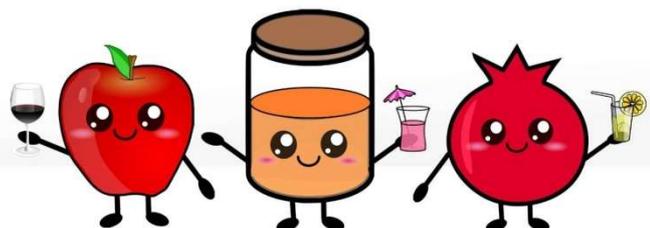


Shana Tova!



Rosh HaShana

5781

Newsletter

## THE WAKE UP CALLS THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED

Rabbi Adam S Hill

I'm sure that you have all heard me describe the sound of the Shofar as either a fanfare heralding the King, the King of kings or as an alarm clock trumpeting an alert to get ready for the New Year by introspection and examining who we are.

This remains true – but there are also other forms of wake-up calls. Life cycle events - both happy and sad, achievements and disappointments, global pandemics all can give us a shake up and ask as to re-evaluate our priorities and how we lead our lives.



A major effect of Covid-19 has been to remove the security that, especially in developed “first-world” countries, we have taken for granted concerning continued health.



In previous generations the fact that there would be a high proportion of infant mortality, that child-birth was fraught with danger for mother and the unborn child, that infections, war, poverty and anti-Jewish sentiment would lead to many an early death was anticipated.

This is why this disease has been described in military terms as an invisible enemy, a foe which we must guard against and the like.

The Jewish reaction to calamity is two-fold. Firstly protection – doing whatever we can to safeguard ourselves, cure those affected and to seek ways to address the cause.

Chief Rabbi's Message	3	The Manhattan Transfer – An Appreciation	12
PB&BP Shul Chairman Message	4	Wildlife in my Garden	13
President of the United Synagogue Message	5	Books in Lockdown	14
New Years Greetings	6	A Christian American Visits a London Synagogue in 1851	15
Community News	7	Not the Usual Review of Community Events	19
New Years Message from Grant Shapps MP for Welwyn Hatfield	8	David's Bar Mitzvah Song	20
New Years Greeting from Oliver Dowden MP for Hertsmere	9	Trent Park House	22
CST Rosh HaShanah Message	10	A Visit to Plymouth Shul – Devon Apple Cake	24
Eden Rabin's fundraising for Noah's Ark Hospice	11	Yom Kippur Appeal for MaDA	27
		Yom Tov Timetable	28

The second manner of addressing the situation is to look inward rather than outward. I am **not** for one moment saying that any individual or group deserved or instigated this malevolence.

What is needed is a review of how we lead our lives so that we can merit good to come for us and those around us.

We have a Prayer-Psalm known as Ashrei (Psalm 145 with 3 extra verses from other Psalms). It is so important that we are told that if a person were to say this three times each day that they would be assured a place in the world to come. Dayan Ehrentrau points out that there is a particular notion in this Psalm regarding prayer. Karov HaShem LeChol Korav, LeChol Asher Yikre'uhu BeEmet – “The Lord is close to **all** who call on Him, to **all** who call upon Him in truth.”.

This seems to be contradictory – is it that all prayers are heard or not?

The answer seems to be two-fold. Firstly, all prayers are heard – the result might not be known or heard for some time, however. The exercise of our hearts does not go in vein – all tears are stored; all pleas alter the course of events – although it might not be in a manner that we anticipate.

Secondly, there is a language of prayer and communication with God which is known as Emet. This can be understood as truthfulness or sincerity. An utterance because “there are no atheists in a fox hole” is praiseworthy in its own way. True prayer comes from inner reflection as to how we lead our lives, how we set our priorities and whether the words that emanate from our mouths are linked to commitments within our hearts.

Whether the wake-up call is the Shofar or the news and events around us, the result should be our wish to perfect a better society with goodness and truth at its very core.

The delayed weddings slated for a few hundred people in a swanky hotel with a lavish spread has had to give way to a chuppah in the back garden with 25 guests in a gazebo and others joining by Zoom. These have been praised, even by parents

unable to attend their child’s chatunah, as being so much more personal and a privilege to attend.

The packed Shiva house which rather than “feeling like a birthday party without the guest of honour” became a service followed by tributes and words of comfort from friends and family. The comparisons of latest cars, holidays and trite small talk was replaced with something meaningful which gave honour to the departed and solace to the mourners.

Families have spent time together in a manner only previously known to those who gather around a Shabbat table. Neighbours have been cared for in a way that shows that we can and should care for all.

The reset button has been pressed – we now need to work out who we would wish to be and how to realise that. It will not surprise you that I, as a Rabbi, would want your Jewishness to be a huge feature of who you are as an individual. The call for a better world made up of good people is at the very heart of Judaism.

And this might sound odd for me to say but . . . . Shuls being closed has had a remarkable effect on people re-finding their Judaism. Whilst we are very much based on being within communities, the strength of Judaism until recently has always been within the Jewish Home. Too many have compartmentalised their Judaism to being within the Shul and not “getting in the way” of everyday life. Hence observance of Shabbat and Kashrut have diminished as the warmth of Judaism is within the walls of a house. A Shul is an appendage to that not a replacement.

We are heading towards a New Year which we all hope and pray will be far more certain and filled with open blessing than this past year has turned out to be.

The challenge then is how to make our lives meaningful. How to learn more about who we are, what we can achieve and what we can gain by strengthening the links we have with our heritage.

The alarm has sounded – let’s make our world one which is full of goodness, sincerity and care.

Wishing all a good and better New Year

Rabbi Adam, Shosh and Family Hill.

## The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5781

As I reflect on an extraordinary year, my first thoughts are with those whose lives were tragically cut short by the Coronavirus. May their memories be for a blessing and may their families find comfort in their sad loss.

My heart goes out to the many whose health, whether physical or mental, has been affected and to those who are facing severe financial hardship or crises in their personal relationships. The restrictions on social interaction, abrupt changes to our routine and the grip of deep uncertainty have dramatically impacted the fabric of all of our lives in ways that we could never have imagined.

In the years to come, while many will admiringly recall our resilience and forbearance during these most trying of times, ultimately the success of our response to this Pandemic will be judged not by how we felt, but by how we acted.

The Torah portion of Nitzavim, which is always read immediately prior to Rosh Hashanah, commences with these words: "You are all standing this day before the Lord your God; your heads, your tribes (shivtechem), your elders and your officers".

In this list of national leaders, 'tribes' appears to be out of place. Mindful of the fact that 'shevet' also means 'staff' or 'sceptre', our commentators explain that the leaders of our people are being referred to according to the item that they carried that symbolised their role. In the same way as 'the Crown' refers to the monarch and 'First Violin' refers to an orchestra's lead musician, a person who leads is known by the instrument of that leadership.

The message that emerges is extremely powerful. You are defined by what you do. The essence of a person is measured according to what they have achieved.

For this reason, we call community leaders 'machers' (makers). 'Macher' is a role that conveys respect, because the people who change the world are not the dreamers and thinkers; the people who change the world are the 'doers'.

On Yom Kippur, we read the book of Jonah, in which the prophet informs the inhabitants of Nineveh of their impending doom.

In response, they fast and repent for their evil ways. The text captures that epic event in just a few words: "God saw their deeds". Their words of apology and their fasting were merely steps towards a life-changing moment. What concerned God was not their protestations, but their actions.

This year, without any preparation whatsoever, every one of our communities was plunged into a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Your response has been simply magnificent. With our Shuls closed, our communities redoubled their creativity and their altruism. We have never known such an outpouring of compassion, such acts of selfless care for the vulnerable and such generosity in charitable giving.

I have no doubt that such action will remain at the heart of our Covid-19 response for as long as it takes us to overcome the dangers it presents to all of humankind.

As we commence 5781, may Hashem inscribe and seal each and every one of us in the Book of Life, good health, peace and fulfilment.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
September 2020 • Ellul 5780



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE by Dr Alan Ferris

---

In previous newsletters, I have written about the community and what we have achieved and asked you to become more involved with what we do.

This year has been a little different and things haven't quite gone according to plan.

I've attended a civic service on your behalf and the inauguration of Shenley Synagogue; our monthly meetings for tea and a chat have been very popular. We narrowly missed winning the 5 of Hertfordshire +1 quiz, between ourselves and the group of local(-ish) synagogues. We've had the Tu b'Shvat party and Purim.

The United Synagogue had a reception to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, held at the House of Lords, where I was able to say Kaddish with the Chief Rabbi. I hesitate to say that my late father would have approved, but I think he'd have been quite chuffed.

And then the Unprecedented\* hit us. We have cancelled everything and changed to on-line coffee and chat on Monday afternoon, and on-line elevenses on Fridays, on-line Bingo and a quiz (organised by Rabbi & Shosh Hill) and supported our members with help including shopping during the worst period of lockdown. Rabbi Hill did sterling work, buying and delivering groceries to those in need.

With the uncertainty over a second wave of Covid19, looking at the profile of our members, the uncertainty as to whether the Wyllyotts Centre would be open and the replies to our survey, the board and I made the difficult decision to cancel the services for the High Holydays this year.

I'm delighted to finish this on a positive note: Persistent harassment of the United Synagogue has persuaded them that we are "a community that is strong and is continuing to be strong" in their words, and they have agreed to give us a lot of money to fund about 10 year's rental of the brand new scout hall. The building work is under way (paused as the scouts await more funding). The hall will be available to us for services on Friday nights, Saturday mornings, every Yom Tov morning and the High Holydays. Services next year should be a lot easier, assuming that we have the Unprecedented under control. We will have a suitable place for prayers, near the centre of Potters Bar and with our own kitchen to cater for the Supper Quiz.

I hope that this provides a secure home for the community and will allow us to grow in both strength and numbers.

I wish you all a happy and extremely heathy new year.

Alan

---

\* <https://tinyurl.com/TheUnprecedented>

September 2020  
Tishrei 5781



## United Synagogue

305 Ballards Lane  
London N12 8GB

T: 020 8343 8989

E: [info@theus.org.uk](mailto:info@theus.org.uk)

[www.theus.org.uk](http://www.theus.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 242552

## Message from the President of the United Synagogue

The most powerful event in our nation's history is about to take place. The morning sun rises. The Children of Israel are camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, clothes washed, expectant. The scene is set. They are ready to hear from God Himself. Thunder and lightning fill the air. A thick cloud envelops the mountain. Shortly it will smoke and quake.

The people shudder. But a close reading of the text shows that it wasn't the thunder, the lightning or the fire which cause them to tremble. Rather, **וְקוֹל שׁוֹפָר תְּזַק מְאֹד** – it is 'a very strong Shofar blast' (Exodus 19:16). This is the first mention of the word 'Shofar' in the Torah. And it provides a clue, I think, to why the hearing of the Shofar has resonated with Jews of all backgrounds for centuries.

Rosh Hashanah is the anniversary of the creation of the world. Mount Sinai is the anniversary of our covenant with God. The Shofar blasts of Rosh Hashanah echo the ones heard at the giving of the Torah. The Shofar focuses our minds and reminds us of our responsibilities as Jews to study, to pray and to make the world a better place.

This Rosh Hashanah will be one like no other. Many of us will still not be comfortable heading to shul, perhaps spending our first Rosh Hashanah away from synagogue in decades. To help, do look out for our new publication – *Shana Tova!* – arriving in the post soon and to be used whether you are in shul or at home. We've also teamed up with the publishers Koren to offer you a discount on the Rabbi Sacks Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur machzors.

But if I can urge you to do one thing – safely – this Rosh Hashanah, it is to hear the Shofar blasts. Our communities are organising Covid-secure blowings in shul, in youth and family programmes, in parallel services and in open spaces (this year on second day only as first day falls on Shabbat).

This is not how we expected to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the United Synagogue. But Jews are the people of *tikva*, hope, and so even in times of crisis we look for the silver linings. I have never been more proud to be the President of the United Synagogue as I have this year. Our communities, led by dedicated Honorary Officers supported by many volunteers, have without fail, stepped up to combat the Coronavirus crisis.

Our Rabbis and Rebbetzins have conducted pastoral visits and funerals at the most difficult of times. Through the United Synagogue Chesed department and our Community Care coordinators, 1,000 'Seder in a box' kits were delivered to isolated members ahead of Pesach. The 'Shabbat in a box' initiative with three freshly-cooked meals has enabled those unable to put food on the table to celebrate Shabbat.

Our communities have re-imagined themselves virtually and I have been struck by the extraordinary range of programmes our shuls have provided, including inspirational Kabbalat Shabbat services online. The United Synagogue's new video on-demand service, TheUS.tv, has attracted thousands of viewers and, more importantly, has kept people connected to their Judaism.

These are our Shofar blasts: a call to our members that our communities are here for you. At this most unusual of Jewish New Years, my sincere good wishes to you and your families. Shana tova.

**Michael Goldstein**  
President, United  
Synagogue

**Treasurer:** Maxwell Nisner

**Trustees:** Andrew Eder, Claire Lemer, Fleurise Lewis, Nicola Rosenfelder, Barry Shaw, Saul Taylor, Jacqui Zinkin

**Chief Executive:** Steven Wilson



The US

## **NEW YEAR GREETINGS 5781/2020**

- ANSELL:** *Frances and Stuart, together with Charlotte, David and Jack, wish family and friends in the Community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.*
- AZIZOLLAH:** *Elaine, Joe and family wish Rabbi Hill and family and our friends in the Community a happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast.*
- CARTER:** *Sylvie and Barry send their best wishes to all their friends in the Community and wish them all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.*
- FERRIS:** *Helena and Alan wish the whole Community a happy and extremely healthy New Year.*
- GINSBERG:** *Linda and Malcolm and family extend best wishes to the Potters Bar Community for a happy and healthy 5781.*
- HOOKER:** *Juliette, Michael, Charlotte and James wish their family, Rabbi Hill and family and the Community a safe, happy and very healthy New Year and well over the Fast.*
- KREEGER:** *Linda, Lionel, Neil and Joanne send their best wishes to all members of the Community for a year of good health and much happiness.*
- LANNING:** *Ruth and Howard and family wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.*
- PETERS:** *Eve and Michael wish all their friends and members of the Community all the very best and a great New Year.*
- RADOM:** *Michelle, Simon, Jacob and Rebecca wish everyone in the Community a healthy, safe and happy New Year ahead and well over the Fast.*
- STONE:** *Irene and Albert wish their family and all their friends in the Community a very healthy and happy New Year.*
- TEMPLE:** *Jennifer, Michael and Adrian wish the entire Community a happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast.*
- WOOLF:** *Leesa, Richard and Anaële, Hannah with Myrtle Holman wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year in England and France. May we all share good health, joy and happiness in the coming year.*

**לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו**

## Community News - Rosh HaShannah 5781 - 2020

### Births:

- ✧ Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Adam & Shosh Hill** on the birth of a grandson, Natan Lior, to Rachel & Amichai.

### Special Birthday:

- ✧ Mazal Tov on their special birthdays to:  
**Helen Chadwick, Francis Shnapper and Marian Tropper**

### New Members:

- ✧ A warm welcome to new members **Myra Goldberg** together with **Jason & Hayley Star** and their children **Hannah & Daniel**

### Wedding Anniversaries:

- ✧ Mazal Tov to **Irene & Albert Stone** on their 65<sup>th</sup> (Blue Sapphire) Wedding Anniversary
- ✧ Mazal Tov to **Linda & Lionel Kreeger** on their 40<sup>th</sup> (Ruby) Wedding Anniversary

### Bereavements:

- ✧ Condolences to **Alan Perkin** on the sad loss of his brother Leon Perkin
- ✧ Condolences to **Rabbi Adam Hill** on the sad loss of his father John Hill
- ✧ Condolences to **Avril Brandon** on the sad loss of her mother Pearl Boyask
- ✧ Condolences to the family of **Alma Jacobs** on their sad loss
- ✧ Condolences to the family of **Clare Leigh** on their sad loss
- ✧ Condolences to **Myra Goldberg, Amanda Summers and Hayley Star** on the sad loss of their husband/father Norman Goldberg

### Stone Setting:

As you know, most Stone Settings have been postponed and the following are the rearranged dates thus far:

<b>Louise Silver</b>	Sunday 20 December 2020	12.00 pm	Bushey Old
<b>Manuel Ferris</b>	Sunday 14 March 2021	10:30 am	Bushey New
<b>Clare Leigh</b>	Sunday 21 March 2021	11:30 am	Waltham Abbey
<b>Cyril Hooker</b>	Tuesday 27 July 2021	11:30 am	Bushey New
<b>Alma Jacobs</b>	Sunday 3 October 2021	12:30 pm	Bushey Old

Good luck to those starting new schools, university or new jobs over the next few months

# MY ROLE IN DEALING WITH COVID-19

THE RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA  
Telephone: 020 7219 8497  
grant@shapps.com

It's often disputed whether, when asked to name the greatest difficulty facing a Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan really uttered the infamous phrase "Events, dear boy, events". But either way, there can be no doubt that this observation accurately sums up the year 5780 (2020).

Following a general election, held last December, this year looked to be all about completing Brexit in January and then the Transition Period by the end of this calendar year.

Instead, COVID-19 struck and life has literally never been the same again.

As a country we have had to pull together and find new answers to everyday situations. How do we best look after those we love but whom might also be vulnerable, and do so without actually being able to visit them? How can we travel or shop whilst observing social distancing? And how do we ensure that non-Covid medical needs aren't forgotten.

There is no instruction manual for tackling a pandemic and Europe has lived without any recent examples. Indeed the last time the UK was hit by anything on this scale was the Spanish Flu. It killed an estimated 50m people worldwide and nearly 250,000 in the UK alone – but it was also more than 100 years ago so beyond living memory.

On as personal level and as a member of the British Cabinet, my role has been to steer our transport system through the crisis. That meant rescuing the rail, bus and tram system, whilst encouraging active transport like walking and cycling.

Like everyone else in our community, during the height of the pandemic I was following the strict instructions to stay home. Indeed the only time I left my house was to travel to No 10 to front six of the Downing Street Press Conferences.

Needless to say this was an experience that I'm unlikely to ever forget. On reaching the lectern, my first task was to reveal the number of deaths in the past 24 hours. I felt incredibly conscience that this wasn't a simple list of statistics that I was reading out. Rather, these were loved ones who had been lost to this horrific disease. As time went on, I knew 10 individuals to whom these numbers applied. And I naturally found that this made reading out the grim daily toll all the more poignant.

One thing that gives me a tremendous sense of pride is the way that the UK has led the world in COVID-19 research.

Not just the £744 million the UK has donated in the international fight against coronavirus, but because we've also poured money into research here at home.

The result of this taxpayer backing is that the UK discovered Dexamethasone, the first drug that was proven to save lives in extreme Covid cases. And we're currently trialling the world's most promising vaccine too.

As an elected public servant, I'm well aware that things don't always go to plan. This year has once again proved Harold Macmillan maxim of events – usually unknown and unforeseen – that knock you off track. But as we come to the end of 5780 I can genuinely say that whilst no-one saw the events of the last year coming, I believe the capacity of the human spirit to overcome and build back better remains completely undiminished.

*Grant Shapps*

Secretary of State for Transport  
Welwyn Hatfield MP  
And shul member.





## Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP

Member of Parliament for Hertsmere

Dear Members of the Potters Bar & Brookmans Park United Synagogue.

The Jewish community is at the heart of Hertsmere life and it is a real source of pride to me to represent one of the largest Jewish communities in the country.

I will always stand up for Hertsmere's Jewish community and as an Officer of the Conservative Friends of Israel and Chair of the Parliamentary Group for British Jews, I have been a strong voice in Parliament and the media against prejudice and antisemitism. Locally, I have worked to promote community safety and had a central role in securing a new primary school at Yavneh. I continue to support projects aiming to establish more faith schools in Hertsmere.

Since my election as your Member of Parliament, I have successfully lobbied Ministers to fully ban Hezbollah and helped drive an important measure in the Conservative manifesto to ban public organisations from conducting unofficial strikes and boycotts against foreign countries, including against Israel.

In my role as Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport I am currently working with leaders like Karen Pollock and Lord Mann on the Online Harms Bill, which is legislation pledged to make the internet a safer, more tolerant place for everyone. I will continue to work closely with the Jewish Community from Hertsmere and beyond in the months ahead on this important piece of legislation.

The coronavirus pandemic has taken a terrible toll on all aspects of life, but I have been so impressed with how Hertsmere has come together to support each other through this crisis. During lockdown, I was particularly delighted to participate in a conversation with Rabbi Feldman which was streamed across the United Synagogue's platforms. We discussed work, faith and the challenges faced by our country. You can find a link to this on my website.

From participating in many Mitzvah Days and visiting Synagogues across Hertsmere year-round, I know that the Jewish community always gives so much back, and this spirit has helped support us all through this unprecedented time – showing Hertsmere at its best.

I know that for all people celebrating, this is a really special time of year. I wanted to wish everyone, especially in the Potters Bar and Brookmans Park United Synagogue Community, at this time of Rosh Hashana a very happy new year – Shana Tova!



# CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe New Year



It is CST's mission to protect our Jewish communities up and down the country. We are committed to you, and ensuring your security, so that Jewish life can continue to exist and thrive in the UK.

The past year has been filled with challenges, both individual and collective. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, some in deeply tragic ways. The ability to physically meet with friends, family and in community – the networks that can make the most difficult and uncertain of times more bearable – has been removed. Where there is crisis, anger and blame follow, often directed at Jewish people. Now that we can gather together once again, CST is here to make sure it happens safe from prejudice and physical harm.

We wish that the security we provide were not necessary, but sadly terrorism, although rare, is a reality that can happen anywhere. Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by

a neo-Nazi. Using a homemade gun, he tried and failed to enter the synagogue, but did kill a passer-by and a customer at a nearby kebab shop. It was the cooperation of the congregants and shul staff, simply properly closing the door behind them, that saved the lives of those inside the service.

CST is here to protect you and facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life. This works best when you work with us. Please be mindful of basic security procedures and of our many dedicated volunteers who are devoting their time and efforts to ensure our safety, allowing us to spend the High Holy Days in peace. We wish you a safe, happy New Year, and a meaningful fast.

Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

[www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)  Community Security Trust  @CST\_UK

 National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**  
London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**  
Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**

Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)



# EDEN STEPPED UP FOR NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

by Tanya Rabin

In May, Eden, aged 7, decided to take on a huge fundraising challenge to raise money for those less fortunate than himself as well as to keep active during lockdown.

He chose to fundraise for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice in Barnet, one of many charities facing financial challenges with their fundraising having been catastrophically hit by COVID-19. When the new hospice building, The Ark, opened last year, Eden donated some of his books, and wanted to do more to help the children with life-limiting conditions who receive such amazing care and support from the charity.

He set himself a challenge of walking more than 200,000 steps within a month, but not content (or allowed!) to do it on his own, he roped in the rest of the family to walk and run their way through lockdown.

As well as going for long walks with Eden and our dog Rosie, my target was to run 100 miles over the month, and his grandparents were tasked with walking at least 25 miles each.



After the month's challenge, Eden was delighted to see the family's targets smashed - he covered an incredible 367,802 steps, the two of us walked 84 miles, I ran 118 miles, and his grandparents walked an impressive 214 miles between them. And most importantly, we surpassed our fundraising target to raise £1,700 to help Noah's Ark Children Hospice continue to do its amazing work during these challenging times.

As well as raising money for such a good cause, the challenge gave us a fantastic opportunity to get fit and explore and appreciate the amazing countryside around Potters Bar, where we uncovered footpaths and walking trails we'd never noticed before.

One of Eden's highlights was getting recognition from Tottenham Hotspur who also support Noah's Ark and posted a tweet about his fundraising efforts.

Eden said of his achievements: "I really wanted to help other children who aren't as lucky as I am. And it's good that Spurs support Noah's Ark too! I couldn't believe how many steps I did and how much we raised. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting us!"

To donate to Noah's Ark Hospice visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tanya-rabin1>



# THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER – AN APPRECIATION

by Joe Azzizollah

The present band was founded in 1969 by Tim Hauser. Two girls and two boys in harmony singing various styles but specialising in vocal jazz, acapella, vocalese, swing and pop. The line-up at that time was Janis Siegel, Laurel Masse, Tim Hauser and Alan Paul.

Everyone remembers their massive hit Chanson D'Amour which was schmaltzy but brilliant. It was performed around that time on The Two Ronnies among many airings.

Some stand out albums are The Offbeat of Avenues, Bodies and Souls, Tonin' made in 1994 with guest artists including Frankie Valli, James Taylor and Phil Collins recreated rock and roll and pop sounds from the 60s and 70s.

The most recent album from 2018 is called The Junction and demonstrates that the old codgers have still "got it". I was fortunate to see them in concert at Alexandra Palace last year and, though the accompanying bands are long gone, their pianist Yaron Gershowsky manfully created a full backing with just a bass player and drummer.

Laurel Masse left the group due to illness in 1979 to be replaced by Cheryl Bentyne and after the death of Tim Hauser in 2014, Trist Curless replaced him.

## DISCOGRAPHY (Albums)

Jukin'	1971	Anthology: Down in Birdland	1992
The Manhattan Transfer	1975	The Very Best of	1994
Coming Out	1976	Manhattan Transfer meets	
Pastiche	1978	Tubby the Tuba	1994
The Manhattan Transfer Live	1978	Tonin'	1995
Extensions	1979	Man-Tora! Live in Tokyo	1996
Mecca for Moderns	1981	Swing	1997
Best of	1981	Boy from New York City	1997
Bodies and Souls	1983	The Spirit of St. Louis	2000
Bopp Doo-Wopp	1984	Couldn't Be Hotter	2003
Vocalese	1985	Vibrate	2004
Live	1987	An Acapella Christmas	2005
Brasil	1987	The Symphony Sessions	2006
The Offbeat of Avenues	1991	The Chick Corea Songbook	2009
Christmas Album	1992	The Junction	2018

*(various images have been removed for copyright reasons)*

# WILDLIFE IN MY GARDEN

by Laurie Bental

Because of the virus situation my activities have been somewhat curtailed and I had time to observe the wildlife in my garden.

Earlier this year robins had built a nest in my garden shed. Only one chick survived and I could see the young robin sitting on his favourite branch on my apple tree. Unfortunately he disappeared; he probably flew away.



In a corner of my back garden I had left the grass growing rather high. One day I decided to cut the grass with my garden shears. While doing this I disturbed a nest of miner bees. They did not seem at all aggressive and I could observe them going in and out of several small holes in the ground.

When I came again the next day the bees had built a dome out of grass and moss over the main entrances of their nest. They too left after several weeks – looking for alternative accommodation.



I like some colour in my garden and every spring I plant annuals in several flower beds. Birds, squirrels and cats believe that I do this in order to provide soft earth for them to scratch for worms, dig holes or use it for their toilet. When I go out, I find the bed disturbed and many small plants destroyed. To avoid this, I build a simple frame and cover the bed with garden netting.

The other day I noticed a strong movement under one of the nets and saw a bird caught and desperately trying to escape. When I got nearer I saw that it was a beautiful bird of prey with a very nasty looking beak. I believe it was a young Kestrel but as I did not take a photograph I shall never know. I lifted the net and in a tick the bird was out and high up in the sky. But it left me a present.

Entangled in the net were the remains of a half-eaten mouse.

# BOOKS IN LOCKDOWN

by Helen Chadwick

I am an avid reader and during this lockdown I have been reading a book every two weeks. I wasn't always so keen on reading. At school I hated the books that we were made to read and it was only after I left school and went to college that my love of reading began. I owe it all to my then English Tutor, Mr Hill (no, not Rabbi Hill although I am sure he would have equally done the job).

Mr Hill selected numerous books for me to read from the college library and I was totally hooked. The rest, they say, is history.

I joined a Book Club last year and I must say that I am now reading books that I never imagined I would open, just goes to prove the old adage that you can't judge a book by its cover.

I have selected the following books which I hope covers something for everyone, male and female, and various genres.

**Author: Alice Hoffman**

**Book – The Dovekeepers**

A history of the lives of four Jewish women during the Romans' siege of the fortress of Masada in AD73.

**Book – The Marriage of Opposites**

A forbidden love story set on the tropical island of St Thomas and about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to the painter Camille Pissarro. Much of the story centres around the Jewish community on the island.

**PS: Steve and I have visited St Thomas on a number of occasions and the original synagogue described in the book still exists to this day including the sand on the floor!**

**Author: Daniel Silva**

**Book – The New Girl**

A thriller of deception, betrayal, and vengeance and features the Head of Mossad – Gabriel Allon

**PS: I have been reading books by Daniel Silva for years and all centre on a character called Gabriel Allon and his rise to become the Head of Mossad. I am absolutely hooked on these books. Daniel Silva began writing as a journalist and over the years, he obviously has had access to the spy world. You may read and consider they are far-fetched but nearly everything that occurs has come true in reality.**

**Author: Kate Quinn**

**Book – The Alice Network**

A female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

**Book: The Huntress**

A gripping historical mystery and featuring the hunt for a female Nazi who makes a life for herself in America.

Ok, that should keep everyone going.

I would finally add that those with a strong constitution should definitely try all three books by Hilary Mantel on the life of Thomas Cromwell. They are a tour de force and very wordy – you have been warned!

---

## A CHRISTIAN AMERICAN VISITS A LONDON SYNAGOGUE IN AUGUST 1851

by Aubrey Tray

In previous Newsletters, I have mentioned about the 85 or so books dating from 1851/1852 that I purchased on a CD, all relating to the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London. The contents provide much material for the Potters Bar U3A Antique & Collectables Group discussions.

**One of the books is written by a visitor to the Exhibition from Maine, USA. In the book he catalogues his experiences of that visit; his sea journey, his detailed observations of the Exhibition, his tours of famous London landmarks, and his visits to places of worship. The author writes chapters which take the form of a letter to his American readers. Rather surprisingly, he allocates a full chapter to a visit to a London synagogue. Below are his observations of the Jews of London.**

In former letters, I have described the interesting occurrences of those days. Our first Sabbath, (not Sunday,) was spent amongst that still more ancient people of God, the Jews, in St. Mary's Axe. This is a part of London, near the Minories, which is the principal seat of Hebrew trade, and where are the two greatest Synagogues in the city. Why that region is called St. Mary's Axe, I know not; doubtless some event transpired in it connected with the bloody Queen Mary's Axe, with which the heads of so many Protestants were cut off.

The Jews, by the awful decree of God, oppressed all over the world, are not very numerous, but some are very rich, in London. They are "as rich as Jews." There are about eighteen thousand of them in the city. They preserve their identity as a people with wonderful and sacred success. There is no admixture of Gentile blood - not a drop amongst them. What they were in Abraham's day, they are now - men and women of noble forms, of raven hair, of black eyes, of brunette skins, and scythe-shaped noses. From their infancy they are all taught the Hebrew language ; this they speak and read alike in every part of the world ; and the languages of the nations amongst whom they are scattered, are always the acquired, never the original, languages of their families. They read from right to left, and all their service is in the Hebrew language, which is the sacred nguage ; as that of the Roman Catholics is in Latin, which is the most universal language among the learned.

The Jews were banished from England in 1291 ; but about two hundred years ago, during the Commonwealth, when Oliver Cromwell, the Puritan, was Protector, Rabbi Menasseh Ben Israel, a Jew of great learning in Amsterdam, petitioned Cromwell to allow his exiled brethren to return. By the tacit, though not formal,

consent of Cromwell, the Jews did return, and from that time have maintained their privileges in England. Nearly all civil disabilities are now removed from them. Jews have been High Sheriffs of London, Aldermen of the city, &c. They are not yet, however, allowed to be law-givers of the Kingdom; but this matter has lately excited much favorable discussion, and is in a fair way of being soon settled.

The People of London, maugre the test Act, have elected a Jew, Baron Lionel-de-Rothschild, to a seat in Parliament, which seat he cannot take unless he swears to support the Christian religion, (which he will not do,) or until the Test Act is repealed. By the way, I heard an anecdote related of Rothschild and his election in London, which is too good to be omitted in this place. After his election, he met and feasted the People on one of the great Parks in London, during which festivities he took the stand and made a speech in favor of the largest religious and civil liberty. " I, fellow subjects," said he, " have been elected to a seat in the British Parliament; I go because the people have preferred me," — " And so they did Barrabas! " exclaimed a cruel Christian voice from the dense mass of human beings before him. It was an "unkind cut," and it is said the newly elected, but yet unseated MP felt it very severely.

Some of the London Jews are very wealthy—the richest merchants and bankers in the Kingdom. Their Stock Exchange exercises a vast influence and almost controls the Government. Hence, on Saturdays, (the Jewish Sabbaths,) and Pentecost and other Festivals, there is a very great slackness in almost all sorts of business in London. The Rothschilds have several Banking Houses, in Europe, in London, Frankfort, Vienna, Naples, Paris, Amsterdam and Madrid. The amount of capital employed by this family is estimated at one hundred and thirty millions of dollars. The richest one is the Baron Anselm- de-Rothschild, who resides in Frankfort. His private fortune is said to be nearly forty million. The firm gives annually fifty thousand dollars for the support and comfort of their poor Hebrew brethren. Next to the Rothschilds, Sir Isaac Goldsmid, is supposed to be the richest man in England. I do not know what he is worth; but he has a fortune in Portugal alone that yields him an annual interest of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The two brothers Solomons own the most shipping of any house in London. Moses & Son have the largest clothing establishment in England. They fill thirteen extensive warehouses.

*Sir Isaac Goldsmid  
England's first Jewish Baronet*

The capital employed is gigantic. The Messrs. Hyam have a clothing establishment about as large. The yearly sum they pay to tailoress girls and other help is one million of dollars, which is distributed amongst six thousand hands employed.

These rich Jews have magnificent palaces in the western part of London—the Court end of the town. The Queen herself does not live in higher style. One of them, Sir Moses Montefiere, has his elegant mansion and garden near the Kensington Gardens, where the Duke of Kent, the Queen's father, lived, and before the death



of her uncle King William IV., whilst she was yet only Princess Victoria, she used to borrow his keys and walk about the grounds attached to this Jew's mansion, with her mother, the Duchess of Kent. Victoria loved the old Jew and is very tolerant towards the Hebrew people. This same Sir Moses has built and now supports a Synagogue at his country seat down at Ramsgate, on the English Channel.

There are, I believe, twelve Synagogues in London, the most splendid of which is the new one on Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, a most elegant and ornamental structure. Here is where the Rothschilds worship. Jesus said to his disciples —"be not ye called Rabbi," but these are called Rabbi and occupy the chief seats. My third Sabbath (Jewish) in London was spent in this Synagogue. Leaving our lodgings on Swinton street in the morning, I went down the City Road to the General Post office on St. Martin's-le-Grand, and thence proceeded along Cheapside, Cornhill, and Leaden-Hall streets to St. Mary's Axe, with which great St. Helen's is connected.

Here I found the New Synagogue. It is a marble edifice. I entered, and attempted to pass up the gallery stairs, but was instantly headed by a door-keeper of the house of God, who politely informed me that the females were in the gallery and it was not lawful for gentlemen to ascend the stairs. He conducted me to the body of the house, on entering which my eyes were dazzled with a richness I never saw before. I almost doubt whether Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem exceeded this for splendor. The sculptured marble columns, resting upon the ground, arose to support the gallery floor, and thence ascended to the base of the third story of the edifice, which being narrower than the main building, admitted a row of stained glass arches which surmounted the capitals of the huge columns. All the seats for worshippers on the main floor, were under the galleries on both

sides, and consisted of elegant long sofas, the tiers rising one above the other, and all looking into the nave, or space between the marble pillars. The floor was mosaic pavement, of blue and white marble. At the end, (where we have our pulpits,) was a large semicircular recess—the holy place, where were kept the Ark of the Covenant, the sacred Rolls, Vestments, &c. In front of it was a semi-circular row of red marble columns, supporting a dome in the upper roof, studded with stars as if in blue heavens. Beneath the dome, and over the Ark, was a large arched window of stained glass, divided into two parts, on one of which the incommunicable Name, Jehovah, was inscribed in Hebrew characters, and on the other, the Ten Commandments, also in Hebrew. The doors of the holy place were polished panel work, screened by a curtain of silk and gold. In the centre of the room was a large platform, one step high, richly carpeted. On this was another elevation three steps high, like a square pew, with panelled sides of polished ebony. From its base projected, upon the first platform, a row of mahogany arm-chair fixtures; those in front, three in number, looking towards the holy place, being elegantly cushioned. These were occupied by one of the Rothschilds and some other Jewish dignitaries. The officiating characters occupied the altar, or great pew, on the upper platform. In the centre of it was a desk, and seats on three sides facing it. The Reader presided at the desk, and the choir surrounded him. All had their hats on and wore tollises, or drab mantles of silk, with wide blue stripes and fringes at the bottom. Some had stripes of gold lace, and one or two wore golden hatbands and lace trimmings on their coat and vest pockets. The first story inside was of the Doric order, finished in pilasters, and painted in imitation of verde antique on a porphyry ground. The second story, or gallery occupied by the ladies, was of the Corinthian order, finished in pillars and pilasters, with windows in the inter-columns, of a rich arabesque pattern in stained glass. The ceiling was a semi-dome, containing gilded flowers on an azure ground. Chandeliers were suspended from gilded cranes projecting from the two stories of gallery fronts. The gallery walls were of carved wood, polished, surmounted by a gilded frame-work, like a coarse gold netting, through which the jet black eyes of the beautiful Jewesses peeped out to witness the worship of the men below—for it is said—I avouch not for the truth of the saying—that Jews hold that women have no souls, and therefore have no other interest in worship than to look on reverently.

I took a seat upon one of the side sofas or couches, with an old Jew, who noticing I was a stranger, was very willing to instruct me how to worship with him. The congregation was not large. All had tollises and wore hats. I took off mine for the purpose of taking some paper therefrom, but the old Jew instantly crowded it on my head again, telling me I must not take my hat off there. He and all present were armed with Hebrew Prayer Books. The officiating party in the Altar consisted of fourteen men— some old and venerable, some young and active. Each seemed to have his part to perform. I could understand nothing—every word read or chanted was in Hebrew. All seemed to be very devout and intensely engaged when their turns came to read or respond; but when it was not their turns, they were on hand for any sort of conversation.

At such times my old Pharisaic friend was very communicative. But I sometimes was started, when in the midst of his conversation, to hear him instantly bellow out some Hebrew word, or sentence; uttering it as if his soul were full of devotion, and was swelling his cheeks and pushing out his eyes for bursting into the outward world. Much of the service appeared to be chantings. The reading of the prayers and lessons was not all simultaneous.

After a while, the officiating corps formed a procession and approached the Holy Place with hats off. The silk and golden curtain was drawn, making a noise through the arches like the letting off steam from an engine. Then the rich doors were opened, and the sacred Roll containing the Law was taken out. The whole congregation joined the procession and marched several times with the most devout looks around the Altar, ejaculating Hebrew prayers and praises as they marched. In due time it was returned to the sacred place in due form and there concealed not to be taken out again till another Sabbath. I saw no real Priest till the service was over. Then a grave old man, clad in a black surplice and bands, with a broad brimmed beaver, and long grey beard, came out of a door near the Ark and passed through the Temple. Not one word of English did I hear or see, except a Prayer for the Queen and Prince Albert. This was inscribed over the Law.

The old gentleman with whom I sat said he knew Major Noah, of New York, when he was out to England a few years ago, and spoke of America with strong hopes. He said he had a son in New York and another in St. Louis. I desired to purchase one of the Jewish Service Books in use in the Synagogue, to bring home as a curiosity.' He could not accommodate me that day (Saturday,) as it was contrary to their law to do business on the Sabbath ; but the next day, if I would call, which would be on our Sunday, the Jewish shops would all be



open and he would go with me and see that I was provided for. To be sure that I should not miss of him he took me to his house, No. 8 St. James' Place, entertained me kindly, and then went with me across the square to the great Synagogue on Duke Street, which is larger, though not so rich, as that I had just left. It is to the credit of the Jews that they allow none of their poor to suffer. Never do they become paupers, or solicit charity from others. They take care of their own poor. I wish as much could be said for all Christians.

I felt whilst in that Synagogue to be carried back to our Saviour's time—nay, to the days of Moses of old; for the Jewish forms and ceremonies are now the same as then. By visiting the Synagogue as I did, I saw just how things were conducted by Moses and Aaron. Who could but feel solemn and reverent in such a place? The present condition of the Jews is one of the highest proofs of the truth of Christianity; —the prophecies of Christ were true, because fulfilled in the living history of that most peculiar people. They are blinded and cannot see. And in this blindness they must remain till the fullness of the Gentiles be come in, and so all Israel shall be saved.

**150 years on when words of hate are currently circulating on social media, I take some comfort that ignoring the Christian theology points raised, the author has some good things to say about us Jews.**

# NOT-THE-USUAL REVIEW OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

by Juliette Hooker

Sadly, due to Lockdown cancellations, I'm not able to review a wonderful annual Supper Quiz or an eagerly awaited illustrated talk by Anne Luder on garden plants with surprising medicinal properties.

However, thanks to Zoom and R Adam and Shosh's positive and creative spirits, I CAN review our alternative Community events that have meant that I have seen more of our lovely Community than ever before... 

It's brilliant that the Monday afternoon Tea & Chat has continued. I for one am delighted as I couldn't make it in "normal" times due to school pick-ups.

Elevenses on a Friday morning is another good opportunity to get together and chat about anything and everything, from home-made face coverings for the NHS charity (thanks Susan 😊) to Tesco's removal of their one-way system 😞.



29<sup>th</sup> April, the day after Yom Ha'atzmaut, we had a Supper Quiz! Eating at the start and well attended, it was brilliantly put together by R Adam and Shosh. We all had a laugh and were very impressed with the use of technology.

The Quiz was followed by Bingo on 21<sup>st</sup> May – again really clever, a huge amount of fun, with winners finding their own chocolate prizes.

For myself, and no doubt for others too, looking forward to our Shul Zoom events has been a lifeline. Just being able to be 'together', seeing those friendly faces, hearing their voices and having a much-needed laugh with them has helped me get through Lockdown and beyond.



If you'd like to join in too but don't think you could cope with the technology, please don't worry. Just let us know and we can easily help you out with that. (Call/message Rabbi Adam on 07970 558307 or email [rabbihill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rabbihill@yahoo.co.uk))

Also, if anyone has suggestions of other social things that we could be doing on Zoom, then we'd be absolutely delighted to hear your ideas and put them into action!

Finally, I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to our Chair, Alan, whose weekly 'Briefings' have become weekly 'Longings' as he keeps us connected, passing on news of more and more entertaining things happening on Zoom and social media across the US Communities. And how is everyone doing with his weekly Dingbats??



# DAVID'S BAR MITZVAH SONG

by Howard and Ruth Lanning

In June 1973 David, our eldest son, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Kenton Synagogue. The celebrations were held in the garden of our Stanmore home, over a month of sunny Sundays.

In addition to the traditional Bar Mitzvah boy's speech, David also performed a vocal treat, accompanied by his two younger brothers, Reuven and five-year-old Stuart.

The musical material was plagiarised from Gilbert & Sullivan's tune of "When I was a Lad" from "HMS Pinafore". The lyrics were the copywrite of the Lannings. The piece was very well received by family and friends.

What was amusing was that Stuart, aged five and not able to read, insisted on holding the sheet of lyrics.

June 1973

## DAVID'S BARMITZVAH SONG

DAVID                      Now that I've reached my Bar Mitzvah day  
                                 there's a couple of things I would like to say.  
                                 Having read the sedra and passed the test  
                                 I'm glad to have got the thing off my chest.

RICHARD                      **He's glad to have got the thing off his chest.**  
& STUART

DAVID                      Yes, I'm glad to have got the thing off my chest  
                                 and now I can give myself a good long rest

RICHARD                      **He's glad to have got the thing off his chest,**  
& STUART                      **and now he can give himself a good long rest.**

DAVID                      For twelve long months I've toiled and strained  
                                 for the Hebrew knowledge that I have gained.  
                                 I've read the Torah, and the Chumash too,  
                                 with the aim of becoming a very good Jew.

RICHARD                      **With the aim of becoming a very good Jew.**  
& STUART

DAVID                      With the aim of becoming a very good Jew  
                                 to be any less, I know would never do.



DAVID To me a cassette, Uncle Steve did lend,  
the verses, the rabbi to my house would send  
The teacher came next to record the lot  
and then said "David, it's time to swat".



RICHARD & STUART **He then said "David, it's time to swat".**

DAVID He then said "David, it's time to swat,"  
So, I played the cassette until the words I got.

RICHARD & STUART **He then said "David, it's time to swat,  
so he played the cassette until the words he got!"**

DAVID The day drew near, the excitement grew,  
my parents were getting in a terrible stew.  
With the house to be done and the food prepared,  
the family helped and the work was shared

RICHARD & STUART **The family helped and the work was shared**

DAVID The family helped and the work was shared.  
The fish was fried and the house was aired

RICHARD & STUART **The family helped and the work was shared  
The fish was fried and the house was aired**

DAVID With the suits all bought, and the dresses made,  
the work all done and the tables laid.  
The rest my friends is up to you,  
so enjoy yourselves, to please us, do.



RICHARD & STUART **Enjoy yourselves, to please us, do!**

DAVID Enjoy yourselves, to please us, do.  
And, with the greatest of pleasure, we will too

DAVID & RICHARD **So enjoy yourselves, to please us, do!  
and with the greatest of pleasure we will too**

# TRENT PARK HOUSE

by Alan Perkin

A new Museum is coming to Trent Park in Cockfosters, which will bring to life the incredible story of how Jewish émigrés from Nazi Germany worked for MI9 during the war and helped in the defeat of Nazi Germany.



Berkeley Homes, the site developer, has agreed in principle to allow the ground and basement floors of the Mansion House to be refurbished and designed to retell the stories of those who lived and those who worked in the House.

The site's focus will be its pivotal role leading up to and during WW2, particularly during its time as a specialised WW2 POW camp. The exhibition spaces in the large basement and ground floor will provide an immersive experience for a variety of visitors, presenting creative displays of archival material, object loans, period furnishings, oral histories and clandestine audio recordings made of German and Italian prisoners of war. At the heart of this initiative will be a dedicated learning and engagement programme for young people, local community groups and visitors.

Originally part of the Duchy of Lancaster, Trent Park at Cockfosters is the former estate of the Bevan and then the Sassoon families. As a charismatic and witty host, Sir Philip Sassoon designed Trent Park to be the perfect venue for his political and social entertaining. His guests in the 1920s and 30s included notable figures such as King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, Charlie Chaplin, TE Lawrence (of Arabia), Sir Winston Churchill, the Queen Mother, King George VI and young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

A keen aviator, before his death in 1939, Sassoon served as Under Secretary of State for Air - a role in which he made dramatic improvements to the Royal Air Force's fighting ability in preparation for the anticipated war with Nazi Germany.



However, at the outbreak of War, the estate was requisitioned by the Government and became an interrogation and bugging centre for captured Luftwaffe, German Navy and Italian military personnel who were considered to hold valuable wartime information. In 1942, after the entry of the USA into the war following Pearl Harbor, these prisoners were moved to other camps to make room for high-ranking captured German generals and Trent Park took on its special historic

importance as it became home to Britain's 'Secret Listeners', being run and monitored by a joint US/UK as a Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre (CSDIC). The House and grounds were transformed into a state-of-the art surveillance centre, supplied and installed with a complex network of miniaturised bugging devices supplied by the US Government. The German generals were also encouraged to relax and engage in conversation with planted undercover interrogators. British Intelligence bugged the conversations of nearly 3,000 German prisoners of war, and from 1942, Hitler's captured generals and most senior officers.

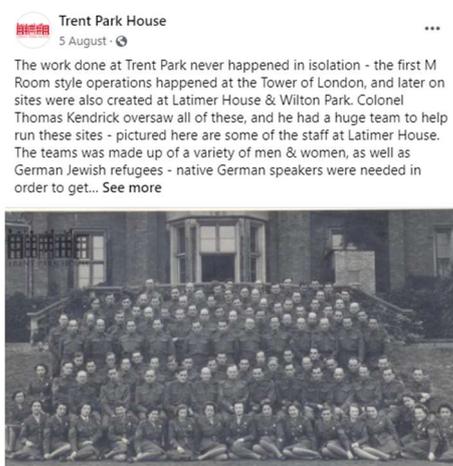
By the end of the War, 59 German generals were in residence, encouraged to relax and living in comfort in the House, little aware that the whole site was wired for every sound. As part of the delusion, they were treated as guests and were allowed for example to walk and enjoy the estate, were treated to London top restaurants, were provided with a radio, given a full German library ‘borrowed’ from the shut-down German Embassy and were serviced by a tailor whose regular visits were to press and maintain their uniforms. The secrets they inadvertently revealed helped turn the tide of the War. Information from Trent Park contained locations where V1 and V2 bombs were being manufactured and other vital military intelligence including some of the very first reports to the Allied Forces of the Holocaust and Nazi war crimes.



Teams of Secret Listeners worked in the basement, in a special room code-named the “M Room” (M for ‘miked’), recording the conversations taking place upstairs. Intelligence officers (both men and women) worked alongside them translating and processing the information, some of which was sent directly to Churchill. The Secret Listeners were German émigrés (the majority Jewish) who had escaped Nazi persecution to Britain, signed up for military service and then transferred to vital intelligence duties with British Intelligence. With German as their mother language, there was no danger of not perfectly understanding every nuance of German colloquial conversation. Trent Park was part of an extensive intelligence partnership, liaising with Bletchley Park from 1939, and with similar sites at Latimer House and Wilton Park, as well as with Air, Army, Naval and American

Intelligence services. Sworn to secrecy under the Official Secrets Act, the majority of these unsung heroes remained silent about their extraordinary contribution to the war effort, even a full lifetime later.

When the War ended, the house and estate served a variety of uses. Finally, in 2015, after some years left unoccupied, Trent Park was purchased by Berkeley Homes PLC. Following a successful public campaign, it offered the Trust the unique, once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a Museum within the evocative ground floor and basement areas of the Grade II listed mansion. This would enable Trent Park’s extraordinary place in history to be secured for the public and to educate schoolchildren about the House’s vital role in this remarkable wartime period of history.



Due to the Coronavirus, sorely needed funding vital for the Museum to be realized has of necessity been diverted to other causes and delayed. The project is by no means a certainty. Should you wish to make a contribution to help ensure the Museum does get to open its doors, it will be very much appreciated.

Alan Perkin  
Trustee and Secretary  
Trent Park Museum Trust

Please visit: [www.trentparkhouse.org.uk](http://www.trentparkhouse.org.uk)

Email: [office@trentparkhouse.org.uk](mailto:office@trentparkhouse.org.uk)

This is taken (with permission) from one of the food blogs that I subscribe to. The writer, Helen Goldrein, lives in Cambridge and regularly posts Kosher meat-free recipes.

This caught my eye as Family Hill spent many a holiday in Devon, courtesy of Plymouth Shul.

This was thanks to their busman's holiday scheme whereby, if you were willing to lead their services on Shabbat, you were able to stay in their Shul apt. Over the years, we grew very fond of both the Jewish Community of Plymouth as well as the Shul and the beautiful surroundings of Devon and Cornwall.

## Family Friends Food

### DEVON APPLE CAKE FOR ROSH HASHANAH INSPIRED BY PLYMOUTH SYNAGOGUE

*Devon apple cake is moist & fruity,  
packed with fresh apple pieces & flavoured with cider.  
Crunchy honey crumble makes it a great dessert or teatime treat.*



Plymouth is not usually celebrated as a tourist destination. Still, I was somewhat taken aback to learn that the city's top-rated visitor attraction on Trip Advisor is the Plymouth Synagogue. Since Kipper and I were spending a week in Devon, visiting the shul seemed like an opportunity that was too good to miss.

One of FFF's lovely Facebook followers sent me the phone number of Jerry, the shul's custodian, who gives tours by appointment. She must have warned him I would call, as he almost immediately asked, "Are you the kosher cake lady?" Well, no-one's ever called me that before, but apparently I am! We made arrangements to meet at the shul the following day.

## THE OLDEST ASHKENAZI SHUL IN THE ENGLISH SPEAKING WORLD



The shul was built in 1762, making it the oldest Ashkenazi synagogue still in use in the English-speaking world. However there is some evidence of a Jewish presence in the city much earlier. When Francis Drake set sail in 1577, he recorded that his quartermaster and navigator was "Moses the Jew, from Plymouth."

Located in Catherine Street, the shul is close to the centre of town and behind the Plymouth Guildhall. From the street it's easy to miss – a white, two-story building with no real distinguishing marks. The entrance is down a side passage and around the back, since the wall facing onto the street is the Eastern one and houses the ark. Although the main doors now open onto a back alley, for over 100 years they faced the town's main square.

Documents show that Plymouth's Jewish community had been holding regular services in people's homes and rented venues since around 1745. Plymouth was a major maritime hub, so Jews from Holland, Germany and Central Europe were attracted to the town to trade and support associated industries including tailoring (uniforms), instrument-making and the like.

## GROWTH AND MODERNISATION

In 1864, the shul building was extended, enlarging the women's gallery and adding a larger entrance area with an ingeniously designed succah located above it on the first floor. This room has a latticed ceiling onto which leafy branches can be balanced, and the roof above can be raised using a pulley system. The room's gorgeous stained-glass window depicts a beautiful succah, decorated with hanging bunches of fruit.



The ark, which reaches the full height of the building, is of a richly decorated baroque design and was probably imported 'flat-packed' from Holland. Although it appears to be made of carved marble it is actually expertly painted wood. The columns and other embellishments have been highlighted with gold leaf, giving a magnificent overall appearance.

The shul's bimah was made by local artisans in the Devonport Dockyard. It features ornate woodturning that would not look out of place on the deck of a galleon.

## WARTIME VISITORS

During WWI, Plymouth's Crownhill Fort was used as a transport centre for troops being sent to the fronts in Turkey and Africa. Many of the men in the 'Jewish Legion' – the 38th-42nd Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers – passed through the town. One of those soldiers was David Ben Gurion, who became the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel in 1949. He wrote of his time in Devon:

*"It is one of the most marvellous places I have ever seen. When I went out into the fields at dawn for the first time and gazed at the view around our tents, I was intoxicated by the charming scene. Somehow I didn't imagine I would ever see a panorama like this in England. Green mountains and valleys covered with silk, fertile fields and the shadows of nearby forests... The Sabbath is observed here and on that day we are let off all training, apart from marching to the synagogue together with the officers, headed by the colonel."*



The shul continued to thrive after the First World War, but WWII was to spell the beginning of the end for this historic Jewish community. The building was miraculously spared during the extensive bombing of the town – aerial photographs show it standing alone, surrounded only by cleared bombsites. But the closure of the naval bases and shipyards after the war drove people away to seek employment opportunities elsewhere.

The redevelopment of the city also moved residential areas out of the centre and away from the shul. This meant that many members were unable to walk the long distance to attend Shabbat services.

## 5 STAR RATING

Does Plymouth Synagogue deserve its 5-star TripAdvisor rating? We spent a fascinating three hours there. We were astounded in equal parts by the beauty and tranquillity of this historic building, and the remarkable depth of knowledge of our guide. To visit yourself, call Jerry Sibley on 07753 267616 or email [phccaretaker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phccaretaker@yahoo.co.uk) to book a tour.

PREP TIME	20 mins
COOK TIME	45 mins
TOTAL TIME	1 hr 5 mins
COURSE	Cake
CUISINE	British
SERVINGS	8

## EQUIPMENT

- 20cm (8inch) loose bottomed round cake tin

## INGREDIENTS

### For the honey crumb topping

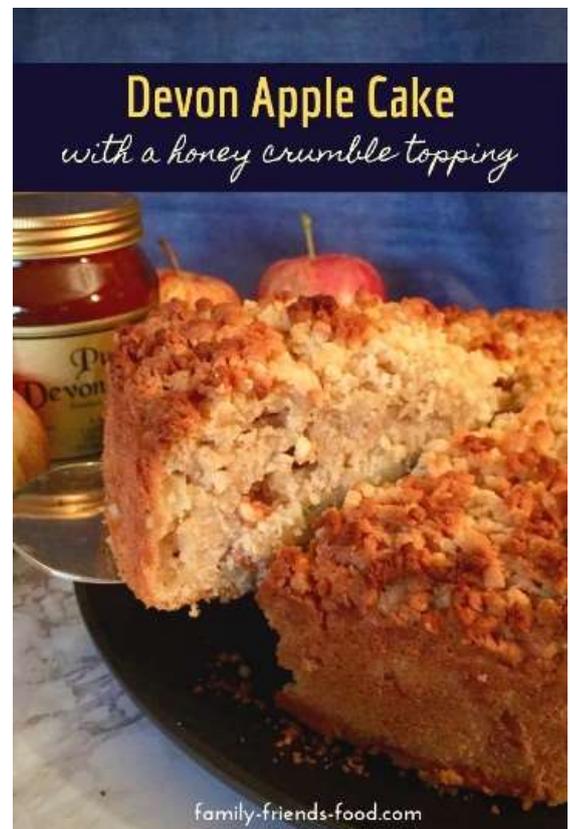
- 55 g butter or margarine, melted (approx. 3 ½ tbsp)
- 4 tbsp honey
- 150 g plain flour (1 ⅓ cups)

### For the cake

- 2-3 dessert apples (approx. 350g)
- 125 ml cider (hard cider) (½ cup + 1 tbsp)
- 110 g butter or margarine (½ cup / 1 stick)
- 110 g golden caster sugar (generous ½ cup)
- 2 eggs
- 225 g plain flour (2 cups)
- 1 tsp mixed spice (or use pumpkin pie spice or your preferred sweet spice blend)
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by making the topping. Whisk the melted butter or margarine with the honey, then stir in the flour to give a stiff dough. Set aside to cool while you make the cake.
2. Line a 20cm (8 inch) loose-bottomed round cake tin with greaseproof paper and set aside. Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F)
3. Remove the cores from the apples and discard. Cut the apple flesh into small dice and place in a bowl. Pour the cider over the apple pieces and leave to macerate.
4. In a large mixing bowl cream the butter or margarine with the sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time. If the mixture starts to split, add a tbsp of flour with the eggs.
5. Add the rest of the flour together with the spice and baking powder. Mix well. Drain the cider from the apple pieces and beat in to give a soft and creamy batter.
6. Finally stir in the diced apples until they are evenly distributed through the batter. Pour the mixture into the lined cake tin and level the top.
7. To make the crumb topping, you can either crumble the dough by hand, or else gently rub it through a cheese grater to produce shreds of dough. Sprinkle these evenly over the batter.
8. Bake at 180°C (350°F) for 45-50 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. If the cake seems to be browning too quickly, cover loosely with a piece of foil but remove it 5-10 minutes before the end of the cooking time.
9. Remove the cooked cake from the oven and allow to cool in the tin for 20 minutes before gently removing and allowing to cool fully on a wire rack.



*Moist spicy cake packed with fresh apple pieces and topped with a crunchy honey-sweetened crumble*

This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic, there are extra calls on Israel's national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service – MaDA – Magen David Adom

### Plasma Pheresis Kits

#### **Magen David Adom Blood Services, Israel's National Blood Banking Institution began collecting Plasma from recovered Coronavirus Donors**

As part of the project, MDA will collect plasma units from those recovered from Corona in order to treat the severely ill. Those who have recovered from the disease have developed special anti-virus proteins (antibodies) in their plasma. These units provide patients with a "passive vaccine" that may help them cope with the disease.

Plasma with antibodies has previously been used, for example, in the treatment of patients with SARS during the outbreak in 2002 and in Israel similar treatment has been previously given to patients with West Nile fever. This week (24.3), the FDA approved a similar protocol in the US.

The plasma donation process is conducted by a special method (Pheresis method) where only donor plasma is collected, and all other blood components are returned to him. This method has been in use at MDA's Blood Services over 30 years and thousands of volunteers donate blood this way every day. In the first phase, the plasma units will be used to treat by transfusion, but the goal is to collect enough plasma to prepare antibody (immunoglobulin) concentrate with which patients will be treated later.

The plasma donors must meet the Health Ministry's criteria and requirements for donating blood.

Plasma collection can only be done after 14 days have passed after their full recovery and these days the Ministry of Health in contact with those who have recovered to transfer their details to Magen David Adom.

To date, about 150 COVID-19 patients received the treatment with positive signs of medical condition improvement.

Each kit costs £50 – please generously donate to our appeal so that we can play our part to help to save lives in Israel.



# YOM TOV TIMETABLE 5781

There are no Shul Services presently

Online Services and Get-togethers will be notified separately

## Shabbat Nitsavim - VaYeilech

**Friday 11 September**  
Shabbat starts 7.10 pm

**Saturday 12 September**  
Shabbat ends 8.10 pm

## Rosh HaShanna 5781

**Friday 18 September**  
1<sup>st</sup> Day & Shabbat starts *light candles by* 6.54 pm

**Saturday 19 September**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Day starts *light candles after* 7.53 pm

**Sunday 20 September**  
Yom Tov ends 7.51 pm

## Fast of Gedaliah

**Monday 21 September**  
Fast starts 5.05 am  
Fast ends 7.42 pm

## Shabbat Ha'azinu - Shuva

**Friday 25 September**  
Shabbat starts 6.38 pm

**Saturday 26 September**  
Shabbat ends 7.37 pm

## Yom Kippur

**Sunday 27 September**  
Fast & Yom Tov starts *light candles by* 6.33 pm

**Monday 28 September**  
Yom Tov and Fast end 7.32 pm

## Succot

**Friday 2 October**  
1<sup>st</sup> Day & Shabbat starts *light candles by* 6.22 pm

**Saturday 3 October**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Day starts *light candles after* 7.21 pm

**Sunday 4 October**  
Yom Tov ends 7.18 pm

## Shmini Atseret/Simchat Torah

**Friday 9 October**  
Yom Tov & Shabbat start *light candles by* 6.06 pm

**Saturday 10 October**  
Simchat Torah starts *light candles after* 7.05 pm

**Sunday 11 October**  
Yom Tov ends 7.03 pm

## Shabbat Bereishit

**Friday 16 October**  
Shabbat starts 5.51 pm

**Saturday 17 October**  
Shabbat ends 6.50 pm

## Shabbat No'ach

**Friday 23 October**  
Shabbat starts 5.36 pm

**Saturday 24 October**  
Shabbat ends 6.37 pm

There is Kabbalat Shabbat Live  
from United Synagogue Communities  
each Friday evening ~ join in at [www.theus.tv](http://www.theus.tv)

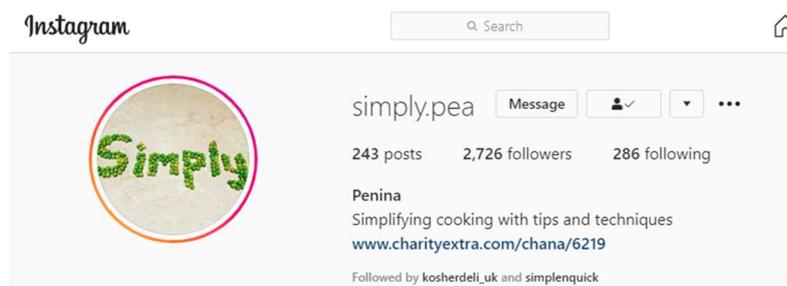
## High Holydays 5781

Whilst we might not be meeting up for Services this year, there is plenty on offer from the Shul for the Yom Tovim. If you need help setting up a computer, i-pad or smart phone then please let us know in plenty of time.

Monday 14 September	6.00 pm
<b>Prepare a Prayer</b>	
Pre Yom Tov session with suggestions of what to say in your own at-home New Year service	
Thursday 17 September	8.00 pm
<b>A Taste of (apple and) Honey</b>	
Thoughts and tunes to celebrate the start of our New Year 5781	
Sunday 20 September	various times
<b>Second Day Shofar blowing</b>	
coming to a Potters Bar and Brookmans Park garden near you	
Thursday 24 September	7.30 pm
<b>What do I Say?</b>	
An online session on the essentials of what to pray on the Great Day.	
Sunday 27 September	4.00 – 5.15 pm (Fast starts at 6.33 pm)
<b>PB&amp;BP Shul Kol Nidre Appeal</b>	
A video presentation replaces our in-Shul pledges to support important causes.	
<b>Fast Forward 2020</b>	
Pre Yom Kippur online Yizkor, tunes and a Derasha in preparation of this Day of Awe.	
Monday 28 September	7.50 pm
<b>Post Yom Kippur Zoom Break Fast</b>	
Hear the Shofar and Havdallah and then have a cup of tea and a slice of honey cake whilst catching up with friends and having an online chat.	

All online sessions are at [www.tinyurl.com/pbshulzoom](http://www.tinyurl.com/pbshulzoom)

Another Kosher food blog that I often dip into is simply.pea. Penina (whose initial is the pea) shares recipes both on Facebook and Instagram and has agreed to my sharing this Yom Tov treat with you.



## Whisky Squares

These are crunchy, sweet and a little boozy! Perfect for your Shabbos morning Kiddush or to bring to a barbecue.

Thank you [@rivkabenarroch](#) for bringing these into my life.

You can add anything from 45mls-90mls of Whisky depending on how strong you like them!

Crush in a zip lock bag

500g Lotus Biscuits [@kosherkingdomuk](#) (can do half Lotus and half Digestives [@rakusens](#) or tea biscuits)

In a Saucepan simmer together for 1 minute

130 g Margarine or Butter  
4 Tbsp Golden Syrup [@lylesgoldensyrup](#)  
6 Tbsp Cocoa [@rowntreesuk](#)  
45-90mls Whisky [@glenfiddichwhisky](#)

Turn off the heat and stir in the crushed biscuits.

Press down HARD into a greaseproof paper lined 6x9 lined container until level.

Melt in the microwave for 1.5 minutes

200g Chocolate [@liebersfoods](#)

Smooth over and put into the fridge to harden for at least 4 hours.

Cut into squares using scoring method shown in video.



Potters Bar and Brookmans Park United Synagogue has tried to be in contact with all members during this difficult period of time to check on our members and to find out if there is any way that we can help where needed.

If there is any way that the Community Cares can help then please contact us.

Many of our community would not be described as young(!) – now is not the time for British reserve – if we can play a part in keeping you safe and well then ask directly.

Since we all have our own issues to contend with please do not play the game of “well if they cared then they would have been in contact” or “I’m sure that they know – they just don’t want to help”.

We care – we will do our best to help – please do make contact.

Email: [care@pottersbarshul.org.uk](mailto:care@pottersbarshul.org.uk)

Call/text/Whatsapp – 07970 558307



**Potters Bar and Brookmans Park Synagogue**  
c/o United Synagogue, 305 Ballards Lane, London N12 8GB  
**Tel:** 020 8343 6289 **Email:** [Office@PottersBarShul.org.uk](mailto:Office@PottersBarShul.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No.242552

### Contact

Rabbi Adam S Hill  
Mobile/WhatsApp: 07970 558307  
email: [rabbi@pottersbarshul.org.uk](mailto:rabbi@pottersbarshul.org.uk)

Dr Alan Ferris  
Mobile/WhatsApp: 07530 551549  
email: [chairman@pottersbarshul.org.uk](mailto:chairman@pottersbarshul.org.uk)