

# The Bristol Jewish Recorder

JANUARY 1959



TEBETH/SHEVAT 5719

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

HARRY AMSEL  
SYDNEY CURWEN  
LEONARD GOULD

All communications to

Court Farm House, Church Road,  
Yatton.

Published on the 1st of every month  
Material to arrive on the 25th  
of the month preceding

## A VERY BIG THANK YOU.

Your support of the communal evening held on December 7th was greatly appreciated. This encourages further efforts in this direction of social communal activity.

Despite the very considerable variety of entertainment and activity, I was able to arrive at a balance of approximately £ 13. profit which gave me great pleasure to pass on to the Ladies Guild to whom I am greatly indebted for so magnificently co-operating and providing such good fare.

This evening could not have been so successful without the assistance of many helpers and I would like to make special mention of Mr. Springer who provided the musical and loudspeaker equipment, this was a most considerable effort.

Also Dr. Curwen who so ably compered the Show, Mr. Dysch, Mr. Lever and many others, not forgetting some of the younger people who helped with the arrangements on the evening and last but by no means least the entertainers, - Elliman-Berk Ensemble, Gideon & Yakir and "Bearded" Michaels.

HARRY AMSEL.

## for your diary . . .

Bristol W.I.Z.O. Group.  
Coffee Morning at  
Brights Hotel on  
Tuesday, January 6th  
at 10.30 a.m.

Bristol Ladies Guild.  
Re-open on January 12th  
at 7.30 p.m.

Afternoon Meeting on  
January 26th at 2.30 p.m.

Sherry Party at  
Mrs. Roydon's residence,  
Avon House, 14, The Avenue,  
Stoke Bishop, on Sunday  
evening, January 18th,  
from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mrs. R. Ring wishes to convey her sincere thanks to all those members of the Community who came to comfort her in her sorrow at the loss of her dear husband and for all the letters and messages of sympathy that she received.

Heartiest of Congratulations to Leslie Culank on his passing the G.C.E. with credits in no less than five subjects at the unusually early age of 14 years and 11 months.

YAHREZEITS.

Monday 5th January.	A.S. Elliman.	25	Tebeth.
Tuesday 6th "	J. & C. Berk.	26	"
Sunday 11th "	A. Goldberg.	2	Shevat.
Monday 12th "	S. Bloom.	3	"
Tuesday 13th "	C. Epstein.	4	"
" 13th "	Dr.G. Culank.	4	"
Friday 23rd "	P. Tanchan.	14	"
Sunday 25th "	H. Cohen.	16	"
Thursday 29th "	B.W. Dembo.	20	"
Saturday 31st "	Dr.H.Howard.	22	"

Kaddish will be said on the previous evening.

COMMUNITY AT THE CROSS ROADS.

A stranger attending the Friday night and Sabbath morning services in Bristol might well ask "Is there a Jewish Community in this City?" That a Community exists was evident by the large crowd who so enthusiastically attended a recent social function in the Synagogue Hall. What is not realised is that without the Synagogue its offices and its services the Community would cease to exist. Equally, without the attendance of the Community, the Synagogue would cease to exist. So a vicious Circle is set up to whichever way the wheel turns, it means the disappearance of the Jewish Community.

How many of our readers realise that this state of affairs practically exists already? Quite apart from the fact that social and charitable activities are invariably in the hands of the same hardworking few, the Synagogue attendances are now appalling. On Friday December 20th for the evening service there were present six persons including Mr. Lotner. The following day, nine members attended. It is worthy of note that this was at a holiday weekend when many members normally prevented from attending Synagogue services for "economic" reasons, were not at work. But, this shocking state of affairs is nothing new, A Minyan on Friday evening is a rarity and now the Sabbath morning Minyan has become a matter for conjecture. This is not a case of religious conviction only, it is a case of struggle for survival. How can we bring home to our children the beauty and the obligation of Synagogue worship, if they see only empty seats, or spend a fruitless hour on Sabbath morning waiting for a Minyan. I feel that there are many who could attend on Friday evening, if the will was only there. There is no sin in coming straight from work to join in what I always consider to be one of the loveliest services in the liturgy. There are many, I am certain, who could spare the time to attend on Saturday morning. Maybe, as I have said, they have not got the religious conviction, but surely they would not wish to see the Bristol Jewish Community disappear.

We have heard much about the need for spiritual leadership and guidance, but those who have such ideas have short memories. There is no need for guidance. Let each one search his own heart. Let every man and woman say "What am I going to do for the survival of this Community?" There can only be one answer.

SYDNEY CURWEN.

Copy of letter received from Mr. Mark Mass.

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of Susan and myself I would like to thank you, and all the members of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation for your good wishes and most beautiful gift.

It was a great pleasure for me to work with you in Bristol, and I hope that we will have many future meetings.

Once again very many thanks for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

MARK.

---

The President Mr. S. Jacobs wishes on behalf of the Synagogue Council and all members of the Community to express thanks to Prof. and Mrs. J.M. Yoffey, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. S. Bradley and Mrs. B. Cobourg for the hospitality so kindly extended by them to Rabbi L.N. Baum and Rabbi A.F. Herling on the occasion of their recent visits to Bristol.

---

CONTRIBUTION FROM AN ANONYMOUS MEMBER.

The post of Rabbi was vacant in the city of 'X'; a Rabbi who had but recently given up a pulpit in the city of 'Y' applied for the Post. The president of the congregation of 'X' did the usual routine thing, he wrote a letter of enquiry about the Rabbi to the congregation of 'Y', shortly after he received the following answer.

"Our former Rabbi can easily be compared to Moses to Shakespeare, to Demosthenes and to God the Father".

The congregation of 'X' was greatly impressed and delighted with this glowing praise and so they appointed the Rabbi to their pulpit. But it did not take long for them to discover that their new Rabbi was no genius. So, in a huff, the President wrote a sizzling letter to the congregation of 'Y' upbraiding it for the deception and demanding an explanation. Several days later they got the following reply.

"Why do you call us names?—Who has deceived you? We wrote you as we did for the following reasons:-

Our former Rabbi can be compared to Moses because, like him, he knows no English, to Shakespeare because, like him he knows no Hebrew, to Demosthenes because, like him, he speaks as if he has pebbles rolling in his mouth; and to God the Father because, like him, our former Rabbi is positively not human."

---



### BRISTOL W.I.Z.O. GROUP

In spite of fog and terrible weather conditions, a very successful 'Bring and Buy' Sale was held at The Reddings, Mariners Drive by the kind invitation of Mrs. G.R. Sacof. We all enjoyed our tea and chat by a lovely fire as well as 'Bringing and Buying' and a most satisfactory sum of £ 8. 4. 0d. was raised for the Funds.

Our next meeting was held at Avon House where our Hostess was Mrs. G. Roydon. Mrs. Yoffey was in the chair, since Mrs. Silverman was unfortunately in Hospital. We all hope that our Chairman will soon be well once more and with us again. This meeting was during Chanukah and Mrs. Elliman ably assisted by Mesdames, Burke, Lottner, Springer and Yoffey gave us a charming arrangement of 'The Chanukah Story' with songs and verse. This was much appreciated by all present and a formal vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Seager.

We are all looking forward to our next meeting which will be a coffee morning at Brights Hotel on Tuesday January 6th, when Mrs. Dembo and Mrs. Howard will be joint Hostesses. Mrs. Howard will read another of her excellent News Reviews.

---

### BRISTOL WOMEN'S GUILD.

The Meeting held on December 1st consisted of an Impromptu Brains Trust, Mrs. Sacof acting as Chairman. The Mesdames Yoffey, Cohen, Roydon and Hyman taking part to comment on the questions put by the Members. At the Meeting on December 15th a discussion took place on future activities.

We are grateful to Mr. Amsel who kindly contributed the surplus cash approximately £ 14, from the recent Social Evening he organised for the Guilds Charity Fund.

We re-open on January 12th with an Evening Meeting at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Gee and her daughter-in-law will act as Hostesses. There will be an afternoon meeting on January 26th at 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Dysch and Mrs. H. Cohen being Hostesses.

Mrs. Roydon is kindly arranging a Sherry Party at her home, Avon House, 14, The Avenue, Stoke Bishop on Sunday evening January 18th from 6. 0 p.m. to 8. 0 p.m. The funds realised will be for the benefit of the Guilds Charity Fund. We are hoping for a good response to this effort.

During the past Quarter Session we have had varied and interesting Meetings, we shall endeavour to continue so during the future Sessions with, we trust, good attendances from the Guild Members.