

Chizuk Tour of Edmonton Federation Cemetery

A large group visited Edmonton Federation Cemetery last Sunday, to *daven* at the *kevarim* of *gedolim* and inspirational figures from the past. The trip was organised by the Federation and follows on from the recent publication of a book of biographies of Rabbanim and communal leaders buried at the cemetery, authored by Rebbetzin Aviva Landau.

Dayan Y. Y. Lichtenstein, Rosh Beis Din, introduced the tour by explaining that the cemetery opened in 1890 in response to the pressing need of recent *frum* immigrants who were unable to afford the burial fees of other organisations.

Rabbi S. Y. Bixenspanner, Rav of Hendon Adass, guided the tour and presented both informative historical accounts as well as *divrei mussar* and lessons to learn at each *kever*. Dayan Y. D. Hool and Dayan Y. Posen, *dayanim* of the Federation Beis Din, accompanied him and led *tehillim*.

The first *kever* visited was that of Rabbi Moshe Grunwald, a Rav who was brought to London to be the Rav Rashi of the Federation but was tragically and suddenly *niftar* before delivering his first *drashah*.

There were few dry eyes as the crowd walked past a vast stretch of *kevarim* of young children from the early 1900s. Many of them were marked with a simple sign, as their families could not afford *matzeivos*. A current scheme to provide dignified *matzeivos* for these *kevarim* is underway, with all collections from *tzedakah* boxes onsite going to this fund.

Tehillim were said at the *kevarim* of the Telze Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Eliezer Gordon, the Sassover Rebbes, Rav Reuven Dessler and many more.

Reminding everyone that there were many Jewish casualties of World War II in England, Rabbi Bixenspanner took the group to a *matzeivos chavirim*, consisting of one stone for four *kevarim*. A number of family members were killed at the same moment by a WWII bomber which crashed over a village, to which the family had ironically been evacuated. Sadly, this type of *kever* is not uncommon in the *beis kevaros*.

An unusual visit was made to a *matzeivah* which does not actually mark a *kever*. Rebbetzin Sara Leah Lopian was reinterred to be buried next to her husband, Rav Elya Lopian, in Eretz Yisrael. Rabbi Bixenspanner explained that the site was still *admas kodesh* and therefore *tehillim* were said. In a courageous act of *mesiras nefesh*, Rebbetzin Lopian is famously known to have *davened*, when her husband fell seriously ill, that she should be *niftar* in his place so he could continue teaching Torah (this occurred during his tenure as Rosh Yeshivas Etz Chaim). Incredibly, as he recovered, she became progressively more unwell and was *niftar* at a young age.

Dayan Lichtenstein commented, "The tour was very interesting and informative. Rabbi Bixenspanner impressed us with his knowledge of Anglo-Jewish history and gave people the opportunity to *daven* at the *kevarim* of these *gedolim*, which is of course the main purpose for visiting *kevarim*."



Photo credit: Batsheva Pels

At Edmonton Federation Cemetery, (L.-R.) Dayan Y.D. Hool, Dayan Y. Posen and Rabbi S. Y. Bixenspanner.

MANCHESTER

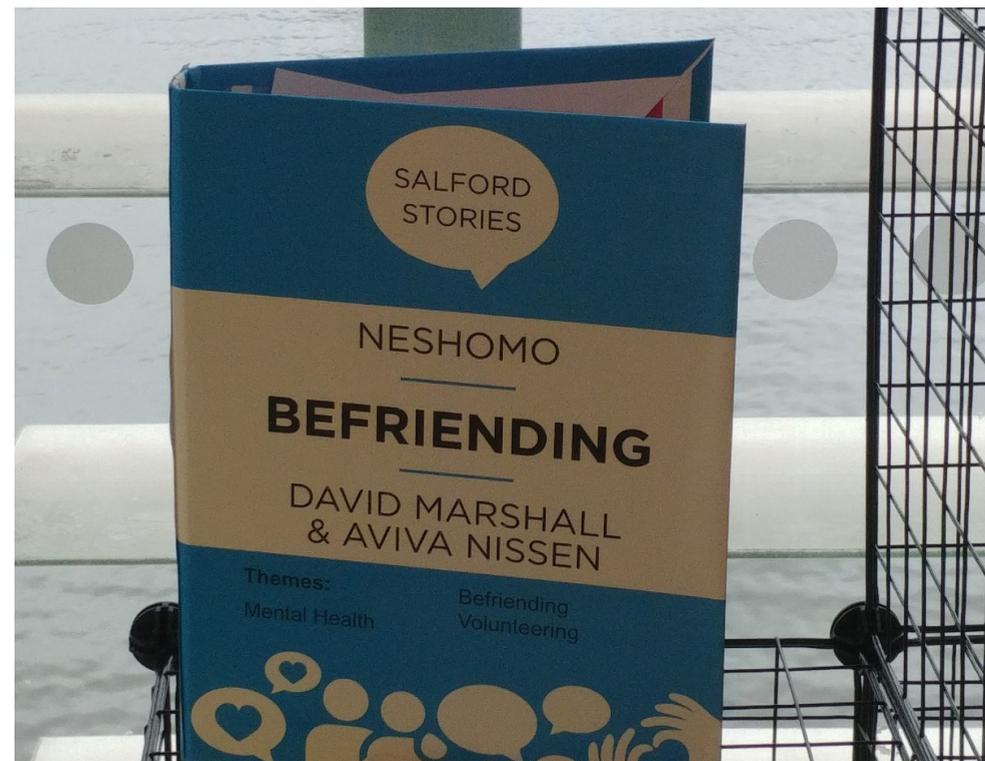
Neshomo Shares its Salford Story

Neshomo was privileged to be one of 10 organisations in Salford invited to the recent Salford CVS Salford Stories Showcase celebrating the impact of the third sector fund, at the Lowry Theatre.

As a recent recipient of a grant from the Third Sector Fund, representatives were able to showcase the impact that Neshomo has had on the health and wellbeing of the local Jewish community.

Neshomo is a Jewish, culturally sensitive, confidential mental health charity for adults. Their goal is to improve emotional wellbeing and reduce stigma within the Manchester Jewish Community.

Neshomo run a befriending service which matches people suffering from severe and enduring mental health difficulties with a volunteer befriender. They offer ongoing training and supervision to all befrienders.



HENDON

Chazak Bet Medrash Programme

Chazak has launched a new learning programme called Brampton Bet Medrash, to be known as BBM, with a *selichos* and *Shacharis* service. BBM will be based in the newly refurbished Post Office building on the corner of Brampton Grove and Brent Street in Hendon. Chazak has set up BBM after realising that there was no specific communal space for men after Yeshiva where they could go during the week which offered both daily *davening* as well as *shiurim*, tailored specifically for them.

Chazak has brought over Rabbi Nathan Kahlani, who has spent the last 17 years in Yerushalayim, and has moved back to London to build a place of Torah for the whole community. BBM is offering daily *Shacharis*, followed by breakfast and a *shiur*. The timings have been carefully thought out in order to help attendees to finish by 8.05am in order to get back to their families to help with their children prior to the school run or to get to work.

BBM will also be offering an evening programme, with daily *shiurim* Monday to Thursday, given by Rabbi Tzvi Katzenstein of Edgware Kolel, and by Rabbi Kahlani as well as a weekly *chavrusa* programme with Rabbi Moshe Levy and Rabbi Yitsy David.

Over 50 people joined Chazak on their first day, and there were more than 100 new faces in the first week with the hopes that many more will join the BBM community.

Rabbi Moshe Levy, Executive Director of Chazak said, "The BBM programme is a really exciting new chapter for Chazak. We have wanted to create a Bet Medrash programme for many years and now with a dedicated Rosh Bet Medrash, Rabbi Kahlani, we have the team to be able to do it. Our dream is to create a space where everyone is welcome and feels part of a wider community, particularly for those that haven't yet been able to find that."

Misgav's Successful Annual Summer Camp

An exuberant group of campers have returned from an unforgettable camp experience at Misgav – an annual highlight for girls and women with physical and learning disabilities in Stamford Hill, Golders Green, Manchester and Gateshead.

The heads, Miss C. Weltscher and Miss Z. Stroh, supported by an admirable group of devoted counsellors, gave each camper exceptional care and friendship, while boosting their independence levels by encouraging valuable social and life skills that will last long after the camp bags are unpacked.

The campers enjoyed a stimulating programme, with trips to the beach, a theme park, zoo, farm, and cruise; and fun activities including bowling, pottery workshops, swimming, and shopping trips.

Spending two weeks in a warm, supportive environment does wonders for participants' spirits and independence. They return home with lots to share, new skills to benefit from throughout the year, and memories of fun and friendship to cherish for a lifetime. For many campers, the countdown to next year's project begins the day they arrive home!

Misgav extends its sincere gratitude to the camp heads and volunteer counsellors for their selfless devotion; to Mr and Mrs Simon for managing the camp and catering; and to CST for generously going the extra mile to keep the campers and staff secure.

The annual summer camp is one element of Misgav's extensive sports, arts and employment programme for women with disabilities, which provides daily opportunities for them to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing and achieve greater independence.