

**Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

**Charity Number:** 1198905

**Registered address:** 33 Worcester Park, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6QU

Trustees serving during the year

Moya	Boardman
Jane	Briggs
Christina	Hilsenrath Craig
Ann	Cullis
Ian	Parsons
David	Taylor

Committee members serving during the year

Bernadette Metters

Chair: Christina Hilsenrath Craig  
Secretary: Ann Cullis  
Treasurer: Ian Parsons

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees of the charity present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The report covers the 12 months 1 April 2023-31 March 2024.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives**

The objectives of the charity are:

To promote, for the public benefit, the preservation, care and improvement of Bath Jewish Burial Ground as a place of historic and ecological interest;

To advance the education of the public through the preservation and maintenance of the Bath Jewish Burial Ground.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT: ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

The charity continued to provide activity for public benefit under its Charitable objects.

**Conservation and repairs**

Our conservation approach is to restore and repair where necessary so that the unique heritage of the Burial Ground is preserved for future generations. In January 2020 the Friends agreed a four-year conservation and repair programme which is now complete.

The last phase, the repair and repointing of the southern internal boundary wall, was carried out by our stonemason Tony Warsinski in two phases: July -August 2023 and February - March 2024. Parts of the southern internal wall were in very poor condition and sections had to be rebuilt and time-consumingly repaired. The completion of the work to the internal walls has resulted in a remarkable transformation and lifted the appearance of the whole Burial Ground.

We would like thank and to acknowledge the generosity of some of the local members of the Friends who made special donations towards the cost of this part of the restoration project. We greatly value their support.

The restoration of the cottage is now complete. However, over the wet and cold winter there were problems with condensation and mould growth on the internal east and west lime-plastered walls. Expert advice was sought and a compact ceiling-mounted ventilation system will be installed in early summer 2024.

#### The cottage

During the spring the broken roof tiles were replaced, and in the summer the gutter and down pipes were repainted.

#### Headstones

In April, a fallen gravestone was unearthed near to the cottage. The inscription was on the underside, making it - uniquely in our Burial Ground - face east rather than west. Having carefully cleaned it, the inscription 'Emmanuel Solomon of Canterbury' can be seen. Unfortunately, there is nothing more in English and no date of burial. There is some Hebrew wording, but it is very worn and not legible.

One of the unexpected outcomes of this discovery was that we also uncovered some broken pieces of lettering. We were able to identify that these were part of the inscription missing from the tomb of Joseph Sigmond, the society dentist whose table tomb (matching that of his wife Catherine) are the first ones you see when entering the Burial Ground. We could see where they fitted so we asked Sally Strachey Historic Conservation, restoration experts, to 'glue' them back in place on the ledger stone.

Sally Strachey Historic Conservation also straightened two tombstones that had been starting to lean, those of Solomon Kesseff and Sarah Moses, and did some routine maintenance on the delaminating inscriptions on the gravestones of Daniel Rees and Abraham Leon.

#### Memorial

Although the Burial Ground is closed for interments, the trustees permit memorials for Jewish people with a strong association with Bath either personally or through their immediate family. A memorial plaque to Kitty Bloor has been placed adjacent



to the North (street-side) wall by her son Gordon, who has lived the majority of his life in Bath and for much of that in Combe Down.

## **Research**

Our research into the lives of the people buried here, the history of the Burial Ground, and the wider Jewish community in Bath has continued. During the winter of 2024 we will publish our book 'Jews in Bath: a community and their Burial Ground: 1700-1945'.

### Memorial: unmarked graves

No burial register has survived. Only 43 headstones have legible or partially legible inscriptions, the rest being so worn or broken that we do not know who they commemorate. There are also burials in graves that were never marked.

Our research identified people who are known to be buried here or where there is evidence that they are very likely to have been buried here. We decided to install a commemorative plaque listing their names. Although we raised the £1,000 needed for this through donations, we have delayed commissioning the plaque until we were confident that our research into the Jewish Community in Bath in the 19th and early 20th centuries was complete. This has now concluded and another 37 adults, children and infants who are very likely to be buried here have been identified (the last of these were only discovered in the summer of 2024). The plaque will now be installed in autumn 2024.

### Collaboration

Our research also enabled us to identify a photograph among a set of glass plate negatives from the 1890s that volunteers of the Museum of Bath of Work were cataloguing. One of the plates marked 'Somers' is a photograph of Mary Somers, the daughter of Reuben Somers who is buried here. His grand-daughter is still alive and lives in Bath, and had shared photos of Reuben and his children with us. The photograph, and Mary's life story, were included in an exhibition at the Museum in June 2023 and in an accompanying publication.

## **Visitors, Talks and Events**

### Open days

During 2023 we held three public open days which are free for visitors: 30 April, 25 June and 10 September. Visitor numbers can vary depending on the weather; numbers were particularly high on 10 September, which was part of Bath's Heritage Open Days programme and the local Combe Down Art trail. Artists Robert Lee and Viv Meadows displayed their work in the cottage. The cottage was open on both days of the Art Trail, Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September, but the area of the Burial Ground itself was open only on the Sunday, as it is not permitted to visit Jewish burial grounds on *Shabbat*. As the cottage was only ever a secular building, not used for religious purposes, we feel comfortable in contributing to a local event in this way.

### Guided Tours

We offered three free guided tours, one evening walk on 31 May and a morning and afternoon walk on 22 October. These were well attended.

#### Private visits

We opened for two private visits, one for Jewish visitors to Bath and one for descendants of the Hillier family who lived in the cottage.

We also hosted the Bath Listed Building team who were impressed with our conservation approach and restoration.

The Bath Interfaith Pilgrimage Walk also included the Bath Ground in their walk on 10 September. About 20 people of all religions attended.

#### Fund raising event

We held a very successful fundraising event on 7 June which was included in the Bath Fringe Festival. Following the fascinating talk about Jewish refugee artists of the East End given by Desanka Rowell in 2022, we were delighted that she agreed to hold another, also in support of the Burial Ground. *Two Worlds: the world of the soul and the reality of politics* told the story of so-called 'degenerate art' (*Entartete Kunst*), the derisory name given by the National Socialists to art of the modern movement in 1930s Germany. Desanka's illustrated talk examined the Nazi promotion of culture as propaganda and the reaction of artists to the circumstances of the time. 40 people attended and we raised £350. We would like to thank Desanka for her talk and to the Museum of Bath at Work for hosting the event.

#### Talks and articles

We were invited to speak to the Bathampton Rotary Club (c.35 attendees). We were also asked to write an 8-page article on the history of the Bath Jewish community for the Journal produced for the Bath Mayors' Guides.

We submitted an article about the Burial Ground to the European Heritage Days website.

<b>Visitor numbers:</b>	<b>2023/4</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Open Days	300	400
Guided Walks	32	52
Private visitors	24	25
Fund raising event	38	40
Talks to local societies	35	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>712</b>

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**



Our financial performance is strong. We received the second half of a grant from the Bath World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund for the repair of the internal walls. We continue to receive donations and also received a very generous legacy.

### **Governance**

The year under review 2023/24 was the first full year of operation as a registered charity (having previously been a Community Interest Company): charitable status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was approved in May 2022, charity number 1198905.

Trustees contribute very significant time and expertise, especially on financial administration, fundraising, website maintenance, database development and research.

At the end of March 2024, Ian Parsons stood down as Treasurer (but remained a Trustee), and Moya Boardman took on the Treasurer role from 1 April 2024.

Volunteers and supporters help us greet visitors on open days, and local Hebrew readers have helped us translate the inscriptions on the headstones.

Christina Hilsenrath Craig  
Chair  
12.10.24

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**Note:**

Opening Balance in 2022/23 was transferred from Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground Community Interest Company (CIC) Company Number 09696558 Charities Ref No XT23226, to Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 11 May 2022. Year end 31 March 2023 therefore covered the period 11 May 2022 to 31 March 2023.

**Statement of Financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2024**

		Year End 31 March 2024	Year End 31 March 2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>INCOME FROM</b>			
Donations & subscriptions	15,096		15,096
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	0		0
Grants	6,000		6,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>21,096</u></b>		<b><u>26,091</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Electricity	649		649
Wessex Water	45		45
Landscaping & conservation	25,216		25,216
Paypal & website charges; room hires	97		97
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>26,007</u></b>		<b><u>13,452</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b><u>(4,911)</u></b>		<b><u>12,639</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS (incl. Petty Cash)</b>	22,663		10,024
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>17,752</u></b>		<b><u>22,663</u></b>

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**Balance sheet at 31 March 2024**

	Year End 31 March 2024	Year End 31 March 2023 Total funds
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		£
Tangible assets	0	0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock	0	0
Debtors	0	0
Cash at bank	17,752	22,663
	<b><u>17,752</u></b>	<b><u>22,663</u></b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amount falling due within one year	0	0
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b><u>17,752</u></b>	<b><u>22,663</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	17,752	22,663
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>17,752</u></b>	<b><u>22,663</u></b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted funds	4,491	4,491
Designated funds	13,261	18,172
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>17,752</u></b>	<b><u>22,663</u></b>

The Charity states that:

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

*Balance sheet continued >*

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the Governing Document for the conducting of an audit.

Income to the charity in 2023/24 was below £25,000 and therefore independent examination is not required.

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### ***Trustees 2023/24***

Moya Boardman  
Jane Briggs  
Christina Hilsenrath Craig (Chair)  
Ann Cullis  
Ian Parsons  
David Taylor

#### ***Trustees' remuneration and benefits***

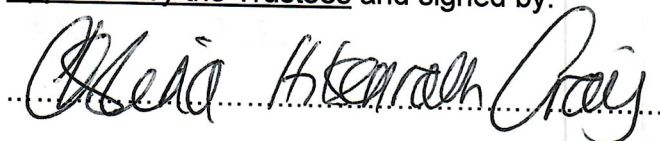
There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### ***Staff costs***

There were no employees.

Approved by the Trustees and signed by:



Christina Hilsenrath Craig, Chair

On:

Date 27 Oct. 2024