

# MERSEYSIDE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018

## Introduction

The Representative Council's demographics officer analyses data to assist various bodies to plan for the future needs of the Jewish community in Liverpool, Wirral, Chester, and adjoining areas. These needs include the scale of Jewish educational and social facilities for children, synagogue provision, welfare and social provision for adults, residential care and, ultimately, burial needs. As with all Jewish demographic studies, the question of who should be included arises. The government's 2011 National Census used self-identification as its definition of a member of a religion; for our purposes we 'simply' need to estimate the numbers of people who might wish, now or in the future, to avail themselves of the services of the community – we might call these 'community affiliatable' people, or simply 'our community'. The work of the demographics officer does NOT in any way seek to identify our community by name; indeed almost all data sources used exclude any means of identifying individuals. The approach adopted merely seeks to quantify our population by gender and age, with some analysis of the geographic spread across our community area.

The analysis falls into three elements:

- An annual 'snapshot' of population elements - the main sources for which are data provided by the shuls, the King David & Harold House Foundation, MJCC (on certain burials) and Greenbank Drive Limited. My thanks to the administrators and honorary officers of those organisations for their patience in completing the various forms.
- An assessment of the current overall size and age breakdown of the community, which builds on the 'snapshot', and makes use of information from both the 2011 National Census, and our own local census also undertaken in that year.
- A projection of the future size and shape of the community.

The first two elements are reported each year; a projection will be included periodically – one was included in the report for 2016.

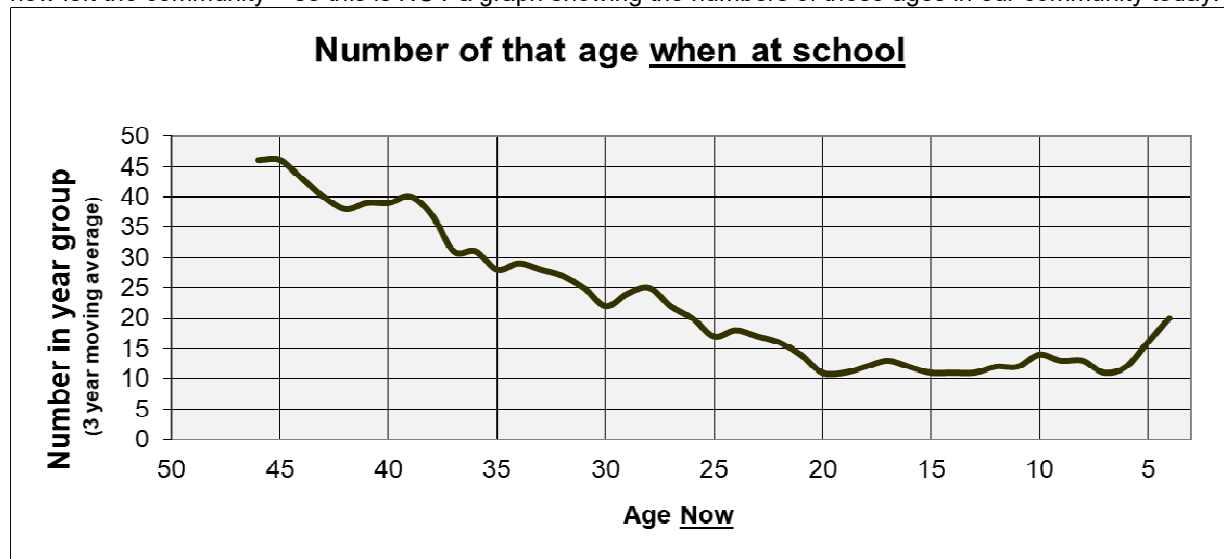
## A snapshot for 2018

### Births

Based on the trend in King David pupil numbers (see below), factored to allow for other births across the wider area, the number of births in the community is currently estimated at around **10 to 17** per year (compared with **50** births per annum 40 years ago, and over **80** per annum in the 1950s). This year, the synagogues were asked to report on the number of Merseyside births known to them; however, only one shul was able to supply a positive return.

### Young People

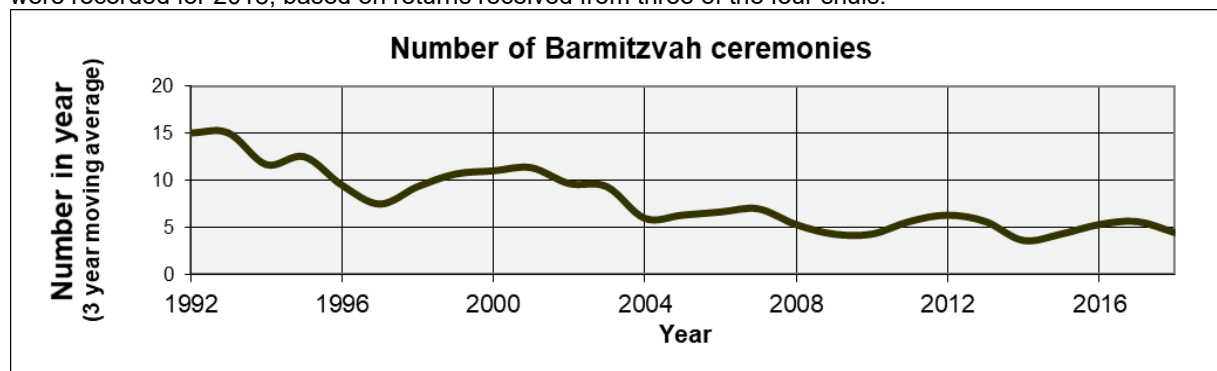
Information on numbers of pupils at the King David Schools is the main source of this assessment. Current pupil numbers have been combined with historic information. This has enabled the following graph to be constructed showing the size of each year group of those currently aged from 4 to 46, WHEN THEY WERE AT SCHOOL, illustrating the decline in the size of the school age population. Many of those over 21 have now left the community – so this is NOT a graph showing the numbers of those ages in our community today.



Note – the number of Jewish pupils at the King David Primary and High Schools is now **177** – a significant increase on last year's 163, due to the exceptional number of children in this year's reception classes. This compares with **654** Jewish pupils in 1965, **438** in 1993, and **243** in 2006, continuing the generally downward trend. Currently, girls make up **49%** of the total (compared with **59%** in 2006). With the exception of the reception year, numbers have, for the interim, stabilised at between 10 and 15 Jewish pupils per year group.

### Bar and Bat Mitzvahs

The purpose in collating barmitzvah data is to estimate the numbers of Jewish children to be added to those attending the King David Schools when assessing the overall size of the community. In recent years the average number of barmitzvah celebrants has been around **5** per year. Only **three** barmitzvah ceremonies were recorded for 2018, based on returns received from three of the four shuls.



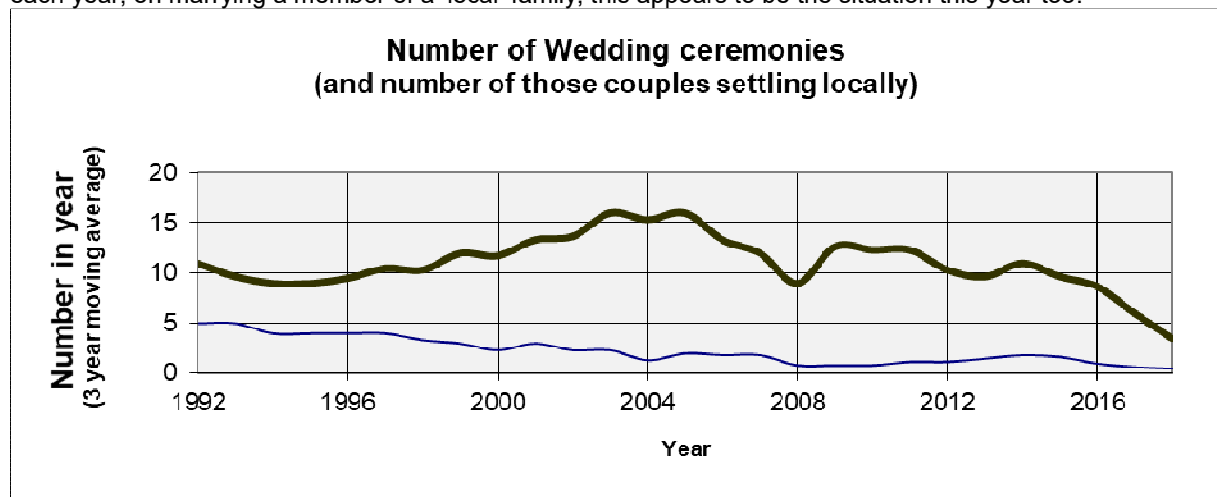
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average
Barmitzvah Celebrants	4*	4	5	8	6	3	2	8	6	3**	4.9

excludes \*Allerton Synagogue \*\*Childwall Synagogue – no return received for that year

The proportion of girls participating in formal synagogue Bat Mitzvah/Eshet Chayil ceremonies varies considerably from year to year, so reporting the numbers is not helpful in terms of demographics.

### Weddings

An unusually high number of marriages (**21**) were recorded in 2010 (the highest in the last 25 years), with the lowest number on record (**4**) reported for 2017. The number for 2018 is a new low record (**3**), though this includes information from only 3 of the 4 shuls. Typically, one person not raised in Liverpool has settled here each year, on marrying a member of a 'local' family; this appears to be the situation this year too.



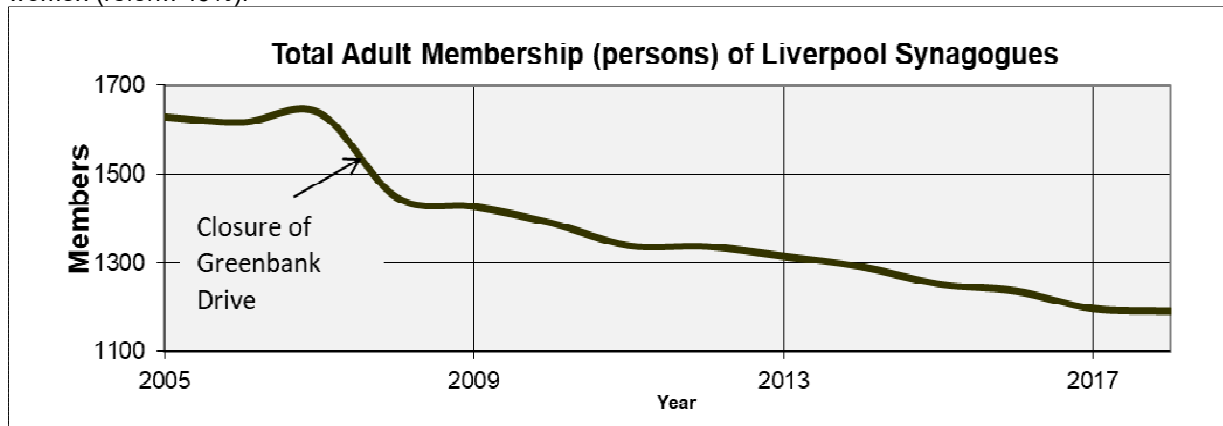
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average
Marriages	7*	21	9	7	15	7	11	11	4	3**	9.5

excludes \*Allerton Synagogue \*\*Childwall Synagogue – no return received for that year

This analysis means that about 85% of children of community members who marry have already moved away from the area, or do so at the time of their marriage. It is also worth noting that as there are typically 25 to 30 'children' per year in the 'cohort' now getting married, well over 50% of that generation are either marrying out, not marrying at all, or are involved in (out of town) Jewish marriages not recorded by their family's synagogue.

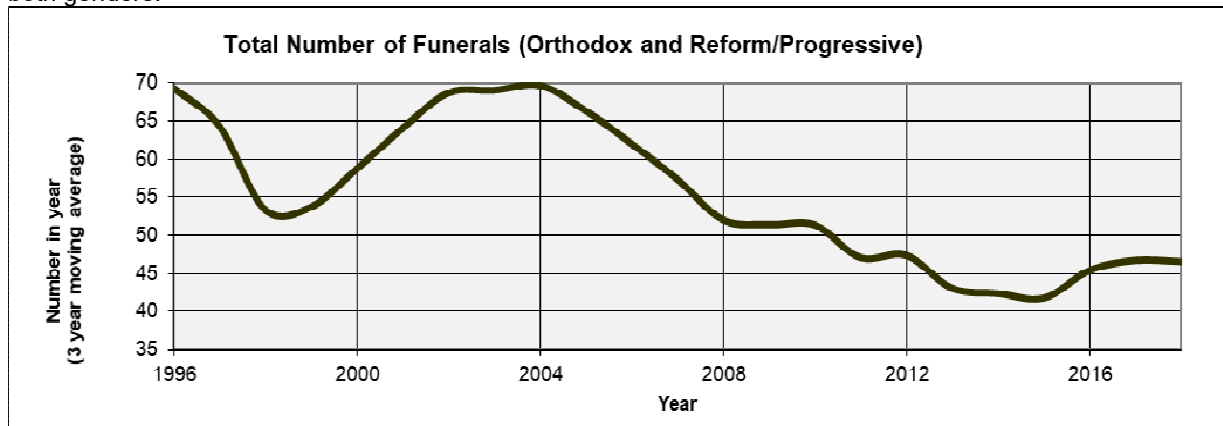
### Synagogue Membership

The total adult membership of all Liverpool shuls at the end of 2018 was about **1190**, from about **800** households (corrected for memberships of more than one shul, and omitting members resident outside of the Merseyside/Chester area) - 70% orthodox, 30% reform; this compares with a figure of about **1630** persons at the end of 2005. Typically, the orthodox shuls lose about 3% to 4% of their members each year, mainly due to death; the reform shul numbers are stable. In the orthodox congregations about 55% of members are women (reform 43%).



### Deaths

The deaths/funeral information allows us to: estimate the numbers of living people in the older age groups; provide a guide to future burial requirements; and provide some insight into the proportion of the community who do not belong to a synagogue (this is useful in relating synagogue membership numbers to the overall size of the community). The average number of funerals in the 1970s and 80s was **84** per annum; there have been considerable annual fluctuations in the period since 1990, with numbers typically between **45 and 70** per annum. The Liverpool Jewish Necrology Project has enabled a review of 21<sup>st</sup> century death records to be carried out, and the ten year table (below) has been marginally revised, compared with previous years' reports. In 2015, **38** funerals were recorded; the lowest figure since data collection started in 1965. The figure for 2017 (**51**, of whom 44 were local residents) was the joint highest since 2009; in 2018, there were **42** funerals (**36** for local residents), slightly below the recent average. Data over the last 10 years suggests that the gap between the average age at death for men and women has disappeared, with increasing longevity for both genders.



Over the last 10 years, between **25% and 30%** of funerals were of **non shul-affiliated** persons – predominantly widowed or single women.

This year's death tabulations are as follows –

Age at Death in 2018	up to 59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+	age not known	TOTAL	Average Age
Local Residents									
Males	1	1	0	6	7	0	-	<b>15</b>	86.3
Females	2	1	2	5	11	0	-	<b>21</b>	85.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>85.8</b>

Year	Merseyside/Chester Residents						Funerals of Non-local residents	Total funerals in Liverpool	Proportion Orthodox
	Average Age at death			Number of Deaths					
	Men	Women	Overall	Men	Women	Total			
<b>2018</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>88%</b>
2017	83.0	85.9	84.6	19	25	44	7	51	98%
2016	87.5	83.2	84.9	15	23	38	9	47	94%
2015	85.0	81.3	82.7	12	21	33	5	38	95%
2014	82.1	83.5	82.7	23	15	38	2	40	93%
2013	82.8	88.5	84.4	21	17	38	11	49	88%
2012	86.8	82.6	84.6	16	17	33	7	40	95%
2011	84.4	82.9	83.6	21	27	48	5	53	92%
2010	79.1	83.4	81.9	16	31	47	1	48	96%
2009	81.9	83.0	82.5	21	30	51	2	53	94%
<b>10 year average</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>93%</b>

### The size and shape of our community in 2018

Two years ago a major revision to the method of calculating the size and age profile of our community was undertaken, and the technique for developing future projections was reviewed. The process was briefly summarised in the annual report for 2016.

As discussed in the 2016 report, the population of a community changes over time due to births, deaths, people moving away (out-migration) and people moving into the area (in-migration). Population projections assess how fertility, mortality, and migratory pressures impact on each age group. The 2016 report also described how a 'base' population figure for 2011 was devised, making use of the National Census and local information. The 2011 assessment forms the basis for estimating the current community population – estimates for the years since 2011 are given below.

Estimated 'community affiliatable' individuals								
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Population	2490	2430	2370	2310	2270	2230	2180	2130

In terms of age profile, the 2018 estimate is as follows (average age 54 years):

Age Breakdown of 2018 community population											
Age	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90 & +	TOTAL
Persons	160	160	110	170	200	280	380	380	240	50	2130

*Philip Sapiro, Demographics Officer – 8 July 2019*