

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

The Synagogue Synagogue Lane St James Square Cheltenham GL50
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Trustees's Report **1 March 2022 - 28 February 2023**

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation continued to be positive and active, achieving our objectives by engaging with both members and the wider community.

Community Life

Jewish Festivals and Holidays were marked with services and social events.

At Purim we read the Megillah Esther and we celebrated our first in person Seder together since Covid arrived with Allan Sanis leading the service. Covid precautions, however, were still taken seriously. Allan also led many other services for us including at Shavuot and Chanukah. Jessica Shapiro contributed a Chanukah story at our party before the children lit the candles in members's beautiful menorahs.

Erev Shabbat, services were held every week, their leaders were Allan Sanis, Leonard Bazar and Alan Silverston.

High Holidays services were conducted meaningfully by Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf.

A Barmitzvah was held in our Synagogue. A delightful service for Harry, the Barmitzvah boy, was led by Rabbi Mark Daniels on Shabbat morning.

A Service of Remembrance, remembering those buried in our cemetery and loved ones buried elsewhere, was held in our Elm Street cemetery prior to Rosh Hashanah.

Jessica Shapiro continued to lead monthly study sessions focussed on the Torah. An especially memorable and enjoyable session was focussed on the writings in Ecclesiastes.

Educational opportunities were also offered by Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf who permitted his Drashas to be circulated to the community and issued invitations to his Shiurim.

Members attended the unveiling of a Blue Badge marking the Gloucester site, in Alexandra Road, where 10 Jewish boys, coming to the UK on the Kindertransport, were cared for. The CHC Chairman spoke in praise of the Gloucester hosts. Michael Zorek, son of one of those boys, who now lives in America, initiated the recognition.

Laura and Steve Cohen made us feel very welcome at a well attended Anniversary Brunch where Abigail's bagels were a highlight.

Our Summer lunch, also well attended, was warmly hosted by Sara and Peter Capie on a beautiful sunny day.

Members also met informally in outdoor spaces for coffee mornings and tea. We met online and challenged ourselves with a quizzes.

The Wider Community

Education

Sessions for school children took place online; pre-Covid numbers are now participating. An assembly on Chanukah was presented to an Islamic school.

Different sessions were tailored to the teachers's wishes and the ages, ability and syllabus of the children. Children in both mainstream and special schools have benefitted from this service for which no charges were made.

Abigail Fisher has spoken to cubs and scouts in the Synagogue about Judaism and Marion Janner visited schools with workshops for the children.

An online erev Shabbat service was opened to the wider community during Inter Faith week. The service was in Hebrew as usual but members spoke about different aspects of the service in English to help our guests understand its content.

SACRE

The Chairman attended all meetings, upholding the importance of Judaism within the SACRE Primary Syllabus and offering relevant opinions. Some members contributed to a request from Stephen Pett of RE today and advisor to SACRE to contribute to a new publication 'Investigating Jewish Wordviews' (Secondary). Our responses are now in the book, both hard copy and online.

HMD

Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance for HMD was planned together with Three Counties Liberal Community, Dame Janet Trotter and Dr Steven Blake, supported by Cheltenham Borough Council. The Act of Remembrance, regarded as the best yet by many, was led by Dame Janet.

Heritage Open Days

During the Heritage Open Days in September, the Chairman delivered a session on Zoom 'Cheltenham Synagogue, Hidden Gem' which spoke of the history of the building as well as the community within.

We supported the **CPC Hamper Scamper Scheme** again this year when members delivered goods and cash to the Synagogue to be donated to this worthy local cause.

Alan Silverston spoke at a **Symposium on 'Behaviour in Public Life** which mainly focussed on the behaviour of members of Parliament.

Security

The year has been a peaceful one. Contact has been maintained with Gloucestershire Constabulary and PC Hamid Charafi and the Community Security Trust (CST) based in London.

Members are reminded of our security precautions to support compliance.

Media

The Chairman had interviews with Jon Smith of Radio Gloucestershire for the programme Sunday Breakfast. One interview was planned to be on how our congregation had been impacted by Covid. This was cancelled to make room for items about our late Queen in September but reinstated with a royal focus when the producer realized that a relevant contribution from a personal and Jewish perspective could be made by Jenny Silverston, the Chairman.

Buildings and Maintenance

The 5 year Interim Report produced by architect John Middleton in November 2022 identified 3 areas requiring action:

Repair lead in lead gutter in the roof

Secure the bench seating the ladies' gallery to the wall

Repaint the exterior of the lantern

The first two have been dealt with. The painting of the lantern has not yet taken place due to cold and damp and then extremely hot weather. It will be actioned as soon as cooler conditions prevail.

Following the complete refurbishment of the Bride's Room/Kitchen the entrance and interior doors into the Synagogue have been patched where necessary and repainted.

The effectiveness of the external toilets will be examined with a view to replace the units with macerator toilets. In addition, the effectiveness of the piping carrying waste will be reviewed.

Thanks were given to all Board Members who have been so supportive and positive during the year. Honorary Officers have been Allan Sanis: Senior Warden, Jessica Shapiro: Treasurer, Abigail Fisher: Secretary, Steve Cohen Assistant Treasurer, Christine Dyer Minutes Secretary, Board Trustees: Sara Capie, Lea Elliott and Elizabeth Jacobs.

Thanks were also due to Leonard Bazar, our Board of Deputies Representative, Alan Silverston Buildings and Maintenance and Security Officer and Penny Pepper our External Examiner. Plus all those who supported our precious community during the year.

We look forward to a good year ahead.

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2023

2022	INCOME	Note	2023
	Contributions		
9,604	Members Subscriptions	(1)	10,656
43	Friends and Associates Subscriptions	(2)	272
<u>9,647</u>	Total Contributions		<u>10,928</u>
	Donations		
8,832	Donations	(3)	1,631
232	Donation for B.O.D		180
<u>9,064</u>	Total Donations		<u>1,811</u>
<u>18,711</u>	Total Contributions & Donations		<u>12,739</u>
	Other Income		
397	Bank Interest	(4)	206
0	Reading Group		0
78	Rent from No. 44 Elm Street		78
95	Donation from School Visits		235
3,841	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	(5)	2,261
0	Grants		0
0	Books Sold		0
0	Sale of Cards		0
0	Jewish Studies		0
0	Congregation Events		182
<u>4,411</u>			<u>2,962</u>
23,122	TOTAL CONGREGATION INCOME		15,701
	EXPENDITURE		
	Property : Synagogue & Elm Street		
193	Lighting, Heating, Water for the Synagogue		321
8,985	Synagogue Maintenance	(6)	1,750
592	Cleaning		632
47	Rates - Elm Street		47
2,944	Elm Steet Maintenance		213
3,311	Insurance	(7)	3,476
<u>16,072</u>			<u>6,439</u>
	Other Expenses		
485	Representations & Donations to B.O.D		192
190	Fees to Rabbinate		200
50	Rabbi's Visits		0
2,625	Fees and Expenses for High Holy Days Ceremony		2,789
39	Postage & Stationery		14
0	Printing & Photocoping		40
227	Sundry Expenses	(8)	331
<u>3,616</u>			<u>3,566</u>
19,688	TOTAL EXPENSES		10,005
<u>3,434</u>	EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>5,696</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION

NOTES TO THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2023

(1)	Members Subscriptions	2022-2023		4,599
			2023-2024	6,057
				<u>10,656</u>
(2)	Friends and Associates Subscri	2022-2023		125
			2023-2024	147
				<u>272</u>
(3)	Donations	Comprises	With Members & Associates Subscriptions	527
			Association of Jewish Refugees	80
			Donation for Barmitzvah in Shul	200
			Manchester Visitors donation	100
			Other Personal Donations	724
				<u>1,631</u>
(4)	Bank Interest	Comprises	RBS No 1	81
			RBS No 2	2
			Shawbrook	124
				<u>206</u>
(5)	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	Comprises	VAT Refund - DCMS Scheme (£1,320 2021/22)	0
			Gift aid Returns	2,261
				<u>2,261</u>
(6)	Synagogue Maintenance	Comprises	Synagogue Kitchen & Hall - Painting	905
			5 Year Inspection Report Nick Joyce Architects	562
			Protection Service A&E Fire and Security	143
			Repair to lead gutter and gallery bench fitting	87
			Sundry Repairs	54
				<u>1,750</u>
(7)	Insurances	Comprises	Combined Insurance Policy Endsleigh Insurance	3,476
				<u>3,476</u>
(8)	Sundry Expenses	Comprise	Website	100
			Zoom Exps	144
			Sink Tidy and other Kitchen Equipment	24
			Other	63
			Kiddush Expenses	0
				<u>331</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION**Assets, CASH & INVESTMENTS - AS AT FEBRUARY 28 2023**

2022		2023
Bank Accounts		
39,684.84	Cash at Royal Bank of Scotland No 1 a/c	45,332.61
931.09	Cash at Royal Bank of Scotland No 2 a/c	932.94
27,471.33	Shawbrook bank - 1 Year Bond	27,594.95
82.18	Petty Cash	6.22
<u>68,169.44</u>		<u>73,866.72</u>
Fixed Assets		
	The Synagogue (Grade 2*)	
	Synagogue Furniture and Contents	
	The Cemetery (Elm Street)	
	The House at 44 Elm Street	
DETAILS OF INVESTMENT & BANK ACCOUNTS		
Royal Bank of Scotland No. 1 a/c		
36,665.19	Opening Balance	39,684.84
(19,023.69)	General Expenditure	(9,498.86)
(700.00)	Transfer to Petty Cash	(600.00)
22,743.34	Receipts	15,746.63
<u>39,684.84</u>	Closing Balance	<u>45,332.61</u>
Royal Bank of Scotland No. 2 a/c		
930.61	Opening Balance	931.09
0.48	Interest Received	1.85
<u>931.09</u>	Closing Balance	<u>932.94</u>
Investment - Shawbrook Bank		
27,093.06	Opening Balance	27,471.33
0.00	Received From RBS	0.00
378.27	Interest Received	123.62
<u>27,471.33</u>	Closing Balance	<u>27,594.95</u>
Petty Cash		
45.88	Opening Balance	82.18
700.00	From RBS No. 1 a/c	600.00
(663.70)	Expenditure	(675.96)
<u>82.18</u>		<u>6.22</u>