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THE JHASW/CHIDC NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Jewish History Association of South Wales / Cymdeithas Hanes Iddewig De Cymru

SPECIAL EDITION - INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROJECT!

Jews in the rest of Wales: a project to plot the historic Jewish presence in mid-, west, and north Wales.



Following our work to preserve and share Jewish heritage in south Wales, we are expanding our horizons.

We are beginning an ambitious project that aims to plot the presence of Jews in mid-, west, and north Wales from the 19th century onwards is underway.

Klavdija Erzen, Programme and Project Manager, explained:

“The Jewish heritage of Wales deserves to be better preserved and better known.”

“After the pioneering work we have done in south Wales, we are now turning our attention to the rest of the country. This will be the first time that a comprehensive survey of sources and resources has been attempted.”

This initial project will find out whether the historic Jewish presence in the rest of Wales can be identified and what material relating to the Jewish communities there is already available or yet to be discovered.



Background to the project



Wartski & Co., 93 Mostyn Street, Llandudno.

Image courtesy of Michael Manson.

Mid-, west, and especially north Wales has a rich Jewish history. Jews moved there in large numbers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, escaping persecution in Eastern Europe.

During World War 2, refugees from National Socialism found sanctuary there. However, the Jewish communities in these areas have largely disappeared, as has awareness of their presence and contribution.

So far, there has been no co-ordinated effort to document their presence and preserve and share their heritage.

The work will determine what material relating to Jewish heritage is being held by local archives, museums, and libraries and researchers will also talk to local history and heritage organisations and research local newspapers.

Klavdija Erzen added,

"We will be assessing the viability of contacting the remaining members of these communities. And we will explore what digital and physical material could be created and how to best share the heritage with the wider public."

"The results of this initial project will inform the development of a larger project to preserve and share the Jewish heritage of mid-, west and north Wales."

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE PROJECT ?

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has any information about Jewish communities or archives in these areas.

For more information, contact Klavdija Erzen, JHASW/CHIDC Programme and Project Manager.

Email: klavdija.erzen@jhasw.org.uk

The six-month project runs until next April.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we head into the holiday season, we would like to wish our subscribers and supporters all the best as we head into 2024!



REMEMBER US!

When people first hear about JHASW/CHIDC's work, we often get told stories about how they, or someone they know, recently had a clear-out and threw out piles of papers or photographs which documented the lives of the Jewish community of south Wales in some way.

If you or someone you know may have such a collection please don't hesitate to reach out to us; we are committed to collecting all south Wales Jewish heritage and we need your help to do it!

SUPPORT US!

Most of the work that we have accomplished so far has been dependent on grants and support from the community. However, we are acutely aware that there is so much to do that does not fall within the remit of these specific projects and without long-term financial support we will not be able to continue our work preserving and sharing the local Jewish heritage in the way it deserves. If you would like to help us with our work by making an online donation please click on the link below!

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