

Jewish Heritage UK

Registered Charity No. 1118174

Annual Report 2007

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 and proposed new legislation both on Listed Buildings and the "Ecclesiastical Exemption" currently enjoyed by Places of Worship of certain Christian denominations. Since 2006 Jewish Heritage has been listed under "Useful Addresses" in the annual *Institute of Historic Building Conservation Handbook* - the essential resource guide in the Heritage sector.

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).

Trustees and Personnel 2007-8

Trustees:

Sarah Brown* (acting chairman of Trustees)

Peter Halban* (Hon. Treasurer)

Professor A R Kushner*

Joseph Mirwitsch (until 24 February 2008)

*Members of the original steering committee 2004-2007

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

Since May 2006 Jewish Heritage, along with representative Christian church groups, has participated in the *Inspired!* campaign, launched by English Heritage to secure a future for historic places of worship. Jewish Heritage is listed amongst these groups in the specially produced information brochure as the point of contact for information and advice relating to historic synagogues. The campaign was renewed in June 2007 with a Parliamentary lobbying event at the Palace of Westminster, attended by the Director.

The Director represents Jewish Heritage UK on the steering committee of 'Faith in Maintenance', a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project initiated by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Monuments (SPAB), the senior conservation society in the country. This project was set up to train volunteer custodians of historic places of worship of all Faiths. Arrangements are in hand for two courses aimed specifically at the Jewish community in 2008.

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

The Director assisted identification and cataloguing of a stained glass panel from Bayswater Synagogue deposited with the London Stained Glass Repository at Glaziers' Hall. This is now on display, with appropriate interpretation, at the Stained Glass Museum in Ely, Cambridgeshire, the only specialist museum of its kind.

Summary of Activities and News, 2007

Statutory Protection

New Listings (Listed Buildings) and Upgrades during 2007

- London: New West End Synagogue, upgraded from Grade II* to Grade I – only the second synagogue to be so classified (after Bevis Marks). This upgrading received wide press coverage in August 2007.
- London: Former Yiddish 'Jewish Daily Post' offices, 88 Whitechapel Road, E1 (Grade II)
- Liverpool: Galkoff's Kosher Butcher Shop, Pembroke Place, Liverpool (Grade II)

There were no new Designations as Scheduled Ancient Monuments or entries on the Parks & Gardens Register during 2007.

Synagogue Closures/Threatened Closures/ Alterations

Provision of support and professional advice to concerned individuals and/or dwindling congregations on protection of buildings, artifacts and archives at Aberdeen, Coventry, Liverpool (Greenbank Drive), London (Clapton Federation, Dollis Hill, Sandys Row), Manchester (Higher Crumpsall, Wilbraham Road) and Sunderland.

In December 2006, Higher Crumpsall Synagogue in Manchester pulled out of completion of Stage II Repairs (Completion). Due to the intervention of Jewish Heritage with assistance from English Heritage, an emergency meeting was held with representatives of the synagogue in February 2007 at which this potentially disastrous decision was reversed. A timely anonymous donation of £30,000 played a crucial role and Stage II Repairs began after *Succot* and are due to be completed by *Pesach*.

Burial Grounds at Risk

London: Hackney (Lauriston Road), Nuevo Spanish & Portuguese (Mile End);
Manchester (Prestwich Village), Sunderland (Ayres Quay), Wolverhampton (Cockshutts Lane);

Planning Applications & Development Proposals

Brighton (Devonshire Place – successful restoration and conversion into flats), Bristol (Jacob's Well), Carmel College, Oxfordshire (housing development), Liverpool (Greenbank Drive) Ramsgate (Montefiore Endowment).

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. The proposal to List Clapton Federation Synagogue came from outside the Jewish community, from the Clapton Areas Advisory Committee. The building was demolished before this could be achieved. The future of Clapton's 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, is now a cause of serious concern. This building was Listed Grade II in 1999.

Strategic Reports, Guidance and Grant Application Advice

Heritage Management and Strategic Planning in the Manchester Jewish Community: Articles by the Director appeared in *Manchester Jewish Telegraph*, 26 January, 12 October 2007 and *The Voice* [Magazine of the Manchester Beth Din], December 2007.

Letters of Support/References for Grant Applications

References provided for DCMS and other grant awarding bodies

Advocacy

Public Lectures, Events and Conferences: See Appendix 1

Publications: See Appendix 2

Publicity: See Appendix 3

Tourism Development

The Director has been heavily involved in both *Heritage Open Days* and *European Jewish Heritage Day*. *Heritage Trails* in the East End of London, Manchester, Birmingham and Brighton have been developed and were published in *Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide* (November 2006).

Education and Dissemination

Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide by Jewish Heritage Director Sharman Kadish sold out its first print-run within three months of publication on 16 November 2006. It was rapidly reprinted by publishers English Heritage.

The companion guide *Jewish Heritage in Gibraltar: An Architectural Guide* appeared in February 2007. An official launch event was held at the Garrison Library in Gibraltar on 2 May 2007, hosted by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and attended by dignitaries including the Minister of Heritage, the Chief Rabbi of Gibraltar and members of the Jewish community. The launch was featured on Gibraltar TV News and on the front page of the *Gibraltar Chronicle*. Both books were well received at 2007 Jewish Book Week.

Website

During 2007 the website has been updated and gradually expanded. The number of users has been continually increasing, currently standing at *ca.* 1,000 visitors per month. This growth is reflected in an increasing volume of enquiries, mainly via email, from the UK and overseas.

Miscellaneous

Manchester Jewish Soup Kitchen Archives – arranged collection by Manchester City Archives. On site meetings were held with interested parties in Sunderland and Wolverhampton in February 2007.

Appendix 1 - Public Lectures, Events and Conferences

January 2007

Victorian Society Lecture, Manchester Jewish Museum

February 2007

Book signing at Jewish Book Week, London

May 2007

Book Launch *Jewish Heritage in Gibraltar*, Garrison Library, Gibraltar

June 2007

Heritage Link Networking Event, Manchester;

English Heritage '*Inspired!*' Reception and buffet lunch with MPs at Palace of Westminster and St George's, Bloomsbury

September 2007

Heritage Open Days: Lecture at Manchester Jewish Museum and guided tour of Higher Crumpsall Synagogue;

"Welcome to Manchester Week" joint presentation with Manchester Jewish Museum on Jewish Heritage resources in Manchester, held at University of Manchester

October 2007

"Jewish Architecture in Europe" conference, Technische Hochschule, Braunschweig, Germany

November 2007

"Jewish Germany" lunch organised by the German National Tourist Board, London

December 2007

Heritage Link AGM, London

Appendix 2 - Publications and Advocacy

Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide (English Heritage November 2006)

Jewish Heritage in Gibraltar: An Architectural Guide (Spire Books February 2007)

'*Sha'ar haShamayim: London's Bevis Marks Synagogue and the Sephardi Architectural Heritage*', *Ars Judaica*, The Bar Ilan Journal of Jewish Art, Vol. 3 (2007), pp. 31-52

'Local Jews need to wake up and look beyond their parochial noses' [Higher Crumpsall Synagogue], *Jewish Telegraph [Manchester]* 26 January 2007, p. 15

'Bristol Mikveh to go under the Hammer', *Jewish Tribune* 22 February 2007 p. 3

'Heritage shul deserves a secure future' [Higher Crumpsall Synagogue], *Jewish Telegraph [Manchester]* 12 October 2007, p. 4

'Higher Crumpsall Heritage Shul', *The Voice: A Publication of the Manchester Beth Din*, Issue 15 (December 2007), pp. 56-61

Appendix 3 - Publicity in the Press and on the Internet

General Press

Independent, Ha'Aretz

Jewish/Religious Press

Jewish Chronicle, Jewish Tribune, Jewish News, Jewish Telegraph - Manchester & Liverpool editions, HaModia, The Tablet, Church Times