

HGS Synagogue's Rabbi Kaplan is inducted



The Chief Rabbi, centre, with HGSS chairman Keith Barnett and Rabbi Kaplan.

The Suburb synagogue formally inducted Rabbi Kaplan, after his first five months, on 8 February, at a packed evening celebration officiated by the Chief Rabbi, and attended by ministers from the local churches and other guests. The ceremony also marked the reshaping of the ministerial team, including the arrival last summer of Rabbi Levene with special responsibility for youth.

After opening songs from the synagogue's primary school, Kerem, the community's Associate Minister, Rabbi Anthony Knopf, established the theme of the evening as 'welcome', with a traditional interpretation from the week's Torah (bible) reading based on the Children of Israel's encampment before Mount Sinai. They were "like a single person with a single heart." Similarly in the Suburb we are united when the whole community takes part, and feels renewal. Bonds are strengthened, and the individual is lifted into something greater than could be achieved alone.

Community is a place where members are inspired to gain the tools to turn themselves into the best people they can be,

through a vibrant centre of Jewish life with inspiring services, through learning programmes and through caring such as the mitzvah day fruit salad event.

Chazan (cantor) Avromi Freilich led the evening service, and several guests read special prayers.

The Chief Rabbi spoke of leadership, the achievements of Rabbi Kaplan in Caesaria and before that in Colombia.

In his address to the community, Rabbi Kaplan noted that nothing stays the same – it is only our perception that often tells us things are the same, because that is comfortable and familiar. We must adapt, confident in our combined intelligence and comforted by love and



Rabbi Kaplan chats with Rev Alan Walker and Cllr Andrew Harper.

companionship. He quoted William James, an American pioneer in psychology who wrote: "The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes." Rabbi Kaplan went on to conclude: "We are living in a rapidly developing world. Let us turn to face the current challenges, trusting in God and the abilities He has bestowed upon humanity to address them. God bless."

Continuing that theme, two teenagers interviewed two grandparents on the changes they had seen in the synagogue during their lifetimes, and the evening rounded off with a social gathering.

JONATHAN SERES

100 years on for the RA

The 100th annual general meeting of the Residents Association was, as befits its age, an unusually sedate one. The fireworks of yesteryear were not missed by the Chairman who conducted the business of the meeting in the Free Church with members voting yes to everything proposed. The accounts were in surplus, the Gallery had done well, members had been happy enough with the chairman and treasurer who were re-elected as were council members retiring by rotation. A new vice chairman is Jonathan Seres who said, "If I have an aim it is to make every Suburb resident as aware of the RA as is this evening's audience." Thanks were due to honorary accountant Paul Hartley for his help and advice.

The chairman Janet Elliott made a plea for members to help, "We have lots of ideas about what the RA can do, but not enough people to carry them out." Jeremy Clynes outlined progress of the Market Place library project which had resulted in plenty of volunteers coming forward. Questions were asked about the Chandos development behind Waterlow Court and Reynolds Close. Andrew Davis raised concern about the potential impact of the high buildings on the edge of the Suburb. Diana Walsh criticised the actions of TfL in cutting down a tree in Lyttelton Road and the aggressive lighting and unsuitable design of street lights.

David Lewis, vice chairman for seven years, paid tribute to

Janet Elliott, "She does an amazing amount of work, not only as chairman but as membership secretary as well."

RA CHOOSES STUART GRAY AWARD WINNER

The annual Alexander Stuart Gray award was announced at the AGM by Consam chairman Geoffrey Spyer. A new extension for 15 Rotherwick Road, replacing an unapproved extension (architects Brill Owen), was the winner, chosen for its excellent design and quality of construction. The panel also noted that the design demonstrated what the HGS Trust can achieve though sensitive negotiation with owners. Short-listed were 73 Brim Hill, 2 Linnell Drive (landscape), 25 Deansway and 8 Heathgate (landscape).

The Trust

(continued from page 1)

recover his fee would be expensive, time consuming and unlikely to succeed.

The latest 'Concerned Residents' challenge will add over £3 to each charge this year; previous unsuccessful challenges have involved comparable costs. This figure does not include the very significant diversion of the time and effort of Trust staff that results. Nonetheless the Trust supports residents' right to challenge the charge, although residents are encouraged always to raise their concerns with the Trust first.

The Trust Council is fully committed to balancing its duty to deal fairly with residents liable to pay the Management Charge and its equal duty to all residents through the Trust's other charitable functions.

It is a matter of regret that Dr Papadopoulos refuses invitations to discuss his concerns with the

Trust and that his arguments and calculations remain essentially unchanged from those rejected by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal in 2007. It is a matter of satisfaction to the Trust that where others have discussed their concerns with the Trust differences have often been resolved and the Trust has been persuaded that some of its calculations should be revised.

The Surveyor, in the last Determination, recommended that the way in which shared overheads are apportioned to the Scheme of Management should be spelt out in greater detail and the Trust will be considering how best to do this. The Trust will also be considering whether it would be helpful to Management Charge payers to make the distinction between the Trust's funds (which it holds in trust for all residents) and the Scheme of Management funds (that are held in trust for Management Charge payers until expended) even more apparent by preparing an operating account and a balance sheet for the Trust on a separate page from the accounts of the Scheme of Management.

As part of a policy of increasing direct participation by residents in the Trust's affairs over and beyond the four elected, resident Trustees, two resident Management Charge payers with appropriate business experience are now members of the Trust's Finance Committee. The Trust hopes that residents unhappy with the Management

Charge or, indeed, any other aspect of the Trust's policies, will take advantage of the standing invitation of the Trust to discuss their concerns with members of staff or, where appropriate, with Trustees. A great deal of time and expense can be saved in this way.

The Scheme of Management is the principal means by which the Trust is able to preserve the special character, architecture, trees and open spaces of the Suburb. The recent challenges to its operation have not found any substantive weakness in the Scheme or in the manner in which it is run. It is the fervent wish of the Trust that residents and Trustees can work together to avoid further disruptive and expensive challenges and concentrate on the real work of conservation.

JANE BLACKBURN, TRUST MANAGER

Wordsearch winner

Our latest winner is Barbara Britton. She and Geoffrey have lived on the Suburb for over 40 years where her pursuit of local history has perhaps helped her to spot the more obscure Anglo Saxon Queens!

They are long time members of St Jude's congregation, where Geoffrey has served as a Reader.

Sadly, a small though close entry was received for Diamond Jubilee year but all credit to those who did.

WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of fish of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!) Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Entries should be listed on paper or a postcard and sent to Diana Woodfield, 5 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HA with your name, address and phone number. The closing date is 18 June 2012. The sender of the first correct (or nearly correct) entry will win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

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 E S Y N P A R U B V E L G U
 D M C W C H C R E P P R A C
 B T O H J E S K I M I Y P F
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DIANA WOODFIELD

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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WINTER WORDSEARCH ANSWER

The Queens of England were: Adelaide, Aldgyth, Alexandra, Anne, Bertha, Caroline, Catherine, Charlotte, Edith, Eleanor, Emma, Ethelburga, Henrietta, Isabella, Jane, Margaret, Mary, Matilda, Philippa, Victoria.

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