

## Liverpool Jewish Community trail

Liverpool has one of the oldest Jewish communities in Britain. The earliest settlers were Jewish traders in the 1700s. Over time new waves of Jewish migration shaped and changed the community further. Today, Jewish people continue to contribute widely to life in the city and leave their mark on Liverpool.

Jewish, Black\*, Irish, and other histories are found throughout the museum. From time to time, different communities may feature in special exhibitions.



Look out for this menorah symbol to help you find the items on the trail around the Museum.

\*Black refers to people with African heritage.



# FLOOR ONE

## History Detectives

Timeline (section 1207 to 1880)

### Early Beginnings - The First Synagogue, 1807

Although Jewish settlers in Liverpool in the 1700s created small places of worship, it was not until 1807 that the Jewish community constructed its first purpose-built synagogue on Seel Street. The synagogue was an elegant 300-seater building symbolising the community's growing numbers.



Courtesy of Liverpool Record Office, Liverpool Libraries

Did you know that Jason Isaacs, who played Lucius Malfoy in the Harry Potter films grew up in Childwall, Liverpool?



### Liverpool Sound Autobiography, *A Cellarful of Noise*, 1964.

From 1962 until his death in 1967, Brian Epstein launched and managed a number of Merseybeat acts. His artists included Gerry and the Pacemakers, Cilla Black and most famously The Beatles. This autobiography charts his formative life in Liverpool (as part of the city's Jewish community), the early years of Merseybeat and the rise of Beatlemania.

Lent by Paul Sumpter  
Brian standing next to his car (left) and relaxing with his parents (right).



# FLOOR TWO

## Wondrous Place Liverpool on Stage and Screen

The 1983 Hollywood blockbuster *Yentl* was directed by and starred Barbra Streisand. Scenes were filmed on the River Mersey, on board a ferry painted to resemble a Transatlantic steamship.



Programme, Liverpool Premiere of *Yentl* organised by the Jewish Community Centre at the Odeon cinema, London Road.

The film tells the story of a young girl brought up by her religious father in 19th century Russia. It ends with her travelling to America to start a new life.

In a poignant link with the past, extras were recruited from Liverpool's Jewish community, many of whom were themselves descended from Russian migrants.



Andi Solomon, Leonie Bracey and Hillary and Miriam Swerdlow in costume on board a Mersey ferry as extras in the movie *Yentl*.

Many business and showbiz talents emerged from the Jewish community. Frank Abelson, born in 1928 to a Jewish immigrant family attended the synagogue in Princes Road where he developed his singing skills in the choir. Later, as Frankie Vaughan he became a world-famous singer and entertainer. He was awarded the CBE for his extensive charity work in 1997. He was famous for his straw boaters such as this one.



Lent by Stella Vaughan

Signed photograph of Frankie Vaughan

## Ian Broudie's Eric's membership card

Ian Broudie was born in the city and attended King David High School, Childwall. He started out in the band *Big in Japan* in the late 1970s. This is his membership card to the post-punk club Eric's on Mathew Street where many of the regulars formed their own bands and released records after they were encouraged to get up on stage and have a go.

He went on to achieve massive success with *The Lightning Seeds*.

Lent by Ian Broudie



## Home and Neighbourhoods

### Liverpool, a home away from home

### Sarah Levy's identity book

### Object 6 in display case



In the 1880s, whole Jewish communities fled terrible discrimination and attacks when the Russian government introduced new rules restricting every aspect of their daily lives.

Many families escaped to Liverpool in order to travel to destinations like America. Some, like Sarah Levy, stayed here.

Despite tensions between the long established Jewish community who had already found their feet, many new arrivals settled in the Brownlow Hill area. Most of these new arrivals would have only spoken Yiddish.

Although families were originally registered as aliens, the next generation became naturalised British citizens.



## Pfaff Sewing Machine

### Object 8 in display case

Many families' lives were blown apart by the turmoil of the Second World War. Anny Foa and Italo Calma both left Turin, Italy, because of the Fascist regime's racial policy.

They met and married in London, and came to Liverpool in 1946 where they soon put down roots. This sewing machine, brought from Italy, was used to make their daughter's wedding dress, for her marriage at Princes Road Synagogue in 1970.

## The People's Republic

### Faith and Tradition

### Torah scroll decorations

### Object 14 in display case

These ornate Torah scroll decorations were used at Princes Road Synagogue. They are used to draw attention to the importance of the Torah Scroll, which contains the first five books of the Old Testament.



## Liverpool Legacies

### David Lewis

### Liverpool merchant's token

### Object 10 in display case

David Lewis was an apprentice at Hyam's tailor's shop. He later went on to found Lewis's department store in 1856. He became known as a retailing genius who brought affordable, quality goods to ordinary people.

His charity work funded a host of local projects. His name lives on in the David Lewis Association, which helps disadvantaged young people in the city today.



Courtesy of  
Liverpool Record Office,  
Liverpool Libraries



# FLOOR TWO

## The People's Republic Home and Neighbourhoods Galkoff's and the Secret Life of Pembroke Place

Galkoff's and the Secret Life of Pembroke Place was a two year research project between the Museum of Liverpool and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, it focused on two main heritage assets; the tiled green frontage of Galkoff's butcher's shop and Watkinson's Terrace, Liverpool's last example of Victorian 'slum' courtyard housing.

Through the project, many stories and memories from the Liverpool Jewish community were collected and documented. See and listen to them here.



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### Galkoff tiles

At the heart of the exhibition is a reconstruction of a Liverpool landmark, Galkoff's Kosher butcher's shop frontage. The beautiful emerald green tiles were added in 1933 and have undergone careful conservation, or in some cases replacement where the damage was too great. From a mammoth 855 tiles, 113 have been replaced. The result is this impressive life-size reconstruction of the façade with the original gold Art Deco embellishments and Hebrew signage stating 'Kosher'.

Alongside the tiles, related objects, images and even a Galkoff family tree help tell the story of how owner Percy Galkoff set up shop in Liverpool.



© Jason Roberts

### Coat and knife used at Galkoff's butcher's shop Objects 4 & 5 in display case

Issy Silver's butcher's coat and knife were used at Galkoff's butcher's shop. Issy Silver worked there from the late 1940s and became a business partner ten years later. He worked at the shop for over 30 years, until it closed in the 1970s. These objects were kindly donated by Elaine Cohen, Issy Silver's daughter.

### Model of Galkoff shop Object 3 in display case

Andrew Blanchard (Head of Technology at King David High School, Liverpool) made this model around 2008.

*"I was inspired to make it simply by walking past this building on a number of occasions. I became fascinated by the wonderful tiles which seemed to possess an impossible amount of shades of green as they glistened in the sun."*

### Shop lease for Galkoff's butcher shop Object 8 in display case

Kindly donated by Ivor Galkoff, Percy Galkoff's grandson.

## Find out more

### Further information about the Jewish Community in Liverpool can be found at:

**Merseyside Jewish Community Archives  
Liverpool Record Office**  
[www.liverpool.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archive-s-local-and-family-history](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/archive-s-local-and-family-history)

**Merseyside Jewish Community official website**  
[www.liverpooljewish.com](http://www.liverpooljewish.com)

**Deane Road Cemetery**  
[www.deaneroadcemetery.com](http://www.deaneroadcemetery.com)

**Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation and Princes  
Road Synagogue** [www.princesroad.org](http://www.princesroad.org)

*Chicken Soup and Scouse*, a DVD of the history of the  
Liverpool Jewish Community from the 1700s  
to the present day [www.chickensoupandscouse.com](http://www.chickensoupandscouse.com)