

# Around Alyth

March 2026 Review



## Purim

We were busy for our Sunday morning Purim celebrations complete with a bouncy castle, face painting, soft play, crown making, mask making and a K-Pop Demon hunter themed Megillah reading! This Megillah reading was also told on Tuesday to the students at Akiva School who loved seeing Rabbi Hannah and Izzie outside of Alyth!

Purim continued on Sunday evening with our Whisky Society - this month celebrating Purim!

The Abba-tastic Purim spiel on Monday evening was a sing-a-long hit with a lovely burrito dinner accompanied by delicious cocktails made by bartenders Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Elliott.

Purim continued with Ma'ariv and a late night Megillah reading with drinks and hamentashen and a lot of boing. Members of the community participated reading a chapter each and some of the acting was very impressive! Costumes too!

Purim concluded on Tuesday morning with more people enjoying Shacharit and the Megillah reading with Rabbi Elliott, in a rainbow wig, and Rabbi Nicola as a snowman.



## Alyth's Annual Iftar

We are delighted that Jews, Muslims and Christians came to pray, study and eat with us for our 13th annual Iftar on Sunday 8 March. The theme this year was "Finding the Light in the Darkness". It was a wonderful atmosphere as we were one community chatting over a delicious falafel dinner. "Now, more than ever, coming together with other faiths, to celebrate our similarities and embrace our differences is so important. Our Annual Iftar has become a real beacon of light, one which our community fully embraces," commented Rabbi Hannah about the Iftar.



### Alyth Productions Show: Stepping Out

We are delighted that for the first time in 35 years we have an adult amateur dramatic group back in the Alyth building. The cast of 13 have been rehearsing since September to entertain us with their performance of *Stepping Out*. Two packed out houses thoroughly enjoyed the performances with a standing ovation for the last show. If you are interested in joining the cast for 2026-27, please email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)



### Nuremberg Screening + Talk with Jack El Hai

On 28 March we had a special screening for the film *Nuremberg*, followed by a Talk with Jack El Hai—author of the book, *The Nazi and the Psychiatrist*, on which the film was based on. This was Jack's first talk to a UK audience and we were honoured to hear about his research on Douglas Kelley, the psychiatrist, that he did with Douglas' son, including what he found in the 15 boxes that Kelley had bought back from Nuremberg with him. He also spoke about his plans for future projects, which we look forward to engaging with.



### Madrichim Secret Cinema

Our madrichim chose to spend their Saturday evening with our Youth and Education Hub and ex-members of the Hub on 28 March, engaging in a swash-buckling evening where we transformed the Leo Baeck Hall into the ship from Pirates of the Caribbean. They participated in a “sword fight” with Jack Sparrow and helped conquer Barbosa himself! The evening included watching the film altogether with a fish and chip in newspaper dinner and of course, popcorn!



### Recital Series

This past month, Alyth launched our Spring Recital Series – the first instalment in a seasonal programme showcasing instrumentalists from leading institutions. Each Thursday in March, we were treated to a rich blend of music, poetry, and art, with performances from cellists, pianists, and violinists. These 14:15 recitals offered a welcome oasis of calm and creativity in the midst of busy days. Keep your eyes peeled for updates regarding the Summer Recital Series taking place over July!

Make sure to follow us on Instagram for the latest clips and behind-the-scenes Alyth music happenings – @alythmusic

Email [music@alyth.org.uk](mailto:music@alyth.org.uk) to find out about our July recital series.



### Life Matters



During the month of March we held three sessions on Life Matters! In our first session, we heard from Michelle Langer on how to take measures to de-stress our days – whether at work or home. We were told to walk away from our computer screens, eat well and get fresh air! Matthew Woolf, from the organisation, Jnetics, then came to talk to us about genetics – Jewish ones in particular and how testing can identify many possible potential risks to our health. Finally, Roger Seaton gave us a rundown on how to get our lives in order. Power of Attorneys – medical and financial and sorting out our Wills gave all of us food for thought and rushing to make sure we did indeed have everything in order!

### Imperial War Museum

Rabbi Nicola and some members of the 'Essentials' course visited the Holocaust Galleries at the Imperial War Museum, and also met with our member Loretta Cohn, who volunteers there regularly. The gallery tells the stories of some of those who died in the Holocaust through over 2000 photos, books, artworks, letters and personal objects. The experience of visiting the galleries was sobering but incredibly meaningful.

### Alyth Social with John Plews



Members of The Alyth Social were delighted to be visited by John Plews, actor, director, and theatre owner, discussing his 60 years in showbusiness. John ran the Upstairs at the Gatehouse Theatre in Highgate along with his wife, Katie for many years. With a wealth of experience, John brought stories and wisdom to our enraptured members.