



## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Tony Nothman**

Having recently taken over this portfolio, my report is based on the good work done by my predecessor Jon Berman. I'd like to put on record my thanks for his work, knowledge and advice as he passes the baton.

As in previous years, we strive to develop and maintain our building and grounds in the most efficient and effective manner. This is an ongoing task and one that takes considerable effort from all those involved, not least because as our building ages, it requires more attention. I know I am repeating the statement by many of my predecessors but the cost of maintaining our buildings is significant and expenditure is both necessary and important for our community.

There is a programme of gradual improvements across our estate that we are working through both externally and internally. These include painting and decoration, but also several health, safety and security upgrades. My thanks to Aaron Kader, our Site Manager, for his hard work and commitment on much of this.

I must also acknowledge the work of our gardening team, led by Steve and Liz Yates. Our grounds are a fabulous asset and one that we want the community to enjoy, but it does require significant work. We are always looking for willing volunteers!

Alongside our ongoing maintenance, we have several major projects aimed at making us more energy efficient and reducing our carbon footprint – for instance, electricity generated through our solar panel roof installation.

Our current heating, lighting and related systems are not all as resilient or efficient as we need them to be. We need to be able to control all our systems across the entire building, regardless of how often each area is used. New technology will help us to do this in an efficient and effective way.



## **COMMUNICATIONS – Elizabeth Prais**

Our community uses three main communication channels to keep members updated with what is going on: Hadashot, weekly emails, and the website.

In 2024, there were a baker's dozen issues of Hadashot, including a special edition for Rabbi Romain's retirement. Katharine Rooney and Sapir Tal took over as Editors of Hadashot in early 2025.

Rabbi Rene sends out a weekly email containing the most up-to-date event information and news from the wider Jewish community.

Our website is our online home and contains the livestream link for Shabbat Services, a Business Directory for members, and articles that are too long to be included in Hadashot.

Looking at the year ahead, we are working on streamlining the Weekly Email, making booking and paying for shul events easier, and increasing our Social Media presence.

If you wish to contribute to either the website or *Hadashot*, please email



### **COMMUNITY CARE – Lucy Henning**

We have a small core of volunteers who visit our members as part of the Tea and Chat initiative. If you know someone who might benefit from this service, please contact me.

Our Caller Team is in contact with about 100 members at Pesach and Rosh Hashanah. This past year, we sent out around 300 handwritten greeting cards to our senior community members at Rosh Hashanah and Pesach.

Our provision of lifts to appointments has always been a much-appreciated service, and we are greatly indebted to everyone who has volunteered to help.

We have been considering how to evolve the connections available via our networks to help improve our support systems.

Our inaugural Wellbeing Shabbat in February was a great success and will now be an annual event. We had a lot of positive feedback and discussed new ideas and initiatives.

Shalom Counselling is available for any member of the community and their family who are looking for psychological support. We offer six free sessions of confidential counselling.

We always need more people to help, either regularly or on an ad hoc basis. Please contact me on [lucy.henning@maidshul.org](mailto:lucy.henning@maidshul.org) if you can volunteer.