



“Em is our friend,” say Luke and Guy Alsford, “because she gives us things to do like sticking and crayoning. She also reads us stories.” These four year old twins and their mother, Liz visit the library at least once a week, from their home in Brookland Rise. They are not alone in their admiration for the popular lady who runs the library in Market Place with her two part time helpers.

Em has always loved books and reading and her first weekend job was in a library. She knew then that it was what she wanted to do on a full time basis and she has now been at the Suburb library since 2003. She says, “I take great delight in helping our customers with finding information or new things to read. I like to be able answer a query or recommend a new author. However, the part I enjoy most is working with the children, doing storytimes or holiday events. It’s a privilege to see the little ones grow and develop in their reading.”

In fact the library is a haven for young and old alike – the age of visitors ranges from one week old to many in their nineties! Access is easy for all ages, the library being both ‘buggy friendly’ and offering entry for those in wheelchairs.

Alison Levitt from Southway is another regular visitor both in her own right as an avid reader,



Sophie Levitt, Luke, Guy and Liz Alsford, Toby, Jonathan and Alison Levitt.

and with her three children Sophie, Jonathan and Toby. She says, “It is invaluable to have this fantastic service within walking distance, and it is a great place to encourage literacy and learning in young people. Initiatives like ‘Bookstart’ are excellent in encouraging little ones to begin and then develop their reading skills.” Her daughter, Sophie loves the fact that the library has so many books to choose from.

I asked Em herself what makes this library so special and she replied, “The Suburb library is a real community library. It reflects the Suburb itself. It’s a place where neighbours and friends are always bumping into each other. There is such a strong sense of community here and our customers really appreciate and love their library. At storytimes the parents and carers always chat and lots of new friendships have been made.”

Local residents, Moya Page and Joan Hannam find the library is invaluable, particularly as they say they would find it extremely difficult to get to any

other library. They both love reading and they like the intimate and friendly atmosphere. As Moya says, “In the past, I found other libraries impersonal whereas Suburb library has an identity of its own.” Joan, who also goes weekly to sit and read the ‘Ham & High’, enjoys the fact that the library is also a social centre for good conversation and fun. As neither has a computer, they they also find the staff enormously helpful in accessing information for them on any subject that they may need help or advice on, be it gardening, quizzes or local issues.

If you didn’t know, the Suburb library offers the following services (it costs nothing to join!): Books on tape/CD, large print books, study guides, videos and CD’s, internet access free for an hour a day for library members and a book ordering service.

If you have never visited our library at Market Place (at the bottom of Hill Rise) then I strongly recommend it. Indeed I and so many other Suburb residents would be lost without it. In recent years there have been frequent rumours that the Council may consider closing it down. If this was ever to become a serious option then councillors beware, you would have a huge protest on your hands!



Deborah Warland

Suburb Style editor Deborah Warland, talks to residents about some of their favourite things



Joan Hannam and Moya Page.



A quiet corner to read.

# London Jewish Cultural Centre

## A TASTE OF WHAT’S ON: AUTUMN 06

Here are just some of our Autumn Courses and Events which start in September at Ivy House. For a full programme call 020 8457 5000 or email us at [admin@ljcc.org.uk](mailto:admin@ljcc.org.uk) or visit [www.ljcc.org.uk](http://www.ljcc.org.uk).

### EVENTS

#### Festivals

##### The Voice of Freedom

Commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution with guests including Melvyn Bragg, Sir Bryan Cartledge, Norman Lebrecht, Robert Littell, and George Szirtes. Explore its causes and significance, its legacy and its importance for Jews, both in the East and West.

From Tuesday 17 October – Sunday 26 November  
Event schedule on application.

#### Music & Arts

##### Olam Musica: Sophie Solomon

A series of plugged and unplugged World Music concerts in association with [artsdepot](http://artsdepot.org) starts with Sophie Solomon, founding member of London’s Oi Va Voi.

Venue: [artsdepot](http://artsdepot.org), 5 Nether Street N12 0GA  
Sunday 22 October, 8.00pm  
Tickets: £18 | 020 8369 5454



#### Film & Theatre

##### Jewish Grandmothers, Mothers & Daughters

Edwina Curry, Dina Rabinovitch and Oona King launch a video archive and series of workshops to preserve Jewish women’s diverse cultural history and experience. Chaired by Julia Pascal.

Thursday 30 November | Launch: 6.00-7.30pm  
Panel discussion: 7.30pm | Tickets: £12

### COURSES

#### Languages

##### Spanish, Italian, French, Yiddish and Hebrew

A host of new language courses for all levels, incorporating learning about Jewish culture in each country.

#### Film and Theatre

##### Who Do You Think You Are? With Dan Edelstyn

Channel 4 film-maker Dan Edelstyn will facilitate a hands-on documentary course encouraging all students to produce and direct their own films on identity.

Thursdays 8.00-9.30pm | £144 (12 week term)

#### History

##### The Lost Jews of Africa With Tudor Parfitt

The British “Indiana Jones” and scholar Tudor Parfitt will give 3 special lectures on the ‘Lost Tribes’ of Africa, Genetics and Jewish identity.

Wednesdays 8.00-9.30pm | £36 for 3 fortnightly sessions  
18 October, 1 November, 15 November (or £15 for one)

#### Jewish Life & Learning

##### Why Read the Bible Today?

with Jonathan Magonet  
Bible stories are part of our childhood education but what happens when we re-read them as adults?

Tuesdays, 8.00 - 9.30pm | £84 for 7 weeks from 31 October

The only name you will ever need to know in the Suburb...

**Goldschmidt & Howland** is the complete, professional service on residential property matters in **Hampstead, Kenwood and The Garden Suburb** advising on residential property matters since 1888.

- Sales
- Lettings
- New Homes
- Residential Management
- Valuations for all purposes
- Investments

Hampstead Sales: 020 7435 4404

Hampstead Lettings: 020 7431 0624

Residential Management: 020 7435 3355

New Homes: 020 7504 0330

Professional Services: 020 7732 8122

Website: [www.g-h.co.uk](http://www.g-h.co.uk)

E-mail: [admin@g-h.co.uk](mailto:admin@g-h.co.uk)



020 8457 5000 | [admin@ljcc.org.uk](mailto:admin@ljcc.org.uk) | [www.ljcc.org.uk](http://www.ljcc.org.uk)  
Ivy House, 94-96 North End Road, London, NW11 7SX - Registered Charity No.1081014