habonim” from a young age and soon we were attending summer and winter nationwide camps and well as local Liverpool meetings. I became a “madricha”, a youth leader and increasingly involved. Aged 17 I went to West Sussex to work and study at the the David Eder Farm, a Habonim venture that trained young leaders for a future life on Kibbutz in Israel. My brother made Aaliyah before me in a “Garim” (a core group) destined for Kibbutz Best Ha’emek in the Western Galil and I ,aged 19, joined a garim headed for Kibbutz Amiad in the upper Galil. In the early spring 1967, rumours of a future war abounded and mass military mobilisation began throughout Israel. Our garim was asked to come out earlier then expected to replace vital manpower on the kibbutz and so it was that we arrived 3 days prior to The Six Day War in June 1967. Naturally I thought I was going to save the kibbutz singlehanded, and perform daring and heroic acts, but alas , I spent most of my time working in a communal laundry, washing, mending and ironing! After the war we returned to England to organise our “real” aliyah and in November 1967 ,returned by ship, The SS.Moledet (picture right) to the port of Haifa. /cont. page12



My 42 Year Sojourn in Eretz Israel

I continued to live on Kibbutz Amiad, working in the Children's Communal Education Houses- "Batei Yeladim" and the fancying a stint in the army, volunteered for the "Nachal" (agricultural corps) unit. As a new immigrant, it was a shortened service, but gave me a good taste of Israeli life, I made new friends and improved my Hebrew. A new experimental urban Kibbutz based in Karmiel (between Acco and Safed) wanted young people to join its existing members, many of whom were ex-Habonim. The idea was to live in a development town, live economically, communally, but to work in our professions; in education, urban planning, medicine, science and industry, and become integral part of the fledgling town . We were a deeply ideological group and forged strong ties with neighbouring Arab villages with Christian Muslim and Druise, where I taught extra-curricular English classes for high school students. The group also ran a children's nursery which catered for our collective's children and local town families .

The Yom Kippur War of 1973 altered peoples' lives, the urban kibbutz disbanded and my husband and I moved to Mount Carmel, Haifa where my daughter Tali was born. Life in Haifa was very pleasant socially and culturally, but over the years I became increasingly drawn to the spirituality of Jerusalem , to its endless Jewish study options and in the early 80's it was still an intimate "shtetl". I had been teaching English as a foreign language Northern Israel and quickly found similar teaching jobs in the Jerusalem area.

But in the "holy City" all surprises are possible ! One day, I walked into the Jerusalem International Y.M.C.A. building (*picture right*) to register my daughter for a ballet class and an Armenian friend who worked there asked if I would like a job which combined secretarial work, translation and part-time teaching. The Y.M.C.A. stipulation was fast typing in Hebrew, which I couldn't do! So naturally I got the job !!! In Israel the impossible is possible! I spent 5 wonderful years



working at the "Y" which was situated opposite the luxurious King David Hotel.

All the staff were a mixture of Jerusalemites,

Muslims, Christians Armenians, and Jews, working and co-operating together. A little

pocket of sanity and co-existence!! It can bedoen! The "Y"'s kids and adult members swam played sports, attended activities, concerts and sang in choirs together. the "Y" ran a bi-lingual (Ariabic and Hebrew) Kindergarten for the Jewish, Muslim and Christian Arab children. The English evening classes I taught were attended by Christian clergy, Muslim educators and non-English speaking Israelis.

Sadly when the first intifada erupted in 1987, life changed and our idyllic bubble was somewhat shattered. In the years that followed , I returned to full-time English teaching and worked with varying populations. My kibbutz high school work was divided between the "B'nei Meshek" (children born to Kibbutz members) and groups of "Chevrot Noar"

My 42 Year Sojourn in Eretz Israel

or “Yaldei Chutz” (children who grew up in impoverished or disadvantaged families) and were sent to Kibbutz for better educational and social opportunities. They were “ adopted” by kibbutz families and many of them later joined as members, married and raised children there.

Working with the latter group was highly rewarding. Israel has pioneered special methods of remedial teaching and social enrichment programs as the country has had to develop educational tools to successfully absorb immigrants from so many different origins since the establishment of the state in 1948. Another example of an immigrant group that required special teaching methods is the Ethiopian sector. Many families spoke “ Amharit” at home but as an oral language so the children had to learn to read and write in Hebrew and subsequently acquire high school English. My wonderful students at an ORT Further Education College in Jerusalem worked extremely hard to pass their

English “Bagrut” exam (G.C.S.E.).

Some years after my son, Maor, was born, I decided to retire from classroom teaching, return to university and specialise in more defined remedial work on a “one to one” basis. I left the Education Ministry and opened a private teaching practice, teaching students with learning difficulties ages 9-18 years. As my work practice was at home , I was able to combine teaching with feeding the ever hungry students who enjoyed my microwaved schnitzels! The house was filled with students, their parents and my son’s friends!

On a sad note, life in Jerusalem from the mid 90’s was beset by bus bombings and terrorist attacks. This did not improve in the millennium years, when the second intifada took hold. Buses were blown up en route to the city centre and coffee shops and pizza restaurants were relentlessly targeted. We were “dodging death” as we tried to get our children to and from school, go shopping and attempt to live normal lives. An example of our family’s “near miss” was a bus no. 14 bombing, en route from our leafy Beth Hakerem neighbourhood at 8.00 am. My son, Maor is alive because he had stayed overnight at a friend’s house in another neighbourhood and took a

different route to school. His close friend B’naya was on the bus with an amazing teacher and colleague of mine , Genya. Both of them were among the passengers who lost their lives that day. My early morning school class had been cancelled and so I too was “spared” as I was still at home when the attack took place. Friends from all over Israel constantly checked in with Jerusalemites and phoned after every attack to ask “ Are you OK?” It became a “way of life” and we adjusted to the necessity of daily security checks everywhere.

But life went on and despite the security issues my memories of life in Jerusalem are warm and vibrant. If I close my eyes, I can picture Jerusalem’s holy sites, the beauty of the panorama from Mount Scopus and smell the delicious aroma of cakes, halva, dates and nuts from the cafes in Machaneh Yehudah food market in downtown Jerusalem

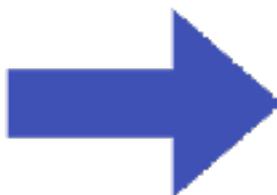
My fervent prayer for Israel’s 70th Birthday is for peace and understanding:

*“Where there is hatred , let there be love.
Where there is war, let there be peace
Where there is death, let there be life”*

Shelly.



Teacher to Visitor



Anne Kletz, has been responsible for the Jewish education of our young people for the last 14 years, as our cheder teacher. We are indebted to her dedication, knowledge, and talent in making cheder so vibrant, offering our young people a meaningful, Reform Jewish Education. Her task has resulted in many extra hours of work and commitment on behalf of the synagogue. Thank you from all of us for the work you have done with our young people. You, and ourselves, can be proud of them. We hope they continue with their religious education and social life in the years to come.

Anne has from June decided to retire from the world of education, and I am pleased to announce she has accepted and has been appointed by the synagogue as the **community outreach liaison**.

What does this mean? Well, we have an older membership, some of whom find it difficult to come to the synagogue. We do not have a regular Rabbi. Anne will help to bring our community closer together. There should be no reason as to why age, infirmity, or illness should be a barrier in feeling part of the Jewish community. We hope, Anne will assist in bringing a little well being to those too infirm or ill to enjoy the benefits of synagogue life.



All of this is with the consent of those people contacted. Please expect the synagogue to offer a little more community care than perhaps we have in the past!

A synagogue is more than for praying. Belonging to our synagogue means you associate with the values of Reform Judaism, and that means no one should feel isolated from the community, and when ill, to know that we are both praying for your health to be restored, and to do whatever we can, as a community, to help, even if this means receiving a visitor to try to cheer you up, to be your advocate, or just someone on whom you can off load your thoughts and feelings, or even to help relieve the boredom of what can be long days!

Anne has the support of Rabbis Robert Ash, and for pastoral care Rabbi Norman Zalud (thank you). She also has the support of the Movement for Reform Judaism, now known as Reform Judaism (RJ). We are as part of this initiative trying to gather some information as to how we can improve on our commitment to helping those that feel left out.

Don't forget, you should have received an invitation, to come to your synagogue's 70th anniversary celebration on 30th June when we will have a service lead by RJs Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner. We hope that as many of the Rabbis that have been of assistance, over the years, to the synagogue, and student rabbis, will be able to attend.
(ed. Selwyn Goldthorpe)

Cheder Report

from Anne Kletz



As most of you already know, I am stepping down from my role in Cheder after 14 years. The years have been a learning curve for me as well as the children! Much has changed in that time – the number of children, the fact few families live locally and indeed the actual day Cheder is held – we were one of the first communities to move Cheder to a Shabbat morning.

I have always appreciated the support of the community in allowing Cheder the freedom to develop a curriculum around the children and in providing any resources required. Cheder members are made aware of this and their responsibilities as part of the community.

I am also grateful that the community has accepted that changing times have meant an adjustment for Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation, with less emphasis on synagogue services and the introduction of ongoing group projects alongside the study of their Torah portion. Indeed their latest project, looking at the Journeys of the Jewish People, has yet to be presented.



So often I have heard the ‘In my day you couldn’t have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah unless you had attended every Friday night and Shabbat morning service, every festival service’.....and I assume studied all night on Shavuot! Please be assured that despite the change of emphasis, the young people still demonstrate a strong commitment and enthusiasm for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah studies, as evidenced by their presentations on their important day.

Presentation of flowers, a thank you card and Amazon voucher by Chairman, Selwyn Goldthorpe to Anne Kletz at the Synagogue’s AGM, in recognition of her 14 years of teaching cheder.

Chairman's News



from Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe

The appointment of Anne Kletz as your synagogue's community outreach liaison will help to alleviate the isolation and detachment we feel (even if they don't!), of the individuals that are members of our synagogue community.

If you are approached by Anne, please do your best to form a bridge with her, and the synagogue, as we feel that synagogue life is likely to enhance the quality of your own life. Socially, and especially after the loss of a partner, synagogue life has proven to be of benefit to those feeling a little lost. Your support also helps others in the community.

It would be wrong to think that experience has nothing to offer. Just having company, and being part of something has its own benefits. We all have a baseline experience of being Jewish!

If you were unable to enjoy the tea and cakes of the AGM on 29th April, you will have missed out! To make amends for this, I urge you to read my review of the Chairmanship for this year that has gone, as I spoke to the fortunates in attendance at the AGM :

“Last year, if you remember, I likened our synagogue to the Titanic. A great ship, steering a course, with most passengers choosing to remain in their cabins. In fairness, perhaps a rowing boat would have been a better analogy, as Southport and District Synagogue is dependent on the services of a small number of ‘active rowers’- people that ‘do’.

I am honoured to have been your Chairman for another year, working with ‘the enthusiastic’ that keep this synagogue going forwards.

Our thanks should especially go to **Lisa** (Sachs) for surviving her ‘Annus horribilis’ (that is spelt with two N’s, for those that are more medically inclined). Thanks to her organisational skills, we emerged from the rather wet, and dark hole of this winter’s burst pipe, with a synagogue building ‘reborn’. Nothing floored her! We were mopped, re-housed, redecorated, re-floored, re-carpeted, and re-air conditioned. Like a butterfly, the Synagogue emerged from its winter of metamorphosis, more beautiful than ever. We still have some work to do with the insulation around the ceiling to prevent another disaster, but on the whole we emerged intact.



Our thanks to all those that helped in our time of need. Those willing to give up their homes for shabbat services. **Neil and Fortune Chamberlain** for their furniture removals. **Isa McDermott, Richard Sachs**, and **Tony Kletz** for their man-power. Gillian and I were pleased to come back from New Zealand and find most of the hard work had been done. Neil busy with

the ceiling repairs (thank you), and Tony, Isa and myself with dividing the dividing doors, and their disposal.

My continued thanks for the support of the synagogue executive: **Duly, Richard, Fortune and Tony**, for their common sense and advice in dealing with some difficult circumstances. It is impossible to solely take the blame for everything! Fortune, in her absence today, I would like to thank you for your nightmare role of organising the shul service rota, and Tony for his diligence in ensuring that the accounts and membership fees are run on a proper basis. My dear wife, **Gillian**, who is willing to get stuck into almost any mad scheme, including this winter up to her knees in snow, whilst we trekked in Antarctica! We did managed to produce L'Chayim from New Zealand. We have shopped and cooked, lifted and lugged, cleaned, and washed. My wife has many assets - I think you would agree her Pavlovas are wonderful! It all goes to make the seder night a success and raise some funds for the shul.

Our thanks to **Rabbi Robert Ash** for his voluntary support of the synagogue, High Holy Day Services, and advice to me. Our friends from around the North West continue to be very supportive, especially the members from **Menorah Synagogue**. We were very grateful to have **Dr Stephen Waldek** help with our succot service. I special thank you to Shelley Yavetz for her help and for the highly thoughtful Purim service. Without all our lay readers, we could not continue to have services- our grateful thanks.

We are also very thankful for the generosity of those lending their homes for our marvelous Friday night chavurahs - thank you to all of you that have helped out this year, and pleased God, next year in all our homes!

We are most grateful to **Gertrude Lutchner** for her work in organising the Bridge Club and their donation over many years of as many thousands of pounds to the synagogue. It is with sadness that the formal Bridge Club can no longer meet, though I am please to hear that Gertrude continues with an informal meet at her home. Gertrude would wish that any remaining Bridge Club funds are spent on bibles for shul.



Sarita Robinson (*photo left*) from Reform Judaism, has been a source of support and advice - we are indebted to her, and the support staff from Reform Judaism, who are doing more and more to make the smaller synagogues of the north feel less isolated.

After so many years of dedicated work with our children's education, **Anne Kletz** is retiring from her role as head teacher of cheder, this June, after Benji's Bar Mitzvah. Cheder will need to be reshaped, to account for the future, and the smaller numbers. This is a challenge to the parents and the community as a whole. I am pleased to be able to tell you that Anne has accepted, and been appointed, to our new role of community visitor. Thank you.

[We presented Anne with a bouquet and Amazon gift voucher, as you saw on page 12.]

If Lewis Carroll wrote about the Mad Hatter's tea party, and here we are, Charles Dickens wrote about the Ghosts of the Past, Present and Future.

In this, our 70th Anniversary Year of Southport, and now District, Reform Synagogue, we can reflect on what our founders wanted for Southport. This synagogue stands on the shoulders of those, who by their hard work, generosity, and foresight, foresaw a role for reform judaism in Southport. This synagogue is a registered charity. It is not just about paying a fee and getting a service. It represents the future of reform judaism in Southport, brought about by the voluntary work of those willing to give. It is about giving, and building a community. What can you do to help? Rather than what can you get. Would Southport be a better place without a Reform Synagogue?



The Ghost of the Past, is the past. Thanks to our continued prudence in running the synagogue and the hire of our our space, the financial situation of this synagogue is lot healthier than the terminal prognosis of 2 years life expectancy that I inherited, when I took over the Chairmanship.

Is there a Ghost of the Present ? We have an active synagogue, this year with bar and bat mitzvahs, visiting rabbis, student rabbis, supporting rabbis, parties, and social events. We have had the support of other reform jewish communities around the north west. The Senior Rabbi of Reform Judaism will be here to lead our 70th Anniversary service. We should be proud of what is being achieved.



As for the Ghost of the Future? This is clearly in our hands. I hope that the new role of the community visitor, with the support I gained from the Reform Movement's funding, will bring our community closer together. What we need to build, is not just a synagogue with nice flooring, but a strong, community that identifies with the values of Reform Judaism, with this synagogue as a religious, community, meeting house.

I have outreached to our friends in other reform synagogues around the North West, and have been gratified to have the support of Council and the community in seeing what we can build together. I will be attending the steering committee of the study that has been commissioned by Reform Judaism, headed by Menorah Synagogue in Manchester, as it seeks to shape the future of our small communities. The future is in our hands. Southport and District Reform Synagogue is not just about taking. We do, as a small community, punch above our weight in numbers. Quality! I hope to one day also have quantity.

As Chairman, I am grateful to be associated with such quality.

Thanks to you all ”.



How you all managed to lift those heavy dividing doors from the synagogue, after the 'Great Flood', fills me with respect for the effort and muscle power needed.

Thank goodness I was in New Zealand otherwise who knows I may have ended up hospitalised!



The masterplan was to remove the piled up doors from the sukkah to the tip, with help (saving the synagogue quite a bit of money). My thanks therefore to Isa McDermott, and Tony Kletz for their help with this task. An angle grinder, a circular saw and a camper van transit saw the doors safely removed to the tip. A job well done, and deserving of a cup of tea! (SG)



Have you had enough to eat?

Remember to put your spare in date food cans, packets, and toiletries in the charity box near to the front doors of the synagogue.

Nothing goes to waste.



Rabbinic Support

Although the synagogue does not have a full time Rabbi, we do have Rabbinic support and of course the co-operation of other nearby communities. Rabbi Norman Zalud now offers the synagogue pastoral support for personal issues. Rabbi Robert Ash offers support to our services and for Jewish learning. Rabbi Elf supports our services on request. Student Rabbis will continue to support our synagogue for services and education, thanks to Reform Judaism.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

MAY

JUNE

Available to members
only



Mazel tov!

Go on, have a party!



If you wish to use the synagogue function room for a celebration, please contact the office.

There are reduced rates for synagogue members!



Did you know that the synagogue is having a special birthday this year, 2018?

If you would like to be part of the celebration organisers please get in contact with any member of Executive, or Lisa, in the synagogue office.



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

90th Birthday

of Liverpool Reform Synagogue

We were honoured to be invited, on shabbat, 28th April, to the 90th anniversary celebratory service of Liverpool Reform Synagogue, along with local civic and religious representatives. The service was led by Rabbi Warren Elf, with Rabbi Norman Zalud having a aliyah as he has been associated with the development of Liverpool Reform Synagogue for a third of its life!



Liverpool Reform Synagogue is the 5th oldest reform synagogue in the country. It was formed in 1928, known at that time as the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Liverpool, it occupied a former orthodox synagogue in Hope Place. In the 1960s, due to structural problems, it was forced to move premises. The building at 28 Church Road North was a Grade 2 listed building with a huge back garden. By 1966, on 25th January, a new building was dedicated by the late Alan Isaac, MBE. The building came with a 16 year guarantee!

In 1976 the name was changed to Liverpool Progressive Synagogue, the services becoming more traditional. After some years the financial burden of keeping a Grade 2 listed building was telling, and the decision was made to sell the synagogue and rebuild a new synagogue.

The new synagogue was opened on 20th December 2003, the first day of Chanukah. The synagogue is of a modern design and is multifunctional. It caters for the large number of children within the congregation with ties to King David School, which is not far away. I believe the majority of Jewish children at King David School now are from a Reform Jewish background.

Liverpool Reform Synagogue is like our synagogue, outward looking, and joins us with other Northwestern Reform Synagogues in forging closer ties as a Reform Jewish community. Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner, Senior Rabbi of Reform Judaism, unfortunately could not be present at the service as she was at the European Union for Progressive Judaism's biennial conference in Prague, however she sent a message saying that Liverpool Reform Synagogue was associated with a spirit of warmth and solidarity. She sent her best wishes, and Sarita Robinson, on behalf of Reform Judaism, presented the synagogue with a framed certificate commemorating the contribution that the community has made to Reform Judaism over its 90 years of existence. Mazal tov and our best wishes for the future development of Liverpool Reform Synagogue from all at Southport & District Reform.



yahrzeits (יאָרצײַט)

during this issue of
L'Chayim

We remember their contribution to our lives:

Yahrzeits in May

Malcolm Landau, Husband of Janet

Edgar Mercer, Husband of Valerie

Isaac Solomon, Father of Trudy Turnbull

Alice Hakim, Mother of Fortune Chamberlain

Nancy Cohen – Mother of Sue Greenberg and John Cohen

Yahrzeits in June

Rebbetsen Lily Kay – Mother of Helen Kay and Truda Bell

Mavis Horwich – Friend of Richard and Faith Choueke

Wallace Davis – Husband of Edna, Father of Neil

Nell Caplan – Sister of Cyril Polansky

Edna Mair – Mother of Andrea Cooke

Roger Stone – Father of Jason

The congregation on shabbat have the opportunity to reflect on those that have helped to make us, make our community, and contribute to the world we at present live in. **MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING.**

Please be in shul so we can together remember our loved ones.

Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the synagogue. Do try to be in shul for your yahrzeit.

If you wish to sponsor a page in L'Chayim, this can be done for a minimum of £10. You can pay more if you wish. Please contact the office.

To advertise a business or an event, there is £10 minimum charge, or for a full page £40. L'Chayim is distributed around the Jewish community with an interest in Southport and District Reform Synagogue, this includes country members, and friends of the synagogue. (ed).

Why waste postage? Place a greeting in L'Chayim to all your friends.

We are sad to report the death of our member Amanda Kerr on March 1st.,

Her funeral service took place at Springwood Crematorium followed by a burial at Allerton Cemetery, the service being led by Rabbi Norman Zalud.

Amanda lived in Childwall as a child and went to King David School there. She loved the creative arts and played the saxophone, clarinet, and enjoyed going to concerts. She was a determined person achieving anything she set her mind to. After her A levels she took a couple of years out to join the 489 Theatre in Education Group where she got the opportunity to continue her passion in the creative arts and also where she met her future husband, Ian.

In 1987, Amanda went to Ripon and York St John's college to study for a degree in TV, Film, Drama, and Dance. In 1988, Ian joined her in York and studied for a HND in 3D Design at York College of Art. In 1990 Ian went on to study for a degree in product design in Sheffield and a year after that, Amanda graduated and heard the calling of the bright lights and opportunities on offer in London.

In 1992, Amanda moved to London and worked as a PA for a film company, and then moved with her boss, when he started his own production company, to become a Producer. She worked on projects in the TV industry, including a stint in video production and work at London Contemporary Dance. Ian moved down to London in 1993 and they were married at Hendon Reform Synagogue in 1997.

In 2002, Amanda and Ian moved back up North to Southport to be nearer to their families. They started their own design business, designing large scale lighting, and furniture, for the hotel and restaurant sector.

Amanda was very young at heart but also loved crosswords and puzzles and enjoyed reading. She kept herself fit by going to gym, swimming, and pilates, with Ian.

She loved gardening and helped out at the Jewish home with painting and gardening and never complained about anything. She was compassionate and caring and always thought about others first and foremost.

Amanda was diagnosed with breast cancer. She faced the subsequent series of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy with strong determination supported all the way by Ian and finished treatment in January 2011.

In 2016 just 3 months after the death of Amanda's mother Ann, the cancer had unfortunately returned. She put on a strong and determined face to this diagnosis but unfortunately the cancer seemed to be stronger than the treatments and living her life as best as she could in the end she died peacefully and pain free on March 1st, with Ian holding her hand.

She told Rabbi Zalud they she had a happy life and lived it to the full and had no regrets. She adored her husband, Ian, whom she called her Soulmate. She knew she was truly loved by many people.

Our thoughts go out to her Husband Ian, her father, Gerald and her Brother Gary and all her family and friends.

Thank You to Rabbi Norman Zalud for excerpts from his eulogy

Harold Goldring

19 July 1938 - 1st March 2018



Harold was an attender at our services, as well as representing AJEX on behalf of us all . One of his many talents was that he served as a chef in the Army! He unfortunately had a fall and suffered from fatal internal bleeding. He was active until the fall, being seen at the Holocaust Memorial Day service and thereafter in our synagogue for shabbat.

Harold's Mother escaped from Poland during the Second World War. His Father had a DIY business in Liverpool. Harold was a Liverpoolian. A keen support of Liverpool Football Club and a season ticket holder. He was educated at The King David School.

Harold outlived his beloved wife, Pauline by 3 years. I know he missed her badly as he used to talk to me about his loss when we shared a cup of tea at the Thursday afternoon dance. Harold loved all types of music, liked dancing, and was especially fond of Rock and Roll.

Harold was a freemason, becoming The Worshipful Master of his lodge. Although he had met Pauline whilst doing shop work at Selfridges, his main occupation was as a salesman of windows and conservatories.

He was a much loved father, and grandfather. Always trying to be all things to all people, he could entertain with his jokes, and remained very social to the end. His funeral at the Southport Crematorium on Monday 19th March was well attended by family and friends. The sign of a life well lived.

*Doctor Selwyn Goldthorpe
Chairman of Southport & District Reform Synagogue.*



L'Chayim would be pleased to have you share your thoughts with the wider community on any aspect of Judaism relating to our community or of a general religious nature. What would you like to see happen in Southport & District Reform Synagogue? If you read something in L'Chayim you would like to comment on - just let us know. We also appreciate Jewish humour, news of family and friends.

Your opinion matters.

Menorah Weekender 11th - 13th May 2018

May the Weekender be with YOU

- Back at the luxurious HARTINGTON HALL...
- In May, so this year with added garden & sunshine (well, we can hope)
- Organised trip to Heights of Abraham Cable Cars and Matlock
- The Great Jewish Bake-Off is back !
- Israel, politics, Europe & the Jews, stimulating sessions with choices for all tastes
- Photos, klezmer, Israel, Kippah-making, zmirot and more !
- Havdallah, and the traditional highlight Shabbat service - and an alternative service
- Jewish culture, history, music, singing, dancing and...
- ...this year, with lots of extra added comedy [remove Woody Allen joke]
- JEWISH COMEDIAN OF THE YEAR year Philip Simon with his award-winning show on Saturday night, and comedy workshops throughout the day
- And that wonderful, warm community feeling...

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED on the rooms this year, so

DON'T DELAY, BOOK TODAY on the Menorah Website, under "Community"



LEARN FROM THE BEST...

**Comedy workshops with Jewish
Comedian of the Year, Philip Simon**

ONLY at Menorah Weekender, 11 May
– book now, beds strictly limited

PLUS exclusive Saturday night show



Need a
break?

In need of



The Southport Rest Home

*Choice of long or short stays,
permanent residency*

- *Friendly atmosphere**
- *24 hour care**
- *Rooms available at reasonable rates**
- *Excellent food from our Kosher kitchens**
- *Conservatory overlooking Hesketh Park**
- *Beautiful synagogue for your convenience**

Also available : self-contained flats

Enquiries to Dee on 01704 531975



The Home is looking for volunteers to take chair-bound residents out to the nearby local park and amenities.

If you can spare a little time for this mitzvah, please contact Julie on the above number. You are only young once!



A rabbi was once passing through a field where he saw a very old man planting an oak tree. 'Why are you planting that tree?' Said he. 'You surely do not expect to live long enough to see the acorn grow up into an oak tree?' 'Ah,' replied the old man, 'my ancestors planted trees not for themselves, but for us, in order that we might enjoy their shade and fruit. I am doing likewise for those who will come after me'

Talmud Ta'anit 23a

A legacy to Southport and District Reform Synagogue today is a special gift to our tomorrow.

After considering your family and friends, you may also want to leave an amount in your will to charities. Please consider making S&DRS one of your charities. S&DRS future will be all the more secure so that our children may continue to practice the religion of their choice in Southport.



The responsibility to protect what was given to us, build on it and pass it on to the next generation in a better, stronger state is incumbent on us all. The gift of continuity in your will, whether large or small, will help to ensure that our community will continue for generations to come.

L'dor v'dor—from generation to generation.

Remember S&DRS when writing your will. Even if you have already made a will, you can amend it at any time and make your gift by using a simple document, a codicil. We can provide the correct wording for this. It is always advisable to seek professional advice when drafting something as important as a will. S&DRS can supply you with details of a number of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.

Please give this some thought - your contribution can make a significant difference.





The following kind people have been elected to serve on the Council of Southport Reform Synagogue

Chairman	Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe
Vice Chair	Gillian Goldthorpe
Honorary Secretary	Fortune Chamberlain
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Kletz
Presiding Warden	Duly Platt

Other members of the Synagogue's Council :

Mina Abram-Hebblethwaite	Joan Brooke
Faith Choueke	Richard Choueke
Sue Fox	Harry Kessler
Anne Kletz	Matt Suher

'Let us come together in God's name and prepare to do God's will'

from Prayer for Committee Meetings, p 366 Siddur, Forms of Prayer 2008



Southport Reform & District Synagogue is a **registered charity, number 227576**.
Please be advised that our complaints procedure is available from the synagogue office.