



Welcome to this January edition of the *We Were There Too* newsletter. We would like to wish all of our readers a Happy New Year.

WWTT had a very busy autumn, but have no plans to slow down as we enter 2023, with events planned across the country in the coming months.

BRITISH JEWRY BOOK OF HONOUR CENTENARY

We Were There Too, in collaboration with The Jewish Military Association (AJEX), is hosting a series of events to commemorate the centenary of the publication of the British Jewry Book of Honour. The Jewish Chronicle began publishing weekly lists of names of Jewish soldiers serving in British and colonial forces in 1914; after the war these were edited into a single 1000+ page volume and included details of enlistment, casualties, military honours, Jewish units, the work of Jewish hospitals and other Jewish institutions and agencies. The volume was edited by Rev. Michael Adler, the first Jewish chaplain to serve in HM forces, and contains messages of support from many distinguished men of the day, both Jewish and non-Jewish.



Volunteer Lionel Levy at Book of Honour Event at Manchester Jewish Museum

The opening event was held at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum at The Tower of London on 24th October. Additional events are being held across the country and have been well attended. Many have come to share their own family stories and felt emotional handling one of the original copies of the Book of Honour and finding the names of family members within.

Volunteers Ronnie and Lola Fraser have been delivering many events around London and the South East, including on Remembrance Day at Bentley Priory Museum, where Ronnie was asked to lay the wreath.



Ronnie laying the Remembrance wreath at Bentley Priory

The Book was created at a time when communal anxieties were high and aimed to prove Jewish patriotism and contribution to the war effort, in line with the message that hung on the front of the JC offices in Finsbury Square “England has been all she could be to Jews; Jews will be all they can be to England”. It also captures the struggle to make sense of the loss of life and an attempt to commemorate it - as relevant in 2022 as it was in 1922. Read more about the history of the book on our [History Window](#).



Guests at The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum Tower of London event

The Book has been fully digitised and can be viewed, including a name search function [on our site](#).

An evening with Lola and Ronnie Fraser on the 25th January 2023 is the next event, organised by Barnet Libraries. It is an online event, free tickets can be booked [at this link](#).



Book of Honour event at The Fusilier Museum, Bury

JEWISH VOLUNTEER NETWORK

We are delighted to have been nominated for Volunteer Team of the Year by the Jewish Volunteer Network.

From researching & uploading stories, to doing talks to community groups about We Were There Too, and even recording their voices for our augmented reality project, we couldn't do it without them!



JVN Nomination

WELCOME TEREZA

We are pleased to announce that Dr Tereza Ward has been appointed as the new Project Digital Manager/Researcher. Tereza's background is in Jewish history, and she previously worked as a researcher at the Manchester Jewish Museum. She is based in Manchester and will work part-time whilst completing her MA in Archives and Records Management.

WE WERE THERE TOO HONOURED TO ATTEND DOWNING STREET RECEPTION

Alan Fell and Paula Kitching, *We Were There Too's* Senior Consultant and Project Historian respectively, were honoured to receive invitations to a Downing Street Chanukah Candle Lighting. The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosted the annual Chanukah reception at his official residence on Wednesday 21st December, where he lit the menorah with the Chief Rabbi and welcomed members of the Jewish community. Reflecting on the honour Alan said, "We started 8 years ago on this difficult but thrilling project. I am not sure we knew where the journey would take us, but certainly not to a Reception in Downing Street!"



Paula and Alan outside 10 Downing Street

HULL HISTORY CENTRE EXHIBITION

Working with Hull Heritage Learning and the local Jewish community, *We Were There Too* will be holding a two-week exhibition at the Hull History Centre, revealing the history of the community in the city and its story during the First World War. There has been a Jewish presence in Hull since the 1750s, and due to its position as a busy port on the East coast the population grew, meaning by the outbreak of war it was estimated at around 2,500 people. Read more about the Jews of Hull on our [History Window](#).

The History Centre holds the minute book of the Hull Old Hebrew Congregation Council Dec 1915-Nov 1917, which is now digitised and available to read on our site as a [Collection Window](#).

For up to date details on the exhibition, keep an eye on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



Western Synagogue, Hull History Centre C DJC 22 11 3

Thanks for reading, we hope you enjoyed it! Make sure to visit the website jewsffw.uk to upload your family stories, and to learn more about our project.

To get in touch, email contactus@jewsffw.uk or you can find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) @jewsffw

The We Were There Too Team

Project centre:
Park Lane, Whitefield,
Manchester, M45 7PB
+44 (0) 161 767 8890
<https://www.jewsffw.uk>





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