

AGM Report 2018

New Members Development Committee

The NMDC provides prospective new members with a home meeting, information and sign-up service throughout our increasing catchment area. This service continues to be rare amongst local Synagogues and is well received by prospective members.

The number of enquiries received was less than previous years.

Year	2017			2018		
Enquiries	70			57		
	Adults	Children	Homes	Adults	Children	Homes
Gains	74	54	43	75	46	38
Losses	35	28	20	61	35	34
Totals	2,304 Adults & Children			2,217 Adults & Children		

At the end of 2018 the total number of adults and children stood at 2,217, slightly lower than in 2017. The membership team are frequently told the reason RRS continues attract new members is due in large part to the popularity and friendly atmosphere of the Synagogue, the style of our services and our Rabbinic and Cheder teams.

The Membership Team is made up of organisers and membership officers. Judy Kirsh took over as organiser in September 2018 when Nigel Kidd stood down for health reasons. My thanks for their hard work and commitment go to: Spencer Grant, Robert Landau, Gill Burn and Howard Weisbaum, and all the staff in the Synagogue office. Many thanks too to Nigel for all his hard work over many years.

Looking forward – a new initiative

The new members events we put on are designed to enable new members to meet existing members and the Board and learn about the Synagogue as well as getting to know other new members. They also enable the leaders of our community to meet those that have recently joined and to give them additional information about how the synagogue works and what we offer in a wider sense.

As a result of feedback from new members and discussions with the Rabbinic team, a decision was taken to introduce a new, wider programme of events this year: a Shabbat morning service in March, a coffee morning in May, a tea party in July, a Cheder coffee morning in September, a Friday shabbat service and chavurah supper in November, and a cheese and wine Havdalah in January.

Offering a variety of events will provide more opportunities for new members to engage with the synagogue, Rabbinic team, other members and officers, and help them to feel part of the community.

Although fees have increased a little, we have modified some fees for first year's membership as well as trying to attract 22 to 30 year-olds.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join the membership team to help encourage and increase our membership efforts. If you are interested and can spare just a couple of hours each month. please contact me via the Synagogue office.

Judy Kirsh, May 2019