

Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground CIO

Registered Charity number: 1198905

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

Trustees: M. Boardman, J. Briggs, C. Hilsenrath Craig, A. Cullis, D. Taylor

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25

Trustees serving during the year:

Moya	Boardman
Jane	Briggs
Christina	Hilsenrath Craig
Ann	Cullis
Ian	Parsons (deceased; to 10.10.24)
David	Taylor

Chair: Christina Hilsenrath Craig

Secretary: Ann Cullis

Treasurer: Moya Boardman (from 1 April 2024)

Trustees Report

The report covers the 12 months 1 April 2024-31 March 2025.

Our fellow Trustee Ian Parsons died on 10 October 2024. He is greatly missed by us all.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The Objects 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

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.

By March 2024 the Friends had completed their three year restoration and conservation programme. This has transformed the Burial Ground. The restoration of the cottage is now complete. However, over the wet and cold winter of 2023/24 there were problems with condensation and mould growth on the internal east and west lime plastered walls. Therefore in May 2024 a compact ceiling mounted ventilation system was installed and this has significantly improved the situation.

During early 2024-5, the repairs and repointing to the internal face of the boundary walls was also completed. The overall effect has been remarkable and lifts the whole appearance of the Burial Ground.

Research

Visitors, Talks and Events:

Visitor numbers:	2024/25
Open Days	300
Guided Walks	45
Private visits	15
Fund raising event	60
Film screening	125
Memorial plaque ceremony	40
Total	585
Talks to local / national societies (detailed below)	3

Talks

In February 2025, Christina Hilsenrath recorded a video interview about her book *Jews in Bath* with local journalist Richard Wyatt who runs the 'Bath Newseum' blog. This has ~2,000 followers.

In March 2025 Christina gave a zoom talk to Jewish Care, the leading health and social care charity for the Jewish community in London and the South-East. About 40 people attended. Also in March, Ann Cullis and Christina Hilsenrath recorded a podcast with the Chief Executive of the Jewish Small Communities Network.

Open days

During the year we held three public open days which are free for visitors. Visitor numbers were particularly high on the last of these, 8 September 2024: nearly 200 people visited as part of the Bath Heritage Open Days programme, the Bath Interfaith Pilgrimage walk and the Combe Down Art Trail.

Guided Walks

We offered three free guided walks, one evening walk in May and a morning and afternoon walk in October. These were well attended.

Fringe Festival:

In June, Desanka Rowell, a well-known local art historian, kindly gave her fourth talk for our annual fundraising event. Around 60 people attended for her fascinating illustrated talk '*The Darkest Burden: the Gurlitt Trove*', which explored the paintings stolen or bought below market price from Jewish families by Nazi art dealers. We give huge thanks to Desanka for her talk and to the Museum of Bath at Work for hosting the event.

Film: *Orphaned Burial Grounds*

An independent filmmaker, Jonny Weinberg, was commissioned by the UK Jewish Film Festival to make a 4 minute documentary on historic/abandoned Jewish burial grounds. He came to our open day in July 2024 to film the Burial Ground and interview some of the local community. The resulting film, '*Orphaned Burial Grounds*', which portrays Bath, Kings Lynn and Wolverhampton Burial Grounds, was premiered in London and in Bath in November 2024, the first time that the UK Jewish Film Festival had come to Bath. Screened at the Little Theatre Cinema, the programme included a selection of films which were enjoyed by the audience and filled the cinema to capacity.

Jews in Bath - a community and their Burial Ground 1700-1945

After four years of research, Christina Hilsenrath's book was published by the Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground in December 2024. *Jews in Bath - a community and their Burial Ground 1700-1945* is the story of the city's Jewish community. It brings to life the individuals and families who lived, worked and worshipped in the city, together with the history of their Synagogue and Burial Ground. The appendices cover all aspects of Jewish life in the city - the Devonshire Place roundhouse, Jews Lane, the small communities in the towns and villages around Bath, religious leaders and much more. By tracing the history of the community and reconstructing the lives of individuals and families who lived, worked, and worshipped in the city, the book demonstrates how Bath's Jewish history exemplifies the opportunities and the challenges of Jewish communities across provincial Britain.

Installation of Memorial Plaque

On Sunday 30 March 2025 at 3pm, the Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground hosted a private ceremony at the Burial Ground to commemorate the 36 named adults and children we know are buried there without headstones or whose headstones are no

longer visible. Their names and dates of birth and death have been inscribed on a memorial stone in an area of the Burial Ground where we are sure that no-one is buried. We were honoured that Rabbi Monique from the Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Congregation led a brief service and unveiled the plaque. Refreshments were served in the cottage afterwards.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

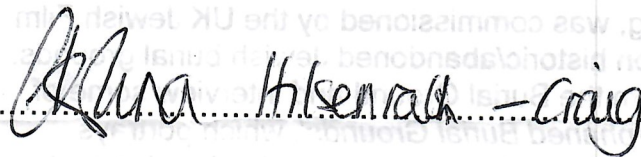
Our financial performance is strong and is presented in the accounts following this report. We continue to receive regular and one-off donations.

GOVERNANCE

There are no paid staff.

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

Other volunteers also help us to greet visitors on open days and local Hebrew readers continue to help us translate the inscriptions on the headstones.

 Christina Hilsenrath - Craig

Christina Hilsenrath Craig
Chair

26 October 2025

Statement of Financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

			Year End 31 March 2025	Year End 31 March 2024
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £ £	Total Funds	
INCOME FROM				
Donations & subscriptions	4,014	0	4,014	15,096
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	2,812	0	2,812	0
Grants	0	2,000	2,000	6,000
Book sales	4,151	0	4,151	0
Total income	<u>10,977</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>12,977</u>	<u>21,096</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Electricity	350	0	350	649
Wessex Water	87	0	87	45
Running costs	635	0	635	0
Landscaping & conservation	13,205	0	13,205	25,216
Book costs	4,428	0	4,428	0
Paypal, Go Cardless, Sumup & bank fees	136	0	136	97
Accountant fees	120	0	120	0
Total Expenditure	<u>18,961</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18,961</u>	<u>26,007</u>
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	(7,984)	2,000	(5,984)	(4,911)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS (incl. Petty Cash)	522	0	522	22,663
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	11,246	0	11,246	17,752

Balance sheet continued >

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.

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 2024/25 was below £25,000 and therefore independent examination was not required.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees 2024/25

Moya Boardman
Jane Briggs
Christina Hilsenrath Craig (Chair)
Ann Cullis
Ian Parsons (to 10.10.24; deceased)
David Taylor

Trustees' remuneration and benefits

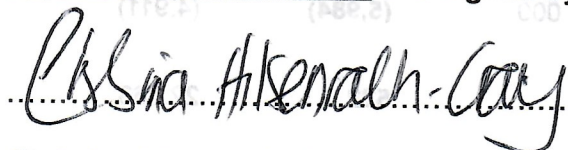
There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Staff costs

There were no employees.

Approved by the Trustees and signed by:



Christina Hilsenrath Craig, Chair

Date 26.10.2025