

## Burial Society News

Melvyn Hartog, Head of Burial



It is always difficult when dealing with a family who have recently suffered bereavement, even more so when the deceased is a young person who is not a member of the United Synagogue Burial Society. This creates many problems not only for the deceased's family but also the burial office staff.

Firstly it is necessary to confirm Jewish status by asking the family for a birth certificate or other proof that the deceased is halachically Jewish. Then we have to raise the question of costs. This has to be one of the most difficult parts of our job especially in the case of a young person – discussing finances with a family who are suffering at such a traumatic time.

It is not just with young people that this problem occurs, people of 40, 50 etc who are not members leave a legacy of despair for their families and loved ones which could so easily be avoided.

The costs involved for a burial are substantial as it is not just to cover the cost of the funeral but also the general up-keep of the United Synagogue cemeteries, staffing costs etc.

If you are a member of the United Synagogue you pay your burial fees together with your synagogue membership and become part of the United Synagogue family.

This situation can so easily be avoided. Please try to ensure that you are not placed in this position by encouraging your children and other family members to join a synagogue.

We in the Burial Society do not want to have to sit with another family and discuss money when all they should be concerned about is burying their loved one.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy, peaceful and more importantly healthy new year.



## FIRST AID COURSE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

in the Golda Cohen Room

If you wish to update the skills you learnt on our previous course or learn some emergency life support and first aid come and join us.

Details TBC but the timing will be probably be between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

**Cost: £48**

**Members of other synagogues will also be coming to join us so please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to take part.**

Please contact Anne Shisler Tel: 020 7229 6215 Email: [anne@shisler.com](mailto:anne@shisler.com)

The trainer will be Mr John Hill, who is an accredited trainer for Magen David Adom and also a certificated trainer for the British Red Cross