



I hope that the New Year, 2018, will be better for those of us whose experiences these last few months were not so good.

Winter is here and I for one, feel like hibernating but of course we can't act like bears, can we?

So we look forward to the many events from our Conveners.

Sylvia

Wednesday 24th January

Speaker: Derek Niemann

'A Nazi in the Family'



Derek worked for the RSPB for 25 years before going freelance as a writer for publications such as the Guardian and BBC Wildlife, as well as organisations such as the RSPB.

He is a Teacher of Creative Writing for Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education and edits a magazine for the owners of small woodlands.

Nearly six years ago, Derek discovered that the German grandfather who died before he was born was an S.S. Officer and Holocaust perpetrator.

His book 'A Nazi in the Family' tells the story of what had stayed hidden for almost 70 years

Music Evening - Tuesday 28th November**Jewish American Entertainers No 5 - Presented by David Cohen**

The Music Evening did not disappoint, and a large crowd heard David Cohen produce a virtuoso performance of Danny Kaye, number 5 in his series of Jewish American Entertainers.

David started on the 'serious side' of telling us a lot of what we did know, and more of what we didn't about Danny Kaye - real name David Daniel Kaminsky. Some of the salient facts were that he was born in 1911 to Ukrainian Jewish immigrants, Clara and Jacob, he was one of three sons, but the only one born in Brooklyn. He went to the Thomas Jefferson High School but never graduated and took on a series of menial jobs including a soda jerk, insurance clerk and dentist's assistant. This chequered career path proved to be fortuitous as he later married the dentist's daughter, Sylvia Fine, who wrote many of his songs and managed his career.

David told us that Danny Kaye was a totally talented individual who was able to act, sing, dance, mimic, play music and be a comedian, and there are few like him these days. He started his entertainment career in the borscht belt in the Catskills as a comic, in a similar manner to Syd Caesar, Mel Brooks, Woody Allen and Joan Rivers and first used the name of Danny Kaye in 1933 when he joined a trio - a vaudeville dance act which toured the USA and Asia.

David interposed his exposition with songs such as 'Balling the Jack' 1948, 'Popo the Puppet' 1950 among others. He presented selections from 'The Court Jester' 1956, 'On the Riviera' 1952 and 'The Five Pennies' 1959. Several favourites such as his 'Tongue Twisters' 1952, 'Tchaikovsky' 1954 got the audience 'going' and asking for more.

David spoke of Danny Kaye's very fine singing voice which had perfect pitch and immaculate timing born out in 'The Vessel with the Pestle' 1956 - but my personal favourite is the sentimental 'No Two people have been so In Love' 1952, sang with Jane Wyman, which is still as fresh as ever.

What is not generally known is that Danny was a superb cook, specialising in Chinese and Indian cuisine, and he had a keen interest in flying, obtaining his pilot licence in 1959 and he flew single engine planes to multi-engine jets. However, his greatest legacy was his tireless humanitarian work especially with UNICEF. He became First Ambassador at Large in 1954 and received the French Legion of Honour in 1986. Furthermore, if you visit the Hollywood Walk of Fame you can see three stars in his name awarded for his work in Music, Radio and Film.

In conclusion David then ran the tracks from Hans Christian Anderson 1952. He also mentioned that when Danny compered the Royal Variety Show in the 1950's, the Royals moved from their private box to the stalls to see and hear him - the first time they have ever done this!!

Finally the curtains came down on 3rd March 1987 when Danny was 76 and he suffered and died of heart failure - the end of a wonderful performer.

It is a tribute to David Cohen that the programme was so popular that we all didn't want it to stop - and he deserves many accolades for his research on the man behind the façade of a talented artist.

Well done! David. I am sure I speak for all when I say "Roll on No.6 in the Series!!!" **Angela Feuer**



Short Walk from Pinner to Headstone Manor - 30th November

Fifteen people met outside Pinner Station for a three and a half mile walk led by Vivienne Roland.

The weather was kind to us except for a few rain spots. However it was quite a cold autumn day but we were all well wrapped up.

We walked from Pinner Station to Pinner Village Gardens and did a tour around the pleasant park. Most of us did not even know this park existed and I personally had not realised how large it was. It is unique in that it contains a medieval narrow rig which is of archaeological interest and it is the nearest surviving ridge and furrow to central London.

We then proceeded to Yeading Brook which is very pretty with lots of trees and shrubs and had a look at the brook which is a tributary of the River Crane in West London and rises in major part from the Headstone Manor Moat and in minor part from a small stream flowing from Pinner Park (which is the source of the River Pinn).

We then continued our walk to Headstone Manor where we admired the beautifully restored buildings, the Barn and the new Museum which is opening very shortly. The building where the Museum is housed was originally on the farm in George V Avenue and was moved piece by piece to its present position onto the site of Headstone Manor.

Our next and final stop was lunch at the cafe which is a newly built, modern and very attractive building.

Everyone agreed it had been a thoroughly enjoyable walk.

Adrienne Horowitz



Harrow Foodbank

On Thursday, 30th November, a group of Yad B'Yad members volunteered to ask the customers of Harrow Tesco for donations for the Harrow Foodbank. In spite of the rather (!) cold weather reducing the number of customers, we managed to collect goods weighing a total of 122kg which is approximately 268 lbs.



The volunteers at the Foodbank were pleased with our efforts and wish to thank all those involved.

Best wishes

Margaret

The letter, below, together with the attached photo, was written to Alan Miller, President of BBUK in response to the 2017 Chanukah Gelt Appeal

Dear Alan

On behalf of the Kadima Children's Centre and on behalf of the Qiryat Gat Foundation, thank you and BBUK for continuing this "tradition" (now in its third year).

When you see the smiles and excitement of these children you realize that even a small gift can bring happiness to those less fortunate. These children rarely receive something that is not at best second hand.

May you and all our friends at BBUK be blessed with good health.

Best wishes.

Yitzhak and Debbi



Chanukah Ramble to Dorney - Sunday 17th December

Our hardy group of 11 met at the 'Palmer Arms' for a 5 mile ramble led by Liz & Frank. We set off about 10.30 at a brisk pace as rain was forecast at noon. None of us wanted to get too wet. The walk took us past the entrance to Dorney Court, described in Country Life back in the 1920's as one of the finest Tudor manor houses in England, then past entrance to the Church of 'St James the Less' which dated from the 13th century. In view of the impending weather forecast, we failed to take a closer look.

We now followed a cycle path / footpath (where Frank spotted a Great Tit singing in a sapling) until we reached the River Thames. Here we turned left, then with the Bray Marina on the opposite bank, we headed down river. Shortly the ghostly facade of the Bray Film Studios, renowned for its horror movies, came into view. We passed a path leading to Eton College's Boathouse with Olympic Rowing Lake but because of the time and the prophesied weather, we again did not walk up to it.

As the skies closed in, we reached the Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, which has been a place of worship since before the Norman Conquest. We were able to enter as the doors were open to enable us to see inside too. I spotted a little life story of a brave local man named Frank Church who (having a wife and two children) joined up in WWI and was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery in bringing back several soldiers wounded at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. This Chapel may well have been used by boatmen long ago when nearby Boveney Lock was a bustling wharf transporting timber from Windsor Forest.



After leaving the Church and the Thames Path we stopped to look at The Old Place, Dorney a 1675 -1700 house which had an interesting Architectural heritage from the outside.

At 12.05, 5 minutes later than predicted, the rain came down. Luckily we did not get too wet as we only had about 20 minutes to go before reaching the warmth and cosiness of the Palmer Arms where we were served efficiently, with all enjoying a delicious and well-earned Sunday Lunch.



Report by Frank & Liz Manches (Leaders)

Photographs by Vivienne Gould



London Squared - Thursday 28th December

On a bright and sunny day, Warren and myself met 13 others at Chancery Lane Station to begin a 3 mile walk through some of London's squares. We went through Gray's Inn, one of 4 remaining Inns of Court founded in 1370, where a young Charles Dickens worked as an office boy and solicitor's clerk. Gray's Inn provided the setting for several of Dickens's novels, including *Martin Chuzzlewit* and *David Copperfield*.

There is a statue of Sir Francis Bacon, who during his time as Lord Chancellor was convicted of bribery, fined £40,000 and imprisoned in the Tower of London. The garden has always been a popular meeting place and where the poet, Shelley, would meet his future wife on a Sunday when he could not be arrested for being heavily in debt. We walked into Red Lion Square, where one resident was Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Later his friends, William Morris and Edward Burn-Jones also took rooms there and started their design business.

The first habitual user of the umbrella, philanthropist and merchant, Jonas Hanway, was another resident of the square. Cromwell's body was believed to have been buried where the square now stands.

We then walked to Bloomsbury Square, the first square to be named as such. Famous residents include Richard Steele, founder of the *Tatler* and *Spectator*, and Edwin Lutyens, whose first major public commission were the buildings in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Dr Robert Willan, another resident, was the first dermatologist and Benjamin Disraeli also resided here.

Next came Russell Square, where some famous poets lived. T S Eliot had offices in the square whilst residing in Brunswick Square. Emmeline Pankhurst was another resident as was Richard D'Oyly Carte.

We then came to Queen Square, where four hospitals are located. Houses built here in the 1700s would have enjoyed uninterrupted views of Hampstead and Highgate! We walked past Coram Fields, where the Foundling Hospital was established. We finally walked through Mecklenburgh Square (home to Dorothy Doolittle), St George's Gardens and towards St Pancras, where most of us had lunch at a very busy Pizza Express.

We believe the group enjoyed the walk and hopefully learnt something about the many people who lived and worked in the Bloomsbury area.

Sandra Ross



Chanukah Bridge - Thursday 14th December



The December session of the Yad B'Yad Bridge Group fell on the third night of Chanukah this year so David Gould kindled the lights and we all sang along heartily to Moaz Tsur.

Game was then commenced to the glow of the candles! **Vivienne Gould**

The President and
her Council wish all
Members a

