

IN THIS ISSUE:

Chairman's update - P2

Assisting the police with their enquiries - P3

Message from the President of the BOD - P4

'Thoughts' with Michael Rubenstein - P5

Bury Listening Project - P6

Marc Levy - P7

The new GMP taser - P9

Sara Radivan, Board of Deputies' regional manager - P10

Ed's Soapbox - P12

Final editorial - P13

Poland - P13

Communal Diary - P14

..... FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT
FINAL TRIBUTE TO JRC



As I write, this is my last article as President. I must say from the outset what an honour and a privilege it has been to represent the community for almost three years.

Little did I dream that during my term we would have the pandemic and now a refugee crisis to contend with.

My only regret is that because of COVID, I was unable to physically represent the community as I, and I am sure you, would have wanted me to do, in person.

Zoom meetings became the order of the day.

As I have previously mentioned, the JRC instigated the formation of the Strategic Group along with **Marc Levy** and **Amanda**

Bomstzyk and nearly two years on, under the chairmanship of **Mark Adlestone OBE DL**, it has expanded to the impressive body it has become, taking in capable people from local councils, **GMCA**, and many, many other organisations.

This augurs well for the future engagement between the Jewish community and the wider community.

Now we are dealing with the potential of the Ukrainian Refugee crisis, and once again, the JRC is spearheading the steering committee dealing with the emerging situation. I know we can rely on each and every one of you to play your part to best of your ability.

In May, I will hand full control over to Mark Adlestone, and I am sure he, ably assisted by Marc Levy, will drive the JRC to new heights.

This is going to be a very exciting time for the JRC, and I hope the Community gets behind Mark and gives him all the support he

will need. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Mark and Marc in making sure the transition from the old to the new regime is as smooth as possible.

I must pay tribute and express my gratitude not only to my predecessor Sharon Bannister and all the other Past Presidents, but the previous chair **Jacky Buchsbaum** and all the officers, executive and members of the Council for all their help, support and encouragement during my almost three years in office.

It only remains to wish each and every one of you a **Chag Kosher Pesach Sameach**.

Thank you again for allowing me to be your President and represent the whole community to the best of my ability.

I wish you all hatzlacha for the future.

Russell Conn
President

A PESACH MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Naturally, I was delighted with the result from the recent meeting to approve our new constitution. To have such an overwhelming majority of JRC Delegates approve of the motion was an affirmation that people are buying into our bold vision. Work has commenced on constructing a Management Board to be truly reflective of our diverse community. It is our hope that this will be revealed to the whole community over the coming weeks.

Each member of the Management Board will be responsible for managing a portfolio. It is obviously essential that the JRC is on the front line in tackling antisemitism and I am proud of our achievements in this regard during my time as Chair. This was demonstrated in the first few weeks of my tenure. We spoke with the highest levels of local government about the challenging situation that unfolded across Greater Manchester during the recent Middle East conflict.

Education remains a key component for the community and we will be looking at imminently commissioning a piece of research to establish whether we have sufficient school places available. This is in addition to a wider mapping research project that will be focusing on all aspects of communal life across Greater Manchester. This will highlight where there is an overlap in provisions and most importantly demonstrate gaps that require filling.

The **Jewish Strategic Group** has been particularly active in the health and social care sector. This is a critically important issue for our community and the fact the Strategic Group has been instrumental in collaborating and coordinating our numerous organisations is extremely pleasing from my perspective. The Strategic Group is still heralded as a model of best practice by our partners in wider society. We will continue with our regular meetings where our members present to elected representatives about their work. However, there is now a much stronger focus on the strategic plans for our community.

I have always freely given my time to meet with aspiring communal leaders. I must commend UJIA for their work in establishing and running a number of hugely successful leadership courses. I also note that The Fed had a group of individuals who benefited from engaging with leaders from inside and outside the community. The JRC is planning to be a central component for ensuring our community has a stream of talented individuals who are capable of taking leadership positions. I am therefore looking at having a youth and leadership section on the Management Board.

From a publicity perspective, we are looking to build upon the success of our recently re launched website. I am also pleased with how our weekly newsletter has been received. We have been active in speaking about incidents that have affected Jewish

people in our city. This increased visibility has enabled us to largely achieve the ambition of the JRC being central on all key issues affecting our Affiliates and wider communal members. We are being approached to resolve issues of importance to the community where historically there has been deadlock.

I have spoken at length about the political connections we have as an organisation. The fact Marc has so many MPs on speed dial means that our voice and concerns are heard right across government. This has recently been demonstrated on a number of occasions and ensures the JRC are considered the first point of contact on all critically important issues that affect the community. We were all closely following the hostage taking at the Synagogue in Texas and we took the decision to comment as the terrorist originally travelled from Blackburn. Within a day, we had a question tabled to the Home Secretary and had met and briefed the MP from Blackburn. We were also central to news coverage on BBC, ITV and Sky News.

This media profile was also further heightened following the shocking statistics released by the Community Security Trust. We again widely distributed our comment which enabled Marc to appear on a number of local and national television and radio bulletins. I am aware of all the meetings Marc has with MPs and have seen how his quiet diplomacy is delivering tangible results on behalf of the community.

This article has been used to very briefly explain how the JRC will evolve following the AGM in May. However, what we seek to achieve has not changed. In short, we will be the organisation responsible for amplifying and magnifying our voice to local and national government whilst internally collaborating and coordinating our whole community.



MARK ADLESTONE OBE DL
CHAIR

Assisting the police with their enquiries



Jeremy addresses St John Ambulance volunteers Nov 2021



Yes, it is quite true. The rumours that you may have heard that I have been assisting the police with their enquiries are quite correct. In fact, I have appeared before magistrates and judges. Recently I have even spent time in a young offender's institution!

As I am long past my 21st birthday you may draw one of two conclusions. Either the concept of "Young **Offenders**" has been revised to take in senior citizens, or that I am pulling the wool, that these brushes with the law do not relate to criminal behaviour on my part.

Of course, the latter is true. All these brushes with branches of the law are part of the cultural awareness work that I have been involved in for the last 25 years, both with the **Jewish Museum** and with the **Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester** and

St John Ambulance



Region (JRC).

In this time, I have given many sessions to **GM Police**, a magistrates group, great numbers of nurses and nursery nurses and even a vociferous group of girls from an agricultural college! Last November **Carl Montlake** asked me to give a presentation to **St John Ambulance** volunteers as part of a multi faith evening.

Directly as a result of this I recently addresses a group from **Lancashire Constabulary Professional Standards Department**.

Thanks to Carl ,I have also been involved in sessions with **Mothers Against Violence**, a group based in Moss side and Hulme.

I have always felt that much of the antisemitism and racial intolerance that occurs is due to ignorance of "the Others.

Breaking down the barriers of ignorance and incomprehension can do much to weaken antisemitism, although I accept that it cannot eliminate it completely.

It is impossible to estimate the long-term impact of such work but I do see that cultural awareness sessions can play an important role in enhancing social cohesion and they will have an important role to play in the work of the JRC for many years.

Cultural awareness training, also known as intercultural, cross-cultural and cultural competency training, essentially offers learners the

skills they need to understand, work and flourish in and with cultures other than their own.

Jeremy Michelson
Vice Chair (Education) JRC of
Greater Manchester and Region



PESACH MESSAGE from B.O.D. PRESIDENT MARIE



Passover, as the Jewish festival of freedom celebration will be an especially poignant one this year as families will be at liberty to celebrate their seder without any

lockdown restrictions for the first time since 2019. More than 1,000 from the UK Jewish community have died from Covid-19 and we will be thinking of them this Pesach. It is my earnest hope that we will be soon able to create a proper memorial to those who died.

We also pray for the freedom and safety of those in danger in Ukraine. This senseless Russian aggression flies in the face of justice and decency. We continue to both be inspired by the resolve of the Ukrainian people, and to pray for peace. I urge all those who are able to donate towards the charities collecting on behalf of the victims of this terrible conflict.

We have had a number of significant achievements this year. The Board has been campaigning long and hard for the proscription of Hamas in its entirety as a terrorist organisation and in 2021 we were very happy that the Government legislated to ban its so-called political wing, meaning it can no longer lobby for support in this country.

Many of you will have been distressed by the BBC actions following the antisemitic attack on teenagers celebrating Chanukah on a bus in central London last November.

We supplied forensic evidence which conclusively refuted BBC reports that there had been anti-Muslim abuse coming from the bus.

The BBC's Executive Complaints Unit agreed with us that the BBC did not meet

standards of due accuracy and impartiality. We are now working to supply evidence to a new Ofcom investigation into BBC handling of the incident.

We have been focusing on the issue of online hate which is the new frontline against antisemitism. Thanks to Board of Deputies campaigning, the Government wrote to social media companies asking for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism so that racists will no longer be able to harass Jewish users with impunity.

The work of the Board of Deputies is so wide and diverse that it is impossible to mention everything in a short message. To give a few examples, we have provided support for Chinese Uyghurs who have been cruelly persecuted in their home country.

We are working in the community to facilitate the implementation of the groundbreaking **Commission on Racial Inclusivity** in the Jewish Community which considered 17 areas of Jewish communal life and made 119 recommendations.

And working with our partner organisation **EcoSynagogue**, we were out in force at the COP26 summit in November.

In addition, we provide official inspection of religious education in Jewish schools through the **Pikuach** organisation and our team monitors and protects our religious freedoms. Whatever your interests or concerns as a Jew, the Board of Deputies is here for you.

Pesach Sameach to you and your families from everyone at the Board of Deputies

**Marie van der Zyl
President**

Board of Deputies of British Jews

THOUGHTS

...on stepping down as Chair of the Antisemitism, Racism and Human Rights Committee of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region



After seven years I am stepping down from the **Antisemitism, Racism and Human Rights Committee (ARHRC)** of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester (JRC). I established this committee because I felt these causes were fundamental to the JRC and I was elected to head it up.

It was the area to which I was best suited because of my background as both of my late parents, z"l, were survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, the Shoah. My mother, **Alice**, came to England on the Kindertransport in 1939 from Hamburg. My father, **Joe**, as a survivor of several Concentration Camps, including Auschwitz, Death Marches and forced labour camps arrived in 1945 as one of "The Boys". They were people who had experienced the worst and believed that all people should be treated equally and with respect.

As a result, there are three causes which I have followed all my life which are fighting antisemitism,

supporting Israel, and standing up for Human Rights everywhere.

I am proud of my time in the Rep Council, proud of the successes and proud of the contribution I have made to Manchester Jewry. Some of the highlights over the years:

- Being instrumental in setting up the largest Israel advocacy event in the North, **The Big Tent for Israel**, after the validity of Israel was being challenged
- Bringing the **Israeli military Attaché** to Manchester to talk about the situation in Israel and the Territories and prospects for peace
- Working with the Board of Deputies to bring Israeli and Palestinian representatives of **Parents' Circle**, an organisation of bereaved families from across the divide who campaign for reconciliation, to speak in Manchester
- Organising a heart-breaking, a Zoom event to inform and educate the Community about the plight of the **Uighurs in China**. Working with the **René Cassin Human Rights** organisation and a Uighur refugee in this country.

I highlight two events which link us to other minorities. The first was when we attended a rally in Bury town centre to commemorate the

victims of the **Christchurch Mosque** shooting and I made an impromptu speech which was received well. I was invited to speak on Islamophobia and Antisemitism at the **Khizra Mosque** in Cheetham Hill for Eid. I spoke about our shared experiences and especially how the communities need to work together for peace in the Middle East and to support the Two State Solution.

With the election of Jeremy Corbyn as Leader of the Labour Party, much of my time, was consumed by fighting the antisemites and educating those who were uneducated about antisemitism. Most of this was on social media.

When I was in Brussels with a senior politician whose staff member had been tweeting inappropriately, I expressed the community's dissatisfaction at the behaviour so that action could be taken.

I have spoken truth to power, standing up for the Community. I have been recognised nationally for this work, from within the Board of Deputies and the House of Lords. I worked with the TUC in London to ensure that, when Chris Williamson MP spoke at the Peterloo Massacre Commemorations, not one senior politician shared his platform.

One memorable afternoon was spent hosting **Rosena Alin Khan**, who had been abused by Far-Left extremists for working with the **Israeli Ambassador** when trying to provide medical aid to residents in Gaza. She spoke about working towards peace in the Middle East

THOUGHTS CONTINUED

with a few members of the MJRC and others. Jeremy Corbyn's office contacted me to see if I could help them reach out to the Jewish Community! I did not feel that they were genuine

Whilst we were engaged in dealing with the antisemitism crisis with Corbyn and the Hard Left we also witnessed a rise in Far-Right antisemitism, antisemitic remarks by right wing politicians such as Jacob Rees-Mogg, attacking Oliver

Letwin and John Bercow.

We have been informed that the UK security services are now spending a great deal of time tracking violent threats from the Far Right. We must continue to be vigilant and stand up for all people at risk.

With the Pandemic the focus shifted and a few of us were working together starting to collate the response from local synagogues and how they were supporting their congregations. We were gratified at

the efforts they were putting in.

I am now standing down from the JRC. I extend to the new regime the very best wishes for their success. With the confidence gained from my time with the Rep Council, I have decided to stand for election in the upcoming local elections. I hope to continue fighting for what I believe in and representing my community in Bury

Michael Rubenstein

Bury Listening Project on the safety of women in Bury

A second group discussion for the Bury Listening Project took place on Zoom, facilitated by Jane Almond – Domestic Violence and Abuse coordinator, Bury, where a group of women discussed issues, concerns and actions they undertake to ensure their own personal safety and that of their family members, when driving at night, travelling on the met, at the gym, or just living their daily lives.

They were advised of projects that are being planned for all ages of young people in education across the borough on awareness of appropriate behaviours and their consequences. In turn, the programmes of JWA were also shared demonstrating the invaluable work they do in schools and the community.

Plans were also discussed to bring together women of all faiths to discuss experiences and work together.

Below is a link to consultation, but more importantly, the details of the women's' charter for safety <https://www.onecommunitybury.co.uk/licensed-premises-women-s-safety-consultation>

If you would like to attend one of these discussion groups and be part of this project, please email office@jewishmanchester.org

Susan Isaacs

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

1. As we return to a more normal semblance of social activity with COVID, please be aware of scammers on the telephone. Should anyone phone you, in particular, with a non-native English accent, telling you your bank account/s have been compromised, or your bank card has been used illegally, tell them "thank you", put the phone down for at least 2 minutes (if a landline) and call the **official number on the back of your bank card** to 1), ask them if they phoned you, and 2), report the scammer to them.
 2. **NEVER download and install any software to your phone or PC that these people ask you to.**
 3. Also, ignore any Amazon delivery 'error' calls.
- DO NOT ENGAGE WITH THESE PEOPLE UNLESS YOU HAVE TIME, AS A MITZVAH, TO TOTALLY WASTE THEIR TIME WITH FALSE INFORMATION**

RepPresents

Magazine of the Jewish Representative Council
of Greater Manchester and Region (JRC)

Published twice-yearly at Pesach and Rosh Hashana

JRC Office: 0161 720 8721

PRODUCTION TEAM

EDITOR: R.Graham Gordon

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS: Filis Rosenberg, David

Marks, Ed Moss

DESIGN: Ed Moss



office@jewishmanchester.org



jewishmanchester.org



facebook.com/jewishmanchester



twitter.com/jewishmcr

Marc Levy - Chief Executive of the JRC

It is always a pleasure to be able to write and update the community on the work of the JRC.

The last few months have been extremely busy from a political engagement perspective. There are crucially important pieces of legislation that are currently being worked on in Westminster. We have been at the forefront of engaging with government in ensuring that concerns of the community are heard and acted upon.

On the issue of hate crime being perpetrated against the community online and freedom of speech on campus, we have worked closely with key stakeholders. It is essential when speaking with politicians that the right organisations are represented. That is why we take meetings in conjunction with the **Community Security Trust**, **Antisemitism Policy Trust** and **Union of Jewish Students** when discussing these issues. I have also independently met with a large number of MPs to discuss areas of mutual interest.

The Community Security Trust recently released their annual report detailing a record level of hate crime targeting the community. This will not have come as a surprise to

anyone given the vitriol endured during the recent conflict in the Middle East. One stand out figure was the number of antisemitic incidents being perpetrated in educational settings. This is naturally a cause for concern. This was raised by **PaJes** in recent meetings we facilitated with both the **Schools Minister** and **Shadow Schools Minister**. We are once again grateful for the support offered by Parliamentarians across the political divide.

I remain proud of the way in which we represented the community on the issue of antisemitism during this difficult period. I have spoken at length about the joint statements released with the leadership of councils, the **Metro Mayor**, **Police and Crime Commissioner** and **Chief Constable**. Their words were designed to reassure the community and were well received. We have also joined with CST to update local government and senior police officers across the region.

It is our policy that the JRC only comments on issues that affect the Jewish community in Greater

Councillor Bev Craig, Leader of Manchester Council, visiting Heathlands



Manchester. That is why we initially did not issue a statement following the terrorist attack targeting the **Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue** in Texas. However, when it subsequently transpired that the terrorist travelled to America from Blackburn, we immediately came on record. This led to me being interviewed on BBC, ITV and Sky News discussing how the incident was being perceived by Jewish people across the region.

In addition, a number of other statements were issued since last writing for RepPresents. The timing and tone of our comments have all been well received. We were vocal in condemning Far Right activist, Richard Hesketh, the Zoom bombing at Jacksons Row Synagogue and an antisemitic former Labour Councillor who was immediately suspended following our intervention.

It is a shame that such a large component of this article has to be dedicated to the issue of antisemitism. As stated on a number of occasions, I am proud that our communal organisations are regarded as examples of best practice. That is why I am delighted to have been able to facilitate engagement for **The Fed**, **L'Chaim Foodbank**, **Maccabi**, **World Jewish Relief**, **Jewish Women's Aid**,



Board of Deputies delegates from Manchester meeting President, Marie Van De Zyl, during her visit to Manchester

Marc Levy - Chief Executive of the JRC (cont.)

Mark Adlestone and Marc Levy outside
Number 10 Downing Street



The above represents a small amount of the work that has been undertaken by the JRC over the previous few months. In my mind, we have delivered on our promise to advocate at the highest levels of local and national government whilst internally working effectively alongside our diverse community.

Following on from the EGM, it is clear that the JRC has a bright and exciting future.

Hatzolah, Work Avenue and Jami.

We have also hosted a number of high-profile events. Our Chair, **Mark Adlestone** hosted a fascinating in conversation event with **Lisa Nandy** MP in her capacity as Shadow Foreign Secretary. I had the honour of arranging a well-attended event with Her Excellency, **The Israeli Ambassador Tzipi Hotovely** during her time in Manchester for Conservative Party Conference. Similarly, **Lord Mann** addressed a large crowd when he was in conversation with Bury South MP, Christian Wakeford. We were also delighted to host **Andy Burnham** who lit Chanukah candles with the community at Hale Shul. The most recent event was Shadow **Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Jonathan Reynolds** MP attending a business breakfast. This was jointly arranged by the JRC alongside The Fed and UJIA.

Internally, alongside Mark, we are continually being invited by communal institutions to involve the JRC in their organisations. We welcome the opportunity to be proactive in collaborating and coordinating the community. We have been asked to call meetings to start conversations and look to resolve long standing problems. In addition, we have been updated by a number of charities about their plans and invited to address Trustees to speak about our vision for the future.



Mayor Andy Burnham at Hale shul for
Chanukah 2021



Greater Manchester Police have a new taser – the T7

Erinma Bell MBE DL, Chair of the Force IAG, and myself, met with CI Hayley Stirling and PC Edward Babes to receive an absorbing, valuable session on the subject of the new **Taser 7**. This particular taser is due for introduction to Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in the near future, parallel to the one that is currently used.

Liaising with CI Stirling afterwards, she informed me that the advantages of the newest model would be well received and will ensure armed staff are well equipped to deal with the threats they face.

CI Stirling went on to convey:

A Conducted Energy Device (CED) is a less lethal weapon system which is designed to incapacitate a subject using an electrical current which temporarily interferes with the body's neuromuscular system and causes a sensation of pain.

There are many types of violent or potentially violent incidents in which CEDs may be deployed. These can include dealing with subjects with bladed articles threatening to harm themselves or others, subjects with firearms, and subjects whose size/strength and/or level of intoxication mean that this is the most appropriate and safest means to detain them.

A single trigger pull and release will discharge an electrical charge for a 5-second cycle. This gives officers time to assess, and if safe, then approach and restrain a subject.

In the UK, the CEDs that are authorised for use by police officers are from the Taser brand. The models currently in use in Greater Manchester Police are the X26 and the X2. The X26 is a smaller model but is becoming obsolete as it has been superseded by the Taser 7 device.

The Taser 7 device was approved by the Home Office in August 2020 and was purchased in GMP in February 2022. The device will be rolled out to Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), whilst district based Specially Trained Officers will continue to use the X2 device.

Initial training for Taser is a four-day course, during



which officers are tested, not just on accuracy of firing, but also on their judgement of situations. The training for conversion to the T7 device will be two days per AFO and will also test judgement as well as their aptitude with the new device.

In terms of the differences between the X26/X2 and T7, little has changed in terms of the look of the device. However, there are several differences to the functionality:

Improved probes which project straighter and faster, with more kinetic energy. This makes for better connection with the subject therefore increasing the chances of getting the desired behaviour change and reducing the need for further uses of force.

Rechargeable batteries.

This saves GMP money, as currently, batteries are replaced at the end of their useful lives.

More efficient device management.

Currently, it is necessary for staff to manually download the information held within the device. This is time-consuming and inefficient. Data will be downloaded automatically when the battery is docked.

The data is used to quality assure the deployment of Taser devices and provide information to managers and other interested parties, for example, Professional Standards Branch in the event of a complaint.

**Reported by Filis Rosenberg.
Member GMP Force IAG.
(Independent Advisory Group)**

From Sara Radivan, Board of Deputies' regional manager



The Board of Deputies hosted a hugely successful virtual **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)** conference with over 80 Jewish SACRE representatives in attendance, and were delighted to welcome Jewish SACRE representatives from Manchester. Presentations were delivered by **OFSTED's Dr Richard Kueh**, who leads on the inspection of Religious Education in schools, **Ruth Flanagan**, teacher trainer at Exeter University and **Sheila Gewolb** explained about **NASACRE**. Participants also had the opportunity to network virtually and to share ideas and best practice.

A further workshop for Jewish representatives on SACREs, and Deputies, was held on Wednesday 30 March 2022.

Board of Deputies President **Marie van der Zyl** spoke about the "sombre milestone" as the UK Jewish community recorded more than 1000 deaths from Covid 19 since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

Monthly meetings of all the regional Jewish Representative Council Chairs and/or Presidents, bringing them all together in one virtual space, continue to be convened. These meetings are informative and beneficial. We are delighted to welcome **Russell Conn**, President of the JRC of Greater Manchester and Region and **Jeremy Michelson** who sits on the JRC, and is Chair of the Board of Deputies Regional Deputies Assembly and Council.

The Board of Deputies offers support where necessary, with the regional Jewish Representative Councils learning and sharing ideas with each other.

The Regional Deputies Assembly (all of the regional Deputies) continues to meet on a quarterly basis and we are delighted to welcome the Deputies representing some of the Manchester synagogues.

These Deputies also join other Deputy activities which the Board of Deputies provides, and increases the profile of the Board of Deputies. The Board of Deputies now has over 200

member organisations and synagogues, which is the largest number in a quarter of a century. It is hoped that the Manchester synagogues that currently do not have Deputy representation will soon elect a Deputy to join the Board of Deputies.

The Board of Deputies has been in contact with the BBC over their coverage of the antisemitic incident in Oxford Street, London, where a bus carrying Jewish people celebrating Chanukah was subjected to antisemitic abuse.

The BBC report claimed that anti-Muslim slurs were heard coming from the bus. This was denied by the victims on the bus and refuted by the Board, which commissioned technical experts to clean up a recording of the incident. A call for help in Hebrew could clearly be heard. However, rather than admit its error, the BBC insisted it was correct. President of the Board of Deputies, Marie Van Der Zyl, has met with the BBC but is still waiting for an apology to those on the bus.

Working with the Jewish Leadership Council, the Board of Deputies condemned the report published by Amnesty International UK on Israel, describing it as a "*preposterous slur*".

In a joint statement, JLC Chair **Keith Black** and President of the Board of Deputies Marie van der Zyl expressed their shock at the content of the report given the history of Amnesty International's one-sided positioning on Israel.

The Board of Deputies is the representative organisation for the whole Jewish community through the UK and supports communities, small and large, wherever they are.

As the UK's democratically elected representative organisation, and as can be seen by the examples given in this article, the Board of Deputies supports UK Jews whenever they come under attack.

The Board of Deputies ensures that the UK's Jewish community can live freely and happily and continue to practise their traditions, but can

only do this work with the help of communities and Deputies across the UK. The Board of Deputies now has an enhanced knowledge and understanding of Jewish life across British society, including the regional Jewish communities.



The Board of Deputies exists to promote and defend the religious rights and civil liberties of British Jews. As the community's democratically elected cross communal representative body, the Board of Deputies is the first port of call for Government, media and all others seeking to understand the needs and priorities of the Jewish community and provides a unique means through which all British Jews can be heard and represented.

The Board of Deputies defends all Jewish communities and individuals from antisemitism, persecution and discrimination and increases understanding of the Jewish way of life across British society.

The Board of Deputies also carries out education, interfaith and social action projects and advocacy. The Board of Deputies defends religious practices including Brit Milah and Shechitah, and stands up for the right to quality Jewish education.

The Board of Deputies promotes good relationships between people of all faiths and none.

The Board of Deputies supports Israel which comprises part of our identity as British Jews.

Working with the Jewish Leadership Council again, the Board of Deputies released two statements mourning the hundreds of Ukrainians who have fallen in the senseless invasion by the Russian regime, adding that *"we pray for the Ukrainian people, who are facing death, destruction and displacement and hope that our Government will continue to do everything it can to help Ukraine defend itself and prevent any further loss of life."*

The Board of Deputies continues to ask members of the Jewish community to support the World

Jewish Relief campaign.

President Marie van der Zyl has met **Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski**, Bishop for Ukrainian, Belarusian and Slovak Eastern Catholics, to demonstrate support for the people of Ukraine, and the President and Chief Executive **Michael Wegier** recently had an audience with the Pope. The UK Ambassador to Ukraine addressed a recent Board of Deputies plenary meeting.

At last year's Conservative Party Conference held in Manchester, President Marie van der Zyl and **Chief Executive Michael Wegier** took time out from the conference to visit Jewish Manchester and meet some Manchester Deputies. I was privileged to escort and show them around.

In advance of the local government elections, the Board of Deputies published their Jewish Manifest for Local Government. This can be read at <https://bod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/bod-jewish-manifesto-2022-final.pdf>

The Board of Deputies wishes all RepPresents a happy and Kasher Pesach.

In this the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, the Board of Deputies wishes Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth only continued good health and happiness and a most hearty Mazaltov.

The Board of Deputies is looking forward to celebrating this milestone.

Let us hope and pray that this New Year brings us all only continued good health and happiness, and peace, to us all.

Sara Radivan
Regional Manager
Board of Deputies
Sara.radivan@bod.org.uk



OFF TOPIC: RACING ALONG ON MY SOAPBOX OF SARCASM

I have found a new way of earning a crust, that, and like the spam emails always claim, involves a mere three hours a day maximum and needs only a mobile phone (but without needing my passport number, mother's maiden name and bank card CVV number). My get-rich-quick-scheme all depends on negotiating with Her Majesty's Boys and Girls in Blue and Bury Council. And before I go any further, as **Deborah Meaden** or **Peter Jones** on BBC's "Dragons' Den" would ask, yes, I do have a patent pending, so no stealing my idea please folks!

My proposition to the authorities is really simple. I head off to either Bury New Road near Morrisons, or to Cheetham Hill Road during the early rush hour - well early for me, that is, between 7 and 10 - armed with my mobile phone. For the princely sum of £5 a pop, I take photographs of rush-hour cars' numberplates with their drivers on their mobile phones. The authorities then pay me said £5 for each one I capture!

How I came about this idea was I was awaiting the pending arrival of the 135 (that's a bus, for those who may be unfamiliar) outside a Lebanese restaurant on Bury New Road opposite an allegedly overpriced coffee shop/ patisserie one morning. I was staggered by the number of drivers who

resolutely believe it is their given right to use social media on their mobile phones while driving! (I know, many find even 15 minutes without social media can be more fatal than running a pedestrian over or careering into the back of the 135 I was patiently awaiting the arrival of).



The usual effect of using a mobile phone while driving

And 'how can I prove it was social media?', I hear you shout. Well, the type of cars that were being driven one handed and zero-eyed on the road all have Bluetooth technology for phone calls. Phone calls don't involve any scrolling. Even a phone dinosaur like me knows that with your mobile phone in its £12 cradle (the drivers of £45,000+ cars patently can't stretch their budgets to that extra £12, presumably laying the blame at the feet of Brexit) you can shout at Mr Siri or Mr Google to "Call Atilla my Stockbroker". Your device will then obey without you even having to put your coffee or bagel down on the car dashboard!

Despite my complete inability with maths (I do know that Centrica + rise in gas price = extra day a week on the golf course for Centrica directors), I worked out that based on the nine drivers I saw engaged on their phones during the not-quite 20 minutes I stood at the bus stop, (again, for those who may be unfamiliar with

such things, that's the place where the bus I mentioned earlier stops to pick up and/or throw off passengers) means that, by the law of averages, during the three-hour peak rush, give or take the odd lull in traffic, I should be able to photograph around 40 drivers at least.

That is £200 a day minimum, and using an internet site to compute what that might be in yearly terms, it equates to £52,000, all for a mere three hours work a day. As the meerkats used to say, 'Simple'. Far less effort even than making an overpaid fool of oneself as a totally clueless judge on a television reality show.

I have now filled in the Dragons' Den application form and also ordered a rubber suit for when I get thrown down the lift shaft by Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones. Sticking with the theme of road safety, another thing I find astoundingly dangerous are the number of those 4x4 quad bikes driven at often very considerable speed along Higher Lane in Whitefield. This is often with rider (yes, I am aware it does require at least a rider to operate these quad bikes in any way of a functional manner!) and passenger, neither of whom ever wear a crash helmet. Unless having the hood of their 'hoodie' up counts as a crash helmet.

These people seem completely oblivious to the fact there is both a secondary school and primary school on that road. They all drive like they are trying to catch Lewis Hamilton at the traffic lights.

If that's not bad enough, we already have the bright canary-yellow and growly Lamborghini SUV (owned allegedly by the son of a very successful internet clothing entrepreneur) taking 12 mpg trips at 80mph from Ringley Road to Aldi to pick up their £29.95 'middle isle special' air fryer.

A Good and Happy Pesach to one and all.

... **Ed Moss**



Quad bikers taking a short-cut through Whitefield Golf Club

FROM THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE BEARD

This is my **final** editorial, for "RepPresents," as I am becoming a Board Member of another communal charity. I plan to remain involved with the JRC, as a **SACRE** delegate, (Rochdale) and hopefully as a member of Advisory Group/s.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as publicity officer and worked with some great people, who do so much voluntary work for our wonderful community.

I would like to particularly thank my officer colleagues, who have been a pleasure to work with over many years. We were a strong and very effective team, who achieved a lot together, and between us, 'represented' the community to very many Jewish and non-Jewish organisations.

I would also like to thank all the brilliant members of the **Publicity Working Group** and the "RepPresents" editorial team, of **Ed Moss**, **Filis Rosenberg** and **David Marks**. Their work, (particularly Ed's), has been outstanding.

Thank you also to **Emma Pearlman** and David Marks, who served on the outgoing executive, as our secretaries.

The JRC is a wonderful organisation and I hope it goes from strength to strength.

Although covid has not remotely disappeared, life is more normal, than it was, last Pesach. Hopefully this will enable people to spend

YomTov with family and friends again.

When **The Chief Rabbi** visited the Manchester community recently, he said that covid should have taught us, what is and isn't important in life. He was of course, totally right.

I hope as we are about to celebrate the **Festival of our Freedom**, we can focus on what keeps us free.

Playing our part by contributing to society, is one way we enable a democratic and vibrant society to thrive.

I hope you all in your own way find a way to contribute to one of the many voluntary organisations, we have in Greater Manchester.

Let's hope that this Pesach will mark an era, when we are truly free; free from pandemics and wars, so that we can all start to live properly again.

Afterall, this is what we deserve !!!

Together with the editorial Tteam and all JRC committees, I wish you Good Yomtov, and I hope you all have a kosher, enjoyable, rewarding and safe Pesach.

R. Graham Gordon
Editor "RepPresents"
JRC publicity officer



POLAND

A little over a month ago, I embarked on a journey of who's magnitude I never expected. Thinking you know all the facts about Holocaust Jewry from a text book doesn't suffice to the indescribable feeling you experience in the exact places where these numerous events took place.

The pivotal point in the trip for me was when we visited **Auschwitz-Birkenau**. Seeing pictures of it in the text books or lookalike effects in films didn't even come close to what was before us. The vibrancy of coloured pots and pans brought by the camp inmates, each with their own story, greatly contrasted to the dark, incredibly unsanitary environment that everyone found themselves in. The endless lines of barracks, although remodelled, were hauntingly real



in the way they stared and these all struck a particular chord for me. I could picture the disease, the crying, the discomfort, all at once.

This greatly contrasted to the wonderful shabbat we spent in Poland. We all felt unanimously connected to our Judaism in our songs, and were all welcoming to one another, especially after the things we had seen and the stories we heard. It was truly amazing.

The trip has undeniably changed me as person. There are good people in the world. Everyone is created on G-d's image and has a unique purpose to serve in this world, which is to be treasured.

Everything I do is Jewish. I do them with intent, meaning and love. We have a moral responsibility to uphold the survivors' stories, now more than ever, because what I uproot in discovery on our trip, so many people continue to deny.

Maia Lurie

COMMUNAL DIARY

Please always check on the JRC website for event status
<https://jewishmanchester.org/communal-diary>

Sunday 24 Apr	FedEx Trek in London
Wednesday 27 Apr	Yom Hashoah Manchester: 'Notes on Sorrow and Survival' 7:45 pm
Sunday 01 May	Fed Up-North Event 7:00 pm UJIA Crowdfunding Event
Monday 02 May	UJIA Crowdfunding Event
Tuesday 03 May	UJIA Yom Hazikaron Tekes Aliya Youth Project: An Exclusive and Intimate Dinner with Mitch Winehouse - 7.30 pm
Thursday 05 May	UJIA Crowdfunding Campaign UJIA Yom Ha'atzmaut Business Breakfast 8:00 am CST Women' Self Defence Session - 7.30 pm
Sunday 08 May	UJIA Yom Ha'atzmaut Family Fun Day
Tuesday 10 May	The Fed In Person Fundraising Night 7:00 pm
Wednesday 11 May	The Fed In Person Fundraising Night 7:00 pm
Thursday 12 May	The Fed In Person Fundraising Night 7:00 pm
Sunday 15 May	The Fed In Person Fundraising Night 7:00 pm
Monday 16 May	CST Event – Invitation Only - 7.30 pm
Tues 17 May/Wed 18 May	The Fed In Person Fundraising Night 7:00 pm
Thursday 19 May	Aliya Youth Project Fundraising Event The Fed In Person Fundraising Night 7:00 pm
Sunday 22 May	Jewish Action for Mental Health – Event TBC - 7pm
Thursday 26 May	The Friendship Circle Presents: 'Behind the Scenes with the Stars!' - 12.30pm
Sun 29 May/Mon 30 May	The Fed's Match Funding Campaign
Tuesday 14 June	CST Private Event – Invitation Only - 12.00 pm
Sunday 19 Jun	Maccabi Event 12:00 pm
Sunday 26 Jun	Broughton Jewish Cassel Fox Primary School Garden Party
Wednesday 29 Jun	Manchester Maccabi Dancing Strictly Chai Cancer Care Awareness Evening
Thursday 30 Jun	Chai Cancer Care Awareness Evening
Sunday 03 Jul	Trek4 The Fed Jewish Theatre Company – Event TBC 7:00 pm Manchester Maccabi 24 Hour Football Fundraising Challenge The Nicky Alliance Centre Annual Telethon
Monday 04 Jul	CST Fundraising Dinner – Private Event
Tuesday 12 Jul	Beis Yaacov Jewish High School Academy