



# L'CHAYIM

The Newspaper of Southport and District Reform Synagogue



## Gertrude Lutchner Born 1926 - Died 2022

Sadly, Gertrude Lutchner died on 14th November 2022.

She will be missed by so many people, including all those that knew her as a longstanding Synagogue member. Gertrude ran the Synagogue Bridge Club for many years. You will see a plaque to the right of the entrance doors, telling you of the financial help Gertrude and the club contributed to our Synagogue for those doors. Year on year the club contributed to the Synagogue funds.

Gertrude was not only a keen bridge player and founder member of the bridge club, she introduced and taught many people to play the game.

She was an amazing baker and loved nothing more than having all her family round the table for a meal, often preceded by a small sherry! One of the fondest memories shared by all is the family tradition of singing in the kitchen to Herb Albert's 'South of the Border', whilst washing up, using the pots and pans as instruments. The grandchildren loved this.

Gertrude was born in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, one of three sisters. She left school at 14 years old, wanting to be a nurse, however was too young. Consequently, she trained as a hairdresser. During this work, she met her husband to be, Josef, who was a barber. They worked in the same establishment, and continued with their occupations in Southport.

Gertrude was active in lots of charitable work. She was especially fond of the Red Cross, which was at that time a large organisation in Southport. She rose amongst its ranks to be a Red Cross Commandant and was always seen in the Synagogue wearing her small, enamelled, Red Cross badge. She was a volunteer for the National Blood Transfusion Service. She also found the time to raise a lot of money for the Christie Hospital (Manchester Cancer Service).

She was a Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Auntie, and friend to many. She will be sadly missed, no more so than by her son, David, and daughter Louise.

## Gertrude was indeed the 'Ace' in our hearts.

Her request was for Rabbi Norman Zalud to take her funeral service. This was well attended on a wet day, on the 17th November. Should you wish to make a donation in her name, then Gibb's Funeral Directors, Southport, are collecting on her behalf, for the **British Red Cross**. THANK YOU.

# EDITORIAL



Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,  
editors of L'Chayim

**Page 1** - What a great person Gertrude Lutchner was. She will be sadly missed by all that knew her. I (Selwyn) was her bride groom when she was my Simchat Torah bride ( as when I was Chatan Torah, Gertrude was Kallat Bereshit). I used to remind her of our 'marriage' for years afterwards! Bless her.

**Page 3** Tells you about how we bagged Mitzvah Day. Not only that, we had a great time together. We just managed to avoid the rain.

**Page 5** You must see the photos of the dancing. If you weren't there, you missed a treat... until next year then?

**Page 6** We were delighted to have the Southport cub group visit the Synagogue. We have been busy with a Zoom® Friday service

**Page 7** Reminds you of the importance of your support for Holocaust Memorial Day and what you may expect as a theme from the service at Christ Church. No Jewish person should forget that they are indeed fortunate to be able to attend such a service.

**Page 8** If you haven't read Maus, you have missed out. The review of this cartoon book should be read. It is a timely reminder about what happens to 'ordinary people'.

**Page 9** News about Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner. Also, the end of Jackson's Row Synagogue. We have fond memories of that Synagogue as it is where we first met, at the then recreational club called, 'The Alternative'. That was over 40 years ago. We are all getting older, and so is the Synagogue!

**Page 10** Just what is a Jewish Christmas all about? You may have your own ideas, however, this article raises some interesting questions and some humour.

**Page 13** Must be seen if you are at all interested in what is happening to the distribution of Jewish people in England.

**Page 15** Tu B'Shevat is becoming more important as we all are more aware of ecological problems with the world. We hope that this year Tu B'Shevat will become a focal point for your increased efforts to save the planet. Of course, given the price of energy, we just hope you don't catch our death of cold this winter! A warm thought!

**Page 17** Remember Remembrance Day? What about a Jewish perspective? We remember seeing the Jewish war graves at Ypres ( Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery) - you can see these from afar, as the white head stones have pebbles placed on them from visitors.

Have a bit of a laugh at **page 22**. We hope you enjoy this edition of L'Chayim.



Many people read the newspaper religiously every day

# Community News

## MITZVAH DAY

Sunday 20th November



Mitzvah Day International is an annual day of faith-based social action that takes place in November each year, primarily in the United Kingdom. Mitzvah Day was started by a Jewish lady called Laura Marks in 2005. Laura wanted to bring all the different faiths in the UK together for one day - to do something good for their communities.

On Mitzvah Day each year, community groups and individuals undertake a range of volunteer projects for those in need in their local community. Each year, in November, over 40,000 people around the world, come together to give their time, not money, to make a difference to the community around us. It's not just people from the Jewish faith who celebrate Mitzvah day, people from lots of different religions get involved too. Mitzvah Day introduces people to social action, to their neighbours and to local charities, setting up projects, which address real needs.

Mitzvah Day has three important Jewish values for anyone getting involved:

1. **Tikkun Olam** - which means repairing the world - Mitzvah Day helps people understand that being kind to others and our planet is important.
2. **Gemilut Chasadim** - this means acts of loving kindness - acts of kindness are a part of everyday Jewish teachings but Mitzvah Day encourages everyone to be kind.
3. **Tzedek** - this means honest and just - the Jewish faith teaches that you should do kind things to be loving not just because it feels good.

Perhaps next year we can consider inviting other faiths to join us. I had already invited Southport Hebrew Congregation, though they replied saying, *“Mitzvah Day has been in operation for a number of years and each of us have undertaken our own projects hence we did not circulate it”* (‘it’ meaning our Synagogue’s invite to join us). It is to the Jewish Community of Southport’s credit that we take our community responsibilities seriously: tikkum olam, gemilut chasadim, and tzedek. Thank you to all those that came and helped. We did have a nice picnic.

Article by Selwyn Goldthorpe



**Our thanks to the National Trust for free car parking whilst we picked up litter at their Freshfield site. The scenery is wonderful..**



The photos immediately above, kindly from Tony Kletz., the rest by Selwyn.

# Our Simchat Torah - a unique and joyful experience.

23rd November 2022



**Singing, dancing, music.  
Some alcohol ....  
and chocolate!**

Simchat Torah literally means "Rejoicing in the Law", and we did. This was a wonderfully inclusive service, kindly led by Fortune Chamberlain. All the men and all the women received an aliyah. Our congregation is very special!

## November 23rd.

Lovely to have the 55th Southport Cubs visit the Synagogue .

Gillian and Selwyn Goldthorpe showed the group around the Synagogue and discussed with them some of the fundamental beliefs of Jewish people.

We ended with lighting the candles, as if it were shabbat, and each cub received their own fruit of the vine (raisins).



Clare Colwyn was present with the cubs- thank you for her help in getting us set out for the visit. And, **thank you to the cubs for their donation of £25 towards Synagogue funds.**



**Thank you to Fortune Chamberlain for leading the Friday night service on 25th November. Interesting, our singing had to be muted as the chorus was somewhat inhibiting Fortune's tuneful singing! And, thank you to Geoff Corré for his solo of Shalom aleichem - perhaps he should become our Chazen!**

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

**Friday 27 January 2023 - service 29th January Southport.** marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

The Southport HMD Service will take place at Christ Church on 29th January at 1-30pm.

The High Sheriff, Lesley Martin-Wright will be in attendance. **YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED.**

# Ordinary People is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023.

Genocide is facilitated by ordinary people. **Ordinary people** turn a blind eye, believe propaganda, join murderous regimes. And those who are persecuted, oppressed and murdered in genocide aren't persecuted because of crimes they've committed – they are persecuted simply because they are **ordinary people** who belong to a particular group (eg, Roma, Jewish community, Tutsi).

**Ordinary people** were involved in all aspects of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and in the genocides that took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. **Ordinary people** were perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses – and **ordinary people** were victims.

**Ordinary people** also made decisions to ignore what was going on around them, to be bystanders, to allow the genocide to continue.

Perpetrators were **ordinary people**, in positions of power, who took advantage of a set of circumstances, or who created a set of circumstances, that allowed them to abuse their power and discriminate, persecute and murder people.

Many studies have also explored how some perpetrators were ordinary people not in positions of power. Watching the trial of Adolf Eichmann, Hannah Arendt coined the phrase 'the banality of evil' meaning that evil acts are not necessarily perpetrated by evil people, rather they are the result of **ordinary people** obeying orders.

**Ordinary people** were policemen involved in rounding up victims, secretaries typing the records of genocide, dentists and doctors carrying out selections, **ordinary people** were neighbours wielding machetes in Rwanda, school teachers turned concentration camp guards in Bosnia.

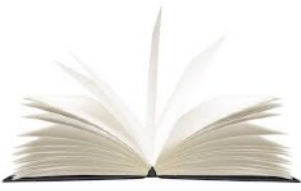
Victims of genocide were **ordinary people**. They simply had an aspect of their identity that the perpetrators did not like, and that made them targets for persecution. Sometimes, some members of the victim group did not even identify as a member of the victim group, but the rules were defined by perpetrators. Perpetrators could – and did – determine who would be persecuted based on whatever parameters they wanted, including perceived rather than actual aspects of someone's identity.

**We can all make decisions to challenge prejudice, stand up to hatred, to speak out against identity-based persecution.**

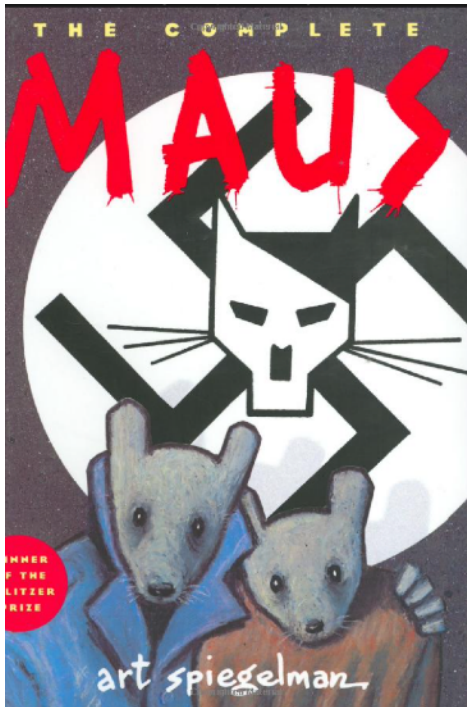
**Ordinary people** are also the ones who drive Holocaust Memorial Day, who lead on community commemorations, who support and encourage everyone around them to take part in remembrance and education projects.

**Be at the HMD service - at Christ Church, Lord Street, Southport**

**on Sunday 29th January at 1-30pm.**



# BOOK REVIEW



As we remember Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January, we thought we would remind you of this master piece of graphic telling of the dehumanisation of the Jewish people by the Nazis.

MAUS is a brutally moving work of art about a Holocaust survivor -- and the son who survives him. A cartoon account like no other you may read.

Maus has become a classic book - by Art Spiegelman , in paperback. it is the only cartoon book to have won a Pulitzer Prize.

Maus follows Art Spiegelman interviewing his father Vladek Spiegelman about how he survived the holocaust. The

characters, including Art himself, are drawn as anthropomorphic animals in a style that's very unique. Each animal corresponds to a certain group in the graphic novel: the Jewish as mice, the Germans as cats, the Polish as pigs, and the Americans as dogs (I don't remember if other groups like the British are depicted).

This stylistic choice is very important: it's reclaiming the style of propaganda that the Nazi's used to depict the Jewish (in particular how they dehumanised the Jewish by depicting them as pitch black rats. The mice in Maus are the opposite being the colour white.

The story as a whole is Vladek's experience during Europe's most horrific time, his other stories like how he met Art's mother, with Art's experience and stories coming in from time to time.

It's a very personal and raw look at Art's perspective on his family's life, on Maus itself a bit, the dogged interviewers and greedy licensors he had to deal with, he solace when going to his therapist, then it capped off with a lonely sigh as the tape played Vladek's last issue with his wife and then continued with the story.

The whole comic is honest, real, and poignantly written, and the beautiful ink pen drawings add so much to the story.

You can still purchase a copy of Maus from Amazon Books for £12. ( Thanks to Amazon Reviewers for the review)

ASIN : 0141014083. Publisher : Penguin; 1st edition (2 Oct. 2003). Language : English

Paperback : 296 pages ISBN-10 : 9780141014081. ISBN-13 : 978-0141014081





There was a large turnout at Bromley Reform Synagogue for the induction of Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner mid November.

The Mayoress and Mayor of Bromley and Greenwich were among the congregation along with the Mayor of Lewisham Damien Egan who is also a BRS member.

Laura who was the inaugural Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism said she was “thrilled to bits” to be part of Bromley. “I have a profound and unwavering respect for the excellent work the shul does throughout the community and it’s a privilege to take on the role of Rabbi.”

Michelle Brooks Evans, Chair of BRS added: “Laura’s already brought energy and joy within our community over the past 8 months. Bromley Reform is a magnet for Jewish life south of the river and her induction is an important chapter in our ongoing success story.”

Amit Handlesman, Director of Fundraising for The Movement for Reform Judaism said, “It was a pleasure to visit Bromley Reform Synagogue to celebrate with them the appointment of Rabbi Laura. With such a strong lay leadership and Rabbinic guidance by Rabbi Laura, MRJ knows that BRS future is bright. MRJ looks forward to continue its already strong relationship with BRS to strengthen Jewish life in the area.”

I can only say how lucky Bromley Reform Synagogue is to have Rabbi Laura as their Rabbi. Laura was a great inspiration to us all when she was inaugural Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism. Southport and District Synagogue wish her well in her new role.



The final Shabbat service at Jackson's Row Synagogue was on 26th November 2022. There has been a Synagogue there for the last 70 years. The community are the UK’s second-oldest reform community, which has been part of Manchester for 165 years!

A special de-consecration service with a procession of the Torah scrolls took place on the Sunday. They have a new interim home, namely, St Peter’s House,

Oxford Rd., M13 9GH ( a 15 minute walk from their present location), sharing facilities with Manchester Universities’ Chaplaincy, whilst plans are made as to how best to proceed . The Synagogue site has been sold for redevelopment, making way for a 41-storey tower and hotel backed by Gary Neville.

Principal Rabbi of Manchester Reform Synagogue Robyn Ashworth-Steen feels 'a mix of emotions' about the move. "In some ways, I'm really sad because the building itself holds a lot of memories for the community," she said. "But at the moment, I'm mostly excited about it. We've been waiting for a really long time and the building is falling apart. Part of the ark which holds the holy scrolls fell down last week. We've got a real chance to build something new now."

# The Jewish Christmas

## The Institute for Jewish Policy

**Research** recently invited you to take part concerning your Jewish identity. I was surprised to find a question, “Did we put up a Christmas Tree, at Christmas?”!

This got me thinking - what is a Jewish Christmas?



First, though, let me let tell you something about the JPR.

The institute was founded in New York in 1941, under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Congress,[1] as a research institute to provide analysis of political, legal and economic issues affecting Jewish life. The institute's founder Dr Jacob Robinson argued that Jewish leaders, struggling for the interests of the Jewry after World War I, “were hampered by the lack of up-to-date information on the situation of the Jews and no less by the lack of research into relevant legal and political options.”[2] The IJA was established to bridge the gap. The institute's research focused on the analysis of the political, legal and economic aspects of Jewish life since World War I. Their reports examined a number of topics including: the situation of Jewish communities in various countries, anti-Semitism, human rights related to minorities and migration, and the Holocaust and its aftermath. The organisation was also involved in formulating a postwar policy to secure Jewish rights and freedom internationally.

Dr Jacob Robinson, IJA's founder, served as its first director (1941–1947). He was succeeded by Nehemiah Robinson (1947–1964) and Oscar Karbach (1964–1973). In the late 1940s, the organisation, together with WJC's Political Department, was engaged in the preparation of reports submitted to the United Nations and other organisations.

The institute moved to London in 1965, and was re-founded as the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in February 1996.

In 1996 it was reestablished in London as Institute for Jewish Policy Research

It is a registered charity under English law and it exists to provide "policy-related research and analysis for individuals and organisations concerned with the enhancement of contemporary Jewish life." Its honorary president is Jacob Rothschild, 4th Baron Rothschild, its chairman is Stephen Moss, and its executive director is Dr Jonathan Boyd. Previous directors of the institute include Professor Barry Kosmin, and Antony Lerman.

**continued next page**

## Now let's look at what is a Jewish Christmas...

In medieval Jewish texts, the Christmas holiday is referred to as Nittel, derived from the Medieval Latin Natale Dominus which is also the etymological source of the French name for Christmas, Noël.

In the USA, a widespread Christmas tradition among Jewish Americans consists of eating Chinese cuisine. The practice began as far back as the 19th century; the proximity of Jewish and Chinese American communities in Manhattan's Lower East Side helped start the tradition. The earliest documented instance of Jewish people dining in Chinese restaurants dates to 1899, when the American Jewish Journal criticised Jews for eating in Chinese restaurants in violation of rabbinical kosher regulations. Interestingly, when we had Christmas in the Antarctic in 2017, our boat was full of Chinese and Jewish people! I am also reminded of the joke,

**“Two Yiddish-speaking diners are about to order when the Chinese waiter addresses them in Yiddish. They are confused. After they paid the bill, they asked the restaurant manager, an old friend of theirs, “Where did our waiter learn such fabulous Yiddish?”**

**The manager looked around and leaned in so no one else could hear and said, “Shhhh. He thinks we're teaching him English.”**

Hanukkah, whose origin dates back to the Maccabean Wars of 160-167 CE, isn't considered a Jewish high holiday and barely appears in the Talmud. But its celebration became more widespread thanks to its proximity on the calendar to Christmas.

Then, of course there is, the term Chrismukkah ( please see the photograph at the start of this article) a portmanteau of Christmas and Hanukkah. This was coined in a December 2003 episode of The O.C. to refer to a combination of Christmas and Hanukkah. The term became popular, and Warner Bros. began selling related merchandise, but The Catholic League and the New York Board of Rabbis released a joint statement condemning the idea as a "multicultural mess" which they stated was insulting to both Christians and Jews. Yet, in our great commercial world, which we buy into, we give both Christmas presents and Hanukkah presents.

Christmas was banned as a religious holiday in the Soviet Union, but the tree remained a symbol of the new year. As such, Russian-speaking Jewish immigrants continue to see the tree as a secular symbol of winter.

Sarna said intermarried couples, where one partner is Christian, might have a Christmas tree as a matter of compromise. A 2013 USA Pew Survey found that 44% of Jewish people in an intact marriage are married to people who do not consider themselves Jewish. And in 2019, a study by the Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis found that



the majority of non-Jews who are married to someone who identifies as Jewish rarely observed religious traditions, **except for Christmas.**

The custom of the Christmas tree was developed in medieval Livonia (present-day Estonia and Latvia), and in early modern Germany where German Protestant Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. German Christmas traditions were adopted by many German Jews.

A Rabbi in the USA has even proposed that celebration of Hanukkah be moved to December 25 to coincide with Christmas! Really!! The date itself is somewhat arbitrary, Sextus Julius Africanus, a historian of the second century, maintained that Jesus of Nazareth was conceived on 25 March, which the Christian Church came to celebrate as the Feast of the Annunciation. The Russian Orthodox Church keeps to the Julian Calendar, Russian Orthodox Christmas is celebrated on January 7th.

Whilst decorating Christmas trees is a German and Scandinavian custom, it seems bizarre, that when we visited New Zealand at Christmas, their mid-summer, they have Christmas trees ( I think mainly plastic ones these days) and fake snow. When the JPR asks us, ‘ Do we have a Christmas tree’, maybe if we do it is because of some of our German ‘roots’!

Anyway, perhaps my favourite Jewish-Christmas joke is this:

**The Teacher asked young Patrick Murphy: "What do you do at Christmas time?"**

**Patrick addressed the class: "Well Ms. Jones, me and my twelve brothers and sisters go to midnight Mass and we sing hymns, then we come home very late and we put mince pies by the back door and hang up our stockings. Then all excited we go to bed and wait for Father Christmas to come with all our toys."**

**"Very nice Patrick", she said. "Now Jimmy Brown what do you do at Christmas?"**

**"Well, Ms. Jones, me and my sister also go to Church with Mum and Dad and we sing carols and we get home ever so late. We put biscuits and milk by the chimney and we hang up our stockings. We hardly sleep, waiting for Santa Claus to bring our presents."**

**Realising there was a Jewish boy in the class and not wanting to leave him out of the discussion, she asked, "Now, Isaac Cohen, what do you do at Christmas?"**

**Isaac said, "Well, it's the same thing every year. Dad comes home from the office. We all pile into the car and then drive to his toy factory. When we get inside, we look at all the empty shelves, pray to God, and say, "Thank you for Christmas"!**

**I hope you have a happy “festive season”.**

*Article by Selwyn Goldthorpe*

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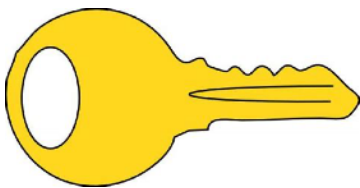


## The 2021 Census of England and Wales released\* by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), contains the initial results about the geography of the British Jewish population.... (\*released 29th November 2022), and published by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research .

The census is a big deal.

It matters to Jewish schools, Jewish charities, Jewish care homes, synagogues, kosher shops and businesses, Jewish security organisations, Jewish news outlets, local and national government, and indeed, just about any organisation that provides services to Jewish people or the Jewish community.

That is why JPR takes census data so seriously, and that is why you need to complete their survey. Most people intuitively understand the value of informed decision-making and the added value data bring to policy- and decision-making processes, because without data we are left in the empirical dark and can only rely on instinct and 'gut feeling'. JPR is at the heart all of this research, providing the foundations of the community's data needs for now and years to come, to help those organisations supporting Jewish people and Jewish life in the UK.



### KEY FINDINGS

#### What did the 2021 Census tell us about religion?

The total number of people self-identifying as Jews in England and Wales in 2021 was 271,327. This compares with 265,073 in 2011 and 259,927 in 2001, the first occasion the religion question was asked;

Jews comprise 0.46% of the population of England and Wales. This compares with 0.47% in 2011 and 0.50% in 2001;

Greater London accounts for 53.6% of the total Jewish population of England and Wales, with 145,466 Jews living in the capital. This excludes areas contiguous to London such as South Hertfordshire and Essex;

Several parts of Britain have seen their Jewish populations decline since 2001, notably: Redbridge (-57%), Harrow (-44%) and Brent (-42%);

**While still the largest religious group, in 2021, the Christian population fell below 50% of the total for the first time and is now comprises 46%.**



2011		
1	Golders Green (Barnet)	6,975
2	Garden Suburb (Barnet)	6,090
3	Hendon (Barnet)	5,805
4	Edgware (Barnet)	5,447
5	Kersal (Salford, Manchester)	5,199
6	Finchley Church End (Barnet)	4,904
7	Sedgley (Bury, Manchester)	4,386
8	Springfield (Hackney)	3,604
9	New River (Hackney)	3,591
10	Mill Hill (Barnet)	3,502
11	Childs Hill (Barnet)	3,394
12	Hale (Barnet)	3,390

The list above shows the 12 most popular ward areas for Jewish people to live in (2011).

Of note is the fact that Jewish people are becoming more concentrated in certain areas of the country, whilst outside of those areas, Jewish people are becoming less concentrated.

Perhaps we have noticed this in Southport ?

More data from the census will be released next year. The census data is used to validate the JPR survey data.

Please complete the survey - although the link has previously been sent to you, at the bottom of this page is the JPR web site address - you can access the survey from there.

## A look at Greater Manchester

	2001	2011	2021	Change 2001-21 (N)	Change 2001-21 (%)
1. Bury	8,924	10,302	10,734	+1,810	+20.3%
2. Salford	5,179	7,687	10,373	+5,194	+100.3%
3. Manchester LA	3,076	2,613	2,632	-444	-14.4%
4. Trafford	2,314	2,413	2,408	+94	+4.1%
5. Stockport	1,654	1,340	1,234	-420	-25.4%
6. Rochdale	181	216	218	+37	+20.4%
7. Bolton	146	174	159	+13	+8.9%
8. Oldham	91	108	146	+55	+60.4%
9. Tameside	85	89	87	+2	+2.4%
10. Wigan	83	71	84	+1	+1.2%
Cheshire East	562	581	640	+78	+13.9%
Cheshire West	236	250	288	+52	+22.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,531</b>	<b>25,844</b>	<b>29,003</b>	<b>+6,472</b>	<b>+28.7%</b>



## To be, or not Tu B'Shevat ?

Tu B'Shevat in the Hebrew calendar falls on the 15th day of the month of Shevat. It is one of the four 'New Years' of the Jewish calendar, mentioned in the Talmud, along with the first day of Tishrei (the month in which we celebrate Rosh Hashana, the most well-known New Year); the first day of Nissan (during which month we celebrate Passover), the first day of Elul (the month before the High Holy Days), and the fifteenth day of Shvat.

**In 2023 this celebration will commence on the evening of the 5th February. This day celebrates the "New Year for the Trees", and these days, much more.**

Tu B'Shevat has significance in Jewish law because it is the cutoff date by which the age of a tree is calculated for the sake of orlah, a Biblical prohibition against eating the fruit of a tree in its first three years. (Most authorities say that this prohibition is only in effect within the Land of Israel.) After Tu B'Shevat of the tree's third year, the fruit is permitted for consumption, provided that the relevant tithing has occurred.

In Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a day of ecological awareness – the Israeli version of America's Arbor Day, so to speak. Never was this more important as global warming takes hold. Worryingly, Israel continues to export its natural gas on the world's market ( Output from the Israeli Leviathan field was 2.8 billion cubic meters in the second quarter of 2022, 2.0 BCM of which went to Egypt and Jordan).

Scientists in Israel are creating a gene bank from the seeds of local wild crops, some that have survived for thousands of years since the birth of agriculture and that may help farmers deal with a harsher climate in the coming decades. This gene bank is in addition to the Svalbard Plant gene bank we visited this July. ( picture).

The Tu B'Shevat Seder is increasingly being celebrated, though has its 'roots' in the 16th century ( according to Wikipedia) - In the 16th century in Israel, Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Safed and his disciples created a Tu B' Shevat seder, somewhat like the Passover seder, that celebrated the Tree of Life (the Kabbalistic map of the Sefirot). The earliest published version of this seder is called the P'ri Eitz Hadar, which means "The Fruit of the Beautiful Tree". The seder evokes Kabbalistic themes of restoring cosmic blessing by strengthening and repairing the Tree of Life, generally using the framework of the Four Worlds of emanation that can be roughly mapped onto the physical metaphor of a tree, that is, roots, trunk, branches and leaves. In conjunction with this practice, some Chassidic Jews eat etrog on this day!

While some version of the Kabbalistic order is often followed in eating fruits and nuts on Tu B'Shevat, it is generally customary to eat dried fruits and nuts even among those who are not following the Kabbalistic rite. Figs, dates, raisins, carob, and almonds are especially popular. Many people also incorporate into their seders the Seven Species associated with the Land of Israel in the Torah, which according to Deuteronomy 8:8 are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. There are also four cups of wine during the seder:



1. The first cup should be white wine or grape juice. It symbolises the stillness and dormancy of winter.
2. The second cup is white tinged with red, to symbolise the beginning of spring and the earth's awakening.
3. The third cup is two-thirds red and one-third white. It symbolises spring overtaking the winter dormancy and the rush of new colours in the landscape.
4. The fourth cup is entirely red. It symbolises the full arrival of spring and the vibrant life of a new season.

## What's not to like!

## Enjoy Tu B'Shevat.

*Article by Selwyn Goldthorpe  
(ref www.)*



## Plant a tree in Israel?

Planting trees in Israel is the perfect way to mark special occasions such as weddings, births, anniversaries, birthdays, memorials and all other celebrations and commemorations.

Each tree you order comes with a certificate of your choice, mailed to the recipient with a personalised message.

Plant trees in someone's name for just £50 per tree and send them a beautiful certificate with your very own personalised message. Scroll down to choose your favourite design and place your order online or call us on **020 8732 6100**.

<https://www.jnf.co.uk/>







# Remembrance from two different perspectives



Article by Susan Fox

Reform Judaism was represented at the annual service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph by Rabbi Kathleen Middleton (co-chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors) to commemorate those who died in the line of duty in WW1 and all wars since in the UK and other Commonwealth countries.

British Jews serving in WW1 :-

Many Jewish women were keen to serve in the professionally trained Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (QAIMS), which by 1914, had fewer than 300 nurses. By the end of the war, over 10,000 nurses had served. These members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) included Rosa Bendit, whose war diary is still the only source available on the voluntary service Jewish nurses provided during WW1; Emily Hartmann; Florence Oppenheimer (Greenberg) served in Gallipoli where she kept a diary; Ester Paris, who when living in Israel founded the first baby clinic in Haifa. Other Jewish women became nurses, Janie Joseph OBE and Rose de Bear and also Red Cross workers. Others were employed in many areas on the Home Front, including munitions factories and Government offices.

Lieutenant Ronald Lucas Quixano Henriques is believed to be the first Jewish Officer killed in the British Army during WW1 (September 1914). His life and death in military service was hailed by many leading members of the Jewish community as being exemplary and called for more young men to serve their country with the same bravery and dedication. The following is an extract by a private serving under his command; *"I think it was the village of Paissy ..... We had just come out of a valley when the Germans opened on us ..... we were about 30 yards from the enemy,,,,,,,,, I was the third man away from Mr.Henriques ..... who raised his head and shoulders and said "Advance" when he was shot,,,,,,,,, killing him instantly".*

Airman Jacob Kolinski, a member of the Jewish Lads' Brigade, kept a war diary from joining up to his death in action in May 1918.

*"3 June 1917 - First experience of gas and tear shell attack. Between 11pm 5pm Monday morning. Mask on for 1 hour.*

*7 June 1917*

*446 tonnes of explosives - sent up in German lines - terrible thought Earth had come to an end.*

*2nd tear and gas attack. All night. Beginning of strafe. Cried like a baby.*

*1 Nov 1917*

*Shelled heavily all day. Went down a deep sap - direct hit on it - made me shake. Couldn't keep aerial up - living hell".*

An estimated 100,000 German Jewish military personnel served in WW1 and an estimated 12,000 killed in action, with the Iron Cross being awarded to 18,000. Notable German Jewish military personnel :-

Rabbi Leo Baeck (later president of the Reich Representation of German Jews - Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden, a Jewish umbrella organisation founded in 1933, established to coordinate and represent the activities of Jewish political and religious groups and provide legal defence in the face of growing persecution of the Nazi era. Survivor of Theresienstadt and founder of London's progressive Jewish Leo Baeck Rabbinical College.

He and Rabbis Emmanuel Carlebach, Hirsch Gradenwitz, Siegfried Klein, Martin Salomonski (the latter three murdered in Auschwitz) served as feld rabbiner (field rabbis) in the then German Imperial Army.

Victor Klemperer was a decorated military volunteer enlisting in 1915 leaving his academic career as a Romance Languages scholar, his diary of life in Nazi Germany provides an exceptional account of daily life under the tyranny of the Third Reich and is a valued historical source. .

Non-commissioned officer Fritz Beckhardt was a fighter ace with an excellent war record of 17 aerial victories which the Nazis later expunged from their WW1 Records, along with the names of William Frankl and Edmond Nathaneal also fighter pilots, because the Nazis' Antisemitism denied or refused to accept that Jews could be brave and courageous. The three were awarded House Order of Hollenzollern for bravery, Beckhardt himself was twice personally congratulated by the Kaiser for his success as a fighter pilot.

Considering that Jews first arrived in what constituted German speaking nations in 321 CE, contributing so much to the cultural, religious and social life of these areas down the centuries, the persecution of, and murderous intent towards Jews, by the Third Reich is a civic betrayal and one of the most tragic ironies of History.



Above, photograph of Airman Jacob Kolinski,

# Merseyside Jewish Representative Council

## The Community NewsLetter



**It's free!** - The Merseyside Jewish Community NewsLetter. With events galore, news and much more. Why wouldn't you want it? All you need do is phone Karen on 0151 733 2292 and say "*Karen, I want my free weekly newsletter sending to my email address*". That's all! No questionnaire. No money. No nothing.

**MJRC has lots going for it.**

- \* Over 100 delegates to the Council are elected from synagogues, welfare bodies, educational establishments, youth & community organisations, fund raising bodies, local members of the Board of Deputies, Local Councillors and subscribing Individuals.
- \* We facilitate co-operation and collaboration across the Merseyside Jewish Community.
- \* Next year we are arranging a Succah Crawl. This year we arranged the Mitzvah Day.
- \* We promote Jewish educational, cultural and religious activity.
- \* We arrange the annual Yom HaShoah, Yom Ha'atz'ma'ut and Yom Hazikaron events.
- \* We represent the Jewish Community across the greater Merseyside region,
- \* And we liaise with CST, local politicians, local authorities and the police on antisemitism, communal security and major issues such as Covid 19.

**We are shaping the future and quality of Jewish Life on Merseyside. Be a part of it!**

Each week the **Newsletter** is sent to 400 people across the greater Merseyside Region. If you wish to receive a copy of the **NewsLetter** emailed out every Friday morning, please contact MJRC by phoning Karen as above or emailing: [Repcouncil@mjcshifrin.co.uk](mailto:Repcouncil@mjcshifrin.co.uk) and request being put on our distribution list.



# IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

MAZELTOV AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## **January**

Lilian Stephens  
Gina Luxemburg  
Susan Fox  
Ian Kerr  
Lesley Brand  
Louise Davies  
Noah Hoskin  
Meira Hoskin  
Delilah Hoskin

## **February**

Nives Hirshman  
Paul Windham  
Andrea Cook  
Deborah Hirshman  
Emilie Barnett  
Sophie Barnett



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Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the Synagogue. Memorial plaques are still available for the **Tree of Life** in the Synagogue. Please discuss your needs with the Synagogue's Administrator.

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Andrea Maylott, wife of Brian Maylott.  
Shiela Freeman, wife of Irving Freeman  
Isaac Bernstein, Father of Lawrence Bernstein  
Edward Lippa, Father of Paul Lippa  
Rose Suher, Mother of Matthew Suher.  
Morris Zandan, grandfather of Matthew Suher.  
Maurice Suher, father of Matthew Suher.  
Freda Lever, Mother of Carole Suher.  
Pearl Cohen, Mother of Doreen Cantor  
Hyman Isaac Hirshman, Father of Johnathan Hirshman  
Sarah Hannah Canter, Mother of Dr Jeffrey Canter.  
Eli Franks, Father of Donald Franks.  
Rodney Jackson, brother of Regina Luxenburg, Uncle of Lesley Brand  
Dorothy Bernstein, Mother of Lawrence Bernstein.  
Norman Applebaum, Father of Faith Choueke  
From Cohen (Alfred), Father of Doreen Canter.  
Gertrude Shieldhouse, Mother of Shelley Yavets

## **WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS**

**Without the foresight of those that have gone before us we would not have a Synagogue. We owe it to these wonderful people to keep the Synagogue alive for the next generation.**

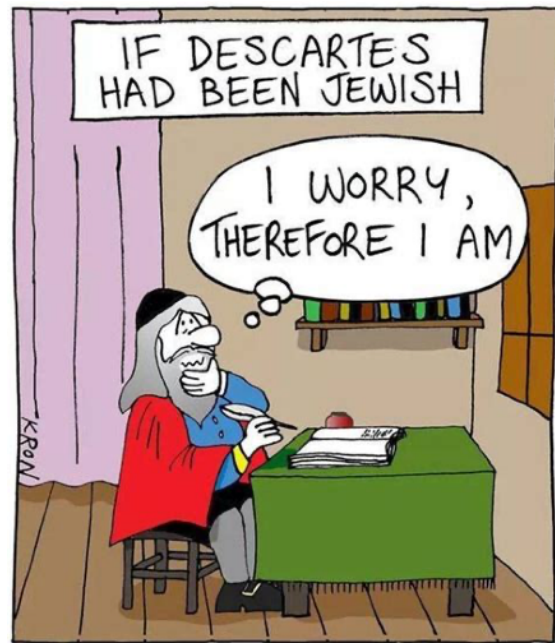
**Please consider making a LEGACY in your will to the Synagogue ( a registered Charity ). S&DRS can supply you with details of a number of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.**

## **MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING**



Why not sponsor a page in L'Chayim in memory of one of your life events?

Births, deaths, marriage, celebrations, yahrzeits are all reminders of what makes us as a community . Just telephone the office to find out how to have your event published.

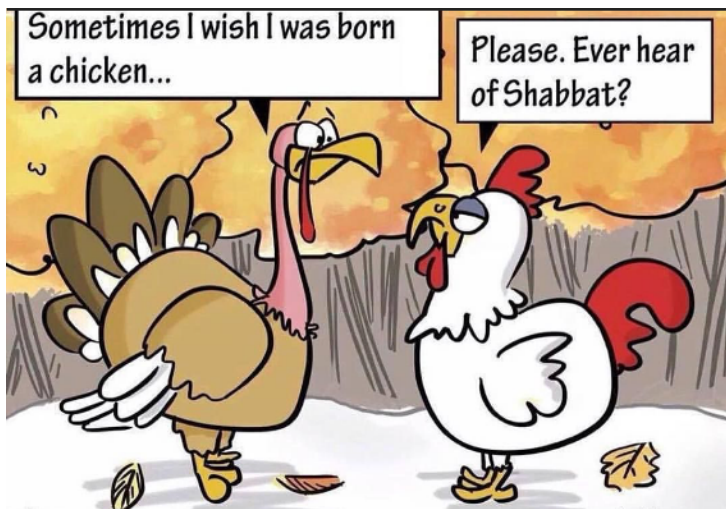


**Don't worry about this, remember Moses started out as a basket case!**

**My secret to a stress free Christmas....**

**I'm Jewish !**

Whilst Avian flu is affecting our birds this year, who wants to be a chicken? .....



Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!"

Patient: "I am 60!"

Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"

Patient: "I have a ringing in my ears."

Doctor: "Don't answer!"

Two obviously religious Jewish men are waiting for a train. The younger man asks the older man for the time, but the older man ignores him. After a while, the younger man again asks for the time and again the older man ignores him. Frustrated, the younger man finally asks, "Why won't you answer me when I ask you for the time. The older man sighs and explains: "Look, if I tell you the time, we'll start to talk. Then when the train comes, you might sit down next to me. Perhaps we'll get to know each other, and maybe I'll eventually invite you to my house for Shabbat dinner. Maybe then you and my daughter would really get along – why, you might even get engaged! And why would I want a son-in-law who can't even afford a watch?"



# The Home

SOUTHPORT REST HOME

81 Albert Road

01704 531975

thesouthportresthome@hotmail.co.uk

‘The Home’ (formerly known as Southport Rest Home) is a 25 bed home near Southport centre, opposite the beautiful Hesketh park.

Working closely with remarkable DNs we are able to facilitate residents that just require some TLC, others that have different levels and forms of dementia, Parkinson’s, strokes and End of Life.

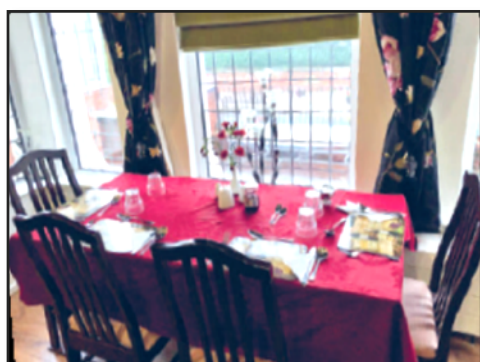
We welcome anyone from any denomination for long, short or respite stays, in a person centered, pleasant, home from home environment, with wheel chair access throughout. Delicious fresh homemade food is prepared on a daily basis together with tasty cakes, scones and muffins with regular tea and coffee provided

All our room’s, many of which have been freshly renovated, have their own toilet and wash basin, Wi-Fi connection, colour TV and fridge. With an itinerary of activities and entertainment on a daily basis together with our in-house dementia friendly hairdressing salon to accommodate grooming needs. There is a small shop where residents can make purchases, an in-house post box so mail can be sent by residents to family members and friends, a calming sensory area inside and out, a retro style Memory Café, together with a lovely conservatory for relaxation. Our minibus is always available for days out.

If necessary, we can provide a smoking area and small pets are welcome by prior arrangement.

We also offer a Friendship Club (for a small fee) whereby people can join us for morning coffee/tea, take part in one of our activities, three course lunch and afternoon tea.

If we can assist in any way please **contact Sarah Hunter ( Manager)**



The Home is a registered charity Number 1123524

and a Registered Company Number 06368309

## FEELING ALONE? LACKING YOUR SYNAGOGUE?



[www.zoom.us/j/407196863](https://www.zoom.us/j/407196863)

[www.reformjudaism.org.uk/](https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/)

RJ:TV is Reform Judaism's interactive broadcasting platform for these challenging times. Each day they will provide a range of interactive programming that you are invited to join – from daily prayer services and adult learning sessions to fun for all ages and casual catch-ups. We can still come together virtually to share in learning and meaningful interaction.

Click here : <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/>

## Local Support for mental health and well being

0151 228 2300 [talkliverpool.nhs.uk](https://talkliverpool.nhs.uk)

0300 3032708 [talking natters-sefton](https://talkingnatters-sefton.org.uk)

Text HEAL 85258. for

text message support.

Adult mental health support

0800 145 6570

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**'A trouble shared is a trouble halved'**

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**Emergency Dental  
Treatment 0161476 9651  
for Sefton Residents**

**03001234 010 for West  
Lancs**

**Sefton Council Social Care**

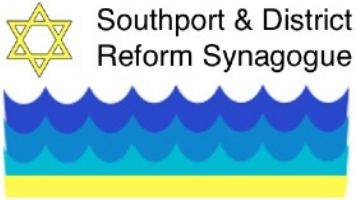
**9am-5pm 0151 934 4600**

**Emergency Christmas  
automated phone service  
0345 140 0845**

**NHS Direct for Advice phone 111**

**Our Synagogue has a new digital phone system which will, in the event of an urgent call, divert you to whoever is available to help.**





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

Chairman	Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe
Vice Chair	Gillian Goldthorpe
Honorary Secretary	Fortune Chamberlain
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Kletz
Wardens	Susan Fox, Gillian Goldthorpe

### Other members of the Synagogue's Council :

Joan Brooke	Faith Choueke
Neil Chamberlain	Harry Kessler
Anne Kletz	Matt Suher

### Trustees : Phil Levine and Marcel Zachariah

*'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**.  
The Synagogue is run predominantly by volunteers, giving hundreds of hours of their time in a year,,  
for the Reform Jewish Community and others.

Please be advised that our complaints procedure is available from the Synagogue office.

As a synagogue member should you not wish to receive the membership copy of L'Chayim and wish to unsubscribe, please e-mail the Synagogue office or send a message via the web site to the Synagogue