

Alyth Gardens Synagogue launches rebuilding programme

This week marks the opening stage of a £2.3 million rebuilding programme of the North Western Reform Synagogue at Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune.

Known as the Tekiyah project, the programme represents the high point of the Synagogue's celebration of its 70th anniversary. The community's actual birthday was in May when the Synagogue celebrated 70 years by starting building for the future.

Founded in 1933, the year Hitler took power in Germany, by a small group of 19 people, the Synagogue's congregation has grown to more than 2,300 members and is regarded as a model of moderate reformism.

"The Tekiyah project is symbolic of this community's commitment to the future," said Brenda Freedman, chairman of the North Western Reform Synagogue. "From its early days in the 30's it has played a vital role in North London Jewish life. For example, journalists from the national press used to come

to its sabbath services to hear news of Nazi evils and atrocities before the war."

Mrs Freedman stated that the rebuilding programme is expected to last about seven months with the renovated facility opening in time for the Hanukah celebrations in December.

The synagogue is to be remodelled with a new kindergarten building, a refurbished youth centre, an expanded library and a spacious new foyer.

Worshippers will only have to move out of the Synagogue for two months in July and August, Mrs Freedman noted. Other administrative, educational and social activities of the congregation will be carried out at alternative, convenient local venues.

Mrs Freedman added, "As the old bricks are pulled out of place, members of the congregation will share my view that we are at the start of a new adventure which will benefit our children and grandchildren."

KEN BAKER



Rabbi Charles Emanuel strikes a ceremonial blow marking the opening stage of the rebuilding programme of the synagogue at Alyth Gardens

Brookland School come third in National Chess Finals



Brookland Under 11 and Under 9 Chess teams celebrate at the National School Chess Finals with coach John Fleetwood

Brookland Junior School's champion chess players are staging a double celebration after their under-11 team took third prize in the English Primary Schools Chess Association National Championships. The school's under 9's team also finished in a very creditable fifth place in their section, which attracted 142 teams from all over the UK.

Competition was even fiercer in the under-11 division, with 188 teams entering. This is the second year running that Brookland managed to get two teams through to the finals. The under 11's this year were beaten only by independent schools from Monmouth and Nottingham, making Brookland the highest ranking state primary school in the country.

Headteacher Heather Blackmore said, "This was a hugely prestigious and extremely difficult tournament and I am absolutely delighted that our children did so well."

Even before becoming national finalists twice over, Brookland had already gained a formidable reputation as one of the top schools for chess in London. Earlier this year the school won the celebrated Elephant Trophy - awarded each year to the top primary school in London - after 12

Brookland players won the London Primary Schools Chess Association League championship.

A Brookland team also triumphed in the LPSCA 2003 Six Board championship, winning them another much sought-after trophy for their ever-growing display: a giant replica of a king from the famous Lewis chess set.

According to Ms Blackmore, the Brookland players' success is due to the support of parents, and to the enthusiasm and dedication of the school's chess coach, John Fleetwood.

Every Thursday after school up to 100 children take part in Chess Club, which is open to all of the school's 360 pupils, and is run by the school's deputy head Jenny Aylen. After the weekly Chess Club, 50 of the regular attendees stay on to receive extra coaching from John Fleetwood.

An extra coaching session had to be added this year to accommodate younger children from the Infant School next door who were clamouring to be allowed to join their older brothers and sisters. One of the younger players from the Infant school played for the under-9's team in this week's national finals. Brookland pupils play regularly for the Barnet and London teams.

John Fleetwood said, "Brookland have been doing phenomenally well and to get so many youngsters to such a high level is a real achievement. The school has got some really excellent young players and they seem to go from strength to strength."

Ms Blackmore confesses that she herself is not a chess player but greatly enjoys watching matches and believes that chess has great educational value. "I believe chess teaches the children so much about the need for teamwork, about competition and how to cope with both winning and losing. It also improves their powers of concentration and helps them appreciate the value of strategic thinking. With the younger players we have coming up, maybe in next year's finals we will do even better."

LINDA LEWIS

Wordsearch winner

The winner of the last wordsearch is Sharon Cavendish.

She has lived on the Suburb for nineteen years and has brought

up four children. She is an avid reader and looks forward to browsing in Joseph's Bookstore with her voucher in her pocket.

WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names, of four or more letters, of European Painters having names beginning with the letters A-L. Names may be read forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonally. DURER has been ringed to start you off. Can you find 19 more?

Entries should be listed on a postcard or a sheet of paper and sent to 'Wordsearch', 117 Hampstead Way, London, NW11 7JN, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is September 7, 2003. The sender of the first correct (or nearest correct) entry drawn after the closing date will receive a voucher from Joseph's Bookstore for £20.

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H	G	U	O	R	O	B	S	N	I	A	G	H	A	Z

ROSALEEN COX

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The items of clothing in the box of the last wordsearch were: Anorak, Blouse, Bolero, Boots, Cardigan, Overcoat, Glove, Jacket, Jeans, Pullover, Scarf, Shirt, Shoes, Socks, Stockings, Suit, Tights, Trousers, Vest, Waistcoat.

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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