



Message from the President Anthony Thwaites

Dear Member

This is my last "dear member" because, after 3 years, my term as President ends at the AGM at the end of June.

Many people seem to be aware of this fact; I am asked regularly "how long do you have to go?" or "what are you going to do afterwards?" and even "I bet you can't wait 'til it ends".

At this point, I feel quite relaxed about the whole thing but I would like to set the record straight about the "can't wait 'til it ends" perspective. The most accurate phrase to use would be that I am experiencing mixed emotions. Sure, the endless meetings, dealing with moans, being responsible for things that you can't really influence are not particularly enjoyable. On the other hand, being part of a community that is really making a difference to our members' lives is thoroughly rewarding and knowing that in some very small way that I have contributed is very positive.

OK, to the cynics amongst you that may sound a bit much, but one of the things I have learnt during my life as an Executive Member is that in general the Hale Community doesn't want its Shule all the time, but when it does, whether for joy, sadness, education or just a schmooze, the Shule has a vitally important job to do.

Finally a suggestion: It is generally accepted that due to the pressures of modern life people don't have time for communal jobs and so no one gets involved. Believe me, I know about being busy and it's amazing what you can fit in if you have to..... so my suggestion to you is to find a communal job that you like and give it a proper go, just for a year. You may find you like it!

Thanks to all those that have helped during my period in office and apologies to all those whose names I mispronounced and people I offended (either by mistake or otherwise!)

Happy and kosher Pesach
Anthony Thwaites