



July 2020

Changes at the NLPS Trust

As you will be aware, many LJ communities and other organisations have received funding from the NLPS Trust to support their projects. The Trust allocates investment income from the financial assets of the former North London Progressive Synagogue which closed in 2004. Meetings to consider grant applications are held twice a year in April and September. For the September 2020 meeting applications need to be received by 14th August. For more information please see the Trust's website.

New application process The Trust is currently streamlining many of its processes to assist communities in putting together applications and to make the claim process clearer for organisations that are awarded grants. A new application form has been introduced to ensure applicants provide all the information that Trustees need in order to decide whether to award a grant, together with guidance on how to complete the form. The form is available on the Trust's website www.nlpstrust.org.uk. It will only be available for completion online; if this creates a problem for any community, please contact the Trust at admin@nlpstrust.org.uk. One feature of the online application is that it can be saved when partially or fully completed. This means that the application can be retrieved for subsequent completion, or a link to the form can be emailed to someone else to complete or review, before submitting it.

When submitting an application, UK-based registered charities will no longer need to submit a copy of their most recent accounts.

Appointment of new Trustees Three new Trustees have been appointed over the past year: Nick Feldman, Mike Leci and Nicola Solomons. Nick Feldman is taking on the role of Treasurer. The new Trustees join Phil Stone (Chair), Michael Hart, Paul Kanas, Karen Katz and Michael Woodcock who has become the chair of the Trust's Investment Committee.

Because of the impending retirement of two of our Trustees, there will be opportunities for further appointments over the next year. Anyone interested in finding out more about the role, especially if they can offer IT skills or investment experience, is invited to contact Phil Stone at chairman@nlpstrust.org.uk. The current Trustees are members of the following congregations: Birmingham, Brighton and Hove, the LJS, Northwood and Pinner, Oxford and Wessex. The Trust is seeking to make the new appointments from other LJ communities.

Trust Administrator Many of you will have had contact with the Trust's Administrator, Sandra Greenberg. Earlier this year Sandra decided that she wanted to step down from the role this autumn. She has had responsibility for ensuring that all the Trust's processes have been carried out very efficiently and we are very grateful for everything that she has contributed.

Contact details The Trust's website, which is regularly updated, is at www.nlpstrust.org.uk. This is where communities can read about how to make an application and find guidance for applicants, such as the requirement that any potential project or purchase has not been started or committed before a grant is approved. The contact details remain the same, so any enquiries or other communications should continue to be sent to admin@nlpstrust.org.uk.

Projects we support If you want to know more about the type of projects that the Trust has previously supported, you will find examples on our website. Recent awards include repairs of scrolls and religious objects, prayer books, courses to train lay leaders, small-scale internal improvements to synagogues and equipment and books for educational projects. In addition, the Trust has funded several LJ projects which also benefit many of our communities, including the training of student rabbis, the Ba-alei Tefillah programme, support for young people attending LJY-Netzer events and the Kabbalat Torah programme.

We look forward to supporting new, small-scale projects that will make a real difference to the development of LJ communities and hope that the changes noted above will make the application process more straightforward.