

# B'NAI B'RITH YAD B'YAD LODGE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

President :  
Maureen Daniels

Secretary :  
Myra Wand

Compiled by : David Gould

**Important:** Before attending any event, please contact the appropriate person from the list at the bottom of this page, month by month. For security reasons, this is critical for **main meetings**. Also please contact the same person if you find later that you cannot attend.

## February Summary

Ramble Thursday 2  
Arts & Literature Monday 6  
Bridge Thursday 9  
Ramble Sunday 12  
Main Meeting Thursday 16  
Hare Krishna Sunday 19  
Short Walk Wednesday 22  
Rummikub Thursday 23

## Main Meetings at 8:15 pm



Thursday 16 February  
**We Were There Too**  
Alan Fell

Tuesday 14 March  
**Weather, Seasons and  
Climate Change in Judaism**  
Steven Wilson



Wednesday 5 April  
**The Rise and Fall of  
Green Shield Stamps**  
Ted Adams




## Arts & Literature at 8:00 pm

Monday 6 February  
**Superman was a Foundling**



## Book Club at 8:00 pm

Wednesday 15 March  
**Waking Lions**   
By Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

## Bridge – Thursday at 8:00 pm

9 February  9 March  
6 April 11 May

## Music at 8:15 pm




Tuesday 7 March  
**Music inspired by the Bible**  
Presented by Margery Cohen




Tuesday 13th June  
**Richard's Journey through  
the UK and Ireland**  
Presented by Richard Stanton

## Outings

Sunday 19 February at 11 am  
**Hare Krishna Temple  
Bhaktivedanta Manor**   
Letchmore Heath, £3

Tuesday 28 March at 2 pm  
**St. Thomas Hospital  
& Museum Tour, £8**



Sunday 9 July  
**Coach Outing to  
Winchester, £30** 

## Rambles – Midweek

Thursday 2 February  
Wednesday 15 March  
Thursday 13 April



## Rambles – Sunday

12 February  5 March  
2 April 14 May

## Rummikub - Thursday at 8:00 pm

23 February 30 March  
20 April 25 May

## Short Walks

Wednesday 22 February  
Tuesday 21 March



## Tea Parties – Sunday at 3 pm

19 March  21 May

## Theatre

Wednesday 19 April  
**I Capture the Castle**   
By Dodie Smith  
Watford Palace Theatre, £17.55

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 24 to Thursday 27 April  
**Moreton-in-Marsh Walking Break**

 Sunday 7 May  
**B'nai B'rith UK AGM**

 Wednesday 7 June  
**B'nai B'rith Yad B'Yad AGM**



*We are truly in the depth of Winter with the weather being much colder. We can't change that but we can enjoy the activities of Yad B'Yad.*



*My thanks to all our contributors for their interesting reports. Some are so graphic we, the readers, feel we were there with them.*

*Best regards,*

*Sylvia*

**Thursday 16 February**

**Alan Fell**

### **‘WWI Project - We Were There Too’**

Alan Fell spent his working life in the Chemical Industry, Electronics and Construction. Latterly, he was a partner in a consulting company. He has either worked in, or consulted to, the ‘Not for Profit Sector’. He has worked extensively overseas, including for the Israel Government on the reform of the Israel Social Welfare system. He was Project Director of a large digital history project on the Holocaust ([www.holocaustexplained.com](http://www.holocaustexplained.com)) now at the Weiner Library, and currently a project funded by the National Lottery Fund commemorating London Jews involvement in the First World War ([www.jewsfww.london](http://www.jewsfww.london)).



Alan Fell will be talking to us about the Project the object of which is to encourage the community to find, or be helped to find, their family or other individual stories from the period and upload them onto the site. Our aim is a digital archive of real people's stories - creating a memorial to them, researched and uploaded by the community (or by volunteers if people cannot manage to do this themselves).

‘We Were There Too’ is a unique cross community project created to capture, record and preserve the impact, experience and contribution of London’s Jewish communities during the First World War era.

At the centre of the project is this digital archive and interactive website, which will become a permanent record of the lives of Jewish men, women and families, 1914-1919, with details of their Military and Home Front activities, ensuring that their stories are not lost for future generations. ‘We Were There Too’ will provide an insight into Jewish life in London in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Yad B'Yad Meeting - Tuesday 17 January****Speaker: James Morton***Those Were The Krays.....*

A packed house was present to listen to James Morton, who was for 25 years a criminal defence lawyer with a mainly organised crime clientele, and author of several books.

He reminisced about the various gangs who had 'reigned' over London's East End gangland for the past 100 years or so.

He mentioned different waves of immigrants who had ruled, starting with the Russian Jews, moving on to the Italians who controlled the racecourses and then West End pubs followed by the Kray twins, having been born in 1933, and others of their ilk.

Many of the names were familiar to some of the audience who had grown up in this area but many of us were blissfully unaware of these characters and the power they wielded over many.

Apparently, the Krays were talented boxers and were recruited, whilst boxing, to 'take over' the racecourses.

James Morton showed he had a phenomenal memory for names and places from the past.

He described some of the 'tricks of the trade' such as Long Firm Fraud. This involves setting up a seemingly legitimate business that builds a reputation by paying promptly for small orders and then obtains credit on large orders on that reputation. They then disappear with these goods.

His talk was followed by a question and answer session and a cheque was presented to the speaker for his chosen charity, the Royal Marsden Hospital. Gill Bernard



*Photograph by Geoff Wolfson*



## Rambling Round Radlett - Wednesday 4 January



*Photograph by Vivienne Gould*

Radlett is fortunate to be located in a rural setting and be surrounded by woodlands and fields across which there are many well numbered footpaths along attractive and interesting rights of way. So today we combined two more routes from our book of Nine Walks Around Radlett.

Having done the recce for this walk only twelve days earlier and finding little mud we set off confidently for our 7 mile circular walk from the Moor Mill Pub Carpark.

For the first 5 miles or so all went well, even a bit of road walking in Shenley where we were counting mezzuzot and had to remember the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment provoked plenty of lively conversation.

On joining a section of the Abbot Trail we found a lot more rain had fallen in this short gap of time! Hence we began to slow down as the weight of clay stuck to our boots and feeling like soldiers in the trenches it became quite a struggle. What joy it was to reach the road and scrape our boots on the bars of the fences and paddle in a ford!

A solid riverside path then took us back to our cars where we were able to 'clean up' before enjoying a well-deserved lunch.

**Vivienne Gould**



**Ramble - Sunday 15 January**

For one reason or another Martin and I haven't been able to join any of the main walks for quite a long time.

On Sunday we did, and were happy to find that nothing had changed, we greatly enjoyed walking with what is still a very nice congenial group.

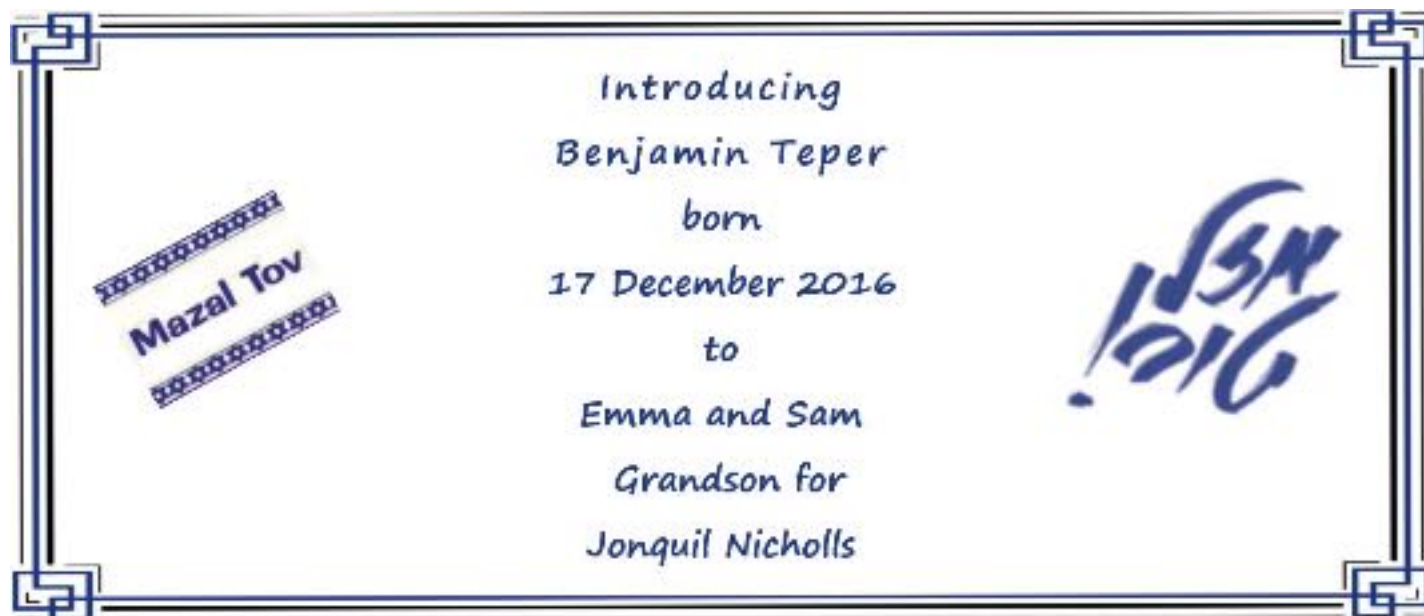
Eve and Tony led us along a section of the London Loop, a six-mile stretch between Hatch End and Stanmore Stations, and back on the H12 bus.

The weather was perfect for it, a sunny crisp winter's day, cold enough for the mud to have frozen hard, which made it easy to walk on.

We walked through streets, fields and woods, and by the side of picturesque frozen ponds and lakes. We passed through the grounds of the Grim's Dyke Hotel and round Bentley Priory, discovering interesting facts from Tony about the house, the dyke, and what's buried under the Old Redding car park. And we passed the historic spot where we met for the first time nearly eight years ago.

Many thanks, Eve and Tony.

**Wendy McLeish**



### Walk Around Waterloo - Thursday 28 January

**On a freezing cold Thursday morning 14 intrepid walkers assembled under the clock at Waterloo Station.**

**We looked at the architecture of the station which was first completed in 1848 and then later rebuilt in the 1920's. We went under the Great Arch with its rolls of honour for men killed in the Great War. We then set off on a tour of the Victorian and Georgian streets all around that have been preserved.**

**In theatre land we saw, the New Vic and the Old Vic and a small rehearsal theatre at the back of a bookshop on the Cut. We went under viaducts and down tunnels full of graffiti where once bodies and coffins were stored before being sent on the Necropolis Railway to the Cemetery at Brookwood.**

**Lunch was at the Imperial War Museum where several of our party defected, preferring to stay in the warm. We passed the blue plaques for Captain Bligh and William Blake who has mosaics representing his works in another tunnel. We finished at Tommies and the Florence Nightingale museum.**

**This is a part of London one rarely sees and it is well worth a visit.**

Jonquil Nicholls

## Limmud - A Jewish Cultural Smorgasbord - 2016

Last year over the Chanukah/Christmas break Anthony and I returned again to the winter Limmud conference which for the second year was being held at The Hilton Metropole Birmingham. This was probably our 15<sup>th</sup> Limmud conference so that shows how much we enjoy it!

This time about 2,700 people attended Limmud from the Sunday to Thursday with about 500 coming for the preceding Shabbat.

The word Limmud **לִמּוּד** contains the Hebrew words for both 'to learn' and 'to teach'.

The first Limmud conference was in 1980 and was inspired by the 'CAJE' (Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education) in North America.

From those inauspicious beginnings it has grown into an international franchise with events worldwide. Its philosophy is that everyone can be both a teacher and a pupil; we can all learn from each other.

People attending Limmud vary in age, interests and degrees of Jewish involvement - for some people, the Limmud conference may be their only Jewish connection throughout the year. However, everyone is there to enjoy and participate in a wide variety of discussions, debates, workshops and presentations on Jewish life and culture - history, literature, music (coming so soon after the death of Leonard Cohen there were sessions devoted to his music), dance and film - politics (national and international with emphasis on Israel), religion and philosophy.

The presenters ranged from internationally known rabbis and professors speaking with authority on their subjects to lay people who

had something interesting to say about local community projects and everything in between.

The hardest part of going to Limmud is deciding which sessions to attend. Sessions start from 8 a.m. and end in the early hours of the morning. When you calculate that each session, usually an hour long, has a choice of sometimes a dozen different options, you can understand the dilemma! However the choice is yours, no pressure to run from one session to another, the hotel where Limmud took place, offered a swimming pool as yet another choice.

Sometime we went to sessions together, sometimes separately, but between us we heard Deborah Lipstadt, the academic who fought off a libel action from the Holocaust denier, David Irving, talk about the making of the film about the court case, 'Denial' starring Rachel Weiss. Another session saw her being interviewed about her life using The Desert Island Discs format and this format was also used to interview the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis about his programme for Anglo-Jewry - it was interesting that two of the Chief Rabbi's choices were the Leonard Cohen's song 'Hallelujah' and 'Bring Him Home' from 'Les Miserables'.

Dr Anthony Luder of the Ziv Hospital in Safed spoke about how casualties from the Syrian civil war were being brought to Israel's border and treated in his hospital. Another session saw a standing ovation being given to a 15 year old Ahmad Nawaz, who aged 14 survived a Taliban attack on his school in Pakistan when 132 pupils (including his younger brother) and ten teachers were killed. Ahmad was severely



continued **Limmud - A Jewish Cultural Smorgasbord - 2016**

injured and brought to Birmingham City Hospital. He now attends school in Birmingham and goes into schools campaigning against violent extremism.

One of UK Jewish Films shown was 'Keep Quiet', a true story of a Hungarian Politician, Csanad Szegedi who became Vice-President of Jobbik, Hungary's far-right antisemitic party. He finds out that he is Jewish and that his maternal grandmother survived Auschwitz. His life turns 180 degrees with the help of a Chabad Rabbi.

The Holocaust was a major theme in various sessions and one involved the story of Russell Barton, one of 96 medical students who volunteered to work for a month at Belsen after liberation. His experience haunted his career as a psychiatrist fighting for a more humane NHS psychiatric care in the 60s causing him to comment "Belsen not too bad" which catapulted him into a Holocaust denial trial.

On a lighter note, Anthony went to a session about decluttering (did you know there was an Association of Declutters? No, me neither!) whereas I relaxed at a session listening to Daniel Cainer with his unique

Jewish storytelling. Add to this mix it was Chanukah so every afternoon hundreds of Chanukiahs were lit in one of the two marquees, the other marquee being used for a communal Chanukah lighting. I consider it not a small miracle that with all these Chanukiahs being lit every night, there was no fire incident!

However, all this would not be possible without the help of volunteers - volunteers run Limmud from the Chair of Limmud to the two joint Chairs of Limmud Conference to all the organising of the conference itself. During Limmud "giveusanhour" campaign encouraged everyone to volunteer an hour on a one-off role.

Hopefully the above has given you a small taste of Limmud Conference 2016.

Why not come and experience it for yourself next year 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017? Or try a one day Limmud, the next one is Harrow's 'Limmud After Dark' on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Northwood?

Do ask us any questions, check out [limmud.org/day/Harrow/LimmudafterDark](http://limmud.org/day/Harrow/LimmudafterDark) - you won't regret it!

**Anthony and Barbara Nicholls**



*From the President and her Council to those members who are not in the best of health at present.*