

### An evening at home with JDA Patron The Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks



On the evening of Tuesday 22 February 2011, sixty JDA members and supporters were invited to a reception, hosted by Lord and Lady Sacks, at their home. This special evening was to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Jewish Deaf Association.

As places were limited, The Chief Rabbi was not able to invite all JDA members. The honour of an invitation was given to those hardworking members who currently regularly give up their time to volunteer and work on JDA committees.

The reception took place in the lounge of Lord and Lady Sacks, at their home in St Johns Wood. Sign language interpreters enabled the Deaf and hearing guests to socialise together and mingle happily, and Lord and Lady Sacks chatted easily with everyone.

In his speech, Lord Sacks said: "You are the most joyous people I know! You are so full of fun!" He pointed out how being a part of the JDA enriches its members' lives, by giving them a sense of belonging and the joy of communal life.

"The JDA is a lovely, friendly place," he said, "and the activities you do are simply wonderful - your Wednesday day centre, your trips, your support services, Happy Mondays at Jewish Care - it's just great.

"And I can see it is all great from the smiles on your faces. Stay young, stay close to one another, stay together - and stay happy!"

The Chief Rabbi traced the history of the JDA, a "family business", established by Julian Newman in 1951 who saw that Jewish deaf people needed a place to meet and create a community of their own.

"Julius found the original premises in Cazenove Road, Stamford Hill, at a peppercorn lease of just one old shilling a year. You remained there until 1998, when you moved into your wonderful present purpose-built premises in North Finchley. Julius gave you a heritage that he passed on to the family who have carried on to this day - to his daughter Evelyn and his grandchildren."

JDA Chair, **Trudy Kling**, told the guests that everyone had been invited for a special reason. "Each person, in his or her own way, has contributed to this experience, whether by supporting our work financially or rolling up their sleeves and being directly involved. Without you, the JDA could not have sailed through three generations so vitally and enthusiastically."

Thanking Lord and Lady Sacks for their gracious hospitality and the Chief Rabbi's kind words, Trudy said to The Chief Rabbi: "You have always been our friend. Our gathering here at your home to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a milestone in our history. The JDA has enabled Jewish Deaf and Deafblind people to enjoy a rich cultural and communal experience with one another and with us all."



Lord Sacks chatting with JDA member and volunteer, Anne Senchal, with Maria Economou interpreting