

Hear, Here!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 5 - MARCH 1998

Welcome to Our New Home!

After years of planning and fundraising, the JDA has finally realised its dream, and moved into its brand new, £600,000 Headquarters and Community Centre in North Finchley.

The Centre boasts an impressive array of facilities for visitors of all ages, such as a games room, technology centre, and communal rooms to be used for education and training, including signing and lip-reading classes.

Activities planned for the Centre include social events, and a Day Centre serving kosher meals.

The new Centre will also be the home for the Koleinu group for deaf Jewish children and youth.

The needs of all people with any degree of hearing loss can therefore now be met in the new Centre.



JDA Committee raises almost £6,000 at Lord Archer Luncheon



Lord Archer with JDA Executive Director Pat Goldring and deaf guests.

The JDA Aid Committee, chaired by Gillian Newman, launched a new era for the organisation with its first major fundraiser - a luncheon at which Lord Jeffrey Archer was the guest speaker.

The event, held at the end of October at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, was attended by over 200 people, who were full of praise for Lord Archer's witty and entertaining speech.

He spoke about his early ambition to be Prime Minister and how his life had progressed from politics to writing, making no bones about the fact that he was keen to emerge as the new Mayor of London!

JDA
JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

Supporting all deaf and hard of hearing people

Sweet smell of success for fundraising Quiz evening

The JDA's newly formed fundraising committee - called Hear! Hear! - held its first ever event in February, and raised over £2,000 for the new Centre.

The Quiz Evening was designed for deaf, hard of hearing and hearing guests, focussing on non-verbal senses such as smell, taste and sight. A sign language interpreter was on hand to give help as needed.

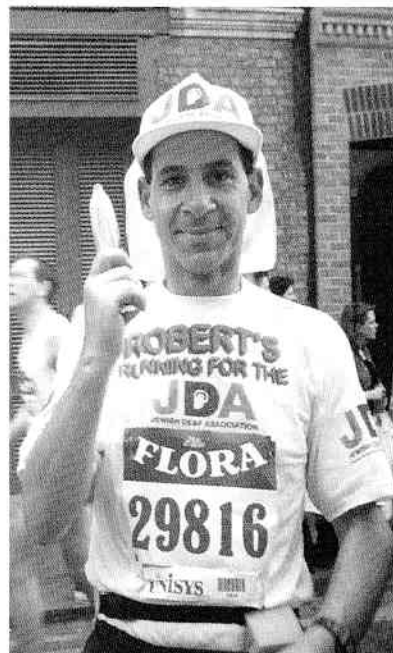
The event was held at Muswell Hill Synagogue, which has a loop system to help hearing aid users.

The new committee is made up of three hearing and three profoundly deaf members, and has been set up to raise funds to buy equipment for the new Centre.

They are currently planning their next event, so watch this space for an announcement!



The JDA Chairman, Evelyn Gee gets a helping hand from husband and President, George Gee, along with other members, in putting up the mezzuzah on the door of the new Centre.



Robert pictured at last year's marathon, showing us the secret of his success!

Marathon Man doing it again!

We are thrilled that Robert Graham will be running in the London Marathon once again.

The law firm at which Robert works, Berwin Leighton, has kindly donated six computers for use in the technology centre in our new home, and Robert is raising money through the sponsorship of his run to pay for software and maintenance of the equipment.

Our grateful thanks as ever to Robert for his continued support.

If you'd like to sponsor him, call the JDA, or Robert direct, on 0181 952 4676.



Reverend Plaskow MBE - an honour for our friendly neighbourhood chaplain

We were delighted to hear of the richly deserved honour of an MBE for Reverend Michael Plaskow.

Michael has always worked tirelessly for his community at Woodside Park Synagogue, which is located at the other end of Woodside Park Road

from our new Centre.

He has also been involved with the JDA for many years, being the honorary chaplain to the deaf community.

We all send a hearty 'mazeltov' to Reverend Plaskow on this well-earned recognition.

Members get a sneak preview



Signing will play a big part of Koleinu's educational programme for children.

March 1st...the builders are still in, but more than a hundred members accepted our invitation to come in to the new Centre for a preview.

Members watched Evelyn and George Gee putting up the mezzuzah, before exploring the facilities in the Centre.

The plan now is to have the Day Centre open by late April/early May, and have everything operational by September, including the signing, lip-reading and IT classes.



The new Centre will have facilities for computer training. In keeping with the JDA policy to involve the users, the tutors will themselves be hearing impaired, so breaking down any communications barriers.



The ever-popular catering facilities! Members took advantage of the fully fitted, kosher kitchens to warm themselves with a hot cup of tea and a selection of cakes and biscuits.



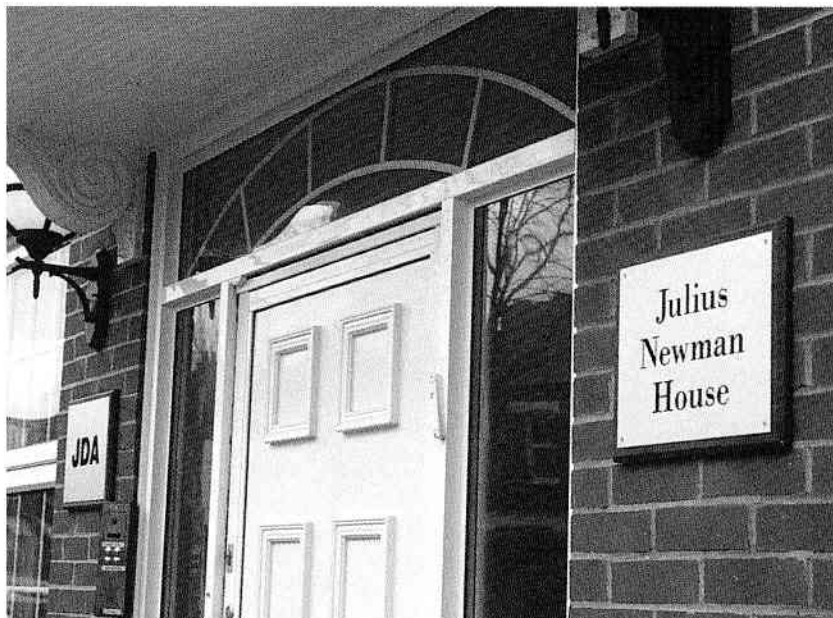
The full size snooker table had to be re-assembled after its journey from Cazenove Road, before members could enjoy it in its new home. The floor in the new Centre has been specially reinforced to take the weight of the table.



The new Centre has excellent facilities for the disabled, including a lift which will accommodate wheelchair users.



The signs are looking good for the future of the JDA...



The signs are good...you know that you are truly at home once you have your name on the door. And that's exactly how we feel now that our new name plates are firmly in place outside the entrance to the new Centre.

Redbridge Group aids Koleinu library

The Redbridge Koleinu Support Group raised over £1,100 at a Quiz Supper held at the South West Essex Reform Synagogue last November.

Over 100 people attended the event, which was held in aid of Koleinu - the social and cultural group for deaf and hard of hearing children and youth.

The money raised will go towards providing a young people's library in the multi-purpose educational room soon to be created at the new Centre.

Tania Lambert - opening peoples' eyes (and ears) to the reality of disability

The JDA has recently been supporting a deaf teacher, Tania Lambert, in her quest to develop a disability awareness programme.

Tania teaches a class of hearing children at the Kerem School in Hampstead Garden Suburb. She firmly believes that disabled people are not held back by their disability, only by the misconceptions and attitudes of the general public.

She is now hoping to make children

much more aware of the problems of disabled people through her Disability Awareness Programme, which involves giving children a "hands on" experience of disabled peoples' lives.

"I feel children should be exposed to people with differences and difficulties, because they will become tomorrow's adults and part of the workplace and society," she contends.

"We must cultivate open, positive and informed attitudes which are

internalised at a very young age."

Tania has been using some of the JDA equipment and materials as part of her course presentations.

The JDA is in turn very pleased to be associated with this progressive and worthy programme, and looks forward to broadening their association with her in the future.



Supporting all deaf and hard of hearing people

Julius Newman House, Woodside Park Road, off High Road North Finchley, London N12 8RP
Head Office telephone: 0181 446 0502 (voice and minicom) Resource Centre telephone: 0181 446 0214 (voice and minicom)
Fax: 0181 445 7451 E-mail: jda@dircon.co.uk

Registered Charity 209892. Charity Aid Foundation No. 101491.

The JDA wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who supplied articles and photographs. Produced by Jeremy Silverstone.