



Johnny Cohen

Unsung hero Alaster all set to lead a fascinating tour of Jewish cemetery

AS part of the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation's Heritage Season, Alaster Burman is leading a tour of Broadgreen Cemetery on Monday.

Alaster is one of our community's unsung heroes, who has been looking after the maintenance, upkeep and development of Broadgreen cemetery for many years, and every visitor, not least the families whose relatives are buried there, can confirm the hugely impressive result of Alister's years of dedicated voluntary service.

The Historic England website states: "Cemeteries were conceived and designed both as gardens of the dead and as a memorial."

"The inscription on memorials, the design of monuments, the choice of stones, the architecture of building and landscape design shed light on past social customs and events, and combine to make a cemetery an irreplaceable historical resource."

"As an important record of the social history of the area, each cemetery is also the biography of its community."

In advance of the tour, Alaster sent me the following brief summary which he has prepared:

The Historic End of Broadgreen Cemetery:

Cemeteries are fascinating places to visit, to walk in, even to dwell in, though not for too long!

To walk around cemeteries is not just to admire the design of a memorial, but to read its inscription, with names and dates which reflect changing times and biblical references on old headstones. And here lies the story.

The records of Jews in Liverpool start around 1745, when the first synagogue was housed in a property which had been erected in that year by Joseph Clegg, Mayor of Liverpool in 1748.

It is not clear whether this building, located in Cumberland Street, off Stanley Street, was built as a

'Irreplaceable historical resource'

synagogue or subsequently adapted to be one.

There was land surrounding the building, where it appears that burials took place, but no records or evidence for this survives.

However, in 1773, a piece of land between Pitt Street and Upper Frederick Street was sold to Peter Ferguson in trust for a Jews' burial ground.

It is unclear whether, at that time, Jews were permitted to own land, as was the case in the European countries from which most had migrated.

In the same trust document, it was confirmed that the purchase had been made on behalf of Simon Joseph, Ralph Samuel, Elias Joseph, Michael

Levy, Henry Soloman, Simon Nathan, Samuel Joseph, Isaac Davies and Lemon Nathan.

These leading men and their families, particularly the families of Simon Joseph and Ralph Samuel, were the most prominent families, which formed the beginnings of Liverpool's Jewish community.

This land was the Upper Frederick Street burial ground, which was expanded in January 1794, through the purchase of the adjoining property, thus enabling an expansion of the number of burials. The synagogue, a terrace house built in 1778, was on an adjacent site.

In 1802, the congregation acquired land in Oakes Street (1832-1837) as a new cemetery.

The Upper Frederick Street burial ground was in use for about 30 years from 1773 until its closure in 1802.

When the site was compulsorily purchased in 1923, the human remains were transferred to Broadgreen, and placed at the top end in the Oakes Street section. But there were only eight graves. The question is: surely there must have been more?

One possible answer is that the cemetery was covered over with earth a number of times, thus allowing for more burials.

The earliest stone belongs to an adult male, Gavriel ben Eliezer, June 1777 no. 508 in the Upper Frederick Street section.

Stones associated with the Joseph family offer more insight into the community. The

matriarch of the family, Zipporah, born in Hamburg in 1725, was buried in Upper Frederick Street in March 1788.

The patriarch Simon, born in Germany, died in 1808 and is buried in the Oakes Street section. They had three sons and a daughter Sarah.

The family business was silversmiths and watchmakers. They lived and worked in premises in Pool Lane, later South Castle Street.

One son, Elias, was also a bill discount, a rudimentary banker, and two other sons were silversmiths and watchmakers.

It was Sarah Joseph and her husband Morris Lewin Mozley and their children who maintained the family's position as the leading family of the community.

Their elder daughter

First Jewish Mayor of Liverpool

Amelia married Israel BARNED. Sarah and Morris and their sons and sons-in-law were all active in the Jewish community and beyond.

Within the Jewish community, they held office in the Old Hebrew Congregation and were involved in the purchase of Deane Road cemetery.

The brothers were members of the elite Athenaeum Club in 1798.

Charles Mozley became the first Jewish Mayor of Liverpool in 1863.

However, after the death of his brothers-in-law, BARNED's Bank collapsed in 1866 and Charles left Liverpool for London (though he did return to Liverpool, as he is buried in Deane Road cemetery), effectively bringing to an end the 'reign' of the Joseph/Mozley family.

Second only to the Joseph family, regard-

ing their position in the Liverpool Jewish community, were the Ralph Samuel family.

Ralph Samuel was born in Germany in 1738. He married Polly Levy (born in London in 1745) in 1769 in London. They had seven children.

Ralph was a slop seller: that is he sold cheap ready-made cloths. He combined this main occupation with being a jeweller and silversmith.

It is not possible to discuss the details of the Samuel family, without reference to the Yates family.

Benjamin Goertz, anglicised to Benjamin Yates, was the spiritual leader of the community, the 'Jews' high priest,' as recorded in

Gore's Liverpool directories.

Benjamin's brother Samuel and his wife Martha are relevant to the Samuel family, as three of the Yates daughters married three of the Samuels sons.

One can begin to see that the early settlers in Liverpool, moving from the south of England or coming from Germany, were attracted by the growing influence of Liverpool as a seaport and trading city.

It is also noticeable how closely some families were tied by marriage... keeping it in the family, as it were.

We have tried to show how those early Jews arrived, the skills and businesses they

had, the contribution they made to the community and how some integrated themselves into the upper echelons of the wider community, and even as Jews were accepted.

We have an information board at the historic end, and two information boards showing the layout of the gravestones.

In the Upper Frederick Street section, we show 13 stones, each numbered, with an index to the right, where possible giving the names of people buried there.

It is possible to further identify some individuals, showing who they married, the children they had and the families they married into.



Wright choice for the Rep Council's junior president

THE Merseyside Jewish Representative Council held a presidential inauguration ceremony on Tuesday at its executive officers' meeting.

Abraham Wright, 14, took over as junior president from 13-year-old Lemmy Ross, who has served for 18 months in the role.

The official ceremony took place at Childwall Synagogue. King David High School student

Abraham said: "This is an incredible honour and I am looking forward to representing Liverpool Jewish Youth Community this year — although I'm slightly nervous, too."

The ceremony was presided over by Merseyside Jewish Representative Council president Barry Levene, who is pictured above with Abraham, left, and Lemmy.

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Chazan was sacked for supporting conscientious objectors

PRINCES Road Synagogue's Heritage Season will mark Armistice Day on Monday (2.15pm) with talks on jingoism and pacifism during the First World War.

Dr Jonathan Lewis, of the Jewish Historical Society, will speak about Rev John Harris, who was sacked in 1916 from his positions as chazan and secretary of Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation because he wished to support

Jewish conscientious objectors at military tribunals.

Rev Harris gave sermons, wrote to the press and published a book in support of pacifism.

At the Monday evening in the synagogue, Dr Lee Kendall, of Liverpool University, will talk about 'The Art of War — Patriotism and Propaganda in Liverpool 1853-1918'.

Also on Monday (10.30am)

Alaster Burman will lead a tour of Broadgreen Cemetery, which is a Commonwealth War Graves site.

On Sunday, the Heritage Season turns its sights to Liverpool's private members' club for professionals and merchants, the Athenaeum, several of whose founding 18th century members belonged to Princes Road Synagogue.

A tour of the historic Athenaeum will begin at 11am. At 3.30pm, at the same venue, Rabbi Ariel Abel will talk about the club's first Jewish members.

It will be followed by a panel discussion with Jewish politicians connected with Princes Road Synagogue, Dame Louise Ellman, Lord Wolfson of Tredegar and former Lib Dem MP Dr

Evan Harris.

At the end of last month the Heritage Season led a session on philanthropy with Dr Lee Kendall.

Arnold Lewis discussed Jewish philanthropist David Lewis and former Princes Road minister Rabbi Zvi Solomons spoke about Jewish Freemasons in Liverpool.

For tickets to all events, visit tinyurl.com/LOHCHeritage