

Jewish Heritage UK
Registered Charity No. 1118174

Annual Report 2008

Introduction: Objectives

The objectives of Jewish Heritage UK are:

- The preservation and conservation for the benefit of the public of historic buildings and sites of Britain's Jewish community

- The promotion of the Jewish Heritage by educating the public in the subject of historic buildings and sites of Britain's Jewish community and facilitating public access to them

The organisation operates nationally, in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, Jewish Heritage assists in the protection of the material cultural heritage of the Jewish communities of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Irish Republic and Gibraltar, which have close historic ties with the Jewish community on the UK mainland. Within the Jewish community, Jewish Heritage provides independent professional support to individual congregations, trustees and synagogue organisations that are responsible for historic buildings and sites. Jewish Heritage liaises with official conservation bodies, especially English Heritage, national Amenity Societies and Local Planning Authorities, on matters pertaining to historic synagogues and sites. This rôle is becoming increasingly important with changes to the Heritage Protection regime, despite the shelving during 2008 of the Heritage Protection Bill. However, in the longer term, statutory change cannot be ruled out on Listed Buildings and the "Ecclesiastical Exemption" currently enjoyed by Places of Worship of certain Christian denominations. Liberalisation of planning law, with implications for the status of designated historic sites and Conservation Areas, remains a matter of concern.

Since 2006 Jewish Heritage has been included under "Useful Addresses" in the annual *Institute of Historic Building Conservation Handbook* - the essential resource guide in the Heritage sector. Jewish Heritage annually updates the now established "List of Listed Synagogues, Former Synagogues and other Jewish Sites in the UK" in the *Jewish Year Book*. The electronic version on the Jewish Heritage website now allows for more frequent updating.

Charitable Status

Three years after the establishment of the organisation in February 2004, Jewish Heritage UK attained Registered Charity status on 1st March 2007 (Registered Charity No. 1118174) (see www.charity-commission.gov.uk for the official entry on the Charities Register).

A brief annual report and summary accounts for 2008 has been submitted and uploaded in accordance with the requirements for small charities. Jewish Heritage has become a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

Trustees and Personnel 2008

Trustees:

Sarah Brown* (acting chairman of Trustees)

Peter Halban* (Hon. Treasurer)

Professor A R Kushner*

*Members of the original steering committee 2004-2007

Joseph Mirwitch retired as Trustee on 24 February 2008

Personnel:

The Director and CEO is Dr Sharman Kadish DPhil FRHistS FSA, founder-director of Jewish Heritage UK.

The charity's Consultant Architect is Barbara Bowman RIBA MA IHBC, who advises on casework issues.

The Technical Consultant and Webmaster is Dr Syd Greenberg BSc PhD CChem MRSC, who also acts as Honorary Book Keeper to Jewish Heritage.

National Collaborations

English Heritage: Historic Places of Worship Support Officers Scheme

At the end of the year (December 2008) the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport announced that English Heritage would be making available £1.5 million to part-fund 30 Support Officers to help congregations of all faiths manage and maintain their historic places of worship. This initiative is a fruit of the *Inspired!* campaign, launched by English Heritage in 2006 to secure a future for historic places of worship. The Director of Jewish Heritage, along with representative Christian church groups, was present at the national launch in Salford, Greater Manchester, by the Minister, Andy Burnham MP, and Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage. It is anticipated that Jewish Heritage will become a beneficiary of the Scheme in the course of 2009.

English Heritage: Synagogues at Risk Survey

In preparation for the Support Officers Scheme, Jewish Heritage has been commissioned to undertake a review of historic synagogues in England. This will be in the context of the larger English Heritage *Heritage at Risk* programme that includes Listed places of worship of other faiths, especially churches. This mini-Survey, that will embrace approximately 40 working Listed synagogues, (purpose-built or housed in other converted Listed buildings) will assist English Heritage in understanding the specific needs of synagogues as a building type and help facilitate grant aid to congregations most in need. It will also aid Jewish Heritage in raising awareness of the threats posed to historic synagogues. Fieldwork for the project is due to commence in March 2009.

SPAB "Faith in Maintenance" Project

The Director represents Jewish Heritage UK on the steering committee of 'Faith in Maintenance' (FiM), a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project initiated by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), the senior conservation society in the country. The FiM project was set up to train volunteer custodians of all faiths to safeguard their historic places of worship.

Jewish Heritage worked in close collaboration with SPAB to organise a pioneer FiM day course for Jewish communities in the North West, scheduled for 13 July 2008. The course was to be held at the Manchester Jewish Museum with a site visit to Higher Crumpsall Synagogue (Grade II and a beneficiary of the HLF/EH Joint Listed Places of Worship Repair Grant Scheme). Despite an intensive publicity and marketing campaign, including press releases, posters, newspaper adverts, mail shots and personal invitations, the response rate was poor and the course had to be cancelled due to the low number of bookings. In the words of the FiM's own *Annual Review* for 2008:

"We were forced to conclude that the Jewish community in Manchester did not appear to be engaged with its built heritage even though there is a real concern about the condition of some of the local synagogues..."

Not to be discouraged, plans to hold a course in London are afoot for 2009.

Jewish Heritage is credited and included under useful addresses in *The Good Maintenance Guide: A practical handbook to help volunteers care & preserve our historic places of worship* by Sara Crofts, published by SPAB in 2008 as part of the FiM project.

Heritage Open Days

Jewish Heritage regularly promotes British Jewry's material heritage to the wider public through encouraging participation in the annual national Heritage Open Days (HoDs) and in European Jewish Heritage Day, organised by B'nai Brith, which since 2000 has become a popular annual event in the UK. These events are held every September.

In Manchester, HoDs are combined with the Cheetham Festival that celebrates cultural diversity in the Cheetham Hill area north of the city centre - that for Manchester Jewry is the equivalent of the East End of London. Along with Jeremy Michelson, Education Officer at the Manchester Jewish Museum, Jewish Heritage Director Sharman Kadish was co-opted onto the Cheetham Festival Committee. This is chaired by Rev. Daniel Burton, Vicar of Cheetham, who is also a Trustee of the North West Multi-Faith Tourism Association.

This year, the Cheetham Festival brochure was most attractively designed in full colour, produced by North Manchester Regeneration and supported by English Heritage North West Region and Manchester City Council. Jewish attractions, free entry to the Manchester Jewish Museum (originally negotiated by Jewish Heritage), the Cheetham Jewish Heritage Trail, and guided tour of Higher Crumpsall Synagogue - that lies on the extremity of Cheetham Hill - were prominently promoted.

The Director participated in a down-the-line interview for BBC Greater Manchester Radio's Jewish programme on 11 August to help promote HoDs in both Manchester and Liverpool.

Other Organisations

Jewish Heritage is represented on the nationwide *Heritage Link* and specifically on the *Heritage Link Places of Worship Steering Group*, chaired by Crispin Truman of the Churches Conservation Trust. In July she attended the North West Historic Environment Forum in Manchester, organised by The Heritage Trust for the North West in conjunction with Heritage Link. In November she attended the launch in London of the DVD made to accompany Christopher Martin, *A Glimpse of Heaven: Great Catholic Churches of England and Wales* (English Heritage, 2006) at the invitation of the Patrimony Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. However, she was unable to accept an invitation to present a workshop at the Churches Tourism Association's annual convention held in Derbyshire in the same month due to term-time teaching commitments.

International Links

In July, Jewish Heritage hosted Dr Maros Borsky of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Center, Bratislava (see www.slovak-jewish-heritage.org). His programme took in the North West Historic Environment Forum in Manchester, where he met with Tim Hatton, Historic Church Buildings Officer to the Manchester Diocese. He was treated to tours of Jewish heritage sites in Manchester, plus a day in Liverpool - European Capital of Culture 2008 - visiting Princes Road Synagogue (Grade I), Greenbank Drive Synagogue (Grade II*), and the former Hope Place Synagogue, now the Unity Theatre. Dr Borsky's visit was a valuable opportunity to compare notes of parallel activities at opposite ends of Europe.

The same month saw the Manchester Judaica Fest, a week-long international conference organised by the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Manchester, where the Director is a part-time member of staff. Jewish Heritage promotional material was inserted into the conference packs and Dr Kadish led a guided tour of Manchester Jewish heritage sites. The intimate party included Professor Nahum Rakover, Deputy Attorney General of the State of Israel from 1983-1999 and current president of the Jewish Law Association.

The British Embassy in Tel Aviv requested from Jewish Heritage UK use of an image of an historic British synagogue for their 5769/2008 Jewish New Year card. As a result, Princes Road Synagogue was featured (credited to *Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide* by Sharman Kadish, English Heritage 2006), appropriately to mark Liverpool - Capital of Culture. Cards were signed by the British Ambassador, Tom Phillips - who personally wrote to thank the Director and Jewish Heritage for our assistance.

Requests for images were also received from *Ma'ariv* newspaper and *National Geographic* (Israeli edition) to illustrate feature articles.

In August the Director, representing Jewish Heritage UK, was invited to join a four-day tour of "Jewish Berlin" organised by the German National Tourist Board in London. She was one among 20 communal leaders chosen to participate in a sensitive pioneering effort to promote Jewish heritage tourism in Germany to an Anglo-Jewish audience. The tour generated much publicity in the Jewish press as well as a feature article in *The Independent Magazine*. For the Director's account, see www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu - Germany News Page.

Summary of Activities and News, 2008

Statutory Protection

From time to time, Jewish Heritage initiates the Listing of synagogues and sites deemed to be of architectural and historic importance. On other occasions, we are consulted by English Heritage on applications for Listing that have been brought independently by Amenity Societies, local heritage groups or concerned individuals. The final decision in all cases rests with English Heritage.

New Listings (Listed Buildings) and Upgrades during 2008:

Synagogues

Liverpool, Princes Road Synagogue upgraded from Grade II* to Grade I in line with London's New West End Synagogue, upgraded in 2007, making a total of three Grade I synagogues in the country (including Bevis Marks).

Liverpool, Greenbank Drive Synagogue, upgraded from Grade II to Grade II* (on the initiative of the Twentieth Century Society).

N.B. London, Golders Green Synagogue, Dunstan Road, NW11 Grade II was Listed in 2007, but inadvertently omitted from the 2007 Annual Report.

Burial Grounds

Ipswich, Salthouse Lane Jews' Burial Ground, Off Star Lane, IP4
Boundary walls Grade II

Wolverhampton Old Jewish Cemetery, Cockshutts Lane and Thomson Avenue, WV2
Ohel and Boundary walls Grade II

No new Designations of Jewish sites as Scheduled Ancient Monuments or entries on the Parks & Gardens Register were made during 2008.

Synagogue Closures/Threatened Closures/ Alterations

Jewish Heritage provided support and professional advice to concerned individuals and/or dwindling congregations on the protection of buildings, artifacts and archives at:

Bournemouth, Wootton Gardens
Bradford, Bowland Street
London, Ealing Synagogue (United)
Liverpool, Greenbank Drive
Sunderland, Ryhope Road
Swansea, Ffynone Road

On-site meetings were held with interested parties in Liverpool (February) and Bradford (December). In November the Director travelled to Newcastle where she visited both the Newcastle Hebrew Congregation (Orthodox) and the Reform synagogue, both in Gosforth, and was briefed on the state of local heritage sites by architect and community leader Joe Gellert. The former synagogue (1938) and the Jewish plot at Whitley New Cemetery (1953) in Whitley Bay were inspected.

Burial Grounds at Risk

Exeter, Bull Meadow
London, Bancroft Road
London, Hackney [Lauriston Road]
Ipswich, Salthouse Lane
Merthyr Tydfil, Cefn Coed
Manchester, Prestwich Village
Sunderland, Ayres Quay
Swansea, Mayhill
Wolverhampton, Cockshutts Lane

The Director is in close touch with David Marcus, the chairman of the Board of Deputies' Heritage Committee, on some of these cases. The Board is now auditing the dozen disused burial grounds the responsibility for upkeep of which has devolved upon them. They are seeking to place these on a secure legal footing with the view to establishing a separate company to raise funds for maintenance of all these and other disused cemeteries.

Planning Applications & Development Proposals

Jewish Heritage was asked to comment on the following:

Liverpool, Greenbank Drive Synagogue
Manchester Jewish Museum - expansion and possible new HLF bid
Manchester, Sha'are Hayim (Withington) Synagogue

Losses

Despite a much brighter outlook for Britain's historic 19th century synagogues, there is still cause for concern for the fate of 20th century buildings. Following the demolition of Clapton Federation Synagogue in 2006, concern remains for the fate of the sister synagogue at Ryhope Road Sunderland (both were designed by the same architect in very similar style), which likewise closed in 2006 and was sold within the strictly Orthodox Jewish community. This building was Listed Grade II in 1999. However, in 2008 it is At Risk, standing derelict and the schoolroom next door was arsoned.

Strategic Reports, Guidance and Grant Application Advice/References

Assistance was given to the following synagogues:

Brighton, Middle Street
Exeter, Mary Arches Street
London, Sandys Row
London, New West End
Manchester, Higher Crumpsall

Advocacy

Public Lectures, Events and Conferences: See Appendix 1

Publications: See Appendix 2

Publicity: See Appendix 3

Tourism Development

Jewish Heritage continues involvement in both *Heritage Open Days* and *European Jewish Heritage Day* (see above). During the former, the Director's annual tour of Manchester's Higher Crumpsall Synagogue attracted 25 people. A subsequent privately booked tour for a visiting church party from Manchester and Blackpool attracted a similar number. This synagogue celebrates its 80th Anniversary in 2009.

Heritage Trails in the East End of London, Manchester, Birmingham and Brighton published in Sharman Kadish *Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide* (English Heritage 2006) have resulted in increased visitor numbers to sites *en route*.

Education and Dissemination

Jewish Heritage in England sold out its first print-run within three months of publication on 16 November 2006. It was rapidly reprinted by publishers English Heritage and was one of the top sellers at Jewish Book Week 2008 where the author gave an illustrated lecture attended by over 100 people.

Sales of the companion guide *Jewish Heritage in Gibraltar: An Architectural Guide* (Spire Books 2007) have been slower in the UK, but continue more strongly on the Rock where the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and Gibraltar Books are the main distributors.

Website

During 2008 the website was updated and gradually expanded. The number of users has been increasing, currently approaching *ca.* 1,000 visitors per month. This growth is reflected in an increasing volume of enquiries, mainly via email, from the UK and overseas.

Appendix 1 - *Public Lectures, Events and Conferences*

February 2008

Lecture and book signing at Jewish Book Week, London
Lecture and book signing at Manchester Jewish Museum

March 2008

"Jewish Life in Wales" conference, Bangor University

April 2008

"Imaging the Bible in Wales" conference, University of Aberystwyth

May 2008

Limmud Day for Liverpool Capital of Culture, Liverpool Hope University

June 2008

"The Jewish Presence in Art" conference, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel

July 2008

English Heritage "Heritage at Risk" Dinner, Banqueting House, Whitehall
University of Manchester Judaica Fest – publicity and guided tour

August 2008

"Jewish Berlin" four-day tour organised by the German National Tourist Board
North West Historic Environment Forum, Manchester

September 2007

Heritage Open Days: Guided tour of Higher Crumpsall Synagogue. Subsequent privately booked tour for a visiting church party from Manchester and Blackpool.

November 2008

"Cultural Assets Fair" University of Manchester: joint presentation with Manchester Jewish Museum on Jewish Heritage resources in Manchester.

December 2008

English Heritage Places of Worship Support Officers Scheme launch in Salford, Great Manchester

Appendix 2 - Publications

Popular Press

"Architectural Gems" [Historic synagogues in Liverpool]
Jewish Renaissance, Jan. 2008, p. 20

"A minyan of top UK shuls"

Jewish Telegraph [all edns.] 25 July 2008, p. 19 [in Manchester edn.]

Electronic

www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu - Germany News Page

"Jewish Berlin – Yesterday and Today" (28 August 2008) By Sharman Kadish

Academic - In Press

Currently in press are articles arising from conferences in Braunschweig, Germany (2007) and Aberystwyth, Wales (2008), as well as a contribution to a volume being published by the Hackney Society to mark its 40th Anniversary in 2009. Book reviews for *Victorian Magazine* and *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* (Jerusalem).

The first draft of *The Synagogues of Britain and Ireland: An Architectural History* (Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art with photography by English Heritage) was completed by the end of 2008 and has been sent to the prospective publisher for review. If the publisher's timetable is met, the book will appear in late 2010.

Appendix 3 - Publicity about Jewish Heritage

General Press

Independent Magazine, Victorian Magazine, Ma'ariv, National Geographic [Israeli edition]

Jewish/Religious Press

Jewish Chronicle, Jewish News, Jewish Telegraph, Jewish Renaissance