

***Jewish Deaf Association
Social & Residential Club***

90 - 92 CAZENOVE ROAD

LONDON, N.16



Annual Report 1969/1970

HONORARY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1969/1970

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The Very Rev. Rabbi Dr. Israel Brodie
Sir Isaac Woolfson Mr. Harold Cooper

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Mrs. A. Flinder
Mrs. H. Goldberg

Mrs. C. Halpern
Mrs. J. Sinclair
Mrs. R. Simmonds (Hon Secretary)
Mrs. G. Solomon

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Mr. & Mrs. A. Flinder
Mr. G. M. Gee
Mr. & Mrs. H. Goldberg
Mrs. J. Sinclair

Mr. A. M. Myers (Hon. Treasurer)
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Harvey
Mr. J. J. Newman
Mrs. R. Simmonds (Hon. Secretary)

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

(Deaf Members)

Chairman: Mrs. D. Myers

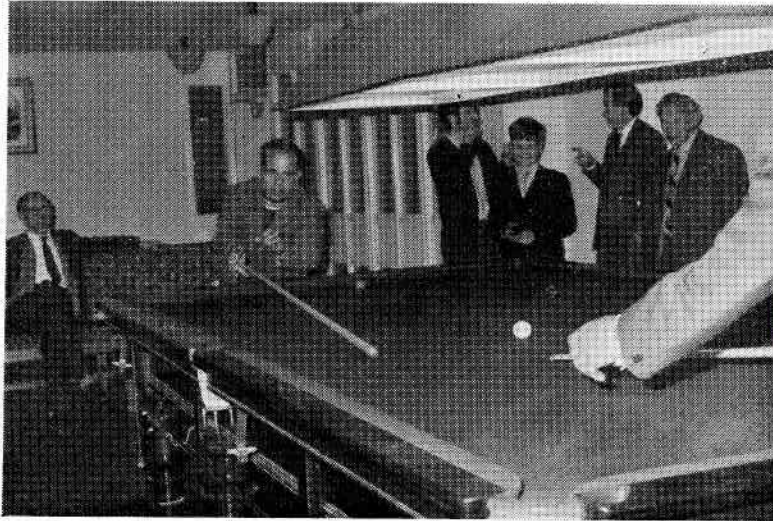
Miss R. Spain (Secretary)

Mr. A. Murray (Treasurer)

Secretary and Warden: Mrs. S. Margulies

JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT, 1969/1970



The Sam Blumenthal Billiard Room



Enjoying a cup of tea and a chat in the Canteen

The period under review has been smooth running, and for this we are grateful for the devoted and tireless efforts of our Secretary and Warden, Mrs. Margulies. We have also been sufficiently active; and here, thanks are mainly due to Mrs. Ruth Myers, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee. This Committee, which consists of deaf members only, has shown great initiative, under the guidance of their Chairman, in arranging many varied and interesting activities.

Our Club and Club Activities

We are aware that the deaf are lonely and frustrated people, and it is the aim of the Jewish Deaf Association to welcome them at the Club at Gazenove Road and to offer them a friendship and understanding that they can find nowhere else. We try to help them with their problems, and they are given the opportunity of expressing themselves. The Club is now equipped to cater for the special activities and interests of the deaf. The BILLIARD ROOM, donated and maintained by Mrs. Lily Blumenthal, in memory of her late husband, has a full-size table and is in constant use. Snooker and Billiard matches are played amongst our members and also against other clubs, and competitions are played on the DART BOARD. The CANTEEN is a favourite place for our deaf members to meet for a gossip over a snack or a cup of tea. Supper is served here every Sunday, when the Canteen is always crowded.

The newly-extended JIMMY COHEN HALL is where our main functions, parties, lectures and brains trusts, etc., are held. Our members enjoy their BINGO sessions and WHIST DRIVES, which are held in the Jimmy Cohen Hall. As can be seen in the photograph, one of our members, Mr. David Myers, has made a magnificent electric Bingo board, which can clearly be seen by the players, who, of course, cannot hear the number called. In the comfortable GERTRUDE GOLDSTEIN LOUNGE we have a large colour television set, presented to us by the young members of the Compton Committee, which has now ceased to function—we miss them very much. There is TABLE TENNIS in the large blue games room, on the first floor, and the G.P.C. have their

own room in the Club, where they arrange their programmes for future activities.

Visitors

During the year we have had Jewish deaf visitors from the United States, Israel and other countries. Accommodation is sub-provided for deaf visitors who come to London for a holiday.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS 1969/1970

1969	
January	A most interesting talk by Commander Ashe Lincoln, Q.C.
February	A Cookery Demonstration. A talk by Mr. Bill Norwood, editor of the T.V. "News for the Deaf".
March	A Brains Trust, with an excellent Panel. A Hat Debate.
April	A talk by a London Fire Brigade Officer.
May	Lecture and tour round London.
October	A talk by Cyril Robbins, M.B.E., who is a great friend of the deaf.
November	A talk by Air Vice-Marshal Dickson, C.B.E., Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.
December	Talk by Dr. John Cohen on Youth Work.
1970	
January	Talk by Mr. Alan Silverman, J.P., on the Juvenile Court.
February	Mr. Harry Fenton spoke to our members on "Fashions for Men and Women".
March	Brains Trust. The Panel consisted of: Mrs. Rita Levy, Dr. Basil Bard, C.B.E., Mrs. Freddie Bloom and Dr. David Nachshen. Question Master: Mr. G. M. Gee.
June	Mr. Duncan S. Gee, LL.B., gave a talk on his "Travels in South East Asia" and showed some coloured film slides.

Religious Observances

PURIM

The annual Purim Party was held at the Club for all members and their children with a separate party for the members of our Friendship Club.

PASSOVER

Every Passover we arrange a Seder Service for our deaf members at the Club, when we have an attendance of nearly 100. Mrs. Margulies sees to it that the Seder is held in the traditional manner, with the members sitting down to a splendid hot dinner. This year Rabbi Dr. I. Lerner, of the New Synagogue in Stamford Hill, explained the service to our members helped by our indefatigable interpreter, Mr. E. Denton.

SUCCOTH

We have our own Succah in the garden, and our members take great delight and go to a lot of trouble to decorate it. This year a most enjoyable kiddush was held in the Succah.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Our members organised a wonderful Supper Party for Simchat Torah with games and presents for the children. Some of our deaf people, who belong to the R.N.I.D. Theatre for the Deaf, gave an excellent mime performance.

CHANUKAH

We celebrated Chanukah by lighting the candles and arranging a most enjoyable Party, with a Film Show and Dance.

Outings

The General Purposes Committee (consisting of deaf members) are mainly responsible for arranging the various and interesting outings which they have throughout the year. A visit to the Spalding Bulb fields was arranged one Sunday in April. On a Sunday in June they went on a coach outing to Folkestone for the day. In July they were entertained by the Jewish congregation of Oxford—who arranged a tour of the City and provided the most lavish dinner and supper.

These are just a few of the interesting outings enjoyed by our members.

Our Friendship Club

The Friendship Club meets every Wednesday afternoon at Cazenove Road, and we are grateful to Mrs. H. Goldberg for her constant interest and care for our older members. Several excursions were arranged for them during the period under review, in addition to the Club outings.

Other Activities

Whist Drives, Quizes, Film Shows and Film Slides (taken and shown by the members themselves), Discussions and Debates, are all in progress throughout the year.

In March, the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Jakobovits honoured us by visiting our Club. They were most impressed and sympathetic, and we look forward to seeing them again at Cazenove Road in the near future.

This is just a brief outline of some of the work and activities carried on at the Club. We feel that it is essential to keep the doors of the Club open and thus help our unfortunately handicapped friends. We need more people to help us with this work, especially on the Functions Committee.

We would like to take the opportunity of thanking our staunch and loyal supporters. We look forward to another year of progress for the Jewish Deaf Association.

EVELYN GEE, Chairman.

JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION SOCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB

Deafness is a peculiar disability. Let us consider it for a minute.

Deafness is usually called a physical handicap . . . yet it will not prevent a person from swimming the Channel or running a four-minute mile. It does not cause any physical pain. It certainly is not a mental handicap for, in itself, it will not hinder a person from getting a Ph.D. degree. Some of the greatest figures in history have suffered from a hearing loss.

No. The nastiness of deafness is that it interferes with easy, ordinary communication between people. It is basically a social handicap which is aggravated by a commonly accepted fallacy and the tempo of our times. The fallacy is based on the fact that the deaf, ipso facto, do not understand what is said to them; lack of understanding is associated with stupidity; therefore many jump to the conclusion that the deaf must be stupid. It is the reasoning that is unintelligent . . . not our deaf people. Of course, there are people with bad ears who do not have good brains just as there are hearing people who are not all that bright. The deaf form a fair cross-section of our population, ordinary men and women, boys and girls, who happen to have a hearing loss. Because of this hearing loss they are often treated as idiots and even when there is ample evidence of their intelligence, the tempo of our age is such that the community at large feels it has not got the time to make itself understood or to try to understand.

So . . . just because a person cannot hear and communicate easily, he is rejected and treated as a second-class citizen. Obviously, this is uncivilised, inhuman and moronic but, unfortunately, it happens to be a practically universal truth. It is because of this that the work of the Jewish Deaf Association is so highly commendable.

The Social and Residential Club in Cazenove Road, created through the generosity and unstinted devotion of Mr. Newman and his friends, stands as an oasis where the deaf are treated, as they have a right to be treated, as ordinary human beings. Here they find friends with time, interest and respect for their ideas, feelings and social needs. They are not patronised or humoured. They are accepted, accepted on their own merits by both others who cannot hear and those who can.

There is a warm welcome for all age ranges and all personality variations. Innumerable varying interests are covered. There is an impressive list of activities.

The world as a whole seems to be in a fair old mess due, basically, to self-interest and lack of tolerance and respect of others. I think the Jewish Deaf Association in its comparatively small way, is setting a magnificent example that could teach the world a big lesson. It deserves much credit, best wishes for its future but, most of all, the practical support of all who care, not only for the deaf but for humanity.

FREDDIE BLOOM,
Chairman, Nuffield Speech and Hearing Centre.

Seder Service at the Club

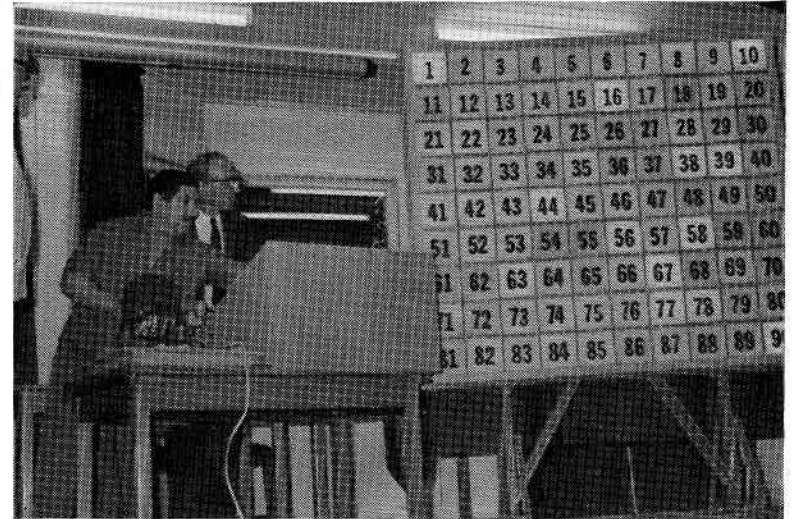


Young deaf people at the Seder table



The Hagadah is being explained by Rabbi Dr. I. Lerner interpreted by Mr. E. Denton

Bingo Board



Made by the Deaf themselves

Drama Group



Members of our Dramatic Section

The Chief Rabbi and Mrs. I. Jakobovits visit the Club



From left to right: Mr. A. M. Myers, Mrs. G. M. Gee, Mr. G. M. Gee, J.P., the Chief Rabbi, Mrs. I. Jakobovits, Rev. G. C. Firth, M.A., Mr. E. Denton (interpreting)



The attentive audience

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS JANUARY, 1969 - SEPTEMBER, 1970

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Grocery Relief Fund 1969	35	0	0
Grocery Relief Fund 1970	35	0	0
Halpern, C.	2	2	0
Hampstead Garden Suburb C.C.C.	10	0	0
Hampstead Garden Suburb Ladies' Guild	15	0	0
Harris, D.	10	6	
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Hercz, K.	1	0	0

	£	s.	d.
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Hoff, Dr. L.	3	3	0
Hoffman, G.	2	0	0
Hoffman, G.	3	3	0
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Jacobs, B.		10	0
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Lubett, L.	4	0	0

	£	s.	d.
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Manuel, D. 1970	2	2	0*
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Wembley & District Liberal Synagogue	5	5	0
Wembley Synagogue Ladies' Guild	3	3	0

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