

A NEW DATABASE OF JEWISH FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIERS

Another fascinating event at the shul

An excellent event took place in the Synagogue on Monday 26th November 2018 which was attended by several dignitaries including Peter Woods the High Sheriff of Merseyside. The event was a joint venture of the JLGB and AJEX who have commissioned a small team of historians to create a website www.jewsfww.uk that describes and illustrates the contribution by Jewish soldiers in the First World War. The project which is titled, "British Jews in the First World War - We were there too," comprises photographs and other fascinating graphics sent in by contributors who have found out about the project from attending such presentations. The fascinating project encourages people around the country to search their family albums and send in more material and stories. The project is under the direction of its senior consultant Alan Fell. One its regional team members based at JLGB in Manchester is Rodney Ross who used to be one of the popular youth workers at Harold House in Dunbabin Road.



The professionally presented evening included projected examples of the website, followed by several people in the audience who were asked to read out WW1 letters and poetry etc. The website includes biographies of each soldier listed together with family information and a map showing where he was born and lived, which regiment he fought in and the battle. In the event of the soldier being killed, the website shows where he died and is buried. The evening was rounded

off with prayers, a reading of the names of our synagogue members who fell in the war, candle lighting, the last post and two minutes silence. Part of the atmosphere for the evening was created by the parade of local JLGB members who stood closely together to form a narrow corridor through which people walked between the foyer and their seats. Photo below. One of the soldiers highlighted in the presentation was LOHC member Lionel Barnard.

Lionel Barnard



The team which also includes researcher Susan Gordon are very keen to make return visits to Liverpool with their travelling road show, an exhibition, more presentations including those for year 9 school pupils and reminiscence sessions for senior citizens. They will also produce a 3D augmented reality depiction of life in the trenches. They hope that they will be invited to put on one of their presentations for our community's Forum group. The team took away with them a copy of the wonderful booklet produced by Saul Marks on members of the LOHC who fought in both wars which they found most impressive and will ask if this can be put into their website. If you would like more information about the project please email contactus@jewsfww.uk Ed.

Photos: Arnold Lewis taking part in the Princes Road Shul presentation: Among the audience and guests at the event were, left to right in the photo, Paula Kitching Project Historian, Michelle Hayward, President of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council Councillor, Martin Newman Chairman of AJEX, Councillor Garry Millar, Cllr Christine Banks Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Peter Woods, Sheriff of Liverpool and his partner Mr Francis Ryan (in bowler hat) Rabbi Ariel Abel in his Army Chaplain uniform.

JEWISH MUSEUM FRANKEN, FÜRTH, GERMANY

Alan Swerdlow visits this beautiful museum

Fürth is close to the city of Nürnberg (Nuremberg) in Franconia, a state that has over twenty places of Jewish interest. With international funding, in May 2018 a beautiful new building was opened next door to the original Jewish museum housed in a carefully renovated half-timbered 18th century domestic property. (photo1) The conversion work on the old building includes some good modern detailing: the colour scheme is plain grey and white allowing the objects on display to shine out. Clear information and object labels are in German and English.

There are other Jewish museums in southern Germany but this is the biggest. It was my second visit in five years and a very moving experience. Fürth had the largest Jewish community in the region. In the 19th century almost one in four inhabitants of Fürth was Jewish but not one synagogue remains, just a memorial stone as a reminder in what used to be the centre of the synagogue district. When Rabbi Dr Isaak Loewi arrived in 1831 he became the spearhead of emancipation and had his synagogue converted and launched a reform of services. The town also had an orphanage, hospital, secondary