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# THE JHASW/CHIDC NEWSLETTER

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

## A MESSAGE FROM JHASW/CHIDC:

This November marks the fifth anniversary of JHASW/CHIDC. Since receiving our first grant in 2018 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have pursued a number of projects, all consistent with our aim to uncover, document, preserve and share the cultural heritage of Jewish communities in South Wales.

Our objective to share our outputs has been pursued through a number of channels particularly People’s Collection Wales. We were therefore extremely pleased to receive a feedback letter from PCW regarding a recent project we undertook to develop a set of locally relevant Holocaust materials for use in schools in Wales. The letter included the following:

*“People’s Collection Wales have greatly valued the opportunity to work in partnership again with the Jewish History Association of South Wales (JHASW) on their excellent Holocaust resources. We are incredibly impressed with their productivity and the quality of the resources they have produced. [...] We are very grateful that JHASW have chosen to host their resource on People’s Collection Wales, where we will continue to share them with, and promote them to, the people of Wales.”*

On behalf of the Trustees, I thank Klavdija, Rob, Laura, Mike and our wonderful volunteers for their stellar work.

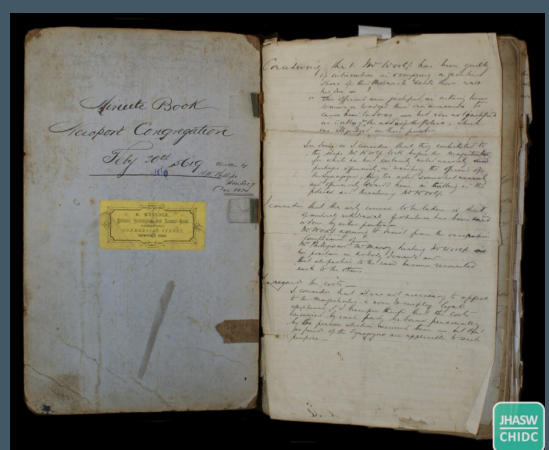
David Cohen, Trustee.

## OUR BIRTHDAY APPEAL!

This November, JHASW/CHIDC has been preserving the heritage and telling the stories of the south Wales Jewish communities for five years.

We would like our next newsletter to be a special celebration edition. Maybe you have volunteered for us or enjoyed (or been moved) seeing our material. Please send us your memories of JHASW/CHIDC during that time to

[klavdija.erzen@jhasw.org.uk](mailto:klavdija.erzen@jhasw.org.uk)



Spotlight on:

## JHASW/CHIDC Social Enterprise

As our fifth anniversary approaches, it has become increasingly necessary to develop different means of funding and so, we are developing a range of social enterprise projects.

For the past six months, we have had a team working on family history research. We often receive emails from people who once had relatives in south Wales, and want to find out more about them. We are also experienced in locating records and information from European archives and helping individuals to uncover what happened to family members during the Holocaust. We are also more than happy to research family history with no connection to Wales. Please get in touch if you would like more information or a quote.



We have already received very positive feedback:

*“The meticulous attention to detail offered by JHASW, while undertaking research on my family's background, provided a level of quality and care that professional historians, seeking help with their own work, would be fortunate to receive. I count myself lucky to have fallen into such capable hands.”* Michael Moritz, KBE.

After developing our own extensive archive of oral history interviews, we will be offering packages for families wishing to document their own lives to pass on to future generations. These can range from whole life stories to a snapshot of your most treasured memories – these completely bespoke packages will be designed individually and you can choose from a range of final formats including audio files, video recordings, written transcripts or a hardback book with photographs. Please check our website for when this service will become available.

Our past projects have also enabled us to draw up training packages. These will be offered to groups wishing to gather and document their own specific histories. The training will cover essential skills, such as gathering, handling, scanning and preserving primary sources. We will also show smaller organisations how to deposit these with a local archive, or set up or contribute to an existing online archive. We will also be offering a training package for organisations wishing to develop virtual trails around their local area, or carry out oral history projects.

We are looking forward to working with other organisations and sharing the knowledge that we have developed. We are excited to be offering these new packages. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

# PROJECT UPDATES:

## The European Network of Testimony-based Digital Education

This project, delivered in partnership with organisations in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the Netherlands, is funded by the European Commission and is part of their Erasmus+ programme. Ten Holocaust education activities have been developed.

We are currently creating training material for teachers. If you are a teacher or know of a group of teachers or educators who would be interested, please get in touch.

## Oral history project - Appeal for participants

Sometimes the smallest comment can open up a whole new avenue. If you would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you. Our interviews are very informal, and still using Zoom; therefore, you can take part anywhere in the world. Please Email us for further details at

[laura.henley.harrison@jhasw.org.uk](mailto:laura.henley.harrison@jhasw.org.uk)

## Côf a lithr, llythyrau a geidw: creating Holocaust resources for Welsh schools

This project ended on 30 September. Delivered in partnership with The Centre for the Movement of People at Aberystwyth University, and funded by the Association of Jewish Refugees, Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, Jewish Historical Society of England, and Garfield Weston Foundation, we developed 20 Holocaust resources for teachers and students in Wales. All resources were published on People's Collection Wales (PCW) and Hwb, the Welsh Government educational portal.

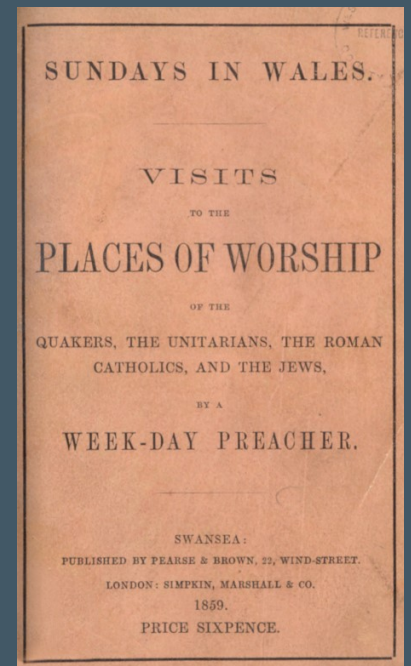
You can see them at <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/learn/query/holocaust>

## Swansea Heritage Trail

The Swansea & District Heritage Trail is on course to be launched in January, so there is still time to send us information. There are some specific items we would like help with. We have been unable to establish the Jewish connection to the Windsmoor clothing factory in Fforestfach. We know that the factory made clothing for retailers like Marks and Spencer, and have some accounts and photos of women who worked there. But we have not been able to find out about who founded the factory, or its history.

If you think you can help with this or any other items of interest, please e-mail us at

[heritage.trails@jhasw.org.uk](mailto:heritage.trails@jhasw.org.uk).



# OUR NEW PROJECTS:

## Sharing skills: Enabling communities to preserve their heritage

In July this year, we were awarded a grant from the Welsh Government Volunteering Wales Main Grant programme, administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action. The project started in October. Its aim is to get a wider range of people into heritage, and enable participants to gain skills and experience in heritage. We will recruit a wide range of volunteers, focusing on engaging with those from minority ethnic communities in Butetown, Grangetown, and Riverside.

Volunteers will work with Cardiff Reform Synagogue historical records. They will receive training in heritage skills and accreditation; they will also visit archives and museums and talk to heritage experts.

## What's in the suitcase?: Cardiff United Synagogue archive discovery and preservation

In October, we started a new project to preserve and make publicly available the records of Cardiff United Synagogue. The records date back to the 19th century, and survived the floods of 1979/80. The records will be catalogued, repacked, digitised, and deposited with Glamorgan Archives. A selection of the digitised material will be uploaded to People's Collection Wales.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

If you appreciate the work we do there are many ways you can help.

- You can support us by donating via our website either [online, or you can donate via cheque or Charity Voucher](#). You can also use [Easyfundraising](#) when you shop online. There's no cost to you, but if the site you're using is part of the scheme, they'll contribute towards our funds. [AmazonSmile](#) is a simple way for you to support us when you shop at Amazon, again at no cost to you. Almost all our projects depend on successful funding applications to various organisations. Any money we make by other means goes towards work which is worthwhile, but may not appeal to funders.
- If you want to get involved in the running of the association then maybe consider becoming a Trustee? We are looking for new trustees now!
- Follow us on social media, like and retweet what we post. Tell people about our work. It all helps!

# A THANK YOU!

Thanks to the readers who took the trouble to search out their copy of the 1980 history of the Swansea Hebrew Congregation, and to Lee Freeman for sending images of the missing pages. We now know that the missing pages include adverts and have made copies of them.

We would also like to thank Mandy Guest for giving us a nearly complete collection (to 2018) of Bimah which had been collected by her mother Shirley Bloom, and to Michelle Davis (Boone) for bringing them to Cardiff. A successor to Cajex, it started in 1994 and is 'The Platform of South Wales Jewry'. These magazines will help with the preparation of our heritage trails for Swansea, Newport and Merthyr, and our other research.

## 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!

## HAPPY HANUKAH!

This year Hanukah falls on the 18 December - 26 December. All of us at JHASW/CHIDC would like to wish our subscribers and supporters a very happy Hanukah and holiday season!

