

Chairmans Report 2022-23

I am delighted to present my report for the first year of my Chairmanship.

Following on from the Covid period, we have had a challenging time in persuading people out of the comfort of their homes and back into Shul and communal events. Apart from the fact that people are older, there was a large degree of habit in peoples travelling and attendance. People got out of the “habit” of going to shul.

This has not only been a problem in our community but also elsewhere in the world with many communities reporting the same difficulties.

As you are aware, I have stated my intention for a return to normality on many occasions and I am pleased to report that this has now been largely achieved and at the time of writing this our Shul attendances as well as those for Kiddushim and other shul functions are largely back to pre-Covid levels.

The summer of 2022 started to see the return of tourists following the lifting of travel restrictions earlier in the year which also boosted our numbers in this period.

We held successful services for the High Holyday period in the Shul and this was the first time for 3 years that we were able to hold such services only in the Shul. They were reasonably well attended although we were not full, still due to some hesitation by some of our members at that time to return to Shul.

We held a Successful Simchat Torah lunch at which we honoured our two Chatanim, David Feiler and Graham Nussbaum.

During Covid , we introduced two minyanim as soon as we were allowed back into Shul which continued after restrictions were lifted. We did feel though, that having two services was divisive for the community and so the decision was taken, after much wrangling, to return to one service which was largely successful. We will never please all of our members all of the time but I do feel that we eventually reached the right conclusion. I am pleased to report that our Shabbat minyan has now increased back to normal levels.

Our Monday Club, under the direction of Alan Gold has continued throughout the period on zoom and going forward, I am pleased to be able to announce that the physical Monday club will return in June under the leadership of Phyllis Carr, Sharon Wilensky, Avril Kormornick and Angela Jenshil. The Virtual Monday club on zoom will continue on a monthly basis.

Our other regular activities in the Shul, Daf Yomi led by Rabbi Feigelman, Shiurim by Rabbi Boudilovsky and Rabbi Woolf, Table Tennis, Keep Fit, Art Class, Eilat Trip etc are all taking place regularly. And we thank all those who make those activities possible.

The Board of Management together with the Executive and Officers, has continued to work well as a team for the good of the community. I don't intend to name people individually, but everyone has been involved and continues to do so.

I must make mention, however of two long time members of the Board who are retiring. Ivor Lewis and Gerald Barnett have both given of their time freely over the years and have announced they will stand down to allow others to be involved. I would like to publicly thank them for their work on your behalf.

Our treasurer, Andrew Kaye has also completed his maximum term of office and again, I thank him on your behalf for the many hours of work he has carried out. As a former Treasurer myself (Andrew took over from me 5 years ago), I am well aware of the huge amount of work involved and Andrew has managed the purse strings with professionalism and efficiency. I am grateful for Joshua Wahnnon, who has agreed to take over this task.

The community just celebrated 40 years since its founding by Rabbi Morowitz z"l and we held a successful sell-out dinner a few weeks ago which coincided with the 75th Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

We now move on to Shavuot and we honour our two Neshei Chayil, Janet Elkoubi and Marlene Horowitz, two members of the current Board of Management who work tirelessly for the community. Again, we will have a luncheon the day after Shavuot to celebrate this.

I am pleased to be able to announce that we have an election for the Board of Management this year. This is a good sign that the community is of vibrant spirit and there are people who want to be involved. In advance, I would like to say in advance, that there is no bad reflection on those people who will not be elected and we hope you will continue to be involved with the community.

Finally, may I remind you that I update the web site at least once a week, Marlene Horowitz produces the newssheet which is circulated by various electronic means thanks to David Feiler and there is also my Thursday night email informing you of what is going on in the community.

Times have changed and electronic communication and media is the way forward. Please make the most of it and keep in touch with the community by the various means at your disposal.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Chag Sameach with the upcoming festival of Shavuot and look forward to seeing you all in Shul.

Best wishes

Alex

Alex Stuart
Chairman