

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter

Proverbs – Wisdom and Morality?

“Proverbs has more psychiatry in it than any other book in the Bible”.

The Education Committee is delighted to present the third in a series of talks by **Dr George Stein**. Having looked at the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel from the viewpoint of his profession of psychiatry, he now moves on to the book of **Proverbs** for what we are sure will be another informative and enlightening talk *“Proverbs and Personality Disorder.*

The Origins of Moral Wisdom”

Thursday, 14 March

The talk will begin at 8 pm.

Delicious refreshments will be served from 7.30 pm

A further two talks on the Psalms, by our Rabbi and by George Stein are scheduled for Thursdays, April 4 and 18

Quiz Night

Saturday 9 March

7 pm for 7.30 pm start.

Vegetarian food only please.

Pastries, teas and coffees will be provided.

Tickets £10 per Adult, £5 under 18s.

from Janet in the office - 020 8460 5460



Synagogue AGM

Tuesday, 19 March, 8 pm.

All members are invited to attend.

Come one, come all
to the next

Family Service
Saturday, 23 March

(Shabbat Hagadol)

at 10.30, followed by a bring-cakes-and-share Kiddush.

All are welcome - we are one big family at Bromley Shul.



In This Month's Highlight

View from the Chair	3
Social Centre News.....	3
Rabbi's Pesach Reflections.....	4
Cheder Tubishvat Seder.....	4
Major Change at MRJ.....	5
Opening the door to Ezekiel	5
Tu Bishvat Tree Planting	6
Children's Seder.....	6
Purim celebration.....	6
Social and Personal.....	7
BR5&6 and Friends	7
Services	8
A Year at the Board	8
Diary Dates	9
100 Club final draw	9
BRS Member Profile.....	10
The Caring Community	10
RSY-Netzer Israel Tour.....	10
Synagogue Contacts.....	11
Advertisements	12

Chag sameach Pesach
to all our readers



BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE

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Synagogue Administrator: Mrs Janet Burlem

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President: David Barnett

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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

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Opinions expressed in "Highlight" are not necessarily the official policy of the Synagogue

Tell the Community

This cut-out slip is a regular feature in Highlight to enable you to inform the community of any appropriate event - birth, marriage, engagement, illness, bereavement, birthday celebration, examination success etc. Please complete and return to the Editor c/o the Synagogue office.

We would like you to know that

.....

.....

Name Tel. No.

This is your opportunity - View from the Chair

We look forward to seeing a large number of you at this year's **Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, 19 March. This is your opportunity to hear a review of the shul's activities over the last year and to get full details of our financial situation from our Treasurer, **Sandra Hurley**. It also gives you a chance to air your views on any aspect of synagogue life. Looking back over my three years' worth of "View from the Chair" in Highlight, there seems to have been a lot going on for our members, but I also appear to have been nagging you to come along and participate more – there was even a "use it or lose it" one month! The Board and Committees arrange a varied calendar of events alongside regular services, festival celebrations, cheder etc. People join synagogues for a wide variety of reasons and we try hard to meet everyone's needs and expectations. If we are not getting things right now's your opportunity to say so! The new Executive and Board will welcome your comments, as well as your support over the coming year in its slightly new format. Come along to the AGM when all will be explained.

This will be my last event as your Chairman, and I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement over the last three years. I hope I have managed to fulfil my role satisfactorily and have helped and encouraged you to become more involved in synagogue life. I will not be stepping down completely, as I will be chairing the Education Committee – withdrawal symptoms might be too much otherwise! So, I'll still be around and happy to help where I can.

From new Board to new Rabbi - we received eight official expressions of interest from rabbis and student rabbis in our search for a suitable candidate to succeed Rabbi Tony – testament to the attraction of our synagogue. Three candidates were short listed and interviewed, and the next step is to invite them to come and spend a weekend with us so that we can get to know each other better. Keep an eye out for details of these visits, so you can come along and meet

the candidates. We hope it won't be too long before we can announce a successful conclusion to our search, but obviously we need to be sure we have the right person for the job.

The **Torah Lunch** on 9 February attracted just a few more people than the previous breakfast, so it didn't make it easier to decide on the format of the next study session. Both saw a spirited discussion of the day's portion – or a few verses anyway. Maybe we should have another one of each. We will discuss it with the Rabbi at our next Education Committee meeting, so watch out for details in future Highlights.

We have another **Shul Quiz** arranged for you on Saturday, 9 March – applications for tickets should be made to the office as soon as possible – see front page for details. Get your friends together and make up a table or join others for what is always a very convivial evening, and an enjoyable way of raising valuable funds for our shul.

Following his talks on Jeremiah and Ezekiel, **George Stein** now moves on to Proverbs (see front page for details and p. 5 for the report on the last one). So far George has given us a fascinating look into the minds of two of our major prophets from the viewpoint of his psychiatrist's chair. Come along on Thursday, 14 March to find out why he asserts that Proverbs contains more psychiatry than any other book in the Bible. Join us at 7.30 pm to enjoy the delicious refreshments so generously provided by George and his wife Suzanna. The talk will follow promptly at 8 pm.

Pesach will be upon us before we realise – all our festivals are early this year. I notice that the Beckenham branch of Waitrose now has its "Kosher for Passover" goods in a prominent position, so make sure you stock up on your matzot in good time. Erev Pesach, Monday 25 March, is the date for family seder celebrations, and this year's Communal Seder will be held on Tuesday, 26 March. We would love to see more families with children

in the Garden Room this year – we do, after all, need youngsters to hunt for the afikomen! I know



Vicki Ashmore

has her usual Children's Seder planned for Wednesday, 27 March (see notice on page 6) However, this is aimed mainly at our youngest members (up to ten years of age), so we do hope to see older children coming along with their parents to the Communal Seder to make it a real synagogue family affair. Make sure you fill in the form on the flyer enclosed in Highlight this month to guarantee your place at what is always a very enjoyable and popular event.

Many thanks.

Barbara Kurtz

a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

Social Centre News

Unfortunately we had to cancel our last January meeting due to the snow. This meant rebooking the Shortlands Singers, so we look forward to their visit later in the year.

Everybody enjoyed the entertainment by the **Golden Girls**, a group of singers with a keyboard player, so much that we will invite them again. It was lively and musical with songs that we could all join in and the afternoon really went with a swing.

Our meetings are open to everyone and visitors are very welcome. Why not come just for a coffee morning or, if the mornings are difficult, come for lunch or just for the afternoon's entertainment which will be advertised in Highlight, e-light and the weekly sheets.

Dianne Mathews
01689 826096

Social Centre Diary Dates

<i>Wednesday, 13 March</i> Talk by Martin Wilcox on Child Aid

<i>Wednesday, 27 March</i> General socialising and lunch
--

A Journey Shared - Some Pesach Reflections

As Jews we are always playing fast and loose with time and place. Perhaps because we sense that life is lived in a number of different time frames and in different perspectives all at once. At the Seder table we are in all sorts of important ways at home, and in the here and now, at the specific season of Pesach, on the first or second Seder night. But we are also aware that we are sharing this time and this space with past and future generations. Not only the past and future generations of our own family and friends, but at the same time with untold generations of Jews from ancient times and all across the world.

We sit or recline at the table, but we say we are at the same time enacting - or is it re-enacting? - our journey out of Egypt, making our way through desert trials to our promised homeland. It is at the same time a more perennial journey, a spiritual passage from bondage to freedom, from subservience

to autonomy, and as a such a journey we need to make over and over again in our present lives, liberating ourselves from those things in our lives that tend to possess us, constrain us, limit us.

Each Seder, each Pesach is new and different. Just as we revisit the same rituals and foods and songs and stories that we remember from previous years, so we cannot be unaware of the changes that each year, each Pesach, brings. New faces beside us, others gone, whom we will not see again except in memory and the spirit; differences in ourselves, our lives and our concerns.

We can feel that time and place are playing fast and loose with us! We are being swept along by life and its changes. We are tempted to try to hold on to what has been familiar, even just because it is familiar, and so seems reassuring. So the ritual of the Seder comes to comfort us if we are a little

unsettled by change. But within that ritual, within the story of our redemption from bondage and the servitude of repetitious labour, out into the adventure of finding the Eternal in the new and the unfamiliar, we are encouraged to embrace possibilities that the journey offers, at whatever stage of it each one of us finds oneself.

Personally, this year marks the last occasion I shall have the privilege of leading our communal Seder. The happy memory of past Bromley sederim will always be part of my Pesach in future years, and my family's.

Who knows where this journey will take us? What we can know is, we will always be in good company, whatever our future, and wherever we find ourselves, so long as we embrace our freedom and continue to celebrate our Passover. We travel together.

Rabbi Tony Hammond

The Cheder Tu Bishvat Seder



All the Cheder classes took turns in reading from the specially compiled Haggadah at the Cheder's Tu Bishvat Seder on Sunday, 27 January

There is no Cheder News this month, but Elka sends greetings from New York, where she is visiting her new grandchild. She wishes to thank everyone for keeping the home fires burning in her absence.

Major change at the Movement for Reform Judaism

Following the conclusion of its strategic review, the Movement for Reform Judaism has announced a major restructuring to ensure its effective implementation. The aim is to release resources tied up in the central office to enable more to be invested in community development and articulating Reform values, in line with the strategic plan's central goals. The intention is that these and the other investments in frontline services will be paid for by the discontinuation of the post of Chief Executive and other savings.

The changes are expected to see the various elements of Chief Executive Ben Rich's role taken on by Board members, supported by the senior executive team, as well as greater streamlining of administrative functions.

In order to enhance its direct provision to communities MRJ is delighted to announce the appointment of **Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers** as MRJ's new Community Educator. Her role will be to help ensure Reform values are cascaded to all ages throughout the Movement's communities. Rabbi Young-Somers joins the Movement from West London Synagogue. She is an outstanding educator and will focus on building on the excellent practice already in place in our synagogues. In a letter to Reform communities, MRJ Chair Jenny Pizer and Chief Executive Ben Rich write: "The aim is to focus limited resources outwards on serving communities. This has required us to think radically about reducing costs and we are convinced that the difficult decisions we are now taking are the right way forward for the organisation."

Jenny Pizer says: "Ben has really helped the Movement to move forward over the past two years, overhauling the organisation and putting in place a strategic plan that gives us renewed focus."

Ben Rich comments: "I am extremely proud of what we have achieved while I have been Chief Executive. As we move from strategy to implementation I have taken the view that now is the right time for me to move on to fresh challenges."

Source: MRJ Press Release

Opening the door to Ezekiel

"Crazed and demented".

We run from these words. We wouldn't normally use them to describe prophets. We want them to be inspired. We want them to see the things we can't see. And to hear the messages that we can't hear. Dr. Stein's second talk was attended by a cross-section of synagogue members, visitors and his professional colleagues. He made complex ideas accessible and clear, with humour and scholarship.

As we learned, during Dr. Stein's compelling talk, Ezekiel saw things that we would prefer not to see. And he heard messages that we would prefer not to hear. His behaviour was 'not part of normal human experience'.

When we hear phrases like that, we know that we're about to hear something disturbing. And we did. Ezekiel may have suffered – literally, not metaphorically – from episodes of schizophrenia:

a long-term mental disorder of a type involving a breakdown in the relation between thought, emotion, and behaviour, leading to faulty perception, inappropriate actions and feelings, withdrawal from reality and personal relationships into fantasy and delusion, and a sense of mental fragmentation. (Oxford English Dictionary)

Thanks to modern psychiatry, we know his prophecies could be interpreted as delusions, littered with abnormal behaviour – hearing third person voices, four episodes of muteness. He stayed so still that he appeared paralysed. He ate material that no 'normal' person would eat willingly. (**Ezekiel, Chapters 3 and 4**). He seemed to be unable or unwilling to mourn the death of his wife,

Some of his behaviour could be symbolic – eating unclean food to represent the unclean behaviour of the people of Israel. Or deliberately disobedient – cutting and burning his hair, forbidden to a Zadokite priest like Ezekiel.

Ezekiel's behaviour was beyond the experience of rabbinical commentators.

He didn't fit into the template of other prophets. His writings make disturbing reading, especially as we're not sure whether we're reading elaborate symbolism and visions or the fantasies of a sick man.

But Ezekiel is more than madness and confusion. He also heard the voice of God (**Ezekiel 7:1**) as Jeremiah heard the voice of God (**Jeremiah 1:14**). According to Dr. Stein, this doesn't mean that either of them had lost touch with reality. They both used a particular form of words, common to prophets.

Also, Ezekiel had radical, but rational, views that ran counter to the norm – no collective punishment. The people of Israel should take responsibility for their actions – future generations would not be held responsible for the acts of their ancestors.

What do we do with Ezekiel? Run from him or accept him?

To accept Ezekiel doesn't mean that we understand him. We don't have to like him or agree with him. He represents the parts of our tradition that we may find unmanageable, too much to bear.

Too much for our ears to hear – we want our prophets to make sense to us.

Perhaps we need Ezekiel to remind that the absence of rational thought has its place too. And not all questions can be answered.

Much of Jewish history has taken us to places that are 'not part of normal human experience'. But we have still emerged with our humanity intact. And we are no more or less human than the rest of humanity.

Dr. Stein opened the doors to a world that most of us would prefer locked and barred.

We look forward to opening more doors, in his future talks.

From our Roving Reporter

Norwood Old Scholars Association presents
Lunch with
Miss Maureen Lipman
(subject to availability)
on Sunday, 7 April
at the Prince Regent Hotel,
Manor Road, Woodford Bridge
Ticket price £28.50 per person
Doors open at 12 noon
Contact **Jack Matthews,**
020 8518 1647
or **Rose Mitchell,**
020 8550 0437



**Tu Bishvat Tree Planting –
Michael Abrahams reports:**

On Sunday, 3 February, members of Bromley shul, together with members of the local community (including Jim Dowd MP and Councillor Susan Wise), planted a tree at the Horniman Play Park in Forest Hill to celebrate Tu Bishvat. The tree chosen was a Paper Bark Maple (*Acer griseum*) or Eder.

Interestingly there is another Hebrew word Eder, which is translated as the hide of a stuffed animal. Just across the road from the play park is the Horniman Museum, which is probably most famous for its collection of stuffed animals! I would like to say that this was all carefully planned, in fact, it was just a remarkable coincidence, but I can't think of a more suitable tree to plant opposite the museum.

If you visit the Horniman Museum you can see this tree in the corner of the play park, behind the swings, and you can also visit the Sweet Chestnut tree Bromley Synagogue planted two years ago for Tu Bishvat and to commemorate the visit of Janusz Korczak to Forest Hill one hundred years earlier. The tree has a plaque to help you find it.

Fiona runs the Marathon

Dear All

I am running/crawling the London Marathon this year (Sunday, 21 April) in aid of Breast Cancer. We all know I am sure of someone, or it may even be ourselves, who has suffered from it. Although I am running for Breast Cancer, in my heart it is for all cancers. If we can find a cure for one, hopefully it will lead to eliminating all types.



I am not a runner by any means, and am getting older and older by the day! If anyone would like to sponsor me, any amount would be truly appreciated. People supporting me will hopefully get me

to the finish line!

My sponsor page is www.walkthefundraising.org/fiona_banglejones

Thank you all in advance,

Fiona Bangle Jones

COME TO BROMLEY SHUL'S
**CHILDREN'S
SEDER**

Have fun with a *real seder* just for kids and their parents, filled with songs, food, and the story of Passover

Date: Wednesday 27 March 2013
Time: 5-7pm
Place: Bromley Shul, 28 Highland Rd, Bromley, BR1 4AD
Price: £10/family OR sign up to bring a tray of food to share (kosher for Passover and Vegetarian)

To book your place please email Vicki:
vicki@the-piano.demon.co.uk
RSVP by Wednesday 13 March

BRS Purim Celebration



At the BRS Purim celebration on Saturday, 23 February, the megillah reading behind the fully unrolled scroll (bottom picture) was followed by a fancy dress parade. Our pictures show the older children (top left) and younger children (top right).

Social and Personal

BIRTH: A hearty mazal tov to Miriam and Tamir Kohn, on the arrival in Israel on 11 February of Netta, their third child, and another grandchild for Lew and Hadassah Britz.

Welcome to New Members:

Mr. Stuart Dee of Beckenham, Mrs Maureen Pearlstone and Dr. Alisa Miller of Blackheath, Mrs Samantha Brown of Shortlands, Mr. Jason and Dr. May Friedler of Greenwich, Mrs Anna Sedenu of Blackheath, and Miss Megan Jorsh of Beckenham.

Thanks to the congregation

Debbie Walters would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters and good wishes, following the recent death of her mother.

Remembering the Hyatts

Jean Taylor has written in response to the Editor's appeal in the last issue of Highlight for memories of the Hyatts, former members of our synagogue, who have now both passed away:

Dear Editor

My earliest memory of Martin Hyatt is long before Bromley Shul days, when I was 17 and a member of Clapton Jewish Youth Centre. I was friendly with Martin and Lawrence Peters, who introduced me to Martin one day when we were all somewhere in the West End, possibly at a dance – I can't remember. But I can clearly remember them saying "Martin can give you a lift home on the back of his motor bike – all the way to Clapton ...", and that was a *first* for me. I was scared stiff, but I was safely delivered home.

When the Hyatts came to Bromley we were delighted to meet up with them again and we are so sad to learn that both Martin and Marilyn are no longer with us. They were a lovely family.

Yours,

Jean Taylor

The Communal Seder will be held on Tuesday, 26 March

The cost of tickets is **£20 per head** for synagogue members and **£25** for non-members, with a reduction for children under 10.

Please use the application form enclosed with this Highlight and book early to be sure of a place.

Charlotte becomes London Citizens' first Jewish community worker

A hearty mazal tov to **Charlotte Fischer**, daughter of Martin Fischer and Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild, who has become London Citizens' first designated Jewish community worker.

Charlotte has a twin role: she is promoting the grassroots activist organisation within the Reform, Liberal and Masorti movements, which are sponsoring her post, and will also be London Citizen's Barnet worker, fostering alliances between faith communities and other groups.

Charlotte had been impressed by Citizens' UK campaigns and jumped at the chance to join it. Although the organisation has come under fire from some in the Jewish community for associating with mosques that have hosted radical Islamists, she stresses that the Israel/Palestine conflict is not on its agenda. "We deal with what synagogues and mosques can do in their area to change problems members from both communities are facing," Charlotte told the Jewish Chronicle.

Source: Jewish Chronicle, 15 February 2013

BR5 & 6 and Friends

Hopefully by the time you're reading this the weather will have changed and spring will be in the air, in which case you should enjoy our outing in March.

Programme for March.

Wednesday, 6 March

Walk and Lunch - Come and join us for a walk around High Elms followed by lunch in their Green Roof Café (attached to the Beeche Building). Anyone who doesn't want to walk but would like to join us for lunch can meet us at the café. The contact for this event is **Gloria Norman**: tel. 01689 861493 or email gloria.norman@ntlworld.com

Our second event hasn't been finalised at the time of going to press, so we will be emailing the details directly to you.

Future dates for your diary

Thursday, 11 April a visit to **Kew Gardens**

All members of the Synagogue are welcome at our events

Gloria Norman

Important Notice

The Wine Tasting Evening postponed from 19 January has been rescheduled for **Sunday, 28 April**

Make a note of the new date
Details in next month's Highlight



Bromley WIZO Eretz and Catford and Bromley Maccabi Club

are holding their

GRAND SUPPER QUIZ

on **Sunday 3 March** at

Catford and Bromley Synagogue, Crantock Road, SE6

Supper at 7 pm sharp

Donation: Adults £17.50, under-21s £10.

To book your place please phone **Marilyn Burchell** 020 8658 4776 or **Barbara Fiszson** on 020 8658 6060

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A year at the Board

Joe Millis reports

When I was elected as your representative to the Board of Deputies a year ago, I had visions of its being an old men's club where there were endless meaningless debates about procedure and points of order but very little done. How wrong I was.

Although, at times, plenary sessions do resemble parish meetings à la the Vicar of Dibley or Trades Union meetings from the mid '70s, most debates are conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect – well, within reason, anyway – and attentiveness.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, set up in 1760, exists to promote and defend the religious and civil liberties of British Jewry. And that it does admirably.

As the community's democratically elected cross-communal organisation, the Board connects with government, media and wider society, providing a unique means through which all British Jews can be heard and represented.

In January, senior members of the Board gave evidence to the Parliamentary committee debating same-sex marriages. And the Board's President, **Vivian Wine-**man, and its senior Vice-President, the Reform Movement's **Laura Marks**, had talks with Prime Minister David Cameron over a range of topics – from his opposition to the boycott of Israeli goods and his determination to protect shechita to his opposition to a nuclear Iran.

Also the Board is cross-communal – in fact it is the only body that incorporates all community institutions from Liberal and Reform Judaism to the United Synagogue and from the Union of Jewish Students to the Jewish National Front.

The debates – usually once a month on a Sunday at the splendid main hall of the British Medical Association, although we do travel once a year to the “provinces” (next month, it's Bournemouth) – have been eye-openers. And none more so than the highly charged discussion of a Board tie-in with Oxfam, with which some of the more vociferous Deputies have a problem because of a perceived anti-Israel bias.

At the end of the debate, during which the vast majority of speakers gave their reasoning in calm, moderated tones – except for the odd invocation of the Nazis – the Board voted by 113 to 65 in favour of the

SERVICES

March 2013 – Adar/Nissan 5773

First and Second Fridays at 6.30 pm; Third and Fourth Fridays at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 1 March	Parah (Ki Tissa - 20 Adar)
Saturday 2 March	Exodus 31:1 - 32-6 Numbers 19: 1-10 Ezekiel 36: 23-38
Friday 8 March	Hachodesh (Vayakhel-Pekudei - 27 Adar)
Saturday 9 March	Exodus 35: 1-20 Exodus 12: 1-11 Ezra 6:19 - 7:10
BLESSING FOR NISSAN	
Tuesday 12 March	Rosh Chodesh Nissan
Friday 15 March	Vayikra (5 Nissan)
Saturday 16 March	Leviticus 1 - 2:6 Isaiah 43:21 - 44:6
Friday 22 March	Hagadol (Tzav - 12 Nissan)
Saturday 23 March	Leviticus 6: 1-23 Malachi 3: 4-24
Monday 25 March	First Seder Night
Tuesday 26 March	First Day of PESACH <i>Readings as in Pilgrim Festivals Machzor</i> Communal Seder, 7 pm
Friday 29 March	Chol Ha-Mo'ed Pesach (19 Nissan)
Saturday 30 March	Exodus 13: 3-10 Deuteronomy 10: 12-19 Isaiah 11:1 - 12:6
Sunday 31 March	Erev Seventh Day of Pesach
Monday 1 April	Seventh Day of PESACH <i>Readings as in Pilgrim Festivals Machzor</i>

project that will bring Jewish campaigners together with the NGO to tackle world food injustices. Needless to say that, in common with other Reform deputies, I voted in favour of the tie-in with Oxfam.

As senior Vice-President Laura Marks said: “It's important to defend Israel in the wider community rather than from the side lines.” And herein lies one of the main problems that the Board faces today. For too long, perhaps, everything has been seen through the prism of whether it's “good for Israel or bad for Israel”.

With a new intake of younger members, predominantly from the UJS, but not only, a new atmosphere is growing.

I, along with many others, would rather see the Board deal with issues that are of growing importance to the community. These issues include funding care for the elderly, government-proposed benefit caps and childhood poverty, which does exist in the community. To that end, a group of “younger” deputies are trying to change the Board from within.

So, while it may have had a reputation for staidness, the Board is shifting in the right direction because of the young blood that has entered its veins.

Joe Millis
rojoebentoby@gmail.com

Dates for Your Diary

March

F	1	Shabbat Evening Service at 6.30 pm
S	2	Parah - Ki Tissa
S	3	WIZO Supper Quiz, 7 pm at Catford Shul Jewish Book Week ends
M	4	
T	5	
W	6	BR5&6 - Walk and Lunch at High Elms
Th	7	
F	8	Shabbat Evening Service at 6.30 pm
S	9	Hachodesh - Vayakhel-Pekudei Quiz Night, 7 for 7.30 pm at the Shul
S	10	
M	11	
T	12	Rosh Chodesh Nissan
W	13	Social Centre, 10.30 am-2.30 pm Talk by Martin Wilcox on Child Aid Craft Workshop, 10.15-11.45 am
Th	14	Talk by George Stein on Proverbs, 7.30 for 8 pm at the Shul
F	15	Shabbat Evening Service at 8 pm
S	16	Vayikra
S	17	
M	18	
T	19	Synagogue AGM, 8 pm at the Shul
W	20	
Th	21	
F	22	Shabbat Evening Service at 8 pm
S	23	Hagadol - Tzav
S	24	
M	25	First Seder Night
T	26	First Day of PESACH Communal Seder, 7 pm at the Shul
W	27	Children's Seder, 5-7 pm at the Shul
Th	28	
F	29	Shabbat Evening Service at 8 pm
S	30	Chol Hamo'ed Pesach
S	31	

April

M	1	Seventh Day of PESACH
T	2	
W	3	
Th	4	Talk on the Psalms
F	5	Shabbat Evening Service at 6.30 pm
S	6	Shemini - Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Chapman-Preston
S	7	
M	8	Yom HaShoah
T	9	
W	10	Social Centre, 10.30 am-2.30 pm Craft Workshop, 10.15-11.45 am
Th	11	Rosh Chodesh Iyar BR5&6 - Visit to Kew Gardens
F	12	Shabbat Evening Service at 6.30 pm
S	13	Tazria-Metzora
S	14	
M	15	
T	16	Yom Ha'atzmaut
W	17	
Th	18	Talk on the Psalms
F	19	Shabbat Evening Service at 8 pm
S	20	Acharei Mot-Kedoshim Bat Mitzvah of Corinne Jacob
S	21	
M	22	
T	23	
W	24	Social Centre, 10.30 am-2.30 pm Craft Workshop, 10.15-11.45 am Hearing Aid Clinic, 10.30 am-12 noon
Th	25	
F	26	Shabbat Evening Service at 8 pm
S	27	Emor
S	28	Lag b'Omer - Wine Tasting Evening
M	29	
T	30	

The 100 Club -

Result of the February - final - draw

1st Prize No 65 Connie Duhig

2nd Prize No 44 Hilda Lask

3rd Prize No 48 Isaac Fried

Swimathon 2013

Jo Jaeckel and Judi Sheffrin have entered **Swimathon 2013**, the world's biggest fundraising swim. Every £20 raised will provide one hour of nursing care in a cancer patient's home.

Judi writes: Thank you to the fantastic supporters who have got Jo and me off to such a great start with our fundraising via Swimathon 2013. We hope to swim 200 lengths. You can click on

<http://my.artezglobal.co/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=419687> to sponsor us online. Thanks again!

BRS Member Profile: Our very own MBE!



The Brooks-Evans family

This month we feature **Michelle Brooks-Evans**. You will have seen her name in *Highlight* and e-light recently because she has taken the welcome initiative to establish a social network for BRS members and other Jews in her area. We thought we'd better find out a bit more about her and her family....

Highlight: *Have you lived in Greenwich for long, and what brought you there?*

Michelle: We have lived in Greenwich for nearly 14 years now. It was a place I always loved, growing up, and it happened to be half way between my parents' house and where we lived where we first got married, near Tower Bridge, in Bermondsey.

H: *How do you come to be associated with BRS, and in what areas of the shul are you involved?*

M: I first came to BRS as a teenager. I was looking for a shul that was right for me. I grew up attending a shul in Woolwich and then Catford, but it was only when I came to Bromley that I found the right place. At the age of 16 I went on an RSY summer trip to Israel and I have been a member since then. Now, many years later, I am married and have four children, Lili, Esther, Lloyd and Ezra. They all had their baby blessings at BRS and attend Cheder and Gan and Lili now helps at the Cheder. Recently I started a local group called "SE10 and Beyond" for Jews living around the Greenwich and surrounding areas.

H: *What activities and hobbies do you enjoy?*

M: My husband **Bill** is a solicitor. Being Welsh, he loves rugby. He is also a member of a triathlon club and enjoys cycling and swimming. **Lili** plays the viola and was lucky enough to play in the opening ceremony of the Olympics. She has also started a feminist blog and a Twitter group called the Twitter Youth Feminist Army! **Esther** plays the violin and is in the Trinity College of Music programme. She also plays the piano and euphonium, and dances in a youth ballet group. **Lloyd** enjoys karate and cubs, and plays the cello and French horn. Finally there is **Ezra**, who just loves nursery and playing with his friends.

Then there is me. I work part time as an administration manager and also teach postnatal exercise classes called Running Mummies in Greenwich Park. I enjoy running in my spare time, and I have to admit there is not usually time for much more! When there is, that is entertaining with friends and going to the cinema. I also manage to get a few weekends away and in the past year have been to Bruges, Zaragoza and Bergen.

H: *Have you any ambitions?*

M: To remain healthy and happy. To love my family and friends, and to try and be a good person and Jew.

To contact Michelle about SE10 and Beyond, you can either leave a message with the Synagogue office (020-8460 5460) or email her at michellebrooksevans@gmail.com

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The Caring Community

A report from Pauline Jeffree

We have experienced another harsh and long winter, which has of course affected many of our older or disabled members.



With much help from everybody, we have endeavoured to keep in touch and help those in need. Please let us know of anyone within our community who might need contacting.

We have used *Talking Highlight* to keep in touch with those of our community who are housebound, alone or in residential care and nursing homes. *Talking Highlight* is proving to be a means of keeping members in touch with our Synagogue. As they listen, members hear familiar voices and can enjoy Jewish music within the recording.

We continue to send cards to celebrate birthdays, mazal tov for a special occasion, support to those who are unwell or ill, writing to those who are bereaved.

Reaching out to the wider community:

- Harris HospiceCare with St Christopher's – knitting over 200 chicks!
- King's College Hospital - making sheets and blankets for cots and incubators for the sick and tiny babies. We make outfits for the little ones.
- London Borough of Bromley - Age UK., Community Links and Mencap.
- Macmillan – our outstanding Coffee Morning raised £775.
- Collecting for Cancer Research UK
- South London Forum at Nightingale House.

Future Plans:






















We propose again to contact members who are 80 years and over, but from whom we do not hear. We would welcome volunteers who would be willing to regularly keep in contact with perhaps one or two members by telephone.

We are reorganising our Craft Group which, we hope, will be more accessible for those who want to join in making items to support various charities.

We are hoping to support St. Christopher Harris HospiceCare by organising and helping with an Open Garden with tea and cake and plant sale.

Pauline Jeffree
020 8650 4860

Contact nos. for subcommittees and other groups

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<p>Board of Deputies Rep.: Joe Millis, 020 8299 3458 roejoebentoby@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Membership Inquiries: Janet Burlem, 020 8460 5460 Rabbi Tony Hammond, 07808 172910</p>  
<p>Caring Community: Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860 pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com</p> 	<p>Newsletter Editor: Bob Symonds, 020 8402 2197 bobsymonds@mac.com</p> 
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<p>Kiddush Rota: Louise Levinson, 020 8516 3809 louise.levinson@ntlworld.com</p> 	<p>Highlight Advertising Advertise your business and support your shul by advertising in Highlight. £80 will secure you a box measuring 100 mm x 120 mm for a whole year (11 issues) Contact Dianne Mathews (diannem3@googlemail.com; 01689 826096) or the Editor (bobsymonds@mac.com) today.</p>

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