



Message from the President

ANTHONY THWAITES

Dear Member

This is my third Rosh Hashanah "message from your president" and I have just spent a few minutes reading what I have written for the past 6 newsletters.

My conclusion? I am always surprised how inaccurate my memory is! (although Rosalind wouldn't be surprised at all!). Seriously though, it's fair to say that from a "historical perspective" the last two years or so have been both challenging and very rewarding. Inevitably, at this time of year it seems appropriate to look at what we have achieved and then look forward to our objectives.

The list of our community's achievements is extensive; just some of the highlights are:

Our new building has surpassed expectations and is admired by one and all. That's not to say there are still one or two areas to sort out

A total of £1.5Million has been raised which is excellent but the final project cost totalled about £1.85Million and so there is work to do in dealing with this shortfall.

Our Learning programmes have expanded beyond all expectations with over 100 people using the Beis Hamidrash each week

Our young people have held two very successful Shabbat Minyanim which will continue on a monthly basis

Nursery has been developing at a fantastic pace setting wonderful standards in care and both secular and Jewish education

Southside has become a permanent "tenant" in our building and continues to offer a whole range of activities for young people

The "Exodus" group for under 35's has established itself as a regular into for many peoples busy timetables

The achievements are wonderful but I feel that they are a work in progress and we have lots to do. Primarily we have to complete the building funding and your Executive is working on this as a priority.

A sample of other objectives: improved facilities for under 16's on Shabbat, efforts to make our facilities more well-known to those outside and inside the community, more links with Israel to name but a few.

There is a lot to do and time is short! If anyone would like to help, please contact me directly on 904 8046.

Finally the "thanks yous". The list grows each year and there are too many to mention. I must thank the council and executive for their support and our Rabbi and his family who continue to make an enormous contribution to our community.

Wishing you all a peaceful, prosperous and happy 5764.