



קהילה קדושה סוכת שלום  
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue

Registered Charity 283615



Gerald Edelman

 Chartered Accountants

73 Cornhill London EC3V 3QQ

Chartered Accountants  
Business Advisors  
Tax Consultants

**ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015**

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

**Financial Review**

The statement of financial activities for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 is set out in the accounts which are attached.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Trustees Governing Document, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

**Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements**

The Trustees (Council Members) are obliged to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and resources expended including the income and expenditure for the financial year. In doing so, the Trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the attached accounts.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

It is the policy of the Charity that the unrestricted funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Members of Council (Trustees) consider that the reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the synagogues current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

On behalf of the Council of Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue

**M.Kalinsky**

**Honorary Treasurer**

**Dated:** .....

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF SUKKAT  
SHALOM REFORM SYNAGOGUE**

I report on the accounts of the Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue for the year ended 30th June 2015, which are set out on pages 4-10 of this document.

**Respective responsibilities of Members of Council and examiner**

As the charity's Members of Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act;  
have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Gerald Edelman**

73 Cornhill

London

EC3V 3QQ

**Dated:** .....

**Signed**.....

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b><u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u></b>					
Donations and gifts	2	746	1,716	2,462	2,789
Investment income	3	5,289	-	5,289	5,335
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		6,035	1,716	7,751	8,124
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	125,087	-	125,087	114,976
Other incoming resources	5	4,320	-	4,320	3,427
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>135,442</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>137,158</b>	<b>126,527</b>
<b><u>Resources expended</u></b>					
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>					
MRJ Capitation Fees		16,214	-	16,214	15,751
JJBS Burial Society fees		19,204	-	19,204	18,191
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net incoming resources available</b>		<b>100,024</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>101,740</b>	<b>92,585</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Donations payable		-	1,716	1,716	2,109
Support Costs		78,796	-	78,796	77,245
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>78,796</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>80,512</b>	<b>79,354</b>
Governance costs	6	700	-	700	500
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	7,9	<b>79,496</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>81,212</b>	<b>79,854</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>(Net income for the year/)</b>		<b>20,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,528</b>	<b>12,731</b>
<b>(Net movement in funds)</b>		<b>20,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,528</b>	<b>12,731</b>
Fund balances at 1 July 2014		256,479	26,135	282,614	265,327
Movement on Restricted Funds	14	(1,786)	6,131	4,345	4,556
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Fund balances at 30th June 2015</b>	14	<b>275,221</b>	<b>32,266</b>	<b>307,487</b>	<b>282,614</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Balance Sheet  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

	Notes	£	2015 £	£	2014 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	10		255,427		255,402
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock		912		912	
Debtors	11	19,148		17,839	
Cash at bank and in hand		59,423		48,918	
		79,483		67,669	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	16,563		23,594	
<b>Net assets/(current liabilities)</b>			62,920		44,075
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			318,347		299,477
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	13		10,860		16,863
<b>Net assets</b>			307,487		282,614
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	14		275,221		256,479
Restricted funds	14		32,266		26,135
			307,487		282,614

The accounts were approved by the members of Council on .....

.....  
**M.Kalinsky**  
Honorary Treasurer

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

**1 Accounting policies**

**1.1 Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 1993.

**1.2 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold land is not depreciated	
Freehold buildings	Nil
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% Reducing Balance
Scrolls and Appurtenances	4% Straight Line

**1.3 Books**

Expenditure on books for use by the congregation at services is expensed as incurred.

**1.4 Stock**

A stock of prayer books is held for the purposes of resale.

**2 Donations and Gifts**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£
Donations and gifts (Other donations and gifts received in the year have been credited directly to the relevant restricted fund set out in note 14)	<b>746</b>	680

**3 Investment income**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£
Rental income	<b>5,265</b>	5,320
Interest receivable	<b>24</b>	15
	<b>5,289</b>	5,335

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

**4 Incoming resources from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Subscriptions/High Holy Day Appeal	111,825	1,716	<b>113,541</b>	102,143
Gift aid receivable	13,262	-	<b>13,262</b>	14,942
	<u>125,087</u>	<u>1,716</u>	<u><b>126,803</b></u>	<u>117,085</u>

**5 Other incoming resources**

	2015 £	2014 £
Fund Raising Activities	<b>1,442</b>	870
Less: Transferred to Heating Fund	<b>(1,000)</b>	-
Other income from religious activities & Tree of Life	<b>3,878</b>	2,557
	<u><b>4,320</b></u>	<u>3,427</u>

**6 Support costs**

	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Staff Costs	<b>36,216</b>	40,986
Governance Costs	<b>700</b>	500
	<u><b>36,916</b></u>	<u>39,949</u>

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

**7 Other Support Costs**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£
Advertising and Website	728	260
Insurance	5,081	5,417
Light, heat and water	8,462	4,949
Repairs, maintenance and gardening	7,763	5,340
Printing, postage and stationery	4,408	4,721
Telephone, communications and I.T.	802	792
Courses and conferences	100	310
Travelling and Accommodation	989	1,116
Board of Deputies levy	2,898	1,871
Books for resale	40	517
Books	45	54
Kiddush, refreshments, religious activities and sundry	956	2,112
Gates, Alarm and CCTV maintenance	2,758	3,412
Cleaning	3,200	3,389
Mortgage interest	398	513
Depreciation	1,345	1,488
	<b>39,973</b>	36,261

**8. Members of Council and relatives**

Mrs Jocelyn Shepherd who was a Trustee (Council Member) receives remuneration from the synagogue in her capacity as Head Teacher. The Synagogue has obtained a special dispensation from the Charity Commissioners in order to pay these monies.

The following relative of a member of Council received remuneration during the year;  
Miss H F Lewis (£280)

**Employees**

**Number of employees**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was

<b>2015</b>	2014
<b>Number</b>	Number
<b>6</b>	5

**9 Employment costs**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£
Wages and salaries	36,916	38,974
Other pension costs	2,607	2,512
	<b>39,523</b>	41,486

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

**10 Tangible fixed assets**

	Land and buildings	Scrolls and Appurtenances	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st July 2014	250,674	9,318	27,046	287,038
Additions	-	1,370	-	1,370
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 30th June 2015</b>	<b>250,674</b>	<b>10,688</b>	<b>27,046</b>	<b>288,408</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st July 2014	-	7,935	23,701	31,636
Charge for the year	-	509	836	1,345
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 30th June 2015</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,444</b>	<b>24,537</b>	<b>32,981</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>At 30th June 2015</b>	<b>250,674</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>2,509</b>	<b>255,427</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 30th June 2014	250,674	1,383	3,345	255,402
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

In July 2009, Barclays Bank plc had the Land and Buildings valued at £297,780.

**11 Debtors**

	2015 £	2014 £
Subscriptions receivable	-	695
Other debtors and prepayments	19,148	17,144
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>19,148</b>	<b>17,839</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2015 £	2014 £
Bank loans	5,887	5,772
Taxes and social security costs	906	626
Creditors	-	14,417
Other creditors and accruals	9,770	2,778
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>16,563</b>	<b>23,593</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue  
(Registered Charity 283615)**

**Accounts  
Year Ended 30th June 2015**

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£
Bank loans	<b>16,747</b>	16,863
	<u>16,747</u>	<u>16,863</u>
<b>Analysis of loans</b>		
Wholly repayable after one year	<b>10,860</b>	16,863
Included in current liabilities	<b>5,887</b>	5,772
	<u>16,747</u>	<u>22,635</u>
	<u>16,747</u>	<u>22,635</u>
<b>Loan maturity analysis</b>		
Debt due in one year or less	<b>5,887</b>	5,772
In more than two years but not more than five years	<b>10,860</b>	16,863
In more than five years	-	-
	<u>16,747</u>	<u>22,635</u>
	<u>16,747</u>	<u>22,635</u>

**14 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 30th June 2015 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	255,427	-	<b>255,427</b>
Current assets	47,217	32,266	<b>79,483</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(16,563)	-	<b>(16,563)</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one	(10,860)	-	<b>(10,860)</b>
	<u>275,221</u>	<u>32,266</u>	<u><b>307,487</b></u>
	<u>275,221</u>	<u>32,266</u>	<u><b>307,487</b></u>

**Restricted Funds analysed as follows:**

	Balance at 30.06.14	Incoming funds	Disbursed during year	Balance at 30.06.15
	£	£	£	£
Funeral Fund	19,921	10,564	(8,530)	21,955
Religion School Fund	975	177	(7)	1,145
Jack Petchey Fund	894	600	(740)	754
Heating Fund	1,923	4,500	-	6,423
Scroll Cover Fund	944	265	(1,209)	-
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	1,478	636	(125)	1,989
	<u>26,135</u>	<u>16,742</u>	<u>(10,611)</u>	<u>32,266</u>
	<u>26,135</u>	<u>16,742</u>	<u>(10,611)</u>	<u>32,266</u>

**This Report was approved by  
the Council (Trustees) of the Synagogue on**

**6th October 2015**

Signed by or-  
Council

der of the



This Trustees Report is produced for the benefit of the Charity Commissioners, our members and any prospective members.

The Report is designed to give a complete overview of the synagogue and the synagogue's various activities and services.

This Report is finalised on the 30th June each year even though it is posted to members in October. The content reflects synagogue business up to the end of June 30th 2015



**קהילה קדושה סוכת שלום**  
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 283615

**1 Victory Road Wanstead  
London E11 1UL**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2015**



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## Synagogue Accounts

If you wish to receive a copy of our Examined Accounts please contact the Administrator Frank Godson or the Treasurer Mitzi Kalinsky who will see that you receive a copy either in the post or by e mail.

[admin@sukkatshalom.me.uk](mailto:admin@sukkatshalom.me.uk)



## Synagogue Examiners

**Gerald Edelman**  
25 Harley Street London  
W1G 9BR

Colin Burns continues to Examine our books & accounts and has done so for over 30 years now. Our grateful thanks go to him for this exceptional service to the community.



## Synagogue Bankers



### **Natwest Bank Plc**

Edgware Branch  
317 Hale Lane  
Edgware Middx



HA8 7AX

### **Barclays Bank Plc**

Woodford Broadway  
33 The Broadway  
Woodford Green

**Related Charities  
Open City  
(Formally Open House London)**



The synagogue annually participates in this event. Open City is an opportunity to explore hundreds of inspiring

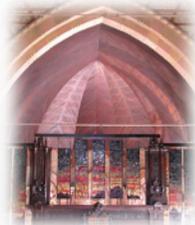
buildings for 1 weekend a year for free. It is the capital's architectural showcase. A truly city-wide celebration of the buildings, places and neighbourhoods we live, work & play. This event has been in place since 1992 and we at Sukkat Shalom are pleased to be part of it every year, festivals permitting. In September 2014 we did not participate as we had a wedding in the building. We will be participating in September 2015

Sukkat Shalom is only one of four synagogues out of the many religious buildings to be open to the public in London. The others being Bevis Marks, The New West End synagogue and The East London Central Synagogue. We should be very proud to be participating in such a prestigious event. In the past we have had a number of fruitful membership enquiries, received good publicity and have created some good relationships with our neighbours.

**Heritage Lottery Fund**

**English Heritage**

The synagogue has benefited in the past from a significant donation from English Heritage and the National Lottery towards the refurbishment of the main building.



The synagogue building has Grade 2\* listed status. These are high quality buildings, mostly unaltered, and often with an interior of special interest .

A listed building may not be demolished, extended, or altered without special permission from the local planning authority, which typically consults the relevant central government agency.

We at Sukkat Shalom take pride in our building and as and when we have funds we are making sure that it is well maintained.

We are aware that some of the brickwork needs replacing and we will see that this is done over time. We have plans to paint all of the downpipes and we regularly see that all of the hoppers are cleared.

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## Chair of Council



I write this part of the way through my first year as Chair of Council, having been elected at the AGM last November.

The synagogue continues to operate well. Membership has slowly grown. We have continued to have a large number of weddings for a community our size. The numbers in the Religion School (Cheder) have grown and are now at a more sustainable number, though there is plenty of scope for further growth in numbers.

A highlight for me at the AGM (aside from being elected Chair, of course) was the decision to amend our constitution to allow same sex marriages to take place under the auspices of the synagogue. Although we have not been approached by any couples wanting this service, I am glad our constitution now allows us to say “yes” to any requests.

One thing that my time as Chair has taught me is how much work by a number of individuals is required to ensure the synagogue runs as well as it does. We have a very limited number of paid staff, all of whom are part-time and go above and beyond their contracts to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Frank Godson's invaluable work as our Administrator should not be under appreciated. He ensures so many things work as they are meant to that I have lost count. He oversaw the implementation of a new and improved website and took on the publicity brief in addition to his normal duties of monitoring the finances, enrolling new members, editing the newsletters and many, many more tasks.

Rabbi Larry Becker regularly goes above and beyond the commitment that could be expected of a part-time rabbi from his work on interfaith matters across Redbridge, taking services and adult education classes to his pastoral care for community members. Jocelyn Shepherd, as Cheder Head Teacher, keeps the religion school running and on a volunteer basis contributes to many other aspects of the school. She also organises the sessional Cheder teachers

## Related Charities

### ***The Movement for Reform Judaism***

The synagogue contributes to the Movement for Reform Judaism and we sometimes send a delegate to its Council meetings and to the Annual Conference.

As a constituent member of the Movement for Reform Judaism we make available some contact information, that you provide for membership and administration purposes to the synagogue, to the Movement. This is for the purpose of supporting the Movement through demographic information, future plan-



### ***East Anglia Synagogues Together***

The synagogue also forms part of the East Anglia Synagogues Together set up. They have a large conference weekend in December of each year.

Many of our members attend this weekend some on a daily basis. We always try to encourage more of our members to attend this interesting event.

fundraising and statistical analysis.

If you do not wish your information to be used by the Movement for Reform Judaism, to assist in additional fundraising activities, please contact the Synagogue Administrator and your details will be deleted from the list.

Also some data from our database is made available, where appropriate, to the Jewish Joint Burial Society (JJBS) for the purpose of managing burial services. If you have any questions regarding the content or use of personal data provided, please contact the Synagogue Administrator.

Reform Judaism is living Judaism. It is a religious philosophy rooted in nearly four millennia of Jewish tradition, whilst actively engaged with modern life and thought. This means both an uncompromising assertion of eternal truths and values and an open, positive attitude to new insights and changing circumstances. It is a living evolving faith that Jews of today and tomorrow can live by.

In this spirit, the Movement for Reform Judaism supports individuals, rabbis and synagogues in 42 communities across the UK to meet their spiritual, social and educational needs and to reach

It is now possible to pay in advance for a Woodland Burial and the current cost (2015) is £1500. Please speak to our administrator for further details on this or on any matter relating to the JJBS and your membership.

There is also the availability of Mixed Faith burial at Cheshunt for Associate members of SSRS. Finally, within the JJBS, this Synagogue has one of the best track records for its membership lists and the involvement and information of its members. This is due to our Administrator Frank Godson to whom I offer my thanks as a Governor and yours as members is acknowledged.

## Yahzeits

Members are invited to offer the dates of the death of loved ones to the Administrator who sees that a list is kept on the bimah in the synagogue. Each week on the anniversary of the death the loved one is remembered.

Also our Honorary Secretary Angela Jacobs keeps a list of the dates and sends a letter to the member each year in order to remind them. A form can be provided to any member who wishes to have a name included.

## Objects and activities of the Charity (Synagogue)

The objects of the Charity are the provision of Jewish religious services, cultural, educational, social, burial and cremation facilities for Jewish members of the synagogue and their dependents (under the age of 21) in the United Kingdom.

Non Jews can attend all of these services etc. If they wish.

Non Jews who have signed up to Associate Membership with burial will be afforded burial and cremation facilities along side our Jewish Members in a special section of the JJBS Woodland Cemetery.

The synagogue also exists for such other charitable purposes which accord with the principles of the Movement for Reform Judaism or as the Council may from time to time determine.

To this end we invite children to our building from local schools in order that they can understand a little more about Judaism.

We also allow some charities to hold events in the building at no

But the synagogue could not run without its volunteers and they are worthy of thanks as well for all the dedication they show. My predecessor as Chair, Simon Sugarman, continues to work for the synagogue in his new role of Chair of House. At the AGM, our previous Chair of House, Jocelyn Shepherd, stepped down after many years of looking after our beautiful, Grade II\* listed building. At the AGM we also said a (hopefully brief) farewell to Stephen Silver and Tony Leach, who stepped down from Council.

Melvin Pedro continues to serve as Senior Warden, leading a team of lay readers and wardens. Melvin is assisted by Jeff Soraff, Mitzi Kalinsky, Judith Loebel, Rob Barnett, Frank Godson, Sue Barnett and Andrew Lewis. Andrew also assists in running our Adult Education classes. Everyone, especially Andrew, took on extra work this year during Rabbi Larry's sabbatical in early 2015.

Our Honorary Secretary Angela Jacobs continues to do a great job, not least reminding me of all the things I'm supposed to be doing!

Jeff Soraff stood down this year as Honorary Treasurer and then as a member of Council. He has been replaced in his Treasurer

examines the synagogue's accounts each year.

Thanks are also due to Steve Wynne, who took over the vital Head of Security role from Karen Watch. Karen continues as a member of council.

Reeva Godson agreed this year to take on a role as Care Coordinator. This is a vital role to ensure that members of the community in need of pastoral care get the attention they need. Rose Sharpstone has been a great help to Reeva in this task. Reeva also looks after the synagogue's beautiful garden.

Sue Rosner, our Chair of Education also has the sometimes thankless task of working on the Jack Petchey award scheme on behalf of the synagogue. Also thanks to Sylvie Sugarman, our synagogue's Marriage Secretary along with her deputy Tracy Pedro. Tracy also leads the synagogue's informal choir during the High Holy Days, ably assisted by Mitzi Kalinski.

This year we welcomed a number of new Council members including Dee Slade, Jeff Lustig and Ida Lewinsohn. Thanks to all of them for their ongoing

## Chair of Council (Cont.)

The terrible thing about trying to thank everyone is that you risk overlooking someone. So if you have made a contribution of time to the shul and you are not in the above lists, you can blame my absentmindedness, but your contribution is still appreciated.

We have some exciting ideas for the coming year and I am confident that the synagogue will continue to play a positive role in the lives of our members and the wider community.

### Security



The tragic events in France in January led to a review of our own security and several areas of concern were raised.

Following this review I became the Head of Security and with Council's permission began to put into place changes to make us even more secure.

With a grant from the CST (Community Security Trust) new gates are being provided during the next Financial Year at the car park entrance for pedestrians, allowing us to only open the gates for certain vehicles, as their constant opening does leave us vulnerable.

Key safes have been placed around the other gates containing keys for the padlocks so that we can evacuate the buildings more easily and safely.

Our Honorary Secretary, Angela Jacobs continues to maintain a rota for security cover on Shabbat mornings.

This consists of mainly current Council and ex-Council members. Please look to join this rota. If enough members come forward you would not be asked that often and it is only for 2.5 hours so not a lot of time to help your community. Services during the High Holydays continue to be the biggest threat to us and all Jewish communities. Cover was provided by the same members, backed by both local Police and the CST but every year we could use more assistance for a short time so please look to help here.

## Related Charities

### *The JJBS* **Jewish Joint Burial Society** **1 Victory Road Wanstead** **London E11 1UL**

The JJBS (Jewish Joint Burial Society) provides this community with burial, or cremation at its cemeteries in Cheshunt. Their offices are rented from SSRS and are on our site in Wanstead. Our thanks are offered to the staff there for their help and assistance throughout the year.

A Funeral Guidelines Booklet exists which is tailor made for use by SSRS. A revised copy of this booklet is given to all new members. All new members sign a document to say that they have received a copy of the booklet.

We are well represented at the JJBS with



Frank Godson as one of the Elected Governors (and past Chairman), Steve Wynne as a Governor and Jocelyn Shepherd as the Alternate (able to vote if the Governor is absent). Frank and Steve sit on the Risk & Investment Sub-Committee of the Society and Jocelyn Chairs the

There continues to be many non-member funerals carried out by the JJBS. For those who are unaware the money generated from these funerals is donated to worthy causes by the JJBS via the Grant committee.

The synagogue continues to hold monies on behalf of some of its members to cover certain fees due to the JJBS on their death. These monies are also supported by a surcharge on all Age Related Adjustment Payments (AARP) made by members who join the Synagogue aged over 50 and who have not been a member of the JJBS before.

The JJBS has instigated a scheme where Members can buy out their AARP with a once off payment. Many of our members have used this scheme.

We urge all members who have a liability to start paying it off as quickly as possible. The new Woodland Cemetery at Cheshunt is now open and the new Ohel has been completed. On Sunday 8th February 2015 Jerome Karet the President of the JJBS unveiled the Foundation Stone.



## Jack Petchey Awards

Last year we had to change our status to Bronze for the Jack Petchey Awards due to our declining numbers of children attending Cheder. The Bronze Award meant that we can only give out awards in January, May and September. Unfortunately we were unable to find any recipients for 2015 and had to forfeit the £400 that we would have had. We will have a new drive to find recipients in the future. It is very disappointing that we have not been able to nominate anyone and recipients can only receive the award once. As mentioned in the last Trustees Report we have struggled to find candidates this year.

The age group for getting the award is 11 – 25 and young people can't get it again in the same institution. The children have to spend the £200 on things that will benefit the 11 – 25 age range. Should our membership numbers increase in the future then we can apply for the Silver Award to be reinstated. Anyone can nominate a young person for the award so I look forward to receiving new

nominations next year. The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme programme is running in over 2,000 schools, colleges and youth organisations across London and Essex. The scheme is open to applications from schools, clubs and youth groups. The scheme contributes millions of pounds each year to support youth work in London and Essex.

The Achievement Award Scheme



aims to enable schools, colleges and youth organisations to recognise, reward and celebrate the achievements of their young people.

Achievement Awards are designed to recognise a wide range of achievement. The scheme works well because young people themselves are involved in nominating and selecting the winners.

**Sue Rosner**  
**Jack Petchey Award**  
**Co-ordinator**

The staff at the JJBS office continue to assist us in maintaining a watch during the normal week.

CST provides us with resources and advice and along with Jocelyn Shepherd and Frank Godson remotely monitor the Synagogue buildings.

Steven Wynne  
Head of Security

## Plans for the Future of the Building and significant works carried out this year.



Simon Sugarman

Our plans for updating the heating system have been deferred to a later date. This is so that we can accumulate sufficient funds to do

all of the work required.

We hope to install a new side door to the synagogue this year which will enable us to raise the step in order to accommodate the new pipework for the heating.

The new Torah Scroll covers which were organised by Jocelyn Shepherd have been designed and purchased and will be used for the first time at the 20th Anniversary of the Consecration of the synagogue building special service in September.



Jocelyn Shepherd

The front doors of the synagogue were refurbished this year and attempts have been made to reduce drafts by installing door closers to the inner door and a timber threshold to the front door.



The toilets will be refurbished at the start of the new financial year.

Some of the brickwork to the shul building has been refurbished and we plan to tackle some other areas in time.

We have installed a defibrillator in the shul and de humidifiers in the kitchen in order to reduce



Our fire extinguishers are inspected every year and we have sufficient for the buildings. We carry out an extensive Fire assessment each year.

The general maintenance of the buildings for many years was supervised by Jocelyn Shepherd and after November 2014 Simon Sugarman. We endeavour to maintain the buildings to a reasonable standard and in keeping with our Grade 2\* listed status.

During the year we acquired a Holocaust Memorial plaque with a Ner Tamid (See front cover photograph) from a synagogue in the Midlands.

The synagogue currently stores a considerable quantity of timber panelling, some doors, mouldings etc. which came from the Tottenham Home for Incurables. It is hoped that some of these items will be used or sold in the future.

The synagogue has a wish list so if you are interested in donating money for a specific purpose please contact our Treasurers or



## Treasurer's Report



I took over as Treasurer of the Synagogue at the last Annual General Meeting. With Jeff So-

raff our previous Treasurer standing as Assistant Treasurer. For a number of reasons shortly after the AGM Jeff decided to resign his position although he gave me a lot of assistance during the handover. At this time we do not have an Assistant Treasurer.

I am pleased to be able to report that, as in the previous few years, the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 has seen the Synagogue finances continue to remain very healthy.

In the main we have been able to absorb increased expenditure, including salary increases, JJBS subscriptions and general running costs through increased membership. However, following a recommendation from the Finance Committee, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, the Synagogue Council approved a modest increase in some categories of subscriptions.

In July 2014, a new Chief Executive, Gillian Merron, took up her post. She has brought a new public profile to the Board using her contacts as a former MP. In autumn 2014, the Board sold its premises in Bloomsbury Square. On 1 December, they moved in to temporary rental accommodation, sharing with other communal organisations but in spring 2015 they were given notice to quit by the landlords. A search for medium term and more permanent accommodation is ongoing.



The new Honorary Officers seem less interested in a merger with Jewish Leadership Council than the previous incumbents so it seems that such a merger is on hold for the time being, but the search for new premises may turn up a location where the Board and JLC can share offices without merging functionally.

This year, Rachel Savage served as a member of the Board's Constitution Committee and served as a scrutineer for the election of the Honorary Officers. In April 2014, Rachel was co-opted on to the Finance and Organisation Division and continued to serve on the Division until the end of the triennial election

The synagogue makes a contribution from the subscription of most members and invites its members to make further contributions over and above this.

## Related Charities **CST** (Community Security Trust)

The CST is proud of Britain's diverse and vibrant Jewish community, and seeks to protect its many achievements from the external threats of bigotry, anti-Semitism and terrorism.



CST provides physical security, training and advice for the protection of British Jews. CST assists victims of anti-Semitism and monitors anti-Semitic activities and incidents. CST represents British Jewry to Police, Government and media on anti-Semitism and security.

CST believes that the fight against anti-Semitism and terrorism is an integral part of safeguarding our wider democratic British society against extremism and hatred. Sukkat Shalom received a considerable grant from the CST in order to upgrade its CCTV system. We are extremely grateful to them and

## Board of Deputies

The Board of Deputies of British Jews is an organisation that represents the Jewish British community by promoting and defending the religious and civil liberties of Jews. Based on its size, Sukkat Shalom is entitled to elect two Deputy to the Board. However when elections were held in March 2015, only the existing Deputy Rachel Savage, stood. Rachel is currently serving her second term on the Board. Sukkat Shalom continues to look for someone willing to be its second Deputy. We are also entitled to send an official observer to the Board who is under 35 years of age.

The Board operates through four divisions: finance and organisation (concerned with the governance and finance of the Board itself), community issues (promoting cross-communal activities including education and social care), international (interfacing with Jewish communities around the world and representatives of foreign governments in the UK) and defence and group relations (defending religious practices, standing up to anti-Semitism and promoting good relationships with other faith and non-faith groups).



Rachel Savage

One of the Board's biggest achievements this year was the publication of a Jewish manifesto for the UK Parliamentary elections, held

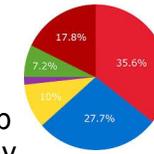
in May 2015. The manifesto was well received by the main parties and was used as the basis for elections hustings in many constituencies across the UK as well as a national hustings held at a Board Meeting to which all Deputies were invited. The manifesto set out the issues that are important to the Jewish community including global Jewish issues, issues arising from the Jewish lifecycle, and Jewish values and culture.

In May 2015, elections were held for new Honorary Officers for the Board. Outgoing Board Vice President Jonathan Arkush was elected as President. The three Vice Presidents and Treasurer are all new honorary officers.

They have already started making changes to modernise the Board since taking up office on 1 June and have further plans that will be implemented over the coming years.

We continue to ask our members to change their standing orders promptly when they are asked for an increase. Also that members help us to save time by remembering to quote their family code when paying subscriptions.

We have many members with the same surname who are often members of the same family. It does not help me, or the Administrator, when a reference "shul sub Cohen or Levy or any other common name" (no offence) is quoted without the correct Family Code.



Almost all our income comes from subscriptions and we have included in the Trustees Report for the first time a breakdown of where our income and expenditure is derived from and spent.

Our membership has increased slightly in the past year (please see membership report) which, as in past years, together with careful management of the Synagogue's finances by the Finance Committee, and the diligence of our Administrator Frank Godson in collecting arrears we have been able to show a reasonable surplus for the year. This healthy surplus is enabling us to put money aside for expenditure on additional capacity

After allowing for interest, the bank loan is now being repaid at a rate of approximately £524.00 per month and we are on schedule to repay the loan earlier than the original, anticipated date, probably in around 3 years.

During the year we could not have managed the Synagogue without the invaluable help of the Finance Committee who have helped me to control the finances. In particular a very big thank you goes to our Administrator, Frank Godson who generally deals with cash flow statements, banking, collection of arrears and various other financial matters.

Due to time constraints we are using an outside book keeping company to enter all of the data onto Sage which has been free of charge since they started and we are very grateful for their help



Finally your synagogue Council and the Finance Committee continue to keep expenditure to a minimum along with any increases in subscriptions. They do this voluntarily. If you feel that you have any financial expertise to offer we would be very pleased to hear from you.

## Synagogue Grounds

The maintenance of the synagogue grounds is carried out by Brian Jones our gardener who visits the shul on a regular basis.



His work is overseen by Reeva Godson who sees that all of the plants and shrubs are well maintained.

We have carried out a safety check on the benches and a number are deemed to be unsafe and have thus been replaced with donations from members.

It is hoped that in time we will have enough money to tarmac

## Care

We have limited resources within the community to deal with Care amongst our members. Rabbi Becker is the first line of call in this area.

Reeva Godson along with Rose Sharpstone have agreed to telephone some of our older members on a regular basis in order to see if they are ok. We started this year with a small list of

quite well so far.. We would like more of our members to volunteer for this telephone work so if you are interested please call Reeva Godson.



Also if you know of any of our members who are ill or in distress please let Reeva or Frank Godson our Administrator know.

We cannot help if we don't know .....so please keep us informed.

## Fund Raising Report



During the year we or-

ganised a Musical Concert in the building which was a great success and raised some money for future House projects.

If you are interested in organising a function in the synagogue for charity or for the synagogue itself please let us know.

## Charitable Expenditure

The synagogue collects donations each year during its High Holyday Appeal. These monies are paid to a number of nominated worthy Charities which are selected by the synagogue Council.

The charities supported this year (September 2014) were STEPS, The Rabbis Discretionary Fund & World Jewish Relief.

## Lettings

The synagogue has a policy of hiring out the building to the community at large for a small fee. This is in order to ensure that this valuable asset which has been supported by the National Lottery and English Heritage is accessible to the public in general.

Any person or group of people can apply to the Administrator for such use and depending on the type of use an agreement can be reached on a let.



## Insurance

The synagogue currently insures the buildings and its contents. with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, London Regional Centre, Beaufort, House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ. Our brokers are Arthur J. Gallagher & Co

We also have employers liability cover as well as insurance for personal accidents.

The Council has clarified the situation re insurance cover for those carrying out security duties and have confirmation that we are covered for these activities.

During the year the synagogue made no claims to the insurance company

A copy of the Policy booklet is available to those that wish to see it in a black folder on the synagogue foyer table.

An Insurance certificate is displayed on our notice boards.

**Ecclesiastical**



Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

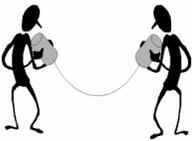
## Tallit & Kippot



All males entering the synagogue must have their heads covered. All Jewish males over 13 should wear tallit where appropriate.

Females may wear Tallit if they wish and will be required to wear tallit if they carry a Torah Scroll. The synagogue has a stock of kippot and tallit in the foyer for the use of visitors.

## Communications Policy



The synagogue communicates with its members through regular mailings, the Shema (our newsletter), the website and fairly regular announcements via e mail.

The synagogue answer phone also takes messages which are collected daily. We do not have an office which is manned on a daily basis

The synagogue puts on an annual Tea each year where members can come along and communicate with Council Members.

## Mobile Phones

The use of mobile phones for calls or texting is prohibited in the synagogue on Shabbat and Festivals. Should you need to carry your mobile phone into the synagogue you must switch it off or have it on silent.



You must leave the synagogue building before answering a call if it is on silent or vibrate.

## Synagogue History

The synagogue and its buildings have a considerable History some of which is included in a small booklet which is available on request.



We will also conduct lectures based on the History of the Wanstead Orphanage

Site, on request from outside organisations.

The picture shows the synagogue when it was at Bedford House in the 1980's.

## Religious Activities Report



In September 2014 we had the High Holidays which I am pleased to report passed off

without any injuries or illnesses and we were delighted to go to a new venue, the home of Alf and Alice Sellar for the Tashlich tea.

Unfortunately we could not hold our usual Chanukah pantomime but the Friday night Chavurah Chanukah celebration was an excellent replacement event, and on Purim Mitzi produced our own version of "Frozen" for the Purim spiel.

We had a number of joint events with other synagogues in the area, including the Tu Bishvat Seder and Erev Yom Hashoah service, both of which we hosted and the Erev Shavuot Tikkun Leyl held at Barkingside Progressive where Annette Bockler spoke on 'Moments of Revelation in the Bible'. The other Seder during the year was our traditional communal Seder

on the second night of Passover. We only had one Bar Mitzvah during the year, David Zavronkova, and we wish Mazeltov to him and his family.

Finally, as well as the above events, we continued with our monthly Friday night Chavurah meal services our weekly Satur-



day morning services and our Lunch & Learns none of which would be possible without the continued support and hard work of our Rabbi Larry Becker, lay readers and wardens, to all of whom I say a hearty thank you.

**Melvin Pedro Senior Warden**



## Education Report - Cheder



The numbers of children attending religion school continues to be a concern. There are 9 children on the Cheder register. However 2 of them do not attend on any regular basis.

As mentioned in previous Trustee Reports this problem is not unique to SSRS, other communities in the area have also been affected by children who attend Clore Tikva and King Solomon schools and whose parents do not see the need to attend religion school as well.

We continue to update our Cheder and Education Handbook and send this to all members with children aged 6-13. In order to accommodate the decline in the Religion School the Education budget continues to be reduced. Jocelyn Shepherd

and Rabbi Becker are now working alternate weeks to keep costs down.

All families should know that in order to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Sukkat Shalom the child has to attend Cheder for a minimum of 2 years.. There are other conditions which are in the Cheder Hand Book.



## Education Report - Adult



We continue to run our weekly Tuesday Text Study class and Wednesday Access to Judaism Course.

We also have Hebrew Tutorial on a Wednesday, prior to the Access to Judaism Course, which is run by Andrew Lewis. The Text Study classes have been led by Rabbi Larry Becker, and during his Sabatical, our thanks must go Tony

## Close Circuit Television Policy



The synagogue has installed a CCTV system throughout the grounds of the synagogue site.

The system is monitored from within the building via a screen and the 10 cameras mounted on the outside of the main building. Within the building there is a recording device which records all movements via the cameras onto a hard drive.

The purpose of the system is to help secure the building from vandalism and burglary whilst it is unoccupied and to monitor the movement of visitors. It is also used to help admit congregants to the building during services and events.

Data that has been recorded will be used for legal purposes if a crime has been committed on the site.

A router has been installed in order to allow the CST, Jocelyn Shepherd & Frank Godson the Administrator to monitor the site over 24 hours or as required from off site and home.

## Photography & Video Shabbat

Photographs or Videos are not to be taken during services or Kiddush on Shabbat. Photographs and Videos can be taken outside of the synagogue building after a service. Photographs of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah should be taken in the synagogue at the rehearsal.

## Festivals

The above applies to the following Festivals:- Simchat Torah, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, 1<sup>st</sup> and last days of Pesach, Sukkot and Shavuot. Photographs or Videos can be taken on Purim, Chanukah, or Tu B'shvat

## Weddings

We allow photographs and video in the synagogue at all weddings. The photographer or videographer must be unobtrusive, must not block the view of the attendees and must position all equipment such that it does not pose a danger to those attending.

Photographers and videographers are not allowed into the Bedeken area. Photographs and videoing of the actual signing of the Marriage register is not permitted.

## Vulnerable Adults Policy

Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. All Staff, Volunteers, Trustees & Council Members of Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue have a duty to identify abuse and report it. Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community.

## Photography Policy *Photographs and Videos of*

### *Children & Members*

From time to time some members of the synagogue will take photographs and videos at functions, festivals or events which include the children currently at our Cheder, festivals, events. On some occasions children who are guests of our members will be captured as well.

It is also important that we include some photographs of the children in our newsletter (Shema) and our website as they enliven the pages, boost the esteem of the child and give credit for their roles at the Cheder.

Children are also excited at seeing their photograph in print and we would not want to spoil this.

Please be assured that we will never print a photograph of a child other than in a normal setting. Also we will never distort or alter the photographs in such a way as to demean the child. Finally we will never post the name of a child next to the photograph.

In spite of this we understand that some parents can be very sensitive about these matters and should you not want any photograph either singularly or in a group of your child included in the Shema or on our website please could you write or e-mail the synagogue Administrator and he will see that it is noted on the child's records. We will always take great care to make sure that the child is not aware of this decision. Please do remember that the onus is on you as a parent to make this decision.

Finally if you bring guest children to the synagogue you will also be responsible for making such a decision on behalf of the parent of the guest child as well.

We know that this all sounds a bit officious however we are charged by the authorities to be correct in these matters.

Leach, who kindly led some interesting sessions on Jews of the Mediterranean.

The Access to Judaism course is designed with the needs of those undergoing conversion in mind but all are welcome. The class is taught by Rabbi Larry Becker and Rabbi Richard Jacobi of Woodford Liberal Synagogue, and in their absence, by Andrew Lewis. The venue switches between Sukkat Shalom & Woodford Liberal on a termly basis.



Beginners Hebrew is taught on a Sunday after the Cheder finishes, and we also have our informal 'Lunch and Learn' sessions after Shabbat morning services once a month.

## Mixed Faith Activities

The synagogue participates in a number of ways with all of the mixed faith groups in the area.

During this financial year the synagogue has hosted a number of events and meetings of mixed faith groups.

## Schools – Colleges & Groups

We are sponsors of the Clore Tikva School in Barkingside and many of our children attend this school.

We also host a number of schools, guide groups etc. for visits to the synagogue during the year. Many children who visit the synagogue are of other faiths and the interest that is shown in the synagogue by these organisations is very encouraging.

We have been allowing such groups to visit the synagogue for some years now. These visits educate the children in Judaism and encourage them to understand a little more about what we do and how we worship.

Many thanks go to Rabbi Becker for organising these visits and attending to the groups on the day.



## The Synagogue's Designated and Restricted Funds

The synagogue currently has a number of Restricted and Designated Funds as shown in our Annual Accounts. They are as follows:-

### **Funeral Fund** *Restricted*

This Fund contains all of those monies given to us by members for the purpose of paying off their JJBS Age Related Adjustment Payments (ARAP).

We encourage all of our members in this category to deposit monies with the synagogue over time in order to fix the payment for all time with the JJBS. We regularly update all members with a liability to the ARAP, who deposit money into this Fund, as well as those who are liable for an ARAP and who do not make a contribution.

All ARAP due to the JJBS have to be recovered from the member on joining the community, over time, by regular payments, on death or before a tombstone is consecrated.

It is clearly better to settle this debt prior to death in order to avoid complications at the time of a funeral. If you receive a statement from the synagogue and you have chosen not to pay over the liability you must pass this information on to your next of kin.

The ARAP rate will increase from January 2016

### **Heating Fund** *Designated*

This Fund has been set up for the sole purpose of improving the heating system in the synagogue.

We are currently engaged in looking at all options for improving the heating in the main building. Work should have been carried out this year however we have decided to defer this work for a year or so.

We have a very large, tall, old building and it is difficult to find solutions to the heat levels at a relatively low cost. So please do not expect miracles during the Winter months.

### **Scroll Cover Fund** *Designated*

This Fund has been set up using money specifically donated in order to purchase new Scroll Covers. This money will be spent during August 2015.

Codes of Practice document are set for all committees and significant titled positions within the synagogue. There is always regular reference at Council meetings to our current financial position and there is always regular monitoring of any reductions in membership income which is our main source of revenue.

In general our membership is increasing year on year. This year our membership increased by a small number. Increases in membership help to reduce the risk of any deficit in our finances.

The synagogue regularly updates the insurance policy it has on the buildings etc.

We have a number of members suitably qualified in first aid. All of our first aiders will administer CPR to anybody on site if they required it.

Should you not want CPR administered to you if required you need to register this with the Synagogue Administrator.

Some of our members are also CST trained and as such help with the general security of the building and its members.

When Trustees and Council members leave office they are asked to destroy all data that they

have on our members on their computers unless they are given specific authority to keep it.

The latter would only occur if they were performing a role within the community that required its use. Also we require that all paper documentation is returned to the synagogue, handed to a successor in office or destroyed.

All archived data is now stored inside a locked cupboard inside the synagogue. Computer data is backed up regularly and stored in the archive cupboard. The cupboard has restricted access.

All members are reminded that they **MUST** inform the Administrator of any changes to the information that they provided when they joined. This includes: phone numbers, addresses, e mail addresses, changes in family arrangements, marriages, divorces, new births etc.

No pictures of Council Members or their contact details are published in the Shema or on the website without their permission.

### **Risk - Child Protection**

The synagogue has a policy on Child Protection and it was put into place during June 2008.

The Child Protection Officer, Tracy Pedro, is also responsible for all of our DBS checks.

**Risk - General**

The Trustees (Council members) are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the charity.

The Trustees continue to monitor areas of risk within the synagogue. A Fire Risk Document is in place as is a Health and Safety Document. A Fire Risk Assessment was carried out during the year and in general all was in order. The synagogue makes a series of announcements before any major service or function. These relate to means of escape, parking etc. The electrical appliances are checked each year as are the fire extinguishers. Currently the main financial risk to the synagogue is a decrease in membership with a subsequent loss of income. A further risk is our liability to the Age Related Adjustment Payments due to the JJBS.

This particular risk is mitigated by collecting regular payments from some members plus a premium on payments. The current value of our General Funds exceeds our liabilities apart from the liability to the JJBS ARAP. These payments are dealt with on a regular basis by the Administrator who regularly tries to encourage members to forward their liability to the JJBS thus freezing the amount for all time. Our finances are reviewed regularly by

the Finance Committee and the Treasurers monitor each other. We conduct our finances using internet banking and we leave it to the Treasurers (when we have two) to monitor each other in this regard. The Administrator produces regular financial updates for Council Members and views the bank statements.

Arrears in subscriptions are monitored regularly by the Administrator and kept to a minimum. Serious cases of arrears result in deletion, of membership of the synagogue, surcharges and loss of burial rights. The synagogue continues to be sensitive to the financial circumstances of its members and takes steps to relieve hardship (in relationship to subscriptions) where possible.

Key controls used by the charity (synagogue) include regular meetings of the Trustees (Council).

There are regular meetings of the Religious Activities Committee and the Finance Committee. The Education Committee rarely meets due to the low numbers in the religion school. Formal agendas and minutes are set for such meetings. Also detailed terms of reference which are within our

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

*Restricted*

The Council of the synagogue decided to set up this Fund for the sole use of the Rabbi.

The rules for this Fund are as per the document posted on the website. This Fund is administered by the Rabbi and the Treasurer.



**Jack Petchey Fund**

*Restricted*

We regularly receive monies from this scheme. The money is awarded to members and children of members of the synagogue who have assisted the work of the synagogue in a special way. The money received has to be spent on items as laid down by the Jack Petchey Awards Scheme.

**Cheder Education Fund**

*Restricted*

This is money collected from those families that have children in the Cheder. The money is used for stationary and other equipment that relates to general education in the community both for children and adults..

**High Holyday Appeal Fund**

*Designated*

Every year the money that we collect via the High Holyday Appeal is put into this Fund temporarily until it is sent to the various causes as agreed by Council.

**General Donations**

We are always looking for members and friends of the community to donate to these Funds and indeed start new ones. Should you wish to make a donation please approach any Council member or the Administrator and he will explain how you can go about forwarding the money. Once again we thank everybody who has made a donation to the synagogue in the last financial year.

## Membership Report

During the past financial year 1st July 2014 to the end of June 2015, 35 (27) adults have joined the synagogue including 3 (1) children who had reached 21 years of age.

Along with the new members we have added 16 new children to our numbers and lost 16, 7 (7) new Associate Members have joined the community and 6 (4) have left. Or Converted to Judaism.

On the down side 12 (13) members were deleted for non payment of fees, have left to join other synagogues, have moved or have left for reasons of hardship. Sadly also 6 (1) of our members died during the year. The highest number ever.

This gave us a net increase of 22 (16) members and Associates. Our membership at end of July 2015 was 411 (403) Full Members and 19 (19) Associate Members. We also have a new category 8 (8) Associate Members for Burial. We therefore showed a good increase in membership on the year. In an economic climate where many synagogues have declining membership this is a fair result. You can therefore see the synagogue's membership is increasing

steadily year on year, however we as always, have the numbers of new members being offset by deaths, deletions and resignations.

We are generally satisfied that any resignations or deletions during the year were not due to dissatisfaction with the management of the community.

In the rare event that a member has a grievance with any person who helps to run the synagogue they can apply to submit the grievance formally to Council. Council have formalised a complete Grievance Procedure document which thankfully was not used this year.

With the economy continuing to be difficult and the squeeze on incomes continuing this will affect the generation of new members and may cause us to lose a few more. We always do our best to help those feeling the pinch in order to keep them on as members during difficult times.

**Please speak to our Treasurer if you are finding it difficult to pay your subscription.**

Also please remember to recommend us to your friends and family. (The brackets show last year's figures 2013/14)

**Frank Godson  
Synagogue Administrator**

## Website & Facebook

The synagogue has a website which is updated regularly.



Our website is fully functional and is maintained by our Synagogue Administrator. The website is a very good tool for letting our members and the wider world know what we are doing and achieving. It has also assisted in attracting people interested in joining the synagogue.

The website also holds copies of the following standard documents. Our Kashrut Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Child Protection Policy Bar/Bat Mitzvah Rules, Constitution (Laws of the Community), Minutes of the AGM. Other documents may be added during the next financial year.

During the year Jason Soraff built a new website for the synagogue at no cost. We are extremely grateful for his assistance in producing this most useful tool for the community and potential joiners. The synagogue also has a page on Facebook which is updated regularly.

These and the Shema are the main tools with which we communicate with our members.

## Kashrut

The synagogue has a formal Kashrut policy.



A copy of this policy can be seen on our website. It can also be obtained from the Administrator on request.

In general we would prefer that our members, members children and visitors did not eat food, suck sweets or chew gum in the synagogue during services.

We would also rather that you left the synagogue and went to the foyer to feed or attend to children.

All foods brought into the synagogue must be Kosher. This includes synagogue functions, private functions, visits and Chavurahs

All foods brought into the synagogue during Pesach must be Kosher for Pesach. We have special utensils, bowls etc. that we use for the Pesach period. These are stored in special cabinets to the rear of the Ark.

Our synagogue utility room and the synagogue buildings in general are cleaned for Pesach (Passover).

## Burial or Cremation

The synagogue provides for its Full members and its Associate Members with burial rights to be buried at the Western Cemetery, Bulls Moor Ride, Cheshunt.

Maintenance of the burial site is handled by the Western Charitable Foundation on behalf of the Jewish Joint Burial Society.

There are sufficient plots to bury at Cheshunt for at least the next 50 years. Alternatively the synagogue can provide a cremation for members at Hainault or Golders Green crematorium.



The Jewish Joint Burial Society whose offices are based at the syna-

gogue, are now providing mixed faith burial and woodland burial at Cheshunt. Members of SSRS will be able to use these woodland facilities at an additional cost.

The new Ohel for the Woodland area is now complete as is the roadway and entrance to the new cemetery.

Snagging & landscaping will take place during 2015/16.

## Property & Investments

The synagogue has no significant investments apart from the property at 1. Victory Road Wanstead and a small financial surplus.

The market value of the buildings and land are now considered to be £256,500.00. The building is insured for reinstatement at a value of £2,900,000.

The smaller loan taken out with NatWest Bank some years ago has now been paid off. The larger loan on the building will be settled within the next 3 years.



## Bridge Group

A Bridge Group was formed 9 years ago and now it meets at Woodford Liberal Synagogue Marlborough Road South Woodford generally once a week. On a Wednesday at 8.00pm.



This group is open to any member of the synagogue or guests who wish to play. This is a social exercise not a revenue creating function. We each contribute 50p per week.

4-12 people play regularly and we would like additional players to join the group.

Anybody who would like to join this group or who would like to learn how to play can be given tuition by Sid Barrett who attends most weeks and who knows his stuff.

Please speak to **Frank Godson**



## Weddings



The synagogue carried out 4 (3 last year) weddings during the financial year both in the synagogue and outside venues. We have 4 weddings booked for 2015/16

Our Senior Marriage Registrar is Sylvie Sugarman. Our Assistant Marriage Secretary is Tracy Pedro. Sylvie officiated at all of the weddings this year.

We are looking for 1 or 2 more members to come forward and train as Marriage Secretaries.

Weddings are organised by our Administrator Frank Godson and conducted by Rabbi Larry Becker.



# Synagogue Income & Expenditure

Below we have shown how our income is derived and how we spend our income, in percentage form.

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	80%	Wages	34%
Gift Aid	12%	Repairs, Maintenance, Alarm/Gates, Gardens, Cleaning	15%
Rent	4%	Burial Fees	14%
Weddings	2%	M.R.J*	13%
H. H. Tickets, Interest, Advertising, Donations etc.	2%	Water/Elec, Gas Etc.	7%
		Loans	4%
		Insurance	4%
		Print/Post	3%
		Heating Project	2%
		Misc.	2%
		Surplus	2%



\* Movement for Reform Judaism

He served as a Trustee and Treasurer of All Faiths and None (AFAN), a new charity that provides educational material and sessions for higher education promoting understanding of and between the various faiths as well as the Agnostic/Atheistic organisations within British Society.

He helped to arrange and attended the initial session of Interfaith Matters in the Redbridge area.

He participated in a number of specific interfaith sessions including, sessions for the Three Faith Forum, various Adult and Higher Educational sessions.

### General

The Rabbi acts as the face of the synagogue to the wider general community.



He has also been active in local schools both visiting various schools and hosting visits from schools to the synagogue .

He also participates in discussions with various governmental bodies on a variety of issues affecting the Jewish community.

**These are some of the activities carried out within the community.**

Rabbi Becker is employed on a half time basis in the synagogue however we are aware that he spends more time with us than he should. He conducts more than half of our services and attends most of the rest. He conducts all of our High Holyday services and any service where there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

He oversees and participates in all aspects of education. He supervises all of our Associate Members who are facing Conversion. He attends all Council meetings, liaises with various members of Council and the Administrator. He is involved in Care in the community and conducts all weddings for our members. He also conducts all funerals and stone settings.

### Other Employees Cheder

**Mrs Jocelyn A Shepherd**  
A member of the synagogue.

**Miss Bryonie Bathie**  
A member of the synagogue

**Miss Talia Fox**  
A child of a member

**Miss Hannah Lewis**  
A child of a member of council

## Employees

### Rabbi Becker

**These are the non-synagogue activities undertaken during the past year by Rabbi Becker.**

As stipulated in his contract he has participated in various activities in support of the Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ), the wider Jewish community, in promoting interfaith understanding and acting as the “face” of the synagogue to the wider general community.

### Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ)

He has actively participated in the Assembly of Reform Rabbis (Assembly) presenting Chidushim and Dvrei-Torah and he has sat on the Reform Beit Din.

He has sat as a member of the MRJ visioning group.

He was elected as a member of the Assembly of Rabbis Executive board. Has acted as Liaison between the Assembly of Rabbis and the Jewish Joint Burial Society assisting in the provision of Woodland and Mixed Faith Burials.

He is on the committee exploring the possibility of the Movement adopting the principle of Inherited Jewish Status.

He served on the Social Action Committee of the Assembly of Rabbis.

### Activities in support of the wider Jewish Community.

He was an active participant in planning and leading activities on behalf of ECAMPS (Eastern Counties Association of Progressive Synagogues)/East (East Anglian Synagogues Together).

He presented sessions for the Redbridge JCC and Jewish Care also engaged in various activities in support of local Jewish day schools.

He has helped to plan and lead various local Jewish activities including the Yom Haatzmaut celebrations and various other events.

### Promoting Interfaith Understanding

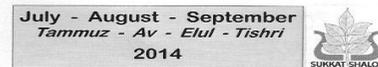
He served as an active member of the management committee of the Redbridge Faith Forum, helping to plan and lead a number of the group’s activities.

## The Shema

The Shema (newsletter) is the synagogue’s main form of communication apart from the website. It is currently distributed 4 times per year.

The current compiler and Editor is Frank Godson who is looking for somebody to take it over completely.

If you are interested please speak to Frank.



**SHEMA שמע 5774**

קהילה קדושה סוכת שלום  
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue



## Synagogue Calendar

This is now distributed with the Shema 4 times a year.

The calendar contains details of all services, festivals, events, Chavurahs, Lunch & Learns & education sessions.

## Data Protection

The synagogue falls outside the regulatory powers of the data protection Act.

The synagogue does however maintain a substantial database with information on our members. This database is managed by the Database Manager Frank Godson. Certain parts of the database are regularly given with updates to some members of Council and specific members of the synagogue outside of Council.

A number of members of the synagogue and Council are given permission to handle synagogue data on their home computers.

Council members who leave Council are asked to delete all sensitive membership data from their computers, phone numbers etc. Some of this data is divulged to the Jewish Joint Burial Society, CST and the Reform Movement. We ask all members on joining to sign a declaration allowing us to do this.

**Should you wish the Reform Movement not to receive your contact details please contact Frank Godson who will make a note on the database.**

## Honorary Life President

The title of Honorary Life President can be bestowed on a member of the synagogue who has shown considerable commitment to its existence and who has dedicated many years of service to its cause.

The title confers no special powers to the recipient and in the main is ceremonial. The Honorary Life President is entitled to attend all Council and Honorary Officers meetings and receive agendas for the same but cannot vote.

Our current Honorary Life President is Frank Godson.



## Custodial Trustees of the synagogue

The Synagogue has 3 Custodial Trustees. All of these Trustees were appointed in 1999. They are:-

**Colin Joseph  
Philip Tuhill  
Howard Lester**

**Frank Godson**

Resigned in October 2014

Their joint responsibility is for the property of the synagogue which is the site at Victory Road Wanstead.

They are also responsible for health and safety matters and compliance with local authority planning regulations. The Custodial Trustees have a right to attend all Council meetings and meetings of the Honorary Officers but cannot vote.

The current Custodial Trustees have waived their right to receive minutes of Council meetings. None of the Custodial Trustees takes an active role in the community. Once our loans are repaid to the bank the Council will address the current situation and recommend changes. Philip Tuhill has stated that he will stand down as a Custodial Trustee after the current loans

## Employees

**Frank Godson—Administrator**



**Frank Godson** has been employed as a part time Synagogue Administrator for the entire year. Frank attends most Council meetings as an observer. He worked for 694 hours this year (621 last year). The increase was mostly due to work on the new website, Finance and more new membership activity. Frank always hopes that he can return some of his duties back to the community in order to keep his hours from growing.

His time in the synagogue is spent as follows :-

	2014/15	2013/14
Website, Shema	15%	15%
Finance matters	18%	16%
Membership	12%	14%
House matters	4%	3%
Governance/Council	8%	7%
Phone and Mail	9%	9%
Secretarial & MRJ	7%	7%
Calendar	3%	4%
Holidays	7%	6%
Religious Activity matters	4%	4%
JJBS matters	2%	3%
Database management	2%	4%
Weddings	9%	8%

If the synagogue were able to find more volunteers to take responsibility for the newsletter/Shema and House, the costs related to the employment of our Administrator would be considerably reduced. If you are a member of Sukkat Shalom and you are interested in helping the synagogue please contact a member of Council.

<b>Attendance at Council meetings July 2014 - June 2015</b>			<b>Number Attended</b>
<b>Stephen Silver</b>		Part year	<b>3 of 4</b>
<b>Andrew Lewis</b>		Part Year	<b>10 of 11</b>
<b>Sue Rosner</b>	Jack Petchey Awards Chair of Education	Full Year	<b>7 of 11</b>
<b>Jocelyn Shepherd</b>	Chair of House Head Teacher	Part Year	<b>3 of 4</b>
<b>Melvin Pedro</b>	Warden	Full year	<b>10 of 11</b>
<b>Simon Sugarman</b>	Chair of House (Part)	Full year	<b>10 of 11</b>
<b>Jeff Soraff</b>	Honorary Treasurer (Part)	Part year	<b>7 of 8</b>
<b>Angela Jacobs</b>	Honorary Secretary	Full Year	<b>11 of 11</b>
<b>Reeva Godson</b>	Grounds & Kiddush	Part Year	<b>5 of 7</b>
<b>Steve Wynne</b>		Full Year	<b>11 of 11</b>
<b>Rachel Savage</b>	BOD Rep. Vice Chair Chair of Council (Part)	Full Year	<b>9 of 11</b>
<b>Karen Watch</b>		Full Year	<b>7 of 11</b>
<b>Mitzi Kalinsky</b>	Treasurer (Part)	Part year	<b>8 of 11</b>
<b>Tony Leach</b>		Part Year	<b>3 of 4</b>
<b>Dee Slade</b>		Part year	<b>6 of 7</b>
<b>Jeff Lustig</b>		Part Year	<b>7 of 7</b>
<b>Ida Lewinsohn</b>		Part Year	<b>2 of 2</b>
<b>Sidney Kirsh</b>		Part Year	<b>2 of 7</b>

## Structure of Membership

Operating procedures exist in the form of a booklet entitled Codes of Practice and Areas of Responsibility.



These procedures are updated regularly.

The synagogue has several classes of membership: Full Membership, variations on Full Membership, Associate Membership and Honorary Membership and Associate Membership with burial rights..

The synagogue charges all members and some Associate Members for Burial a per-capita sum, set each year by the Council, which includes the cost of funerals offered by the Jewish Joint Burial Society and fees to the Movement for Reform Judaism. Monies are also collected and sent to the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The synagogue charges some Associate members a per-capita sum, set each year set by the Council, which excludes any voting rights and the cost of a funeral or a cremation.

## Synagogue Constitution

The Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue, (SSRS), is a registered charity governed by its Constitution & Laws. The synagogue was founded in January 1981 as the Epping Forest & District Reform Synagogue. It later changed its name to Buckhurst Hill Reform Synagogue and when we moved to Wanstead we became Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue.

Our  
Charity  
Number  
is  
283615.



The Charity Commissioners are notified of all Special General Meetings and changes to our Constitution. An update on all Trustees (Council Members) is sent to the Commissioners every year.

A copy of the Constitution is available to any member who wishes to receive it and a copy is posted on our website.

Please contact the Synagogue Administrator if you would like a hard copy.

## Elected Trustees of the synagogue

The Synagogue elected 15 (15) Trustees (Council Members) in November 2014..

Two Council member who were elected in November 2014 re-signed during 2015.

Each Full Member of the synagogue has the right to vote in a new Council in November of each year. Associate Members do not have a vote.

Elections are held annually with each Elected Trustee (Council Member) retiring and being eligible for re election for up to a maximum of 7 continuous years of service.

After serving a continuous 7 years on Council they must have at least 1 year off and cannot be co-opted during that following year.



## Elected Trustees Governance and Management of the Charity

All Trustees (Council Members) retire at the AGM in November of each year and a new Council of Trustees is elected at the AGM.

The Trustees (Council Members) generally meet 11 times a year (usually on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of August). They meet in order to act as a "Council" and in order to administer the synagogue (Charity). Should a Council member not attend at least 50% of the Council meetings they will not be eligible to stand for a position on Council the following year.

There are also sub-committees covering Religious Activities, & Finance, The Council in meeting makes all strategic and financial decisions on behalf of the synagogue. The Chair of Council together with the Honorary Secretary, Rabbi and Administrator oversee the day to day operations of the synagogue. All other significant decisions are made and ratified by the Council. There are informal procedures adopted for the induction and training of new Trustees (Council members).

## Trustees (Council members) July 2014 - June 2015

### Jocelyn Shepherd

Head Teacher  
First Elected November 2013  
Retired November 2014

### Reeva Godson

Kiddush, Gardens & Grounds  
Elected November 2014

### Andrew Lewis

Lay Reader. Adult Education  
First Elected November 2013

### Simon Sugarman

Chair of Council from Nov. 2012  
Retired November 2014  
First Elected November 2010  
Chair of House from Nov. 2014

### Rachel Savage

Board of Deputies  
First Elected Nov 2012  
Elected Chair of Council Nov. 2014

### Karen Watch

First Elected November 2013

### Mitzi Kalinsky

Assistant Treasurer to Nov 2014  
Elected Treasurer Nov 2014  
First Elected November 2013

### Tony Leach

Elected November 2013  
Retired November 2014

### Ida Lewinsohn

Co-Opted May 2015

### Sue Rosner

Head of Education  
Jack Petchey Awards  
First Elected November 2009

### Melvin Pedro

Senior Warden  
Lay Reader  
First Elected November 2010

### Steve Wynne

First Elected Nov 2012

### Angela Jacobs

Honorary Secretary  
Co-opted November 2009  
First Elected November 2010

### Jeff Soraff

Treasurer  
Lay Reader  
First Elected November 2010  
Resigned March 2014

### Stephen Silver

Fund Raising  
First Elected November 2007  
Retired November 2014

### Dee Slade

Elected November 2014

### Jeff Lustig

Elected November 2014

### Sidney Kirsh

Elected November 2014  
Resigned June 2015