

Community Director's Report – 2020

The past year has been a full and varied one. We've enjoyed social gatherings both in person and on-line, with events including a tour of an Amazon Fulfilment Centre, a piano recital, a Winter Fair, plus on-line Israeli Dancing, Quiz Nights, talks on Jewish Bletchley Park and the Jewish East End. Thank you to all who facilitated, attended, and supported these occasions.

One of the highlights of the year was Remembrance Sunday when, once again, we opened the Sanctuary doors to host refreshments for the local community, following the Service of Remembrance at the Radlett War Memorial. The room was packed, the atmosphere was warm and congenial, and we had the pleasure of welcoming new visitors to our building.

The Pins and Needles Stitching Group, formed prior to lockdown, has made the successful transition to an on-line club. It continues to meet weekly and warmly welcomes new members.

During the initial lockdown period, with the help of a wonderful band of volunteers, we contacted our entire community to offer support and assistance where needed. Thank you so much to everyone who helped, and continues to assist, with this on-going, outreach, work.

Maintaining our lovely Synagogue building is a constant, but rewarding, task. The Spring bulbs planted last year repaid us with a glorious show along the pathway to the side door. The Sanctuary lobby has enjoyed a much-needed facelift and, as a finishing touch, the showcase now displays a beautiful collection of modern Judaica - all of which is for sale via the Synagogue Office. Also within the Sanctuary, the Bimah has been re-carpeted, the ramp repaired, and the steps repainted.

Finally, a few words about the Synagogue's Administration Team who have adapted brilliantly to the demands put upon them by the pandemic and who have made a seamless shift to homeworking, whilst being wonderfully positive throughout.

Pippa Suchet