

JUNE 1975

TAMMUN 111

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
BUSHEY & DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE
NUMBER 19

Where were you when a visiting Rabbi came to preach? What excuse did you have for not attending your community's Israel Independence Day celebrations? When did you last come to a Shabbat morning service?

These questions, and 'variations on the theme', have often been asked - and there are, as usual, very few reasonable answers! Illness, being away from home, or some family commitment: these are often valid reasons, but surely one or another of them cannot apply every week for so many members of the community!

What do you expect of your Shul? Given that you joined the Shul in the first place, one is entitled to assume that there is some spark of 'jewishness' in you. Why not make an effort to fan that spark into a flame? The Shul, and the various groups and committees within the area, offer a variety of activities. If the Shul is not coming up to what you expect of it then you can, both through the pages of this Newsletter and by direct contact with a member of the Board, make known your views and feelings.

But perhaps not only do you not know what you expect of your Shul, but you don't even know what the Shul offers - because you don't attend the Services, or the different functions and meetings which are arranged.

Why don't you come to Shul? Not necessarily every week: try once a fortnight or once a month. Don't be shy if you don't know the place in the Siddur, there is always someone who will be only too pleased to show you the page. Not very good at reading Hebrew - then read slowly, you'll soon improve. You can't remember the tunes or the ritual - just listen and watch, it'll soon come back to you. You don't understand what it's all about - why not read the English until you feel more 'at home' with it all. You're not so special - we all went through it at one time or another.

Most important of all: you don't need to book a seat, we're keeping one warm for you.

Ronald Cole
32 Elstree Road
Bushey Heath
tel: 950 3566

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joint editors

Colin Pink

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some telephone numbers which might be of use :

honorary officers

Johnny Back 950 1327
Ronald Cole 950 3566
David Shulman 950 6060

functions committee chairman

Harvey Burton 950 4209

membership committee co-chairmen

Paul Epstein 950 5217
Godfrey Kaye

social calendar committee chairman

Geoffrey Silver 92 34064

youth & education committee chairman

Brian Silverman

ladies' guild chairman

Barbara Kaye

synagogue secretary

Susan Sperber 950 7340

(office open Sunday morning 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

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PLEASE remember that the Editors would like to be kept informed, of any births, *
marriages, bereavements, social/cultural/religious activities, or other events. *

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Annual General Meeting

On Monday, 12th May, the A.G.M. of the Members of the Synagogue was held in the Shul Hall. Fortunately for those of you who were unable to attend, our star reporter was there.

Mr. Johnny Back presented the Chairman's Report. The Synagogue's membership had risen to 185 male members and 9 female members; and in view of the ever increasing commitments which the community had to face, the Membership Committee was urging all members, both old and new, to sign Covenants in favour of the Synagogue.

Upon completion of the acquisition of the site in School Lane the Board had given careful consideration to the various alternatives for which the Shul + School Lane site might be used. A £½ million redevelopment plan for the site had been rejected in favour of a £10,000 conversion plan for the School Lane building. This would give us a Beth Hamedrash as well as facilities for the Kindergarten and for the proposed Cheder.

With regard to the Cheder, the Board - through the Youth & Education Committee - had made application for affiliation to the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. The London Board were planning to use Bushey as the first centre for a pilot scheme of an Ivrit-speaking Cheder.

Mr. Back reported on the setting up of a Bushey Young Marrieds Group, under the chairmanship of Harvey Leigh. It was to be hoped that this group would serve as a pivot around which the younger members of the community might be able to contribute to the growth and development of the area in the cultural, religious, social and intellectual fields.

Mr. David Shulman presented the Financial Representative's Report, in which he brought Members' attention to the present somewhat difficult financial position in which the Synagogue found itself. The Meeting was advised of the increase in fees which had been approved by the Board and which were to come into effect at Rosh Hashanah. The breakdown of the new fees of £37.00 p.a. is as follows :

Membership contribution	£ 12. 16
to U.S. for Communal Purposes	3. 04
Religious Education Rate	3. 80
Funeral Expenses Scheme	4. 50
Additional Education Levy	2. 50
Building Fund	11. 00

Mr. Shulman stressed the benefit to the Synagogue arising out of members entering into Covenants, and emphasised the importance of this extra revenue which could increase the Shul's income by 50%. This was important in the light of the money we would have to borrow from the U.S. to carry out the proposed work in the School Lane building. If the Synagogue was unsuccessful in persuading most of the members to sign covenants then there would be little alternative but to substantially increase the fees in the near future.

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The Football Club has had a most encouraging season. The record book shows :

Played - 21 Won - 9 Drawn - 3 Lost - 9 Goals: For - 68 Against - 67

For the second year running, top goal scorer was Jeffrey Doctors.

At the recent end-of-season meeting the retiring Captain, David Hornick, thanked all the members of the Club for their support throughout the season. He commented on some of the successes of the season, and outlined the plans under discussion for the formation of a small 'friendly' league of about eight teams.

Larry Roxon (950.5259) was elected Captain for the 1975/76 season. The Club will hold a Car Rally in the afternoon of Sunday, 20th July, to be followed by a Disco evening. The Club will be meeting for 'kickabouts' on Wednesday evenings during the Summer at 7.30 p.m. in the King George Recreation Ground.

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On Shabbat, 12th April, we were privileged to have as our guest Rabbi Dr. Dov Zakheim who preached to us on the Sidrot being read that morning.

We are grateful to Rabbi Dr. Zakheim for enabling us to reproduce below the basis of his address.

Tazriah-Metzora

" The parshiot of Tazriah and Metzora are not the easiest to comprehend, nor indeed are they of a kind that might be expected to excite the lay reader. They deal primarily with leprosy, that dread disease of ancient times, and with the spiritual cures administered to cope with it. 'Spiritual', it should be noted, is the operative word, for although it is true that the Hebrews were the first nation to institutionalise quarantine as a preventive measure against epidemics, the practice of quarantine was but a part of a syndrome of ritual practices that in no way could be construed as having anything but spiritual intent. The priest did inspect the infected portion of the body for telltale colour - and pronounced upon the need for quarantine. But where did the two birds - one of them to be sacrificed, and both to be taken after the patient was pronounced cured - come in? Again, that the priest was equipped to determine whether a boil had led to complications that brought on leprosy, was certainly a mark of his medical proficiency - were it not for the fact that he also had to administer a sprinkling of water upon the cured man - water that contained the blood of the aforementioned slaughtered bird, not to mention possible shavings of cedar-wood, scarlet and hyssop that also had been dipped into the water. Given, therefore, the clear spiritual connotations implied in the laws of leprosy, I feel that we have the license, indeed the obligation, to draw conclusions from these laws that could contribute to the spiritual uplift of our times.

In this spirit I wish to turn to two of the more abstruse sets of laws appearing in the two parshiot of the week, those concerned with leprosy of clothes and leprosy of the home. I shall not dwell upon the literal details of these two forms of leprosy: they can be easily digested from any translation of the Pentateuch. Instead I turn to two conflicting interpretations of the meaning of these forms of leprosy which Nachmanides contends only existed in Israel, when the land was inhabited under the rule of the Torah, and are certainly not natural forms of the disease. Midrash Rabbah quotes the dicta of Rabbi Huna in the name of Rabbi Joshua bar Abin and Rabbi Zecharia in the name of his father-in-law Rabbi Levi that 'the master of mercies does not first punish (offenders) corporally' as evidenced by the parshiot: 'first punishments fall on his house: if he repented, it (merely) needs replacing of the affected stones - if not, the house must be dismantled and his clothes are affected: if he then repented, his clothes (merely) need laundering; if not, they are burnt, and his body is afflicted, if he then repents, he is purified, if not "he must sit alone"'. Clearly, on this interpretation leprosy of clothes and the house is a lesser version of divine punishment, but punishment all the same and a precursor of worse to come if no atonement is made for previous misdeeds. But now turn to the following interpretation, likewise quoted in Midrash Rabbah, of Rabbi Simon bar Yochai "'(When ye are come to the land of Canaan, which I give you for a possession) And I put the plague of leprosy" Rabbi Hiya learned, "is it good news for them (i.e. the Hebrews that punishments shall fall upon them?" Rabbi Simon bar Yochai learned, "when the Canaanites heard that the Israelites were coming upon them they buried their wealth in their houses and fields. Said the Lord - I promised their (the Israelites') fathers that I would bring their sons into a land filled with every sort of good, as it is written "Houses full of all good things (Deut. 6:11)", what does the Lord do? He brings plagues on his (the Jew's) house and he finds a treasure.' Now on this interpretation, the 'plague' is but a blessing in disguise and it makes good sense to argue that an occurrence of this type could only take place in Israel, under Jewish domination in a state ordered by Torah.

I should note here that one does not always seek to reconcile two conflicting Midrashim. However, there is, I feel, a message for us to be derived from such an exercise, and I therefore shall try my hand at it. It seems clear that, whether ultimately a blessing or not, leprosy cannot possibly be a pleasant experience. It is no fun to move out of one's home and start knocking down its walls. However, having been forced to break the walls down, the question then arises, to what purpose? Are we perhaps deserving of further punishment; is the leprosy a not so subtle hint? Or is our slate clean and reward the only possible consequence of the plague that has affected our home? Of course, nowadays, our walls get woodworm, not leprosy. But our society, our Jewish society, is going through a period of leprosy that, thankfully, so far has only affected us externally. Money, and Jewish money, has been lost, as the economies of the Western world are shrinking - we have to break down our commercial structures and reorganise them. But is there not more to it? Is it not a fact that when the economies of Western states have slowed, anti-Semitism has usually not been far behind? And is it also not a fact that often the rot is within Jewish society itself - practices that on a small scale may avoid notice but on a large scale bring misery to many? In America, in England, in Israel, financial scandals involving Jews dominate the headlines. Such publicity hardly eases matters when economies are contracting anyway. Will the leprosy strike our clothes and then ourselves?

I have never advocated the practice of minding other people's business. 'Kol Yisroel Arevim Ze Bozeh' does mean that all Jews are ultimately responsible for each other, but it does NOT mean that they can order each other about. In subtle ways, in sensible ways, we can exert a positive influence on the practices of our friends if we know that these, when writ large, could have disastrous effects. Not by admonishing them, perhaps not even by telling them anything specific. Example has always been the best mode of teaching. But we must be aware of the problem; we must be on our guard. If we do not stop the leprosy at its present early stage - it could get malignant - and once again our people will have brought destruction and havoc upon themselves. May it not come to pass, and may the present troubles rather be like the leprosy of homes as seen by Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the forerunner of blessings and plentitude for all Israel. "

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We are guilty of an omission from our last issue, and we apologise most sincerely to those concerned :

On Shabbat, 22nd February, we were privileged to hear Jonathan Oster reading a parsha from the week's Sedra. Whilst this was not the first Barmitzvah we have had in our Shul it was certainly one of the most impressive, and the way in which Jonathan read his portion was evidence of his courage and tenacity.

After the Service, Mr. & Mrs. Antony Oster invited the community to join them and their family and friends for a splendid Kiddush in Jonathan's honour.

Belatedly, but nonetheless sincerely, we offer hearty congratulations to Jonathan, also to Mr. & Mrs. Oster; and we wish them all a very healthy and happy future.

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MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY
SUNDAY, 13th JULY
at 8.15 p.m

DEBATE

this house believes that :
"the fault of intermarriage
is 100% that of the parents".

this debate is being organised in
conjunction with
Pinner Synagogue's Scopus Group

the motion will be proposed by:

Johnny Back	(Bushey)
Tony Glass	(Pinner)

and opposed by:

Leslie Wagner	(Pinner)
Allan Conway	(Bushey)

venue : Bushey Synagogue Hall.

Ladies' Guild

Next Wednesday, 9th July, we are holding a Coffee Morning at the home of Betty Segalov (1, The Lake, Bushey Heath) at 10.30 am. There will be a sale of 'Gift Ideas' e.g. plant containers, fancy candles, etc., at very reasonable prices. Admission 25p. Please come along and bring your friends.

We are very fortunate in having been able to persuade Allan Conway, a member of our community, to give a talk on Child Psychology. This talk will be given on Thursday, 24th July, at the home of Jenny Cole (32 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath) at 8.30 p.m. This promises to be an interesting evening, and we look forward to seeing you all. Husbands will be welcome too. Entrance 50p, including refreshments.

Do you know your partner? If so, why not come along to the Shul on Sunday, 27th July, at 8.30 p.m. prompt, for our "Mr & Mrs" evening, based on the popular tv programme. Questions will be carefully compiled, and there will be a prize for the winning couple. Tickets are 75p per person, to include refreshments.

Over the past couple of months we have had our 'Good As New' shop open and have raised about £80 for our funds. We are unable to re-open the shop without your support: we need clothes, bric-a-brac, etc., and also helpers to sort out the goods and to be pur sales ladies. If you are interested in helping us in this very worthwhile method of raising money, please contact any of the ladies listed at the end of this report.

Our next two meetings have been arranged well in advance so that those interested in coming along can note the dates in their diaries and make the necessary arrangements with husbands/baby sitters. All are welcome to the meetings, which will be held in the Shul Hall at 8.30 p.m.

Monday, 28th July Monday, 1st Sept.

We are always delighted to see both old and new members, and anyone wanting further information about the Guild should please telephone any of the following who will be pleased to answer your queries:

- Jackie Saunders 950 4290
- Barbara Kaye
- Jackie Hornick 950 4389

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The Chairman of the Ladies' Guild writes:

' The passing away of our dear friend and member Florrie Shorrick will leave a tremendous gap in the lives of all those members who had the privilege and pleasure of working with her in the interests of our Shul. Florrie was always a willing and cheerful volunteer whenever there was any work to be done.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. '

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Our Special Recipe for

Tisha b'Av : ?

****quiz****quiz****quiz****quiz****quiz**

enclosed with this Newsletter is your entry form to our first QUIZ.

you will notice that whilst one of the sets of questions is open to all, the other set is only for children under the age of 13.

please put your name and address at the top of the set of questions you are going to answer - children under 13 are asked to put their age as well. please then send your answers to :

Allan Conway
20 Broadfield Court
Bushey Heath, WD2 1JB.

there will be a prize for the sender of the first correct answers opened in each group - and a full list of the correct answers will appear in our next issue.

where a question may have more than one correct answer, only that one intended to be the correct answer by the organiser shall be credited with the appropriate marks.

the organiser (Allan Conway) shall have the final decision in all matters which relate to the QUIZ - and the Editors disclaim all responsibility, and do not wish to be joined as parties to any lawsuits.....!!

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**** have you got a car? ****

do you like hunting for scavenger

the Bushey United Football Club have their Annual Car Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, 20th July. phone Brian Binstock (950 3641).

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we wish a very happy

- 5th birthday to Michele Astor
- 2nd birthday to Simon Astor
- 4th birthday to Natalie Atkins
- 2nd birthday to Gidon Back
- 4th birthday to Rachel Baum
- 1st birthday to Justin Berkovi
- 5th birthday to Samantha Bratt
- 1st birthday to Jeremy Bush
- 8th birthday to Alexander Collis
- 2nd birthday to Hayley Davis
- 12th birthday to Alison Epstein
- 4th birthday to Adam Gitlin
- 9th birthday to Marc Gold
- 1st birthday to Melanie Gold
- 1st birthday to James Goldsobel
- 9th birthday to Joanne Gotlieb
- 9th birthday to Mandy Harris
- 2nd birthday to Marshall Joseph
- 7th birthday to Ryan Joseph
- 11th birthday to Ashley Kaye
- 9th birthday to Jeanine Kaye
- 3rd birthday to Adam Kramer
- 6th birthday to Nicole Lehrer
- 5th birthday to James Leibert
- 3rd birthday to Melanie Leibert
- 1st birthday to Andrew Levy
- 3rd birthday to Jodi Lynn
- 2nd birthday to Matthew Verrey
- 8th birthday to Bradley Weissman
- 5th birthday to Gary Weissman
- 3rd birthday to Simon Wolmark

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have you thought about advertising in your Synagogue Newsletter ?

have you thought about contributing an article, or a recipe, or a 'Letter to the Editor' ?

we look forward to hearing from you.

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Functions Committee Monthly Cash Draw

1st prize : £25
2nd prize : £15
3rd prize : £10

Prizewinners:

March -

- 1st : Richard Goldberg, Esq.,
19 Bournehall Avenue, Bushey.
- 2nd : Mrs. N. Coffey,
276 Chase Side, Southgate, N.14.
- 3rd : Leonard Joseph, Esq.,
220 Hempstead Road, Watford.

April -

- 1st : Louis Weissman, Esq.,
Hillside, Heathbourne Rd, Bushey.
- 2nd : Mr. E. Benson,
34 Highfield Avenue, N.W.11.
- 3rd : Ivor Winterman, Esq.,
16 Raglan Gardens, Oxhey.

May -

- 1st : Ivor Winterman, Esq.,
16 Raglan Gardens, Oxhey.
- 2nd : Mrs. N. Coffey,
276 Chase Side, Southgate, N.14
- 3rd : Brian Nathan, Esq.,
5 Woodfield Rise, Bushey.

June -

- 1st : David Shulman, Esq.,
17 Merryhill Mount, Bushey.
- 2nd : Ms. Josephine Bronit,
6 St John's Court, Westcliffe.
- 3rd : Simon Joseph, Esq.,
17 Windsor Avenue, Edgware.

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the FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE are organising a 'Sponsored Walk' on Sunday, 10th August, starting off from the Shul Hall at 2 p.m. The Walk will cover a distance of 10 miles ending back at the Shul.

All those interested in this healthy way of raising money should contact either Liz Finkelstein (950 1988) or Harvey Burton (950 4209) for their sponsorship forms.

The Annual Dinner & Ball is to be held at the Royal Majestic Rooms, Willesden, on Saturday, 13th December. £6 per ticket. Dancing will be to the music of the "Wallace Collection". Please contact any member of the Functions Committee for your tickets: and let Barbara Kaye have all your gifts for the tombola. There is no time like the present - so get your ticket now !

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we wish a very hearty

M A Z E L T O V

to

- Judi & Johnny Back, on the birth of their daughter Ariella, a sister for Reuven, Gavriel, and Gidon;
- Susan & Stephen Bolsom, on the birth of their son Simon;
- Michelle & Stewart Bradley, on the birth of their son Scott;
- Josie & Martin Davis, on the birth of their son Elliot, a brother for Hayley;
- Gillian & Michael Fielding, on the birth of their son James;
- Marilyn & Richard Goldberg, on the birth of their son Charles, a brother for Daniel;
- Caroline & Anthony Lazarus, on the birth of their son Benjamin;
- Sharon & Martin Morris, on the birth of their son Richard;
- Elizabeth & Mervyn Silver, on the birth of their son Adam.

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we extend our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to

- Frances Leven
- Rose Mitchell
- Marilyn Shone
- Abe Shorrick
- Dora Statt

on their recent bereavements, and we wish them 'long life'.

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come and meet
 " MR. AND MRS. BUSHEY "
 sunday, 27th july
 synagogue hall,
 8.30 p.m.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

13th. of DECEMBER

ANNUAL DINNER & BALL.

THE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

- WHO SEND YOU THIS DITTY -

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL.

(£6. per ticket - phone 950 4209)

on Tuesday, 15th April, the Shul held a Yom Ha'atzmaut Party, whilst the attendance was not all that it might have been, those who did come along to celebrate Israel's Independence Day enjoyed some excellent Israeli-type food, and equally fine entertainment.

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Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find an Order Form for advertisements in the Brochure for the Annual Dinner & Ball, on the 13th December.

The Functions Committee is working to raise the much-needed money to cover the purchase and proposed development of the house in School Lane; and to help us in this we look to every member of the community to do his 'bit' in selling Brochure space.

Further forms (which we sincerely hope you will need!) can be obtained from either Lionel Finkelstein (950 1988) or Henry Saunders (950 4290).

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we wish a very hearty Mazeltov to

- Michael & Lyn Freyd, and Danielle,
- Geoffrey & Linda Silver, and Claire, Dany, Melanie, Russell and Steven,
- Barry & Adele Spital,
- Jerrard & Marion Wilson, and Peter, Mark, and Samantha,

Judi & Johnny Back
 cordially invite the community to join them for Kiddush in Shul on Saturday, 19th July, to celebrate the birth of their daughter, Ariella.

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on their recent moves into new homes.

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We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members :

- Martin & Eve Levene, and Justin and Julian;
- Philip & Golda Venit;
- Laurence & Dorothy Woolfe, and Alison and Kate;
- Richard & Alexis Woolfson, and Simon.

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..... we heard that Michael Elton has been in hospital; we trust that he is well on the way to complete recovery...

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..... the memorial stone in memory of the late Isaac Epstein will be consecrated at Bushey Cemetery on Sunday, 3rd August, at 3.00 p.m.

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At this time of general economic unrest, when each of us is troubled by the rate of inflation and its consequences, it is all too easy to find a reason for making cuts in non-essential spending.

What we must not do is to pretend that the Shul falls into this category. At all times in our history, the Shul has played a central part in the life of the Jew - and it must continue so to do.

If you are not up-to-date with your fees, then please make every effort to clear your account as soon as possible.

And whether or not you owe money to the Shul, please ensure that your future payments are made under a Covenant, for this gives the Shul a considerably larger total income without additional cost to yourself.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES (not under the auspices of the Board of Management)

.....the Bushey Israel Fund have heard that the Possum Machine which they bought has now reached Israel, and will shortly be helping Abe Cohen on his way to a degree of recovery which will enable him to lead a useful and constructive life...make a date with the B.I.F. for their QUIZ EVENING on Sunday, 19th October, at Judi & Johnny Back's (4 Prowse Avenue, Bushey Heath).....(B.I.F.Chairman : Leon Mitchell - 950 5496)

.....Bushey WIZO raised over £1200 at their recent "Pearly" Dinner & Dance: this was a really outstanding social success - self catered, and many members even sowed their own pearly buttons onto their costumes!...plans are already in hand for next year's Dinner & Dance, with another unusual theme.....(Chairman : Evelyn Hope - 950 1591)

.....the Watford & District League of Jewish Women are holding their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, 15th July...Anyone interested in joining the League will be most welcome...the League is a non-fund raising organisation, with the aim of helping those members of the community who have difficulty in getting about...in addition, members of the League go Hospital visiting and also do the shopping for some of the House-bound people in the area.....(Vice-Chairman : Rose Mitchell - 950 5496)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :

Wednesday, 9th July 10.30 a.m.
Ladies' Guild Coffee Morning
at 1 The Lake, Bushey Heath

Sunday, 13th July 8.15 p.m.
Debate on 'intermarriage'
at the Shul Hall

Shabbat, 19th July after Shachris
Judi & Johnny Back's Kiddush
in Shul

Sunday, 20th July 2.00 p.m.
Football Club Scavenger Hunt
from car park opposite
St. Peter's Church

Thursday, 24th July 8.30 p.m.
Ladies' Guild 'Child Psychology' talk
at 32 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath

Sunday, 27th July 8.30 p.m.
Ladies' Guild 'Mr. & Mrs.' evening
at the Shul Hall

Monday, 28th July 8.30 p.m.
Ladies' Guild Meeting
at the Shul Hall

Sunday, 10th August 2.00 p.m.
Functions Committee 'Sponsored Walk'
starting off from the Shul Hall