

Jewish experience during World War I

WE Were There Too, a cross community project to capture, record and preserve the impact, experience and contribution of Jewry during the First World War, has been on a tour of the Provinces and recently visited Hull.

Hull has long been one of the major ports of entry in the UK and between 1850 to 1914 more than 500,000 Jewish migrants from eastern Europe passed through this port and the nearby port of Grimsby.

Many of these migrants were bound for America and many were dispersed by rail to Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool.

A permanent Jewish settlement in Hull began in the 1750s

and by 1835 the community numbered 200. The first recorded synagogue was founded in 1780 on Posterngate.

With mass migration of Russian Jews in the late 19th century, the community grew in number and by 1880 it was thought that there were six to 700 Jewish families.

More than 100 members of the Hull Jewish community served in the British army during the First World War.

In April 1917 a committee was formed to record the names of those killed in the conflict.

Many who served lost their lives. Louis Cuckle and Harry Furman were killed in action serving on the Western Front.

Their families were sent letters of condolence by the com-

mittee and it is recorded that Mrs Cuckle presented the synagogue with six Chumashim and 12 siddurim in memory of her son.

Louis who served with the Seaforth Highlanders, was killed on July 24, 1916, one month from his 22nd birthday.

Harry reportedly lost his leg whilst trying to rescue his friend Simon Levine serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment.

He died of his wounds on January 16, 1917. Both men featured in the local newspaper, the *Hull Daily Mail* following their deaths.

■ We Were There Too is keen to hear from anyone who had family in Hull during the First World War. Contact belinda@Jewswww.uk

LJWB appeal

LEEDS Jewish Welfare Board is appealing to the community to donate during Pesach to help fund the extensive range of services and facilities that it provides.

Inside today's paper is its latest newsletter detailing its work on behalf of the community.

LJWB is also appealing for volunteers and anyone able to assist should contact it on 0113 268 4211.

■ LJWB's family activities team is launching a new series of creative play sessions

Children aged two to five are eligible to join the sessions every Tuesday at 2.30pm for an hour and a half of fun and creativity.

■ To book a space contact Korin on 07590862505, 0113 268 4211 or at korin.worby@ljwb.co.uk

Virtual seder

A VIRTUAL Seder is on offer from the Sinai Synagogue in Leeds.

The Seder will be led by Tony Bryant and Griselda Pollock.

It will be preceded by Kabbalat Shabbat at 6.30pm, with the Seder starting at approximately 7pm, with a break for food at 8pm.

Details of how to join in the seder from community@sinaileeds.uk

Beware those who spread lies and misinformation about Jews

AS we once again prepare to celebrate our freedom from Egyptian bondage, antisemitism has again raised its ugly head with two Conservative candidates ditched by the party ahead of the May council elections.

Both were standing in Bury wards – Shaf Mahmood for Redvales and Sham Raja for Sedgley, which has a high Jewish electorate.

Mahmood's tweet on social media about Jews being "at it again" referred to a news item a few years ago concerning an Israeli national.

Raja was ditched for a post in 2014 for comparing Israeli footballers to "assassins".

The Jewish Representative Council has condemned the pair and said it was "profoundly troubled" by the social media posts and has contacted the joint chairmen of the Tory Party to instigate an inquiry into how Bury Conservative Association monitored their representatives.

Fortunately, this year, families and friends can again gather together to celebrate Pesach with the traditional sederim, but should always be on their guard as those who would seek to spread lies and misinformation are still very much alive and kicking.

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