



## **Mega Purim celebrations at Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue attract huge numbers**

A dynamic range of events, charitable initiatives and services attracted well over 2000 members and guests to Borehamwood & Elstree Synagogue over Purim. To kick off the fun was orthodox Jewish comedian, playwright and director Rachel Creeger who attracted a full house to a pre-Purim evening of stand-up comedy and humour. In conversation with Rabbi Chapper and guests, Rachel then spoke about her identity as a comic, her inspiration and her faith.

On the night of Purim there was something for everyone and an exceptional atmosphere at the six megillah readings at Croxdale Road attended by 1200 people. Highlights included a women's reading, a children's reading and interactive presentation with Rabbi Chapper, plus the parents annual Purim play for children under 7. Everyone enjoyed a hamantaschen Kiddush, whilst 120 teenagers feasted on sumptuous sushi and Chinese dishes.

On Purim afternoon 200 primary and nursery children enjoyed a sell-out party of jumping, soft play and themed arts and crafts at JumpIn. A second event attracted over 80 Tribe members in Years 7 to 10 from Borehamwood & Elstree, Bushey, Radlett, Shenley and Stanmore & Canons Park communities.

Caring for the community and social action was an important theme running through the activities as members donated food and drink for Mishloach Manot boxes that were packaged by the youth and delivered by volunteers to 50 single members aged over 80 on Purim, whilst 200 hamantaschen were baked from scratch and packaged by children as part of United Synagogue Chesed initiative and distributed to Camp Simcha, Chai and Norwood charities.

The week of celebrations culminated with a visit from Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis on Shabbat 23 March, where he addressed 175 guests at a 'delicious desserts' Seudah Shlishit afternoon tea.

Chairman Simon Mitchell said: "It was great to see so many people of all ages having fun this Purim across such a wide variety of activities. There was a fabulous atmosphere at each activity and I am sure many special community memories have been created this week. I would like to thank everyone who came and took part and all of our amazing volunteers who have worked so hard to make it happen."

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