

# Redbridge Today

In 2011 the census recorded the Jewish population as being at around 14,800 (6.2%). The percentage of the population of Redbridge that is Jewish is now down to about 3%, which has had an impact on businesses and synagogues in the area.

*"... it will go the same way as the East End, my parents' generation I think is the last generation to be in the area in huge quantities most of the people of my age group have... moved to... different areas"*  
(Simon)

*"I don't think there is a Jewish community left in Redbridge or there will be. I will give it another 5 to 10 years and there won't be a Jewish community around here at all. I think people of my age that are still here will be the last and that will be the end of the Jewish community around here"*  
(Maureen)

Some, however, may argue differently remaining optimistic about the community's future:

*"...if you look at the community today the Jewish life in Redbridge is flourishing. We've still got thirteen synagogues. Three Jewish schools. A Jewish community centre... You know, and it's still going very strong... all the Jewish charities and facilities for the young, facilities for the old so it's still a flourishing community. Yes, it's diminished in size, but it's still flourishing"*  
(Alan)



40th Anniversary Concert for the Newbury Park Shul, 2012.  
Courtesy of JewishGen.



King Solomon School in Barkingside, c.2015.



Kosher Butchers 'La Boucherie'  
Barkingside High Street, 2016.



Sukkah at Ilford Jewish Primary School c.2010.

*"Chigwell JACS... It's a culture, Jewish Association Cultural Societies, and membership now [2014] is roughly 110, our JACS prefers more speakers than entertainers, so every week of the year other than holy days... a barista, couple of weeks ago, people talking about London various things like sayings, you know how sayings come into fashion things like that"*  
(Martin Moss)

But the Jewish population in London has always been on the move and the shift to new demographics in the borough is a feature of London life:

*"... if you study the history of Jewish people they came to the docks to start with at... Stepney, moved into Bethnal Green, Mile End, Bow then went to... Forest Gate, from Forest Gate they moved to Ilford, from Ilford they go to Chigwell, from Chigwell they're now going out to areas of North West, Epping... it's very easy to trace people, the families, how they moved, which they still do"*  
(John)

Beehive Lane Synagogue in Gants Hill, 2016.



An Eastside Community Heritage Exhibition. Visit: [www.hidden-histories.org.uk](http://www.hidden-histories.org.uk)