

## BoD Regional Weekend



Report by Felix Mara

Once a year the Board of Deputies holds a plenary meeting outside London, which helps the Board to engage with the many synagogues and other Jewish organisations that we represent. It is also an opportunity for Deputies to meet socially in person. For the many new Deputies like myself, who've only had vicarious experience of the Board, this is invaluable.

These Regional Weekends are also great morale boosters. This year, from 20 to 22 May, we enjoyed a taste of Jewish life in Prestwich, which one Israeli Deputy likened to Bnei Brak, and neighbouring areas. Local communities welcomed us to their shuls for davening and shiurim and thanked us for our work. When Shabbat ended, the guitars came out and we all sang and danced.

For the first day and a half we ate and prayed together, schmoozed and discussed a wide range of topical issues. When we eventually sat down for our hybrid plenary meeting in Bury Town Hall's grand council chamber on Sunday, Deputies discussed a number topics, including the Holocaust Memorial, the fight against antisemitism, government support for the Board's position on BDS, the National Union of Students and Hamas. We don't always reach consensus on these matters, but it is important for them to be discussed and followed up.