



Chanukah Festival

After the hectic activity of the New Year and festivals in September and October, life at Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue has settled down for the winter months. The major winter celebration is the festival of Chanukah which started this year on the night of Saturday December 19th and continued for 8 days. It is a very visible festival symbolised by the lighting of an eight-branched candelabrum - the Menorah. On the first night just one candle is lit and this increases by one extra candle each night until the last night when all 8 candles are lit. Passers by at Golders Green station could see a giant Menorah provided by the Lubavitch community whose local base is their centre in Kingsley Way. Like most Jewish festivals, Chanukah also has a culinary attraction, in this case potato pancakes called latkes which are well worth trying. They are utterly delicious though not generally found on diet sheets!

As anticipated in the last issue of *Suburb News*, Rabbi Jackson has now started his sabbatical in Israel. While he is away his communal duties are being taken care of by Rev. Asher Hainovitz who has arrived from Jerusalem for a few months. Rev. Hainovitz has a wonderful voice and a warm personality which have quickly endeared him to the community and indeed many visitors are coming to hear him conduct the Sabbath services. A recent visiting preacher has been Rabbi Riskin formerly of New York but who is now living in Israel. His two addresses to the congregation served to confirm his reputation as

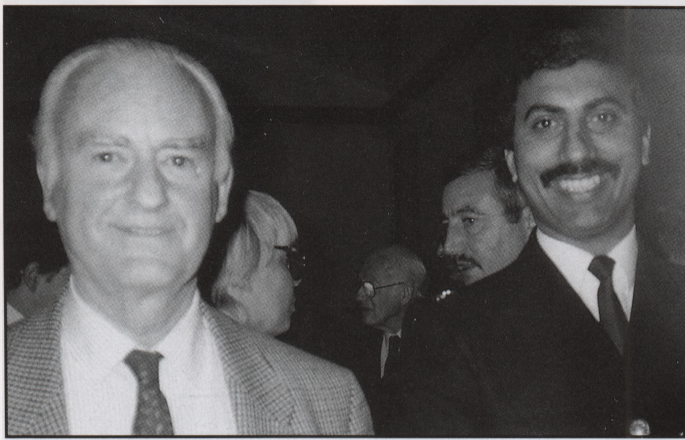
one of the most dynamic and inspiring of modern-day Rabbis.

The New Year will see the Synagogue's joint study programme with Finchley Synagogue, Project Seed moving to the Max Weinbaum Hall at Norrice Lea on Wednesday evenings. Project Seed is designed for one to one learning with teachers to study a wide variety of Jewish topics at all levels. The project has already proved a great success and it is hoped that even more people will participate once the new term starts in January.

On a more serious note, January will also see the start of a special course aimed at teenagers. This course, which will last for ten weeks, is designed for the welfare and protection of young people and is being run with the co-operation of the police, youth workers and other organisations. Among its aims is the promotion of awareness of drug abuse, dealing with problems of recognition and avoidance as well as helping teenagers assist the police in their fight against drugs. The course will also teach street awareness, the art of avoiding trouble and as a last resort self-defence with the help of instructors recognised by the Amateur Martial Arts Association. There will also be advice on first aid, police procedure and other relevant matters all designed to build up trust and mutual understanding between the authorities and local youth. This is a major project and deserves the support and encouragement of all Suburb parents of teenage children.

Once the children leave their

MEET THE POLICE EVENINGS



Peter Loyd and PC Jay Gohill



WPC Melanie Burdett



Inspector Vince Esposito



Sgt Mark Parsons

teen years behind them, they will be able to participate in the new Sabbath services for those aged 20 to 30. These services will be less formal than the main service and it is hoped that people who otherwise might not be regular attenders will be encouraged to attend. The idea is all part of the plan to make Norrice Lea Synagogue a place where all can come and feel comfortable. **RG**

St Jude's wins planning consent

On 10 December 1992 St Jude's obtained consent from Barnet Council for the occasional use of the church for recording sessions. This is, of course, in addition to its full range of uses for its normal religious activities. This was the happy ending to two years of misunderstanding and uncertainty. The church has been used for recording for the past 20 years because of the quality of the acoustics of the church building and because of its quiet environment. The intensity of use has increased in recent years as financial pressures have come on the church. Substantial sums were spent on new toilets within the building to accommodate the recording artists, but then a resident's complaint led to a dispute with the Council. Rather than challenge the Council's views through the law the church consulted widely and, with the support of the Trust and the Residents Association, planning consent for a compromise arrangement was achieved. This compromise limits the church to orchestras of not more than 60 people. Although this compromise does take away the income from hirings of larger orchestras it was felt that there was scope for the church to build up a "niche" market for this scale of chamber-orchestra style of recording with the income much of which is spent on maintaining the Grade I Lutyens building.

Edward Greenfield, the *Guardian* music critic, has stated that the only church worth making a digital recording in is St Jude's. It is not only suitable for choral works but many smaller religious choral works, such as Purcell and Handel.

The sound of St Jude's has literally gone round the world and

we occasionally receive letters enquiring about the church, the recordings and Lutyens, its architect. We also have visitors who specifically come to see the church where their recordings were made.

We have been host to many groups, including the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, who told me they felt so very much at home playing under the Star of David in the ceiling of the church. To stop recording in St Jude's would not only affect the church but also a worldwide following.

The church is formally thanking the Residents Association and the Trust for their support and also wishes to extend thanks to all those many residents who have supported it.

JACW

Over 650 residents attended a series of 'Meet the Police' evenings during October. Arranged by Peter Loyd they were intended to introduce our local police team and give an opportunity, taken by many, to get to know the men and women behind the uniforms.



Linda Bailey

Willifield Way traffic meeting

Frustration at the apparent lack of action by the authorities, to do anything about the speed and density of traffic along Willifield Way led to the calling of a meeting of residents in the St Jude's Church Rooms on January 9.

Robert and Karen Grant, number 91 and Martin Werth, 87, circularised all Willifield Way houses prior to the meeting at which some 60 attended.

Flanked by John Marshall MP, Martin Werth outlined the problems caused by speeding through traffic and opened the meeting for suggestions.

Clr Frank Davis said that traffic was likely to increase as a result of North Circular Road works and the proposed red route for Falldon Way. The whole of Barnet, bounded by motorways and main routes, was affected and the need was for constructive solutions. These had been inadequate so far. Traffic calming methods were not likely to be

welcomed by the emergency services because they slowed down traffic and entailed delays in getting ambulances and fire engines through. He asked for ideas to take back to Barnet.

Victor Garston, veteran campaigner and petitioner for action over traffic, welcomed the initiative and particularly the presence of John Marshall.

Amongst a number of specific suggestions were: from Emma Thomas, 'make parts of Willifield Way one way and have no right turn into Finchley Road'. She also suggested using part of the wide pavement at the bottom of Child's Way as a lay-by so that parents could drop their children off there rather than come into Willifield Way.

Brian Smith was for having no left turn into the road from Finchley Road and for reversing the priorities at crossroads with Asmunds Hill and Temple Fortune Hill.

Alison Chesshyre wanted to

know how, if Barnet could not afford traffic calming schemes, they could be afforded by more hard pressed boroughs such as Islington or Hackney.

Bill Bailey of the RA's traffic committee said it was difficult to see solutions for a single road but that the RA had proposed two mini roundabouts in Willifield Way to Barnet.

Eileen Whelan, RA Chairman, as a resident of Willifield Way, welcomed the initiative but made a plea for residents to work through the RA which has established channels of communication. "We are a community; don't make traffic another cause of friction."

Leonie Stephen who lives opposite Willifield Green said she was daily appalled by the behaviour of commuting drivers and parents and again asked support for the RA whose traffic committee has regular meetings with Barnet. "If we all support the RA we'll get more done," she said.

John Marshall said that the high attendance indicated a depth of feeling on the subject and that Frank Davis would be able to report this back to Barnet. Local government was better able to deal with traffic problems than central government. However he had made copious notes and would write to Barnet. "Some suggestions though would provoke a counterblast from other residents." **RJW**

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