

# New Rabbi for HGS Synagogue

Life at Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue has been dominated over the last few months by the impending retirement of Rabbi Jackson and the appointment of a successor. Rabbi Jackson is to retire on December 31 after nearly two decades as Rabbi of the congregation. He will be greatly missed by the whole community for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to a growing membership.

As is the custom, the Synagogue lay leaders organised an extensive search for a successor and are delighted to have been able to present Rabbi Reuben Livingstone to the congregation for their approval. Rabbi Livingstone, who is presently Minister of a Synagogue in Ilford, was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of the Synagogue members and will take up office on March 1 next year.

Rabbi Livingstone is 38 and has had 13 years ministerial experience. He is married to Esther and they have three children. Rabbi Livingstone holds many Rabbinic and academic qualifications and is a well known and admired lecturer at Jews College, London.

The community is looking forward to Rabbi Livingstone's arrival and it is hoped that the Chief Rabbi will be able to be present at the induction service next year.

With regard to more immediate events, Rabbi Jackson wishes to draw the attention of local residents to the forthcoming High Holyday Services. The New Year Services will be held



Rabbi Reuben Livingstone

on September 21 and 22 and around 2000 people will be attending the many and varied services. As well as the main service in the Synagogue there will be a parallel service in the adjoining Synagogue Hall as well as the usual services for children and young adults throughout the Norrice Lea complex.

For the first time this year, it is hoped to hold a 'Highlights' service in a marquee in the Synagogue grounds. This service will be especially directed towards non-regular attendees who might find other services a trifle daunting.

Hampstead Garden Suburb's Jewish residents are reminded the HGS Synagogue offers a variety of memberships and services which it is hoped will provide a suitable place of worship for all.

Further details may be obtained from the Synagogue office on 0181 455 8126.

RICHARD GLYN

## Henrietta Barnett Old Girls

A reunion was held on 16th May by Henrietta Barnett 'girls' who left in years 1946/1948. 35 girls attended, including one each from the USA, Canada and

France. They were delighted to see their games mistress, Miss Jean Broad! A great time was had by all, and the reunion was considered a great success.

## Superb Suburb honey as beekeeping flourishes in HGS

Mary Ogle keeps bees. More than that, she is a true bee enthusiast. From her home in Wildwood Road, surrounded by beautiful gardens, she manages two colonies of bees (exact location secret) each of which can produce up to 100lbs of honey in a good year.

She started beekeeping over 20 years ago and acquired her first colony of bees after receiving instruction in the rudiments of beekeeping from Taylor's of Welwyn.

A neighbour suggested she might like to join the local beekeepers' association - there are several beekeepers on the Suburb - and today she is Treasurer of the North London Beekeepers Association, with some 56 members on its books and a full programme of apiary visits (the Association runs the Apiary at Kenwood House, and sells its honey there) plus lectures and shows from April to December. There is even an 'adopt a hive' scheme for beginners to get hands-on experience before setting up on their own.

Beekeeping fascinates her in every aspect, from disease control to swarm management; she acquired one swarm from a phone box in Golders Green

Road and managed to combine it with another from a garden in Highgate by removing the queen from one of the colonies so that the workers of both might unite.

She sees beekeeping as a truly beneficial activity - 'improving everyone's garden', as she puts it, and mentions one beekeeper who regularly took hives down to Kent in the Spring to help fertilize the apple orchards there.

'Beekeepers,' says Mary Ogle, 'are the most delightful people and a splendid cross section of the community.'

Having met her, I think she must be right. And her honey is truly superb.

ALEC WORSTER

If you would like more information on beekeeping then contact North London Beekeepers Association, 63 Hernstall Road, London NW6 2AD. Tel. 0171 624 2225.

# Northway to Buckingham Palace

Help is at hand for our embattled Queen as she struggles to convince a sceptical public that she and her chaotic family are worth keeping - from a Suburb old boy.

Simon Lewis has just been appointed head of a newly created communication department in Buckingham Palace with the brief to make the monarchy more in touch with the common people.

Former Brooklands School pupil, Lewis, 39, whose parents David and Sally live in Northway, will, in September, become the monarch's first Communications Secretary.

Lewis has already made a name for himself in the media world as head of public relations at Centrica, previously British Gas, having moved there in 1996 from the same post at Nat West Bank. And he learnt about the rough-and-tumble of media life when he organised the public relations campaign for the Social Democratic Party for the 1987 election.

Which is just as well: Even before taking up his appointment, not due until September, he has been hit by a broadside from the Daily Mail, which claimed Lewis is supported by the Queen's courtiers, but opposed by Charles's advisors who say he is a 'marketing man'.

In fact few people are in as much need of a little marketing as the Royals. Lewis can perhaps prevent gaffs such as the occasion in June when the Queen told a TV reporter she didn't know what time a vital England World Cup match was about to start, nor if she would be watching it.

An interview with Lewis hints at a quality which is hard to find in the media world - a little old fashioned humility.

If his answers are careful, they are also refreshingly modest: "It's a new role, it's been created because the Royal family decided to devote more



resources to communication," he says. "They want me to develop strategies to improve public understanding of the Royal Family's contribution to national life."

He hopes to encourage openness along the lines of the recent disclosures of the Royal accounts, which revealed that Prince Philip and Princess Margaret use OAP travel passes on rail trips - although presumably their security guards travel at the full rate.

Simon was born when his family lived in Oakwood Road, they later moved to Hampstead Way before settling in Northway. After Brooklands, he went to Whitefields School, where he became the first pupil ever to sit the Oxford entrance exam. He went on to win a prestigious Fulbright scholarship in California and gained a Master's degree in Political Science.

Lewis came back to Britain in 1983 and straight into public relations with City firm Shandwick "With public relations, if you are any good you can make your way at a pretty young age." He later

moved to bank S.G. Warburg, rising to become PR director before his move to Nat West in 1992.

He lives in Islington with his wife, Claire, children Thomas, 8 and Olivia, 7. He regularly visits the Suburb: "It's remarkable how little the Suburb has changed. I used to play football in the park at Northway Gardens. Now I take my son there, we play football in exactly the same spot," he says. "There does seem to be a continuity in the Suburb which is very comforting."

CHRIS STEPHEN

Chris Stephen covers Kosovo and the Balkans for the Sunday Times, the Evening Standard and the Scotsman. He also attended Brookland School and remembers walking home with Simon, who is a couple of years older, shepherding the younger ones across Falloeden Way. Both have contributed to Suburb News. Chris Stephen's first published piece was a report of a Garden Suburb School Fete in 1984 and Simon Lewis reported the Odds v Evens Northway cricket match in the paper in 1984 and '85.

## Golders Green Crematorium

Residents living near the crematorium who have suffered for many years from the emission of smoke, smell and soot from the chimneys will have to be patient once more.

Mr Robert Lockwood of Barnet's Environmental Health Department (0181-359 4710) is continuing his efforts to ensure that the provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1990 will be fully implemented as

soon as possible. This Act called for new advanced machinery to be installed and functioning efficiently by April 1996, later extended to April 1998. Even after this extension, the deadline has not been met.

The crematorium manager Mr K G Zawisza (0181-444 2374), says he is confident that by the end of September 1998, the new 'Rolls-Royce' of crematorium machinery (his words) will be in

operation and that thereafter the emission problems will cease.

The reasons given for the latest delay are problems with flue linings and engineering and programming difficulties.

The Department of the Environment's latest guidance notes (received by Barnet only a few days ago) call for even more stringent standards of emission control in the future.

TOM SALES

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