# COMMUNITY NEWS

Rabbi Michoel Schwarcz of Edgware (R.) drawing the earlybird raffle, from a box held by Mr Shimon Lewis (L.).

Lawrence Purcell

(Top) Harav Avrohom Gurwicz (L.) *Rosh Yeshivas* Gateshead, congratulates the *bachurim* of Yeshivas Baer Hatorah at the conclusion of their winter *zman*.
(Center) The *Rosh Yeshivah* delivers a public *shiur* on Monday evening at the Yesoiday Hatorah School, Manchester.
(Bottom) The *Rosh Yeshivah* addresses *talmidim* of Manchester Mesivta at their *yeshivas bein hazmanim* programme.

## Stamford Hill

### Side By Side Ensures Its Pupils Don't Get Sidelined During Pesach

Sixty children enjoyed their mock *Seder* meal, among a number of mock *Sedarim* organised by the integrated nursery and special-needs school, Side By Side, to ensure all pupils have an understanding of what happens at the real *Seder* meal at home.

Rabbi Frankel led one of the *Sedarim*, dressed in a white *kittel* and wearing his *shtreimel*, whilst the school's staff ensured every child had the opportunity to take part in some aspect of the *Seder*. Prior to the *Seder*, some of the children made *charoses* and boiled eggs for everyone, others sang songs whilst the younger ones said the *Mah Nishtanah*. The children developed a thorough insight of what goes on the *Seder* table and laid it beautifully with *shmurah matzos*.

Children at Side By Side have been preparing for Pesach for a number of weeks. This included working on visual timelines for the whole month of Nisan to understand the sequence of events leading up to and including the Pesach festival. They made candles in advance of the *chametz* hunt around the school and learned how to distinguish *chametz* food from non-*chametz* food. The pupils learned the process of matzah baking, and some pupils had the opportunity to visit the Belz matzah bakery to see what happens behind the scenes.

Gerald Lebrett, head teacher at Side By Side, said, "This was a very special and moving time for all of us as the pupils experienced the *Seder* with all of their school friends. This, in addition to *Kodesh* lessons since Purim, has prepared them to fully participate at their families' *Sedarim*."

## Hendon

### Orah Holds *Seudah Shelishis*

On Shabbos Rosh Chodesh, Orah held a communal *seudah shelishis* to unite women of all ages from different communities. It brought together about 90 ladies, ranging from high school girls to grandmothers, to participate in a mix of food, *zemiros* and *divrei Torah*.

The event was inspired by Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, a Holocaust survivor and director of the outreach programme Hineni. In a recent talk in London, she highlighted the importance of the third meal of Shabbos and its role in helping us survive the difficulties of *galus* and merit to see the coming *geulah*.

The guest speaker at this event was Rabbi Ilan Halberstadt. He spoke about the power of women and their special relationship to Rosh Chodesh. It taps into the idea of *chiddush*, where the Jewish People have the amazing ability to "reinvent" themselves every month, like the cycle of the moon.

They are not bound to the *shanah* and its constant "repetition" that characterises the outlook of the gentile nations. Rather, the woman has the special strength to see Hashem behind the natural cycle of events and is empowered to bring a state of "newness" to the mundane routine of taking care of the house and family. It is the women who will be responsible for using this to bring forth the redemption — especially during Nisan the month of "redemption," of spiritual and physical freedom.

The *seudah shelishis* packed the hall in Ner Yisrael. The organisers were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response and the amazing atmosphere. There are plans to, *iy"H*, follow this up on a monthly basis on every *Shabbos Mevarchim*, to continue to inspire women of all ages throughout the community.

## London

### 120 Students Dine with Tribe, Chaplaincy and the Israeli Ambassador

A hundred and twenty students from across the United Kingdom had the opportunity to hear from HE Daniel Taub, the Israeli ambassador to the United Kingdom, at the Tribe and University Jewish Chaplaincy fifth annual National Friday Night Dinner held recently at Finchley United Synagogue.

The ambassador commented on how it can often be difficult to advocate for a State which is so associated with conflict in the public consciousness but went on to explain how despite this, by focusing on Israel's countless achievements across an array of sectors we can promote the message that Israel has made an invaluable contribution to the wider world, in its short history.

During a question-and-answer session, the ambassador discussed with students some of the more difficult allegations about Israel that they face on campus and gave advice on how best to respond.

HE Daniel Taub commented on the dinner, "I was delighted to join so many students for such a warm Friday night dinner. It was also a great opportunity to express appreciation for the Chaplains and their wonderful work on campus."

David Eder, Tribe campus ambassador for Nottingham, added, "The dinner was a great success and a perfect opportunity to bring students and chaplains together. The talk by Daniel Taub, the Israeli ambassador, was particularly interesting, because it offered students the opportunity to give him an idea of the sorts of issues that we debate so regularly on campus."

## Edgware

### Dayan's Message on Humility

The importance of *anivus* was the poignant message conveyed by Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu, former Rosh Beis Din of the London Beth Din, in his address to Edgware's "Torah Way" at the Kehillas Machzikei Hadass Edgware on Sunday morning.

Dayan Ehrentreu explained why *terumas hadeshen* (sweeping away the ashes from the *mizbeach*) was carried out by the Kohen Gadol, the second highest ranking member of Klal Yisrael. This seemingly menial task was assigned to the Kohen Gadol precisely because of his greatness, which had to be tempered at all times by humility.

A number of sources were cited to show that the greater the person, the more humility he is required to exhibit. One manifestation of this was the fact that whereas an ordinary person had to bow four times when reciting the *Shemoneh Esrei* (as remains the case today) the King would have to bow at the point of every *bracha*.

Above all, emphasised the Dayan, every person has to realise that his talents and abilities are gifts from Hashem, for which he has to be continually grateful, rather than imagining that those talents are his own creation. As for the message of Pesach, our freedom as a people should never be taken for granted or misunderstood.

Real freedom for Klal Yisrael, is not the ability to live just as we please, but to live in the way Hashem requires, as laid down by the Torah.

### New kollel endeavour

A new daily morning Kollel Ba'alei Batim has been established in Edgware under the auspices of Rabbi Eliezer Schneebalg. The venue will be the *beis medrash* of Edgware Machzikei Hadass, Hale Lane.

The kollel, designed to cater for all communities in Edgware, will run in conjunction with the main Kollel Shraga Hameir, headed by Rabbi Michoel Schwarcz. Its programme, due to commence on Sunday 22nd April, will consist of Gemara learning with chavrusos from 9.30 am, a *shiur* given by Rabbi Schwarcz at 10.30 am and a Mishna Berura Shiur by Rabbi Hillel Gruber (Rav, Welwyn Garden City) and Rabbi Yosef Erber (*avreich*, Kollel Shraga Hameir)

### Edgware Mikvah_Boost

An all-out drive to raise the balance of £30,000 needed to overhaul and refurbish the Edgware Machzikei Hadass Mikvah is currently being boosted by an exciting car raffle. The raffle has generated a great deal of local interest. The prospective prize is a new 5-door automatic car worth in excess of