



# WADS News

The magazine of Watford & District Synagogue  
ISSUE Twenty Autumn 2013 Rosh Hashanah 5774

## Wads Mourns the loss of its President

**Professor Allan Solomon**  
**PhD**  
1936 - 2013

Sir Leigh Lewis writes: In an increasingly one dimensional world Allan Solomon - mathematical physicist, musician, linguist, redoubtable defender of Israel, President of Watford Synagogue and an adored husband, father and grandfather - was truly a modern renaissance man.

Born in Glasgow in 1936 to an Irish father and a Scottish mother, Allan's parents moved when he was a baby first to Belfast and then to Dublin where his father worked with his brother in the family's music business. Educated first in Belfast - where on his very first day at school his teacher rewarded his impressive knowledge with a penny - and later at Wesley College Dublin, Allan went on to study at Trinity College, Dublin; at Peterhouse College, Cambridge; and subsequently at the Sorbonne in Paris. It was there that began a lifetime love of *joie de vivre* and where he met Paulette whom he married in 1963 - emerging in the same year with a doctorate in theoretical physics.

Following some years working in New York in the aviation industry on cosmic radiation and its effect on supersonic travel; as an Assistant Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn working on particle physics; and at the Institute of Advanced Studies in



Remarkable though his career as a scientist was, it was not remotely Allan's only forte. A semi-professional trumpet player, with his own jazz band in his youth, he was also an accomplished pianist and a noted numismatist.

But it is as an outstanding leader of Watford's Jewish community over more than three decades, and as its representative on the Board of Deputies for some 30 years, that Allan will be most remembered and missed within British Jewry.

Joining the small and at that time somewhat isolated Jewish community in Watford in the early 1970s he was one of the key figures, both as Chairman and, since 1996, as President, who helped take Watford forward to its position today as a growing, financially stable and increasingly important part of the United Synagogue family. As welcoming and accessible to the newest member as he was to its oldest, he embodied the 'Watford Way' – the belief that the Shul should be a mutually supportive family as well as a source of learning and inspiration. In his role as representative at the Board of Deputies he was also

Dublin, Allan Solomon joined the fledgling Open University in 1971 subsequently being appointed to the University's Chair of Mathematical Physics. In that role he extended his interests to quantum optics, quantum control and the theory of 'squeezed light' working with, amongst others, noted academics in Italy and Israel.

An extremely active member of the International Standing Committee on Group Theoretical Methods in Physics he regularly lectured all over the world. In those early days of the Open University Allan was also to be seen in the small hours on BBC2 delivering lectures to the University's far-flung students as the rest of the population

slept! He also campaigned tirelessly for Soviet refusenik scientists, travelling to the then Soviet Union to support them and keep them up to date with the latest research.

As a world renowned academic Allan published some 250 scientific articles, edited a number of books and made over 150 TV and radio broadcasts. Following his retirement from the Open University in 2002, he was appointed Emeritus Professor at both the Open University and the University of Paris VI and Affiliate Professor at the University of Haifa as well as returning to the Sorbonne in Paris.

...continued on page 12

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Michael Gordon



Dear Readers

It's not easy putting *Wads News* together and this, my 20th edition, is no exception with my son's Bar Mitzvah falling just a couple of weeks before the deadline. But what always makes it so worthwhile is getting close to the story. Sir Leigh Lewis' articulate obituary of Allan Solomon captured the very essence of him, but how many of us knew quite what Allan had achieved in his lifetime? I'm sure it's not many. I had often approached him to feature in these pages but he always modestly declined suggesting there must be far more interesting members to read about than him! Allan was always a pleasure to listen to, always knowing exactly the right words to say. His wit and wisdom are sorely missed.

I was unable to make the Sefer Torah dedication in memory of Sam Keen but I was very moved looking at the wonderful photos Ronnie took. I felt nothing less than a colour centre page could do them justice and I do hope you agree.

Many thanks to Brian Levy and Bernice Katz in excelling themselves with obtaining advertising. This has allowed me to increase both the number of pages and the amount of colour. Letting advertisers know you have seen their ad in these pages goes a long way in helping us to get repeat advertising.

I'm always interested to hear your ideas for articles of interest to our readers, whether they are a local story, details of personal success or places you've visited. Please don't be afraid to contact me:  
[editor@watfordsynagogue.org.uk](mailto:editor@watfordsynagogue.org.uk)

Finally thank you to the many members for getting in touch early as requested and for your good wishes too.

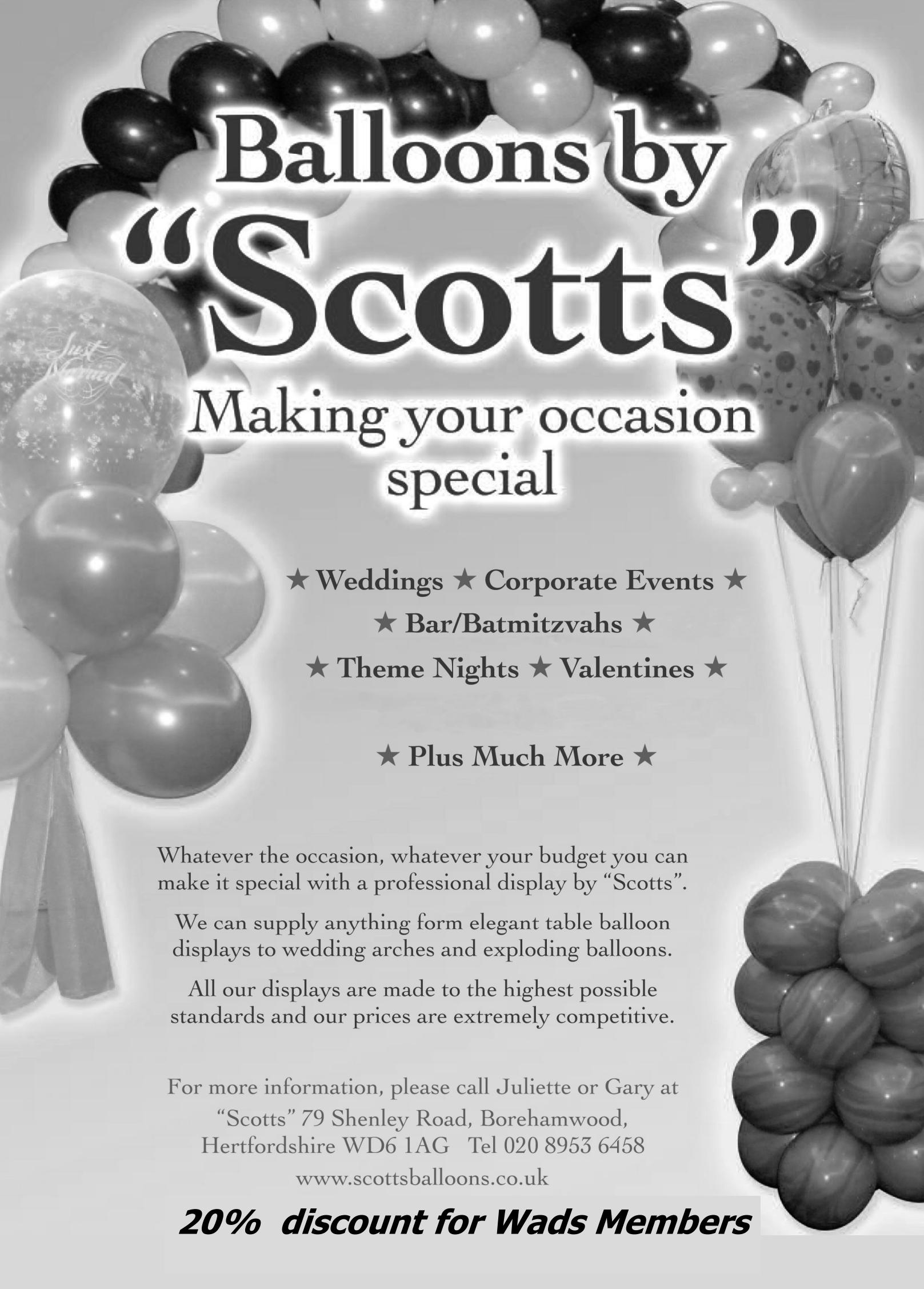
Happy reading,

*Sam Stuart*

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# Welcome!

We're delighted to welcome the following new members to our community:  
Patricia Burleigh, Anita Collier, Lionel Kelman, Joyce and Martin Titton

## Wads cares

First of all apologies for any omissions made below. We wish a hearty Mazel tov to ALL our members who have celebrated a special birthday, anniversary, family simcha, a new baby or a new grandchild. Our thoughts are with the families who have lost a loved one. Wads Care is there to help all our members.

There are many people, unfortunately, within our community, who are ill. Some are being looked after in Nursing Homes, some are waiting to have operations; some may be recovering from treatment. Our thoughts are with them and their families and we wish them all well.

We are very anxious that the WADS Welfare Committee keeps in touch with the news. We can help in many ways. What we really need is for you to let us know of the joys and sorrows that happen within our Synagogue, without this contact we can't know what is happening, so please get in touch with the Welfare Committee via the Shul office.

## Condolences

Our sincere condolences go to:

Rachel Brett (Mother)

Ros Nairn (Mother)

Lydia Goldbloom (Mother)

Bonnie Newman (Mother)

Martin Handelaar (Father)

Paulette Solomon (Husband)

Brian Levy (Father)

Gillian Vollerich (Brother)

Coll Michaels (Father)

## Marriage

Mazel tov to:

Lorraine and Joel Cohen

Doron and Zoe Moraz

Frankie and Daniel Raphael

Daphne Taylor on the marriage of one granddaughter and one grandson.

## Kiddushim

Why not mark a special celebration with a Kiddush after the Shabbat service?

Contact Carolyn for more details

01923 222755

secretary@watfordsynagogue.org.uk

## Births

Mazel tov on the births to:

Belinda Russell and Danny Emmett on the birth of their son

Janet and Ira Coleman on the birth of a granddaughter

Annie and Peter Keen on the birth of a granddaughter

Sue and Leigh Lewis on the birth of a grandson

Daphne Taylor on the arrival of three great grandsons and one great granddaughter

## Get Well Soon

Sending best wishes for good health and a speedy recovery to:

Martin Breslaw,

Ken Levenson

Ruth Burke

Stephanie Levy

Lorraine Cohen

Toria Maze

Alexis Corzberg

Vivienne Stern

Malcolm Domb

Lester Wagman

Barry Freed

Michelle Wagman

Henry Hartman

## Mazel tov

Ruth and Daniel Burke on Harry's Bar Mitzvah

Helen and Elliot Gordon on James' Bar Mitzvah

Sam and Mark Stuart on Nathan's Bar Mitzvah

Aviva and Adam Witkova on Shannon's Bat Mitzvah

## Mazel tov Chatanim

Chatan Torah

Brian Markeson

Chatan Bereshit

Clive Walters

Eshet Chayil

Eileen Goldberg

Eshet Chayil

Lorraine Cohen (nee Myers)

Please remember to inform us via Carolyn Silverman if you would like us to acknowledge your Simcha or Nachas. If it's outside of Wads we may not know about it!

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secretary@watfordsynagogue.org.uk

This page has been sponsored by Jilly Black



## *Rosh Hashanah 5774*

### Rabbi Ephraim Levine

This year I am reminded of the famous Jackie Mason line where he jokes that Jews like to complain about Rosh Hashanah. It either comes too early or it too late; when will it come on time?!

This year, everything is early. Rosh Hashanah is at the beginning of September and Chanukah is at the end of November. This interesting quirk also means that all bar mitzvah boys this year will become bar mitzvah while still being twelve years old on the solar calendar, as we had in our shul this year. I don't think I have written my Rosh Hashanah message so early either.

As we reflect over the year, I think the most significant story is the retirement of our Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks and the selection of Rabbi Mirvis as his replacement. Lord Sacks has served the community for twenty-two years changing the face of British Jewry immeasurably for the better. Almost everyone said that his act will be heard to follow, and in some ways they are correct. He was almost a lone moral voice in an immoral world and on several occasions he was the lone voice not just for the Jewish community but for the general British population.

Lord Sacks was inspired by many high calibre leaders who challenged him to stand strong in the face of Jewish apathy and to create the new leaders for the next generation. This he has certainly started but in his own words there is still so much more to do. Many of us will think of retirement as an opportunity to relax, to slow down, to get some much needed gardening done....etc. Somehow, I cannot see Lord Sacks doing any of this. In fact, I have a hunch that he will be even busier than he was when he was Chief Rabbi (if that is really possible).

So Rabbi Mirvis comes to a well prepared stage. How can he develop the community further you might ask? Well, Rabbi Mirvis comes with the full support of the rabbinate and he was selected largely due to his success at Kinloss. His vision is to work with communities and help them develop their own potential. This is something he wants to do in very real hands-on way which means we will definitely be seeing Rabbi Mirvis at Watford during his tenure (notwithstanding Lords Sacks' regular attendance at Watford!).

And our own early New Year's resolution can be of community too. As we enter a new Chief Rabbinate era we can look forward, I dare say with confidence, to a new community. The Ethics of Fathers warns against separating ourselves from the community (2:4) lest we isolate ourselves and become distant. Like a glowing coal separated from a fire that eventually cools down and burns out, we too risk cooling down. When coals are together, they keep each other glowing and warm. And similarly when we are together as a community we keep each other glowing, warm and, importantly, connected.

There have been several communal developments in the last year including Zahav Social and Cultural Society, an Israeli/Hebrew speakers group, children's initiative programmes (still to be further developed over the coming year), adult educational evenings, the employment of Scott Michaels as our new youth coordinator, and social and fundraising events. The coming year will see an increase in all these areas including the Watford Cheder Club and the return of the Watford Women's Circle.

There is something for everyone, from the very young of our community to our most senior; for those who attend shul services and for those who do not. There is more than one entry point and I welcome everyone to try something new this year. The Chairman, together with the Executive, Board of Management, and myself are ready and willing to help you find that entry point and encourage you find what suits you. If it doesn't exist, let's create it!

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity, together with Rochel and the boys, to wish you and your family a happy, healthy and connected New Year.

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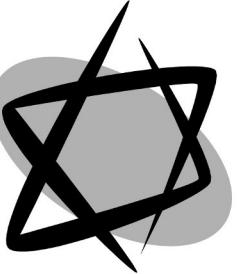


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## New Year Greetings

- **Abrahams.** Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year, Roz and Mick.
- **Apple.** Michael and Marilyn, our best wishes to all in the community for a happy and healthy New Year.
- **Black.** Jilly would like to wish Shana Tova and well over the fast to Rabbi Levine, Rochel and family and to all her friends in the Wads community.
- **Burke.** Ruth, Daniel, David, Joel and Harry wish everyone at Wads a happy and healthy New Year.
- **Cohen.** Loraine and Joel wish their dear family and friends a very healthy and happy New Year and wish to thank everyone in the community for their good wishes on their recent marriage.
- **Fisher.** Alan, Cheryl and Hannah wish Rabbi Levine, Rochel and family, the Watford community, family and friends a Shana Tova and a healthy New year.
- **Fisher.** Stanley and Evelyn wish everyone a happy New Year.
- **Freed.** Barry and Gill wish the Rabbi and family, the Honorary Officers and the whole community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year with love and peace in the year ahead.
- **Goldberg.** Eileen and Stuart wish everyone in the Watford community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the fast.
- **Gordon.** Lindsay and Michael together with their family wish Rabbi Levine, Rochel and their family and the community Shana Tova and K'siva Vechasima.
- **Gordon/Graham.** Helen, Elliott, James, Danielle and Millie wish Rabbi, friends, family and the Watford community a happy and peaceful new year and well over the fast.
- **Katz.** Wishing you all a Shana Tova and well over the Fast. Bernice, Raffi, Miriam and Daniel.
- **Kays.** A happy and peaceful New Year to all my dear Watford friends from Miriam.
- **Levy.** Esther and Brian wish Stephanie and Stuart, Rabbi Levine, Rochel and the boys, and all their friends in the community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and an easy fast.
- **Lewis.** Sue and Leigh wish all their family and friends in the whole community a very happy New year and well over the Fast.
- **Mail.** Lesley and David together with Simon, Jonathan and Tanya and Bea Moss wish everyone in the community a happy New Year and well over the Fast.
- **Marco.** Rochelle and Alan wish all their friends in the Watford community a healthy and happy New Year and well over the Fast.
- **Marcus.** Glenda, Mike, Daniel and Zara wish all our family, friends and members of the community a happy New Year and well over the fast.
- **Marks.** Betty and Eddie wish their extended family, as well as all their friends in the Watford community, a very happy and healthy New Year.
- **Newman.** Bonny and Steve, Joel and Alex wish their WADS friends a fulfilling New Year of peace, good health and happiness with hope also for peace in Israel and the Diaspora.
- **Pearl.** Renée together with Stephen and Adrian wish Rabbi Levine, Rochel and family, our many friends in the Watford community a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.
- **Raphael.** Shana Tovah to all our friends in Watford.
- **Shoob.** Elaine and Melvyn wish all their family and good friends in the community a very happy and healthy New Year and an easy Fast.
- **Silver/Shayle.** Melanie, Richard, Elliot, Carmel and Jemima Shayle wish Rabbi and Rochel Levine and all their friends in the Watford community a very happy and healthy New Year.
- **Silverman.** Carolyn and David wish all members of our community a very happy and healthy New Year.
- **Stanley.** Tony and Jacky wish Rabbi and Mrs Levine and all friends and members of Wads a happy and healthy New Year.
- **Stuart.** Sam, Mark, Jodie and Nathan wish all their friends and family L'Shana Tova.
- **Taylor.** A happy and healthy New Year to Rabbi Levine, the Rebbetzin and family and all members of Watford shul from Daphne.
- **Walters.** Susie and Clive wish their family and friends in the community a very happy and healthy new Year and well over the Fast.
- **Woolf.** Julie, Richard, Natasha and Adam wish family and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

office of the  
**CHIEF RABBI**



ROSH HASHANAH 5774 CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS

In Jewish tradition, the names we give to places and concepts invariably capture the essence of what they represent. Our central congregational location for prayer is no exception. Located at the heart of our communities, it has three well-known names: *beit tefillah*, *beit kneset* and *shul*.

Firstly, *beit tefillah* or 'house of prayer'. This title was given by God to the Temple in Jerusalem and continues to be a most apposite term used to this day. It expresses the building's core purpose of providing a place through which we connect with our Creator and experience His presence in a spiritually rewarding way. Through our synagogues facing Jerusalem, we also recognise the centrality of Israel in our lives.

Another name is *beit kneset* or 'house of gathering'. In vogue since ancient times, *beit kneset* adds a significant dimension to the role of our synagogues. Indeed, the Greek word *synagogue* similarly means 'house of gathering'.

The connotation is clear: our synagogues, especially in the Diaspora, are the central focal points for Jewish social and cultural interaction for individuals of all ages and groups of all types. Not only do we enjoy an encounter with God within its walls; we also engage socially with friends and acquaintances. The weekly *kiddush* epitomises the *beit kneset*, providing an opportunity for us to connect with others in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It is encounters of this nature that weave the social fabric of our communities.

The colloquial name for our synagogues - *shul* - is taken from the German word meaning 'school'. Historically, the local school was housed within the synagogue building. In this spirit, many *shuls* today have a kindergarten and run a *cheder* for children on their premises.

The word '*shul*' adds a further dimension to our communal vision. Formal and informal education, for members of all ages and all backgrounds, must be at the heart of our shared communal experiences. In seeking to guarantee the on-going vitality of our congregations, we recognise that an in-depth awareness of our rich heritage will pave the way for a meaningful and fulfilling Jewish life in the future.

It is my hope and prayer that all our community centres live up to the three names we give them, becoming outstanding houses of prayer, houses of gathering and shuls rolled into one. Providing a combined location for communal spirituality, a meeting place for communal interaction and a home for communal learning will ensure we have vibrant and dynamic centres of Jewish activity. Building on the successes of the past we will transform our synagogues into powerhouses of Jewish religious, social, cultural and educational activity.

I feel very privileged to have been selected to be your Chief Rabbi and I am looking forward to having a close association with your community and others throughout the UK & Commonwealth. We are blessed to have such outstanding rabbis and lay leaders and, together with them, I will be seeking to further enrich community life.

Valerie and I extend to you all our very best wishes for a happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year. I look forward to working together with you to develop and grow our local congregations and our wonderful British & Commonwealth Jewish communities for the benefit of us all and all of Am Yisrael.

*Shana tova*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis".

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

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## New Kosher Food Outlet in the Town Centre

**John Lewis**  
**little**  
**Waitrose**

John Lewis's £2 million investment has seen 5,500 sq ft of back of house space on the second floor at its Watford branch converted into a 'little Waitrose' at John Lewis' shop. The new shop gives customers the chance to purchase Waitrose products whilst also shopping at John Lewis Watford and it has created 30 jobs.

Jonathan Field, managing director, John Lewis Watford said: "We're very pleased to be able to offer a substantial range of both chilled and ambient kosher food in our little Waitrose which has proved extremely popular with customers since we opened. The range includes a variety of products including Yarden cold meat, hummus, aubergine dip, and bloom's sausages."

The shop looks and feels like a little Waitrose, with the same food expertise and products, but is run by John Lewis Partners especially for the John Lewis customer.

Jonathan continues: "Since we opened in the Harlequin Centre, now intu Watford, 23 years ago, we've been committed to providing customers with a wide variety of quality John Lewis products and I'm delighted that they'll now be able to buy Waitrose goods too. The team have worked extremely hard to transform the space to this new layout in just 10 weeks

"The little Waitrose at John Lewis shop is a brand new concept for the business and we'll be looking closely at how it is received by shoppers in Watford before considering how it could be introduced at other shops across the UK."

John Lewis Watford customers can top up on food for the week, shop for dinner or pick up a quick snack. The food offer is built around core groceries including fresh fruit and deli products as well as convenience ranges of ready meals, fresh pasta, soups and breads, along with the Waitrose 'easy' ranges including fish and vegetables. Amongst other things customers can stock up on

are an extensive range of ales and beers, fresh flowers and store cupboard items, including laundry and cleaning products

Andy Street, Managing Director of John Lewis said: "The success of our Foodhalls at Oxford Street and Bluewater has taught us how to deliver a food offer in an inspiring and accessible way. This new little Waitrose at John Lewis Watford underlines our continuing commitment to invest and innovate in our shops and is a great example of the John Lewis and Waitrose brands working together to provide powerful and compelling destinations for our customers to visit."

Sam Stuart, Wads News Editor and John Lewis Partner said: "Being able to buy a copy of The JC together with fresh pickled brisket and a packet of latkes from my place of work is like a dream come true. It's fantastic to see the availability of kosher products in Watford increase and this can only be a good thing for the local Jewish community."



## WADS Cares

Philippa Jacob

What can WADS do to help you? We are only a small community but we want to do the little things that make life easier for you.

Even if you are unable to come to Shul, you are still very much a valued member of our community and we have a group of members who team up with individual members to "befriend" them. We aim to contact you on a regular basis (often monthly) to say hello and have a chat. If you are interested in either becoming a befriendee or would like to have a befriendee, please let me or Bernice Katz know.

Other members of our community may be unwell and would appreciate a phone call to

see how they are, particularly if they have just come out of hospital. As you will appreciate, we need to know if someone in our Shul is unwell and so please contact me or Carolyn so that we can see what we can do to make things easier for that member.

It is not just members who are unwell that might need some support but it is often the case that you are just not sure where to go or to ask for support and just need some contact details of who or which organisations might be able to help you. We are compiling a list of "experts" and contact details that may be of interest to members of our shul. If any of you would be willing to have your contact details on this list, please also let me know. We

appreciate that any help would be treated with confidentiality, where appropriate.

The main message I would like to get across to you all is that any support, however small, would be gratefully appreciated. We want to help, where we can, with our members whether they are old or young. The more people that offer their services, the more we can do.

I look forward to hearing from you – 01923 824989 (evenings) and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the fast.

This page has been sponsored by Barry and Gill Freed

## From Your Chairman

### Ronnie Jacob

It seems a little premature but here we are at the end of July and I am wishing you all a happy New Year and well over the Fast. I hope that the coming year will be a happy and healthy one for you all.

Sitting here trying to think of what to write, it occurs to me that some of you will not know of the many things that go on in the Shul on a day to day basis. The last week has been an exceptional one for many reasons and I will give you an insight.

It was an unusual week in that we had the Stuart Bar Mitzvah at the beginning of the week and the Gordon Bar Mitzvah at the end of the week. Both boys did exceptionally well and are a credit to all the hard work they put in, and to their parents. Then last Monday, the caretaker suddenly resigned, leaving us with various temporary arrangements to make to ensure that things ran smoothly without him. I hope that by the time you read this, we will be well under way to finding a replacement. Apologies for any inconvenience in the meantime. On Wednesday evening I went to a meeting at the Shul to help establish a new programme initiated by Lindsay Gordon. This initiative is close to many of our hearts and will involve the Shul joining an established programme which emanated from Northwood Shul and now includes many other Shuls. The purpose of the programme is to provide lectures to school groups on the Holocaust. The work is absolutely vital and the number of children being taught about this period in our history by Shuls is already quite astounding. With the facility that Lindsay is going to set up here in Watford, we will be able to increase the audience even more. Lindsay will no doubt be in touch with educators and facilitators in our community so that they can be trained for these events which will take place at the Shul.

We also had to deal with a new member joining the Shul and arranging booking her son's bar mitzvah and Kiddush for the end of November.

On Thursday the Zahav club will have met and hopefully had a successful musical afternoon, and will have dealt with setting the room up and putting it back to normal themselves without the help of the former caretaker.

Sadly this morning, I heard that Bonny Newman's mother passed away and of course we are dealing with making the community aware of the relevant arrangements.

Hopefully I have not missed anything out, but I am sure that there will have been other meetings, lots of phone calls, emails dealing with all of the above and much much more. Of course Carolyn was away during all of this and she and I will deal with a number of aspects resulting from the above next week on her return. We often joke that Carolyn should not go away, as one realises how much we need her when she is not around.

Since my last article we have moved ahead in the areas of welfare, which is now called "WADS Cares". We have a group of people who are keen to expand the help we can give to our members so please see Philippa's article in the magazine.

The website is being developed and will hopefully be delivered by the end of August. The social committee has laid out its plans for the coming year which are as exciting as ever. Adult education is now up and running with a greatly varied attendance from speaker to speaker. Sadly one speaker cancelled at the last minute as she did not realise there would be a mix of men and

women she would be talking to! You will have noticed that we have at long last cleared the gardens and that they are now being regularly maintained. We will now plant our own laurel, so hopefully next year's Succah will be covered in our home grown leaves. If any of you are keen gardeners I see absolutely no problem in you donating and planting up your own little areas around the shul. Please feel free to come along on a Sunday morning with your own tools and plants, to help make the place look as colourful as possible. Scott's youth programme is moving along nicely too. The new Board has settled in and is working well. I also understand from Rochel that the Women's Circle will be announcing their programme for the next year soon.

I am painfully aware that we are not providing enough in the way of children's services on a Shabbat morning. It occurred to me that this could be a golden opportunity for our post Bar Mitzvah/Bat Mitzvah boys and girls to stay involved with the Shul. I have discussed this with the Rabbi and there is certainly a programme they could get involved with, by which they could lead services for our children. I was told by Bernice Katz that the act of leading these services may well qualify as an approved activity towards the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and we will look into this, as it will provide a potential benefit to not only our kids, but the youth as well, in achieving this prestigious and popular award. Please contact me if you are interested.

Once again, I wish you all a happy New Year and as ever, please feel free to contact me on anything that interests or concerns you.

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Wishing all @WADS Shana Tova Tikatevu

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## Wads Mourns the loss of its President

...continued from Front page

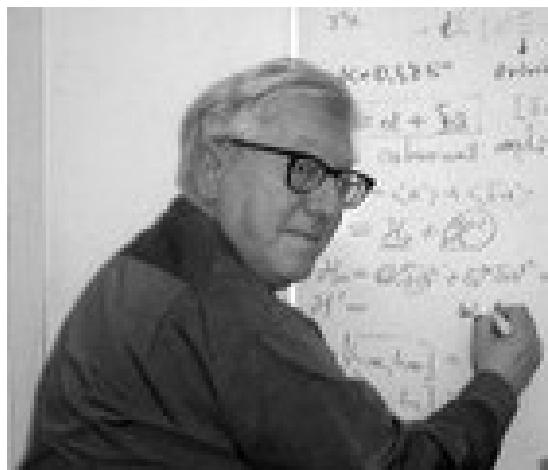
instrumental in helping to gather support for the expansion of Jewish education in Hertfordshire.

Both at the Board of Deputies, and more widely, Allan was passionate in his defence of Israel. Despite his relaxed personality, he was angered at times by what he saw as a one-sided and prejudiced portrayal of Israel in both the print and broadcast media and was particularly vociferous in standing up against attempts to impose an academic boycott of Israeli scientists. Woe betide the broadcaster, letter writer or journalist against whom Allan took up his pen; it tended not to be laid down in a hurry. At the same time, unlike some other staunch defenders of Israel from this country, Allan was never afraid to stand up for his love of Britain, of which he was equally proud.

From a religious perspective Allan was a wonderful person to have in the community. Tutored in his youth by Rabbi Jacobowitz - then Chief Rabbi of Ireland - he remained close to him throughout his life. More generally Allan was knowledgeable and he desired knowledge. However much he knew he always wanted to know more. He would question, probe and enlighten with anecdote. He believed in both the scientific - his life's work - and the spiritual - his life's belief - and saw no contradiction between them.

Allan Solomon leaves behind an academic world which he enriched with his research and learning; his wife and family to whom he was devoted and a Jewish community to which he devoted himself for much of his life. In each he leaves a huge gap which is testimony to the remarkable achievements of a remarkable man.

Sir Leigh Lewis



## Mazeltov

Shannon Witkover celebrated her Bat Mitzvah by giving a D'var Torah in Shul on Shabbat 27th April 2013.

## Ambercycle Media Lester Wagman

Lester Wagman, who recently started a new business building budget smartphone apps and mobile-optimised web sites for small and medium sized enterprises, is asking other WADS members to help raise money for the shul by generating business referrals.

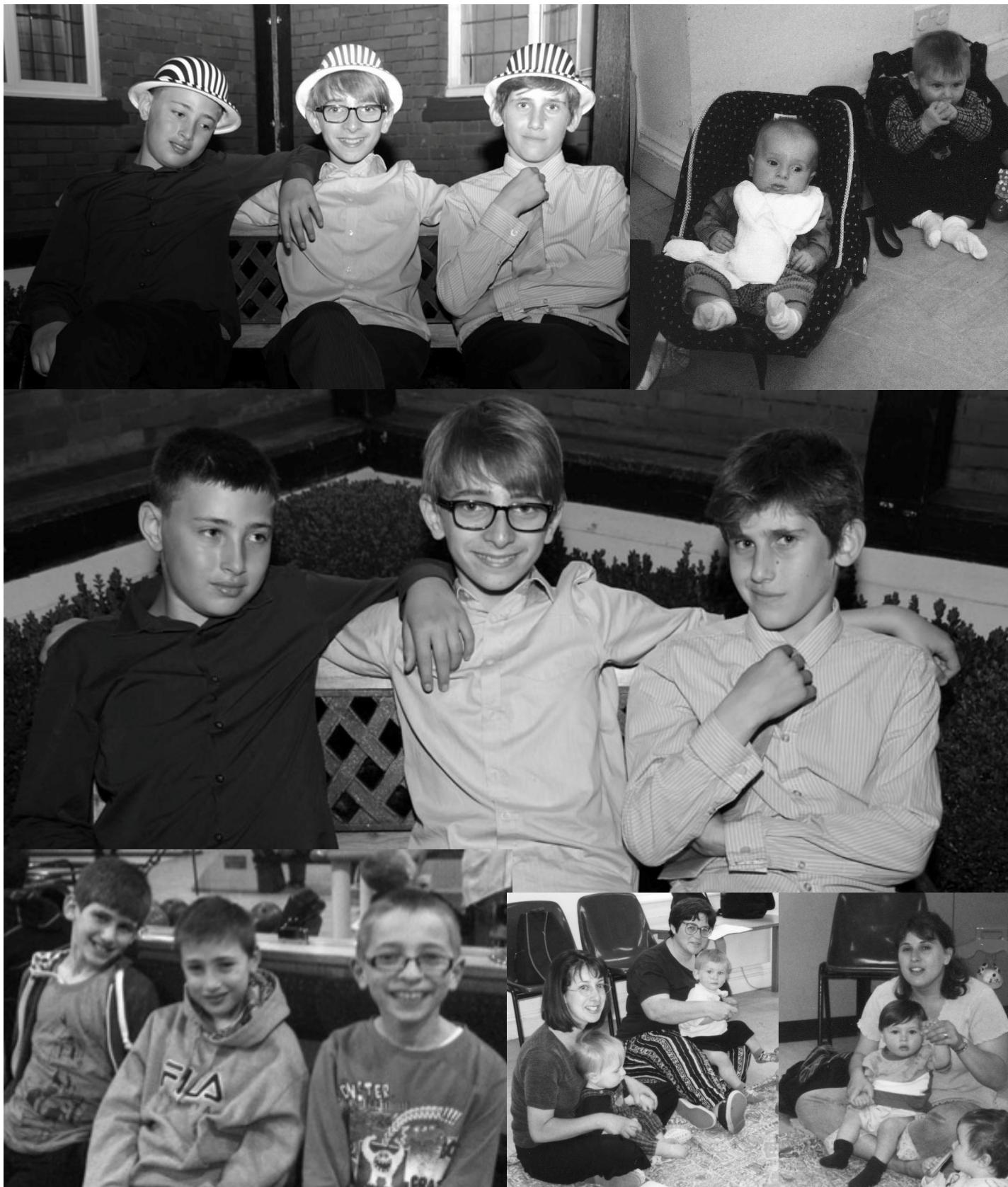
Through its innovative Affiliate Reward Programme his company, Ambercycle Media, is offering a reward equivalent to 10% of the value of any apps or mobile web sites sold (which typically range from £295 - £995) as a thank you to those who introduce new customers who sign up for its products. "This could be worth nearly £100" says Lester who offers the reward either as cash, a donation to a nominated charity (WADS of course) or as double the value (20%) as credit toward app for their own business. "If taking the credit option, introducers can opt to take 10% toward their own app **and** still get 10% donated to the charity of their choice making everyone a winner", Lester added.

Everyone knows a business that could benefit from a direct, two-way channel of communication with its customers, right? A channel through which customers can easily buy direct from the business, make bookings/reservations, diarise events, find locations, enquire about bespoke services, engage with offers and loyalty schemes? And through the same channel the business owner can send targeted promotions and reminders to customers to help fill empty seats and liven-up quieter times? Well what this is describing is a business app, which is what Ambercycle produces for bars & pubs, restaurants & takeaways, hair & beauty, sports & leisure, schools, clubs & associations, dental & medical, professionals, vets, garages, trades, the list is almost endless. "Businesses will thank you for introducing them to us..." says Lester, "...and so will we!"

This page has been sponsored by Elaine and Melvyn Shoob

## Growing up at Wads

Three friends, Harry Burke, James Gordon and Nathan Stuart have grown up together at Wads and recently celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs....



This page has been sponsored by Sue and Leigh Lewis

## New Year Message from the United Synagogue

Stephen Pack, President and  
Jeremy Jacobs Chief Executive



Above left Stephen Pack, President, above right Jeremy Jacobs Chief Executive of the United Synagogue

Over 60 Synagogues are part of the United Synagogue family, each with its own unique profile but all adhering to an authentic, inclusive and modern Judaism. We are immensely proud of all our communities eagerness to provide educational, social and cultural programming for their members, as well as running Shabbat services. None of these initiatives would be possible without our dedicated team of fantastic Rabbonim, Rebbetzens, lay leaders, Tribe youth directors, administrators and all other staff members and volunteers.

Many communities have travelled to Israel and Poland on successful heritage trips, organised in partnership with the Living & Learning department. We are delighted to

support communities in arranging these fantastic tours for adults throughout the year. Closer to home, three of our communities hosted their own Shabbatons' away from home. Over 350 US members took part in these Shabbat experiences, hosted by Stanmore & Canons Park, South Hampstead and HGSS. The Shabbatonim were a first for the US Living & Learning department who jointly organised the weekends with the local Rabbonim and Tribe. Everyone had an amazing time sharing a unique Shabbat experience.

All community trips, regardless of whether they are held in the UK or abroad, are not only educational; they are an excellent way to strengthen community bonds in a more informal setting. If your community is interested in organising a Shabbaton away from home or a heritage trip, please contact our wonderful events co-ordinator, Nomi Goldberg ([ngoldberg@theus.org.uk](mailto:ngoldberg@theus.org.uk)).

The United Synagogue is proud to be a Zionist organisation. We encouraged our communities to take part in the Closer to Israel parade, celebrating 65 years since the establishment of the State of Israel. Our bus was proudly decorated with Israeli flags and it was great to see so many of you out in support.

We have been delighted to welcome this year both Highams Park & Chingford and the Wanstead & Woodford communities who both voted overwhelmingly in favour

of becoming full US member communities. Additionally, we were also thrilled to announce that Hadley Wood has become a full member of The US. We are looking forward to working with these new communities, to help them grow as vibrant centres of Jewish life.

Times are changing too for the entire Jewish community as our esteemed Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, begins the next stage in his illustrious rabbinical career. Almost 2,000 attended our farewell event for Lord Sacks, titled "Our Journey with The Chief..." which included a fascinating live conversation between Lord Sacks and Sir David Frost. The evening was an opportunity for our members to thank the Chief Rabbi for the tremendous impact that he has had on British society, and on the United Synagogue in particular. We wish him and Lady Elaine all the very best for the future.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the tenure of our new Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. Since the announcement of his appointment, we have established a healthy working relationship with Rabbi Mirvis, with regular meetings to update him on the fantastic work of the United Synagogue and to discuss future strategies. We look forward to continue working very closely with Rabbi Mirvis. He is truly a outstanding Rabbi, and will grace the position of Chief Rabbi.

We wish all of our members a happy, healthy and meaningful new year.

### Situation Vacant

#### Wanted: Wads Caretaker

For further details or to apply  
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01923 222755 or  
Ronnie Jacob  
01923 848444

This page has been sponsored by Brian and Esther Levy

## 28<sup>th</sup> Watford Brownies



This past term has been really exciting for the Brownies and I must say all the leaders have joined in the fun too.

Wedding fever hit Watford Brownies just after Pesach and for several weeks before I got married all our activities, crafts and games had a wedding theme. We even had a pamper hen night when we invited the Mums to come and be made up and given lots of TLC by their daughters. We also had an extremely funny quiz where

the Brownies had to answer lots of questions about me. Of course we ended the evening with a nice gooey cake.

The Brownies also made their own bouquets which they carried when they were my guard of honour, needless to say they were really excited on the day I was just so proud of them.

The Brownies are extremely enthusiastic about gaining badges. There is a wide range from computer skills, swimming to World issues connected with Guiding and many more. It has really become infectious with the girls and each week we award more and more.

We cover many aspects of Guiding at the meetings including giving to the community, this is not only in raising money for our chosen charity but showing the girls how to help and give to others. They take this very seriously and each week we discuss how they have achieved this. We aim to do another fund raising event next term.

Several girls have left the unit this term as they have reached the age where they progress onto Guides, this unfortunately has left us with low numbers.

We would like to impress on you that if the number of our girls go too low it then becomes a serious problem. Please please make a huge effort to introduce girls to our unit. My number is 07989 029031. I look forward to hearing the phone ring.

A Brownie meeting doesn't just happen as we walk through the door, we spend a great deal of time planning a wide and varied programme giving the girls the opportunity to follow the ethos of Guiding.

We all wish Rabbi, Rochel and their family a Shana Tova and of course all the families of our Brownies.

We also look forward to see our Brownie pack increase in size this New Year.

Brown Owl  
Lorraine Cohen



## Social & Fundraising

Clive Walters

### Programme of Events

The Social & Fundraising Committee is ready to go again for 2013/14 with a programme that we really hope offers something for everyone. Whilst at the time of writing, some dates are provisional and yet to be finalised, set out below is the planned schedule. Rest assured that full details of events with exact dates and costs will be communicated to you as we move forward.

#### 2013

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| October<br>(06/10 prov )  | Jewish Themed London Tour by coach                   |
| November<br>(16/11 prov ) | AN EVENING WITH .....special Guest interview         |
| December                  | Family Shabbaton - pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kids welcome  |
|                           | WADS Jewish Film Society – The Life of Theodor Herzl |

#### 2014

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| January                 | Jewish Comedy Night                         |
| February<br>09 Feb 2014 | WADS QUIZ SUPPER – Park Inn Hotel           |
| March<br>( 30/03 prov ) | Wine Tasting Evening with The Wine Man      |
|                         | Purim evening .....at home                  |
| April                   | WADS Jewish Film Society – TBA              |
| May                     | WADS Music Evening – Audience Participation |
| June                    | Summer family bbq                           |

This page has been sponsored by Loraine and Joel Cohen on the occasion of their recent wedding.

## Wads Dedicates Sefer Torah to Sam Keen

Mel Silver, photos Ronnie Jacob

Watford Shul held a Hachnosas Sefer Torah Dedication on Sunday 10 March 2013 in memory of much-loved congregant Sam Keen z'l. More than 100 members of the Watford community joined Sam's close-knit family at the shul to take the opportunity to fulfil the 613<sup>th</sup> mitzvah in the Torah – to write a Sefer Torah.

As most people do not have the skills to do this personally, the mitzvah can be fulfilled by paying someone to do it on their behalf. Accordingly, congregants made donations towards a letter or sedra in the restored Sam Keen Sefer Torah, which will now be used for Watford shul's weekly services.

Once the last letters had been written in shul, guests took part in a celebratory procession along Nascot Road. Back at the shul, international singing star Shloime Gertner sang during Hakafot before performing some of his most popular songs.



This page has been sponsored by Sam, Mark and Jodie Stuart on the occasion of Nathan's Bar Mitzvah



This page has been sponsored by Evelyn and Stanley Fisher from Solihull



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## Wardens

### Ellard Roberts

The time has come to put pen to paper for what may well be my last Wardens report. As I write this, our intention is to move down to Bournemouth when we have been able to sell our house. Finding the place we would like was fairly easy. Although we looked at several, some were too small, some had a great view and some not so good. It turns out that the place we've offered on, is across the road to the Nairns but I can assure you, that it's a lovely coincidence rather than anything planned. There is no truth in the rumour that Watford is putting in a takeover bid for the Wardens in Bournemouth's Wootton Garden Shul.

In attempting to de-clutter in advance of our move, I discovered some old papers and realised I've been Warden for 19 years albeit with a 2 year break somewhere in the middle. I have shared the task of organising the Shul's Services with some lovely people including the late Phil Pearl, Steve Newman, Tony Nairn and more

latterly Michael Gordon. Forgive me if I've missed anyone out. I've also worked with several Rabbonim including Aaron Blackman, Mark Solomon, Jeremy Rosten, Barry Lerer, Daniel Roselaar and now Ephraim Levine. I've also worked with several Chairmen including David Solomon, David Walters, Brian Levy and Ronnie Jacob. Many different people, many different ways of doing the job but all with one aim in common to further Watford and District Synagogue. Once again, apologies if I've left anyone out.

As our Membership grows, so does the issues that can sometimes apply. The amount of Yahrzeits we have, normally determines how many spaces there are available for any special days that occur during the yearly calendar. If you think we're having a difficult time, just consider what the larger Shuls do and how they survive all the broigas's that seem to happen every so often.

This year we've managed to encourage several members to do their Barmitzvah Haftaras and this is an absolute pleasure. We'd love more variety with different people taking over parts of the Service and I'd like to thank Joe Kent, Henry Hantman and Scott Michaels who have helped out in that area.

If you'd like to help out, please let us know and we'll see how we can make it happen.

If this is my last report, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I would be delighted if you would like to remain in contact. If it's not my last, then I'll be repeating this in the Shul's Pesach magazine.

All the best

Ellard Roberts

This page has been sponsored by Alan, Cheryl and Hannah Fisher

## The Zahav Social Society

David Mindell

was formed earlier this year to provide varied entertainment for the older members of our community and their friends.

Until now the Society has met in the shul every Thursday from 2pm-4pm but after the High Holidays the next meeting will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October after which the meetings will take place every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month.

We have had a range of reputable entertainers and speakers on various subjects including Sir Leigh Lewis giving an insight into the Civil Service and an illustrated talk on "The Jewish Influence on the World of Jazz". Rabbi Levine talked about the work of the Kashrus Commission and a trip was made to Watford Museum. We also had a cards and games session which was particularly well attended. A programme of forthcoming events is published each week.



A donation of £2 per session covers tea, coffee and cakes which are available at every meeting. Transport to Shul can be arranged through the secretary, Sara Sugarman (01923 243365) or David Mindell (01923 331796) who will be pleased to answer any queries.

The Society is fortunate in having hardworking and committed members on its Committee but would like to see more representation from Shul members and friends.

Zahav is run for the community so do try and come along from time to time.

.....

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**We wish Rabbi Levine, his family, the wonderful Watford community including Gary, Danielle, Scott and Samantha Michaels a very happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast.**

## Newsround

Wads' press releases as written by our PR guru, Melanie Silver

### WATFORD WELCOMES HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

On Sunday 7 April 2013, around 50 members and guests flocked to Watford shul, wanting to hear moving personal testimony from Holocaust survivor Harry Bibring during a visit organised with the help of the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) as part of its outreach programme.

Harry talked about his family's harrowing experiences after their comfortable pre-war life in Vienna ended with the 'Anschluss' of Austria. After Kristallnacht (literally 'the night of broken glass') on 9 November 1938, Harry's family was



Harry pictured centre with Ronnie Jacob, Wads Chairman and Toria Maze

locked out of their flat for a week and his father jailed. When his father's menswear business was looted and destroyed a week later, the family decided to leave the country and, on 13 March 1939 at the age of 14, Harry travelled to England on the Kindertransport with his sister and around 600 other children.

The plan was that their parents would follow as soon as possible but, sadly, that never happened. Harry's father died of a heart attack on the van when soldiers tried to take him away in November 1940. His mother was then deported, first to Izbica and then to Sobibor in about June 1942. He never saw either parent again.

Harry's talk was followed by a question and answer session.

Watford chairman Ronnie Jacob remarked, "It was a privilege for us to welcome Harry Bibring to our community and his testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. As the number of survivors dwindles as the years pass, this was a precious opportunity to hear Harry's testimony first-hand and we hope it will encourage all who heard it to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

### WELCOME TO NEW YOUTH LEADER

Watford Synagogue gave an enthusiastic welcome to its first 'homegrown' youth leader, 17 year old Scott Michaels. With funding support from Tribe, Scott will lead activities for the post bar/batmitzvah age group while completing his A Levels at Yavneh College, Borehamwood.

Scott, who lives with his family in Watford, was inspired to become a youth leader after going on the Tribe Israel Tour in the summer of 2012. He explains, "Ever since that trip I have wanted to become a youth director for Tribe so when the chance came to lead at my own shul – Watford – it was too good an opportunity to miss."

Scott has already helped organise the shul's Chanukah and Purim parties, a successful outing to the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead, and a bowling event. As for future plans, he is looking into arranging a summer barbecue, paintballing, a talent contest and more.

Talking about his ambitious plans, Scott says, "I aim to ensure there are regular events for Watford's youth of all ages at which everyone has a great time. I also want to bring the youth closer to the rest of the community and seek out future leaders among the kids – but all while having loads of fun."



Watford Shul's new youth leader Scott Michaels pictured with Helen Gordon, Watford's board member responsible for youth.

This page has been sponsored by Daphne Taylor on the occasion of her grandson's wedding

## ZAHAV SOCIAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES

Watford shul has launched Zahav, a weekly social and cultural society that meets every Thursday at the shul from 2 to 4pm. Since Zahav opened its doors in mid April, the programme has featured the following speakers:

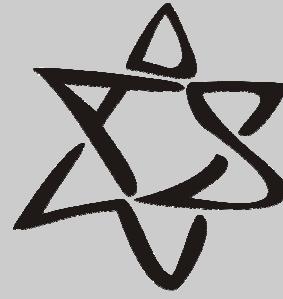
- **Philip Worth** whose wife Jennifer inspired the much-acclaimed TV series 'Call the Midwife'.
- **Ruth Bourne** who worked at Bletchley Park operating the device used to help decipher encrypted signals from Germany's Enigma machine.
- Renowned singer **David Peace** who performed a full range from his repertoire, which spans a variety of genres.

Other highlights in the fascinating events programme include:

6 June Rabbi Henry Goldstein talking on Fagin, Shylock and Jewish villains  
13 June Games afternoon  
20 June Alf Keals who talked about the Jewish influence on the world of jazz  
July Trip to Watford Museum with guided tour and refreshments

Forthcoming speakers will include Rabbi Alan Plancey, a close friend of David Hockney and Watford's own minister, Rabbi Ephraim Levine.

Events are open to all and guests do not need to be members of the Watford community. Entry costs £2 and refreshments are served.



## 2013 Wads 100 Club List of winners

Two monthly 1st and 2nd prize draws as above will continue up to February 2014. March 2014 will see a 1st prize draw of £100 and a 2nd prize draw of £50

Draw Month	1st Prize	2nd Prize
2013	£50	£25
April	Sharon Galatis	Michelle Simpson
May	Barry Freed	Esther Levy
June	Glenda Marcus	Beatrice Moss



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## Cassiobury Walks by (Wads Member) Raffi Katz

Rosy Moorhead, Watford Observer

I set out from the rustic brick bridge over the River Gade, cross through the picnic benches that line the playground and paddling pools, and set off up the tree-lined avenue that is the spine of

Cassiobury Park. Even during the winter, the park is full of hardy locals out walking their dogs or going for a jog, and now that the sun finally seems to have decided it's time to come out, there are few lovelier places in town.

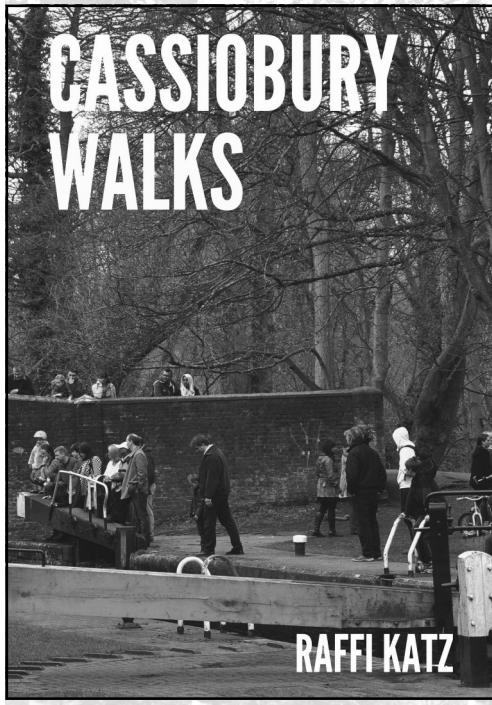
everyone," says Raffi, "there's the actual park area, the conservation area and the woodlands. Each walk started with me going around the park and saying 'Oh, that looks interesting'."

The first part of the book contains a wealth of useful, practical information, such as maps, where to park and key areas of the park, such as the paddling pools, toilets, and miniature railway, with information on when they're open, where they are and how to get to them.

At the back of the book is a series of handy QR codes that will take you through to sites with information on park events, and traffic and weather updates.

Talking of the weather, it's far too nice outside to be sitting indoors reading this. Grab your copy of Cassiobury Walks and I'll meet you at the picnic benches by the bridge over the river. I'll be the one playing Pooh Sticks.

Cassiobury Walks is available to buy from Cafe Cha Cha in the park, Rhubarb Cafe in Cassiobury Drive and from [www.cassiobury-walks.co.uk](http://www.cassiobury-walks.co.uk)



Cassiobury estate-based rambler Raffi Katz has just published a book of walks in and around the park, a pocket-sized handbook that features more than 30 walks ranging from ten minutes to four hours, including Croxley Green, Whippendell Wood and Chandlers Cross, as well as along the canal to Rickmansworth and Kings Langley.

"What I like so much about it is that it's a park for

Raffi has spent the past two years setting out from the park with his notebook, stopwatch and camera, charting walks for his book, and each one comes with precise instructions of turnings to take and descriptions of what you will be passing at which minute. There are also 'fascinating facts', such as seasonal changes to your route ('after very heavy rain the first few yards of this path will be flooded, retrace your steps until you can see not-so-wet woodland, and cut the corner') or handy hints ('careful as you cross the golf course, look right. If a golfer screams Fore! Your response should be to bend down and cover your head with your arms').

## CST and Jewish life

CST is the Community Security Trust, a charity that provides security for Jewish communities throughout Britain.

CST ensures that we can lead the Jewish life of our choice, with safety and confidence. CST is part and parcel of our communities, drawing upon a proud tradition of British Jewish self-defence.

It is a sad fact that in Britain today, there are those who would seek to harm our communities. We may get used to the regularity of people being arrested for terrorism, but when an attack actually succeeds, the shocking reality strikes us all.

It is CST's job to ensure that British Jews are protected from such hatred and extremism, but this requires a real partner-

ship between CST, local communities and synagogues, and Police.

We are extremely fortunate that this partnership is in place and has been for many years now. Nevertheless, it requires everyone to participate. Please, contact your local CST representative and ask what part you can play in supporting our local security teams.

CST is also available, 24 hours a day, for those of us who are unfortunate enough to suffer, or witness, antisemitism.

We need to share responsibility, together. This means understanding why we do security and cooperating with our local teams. CST can only be as strong as the communities we serve. We need you play your part, by reporting informa-

tion to us; and by joining our local teams or helping to fund our work.

Sharing responsibility also means keeping a healthy sense of perspective. Physical and political threats do exist, but that should not stop any of us from appreciating and celebrating the overall excellence of Jewish life in Britain today.

We thank you all and warmly wish you a Shana Tova.



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References: 1. Bar-Ziv Y, et al. Arthritis Journal 2012. 2. Elbaz A, et al. Clinical Biomechanics 010;25:920-925. 3. Independent telephone survey

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## Thank You Wads

Adrian Pearl

Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lebanon War I have been involved with a group of like-minded olim who, ineligible to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces (age related!), have made it our mission to provide morale boosting events to the young people who serve in the I.D.F in the defense of Israel. During conflicts this takes the form of nightly deliveries of Pizza to the troops serving on the front lines. In quieter periods we have been lucky to have the ear of a retired Colonel who is the point-man for the lone soldiers – young men and women from abroad - who volunteer to leave their families and join the I.D.F. Like many modern armies, sometimes due to budgetary constraints the soldiers are not always provided with adequate equipment.

Just before Pesach we were invited by a Golani brigade, stationed on our Northern border to defend us against terrorist infiltration, to make a morale boosting barbecue. They made us very welcome, giving us a potted history of the area and showing us a range of the equipment they use. One of the items was a special kit bag used to transport their heavy equipment such as flak jackets, helmets and ammunition. Again unfortunately the

army did not have the budget to buy enough of these kit bags to give one to each of the 120 soldiers in the unit. Soldiers were making do as best they could

It is our custom in my Shul in Netanya to make a charitable appeal during the holidays when Yizkor is said for a local cause. So this Pesach in WADS, as my associates made an appeal in my Netanya shul, I made an appeal in Watford, to help us buy 100 of these special kit bags for the Golani soldiers.

We were amazed at the response from both communities and quickly reached our target. The surplus will be used for another worthy Unit in need. I should like to thank everyone who contributed towards this great project and assure them that the thanks from all Golani 13 unit is passed onto them.

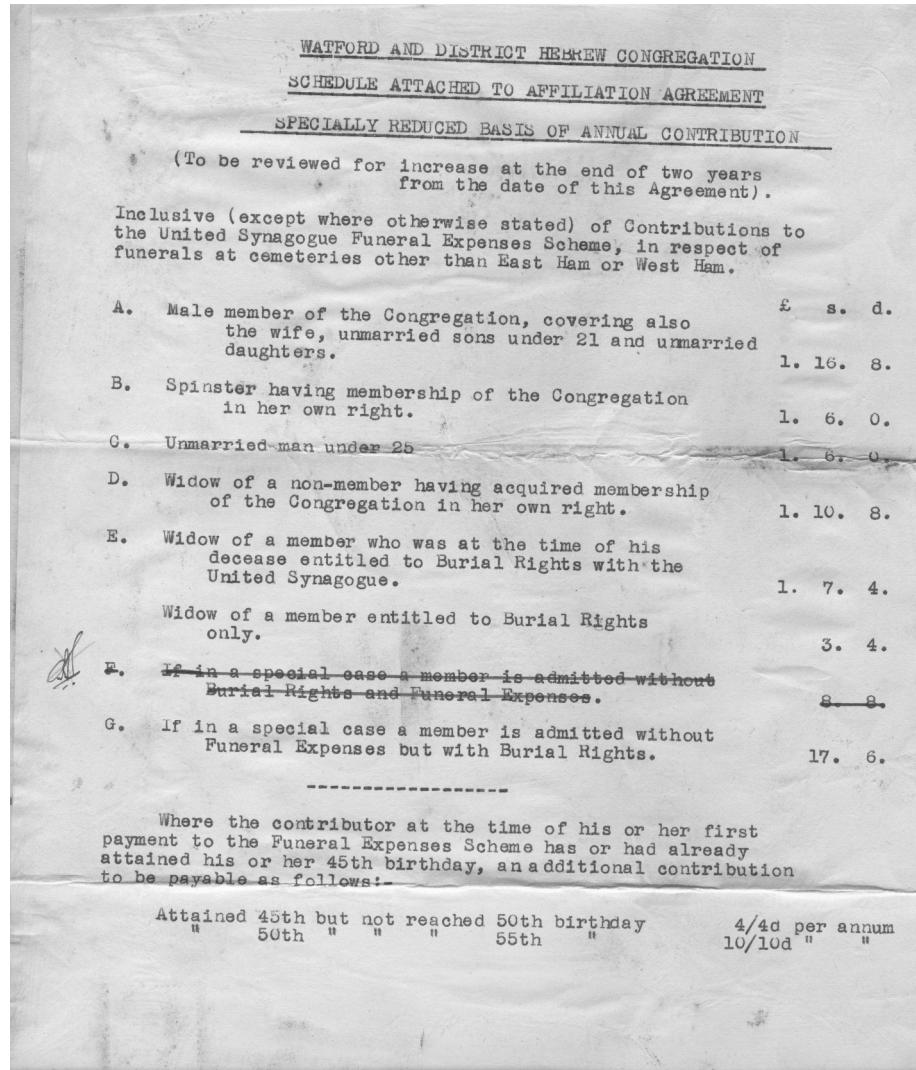
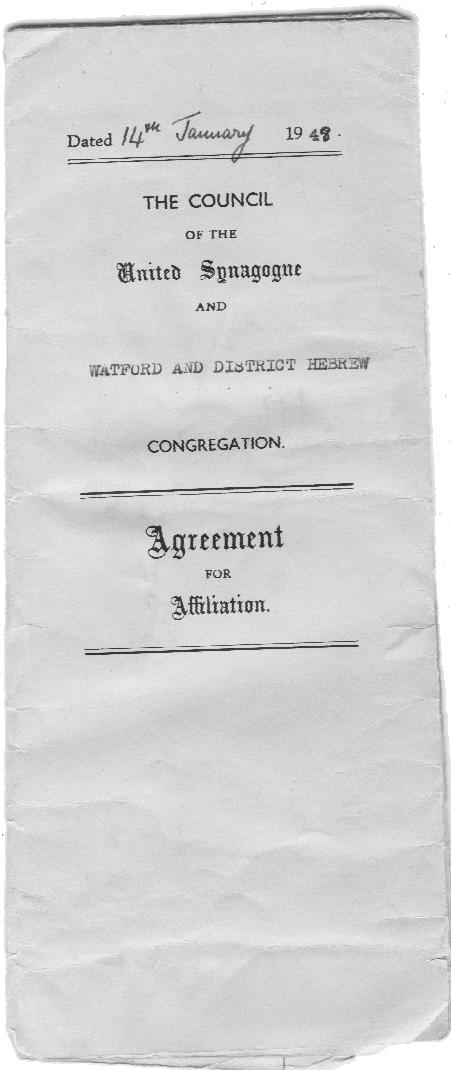
*Golani 13 with their specially manufactured bags bought with your generosity.*



This page has been sponsored anonymously

## 65 Years ago Wads became Affiliated to The United Synagogue

*Wads News takes a look at the original Agreement document*



This document miraculously survived the fire that damaged much of the Synagogue building approximately 20 years ago.

It was drawn up on the 14th January 1948 and describes the terms expected of The Watford and District Hebrew Congregation of which Sydney Meyer-Hudes was Chairman and authorised to act on the congregation's behalf following a Committee Resolution two weeks earlier.

As would be expected, the Watford and District Hebrew Congregation had to agree to observe in its religious services the ritual prevailing in the Constituent Synagogues of the United Synagogue and to conduct its affairs in accordance with the usages and traditions of the United Synagogue.

What is most interesting and demonstrates a big change in the times are the rates of annual contribution. A male member of the Congregation, covering also the wife, unmarried sons under 21 and unmarried daughters had a rate of £1, 16s 8d

This was a specially reduced rate to be reviewed for increase at the end of the two years from the date of the agreement.

What these records don't tell us is what the rates were increased to at the end of this period....



So, my first term of being the Watford Youth Director has come to a close. Throughout this term we have had 3 exciting events, our Chanukah Party, our Purim Party and who can forget our trip to the Snow Centre.

Watford's Tribe group is relatively small, but this will not stop me creating and putting on events that all the other Shul's will be jealous of. However, for this to happen I need your help. I need to know what you or your child likes to do the most. It could be anything, from bowling to paintball to skydiving (that one may be a bit trickier). I will try to organise any type of event, and the better it is supported by the community the more I can do.

I am in talks with tribe about refurbishing the tribe room. However, I will know more details about this towards the end of the year.

The programme for this term is as follows:

- **Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>:** WADS paintball. This will be held at Bricket Wood paintball centre. For over 11's.
- **Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>:** WADS bowling, the much loved family event is back.
- **Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Trip to a nearby museum, for example the RAF Museum, including fun rides on simulators plus much more, open to all.
- **Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>:** Trip to London and to Winter Wonderland, including rides, a circus ice skating and much more.

Finally, there will be a Chanukah party this year, and the annual trip to the Tower of London for ice-skating, dates will be confirmed nearer the time.

Over this next term I would like to see our youth group grow larger and larger, allowing the children to make more and more friends.

If you have any queries, suggestions or anything that you would like to discuss, please email me at scotty.michaels@hotmail.co.uk or watfordtribe@hotmail.co.uk



This page has been sponsored by Helen, Elliott and Danielle Gordon with Millie Graham on the occasion of James' Bar Mitzvah

## High Holydays Timings 5774 2013

Wednesday Sept 4th	Erev Rosh Hashana	Yom Tov begins - Light Candles	7.26p.m.
		Mincha/Ma'ariv	7.30p.m.
Thursday Sept 5th	1st day Rosh Hashana	Shacharit	9.00a.m.
		Reading of the Law	10.30a.m.
		Sermon	11.15a.m.
		Shofar	11.30a.m.
		Musaph	11.45a.m.
		Tashlich (Bridge in Cassiobury Park)	5.00p.m.
		Mincha/Ma'ariv	7.30p.m.
Friday Sept 6th	2nd day Rosh Hashana	Light Candles after	8.27p.m.
		Shacharit	9.00a.m.
		Reading of the Law	10.30a.m.
		Sermon	11.15a.m.
		Shofar	11.30a.m.
		Musaph	11.45a.m.
		Light Candles	7.21p.m.
Shabbat Sept 7th	Shabbat Shuva	Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	7.30p.m.
		Shacharit	9.45a.m.
		Mincha	7.30p.m.
Sunday Sept 8th	Fast of Gedaliah	Shabbat ends	8.22p.m.
		Starts	4.39a.m.
		Shacharit	8.15a.m.
		Ends	8.13p.m.
Friday Sept 13th	Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre & Shabbat	Fast Begins - Light Candles	7.05p.m.
		Kol Nidre Service	7.15p.m.
		Sermon	7.30p.m.
Shabbat Sept 14th	Yom Kippur	Shacharit	9.45a.m.
		Reading of the Law	12.15p.m.
		Sermon and Yizkor	12.45p.m.
		Musaph	1.30p.m.
		Break	3.30p.m.
		Shiur	4.30p.m.
		Mincha	5.30p.m.
		Sermon	6.45p.m.
		Ne'ilah	7.00p.m.
		Ma'ariv	8.00p.m.
		Fast Ends	8.05p.m.
Wednesday Sept 18th	Erev Succot	Yom Tov begins - Light Candles	6.54p.m.
		Mincha/Ma'ariv	7.00p.m.
Thursday Sept 19th	1st day Succot	Shacharit	9.45a.m.
		Mincha/Ma'ariv	7.00p.m.
		Light Candles after	7.53p.m.
Friday Sept 20th	2nd day Succot	Shacharit	9.45a.m.
		Light Candles	6.49p.m.
		Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	7.00p.m.
Shabbat Sept 21st	Chol Hamoed Succot	Shacharit	9.45a.m.
		Mincha	7.00p.m.
		Shabbat ends	7.48p.m.

## Shechita's stock rising in modern world

Leon Symons

If you were living in a yurt in Siberia, it's possible that news of the horsemeat scandal that swept Europe just a few months ago might just have passed you by.

It caused widespread dismay among many people in many communities, predominantly among those who bought cheap pre-made meals or burgers. The Jewish community showed concern but mainly was unaffected. However, it did bring an increase in people – non-Jews as well as Jews - buying kosher meat and poultry.

The connection might not seem obvious at first, as it is pretty nigh impossible for horsemeat - or any other non-kosher meat - to enter the kosher food chain. Rather, it is in the traceability of kosher meat and poultry wherein lies the link.

This is where the London Board for Shechita (LBS) comes in. In its own words, the LBS is a charitable organisation operating on a non-profit basis to ensure the provision of kosher meat to the Jewish public.

What does that mean? In simple terms, it's the job of the LBS to make sure that every one of its licensed kosher butchers and meat product manufacturers is able to get kosher meat and poultry throughout the year, for every Shabbat and every chag. In doing so, it will know the source of every leg, wing, steak, chicken liver and chop that crosses a counter or decorates a dinner plate.

That capability and certainty of knowing where it all came from and where it's all going is what gives the LBS its cachet in today's world.

When consumers see an LBS licence certificate displayed in a shop window, they can be safe in the knowledge that what it says on the label of what they're buying is what they will get in their basket. It is fast becoming a market-leading organisation in food information and education.

The organisation has been in existence since 1804. It is unique in Anglo-Jewry at bringing together the United Synagogue, the Federation of Synagogues and the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation under one roof as its constituent parts. It has its own Rabbinical Authority with a senior Dayan from each parent body (Dayan Gelley from the London Beth Din, Dayan Lichtenstein from the Federation and Dayan Amor from the S&P).

The LBS plays no role in buying livestock or in wholesaling meat and poultry. Its role is to employ teams of shochtim – Jewish religious slaughtermen (and their aides who do the checking and the sealing) at abattoirs, whose job is a religious calling for which they train for years before they ever pick up a knife. It also employs shomrim, essentially food inspectors, who oversee kashrut operations in the premises of licensees and particularly the porging and the koshering. It finds abattoirs who are willing to work with shechita – there are very few in England. It will award those coveted licences to butchers and factories it deems fit and worthy to handle kosher meat and poultry, whether they sell it over the counter or ready packaged. Butchers offer different products and vary greatly in style but the LBS inspects all of them before giving a licence.

The LBS is a charity so is not in business to make profits. It gets no donations but

charges fees for its services and for the people it employs. Occasionally, one will see stories in the Jewish press about shechita fees. However, tough management and tighter economic controls have led to its fees per kilo being lower now than in 2005 and this in a period in which worldwide meat and poultry prices have increased. The LBS is seriously concerned about the price of keeping kosher, but it must be stressed that it plays no part in setting the prices paid by consumers. Uniquely among UK shechita authorities, it seeks to have a number of abattoirs where it offers its services so its butchers have a choice and there is competition for their custom.

While it might be more than two centuries old, the reach and influence of social media in today's world is being acknowledged as the LBS is about to revamp its website and is launching its own Facebook page. This will bring greater accessibility, transparency and knowledge to both its licensees and consumers in a world where the substance of what we eat has never been of greater importance.

To find out more look at [www.shechita.co.uk](http://www.shechita.co.uk) or email [info@shechita.co.uk](mailto:info@shechita.co.uk)



Wednesday Sept 25th	Erev Shemini Atzeret	Yom Tov begins - Light Candles	6.38p.m.
		Mincha/Ma'ariv	6.45p.m.
Thursday Sept 26th	Shemini Atzeret	Shacharit (Yizkor)	9.45a.m.
		Mincha, Ma'ariv and Hakkafot	6.30p.m.
		Light Candles after	7.37p.m.
		Service ends	8.30p.m.
Friday Sept 27th	Simchat Torah	Shacharit	9.45a.m.
	Erev Shabbat	Light Candles	6.33p.m.
Shabbat Sept 28th	Shabbat Bereshit	Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat	6.45p.m.
		Shacharit	9.45a.m.
		Mincha	6.45p.m.
		Shabbat ends	7.32p.m.

## "Help, I've been made redundant ... "



Friday, 26 October 2012 started out like any other workday for Steven Davies\*. Until his boss called him into his office, told him he was being made redundant and would he please

clear his desk and leave straight away.

Steven was a senior compliance officer with a leading financial services

### RESOURCE

The Jewish employment advice centre

I needed my CV  
to stand out

## Stillborn Support Group (SSG)



US Community Cares, part of the United Synagogue Chesed Division, launched the Stillbirth Support Group last September. This was following the publication by the US of the booklet 'A Guide for the Jewish Parent on Miscarriages, Stillbirths and Neonatal Deaths.'

The purpose of the SSG is to ensure the availability of and access to support for both men and women who have suffered a stillbirth. This support could be soon after the loss has happened. It could also be for people who have suffered a stillbirth some time ago but are still finding it difficult to come to terms with and are looking for support away from the family unit.

What the SSG provides is not intended to be a counselling

service but more of a befriending support service for men and women to contact when they feel the need to 'offload' or simply have a chat when the going gets tough for them. Sometimes people find it helpful to talk to someone outside their circle of family or friends who has an understanding of just how difficult it can be to come to terms with such a tragic loss.

Whether you or someone you know may want help now or anytime in the future, just call the SSG on 020 8343 5651 and leave a message with your contact details on our 24 hour answer phone. The call will be responded to as quickly as possible so that the caller can have an initial chat in confidence on a one to one basis.

company, with a wife and two children under six.

Three months down the line and in the depths of despair, a friend suggested he contact Resource, the charity that provides free professional advice, support and training for Jewish people seeking employment. Although he was a bit embarrassed and wasn't sure how they could help him, Steven made the call.

At Resource Steven was assigned his own dedicated adviser and together, at their initial one-to-one session, they agreed a plan of action to meet his specific needs. He attended their two-day introductory seminar programme, which covered practical tips on coping with unemployment, preparing an effective CV, interview skills, networking skills and a whole lot more.

Steven said he really needed his CV to stand out and found all the advice from Resource invaluable in helping him achieve a higher 'strike rate' of interviews.

The Resource Networking team also sprang into action. They were able to set Steven up to meet networked contacts at four companies. As a result, Steven is now successfully settled into a well-paid position,

with excellent prospects, at a leading investment company.

He said: "It was a really difficult time for me and my family and I had begun to fear for the future. But the expertise and support I received from Resource proved invaluable. It's an excellent service within the community and we are fortunate to have it."

Resource, the Jewish Employment Advice Centre, is a charity based in Finchley, with satellite services in Finchley, Redbridge and Stamford Hill. Led by volunteers who are all HR and business experts, it offers free confidential one-to-one guidance and a wide range of seminars to help its clients to succeed in today's jobs market.

If you would like further information or to make an appointment, please call 020 8346 4000 or visit [www.resource-centre.org](http://www.resource-centre.org).

\* Client's identity has been changed to protect his anonymity.

Article from **Resource**, the Jewish employment advice centre. For further information please contact Michelle Henley on 020 8346 4000 or e-mail [michelle@resource-centre.org](mailto:michelle@resource-centre.org)

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