

JUNE



SIVAN

# THE RECORDER

News sheet  
of the  
Bristol Hebrew  
Congregation

1990

# OFFICIALS OF THE CONGREGATION

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Material to arrive by the 22nd of the month.*

## BRISTOL WIZO

My first "Thank You" goes to all of you who helped in their various ways with the As New/Jumble Sale on Wednesday, 23rd. April. It was a very successful event, raising £290.

The second "Thank You" goes to Marcia Gae, not only for devising the excellent menu, but also preparing it. My thanks also to Kate Lever for assisting in the preparation, and to Sonia Silverman for her help on the day. It was, as usual, a very successful occasion, with over thirty people attending, including three from Cardiff. However, many who were unable to attend still paid for their luncheon, so another "Thank You" to all of them too.

Jewish Women's Week is well under way, and Rosina has set herself a target of £2,000. to date she has collected over £800!!

If you have not, as yet, sent your donation, please do so as soon as possible. As the letter stated, it is vital that we in the Diaspora "pull out all the stops" with the necessary financial assistance to the immigrants, not only from Russia, but also from Hungary and Argentina who are coming to Israel in droves, and it is a tremendous task for Israel alone to cope with their housing, employment and education requirements. WIZO's help is going to be vital, and so whilst Rosina's target appears ambitious, our maximum effort must be made to achieve it.

Staying on the subject of fund raising, Shiela Tobias has asked me if I wish her to continue with producing the Rosh Hashona Brochure. I naturally accepted her offer with alacrity, and I wish to thank both Shiela AND Alan for their continuing efforts. Now - unfortunately - to introduce a sour note, I am absolutely amazed that some of last year's insertions have yet to be paid for! I am convinced that this is pure oversight on the part of the individuals concerned, and I appeal to them to rectify the matter as soon as possible.

After all, this Brochure is a very important part of our fund raising effort, so as a result it has been decided that, in future, insertions will be paid for prior to inclusion in the Brochure.

Our final event in the Bristol WIZO Year will be on Sunday, 17th. June at 3.30 p.m. at Pound House Farm, Charfield. Our thanks to Angela and Tony Holt for putting their home at our disposal, and to Helena Channock for co-hosting the event. Cost will be £3.00 per person.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held sometime in July, and I would like to have nominations for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer and Committee Members. I know I say this very much with tongue in cheek, but I do hope there will be some willing volunteers. Never the less, if you cannot help in this way, perhaps you will give very serious consideration for your home to be used as a venue for a function, which to my mind is just as important.

Finally - I have been asked by the Cardiff Ziona WIZO Group members who attended our Luncheon to publicise their Luncheon on Wednesday, 6th. June. Guest Speaker is Gertrude Schilling and cost is £10.00 each. Anyone interested please contact Miranda Kitchener on Cardiff (0222) 758356

Shalom - and with all best wishes



## SUDDENLY IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE A JEW

We live again, in dangerous times, or suddenly these times might be dangerous for us all.

Depending who's asking, there are half a dozen ways that one can quickly describe ones self, Doctor, Consultant, Insurance Broker, Business person, stocky, tall, short, Londoner, Bristolian etc.

Whatever.

But scattered around Europe are those who would only ever think to describe us in a single word, that we rarely use to describe ourselves. To them, whatever else we are, say or do, is wholly summed up in the word "Jew".

Our parents were Jewish, as were theirs before them, and so on, until quite quickly, you get to those relatives who were routinely and casually beaten up in the streets of Russia and Poland, and who lived in fear of the next pogrom, or worse.

And there was worse.

Suddenly, over the past couple of weeks, being Jewish in Europe has started getting risky again.

In the Eastern European states a vicious and endemic anti-semitism has taken to the newly freed streets.

In Russia and Romania and Poland, the nationalists have come out from under which ever slimy stone they've been hiding for 50 years and are polling votes by claiming that the ills of their countries are the fault of the evil Jews rather than their communist dupes. In France freshly interred Jewish bodies have been raised from the graves, dismembered, and slung about the desecrated Jewish graveyards.

And in Britain the swastika daubers have gone to work on Britain's Jewish graveyards.

Most of us never witnessed what those of our parents and grandparents generations had witnessed in Britain: Oswald Mosley's and Colin Jordan's thugs beating up Jews on the streets and wrecking synagogues.

Anti-semitism is different from other types of racism, not worse, but different. When racist orators complain that there are too many blacks in this country, they are suggesting that blacks, somehow, are lesser people, fit only to scuttle around the world cheaply soaking up the employment slack. And on that level, Jews equally, get labelled as mean or sly, and when we complain get accused of being impatient and hysterical and told that things have changed since the historical hiccups at Buchenwald and Auschwitz.

Occasionally when things start to go wrong in a country, people look around for someone to blame. And if they don't know who to blame, there are others who will give them the hint, and point them in the right direction. In Germany in the 30's the Jew's were to blame, In France it was the Jews again, and in Eastern Europe it looks as if it is going to be the Jews again.

And in Britain ?, In the 60's when Enoch Powell was on the roll it was the fault of the blacks. Now it might be the Jews - us again. Maybe the Edmonton cemetery got turned over by a few silly ignorant lads who'd had a few too many Special Brews.

But when, 50 years after they opened up Treblinka, one sees the words "JEWS OUT" freshly painted on a railway arch in the East End of London, one shivers, to think that it could happen all over again.

Are we burying our heads in the sand here in Bristol, in thinking that it could not happen again, and that Security at the Synagogue at all times is unnecessary ?.

Gerald Gee.  
Hon Sec.. A.J.E.X.



#### WEST QUEST 4

Cheltenham. A blazing summer's day at the end of April. Over 80 of us indoors, ignoring the glorious weather outside. Why?

We were there to celebrate West Quest 4 - the fourth gathering of people from the Jewish communities in the South West - with, I'm proud to say, a sizeable contingent from Bristol and Bath. Since most of the Recorder's readers will have read the very good account of the day's proceedings in the Jewish Chronicle, these are *my* impressions of the day, the things that spring to mind as I look back a month later.

First, how good it is to renew acquaintance with 'friends' from previous West Quests. They are achieving what they set out to do: creating a sense of regional community. Moreover they're moving from being outpourings of what we cannot do as small congregations, to constructive statements of what we are planning and the kind of assistance we expect from the 'centre'. Indeed, a measure of how effectively our voice is being heard is the presence of the Vice-President of the Board of Deputies and the Chair of the Provincial Committee. The latter is a whit patronising, but Judge Israel Finestein sounds sincere when he says that the Board must take seriously any perception in the regions that they are being overlooked or ignored.

Barry Green of Cheltenham makes a telling point. We are the small regional communities; not Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds. When he wishes to speak at the Board, he is often not called. The larger regional congregations have more delegates, but although out-of-London, they are not the authentic voice of the smaller communities struggling to flourish.

Two more impressions. My first visit to Cheltenham Synagogue. Not just as a gawping tourist - it is the most amazingly stylish and elegant building - but as a participant in a moving - because we were ourselves a coming together of Jews - Yom Haatzmaut service. Led by the indefatigable Malcolm Wiseman. We, the regional congregations, owe him a lot.

The day ends with a talk on the Jewish instruments of the Bible. Boring? Not a bit of it. Jeremy Montague is an enthusiast and communicates his love of enquiry and curiosity. Besides that, he has brought some of the instruments; more accurately, reconstructions or guesses as to what is meant by Biblical descriptions. The hall fills with weird and plaintive sounds. We are transported away, across the centuries.

The day has been religious, cultural, educative and social. It's passed - despite the call of the glorious weather outside - like a flash. Thank you Cheltenham organisers.

Martin Vegoda

## JUNE'S FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

.....will be held in the synagogue at 7.30pm on Friday 8 June. It will be followed by a do-it-yourself supper in the Frank Cohen Hall.

If you plan to join us, please bring for yourself and one other

- a vegetarian, fish or salad main course
- fruit, pudding or cake for dessert.

We will then pool resources to create a communal buffet.

Although we shall be delighted to see you if you decide on the spur of the moment to come, it would be helpful if you could let one of us know beforehand.

Bencie Woll            248371  
Martin Vegoda        245769

## APPRECIATION KIDDUSH

The Rubin family have been with us in Bristol since last autumn. In that short time each member of the family has made an enormous contribution to our community.

We will be holding a special kiddush after the Shabbat service on Saturday 30 June to say thank you to the Rubins before they go back to Israel in the summer.

Helen Vegoda and Anne Emmanuel  
on behalf of Bristol Hebrew Congregation

## PARK ROW JEWISH WOMEN'S GROUP

Our friendly, informal learning group meets monthly.

Contact Helen [245769] or Yvonne [92 859082] for further details.

Our next meeting:            **Monday 18 June**  
   at 8pm in the Frank Cohen Hall

## KOSHERINA    KOSHERINA    KOSHERINA

Stock up for summer outings and picnics with our kosher goodies: challas, bagels, chopped herring, meats, felafel, and a veritable cornucopia of frozen and dry goods. *Special orders taken.*

KOSHERINA is open in June, July and August fortnightly outside Park Row's Frank Cohen Hall on the following Sundays between 10.15 and 11.45:

10 June  
24 June

8 July  
22 July

5 August

Further details:    Min        687654  
                         Helen       245769  
                         Anne       623743

## RULES.

1. THAT the prayers and service shall be conducted according to פנה-פולין
2. The service shall be opened for divine service every Friday evening, שבת שבת, afternoon, and evening, and the like on every holiday, also on פורים, תענית, חה"מ, פליחות, חה"מ, every Monday and Thursday, and at such other times as the נבאי and נבאי shall direct; time of service on Monday and Thursday mornings to commence at seven o'clock in the summer and eight o'clock in the winter, and on שבת, to commence at eight o'clock in the morning from the שבת before פסח till the שבת before שבת, and from שבת בראשית till the שבת before פסח half-past eight.
3. The congregation shall be under the direction of the נבאי and committee for the time being.
4. That on the day on which נבאי and נבאי are elected a committee of management, to consist of five persons, who are privileged members

shall be elected by the congregation, and the duty of such committee shall be to assist the פֶּרָשׁ and קִדְלָה in all matters relating to the קִדְלָה, such persons to remain in office for one year only, but to be eligible to re-election; and any person so elected and refusing to serve, shall be subject to a fine of two guineas, but having served the office for one year shall be exempted from fine for two years.

5. That every privileged member shall be entitled to vote on all questions brought before the congregation, and the votes of the majority shall be binding on the whole.

6. That none but privileged members shall be allowed to attend the meetings, or interfere in the business of קהל and no member shall be entitled to vote on any question, or interfere at any meeting, who is indebted six months' account, and if required the פּרנס shall produce a list of such defaulters.

7. That before any person shall be eligible to become a privileged member or בעל בית he shall have been a resident seat holder for three years, at not less than two guineas per annum seat money, and shall make application in writing to the פרנס three months prior to a general half yearly meeting of קהל which application shall be laid by the פרנס before the committee, and if sanctioned by them the פרנס shall report the

same to the congregation at such half-yearly meeting, when the applicant shall be balloted for, and if elected shall be admitted to the privilege of on payment of three guineas for such privilege. And when the son of a privileged member or בֵּית בֵּעַל shall have attained the age of twenty-five years, he shall be eligible to become a privileged member or בֵּית בֵּעַל without payment of any sum for the same, but must first be approved of by the פָּרִיט, זָבֵן and committee.

8. That at all public meetings of קהל eleven members, including the פרנס shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of any business, and in cases of equality of votes the פרנס or in his absence the נכב"א shall be entitled to the casting vote.

9. That there shall be annually chosen from privileged members, who pay each three guineas per annum seat money, a פּרנא and from members who pay each two or three guineas per annum seat money, a נבא' and on either of such members refusing to serve the office on being elected, he shall if פרנא be fined ten guineas, if נבא' five guineas, but if the פרנא or נבא' should be re-elected at the expiration of his year of office and refuse to serve, he shall be exempted from a fine and from serving the office again for three years; but in case of having served two consecutive years, he shall be exempted for five years.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mazeltov to Debbie Berkovitch on passing her driving test. What perfect timing - as Irene has had difficulty in driving due to her "poorly" shoulder. But Irene still has the use of her right hand and arm for the telephone - well, that is what its for!!!

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We hope Eve Levy's leg is now better, after hurting it playing Badminton.

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Good luck to all students sitting G.C.S.E's, "A" Levels, University exams and any ~~other~~ <sup>other</sup> exams.

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Sorry to hear that Naama Rubin had a slight accident. We believe she tried to fly through the air while riding a bicycle. We suggest she uses a safety net next time. Get well soon.

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### IMPROVE YOUR HEBREW

Miss Haggit Shani has just come yo Bristol from Israel and is delighted to offer private tuition to groups or individuals, in written or conversational Hebrew.

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### WANTED

Second hand computer and printer. Phone Rabbi Mike Morris : 255160

### FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 4th JUNE @ 8.0pm

Ladies Guild Meeting  
13 Druid Stoke Avenue

FRIDAY 8th JUNE @ 7.30pm

Evening Service and Supper

THURSDAY 14th JUNE @ 8.0pm

Council Meeting

SUNDAY 17th JUNE @ 3.30pm

WIZO Afternoon Tea  
Pound House Farm, Charfield

MONDAY 18th JUNE @ 8.0pm

Jewish Womens Group Meeting  
Frank Cohen Hall.

SATURDAY 30th JUNE

Kiddush for Rubin Family

SUNDAY 1st JULY @ 7.0pm

Pot Black Supper  
15 Downs Park West.



### YAHZITES

Thursday June 2nd Mrs. B. Glick. Sivan 9th

### YAHZITES

Saturday	June 2nd.	Mrs. B. Glick	Sivan 9th
Thursday	June 14th.	Mr. A. E. Morris.	Sivan 21st
Saturday	June 16th.	Mr. I. Kushner.	Sivan 23rd
Sunday	June 17th.	Mrs. J. Samuel.	Sivan 24th.
Friday	July 6th.	Mr. A. Gordon.	Tammuz. 13th.

### COMMUNAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Date of the next council meeting. Thursday June 14th. 8pm

This months lottery winner :- April. Charles Wander  
May. Lionel Caplan.

Decorating of the front hall and staircase of the Synagogue will be taking place until the end of June.

A new lock has been fitted to the front gates of the Synagogue. Key holders have been given a new key. Any authorised person wishing to obtain entry into the Synagogue, and not being a key holder, can obtain a key from Mr. A. Glick, or the Rabbi.

### JEWISH WOMENS WEEK

Rosina and Bette would like to thank all the ladies who have contributed so far to Jewish Womens Week and report we have collected to date the grand sum of £900. We have set our target this year at £2000. and would ask all the ladies who we have not yet heard from to please send their donations as soon as possible to Rosina at 160 Cranbrook Rd. Redland Bristol BS6 7DG. Cheques should be made payable to Jewish Womens Week. Please give us your support and make this the most successful Campaign ever.

Sincerely

Rosina and Bette.

### NEW YEAR BROCHURE

Please send your insertion together with payment of £4. to Sheila Tobias at 23. Pentland Avenue Chiltern Park. Thornbury. Glos. as soon as possible.

Dear Eds.

I have noticed recently that there are more and more letters appearing in Recorder criticising the Bristol Hebrew Congregation in one way or another. Let me say that I have never yet come across the Perfect Congregation, and even if I did I don't think I would like to live there. I feel proud and I feel thankful to have been a member of this community for the whole of my life and I am pleased that my children were born and raised here, in an atmosphere of friendship and happiness. Although they are now grown adults and live in London they love to come back to Bristol because they have so many wonderful memories. Perhaps I am not the best person to judge the present congregation as I may be biased but Please Please let us start looking for the advantages and the good points of the community instead of all the grumbles.

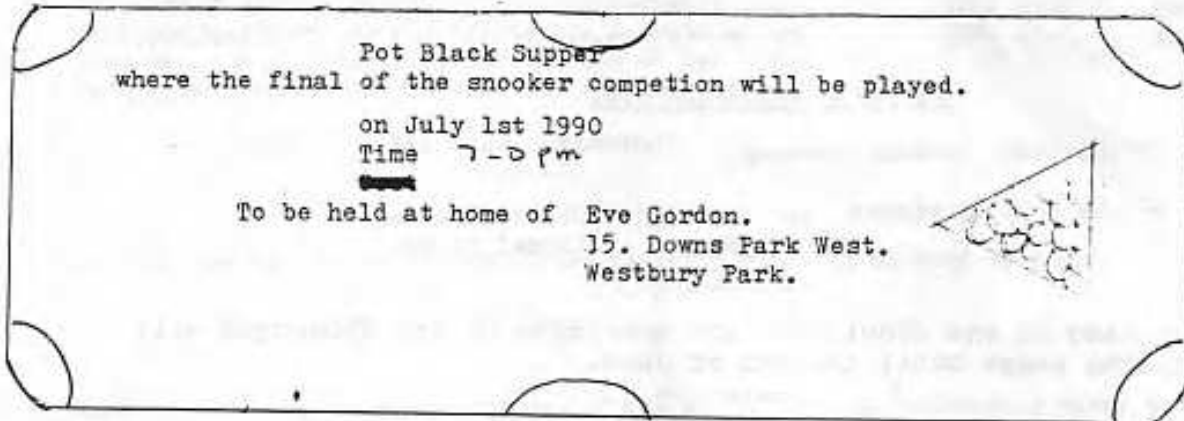
S.A bn Tz.

BRISTOL WOMANS GUILD

The afternoon tea on 20th May was a great success, a total of £ 130. was made. Thank you very much to the wonderful hostesses, Irene Berkovitch, Helena Caplan and Sonia Silverman.

Future Events

1st July 1990.



Please keep 2nd September free for the

" ANNUAL BARBECUE "  
To be held at.  
6. Chardstock Avenue.  
Combe Dingle  
Bristol.

More details later.

Next Ladies Guild Meeting

Monday ~~2nd~~<sup>4th</sup> June  
at Helena Channack  
13 Druid Stoke Ave.  
Westbury Park  
8pm.

The A.G.M. will be held on Monday July 9th at Irene Berkovitch  
17 Abbey Road.  
Westbury -on -Trim

Kiddish Cake Rota.

June 2nd. Elisabeth and Anthony Elman.  
June 9th. Rochelle King.  
June 16th. Sonia Silverman.  
June 23rd. Eve Levin.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MAY 10th 1990

1. It was agreed to decorate the lobby and front entrance and landing at the same time as the staircase is decorated, following the rendering work.
2. It was agreed to put in a doorway from the entrance hall of the top maisonette into one bedroom of the lower maisonette. This room will be used as a shop/office/classroom. The lower flat will be relet as a one bedroomed flat.
3. The Liaison Committee reported on a special meeting they had held which dealt with the welfare of elderly congregants. Proposals for home and hospital visits, car lifts to functions and services, regular meetings and lunches, and sheltered housing were topics which had been discussed.
4. The Religious Affairs Committee is to look at ways of ensuring there are Minyanim for Festivals in order to prevent services being cancelled due to low attendance.
5. A booklet containing photographs from the exhibition which marked the 200th anniversary of the community is to be produced.

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The next childrens service will take place on June 16<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11 o'clock.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO .....

Jessica who was 12 on the 30th May and  
Sarah (Toofie) who was 8 on the 27th May.

Esther who will be 4 on June 24th and  
Rosie who will be 7 on July 1st.

On May 13th, a few families went out for a Lag B'Omer picnic to The Avon Valley Country Park. There were 13 children in all ranging in ages from 6 months (guess who) to nearly 12 years. The children had a great time at the adventure playground, on the rowing and paddle boats and on the riverside walk with several very tame lambs and goats.

What was most enjoyable was to see the children having such a lovely time together as one large happy group. I think all the parents felt this. We all agreed to have another outing next year - if not before.