



B'NAI B'RITH UK

Spring Newsletter 2026

This Newsletter is being written to you against a backdrop of great difficulty for the Jewish people both in Israel and the diaspora.

I have attended, along with other members, the forums held by both BBI and the European Alliance of BB dealing with these matters. We were especially alarmed to hear about the situation in Australia and Holland and that was before the arson attack on the ambulances of Hatzola in Golders Green. Jeremy Havardi was recently part of a B'nai B'rith delegation in Geneva meeting the UN and many foreign ambassadors.



Burnt out remains of the Hatzola ambulances in Golders Green 24th March 2026



B'nai B'rith International and our own Bureau of International Affairs is doing all it can to turn the tide of antisemitism and antizionist sentiment by making our voice heard at the highest diplomatic levels. In the UK we are campaigning for the IRGC to be proscribed as well as working for the prosecution and punishment of those promoting terrorism and the destruction of Israel.

SECURITY

In view of the dangers that face us, BBUK has decided to help all Lodges by paying 50% of any increased security cost when meetings are held. All Lodges have been advised to discuss security issues with the appropriate bodies.

We want to ensure that we keep meeting up as before and that all participants feel safe in the knowledge that they are protected. Happily, anecdotal information is that meeting numbers and membership are increasing.

NOW SOME GOOD NEWS!

B'nai B'rith Cheshire are busy collecting food for distribution to the Mustard Tree charity in Manchester. On **19th April**, artist and designer Jo Scolah will be taking the Lodge on a "Journey Through Textiles" and on **17th May** member Janis Stout will be talking about "The Jews of Kerala" following her last visit to India.

B'nai B'rith Radlett have an incredible programme for 2026. Chairman Will Kintish reports that the year has started with lots of exciting events. At a joint event with Radlett US on 22nd March the head of Counter Terrorism at the Met Police, Chief Inspector Neil Anderson presented to us. Very relevant in these days of ubiquitous antisemitism He has 30 years' experience in the Metropolitan Police, most recently in SO15 (Specialist Operations – Counter Terrorism Command (formerly known as "Special Branch").

We had a trip round the back stages of the National Theatre on 17th March and plan a visit to a house and gardens at 2.00pm on **Wednesday 15 April**. Please join us - information from radlett@bnaibrithuk.org

On **April 19th** we will be welcoming Liz Ison who is a contemporary author, poet, and educator deeply connected to Charles Dickens, working as a museum educator at the Charles Dickens Museum, researching his life, and featuring him and his era in her anthologies. She will share her deep knowledge of the author and his characters of Jewish interest.

On **12th May** we have organised a wonderful trip which is sold out!

In June we will attend another classical concert at Cadogan Hall and in July we are being guided on a tour entitled "Shoreditch: A Jewish Journey through Time" led by Isabelle Seddon. And then on **5th July** our annual social garden party. Will says, "I am delighted to be leading an inspirational team always ready with lots of ideas to ensure B'nai B'rith Radlett continues to go from strength to strength".

First Unity Lodge have just welcomed Bernard Ecker and Zsuzsanna Messing to their quartet of Presidents for the next two years. They join Geraldine Auerbach and Marion Summerfield who will be providing their experience. If you want to see what a Lodge is capable of, look at the First Unity Lodge programme. Something seems to be happening almost every day!

Raoul Wallenberg Lodge continue to be busy and are happy to have welcomed new several members over the last few months into their programme of activities which include on **5th April** a Matzah Picnic, their AGM on **26th April** and on **14th June** a talk on Bletchley Park.

Yad B'Yad President Maureen Daniels reports that "over the last few months we have had some very interesting speakers who have been well received. Since the beginning of the year our talks have included a retired Jewish Police Officer telling us about her *'25 Years of Service - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly'*, *'The Underground at War'*. Our March speaker gave a presentation on *'Medical Detection Dogs'*. We are holding our AGM at the end of June followed by a presentation entitled *'Consuelo Vanderbilt and the Churchills'*. We will be doing our Mitzvah Month fundraiser towards the end of the year."

Visitors are welcome at all meetings. Contact Maureen on yadbyad@bnaibrithuk.org

The Yitzhak Rabin Lodge are inviting you to attend their **CHICAGO BRIDGE** afternoon on Thursday **7th May** is open to members of all Lodges and National Members. There will be prizes and afternoon tea. Plenty of parking. For more information, just email yrl@bnaibrithuk.org

The **BBUK AGM** will be held at 10.00am on Sunday 7th June to which all members are invited. Please attend and have your say. The Guest of Honour will be Dan Mariaschin the CEO of BBI who is retiring at the end of June after 35 years great service. Jeremy will be talking to Dan in the USA via live Zoom.

The **BBUK Heritage Programme for 2026**, run in conjunction with our European partners, is based around the theme of “Love”. We hope that the opening event, which will take place on the evening of Sunday 6th September, via Zoom, will feature one of the UK’s leading Jewish personalities – just awaiting final confirmation!

We are continuing to work more closely with **BBYO** and hopefully when their group visit Israel this summer, they will find joint projects with teenagers in Qiryat Gat, whom they will be meeting. During 2025 we funded enhanced training for their members, who we hope will become the leaders of tomorrow.

Yom Hashoah is this year on **Tuesday 14th April** so please remember to light a Yahrzeit candle the evening before as we remember our people who were murdered in the genocide of the Holocaust.

OUR CHARITIES

Ukraine

Despite the continued aggression from Russia, the Medical Programme is continuing. We received an urgent plea for help from Svitlana in Kyiv at the end of January as the bombardment of the power plant has left them with very little electricity. People are literally freezing to death in their own homes. Due to the instant generosity by members of BB Cheshire, we have been able to supply generators and power packs to Kyiv and also using the good offices of World Jewish Relief have been able to supply power to an old age home in Dnipro on the front line. Thank you to all involved. The money was transferred within a few days of receiving the request.

Let me share with you part of a letter received from Svitlana four weeks ago:

“It is still very cold and snowy in Ukraine. Now, elderly people in Kyiv are living in conditions that are almost impossible to endure. Because of the war, many of them spend most of their days without electricity, often without water and heating. Constant power outages, cold homes, and empty taps turn every ordinary day into a struggle for survival. For older people in our project, whose health is already fragile, these conditions are especially cruel. It means being unable to cook a warm meal, to keep themselves from freezing, to charge a phone. Losing connection with the world is the biggest fear as they confess to project coordinator Iryna Levitas.

You may have seen in the news that elderly people in Ukraine are freezing to death in their own homes. Tragically, this is not an exaggeration—it is our painful reality. The war continues, our infrastructure is constantly damaged (the most recent attack happened last night in Kyiv, the ballistic missiles involved), and recovery takes enormous time and resources. People literally fall asleep not knowing if tomorrow there will be light, warmth, or water. This constant anxiety and exhaustion slowly wears everybody down”.

We continue to support the Jewish community in **Chernivtsi** by allowing them to expand their inclusive activities during Purim and now for Pesach. Their shul used to home refugees in 2022 -24 has be the subject of an arson attack and they are seriously struggling to survive. Our direct help is much appreciated, please see this letter was received only yesterday (26.03.25) from Vadim Kolotushkin:

“Thank you very much for your warm concern and friendly assistance. Indeed, the adversities facing our people show no sign of ending. Attacks continue in our region, though not directly on the city itself. A pumped-storage power plant in our region, located on the Dniester River, recently was hit by rocket strikes. The strike destroyed the power transformers, causing oil to leak into the river and violated the water. In addition, the dam at this station maintained the river’s water level; now that level has dropped to a minimum. If there is no rain, there may be interruptions in the water supply. But while the consequences of the strikes are being eliminated, we hope for the best.

We are also closely watching the developments in Israel and believe that the objectives set during this military operation will be successfully achieved.

In the Lodge we are already preparing for Passover. The celebration promises to be successful. It is great that we are able to involve young people in our holidays. They are interested in Jewish traditions and actively participate in joint events. I hope we will be able to celebrate Passover in a fitting manner.

Once again, thank you so much for your help. As soon as the transfer arrives in Ukraine, I’ll let you know immediately.

*Sincerely,
Vadim”.*

At **Tikva**, the Children’s Home in Odessa we supported by the provision of 500 pairs of shoes last year, received a direct hit two weeks ago from a Russian missile. This has not only disrupted their service, but the Choral Synagogue next door has received extensive damage. Those of you on the BBUK visit to Ukraine in 2019 will remember that we attended a brilliant Kabbalah Shabbat service there where it was packed with enthusiastic youths and young families.



The offices of Tikva in Odessa receive a direct hit from a Russian missile

ISRAEL



Hadera Power plant, Israel under attack from Iran.

ISRAEL CONTINUED

We continue to build our relationship with **B'nai B'rith Israel** who are unfortunately busy caring for the displaced and injured during the continuing war with Iran. The UK media does not accurately report the damage and the difficulty all those in Israel are undergoing. We all stand together and join them in their determination to continue as "normally" as possible.

We are currently looking at ways to assist with the mental health of residents which has been so badly affected since the October 7th attacks. The treatment of PDST is now a major challenge especially with girls and returning soldiers.

Despite the current situation Elise Shazar, the Secretary of BB Israel would like to start a new project and asks if we are interested:

"We have launched a new project which entails teaching Hebrew to members of B'nai B'rith abroad through ZOOM. Still at its pilot phase, this project entails our volunteer teachers giving a lesson once a week on Zoom, including homework if requested. If you think there might be a demand among members of BBUK we would be happy to build a program for you. It could be basic Hebrew or advanced, as you need. This project is above all a good way to create connections between our members and yours".

If you are interested, please let me know.
thepresident@bnaibrithuk.org

In **Qiryat Gat** we continue to supply funds for the purchase of food for the under privileged. A special donation was sent out this Pesach 5786.

As a result of our Chanukah Appeal, we have been able to fund the purchase of five defibrillators which was request for five major schools.

Training will be provided and their use is open to all both in the schools and the surrounding district.

We received a generous legacy from the estate of the late Norman King, formerly a national treasurer of BBUK, and this has funded a major art project in Qiryat Gat which will remember fallen soldiers in the town.

Charitable Donations made by BBUK over the past year

Israel:

Qiryat Gat Food.....	£15,000.00
Defibrillators.....	£ 5,000.00
Member Bequest.....	£ 5,000.00
BB Israel.....	£ 26,000.00

ISRAEL TOTAL: £51,000.00

Ukraine:

Kyiv Medical programme.....	£15,250.00
Generators.....	£ 3,000.00
Chernivtsi.....	£ 6,000.00
Tikva shoes.....	£12,500.00

UKRAINE TOTAL: £36,750.00

BBYO:

Leadership Training.....	£10,000.00
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BBYO TOTAL: £10,000.00

Total from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 = £97,750.00

Rothschild Scholarships£20,000.00

If you wish to donate and help our charities, you may do so to: CAF Bank

Account Name: **BBUK**

Sort Code: **40-52-40**

Account No:**00015064.**

Please provide as a reference, your **“Surname/ Donation”**.

Thank you.

It is so important that we keep together, all working and hoping for a peaceful outcome to the present global situation. In B'nai B'rith we believe in the noble principles of Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony. Let us pray during Pesach, the festival of liberation from enslavement, that we can move towards a happy, health and secure world where we can all live without the fear and in security.

Chag Pesach Sameach to you all,

Alan Miller

National President BBUK



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