

TISHRI 5783

| SEPTEMBER 2022



Shalom from

Cranbrook

ROSH HASHANAH EDITION
NO. 7





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Editorial

Shalom everyone,

Shalom Everyone,

Welcome back! It is great to see our members coming back to shul after the 'problems'! At the time of writing, we have cast off our masks and, although still taking care, have enjoyed the services together. We now have a kiddush every Shabbat. We had some excellent kiddushim over Shavuot, with - amongst other delicacies - cheese cake, and ice-cream! It is so good to be able to get together after the service to chat to old friends and make new ones!

Cranbrook United Synagogue held its Annual General Meeting on 15 May 2022. We extend a warm welcome to all members of the Board of Management who were elected or re-elected. Their names are shown here. We wish them all a hearty Mazel Tov.

May 2022 was exceptionally busy. As well as the AGM, we visited the Holocaust Centre, held a Chollah Bake, and celebrated ShabbatUK! Following this, our Monday Club opened on 11 July and a Quiz Night was arranged for Sunday, 14th August, with more exciting events to follow. Everyone welcome!

Once again, we have updates from our Executive and Board Members, and excellent articles from regular contributors Chaim Levison in Israel and Yosef Cohen in Mir Yeshiva, Jerusalem. Ruth Lyndon mentions more books we might like to read, and we are delighted to welcome some new contributors to our Magazine. I hope you enjoy reading it. Unfortunately, we lost Maurice Conway in April. His diary entitled "History in the Making" made fascinating reading. We will miss him.

Many thanks to all those involved in the production and distribution of this magazine, and to all of our contributors. Please keep the articles coming.

The next edition of Shalom will be the Pesach 5783 Edition. I would be delighted to hear from you. You can email me at stanton.philippa@gmail.com and I will keep any articles sent for the next magazine.

The Magazine Committee join me in wishing you and your families a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Philippa Stanton
Editor

*Cranbrook United
Synagogue*

22 BEEHIVE LANE,
ILFORD, ESSEX IGI 3RT



RABBI: Steven Dansky
REBBETZEN: Siobhan Dansky

COMMUNITY WELFARE MINISTER:
Reverend Gary Newman

HONORARY PRESIDENT: Martin Altman

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR:
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COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATOR:
Estelle Lyons

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Thursday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday & Sunday: 10 a.m. - 12 noon
(on Sunday phone first)

TELEPHONE: 020 8629 2780
EMAIL: admin@cranbrooksynagogue.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.cranbrooksynagogue.org.uk

CHAIRMAN: Bernard Berman

VICE CHAIRMAN: Claire Barzilai

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Martin Rankoff & Simon Stern

MAGAZINE:
EDITOR: Philippa Stanton
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Linda Stanton
ADVERTISING: Ruth Lyndon

DESIGNED BY: RACHEL LOWY
rachel.lowydesign@hotmail.com

"Shalom Magazine" reserves the right to amend any article. The sentiments expressed therein are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5783

In his book entitled 'Messy', the economist Tim Harford tells a remarkable story about the pianist, Keith Jarrett.

In January 1975, arriving at the Cologne Opera House to play a Jazz concert for 1400 people, Jarrett was horrified not to find the grand piano he had been expecting. The piano was far too small to achieve any quality of sound, the keys were sticking, the pedals didn't work and the felt was worn away in the upper register. Jarrett explained that the event would have to be cancelled, but the inexperienced concert promoter begged him to reconsider. After much pleading, Jarrett took pity on the young promoter and agreed to perform on the unplayable piano.

A moment of musical history followed. Forced to adapt and improvise, Jarrett energetically achieved the necessary volume from the defective piano. He avoided the tinny high notes and focused instead on the middle register. Remarkably, Jarrett brought the house down and the recording of this concert became the best-selling solo jazz album and the best-selling piano album of all time.

In some respects, our post-pandemic experience feels like being asked to perform on an unplayable piano. During an exceptionally challenging period, we longed for a time when we could step back out onto the stage of our lives, free of restrictions. Baruch Hashem, this has indeed transpired, but the world we have returned to is not the one we expected. The enduring impact of the pandemic and the devastating invasion of Ukraine have been compounded by political instability both at home and abroad. Many people are struggling financially. Significant aspects of our national infrastructure, from healthcare to travel seems to be in turmoil. Many societies are polarised and fractious. We are far from where we want to be.

Rabbi Joseph B Soloveitchik differentiated between the concepts of 'Goral' (fate) and 'Yiud' (destiny). Our fate is the hand of cards that we are dealt; our destiny is the way we choose to play it. Responding positively to the external forces beyond our control, we have the capacity to carve out a glorious destiny by adapting, learning from our challenges and becoming stronger because of them.

In Parashat Noach, Hashem declares, "When I cause clouds to cloud over the Earth, then the rainbow will be seen amongst the clouds." The most spectacular rainbows, bathing the heavens in an arc of beautiful colour, are not created despite the clouds, but precisely because of them.

Like a rainbow of spectacular beauty breaking through the darkest of storm clouds, you have responded to the pandemic with an unprecedented outpouring of lovingkindness, fundraising and volunteering. However, as we consider our shared purpose over these High Holydays, many serious challenges remain. This is a time to focus on our spirituality and the real purpose of our existence, to redouble our commitment to our families, as well as to our communities and to society, and to do more for the most vulnerable. In this spirit, we will succeed in not only playing the unplayable piano, but also in creating something of immeasurable and lasting value.

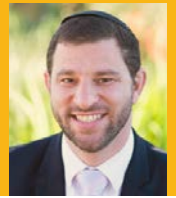
Valerie and I extend our heartfelt wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



Rosh Hashanah Message



This last year has been a veritable roller coaster for the United Kingdom. We have seen the fall of our Prime Minister, and a massive rise in the cost of living which affects every one of us. We have watched in horror as Russia has unleashed its armies upon Ukraine. The world's weather patterns are clearly changing, and London experienced its hottest ever temperatures during July, and with it comes the realisation of how the world is changing, because of its lack of care for the environment. There have been positive elements as well. The Queen celebrated her platinum jubilee, and we all celebrated together with her as she continues to reign over this country.

What will be next for the United Kingdom and the world? Will we prosper? Will we fall? Will the new Prime Minister be able to create cohesion within the House of Commons, and forge a positive direction in the future? Will the cost of living drop? Further afield, will the war in the Ukraine cease? Will the coming year be a happier, more positive year than the one we have experienced?

This is exactly the question that we should be asking ourselves on the High Holy Days. In fact, according to Jewish belief every single one of these questions and more will be discussed in the celestial court of heaven, and be signed and sealed by the Almighty himself. In the moving prayer, "UNETANA TOKEF", the most important questions will be asked:

How many will pass away and how many will be created, who will live and who will die; who will come to his timely end, and who to an untimely end; ..., who will be at rest and who will wander about; who will have serenity and who will be confused; who will be tranquil and who will be tormented; who will become poor and who will become wealthy; who will be brought to a low state and who will be uplifted.

It is a frightening prayer, showing the ultimate decisions which are made on this day: life, death, upliftment and torment, rest and tranquillity are the questions at stake, **not only for us, but for the entire world**. These questions are answered by the Holy One Blessed be He.

Judaism has an answer for a better tomorrow. It doesn't lie in the world of politics. It can't be answered through a better prime minister, or more effective campaigning. It doesn't lie with the armies of Russia or with the supplies given by France and the United Kingdom to the Ukraine armies. The answer provided in our prayers include the following words:

REPENTANCE, PRAYER AND CHARITY WILL REMOVE THE EVIL DECREE

At first sight, this response seems overly naive. How will my repentance, prayer or charity change the fate of the world? If the war is going to stop, it will stop due to secret talks held behind closed doors between Putin and Zelensky, not through the few pounds which are given to charity. If the price of living drops, it will be due to a decision made in the Treasury, not through the prayer that I make?

The first thing that Judaism is making us deal with head on is the idea of personal responsibility. We are being told here that the world and what happens in it does depend on our actions. We may be very far away from the halls of Westminster, but somehow we make a difference. We may have nothing to do with the war in the Ukraine, but acts of taking charge of ourselves create a different world.

There is a lovely example of this in the Torah. Abraham lived near the areas of Sodom and Gemora, places well known for their cruelty and debauchery. Before His decision to destroy these evil people, G-d decides to inform Abraham of his intentions. The Malbim (1809-1879), a great commentator on both the Torah and the Tanach, points out that G-d let Abraham know about his plans for Sodom and Gemora not out of courtesy to the great man. Rather, the Malbim suggests that these places of evil were destroyed because of Abraham. Abraham, through his monotheism and kindness to others created a standard of being - a measurement against which the rest of the world needed to evaluate their behaviour, and their awareness of G-d. When Sodom and Gemora failed to meet the expectations as set through Abraham's behaviour, they became worthy of destruction. Abraham was therefore able to effect the fate of nations, **dependent on the way he lived his life**. His actions, his charity and prayers created a gold standard of behaviour, and that created a result which affected the fate of a whole country.

This idea that one person can affect the lives of others is reinforced in the prayers of Rosh Hashanah. We pray for a moment in time when all the Jewish people will become one - where we become united in our service of G-d. This is more than just a desire for unity - it is for a recognition that we do not live in isolation. Our actions affect not only ourselves; they have the power to influence others. We are powerful beings, and the things that we do make a difference, not only to ourselves, but to our families, and from our families to our communities and from there to our society, and ultimately to the world.

The fate of the world lies in our hands. We have this magnificent power to change the world. The world changes when we change, and we can affect the world for good. Who will live and who will die, who will be enriched and who will be impoverished is not the province of the powerful and the wealthy. It is the province of you or I. Our transformation makes the world turn around.

I wish you all a wonderful Yom Tov. May we all merit to have only a good, sweet year filled with only tranquillity, health and happiness. May we have a year of peace, and the end of all wars.

With love

Rabbi Steven and Siobhan, Maya and Talia Dansky



Chairman's Report

It gives me great pleasure to write this, my first Chairman's report. I would like to start by thanking you all for putting your faith and trust in me.

Shortly after the AGM, I received an email from one of our Past Chairman, who said:- "It is an onerous position and one that will give you enormous pleasure but also a lot of aggravation". In the short time I have been Chairman, I can honestly say, the pleasure has far outweighed the aggravation.

Shabbat UK was a resounding success and all the events held in honour of this, were extremely well attended. It was heart-warming to see the Shul so busy at the Shabbat morning service and the Hall filled with happy and smiling faces at the wonderful lunch after the service. A massive thank you to Claire and everybody who helped her over the few days.

Shavuot was another great success. The ice cream kiddushim were very much appreciated and again thank you to everyone who helped out. Also Kol Hakavod to Simon Stern for the wonderful Tikun that he arranged. The turn out for this was simply quite amazing.

The Executive and Council have been liaising with the United Synagogue to implement their Project Welcome initiative. This is aimed at trying to reconnect our members with the Shul after the Pandemic. We have many very exciting projects in the pipeline, where, with the help of the US, we are planning a number of events that we hope will cater for all the age groups amongst our membership.

By the time you read this, we will have carried out a refurbishment to the men's toilets, the disabled WC and the Bridal Room and hope that you will be pleased with the results. We also have plans for refurbishing other areas in the Shul which we will discuss at a later date.

We will have also held our first "Meet the Executive and Rabbi Sunday Brunch" where we outlined our plans for taking the Shul forward. Together with the Executive and Council we want to make you all feel included and have the ability to present your thoughts and comments.

With regard to the "aggravation", it is unfortunate that there still seems to be an undercurrent of discontent. I can assure you all, the Executive and Council are working hard to try and make our Shul happy and inclusive and to be the Hub of our wonderful community. We urge you all to support and back us and should you have any concerns, please call us, we are only too happy to listen and where we can, implement any suggestions you may have. Our aim is to help restore this Community to its rightful position as one of the friendliest and most influential communities within the US network; we need your help to achieve this.

Thank you to Rabbi Dansky and Reverend Newman for all your hard work and also thank you to our Admin staff for helping to keep the Shul running. My final thank you is to the Executive and Synagogue Council, their hard work and enthusiasm helps to make my position so much easier.

Finally, I wish you all a happy, healthy and sweet New Year and well over the Fast.

Bernard Berman

Chairman, Cranbrook United Synagogue

ShabbatUK -

13-14 May 2022

Philippa Stanton

Shabbat UK was celebrated in style - we got off to an good start with a wonderful Sushi Reception followed by our Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday, 13th May.

On Shabbat, following the beautiful service in which our guest Chazan David Rome and the shul choir took a major part, over 100 people sat down to a sumptuous meat meal.

During lunch, we were delighted to welcome Rachel Creeger, the "local" stand-up comedian, who gave us an idea of the Jewish spiel she gives in her stage appearances.

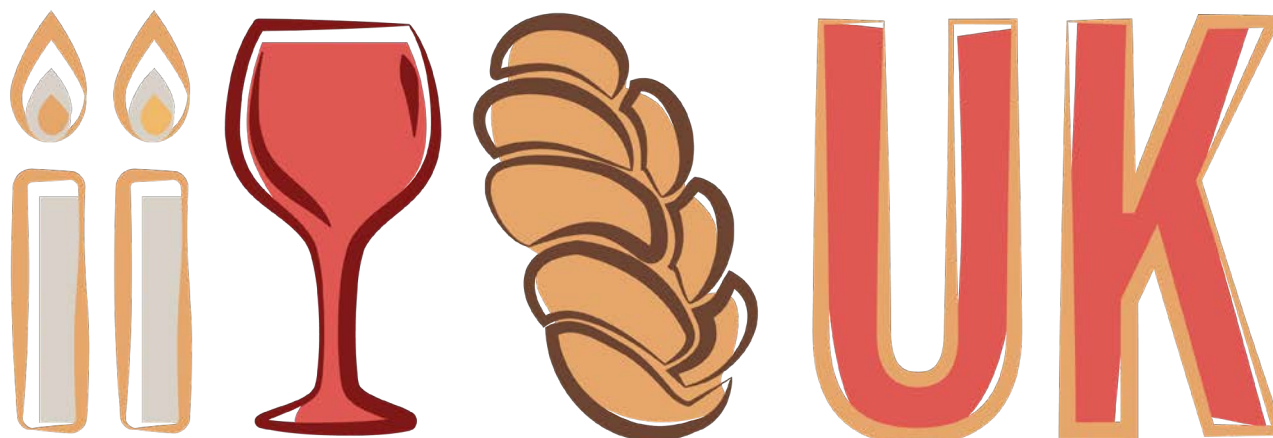
We then had a break for the delicious sweet after which Rabbi Danski took to the stage and interviewed Rachel about her life and career since she left school in Essex.

During the lunch, Rabbi Dansky also spoke about the Art and Writing Competition in which members of the Children's Service were asked to create a piece of artwork or writing to celebrate Shabbat UK, and presented certificates and prizes to the lucky winners.

The day's entertainment finished with Grace after Meals, following which the men adjourned to the shul for Mincha.

It was great to meet our friends again after the restrictions during Covid.

Our thanks go to Harold Marco and the Education Committee who designed the event, and to Claire and her team who, as usual, did an excellent job catering for the week-end.



A Truly

Sweet New Year



Rabbi Steven Dansky

***“Dip the apple in the Honey
Make a bracha loud and clear
L’shana Tova U’metuka
May you have a sweet new year”***

As a child I was taught this song, which explains that we have an apple dipped in honey as a symbol for a new year. Where did this custom start?

The Talmud does mention certain foods which should be eaten on Rosh Hashanah, are listed by Abbaye as gourds, beets and dates. These particular foods are singled out for their specific positive attributes: their sweet taste, their rapid growth or that their name simply alludes to, or reminds us of, a good omen. Apples are not mentioned.

The Tur, one of the first compendiums of Halacha mentions that the custom of eating apples dipped in honey was an extension of eating sweet foods like dates, and originated in Germany. Rabbi Yoel Sirkus who lived from 1561-1640 states that this was a custom that goes back further than the Germans. He points out that this was a custom which originated with the Goanim who lived about seven hundred years before him. What is interesting is that he suggests that apples and honey are eaten - not necessarily together.

Of all the sweet things in the world, why were apples and honey chosen?

Rabbi Elijah of Vilna suggests the custom of eating apples comes from a verse in Song of Songs which states:

“Like an apple tree amongst the trees of the forest so is my beloved amongst the youths. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit are sweet to my cheeks.”

This verse is a metaphor for the Jewish people who compare G-d to an apple tree which provides sustenance amongst all the other trees of the forest which are bereft of any food. The Jew desires to sit under G-d’s shade chewing on a sweet apple - in other words completely reliant on the Almighty both for his physical surroundings as well as food. Perhaps this is the reason that we eat apples to symbolise that we are confident that the Almighty will take care of us - giving us a roof over our head, and something sweet in our mouths.

The sages note that while an apple tree may produce lovely fruit, it doesn’t provide the best shade. Yet Solomon, the author

of the Song of Songs chooses this tree for its shade. Why would he do such a thing? Rashi explains that the following:

“All flee from the apple tree because it provides no shade. This is an allegory for the moment G-d gave his Torah to the world. All the nations of the world fled from that opportunity, but the Jewish people sat and delighted in the Torah, as one who delights in sitting in the shade on a hot day.”

The Apple tree is thus a metaphor not only for the giving of the Torah, but **also** for the Jews’ delight in receiving it. We eat the apples together with the honey to show how sweet the Torah truly is, and how delighted we are to be a part of this heritage.

Eating apples with honey is therefore more than just a quaint custom. It is an announcement of our joy in being taken care of by the Master of the World, and our delight in being the benefactors of his greatest gift to us, the Torah. It is therefore not only a tasty custom, but one which will stand us in good stead for the coming year. May we all be written in for a truly **sweet** new year.

View from the

Balcony



Claire Barzilai

The period following Pesach has been hectic. The AGM took place in May which saw a few changes to the Shul Executive this year; Bernard Berman our new Chair and Simon Stern a new Warden. They have both brought new energy and vision to our Shul which has in turn created a feeling of positivity and generated a newfound enthusiasm within the Kehilla.

Bernard is a young, dynamic businessman who is working very hard to turn things around. He is always available and willing to listen. Simon Stern organised a wonderful Tikkun Leil Shavuot which was attended by over forty people. This event was the catalyst of the warmth and feeling of inclusion felt by many in the Shul.

This year, I am both Vice Chair and Women's Officer. I have been working closely with Bernard Berman to move forward with a new inclusive approach. We have brought in some new initiatives and have lots of plans for the future.

We have hosted our first Meet the Executive on a Sunday morning where members can come and ask the Rabbi and members of the Executive questions about the Shul and what we are planning. This initiative from Bernard, to foster transparency with the Shul Community was the first of its kind in the United Synagogue and was very well received.

Shabbat UK was a phenomenal success. After two years of lockdown, we kicked off with a Challah Make, which I hosted in the Shul Hall for forty women. It was a really fun evening with a wide age range of people, many who had never made challah before. This was followed by a wonderful lunch for over eighty people. There was a fantastic warm atmosphere. The food was wonderful. We had lively entertainment provided by Rabbi Dansky and Rachel Kreiger, which was enjoyed by all. It was amazing to have so many people back in the Shul. This event wouldn't be possible without all the help from our wonderful volunteers who are too numerous to mention. Special mention of thanks to Joanne Green, Norma Levinson, Ruth Lyndon and Ruth Abrahams for their unwavering help.

As I write, the men's toilets, disabled and bridal rooms have been upgraded as well as the introduction of much needed baby changing facilities. They were in vital need of remodelling and now look stylish and fresh. Once all the works have been completed we are looking to have a relaunch Prosecco afternoon tea with a very special guest speaker.

We have moved the mechitza for the Yomim Noriam into the shul which we hope will enable the women who sit downstairs to feel more included in the shul proceedings. As an executive we are looking at other ways to make everyone feel listened too and a

part of the community. Please contact me if you have any ideas.

The ladies Tea and Chat on a Thursday afternoon is on hiatus for the summer months. I hope we will resume in the autumn/winter. New initiatives will be coming through as the year progresses. I will also be continuing to work for women's inclusivity within our Kehilla.

Ashleigh Stern is continuing to do a fantastic job with the Children's Service. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her on passing her PGCE. She begins her first teaching job as a primary school teacher in September, where I'm sure she'll excel.

I continue to work closely with Warden Harold Marco on many aspects of shul life and thank him for all his help. I would also like to give special thanks to Estelle and Michelle in the office for their continued support. All our events would not be able to go ahead without the help of Jeff Faber, Robin Abrahams and CST who I would also like to thank.

I wish you all Shana Tova Umetukah.

From the *Wardens Box*

I must say, as the "Freshman" Warden, that the view from the Box since taking my seat has been one which has become more encouraging with every week that passes. The world has become a different place since the pandemic and the shuls and congregations are no exception, having suffered from both the closures and terrible losses within the wider communities.

Cranbrook United Synagogue are bucking the general trend of shul attendance and attendance at Community events. It might surprise people to learn that literally across North and North West London so many shuls are struggling and cannot get Minyanim in the mornings or even for Kabbalat Shabbat; which is why I have been so happy to be part of a new dynamic Executive and Council who are successfully invigorating the Shul. The attendance has increased on both Shabbat and Kabbalat Shabbat, which, even if I say so myself are beautiful.

We have also managed successfully to reinstate the Shacharit Minyanim on Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Rosh Chodesh. We appreciate all the support we currently receive, but it would be lovely for more of our members to join us; (You never know you might enjoy it!).

I couldn't finish without thanking my predecessor Malcolm Nathan who has offered his support, and who has worked tirelessly through the years; and whilst I am on the subject of working tirelessly, I would personally like to thank Harold Marco who remarkably still has a full head of hair despite almost certainly wanting to pull his hair out watching me learn the ropes. Thank you Harold.

Wishing you all a sweet and healthy New Year and looking forward to welcoming you all into a newly refurbished shul.

Simon Stern



YOUR SHUL NEEDS YOU!

#MenForOurMinyan



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in a week, can you
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Contact Robin Abrahams 07956 617 669
webmaster@cranbrooksynagogue.org.uk

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WITH



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<https://tinyurl.com/yytlvhlx>

Zoom details: <https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/87995864875>
Meeting ID: 879 9586 4875
Passcode: 686923



Our Community *Welfare Minister*

The past year has been rather challenging but, with help from my committee, I have continued with my normal work, looking after the community in general, and attending lavoyers and stone settings where I am able to help those close family members. I also continue to visit hospitals when our members are unfortunately taken ill and visit members at home to give moral support whenever I can. I'm Chaplain to King George Hospital and Queens Hospital which I visit on a regular basis and also visit other hospitals if I know of a member who has been admitted. I rely on members informing the office if they or a loved one go into hospital, or is ill at home and wants a visit.

I hold regular "Tea and Chat" on Zoom once a fortnight on Tuesday afternoons which are very successful and we hope to arrange more functions in the shul hall.

Members are called on a regular basis by the Committee who tend to the needs of those who are vulnerable, including people who are unwell, bereaved and lonely. This is co-ordinated by our vice-chairman, Iris Taylor, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Iris, Claire Barzilai and all our volunteers for their outstanding and dedicated work.

We work very closely with Chesed, the United Synagogue Welfare Organisation, who are exceptionally supportive.

I would like to thank Harold Marco, who continues to work exceptionally hard for the community and is a tower of strength for me personally. I also value the support of the Executive and Members of the Council of Management, and our Administrators.

My thanks also to Mervyn Lyndon for his outstanding year as chairman of the Welfare Committee.

I am delighted to welcome more people back in shul and hope to see more of our congregation as matters continue to improve.

Once again I must thank my wife, Gillian, who also volunteers to help those who are less fortunate, and is the most wonderful help to me as Welfare Minister.

Gillian and I together with our children and grandchildren would like to take this opportunity of wishing the entire community a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year and well over the fast.

Reverend Gary Newman
Community Welfare Minister



Visit to the *Holocaust Centre* and Museum



On the 1st May 2022, members of the shul, their friends and family met at Gants Hill for a visit by coach to the Beth Shalom Nottingham Holocaust Centre and Museum.

The Holocaust Centre was opened in 1995 by two Christian brothers, Steven and James Smith, who became interested in the plight of the Jews in the Holocaust during a visit to Israel. The Centre provides education facilities for school parties and is a place for tracing historical facts and learning, and where survivors can come to reflect on the past, present and future.

The coach arrived shortly before 1pm and we had a zoom presentation with a Holocaust survivor. The lady told us how her family survived during the war. We learnt about the child refugees on the kinder transport.

After the presentation we tucked into our lunch so that we could explore the centre, the museum which is situated in the basement and the memorial stones in the beautiful gardens with over 1,000 roses and the pond and waterfall. It was a most enlightening experience. We arrived home at 7.30 pm.

Sandra Angel



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FOR FURTHER DETAILS



Philippa Stanton

I have always cooked my own soups, casseroles, cakes, etc, and even baked the odd (and it was rather odd) loaf of bread, but I have never managed to produce a challah for Shabbat. So when I heard that there was going to be a Challah Bake at our Synagogue on 12 May, I felt I must take part.

When I arrived at the Shul there were a number of tables set out with bowls and with all the challah ingredients weighed and ready for use. There were five ladies on my table, some who had made challah before and some, like me, who were new to the job! But we were all very enthusiastic!

Claire Barzilai showed us how to add the yeast to the water and sugar, and while this was left to froth for a short time, we put the flour in the bowl, opened the egg and then prepared to mix all the ingredients together. Now came the hard bit - we hand mixed everything well and kneaded the dough until it was sufficiently pliable. We then covered the bowl of dough and left it to rise.

As we had 45-60 minutes to wait, Claire had prepared a Quiz for us to take part in. My table decided to join forces and we all had some input into the answers to the questions. There was a lot of laughter when we had to identify "well-known" people from photographs taken at unusual angles! It was great fun. We managed quite well, but did not win the box of chocolates prize!

We then returned to our challah - taking a piece of the dough and saying the appropriate blessing.

Then came the really difficult bit - shaping the dough. Fortunately, Claire took pity on me and came and showed me how to make the large round challah, and one of our team demonstrated how to make challah rolls. I soon got the idea, and managed to produce one large challah, two twisted challahs and three rolls! I was delighted.

At this point, we had to allow the challahs to rise; so we placed them all on trays, covered them and took them home to bake. I had been advised not to place them in the fridge overnight, so on arriving home, thanks to a lift from Joanne, I decided to bake them straight away.

First I brushed them with beaten egg, and then put them in the oven in two batches. In next to no time, the first batch was done - they smelt wonderful! In fact I was so overcome by the delicious smell, that I cut one hot roll in half, spread it with butter and ate it with a cup of tea!

It was delicious! I served the other challahs on Friday evening and Shabbat and was delighted with the results!

My thanks to Claire and her team for organising such an enjoyable evening!



CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe New Year

This Rosh Hashanah, we look forward to being able to join together and celebrate as fully as we have been able to for some time. Throughout the pandemic, CST has been here, working to continue to protect our community, navigating the many challenges that the last two-and-a-half years have provided.

Reports of anti-Jewish hate in the UK reached an all-time high in 2021 when Israel was at war; events in Buffalo, New York and Colleyville, Texas have shown that extremists from across the ideological spectrum often hold antisemitic beliefs at the core of their worldview, and are prepared to carry out terrorism at any time, anywhere. We know from bitter experience that hatred festers in times of economic uncertainty and that, unfortunately, the Jewish community suffers the sharp edge of society's need to find a scapegoat. We must be alive to the dangers that confront us.

In light of these realities, and as the world returns to something approaching what we knew before, CST's commitment to guaranteeing the safety of our community to the best of our ability is unwavering. This is a duty we always approach with a great sense of responsibility, humility and pride. After a period when all activity has been somewhat limited, we

emerge strong, focused and ready to play our part in facilitating the thriving of Jewish life in the New Year.

To fulfil this purpose, we rely on the work and dedication of our fantastic volunteers. They are the people without whom our entire mission would fall apart.

Our volunteers receive the most up to date training in modern-day security tactics. On our training courses you will be given the knowledge and skills needed to not only protect yourself, but the friends, family and community you are perhaps sitting among today. Our dynamic sessions, delivered by expert instructors, will not only educate you on the various threats to the Jewish community, but also how to combat them. Physical training in self defence, problem solving under pressure, teamwork, camaraderie and fun are all components of the course. All CST's training courses are free of charge.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a CST volunteer security officer, or any other training offered by CST please contact us at recruitment@cst.org.uk.

From everyone at CST, we wish you a safe, Happy New Year and meaningful fast.



Scan the QR code to visit CST's social media accounts

www.cst.org.uk

National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**

Security Update

Our immediate area has seen the killing of an innocent young girl walking home at night. It was a violent murder and our condolences go to the family.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding our members that **all of us** must play a part in ensuring the safety of our fellow members.

Only a few weeks ago a complete stranger entered the building. Nobody stopped or questioned her. She had free access to the entire building. Unfortunately she was a beggar. Who knows what she took.

We ask that each of you remain vigilant when entering and leaving the building. Sadly, we live in dangerous times and cannot afford to be complacent. Your co-operation is vitally important.

Should a stranger try and gain access we would advise the following: -

- Ask if they have booked in with the office
- Ask their name and address and whether they have proof of identity
- Ask why they are here
- Ask if they know anyone inside the building who could vouch for them

IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT. Close the front door and call 999.

This is our Synagogue - it is up to each and every one of us to protect it and our members.

The CST has a monthly report published today itemising all the Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. For example: "Jews organised the COVID virus. The vaccine was produced by Israel to control the world." This is no joke. 112 conspiracy theories are active on the net.

Please help report every incident no matter how small. We cannot do this alone.

Jeff Faber

Security Officer

A MAN

For All Seasons

Bernard Chaplin was our Treasurer and I was the Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee for the then Newbury Park Synagogue over a period of 16 years before we joined forces with Clayhall Synagogue to form Redbridge United Synagogue, where we met Colin Emden for the first time.

Colin helped us no end in explaining the workings of Sinclair House, together with the many rules and regulations we had to adhere to. He knew where everything had been stored from Newbury Park - and believe me there was a lot - especially as he did most of the schlepping to get it moved over. He even constructed a storage cupboard for our own use.

Our first fundraiser together was a Cabaret Evening on Sunday 1st February, 2015. We had a terrific response attracting 134 guests and raising £1,343. Colin knew the area where the many tables would fit in, some in the well, and some on the stage area; we just left him in charge.

We all became very good friends and working with him was a real privilege.

It was such a sad day for us all when he was no longer with us, but this gentleman will be remembered by so many from preparing the Succah with his dear wife Carole, his work with CST and we are sure there were numerous other tasks he undertook not only for the Shul, but for Redbridge and the wider community.

During the enjoyable four years we all worked together from February 2015 to January 2019 the sum of £11,250 was raised for Redbridge United Synagogue.

Colin will be deeply missed by us all.

Liz Levison and Bernard Chaplin

Ex-Fundraising Chairperson & Hon Treasurer
Newbury Park/Redbridge Synagogues



September 2022 / Tishri 5783

Message from the President

For the past two years this message has focused on a pandemic which took our loved ones from us, destroyed incomes and tore families apart. Mercifully, the worst appears to have passed but, despite this, life for many of us has not been easy this year. The cost of living has spiralled out of control, with energy prices and household bills at a higher level than any of us can remember. Like the Covid epidemic which preceded it, there is not a huge amount any of us can do to change the situation as individuals. However, as a community, what we saw during Covid was a wonderful willingness to help our friends and neighbours, the elderly and the less able among us. This spirit is just what we need now when so many people are experiencing so much hardship. I hope and trust that we are all doing everything we can to help those in need.

Of course, we don't need to be reminded that there are millions suffering in Ukraine, as Russia continues its senseless aggression there. We continue to both be inspired by the resolve of the Ukrainian people, and to pray for peace. I urge all those who are able to donate towards the charities collecting on behalf of the victims of this terrible conflict.

On a happier note, this summer we celebrate the second anniversary of the Abraham Accords which brought together Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco in a landmark agreement which has sparked new hope in the Middle East and the prospect of a peaceful future to the region. Sadly, not all parties have bought into the spirit of reconciliation which is why we campaigned hard for the UK Government to ban Hamas in its entirety and were delighted with the legislation which means that the organisation is no longer able to lobby for support in this country.

Over the past 12 months, we have advocated for the small but vibrant Belfast community which found itself struggling for its very existence after the Northern Ireland Protocol cut off its supply of kosher food.

When local, regional and Devolved Assembly Elections took place, we ensured that every candidate had access to a copy of our Jewish Manifestos, which outlined all of the key areas of interest and concern for Jewish communities across the country. And online, thanks to Board of Deputies campaigning, the Government wrote to social media companies asking for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism so that racists will no longer be able to harass Jewish users with impunity.

Recent weather events have highlighted the importance of action against climate change. We have been working with our partner organisation EcoSynagogue to make a difference within our community and were out in force at the COP26 summit last November.

We are also working to facilitate the implementation of the ground-breaking Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community, which considered 17 areas of Jewish communal life and made 119 recommendations. We provide official inspection of religious education in Jewish schools through the Pikuach organisation and our team monitors and protects our religious freedoms.

The Board of Deputies is here to help and support Jews across the UK, whatever their interests and concerns.

I wish everyone a Shana Tovah and a happy year ahead.

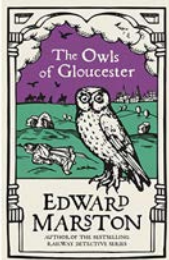
Marie van der Zyl

**President
Board of Deputies of British Jews**

A FEW MORE BOOKS TO

While Away The Time

Ruth Lyndon



EDWARD MARSTON – THE OWLS OF GLOUCESTER

Edward Marston has written many books, mostly detective novels, but set in different time periods. This was the tenth book in a series set in the years after the Battle of Hastings when William the Conqueror wanted to record the land usage of England in the Domesday Book. You can read it as a stand-alone book as there weren't many references to earlier books and what there were, was explained easily. Two Royal Commissioners, Ralph Delchard and Gervase Bret, travel the land adjudicating on land claims and solving murders. They are two likeable characters and the books give you a sense of the era. They are easy to read books with enjoyable storylines. I definitely will try and read the others in the series and maybe try his other books too.



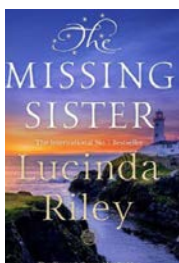
MARI HANNAH – HER LAST REQUEST

Why and how can a murder victim write a note to the detective trying to solve the case giving clues to find her killer? And who is the person she tells the detective to find? At other times you see the case through the killer's eyes. No spoilers, but this is a very unusual case, almost back to front. A terrific book with very well written characters. It was yet another time when I have read a book from a series but, again, back stories from the characters are explained but not intrusive.



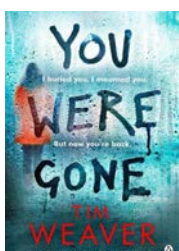
MARK BILLINGHAM – RABBIT HOLE

I have read a lot of Mark Billingham's books but this was amazing. It is set in a psychiatric ward and the characters and their illnesses have been very well researched. You are fed clues bit by bit and as soon as you reckon you have worked out who the killer is, something happens and blows your theory out of the water! And the twist at the end? I dare anyone to see that coming!



LUCINDA RILEY – THE MISSING SISTER (JUST TO PROVE I DON'T ONLY READ DETECTIVE NOVELS!)

This is her latest book and was supposedly to be the last in the Seven Sisters series; but Lucinda Riley found that all the ends couldn't be tied up even in a book of 800 pages so a (definitely) last book is coming out in 2023. (It will be ghost written by her son as unfortunately, she died earlier this year). Yes, we do find out who the "missing" sister is and this time the story is set in Ireland in the 1920's, a very turbulent period for the country. The story also takes the reader to New Zealand, Paris, London and Norfolk Island, a tiny dot just off the Australian coast. Sometimes, I admit, I found her writing a little stilted but the story kept me wanting to know more and now, having read all the other books, how will I not read the last one?



TIM WEAVER – YOU WERE GONE

Tim Weaver is one of my favourite writers. His stories are so clever and intricate and gripping. David Raker is a missing persons investigator who, unfortunately lost his wife to cancer eight year's ago. So how can a woman walk into a police station claiming to be his wife and know such intimate things about their marriage? How can he start to try and sort things out when even the police suspect him of lying? It is very cleverly written and you even start to ...maybe... doubt him yourself. I couldn't put this book down and spent a few evenings going to bed far too late because of it!

Israel's

74TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Linda and Philippa Stanton

On Thursday May 5, 2022, Israel celebrated its 74th Anniversary. We have attended Israel's birthday on several occasions in the past. In 1998 we were in Israel with the JIA [now the United Jewish Israel Appeal] for the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel; we danced in the streets of Jerusalem and watched fireworks with the Israelis! We also met the President, Prime Minister and other notables.

On Thursday May 8, 2008 we attended the Israel 60 Show at Wembley Arena in London to celebrate Israel's 60th Anniversary, and were addressed by Israel's [then] Ambassador to Britain, Ron Prozor.

In 2018, we were among one hundred and fifty people who spent five days in Israel with the United Synagogue for Israel's 70th birthday celebration. We covered many important events leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel, including a visit to the interactive museum on Mount Herzl showing the life of Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism, whose tomb lies on Mount Herzl together with other dignitaries; the Atlit Detainee Camp site which is now a Museum where we heard from [then] ninety-one year old Moshe Klein - who was a member of Palmach at the age of twenty - his story of helping Jews escape from the Camp to prevent them from being expelled from Palestine. We also visited Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed on 14 May, 1948 after the end of the British Mandate; the Kotel in Jerusalem, the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv, and we had tea with the British Ambassador to Israel, at his home.

Unfortunately, we were unable to visit Israel this year, so we were delighted to receive an invitation from **Technion UK** to attend an Israel 74 Celebration Lunch at South Hampstead Synagogue on May 5th. As well as meeting a number of friends and Israel supporters, we were entertained by the wonderful musician **Yisrael Ernest** who came from Israel especially for this event.



We also met the speaker, **Baroness Ruth Deech DBE**, a British academic, lawyer, bioethicist and politician who currently sits as a Crossbench peer in the House of Lords, who welcomed friends of Israel.

Ruth said that Israel is there for us. She recalled as a child, listening to the vote in the UN and celebrating the hope of all who had lived through the war. Up until Independence Day, Great Britain closed Israel - then known as the Palestine Mandate - to all Jews including those trying to escape Nazi persecution; there was no Israel to which to turn. Today we believe this will never happen again. Israel will take us in with open arms. We all know that and it gives us confidence and faith and we pray for the security of Israel now and always.

One must never take one's place in Britain for granted but must do what we can to show Israel in its true perspective. The Western European Press is obsessed with the Palestinian Issue, but this is not true with the press of the rest of the world. Israel is a leader in technology and in peace.

Israel was a backward, desert country full of disease, today Israel is strong. Its economy is self-sufficient in gas. The UK is negotiating a trade deal with Israel; at present Israel provides 20% of the National Health drugs.

The 40 year "log jam" in relations with the Arab world since the Begin/Sadat agreement was broken when the Abraham Accords were signed in August 2020 with the United Arab Emirates, thanks to (then) President Donald Trump and (then) Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - possibly the most important breakthrough with the Arabs. Morocco later joined the UAE, Bahrain and Sudan in formalising ties with Israel. Israelis are now visiting Dubai, Morocco and Egypt - they are more worried about Covid than about security!

Unfortunately President Biden does not seem to

understand the dangers in giving in to Iran again over the central nuclear arms agreement. He is making it easier for them by removing sanctions and Iran will press on regardless to create a nuclear weapon. However, Israel's defences are strong. The only defence for a people is their own state.

Today, Israel takes Jews in with open arms. No European country would help Israel when it was attacked by the five Arab countries on Yom Kippur 1973. Israel was near to collapse until the USA stepped in. Planes had to refuel in the Azores, because no European country would allow them to land. Unfortunately the West stands back when lives and independence are under attack for fear of retaliation. The people from Ukraine are having the same problem. To date Israel has welcomed 15,000 people from the Ukraine. It has also provided a state-of-the-art field hospital in the Ukraine.

We understand that 93% of Israel Arabs prefer to remain under Israel rule as they are prosperous. 20% of the people working for Technion are Israeli Arabs. Half of the newly qualified doctors in Israel are Arab.

Israel is self sufficient and its economy is great. Israel is also the 9th happiest country in the world - the United Kingdom is 17th!

We hope to visit Israel next year for its 75th Anniversary.



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Technion is a special place where dreams come true. It is home to thousands of the finest minds and talents from all over the world. These students, researchers, professors and educators come to Technion with an insatiable thirst for knowledge and the belief that science, progress and education will bring peace, harmony and welfare to mankind.

CONTACT US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE

ceo@technionuk.org
62 Grosvenor Street, London W1K 3JF
020 7495 6824

Saved by the Sofer



Chaim Levison, Jerusalem

This is a true story related to me by my father-in-law Reb Tzvi Stolovitzki z"l. Tzvi was born in the summer of 1922 in the town of Stolpce (pronounced Stoiptz), eastern Poland. The youngest of six sons born to Devora (ne'e Rozovski) and Elyakim Stolovitzki. Elyakim was a Sofer, like his father Yehuda Leib before him. When Tzvi was just seven years old his father passed away and one of his brothers died shortly afterwards. The eldest boy Gedalia, who was 17 years older than Tzvi, had already emigrated to Russia and Tzvi was brought up by his mother and his three other brothers Shlomo, Moshe and Chaim. Shlomo was also a Sofer whilst Moshe and Chaim made Tefillin 'Batim' and parchment. When I became a Sofer thirty years ago Tzvi was so pleased, maybe he felt I was continuing the work of his ancestors.

Just before his Bar Mitzvah Tzvi went to learn in the Yeshiva of Rabbi Elchanan Wasserman in Baranovitch. After four years by 'Reb Elchonon', as



Rabbi Elchanan Wasserman 1938

he was known, Tzvi was accepted to the famous Mir Yeshiva. However, he was in 'the Mir' for only six months since the Nazis had invaded Poland and were rapidly advancing eastwards. Most of the yeshiva students who had come to Mir from all over Europe, and even America, could not return home to their families so the yeshiva decided to move everyone to Vilna, which was still under Russian control, however students like Tzvi, who lived nearby, went home. The Nazis occupied Stoiptz and within a few weeks hundreds of the town's Jews had been shot dead. Tzvi's mother and brothers were forced to live in the Stoiptz ghetto, but he was sent to a labour camp in Baranovitch. My shver (father-in-law) told me that he survived the Holocaust due to an incident involving Reb Elchonon, his old Rosh

Yeshiva. What did he mean?

During month of Ellul it's common to find a Shofar in Shul since we blow every day after shacharit. Boys will be boys, and many youngsters (and some not so young) like to 'have a go' at blowing the shofar when no-one is around. The Baranovitch Yeshiva in the late 1930's was no different and Tzvi and his teenage friends all had a go at blowing the shofar. When it was Tzvi's turn he closed his eyes and started blowing- Tekiah, Shvarim-Teruah, Tekiah, Tekiah-Shvarim, Tekiah. He kept blowing and blowing and was a little surprised that none of his friends were pestering him for their turn to blow. He opened his eyes to find a tall, saintly figure standing in front of him-it was Reb Elchonon! The Rosh Yeshiva told him that he blew shofar very well and asked him to blow the next morning at the yeshiva minyan. After davening Reb Elchonon called him over and told Tzvi that he would not be in the Yeshiva for Rosh Ha'Shana. The town had a major train terminal with trains arriving from six directions. Amongst the boarding houses that sprang up near the station for passengers waiting for their connection there was also a small kosher hotel, equipped with a shul and Sefer Torah, for Jews stranded there. Reb Elchonon, who apart from heading the local yeshiva was also the Rav of Baranovitch, knew that there would be Jews in the hotel over Rosh Ha'Shana and he wanted to make sure that they would have an organised minyan therefore, he sent boys from his yeshiva to daven for them. Tzvi was chosen to blow the shofar, a position he held for two years.

The labour camp in Baranovitch, where Tzvi was sent a year later, was situated near the train terminal. Every evening a truck arrived in the prison compound and four or five inmates loaded it with all the day's rubbish. They sat in the back of the truck amongst all the refuse and when they got to the dump, which was just outside the camp, they had to unload it. The



Tzvi (centre) in the Baranovitch Yeshiva 1938



Tzvi in Bnei Brak 1990

Poles, who worked as dustmen on the truck and in the dump, told the Jews that this was their chance to escape, and they even offered to help. It was true that they were outside the camp and security was lapse but the Jewish prisoners were in a dilemma-where would they go? None of them knew this area of Baranovitch and they would surely be caught before they could reach a safe place. Seventeen-year-old Tzvi was assigned the task of disposing of the rubbish about once a week and, unlike the others, he knew the area around the train station like the back of his hand. After being sent there by Reb Elchonon to blow the Shofar on Rosh Ha'Shana, Tzvi used to go back to the area quite often, always taking a different route. In this way he got to know all the side streets and alleyways around the train station. One night Tzvi decided that he was going to try to reach the partisans in the nearby woods. He thought that some of the Poles, who had encouraged them to escape, might help him but they all closed the door in his face. He gradually made his way out of the town, sometimes he stayed in the same hiding place for days, sometimes he proceeded just a few yards. He knew the area because Reb Elchonon had sent him there. Two months after escaping, and weighing just five stone, he finally reached the partisans.

Tzvi spent the rest of the war with the partisans. Food was scarce but at least he was alive. He told me of two Jewish brothers who decided to go into town to find food- they never returned. After the War, Tzvi went back to Stoiptz to search for any remaining members of his family-no-one had survived. His brother Shlomo was murdered in August 1941, his mother Devora in September 1942 and his brothers Moshe and Chaim with the remainder of the Stoiptz ghetto in February 1943, Hashem yikom damam. The local Poles laughed at the emaciated Jews

who wandered the streets enwrapped in blankets from the Red Cross. Tzvi heard them saying "Are there still Jews in the world?" He decided to settle in Israel. After passing through most of Europe he boarded a Hagana ship in Italy and finally reached the shores of Israel on Lag Ba'Omer 1946. In 1948 he was drafted into the, newly formed, IDF and during the war he lost an eye. He worked as a court clerk in Tel-Aviv for almost forty years. In 1957 he married Chana Maisel, who had made Aliya from Argentina. They had two children, Elyakim and Devora, named after his parents.

Tzvi co-authored the Stoiptz Memorial book with other survivors. In it, he wrote many articles about members of his family and some of the town's personalities, including famous Rabbis such as the Chazon Ish who had lived there during WWI. The book was printed in 1965 and contains a foreword written by Zalman Shazar, Israel's President from 1963-1973, who was born and raised in Stoiptz. In the early 1990's Tzvi and Chana flew to Moscow for an emotional meeting with his eldest brother Gedalia, who he hadn't seen for over sixty years. Tzvi passed away at the age of eighty-five, a month after the birth of his first great-grandson. There are seventeen grandchildren and thirty-four great-grandchildren, to date, bli ayin hara. It could be said that this is Tzvi's answer to the Nazis. About forty years ago Yad Vashem-the holocaust museum in Jerusalem - asked survivors to fill out testimonies about people they knew who had perished in the Holocaust. Tzvi received ten forms to fill out but he kept on asking for more. For many years he travelled around Israel interviewing former 'Stoiptzers' survivors from his town. In the end, Yad Vashem sent him a special tribute - he had returned, a record-breaking, 1519 forms!



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MY JEWISH

Way of Life

Gerry Goodman

I was born on March 6th 1941 at Hackney Hospital, Homerton High Street, Hackney E8. I was evacuated when I was three years old to Bournemouth with my mum.

I can remember when the war was over; we had a street party with all wooden benches along our road, which was in Stamford Hill behind Stamford Hill Station. There was bunting and Union Jacks all along the street - Daleview Road where I lived. Lots of food, sandwiches and cakes for all the children. Believe it if you like, I went to Yesodihatorah School in Amhurst Park.

Then we moved to Riverside Road, South Tottenham. I went to school at Crowland Road, and had my Bar Mitzvah at Crowland Road Synagogue with Rabbi Unterman, who later moved to Israel. After my Bar Mitzvah, like all Jewish boys of our generation, we thought "that's it". We didn't have to go to shul any more. So we went into the big wide world where we started working for a living.

I met my future wife, Sylvia, outside the bowling alley in Stamford Hill. She used to go to the Victoria Club

in Egerton Road shul, where we were married in March 1965; and we're still married after fifty-seven years with two children, a son and a daughter, three grandsons and a granddaughter!

I used to go to shul with my father-in-law at Poets Road Shul off Newington Green, Stoke Newington where there was a big picture of the Reverend Fassenfield, who was my mother's grandfather. So obviously my great, great grandfather, who passed away before I was even born, shows I came from good Jewish stock!

We moved to Barkingside when we got married and we joined Newbury Park Synagogue. Following the merger with Clayhall Synagogue we attended shul at Sinclair House and then on to Cranbrook United Synagogue, where I am today.

By the way, I completely agree with women participating in the Shabbat Service and reading the Prayer for the Royal Family. It's good to change to the modern way of today. I'm all for it.

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THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED

The Present



Yosef Cohen

Walking leisurely down Meah Shearim Street, Jerusalem, one afternoon. Everyone's busy. People shopping, kids playing, drivers shouting...

An interesting sign catches my eye. It's hanging on the door of a small, unassuming jeweler's shop. It reads: "Here you can buy a watch. But you cannot buy here time".

We've arrived at a new year – another world of possibility and potential.

The Jewish calendar is lunar based. That's to say, each month is a complete lunar cycle. Count twelve of these months, and you have a year.

A month in Hebrew is **Chodesh**, derived from the word **Chadash**, which means "New", because it signifies the renewal of the moon.

It also reminds us that it's always a good time to start anew. Every moment is a treasure chest filled with opportunity, just waiting to be exploited. Don't let past failures get you down. As the Breslev folk song goes, **Mah Shehaya Haya** – Whatever was, was – **Haikar Lehatchil Mehatchala** – The main thing is to start from the beginning.

Yesterday was history. Tomorrow – a mystery. But now is a gift. That's why it's called the present.

Note: Yosef Cohen is the grandson of Joyce Meltzer. Yosef studies in the Mir Yeshiva, Jerusalem. Ed.



In the growing Israeli Druze town of Julis, Magen David Adom UK is building a station that will house an ambulance together with a team of medics. More than that, **MDA Julis** will provide jobs and volunteering opportunities for a community living on Israel's social and economic periphery. What started as a simple dispatch point is now something much, much bigger.

In any community, building a Magen David Adom station not only saves lives, it changes them too.

To support our work in Julis and across Israel call **020 8201 5900** or visit **mdauk.org/build**. With your help we will save more lives.



A healthy home

JEWISH BLIND & DISABLED

Many of us take for granted what it means to live in a healthy home that meets our needs.

Unfortunately, for people with physical disabilities and vision impairments, there can be many obstacles to make a house a home. We don't often speak about the link between housing and health yet, at Jewish Blind & Disabled, we know how significant and often life-changing having a healthy home is.

A healthy home can mean many different things for different people but at the core is a place that is suitable, safe, and secure. It is a space that meets your needs and where you feel comfortable and connected to your friends, family, and community.

There are 13.9 million disabled people in the UK, yet only a staggering 7% of homes in England are accessible. Over 50% of households requiring an adaptation do not have the adaptations they need. As a result, many people with disabilities are living in unsuitable housing and not surprisingly, 38% of people who have a long-term physical condition also experience severe mental health problems.

However, there is help at hand. Jewish Blind & Disabled is the only Jewish charity dedicated to ensuring that neither physical disability nor impaired vision is allowed to become a barrier to maintaining independence and dignity.

Accessibility is at the heart of everything we do. We take a person-centred approach to housing and support which transforms the lives of many people living with physical disabilities and / or vision impairments. Either through our developments of mobility apartments for adults aged 18 and over or through our Independent Living Advisory Service which offers advice on aids and adaptations to people living in their own home in the community.

Our developments are specially designed to enable people to do the everyday tasks that are key to living independently, in safety with their own front door. All our apartments feature accessible, modern fitted kitchens with relevant aids and adaptations and walk in shower rooms spacious enough to accommodate



wheelchairs. And there are house managers onsite 24/7 providing tenants with peace of mind knowing that support is on hand if there is an issue.

Over the past few years, we have become acutely aware of the struggles that people are facing in their own home. In 2018 we established the Independent Living Advisory Service, a service that takes our expertise into people's own homes. The service both advises and funds the installation of vital aids and adaptations that can help transform someone's home into a healthy home that supports their needs. It is free for anyone from the community who is living in their own home and offers impartial advice from an Occupational Therapist on a range of different areas. Examples include managing transfers around the house, installing ramps instead of having difficult steps up to a house and advising on mobility aids and wheelchairs.

Whether it's in someone's own home or in a Jewish Blind & Disabled apartment, we know that with the right support, facilities, aids or adaptations, people with physical disabilities and visual impairments can live independently in a healthy home that meets their needs.

If you or someone you know could benefit from living in a Jewish Blind & Disabled apartment, for more information about the Independent Living Advisory Service or to support our work, visit www.jbd.org or call 020 8371 6611

Nun on the Run

Sheila Flynn

I have been connected with the Faber Family since 1983. Since Sue Faber and I met in 1983 we have been fast-firm friends.

In 1988 I went to live in South Africa (until 2016) and quickly became part of the underground movement, among so many of whom were the Jewish people, working for the liberation of the country from the draconian Apartheid laws. I was a card-carrying member of the ANC (African National Congress) whilst it remained a banned organisation, closely allied to the Communist Party (Joe Slovo being a luminary of this organisation).

I was a runner for the ANC, and from time to time received coded messages adjusting letters of the alphabet as per instruction, before passing it on to another runner. I never knew what these messages meant which was for my safety because if I was intercepted and interrogated, I would thwart the security branch of the Nationalist Afrikaans government, not knowing their meaning.

My community of three sisters was a safe-house for comrades on the run who would risk their lives climbing the very rocky hill that backed our garden at the end of a cul-de-sac. A coded knock on my window at the back of the house in the dead of night brought the next person seeking a shower, or a meal, or a much-needed sleep-over before heading out into the night once again. We never knew if we would ever see them alive again as their role towards liberation kept them in absolute danger. Many of them had been brutally tortured by the security forces, yet they kept going. We knew our phones were tapped and at the first junction beyond our cul-de-sac there was always a parked unmarked vehicle watching our road.

One morning I picked up the newspaper from the doorstep to find a double-spread filling the front page, offering a huge award for Ronnie Kassrils and Janet Love (both Jewish comrades) for their role in the Vula operation. They were wanted dead or alive by the security police and at that moment they were both in our house.

Lest you think this was brave of us to put ourselves in danger, correct this view - we were three people among hundreds and hundreds who offered such shelter, as documented in Ronnie Kassrils's book which he subsequently wrote after liberation, "Armed and Dangerous". Your own long history as a people attests to the need to stand up against evil, and against all odds, to prevail. We were one tiny element working towards freedom for others.

Post-Apartheid times had me resigning from teaching at

university to establish an income-generating project (www.kopanang.africa) that would empower women who lived on the edge of absolute poverty, with their community wracked by HIV/AIDS. I held many a woman in my arms dying of AIDS. It was set up in a much-deprived township forty miles southeast of Johannesburg (80% unemployment due to the closure of a non-productive mine). I witnessed poverty and suffering on an absolutely inhumane scale, yet also witnessed the power of faith and of a people who rose each morning believing that G-d would give them strength for another day. Living among them scoured my heart, taught me what courage, generosity, gratefulness and community were all about. Nun on the Run was an affectionate term they gave me because of my work among them, providing them with skills and the self-worth they had been deprived of all their lives.

I remain blessed and privileged to have walked the life I have had and would do it all over again.

I now reside in Australia.

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with service leader,
Ashleigh Stern

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OR JOIN THE MAIN SHUL SERVICE.

THE FOUNDATION OF

Our Synagogue

Renee Bravo

When my parents were contemplating buying a house in Barkingside in 1931, they asked "How far is the nearest synagogue?". "Only five minutes", but, of course, that was by car. After the first shabbat, walking from Campbell Avenue in Barkingside to Coventry Road in Ilford was not a good idea, so a few people got together and bought the house at the corner of Beehive Lane, which is now the Federation Synagogue.

As the community grew, under the wonderful guidance of Reverend Black, it became the largest congregation in Europe. At the High Holydays we hired the Odeon cinema at Gants Hill, and it was full. It was considered normal for people to faint during Yom Kippur, and the St. John Ambulance people were always there. Until Rev. Black said that it was wrong to make yourself ill. If you cannot fast, don't. One Yom Kippur morning we arrived at the cinema for the service, and the film being shown that week was "The Longest Day". How appropriate. When the building of the new magnificent shul was taking place, my father was taken to Bulgaria (I think) to help choose the veneers for the ark wall, because he was a furniture man.



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WISHING YOU A SWEET NEW YEAR

שנה טובה

Mazel Tov

We would like to wish Mazel tov to all those who have celebrated an Anniversary, Birth, Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Special Birthday or other Simcha.

BIRTHS

Mazel tov to Ivor Ingram on the birth of a great granddaughter.
Mazel tov to Linda Myers on the birth of a granddaughter.
Mazel tov to Raymond Kennard on the birth of a great grandson.
Mazel tov to Rebbetzin Broder on the birth of twin great grandsons in Israel.
Mazel tov to Pamela and David Grant on the birth of their first grandson, Grayson, in America.
Mazel tov to Liz Levison on the birth of a great grandson in Israel.

BAR MITZVAH

Mazel tov to Ann and Michael Belson on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Zak Lethbridge.
Mazel tov to Eddie Leon on his grandson's Bar Mitzvah in Israel.

ENGAGEMENT

Mazel tov to Sacha Johnstone and Liat Shamash on the occasion of their engagement and to Howard and Rosalind Johnstone on the occasion of Sacha's engagement to Liat.
Mazel tov to Pamela and David Grant on the engagement of their son Ian to Hannah Stephenson and to Ian Grant and Hannah Stephenson on their engagement.

MARRIAGE

Mazel tov to Hannah Moss and Richard Helman on their marriage.
Mazel tov to the family of Alison Mervish on the occasion of her marriage to Jamie Bomszyk in Tel Aviv, Israel.
Mazel tov to Reverend Gary and Mrs Gillian Newman on the marriage of their daughter, Malka to Shmuel Katz in Israel.
Mazel tov to Paul and Allegra Goldman on son Adam's marriage to Emma and to Barbara Goldman on grandson Adam's marriage to Emma on 19th June.
Mazel tov to Myrtle Holman on the marriage of her grandson Richard to Anaële in Paris on the 26th August.

SECOND BAR MITZVAH

Mazel tov to Eddie Leon on his Second Bar Mitzvah

THIRD BAR MITZVAH

Mazel tov to Monty Goldstein who celebrated his Third Bar mitzvah, reading the Haftorah and with a Kiddush.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Mazel tov to Alex Keller – finalist in the Jewish General Knowledge Mastermind and Ivrit Mastermind competitions.
Mazel tov to all of our members who graduated from university over the summer. You have achieved so much. We can't wait to hear about what you are getting up to next. Keep in touch!

SPECIAL MENTION

We also had some of our youngest members graduate from nursery, ready to move on to "big school" (primary school). Here is Clara in her mortarboard hat and gown. Wishing you all well in the next steps of your education journey.



Condolences



Maurice Conway ז"ל

Maurice was born on the 13th August 1924, the youngest of three brothers. He also had a twin sister, but unfortunately she passed away shortly after birth. The family, who were members of Stepney United Synagogue, lived in Cephas Avenue, Stepney and Maurice attended Stepney Jewish School.

In September 1939, the Second World War started and Maurice, then aged fifteen joined the Fire Service as a Fire Watcher. He was besotted with aeroplanes from a young age and when he was 17½, he volunteered to join the RAF. All his dreams had come true; he could fly in aeroplanes and after basic training it was found that he was somewhat of a marksman. He trained as an Air Gunner and was given the rank of Flight Sergeant.

Maurice was posted to 420 Squadron RCAF flying Wellington bombers and went off to war in North Africa, from where he and his crew bombed the German lines in Italy. The Squadron was then brought back to the UK in October 1943. The Squadron then converted to his beloved Halifax bombers and it was on these that he and his crew completed over thirty more operations; the average amount of ops for a bomber crew was around six. The most dangerous position in the aircraft was Rear Gunner; Maurice was a Rear Gunner and was eventually commissioned as an Officer.

When he left the RAF in 1948, Maurice returned to his parents' home in the East End and got a job at the Houndsditch Warehouse. In early 1948 he met his beloved wife Hetty. Six weeks later they became engaged and in August 1948 they married at Stepney United Synagogue in Redmans Road, Stepney.

His son Leonard was born in 1950 and at this time they were living with Hetty's parents in Dagenham. Just after Leonard was born they bought a house in Romford. In 1958 Maurice retrained at a Hairdressing School and became a barber. The

house was sold and a ladies and gents hairdressing salon was bought in Dagenham, from where they traded successfully till retirement. In 1960 they moved to their house in Gants Hill in which they lived together.

His love of flying and the RAF never wavered and he joined the Air Training Corp as an Instructor.

For his 80th birthday the family bought him a flying lesson. He thought it was absolutely fantastic and for months afterwards all he talked about was how well he had done and how good the instructor thought he was.

Maurice loved playing with his grandchildren and great grandchildren; it gave the family an enormous sense of pride to see him in his nineties climbing up to the top slide at the soft play centre to rescue one of the great grandchildren and also playing football in the garden with them.

When Hetty developed dementia he became her sole Carer and refused any form of help. He always said "she is my wife and I'll look after her".

Last October he was diagnosed with cancer of the jaw. The doctors told him he had a year to 18 months; he replied with his usual bravery "oh well, I've had a good life. I didn't expect to see my nineteenth birthday so the last 78 years have been a bonus."

On reading his flying log book the last word he wrote therein was "redundant".

Maurice, you were never redundant. He was a brave and highly respected man who will be sorely missed by all who knew him and loved him, especially his wife Hetty, son Leonard, daughter in law Rosalind and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Leonard Conway

**We offer our condolences to all those who have suffered a bereavement this year.
Our thoughts are with you at this time of sorrow.
To the family of each of the following members:-**

Michael Aronberg
Irene Barry
Frances Baum
Hilda Berkoff
Gerald Braham
Debroy Caine
Annette Collins
Maurice Conway
Sylvia Crossman
Neil Curtis
Leila Delew

Frederick Goodman
Anne Green
Ivan Harman
Edward Harris
Philip Helman
Rosalyn Herman
Harry Karker
Marvin Karp
Minnie Kogan
Harry Lefcovitch
Hetty Liborwich

Sandra Melnick
Eva Meyer
Brenda Moss
Walter Owen
Adele Pearl
Stuart Pentol
Evelyn Raine
Peter Rudd
Lorraine Rumney
Noreen Salador
Alice Senk

Elaine Shear
Anita Sluys
Brenda Stanton
Ruth Starr
Helen Tisser
Monty Vitow
Helen Walters
Philip West
Norman Whyte
Ruth Williams
Jeffrey Wiseman

Message from the President of the United Synagogue

September 2022
Tishrei 5783

United Synagogue

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One of my favourite prayers in our Shabbat liturgy is often overlooked. Just before the Prayer for the Royal Family we say a prayer to bless all members of our shul and the wider Jewish community. The prayer begins “May He who blessed our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, bless all this holy congregation”. We ask God to bless “those who unite to form synagogues for prayer” which speaks, I feel, to the United Synagogue’s history.

Back in 1870, five synagogues decided that they were stronger together and joined forces to become, via an Act of Parliament, the United Synagogue.

Instead of duplicating resources, they worked together for the good of the community. This was a revolutionary idea and although we have since grown and changed considerably, it still underpins what we do a century and a half later.

The prayer asks God to bless everyone who comes to shul to pray and those who make donations to the community (“those who provide lamps for lighting and wine for Kiddush and Havdalah, those who provide food for guests and charity for the poor”).

Finally, we ask God to bless “all those who occupy themselves faithfully with the needs of the community”. To me, this line is absolutely critical, because volunteering is at the core of the United Synagogue. Across our communities we are blessed to have well over 1,000 people who give of their time week in, week out to support their shul and community.

Whether it is running children’s services, doing security, preparing the kiddush, arranging events, supporting our older and vulnerable members, inviting speakers or *davening* and *leyning*, there is a dizzying array of activities carried out by our volunteers.

And on top of that, each of our communities is led by a local team of committed lay leaders who direct the day-to-day running of communal life and implement its development plans. Communities differ in size, geography and members’ backgrounds, so our structure empowers local people to make local decisions.

Research shows that volunteering together builds community, helps us make connections with each other and improves our wellbeing. We know from experience that the greater our sense of engagement with our communities, the more we are able to find a shared purpose.

If I may ask one thing of you this Rosh Hashanah, it’s to see what you can do to help your community. Whether it’s once a year or once a week, your time will make a real difference: our amazing communities can only thrive with the support of volunteers.

Slightly paraphrasing the ending of the prayer, may God send you and your families blessings and success in all you do and may He bless our entire community. Shana Tova.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Goldstein'.

Michael Goldstein
President, United Synagogue

Treasurer: Maxwell Nisner

Trustees: Andrew Eder, Rachel Hartog, Claire Lemer, Fleurise Lewis, Nicola Rosenfelder, Barry Shaw, Saul Taylor, Jacqui Zinkin

Chief Executive: Steven Wilson



The **US**

Israel's Secret Bullet Factory

Philippa Stanton

Any visitor to Kibbutzim Hill a little north of Rehovot, would assume they are just visiting a kibbutz, and that is what it appears to be to outsiders!

However, during the three years between the end of the Second World War and the foundation of the State of Israel, a top secret operation took place to produce more than two million bullets for the pre-State Jewish paramilitary organisation, the Haganah. After the end of the British Mandate of Palestine in 1948, the Haganah became the core of the Israel Defence Force.

The Haganah did not have enough ammunition for the Sten guns which were used in Israel, and had to produce bullets for the guns in secret. The machinery required for producing the bullets was purchased in Poland in 1938 and smuggled by the underground to Beirut and from then to Palestine in 1942. But they needed a factory - and it had to be kept secret from the British!

The factory built on Kibbutzim Hill was the largest facility for manufacturing bullets and was given the code name "Ayalon Institute" by members of the Haganah. It was built under the Kibbutz and kept completely separate from it, camouflaged by a laundry at one end of the factory and a bakery oven at the other. It was reached by a narrow stair-case from the laundry, and relied on the sounds generated from the laundry to hide the noise of bullet-making! Many of the kibbutzniks were unaware that the factory was there - as were other people living in the area!



The Ayalon Institute

The Ayalon Institute is now a National Historic Site and visitors can see an audio visual presentation covering the history and also take a guided tour of the area, walking down a narrow, winding metal staircase to the factory below. This is well worth a visit! Further information from **Ayalon Institute Museum, Kibbutzim Hill, Rehovot 76320, Israel**. Email: ayalon@shimur.org.il.



IT'S WHERE OUR HEART IS

Israel today is resilient and prosperous; however, many Israelis sadly do not share in its prosperity. Without our intervention, the gaps in Israel's society, between those that have and those that do not, are only going to widen.

UJIA invests in support for young Israelis living in the social and geographical peripheries, where there are fewer high-quality educational and developmental opportunities, resulting in reduced life-chances. Additionally, through our initiatives, Israelis from minorities and disadvantaged communities are able to find quality employment opportunities, which in turn provides sustainability to their families, local communities and wider Israeli society.

To support the work of UJIA in Israel this Kol Nidre and be part of building a home where every child has the opportunities we would want for our own, visit ujia.org/kn22



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NAME THAT STATION

1. It could be in Yorkshire or Virginia
2. Somewhere to put your coat
3. Up, up and away
4. No brothers
5. The monks were mining for coal
6. This tree was singed
7. An aristocratic block of flats
8. Many people have met this one
9. Trap fish in a stream
10. Plenty of loaves here
11. This should be in the Mediterranean
12. A bird in a brewery
13. One may need a blackboard here
14. Sometimes the entrance to a long drive
15. Hammers all over the turf
16. Here they must be expecting a siege
17. This one is not in a cage
18. There is also one in Belgium
19. Not really new
20. Is this Head Office of Lloyds Bank?
21. A touch of Scotland
22. You could be for the "chop" here
23. They say it is made from Portland Stone
24. Both words mean a home
25. Timber used here is unseasoned
26. What a huge station
27. "New balls please"
28. Not an artillery piece in sight
29. They are also hearty
30. We know where the White Rabbit went!

Challah

RECIPE

A STAPLE FOR EVERYONES SHABBAT
AND FESTIVAL TABLE

Ingredients:

1.5kg Strong White Bread Flour
3 tbspn dried yeast
700ml Water
250g Sugar
125ml Oil
1 Egg
2 tbspn Salt

Heat Oven: 190°C

Method:

1. Place yeast in lukewarm water with 1 tbsp sugar
2. Leave for 10 mins until frothing
3. Mix all ingredients together and knead for approx 10 mins
4. Cover and leave to rise for 45 mins - 1 hr
5. Separate a golf ball size piece of dough and say the blessing
6. Shape your dough
7. Leave to rise a second time
8. Brush the challah with a beaten egg, add seeds of your choice
9. Bake on 190° degrees until brown and sounds hollow when you tap the bottom.

RUSSIAN INVASION OF

Ukraine

I was talking to Rabbi Dansky end of February about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

My mother (who is not alive) was an orphan refugee from Pinsk Belarus who fled over a hundred years ago. She went to Stepney Jewish School, Stepney Green. Her name was Cilia Aaronovitch. In October 1937 she was married to my father Henry Rosenberg at Philpot Street Synagogue. My mother's maiden name as then given as Cinia Jacksman. During the second world war she was evacuated to Wolverhampton as my father was in the army. Sad to say my father's parents, his sister and a niece died in March 1945 in Hughes Mansions due to the war.

Last year we met a young girl from Ukraine who was studying with her boyfriend in Poland. The young lady told us due to the Ukraine war she had managed to get her mother to Poland. We received a message a few weeks ago that the mother wanted to go back to a safe area in Ukraine. People can not leave the place where they were brought up and lived all their life. You can see this on the television.

On a lighter note, I was thirteen months old when Princess Elizabeth became Queen!

Harold Rosenberg

CONTRASTS

(As one Jew to another and in front of the whole world)

Jeffrey Epstein	Deeply ashamed
Ghislaine Maxwell	Deeply ashamed
Robert Maxwell	Deeply ashamed

Volodymyr Zelenskyy	OH SO PROUD!
---------------------	--------------

Janet Kennard



ANSWERS TO 'NAME THAT STATION':

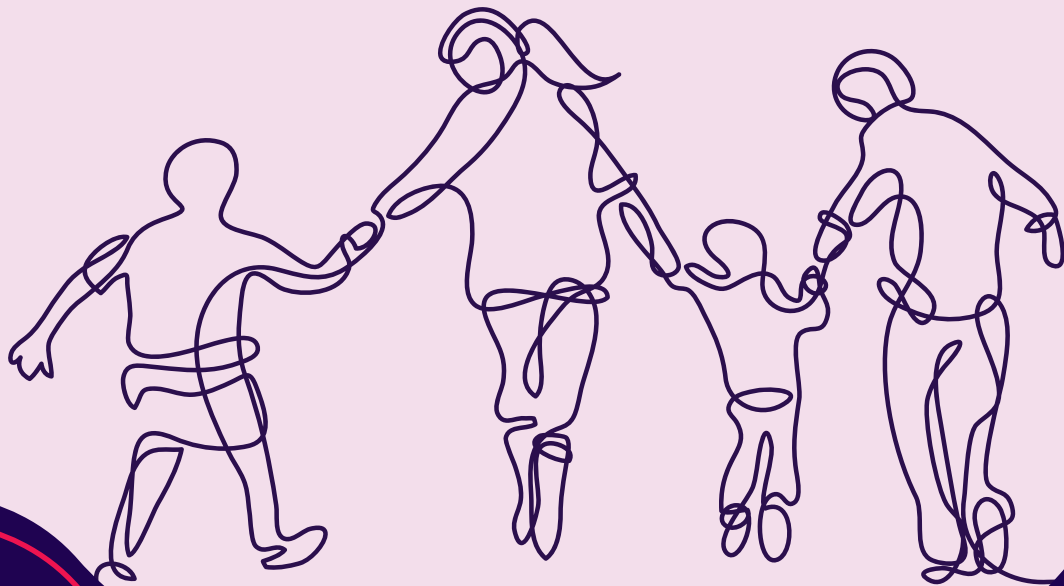
1.Richmond; 2.Hangar Lane; 3.Heathrow; 4.Seven Sisters; 5.Blackfriars; 6.Burnt Oak; 7. Earls Court; 8.Waterloo; 9.Snaresbrook; 10.Baker Street; 11.Cyprus; 12.Cockfosters; 13.Chalk Farm; 14.Highgate; 15.Upton Park; 16.Stockwell; 17.Canary Wharf; 18.Hainault; 19.Old Street; 20.Blackhorse Road; 21.Caledonian Road; 22.Tower Hill; 23.Marble Arch; 24.Mansion House; 25.Wood Green; 26.Wapping; 27.Wimbledon; 28.Cannon Street; 29.Tottenham Hale; 30.Warren Street.

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*Source: [Survation, October 2021]



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