



Cllr John Marshall, Dr Simon Gibean and RA chairman David B. Lewis led the annual walk round the Heath Extension to raise funds for the North London Hospice. They are seen here with local hospice supporters.

Jews on the Suburb celebrate 100 years

A Centenary Celebration, with particular reference to the contribution made by Jewish families, will take place on Saturday 28 April 2007 at Norrice Lea synagogue at 11.30am. Guests will be invited regardless of religious affiliation and will include Centenary Patrons, schools and businesses.

The 40 minutes thanksgiving will take place after the normal service followed by a reception. Rabbi Reuven Livingstone and Rev Alan Walker from St Jude's and Rev Ian Tutton from the Free Church will speak. Children from the Kerem School choir will also participate. Scenes of Suburb

history will be displayed in the synagogue's foyers.

Alan Cohen, a long-standing member of the synagogue who was born in Deansway in 1930 and continues to live on the Suburb, explains: "We wish to cross both religious and ethnic boundaries with a view to enhance the continuing concept of a total Suburb community."

Early Jewish Families

Jewish families are listed in Kelly's Directory as far back as 1914. The arrival of Jewish families in the areas around Golders Green coincided with the opening of the Tube. The exodus from Whitechapel of the upwardly

mobile, and immigration from Germany and other western European countries, made the district a popular area in the early decades of the 20th Century.

By September 1915, Jews living on the Suburb participated in services at St Alban's church hall, North End Road. In 1922 a synagogue opened in Dunstan Road although this was less convenient and Suburb residents began to hold services at the Institute. A postgraduate student of psychology and physiology at London University, Isaac Cohen (later Prof Cohen), walked from his home in Highgate every Saturday to lead the service.

Alan Cohen himself attended services at the Institute as a child accompanying his grandfather Morris, who started work as a cabinet maker and later became a wood merchandiser. Morris built himself a house in The Bishops Avenue in 1925.

Synagogues

The Suburb Synagogue in Norrice Lea opened in 1935 and was the last religious building to be built on the Suburb. The North Western Reform Synagogue, built in Alyth Gardens 150 yards from the Suburb border, opened in 1936. In 1934 the Board of the United Synagogue agreed to lend £1,000 of the £1,500 needed to erect a hall in Norrice Lea to accommodate 150 people, a figure which was questioned because there were then only 33 men and 25 children attending classes.

Currently the synagogue has nearly 2,100 adult members and over a thousand children and young people under the age of 21. The Synagogue was the only religious body on the Suburb whose membership grew in number after World War II. The congregation is among the largest in London. Kerem House and Kerem School for Jewish children founded in 1948 are connected to the synagogue.

Tension free community

The 2001 Census revealed that 37% of the Suburb Ward households was Jewish with another 12% saying they have no religion and 12% where religion was not stated.

"It may not be too much to claim that the Suburb became an all but tension-free religiously mixed community," Kathleen Slack wrote in her book *Henrietta's Dream - A Chronicle of the Hampstead Garden Suburb* in 1997.

SUSAN LEWIS



Spectacular candlelit concert

The Mayor of Barnet was in the audience for a Candlelit Concert by Tenebrae, of Russian liturgical music by the international, 18 strong, prize-winning a cappella

group. The concert, conducted by Nigel Short, Tenebrae's founder, was presented by the Proms at St Jude's on October 22 to an ecstatic audience. A return visit is planned

towards the end of 2007. Pictured above is Proms organiser Susie Gregson, president Rev Alan Walker and Cllr Eva Greenspan.

(Photo John Batten)

Celebrating the past over a nice cup of tea

Two HGS residents have put a proposal to the Institute to restore The Tea House to its former glory as a café. The Tea House was just as its name describes until The Institute took it over in 1973 for use as an educational facility. Now the Institute has re-located to new premises on the edge of the Suburb, near East Finchley Underground Station, the future of The Tea House is uncertain.

The Residents Association Council endorsed the plan and wished the project the best of luck at its 4 January meeting.

Steve Dumain and Tony McGuire, have a depth of relevant experience, having set up and run high-profile and busy cafés at both Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral for a number of years. This work, at such sensitive locations, required designing facilities to complement

the historic buildings and to meet the needs of staff and large numbers of visitors alike, while not interfering with their primary function as places of worship. Although the challenges of The Tea House are substantially different, Steve and Tony are confident that they can create a café that would blend in with this Grade II listed building at the same time as providing an attractive meeting place.

Their interest in The Tea House arose from discussions with a number of other residents who bemoaned the fact that there are few opportunities within the Suburb for, in particular, mothers with children, to go for a quiet get-together and coffee whilst their children play safely. The Tea House, with its outside gardens and location at the heart of the Suburb seemed the ideal place

to meet that need. Returning The Tea House to its original purpose would provide a meeting place for locals and bring additional life to the Suburb community. At the moment anyone seeking refreshments has to go to cafés or restaurants sited on busy roads on the periphery of the Suburb, such as Temple Fortune, Golders Green, Kenwood, East Finchley or Holders Hill Park. In its small way it is hoped that The Tea House could play a vital role in the everyday life of the community here.

In their presentation to the RA Council, Steve and Tony emphasised that the Institute is still considering their proposal for The Tea House. It is understood that the Institute would prefer to sell the building but it is keeping all options open at this stage.

Bus stops for the disabled?

The loss of two bus stops following work which Transport for London (TfL) claimed was carried out to provide better access for the disabled has resulted in those very passengers being most disadvantaged by the botched job.

The stops in Falloden Way were suspended in October after it was found that the design raised the risk of accidents in the vicinity. Residents who live close to the withdrawn stops are having to walk significant distances to and from the next nearest functioning ones, causing great difficulty to the elderly and infirm in whose interests TfL said it was acting.

Peter Spaul, who lives just a few yards from the suspended stops, said, "I went on holiday a few weeks ago and had to drag a heavy suitcase a quarter of a mile to the nearest usable bus stop. I used to be able to take either an eastbound or westbound bus on my way to work in the mornings and then get the tube from either Golders Green or East Finchley. I could stand at the corner and wait to see which bus came first and cross the road if necessary. Now I have to decide first whether to walk to the Market Place or Henlys Corner."

David Willis, 75, lives on Falloden Way. He said, "I had a kidney stone and had to travel regularly for treatment to the Royal Free and University College

Hospitals. I live right by the suspended stops and relied upon them. It was agony having to walk just a hundred yards. Even though it's only a short distance to my GP, I used to take the bus but now I can't. We have all been messed about and inconvenienced first by the unnecessary work and now by the closures."

His neighbour Charles Beldom, 65, said, "It's impossible coming home with heavy packages. It's just too far to walk from the Market Place with shopping. My wife and I are members of a string quartet and sometimes we would all gather to practice here but what with the lack of parking and the loss of the bus stops it's very hard now for our cello player to join us. My mother-in-law is 84 and travels here by bus. She had no problem when we had a stop almost outside our

door but she walks with a stick and now it's just too far."

Gary Shaw, Chairman of the Residents Association's Roads & Traffic Committee said, "Residents are unanimous in their view that the bus stops should be re-installed according to their original design."

There is clearly no logic to TfL's case that the work was motivated by a desire to provide better bus stop access for the disabled. They say they are bound by the Disability Act but we keep asking them where in the Act it says they had to do this and they don't answer. The suspicion is that it is all about obstructing traffic at the expense of the buses - and of course the taxpayer who has had to stump up £65,000 so far for a scheme that no-one but TfL wants and that doesn't work."

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