Message for readers of *LJS News* from Judith King

Dear Members and Friends of the LJS,

I should like to introduce myself as the editor of your monthly newsletter, *LJS News*, a role I had the pleasure of taking on at the beginning of last year. My colleagues at the LJS and I had hoped we would be able to post the newsletter out to you as usual, as we know many of you prefer to receive a printed booklet rather than an online version. Although the newsletter has indeed now been printed, the synagogue building is, as you know, closed, and so we are not in a position to ask our wonderful band of volunteers to stuff the newsletters into envelopes and send them out to you.

This means that the April newsletter will only be available online. It also means that because of the time frame allocated for printing, packing and posting, much of the information in it has now been superseded, with services, classes and events either being delivered online or postponed. The way to ensure you have the latest information is to be a subscriber to *Shalom LJS* and/or to view the LJS website: [www.ljs.org](http://www.ljs.org). Information is also available via our social media.

Looking at the content of the April newsletter, it is extraordinary that so much has had to change in such a short space of time, and I apologise that reading it now might look as though the newsletter team is living in a parallel universe in which coronavirus is not in our midst. I hope, though, that you will enjoy reading about what has already taken place and is reported on, as well as the articles which are unaffected by the current state of affairs. Although the *Kabbalat Torah* service will not now be on 25 April, I feel sure you’ll want to hear about the three students who present themselves on page 13. And although the visit to the British Library is not now taking place on 28 April, you will still enjoy reading Beverley Nenk’s description of the exhibition on page 6.

You will note that on the last page, Rabbi Alexandra Wright invites those who have memories of VE Day to contact her with a view to her incorporating those memories into the VE Day service on 9 May. We cannot say at this point how that Shabbat morning service will unfold, but if anyone has memories to share, please send them to me, Judith King, at newsletter@ljs.org by Monday 4 May at the latest. My aim, if possible, is to include those memories in the June newsletter. Your contributions can be just a few sentences, or a longer piece of up to 250 words. I will share these memories with Rabbi Alexandra Wright so that they might still inform her plans for the service on 9 May.

I look forward to hearing from you, and please do feel free to contact me with any other ideas or copy which I will be happy to consider for inclusion in the newsletter. I hope that our online newsletters, which we intend to continue preparing for you albeit somewhat differently configured, will help you feel engaged with our community during a time when we cannot be together physically.

The designer of the newsletter, Maggie Tingle, joins me in sending warm wishes to everyone. Please look after yourselves in these bewildering and challenging times, and take good care.

*Judith*