

**JEWISH
BLIND &
DISABLED**

The key to independence



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The magazine of Jewish Blind & Disabled

THE

KEY

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FROM OUR CEO



“WE HAVE BIG, BOLD PLANS FOR THIS YEAR AND BEYOND. NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.”

Lisa Wimborne
Chief Executive

I have started 2022 rejuvenated, having had a much-needed break, with a spring in my step. Over two years in and I still feel so fortunate to be the CEO of this wonderful charity and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

This is going to be a big year for Jewish Blind & Disabled. We have started the year with news that the London Borough of Barnet has granted us planning permission for our latest development. We will not be wasting time in getting started with building work as we are currently struggling to meet the needs of people living in Barnet and the surrounding areas and know what a difference this building will make.

With planning permission secured we will shortly be embarking on a capital fundraising campaign to raise the £4.7m we need to fully fund this development enabling us to then continue with our ambitious strategy of growth and transformation.

We also have exciting plans to build on the success to date of our Independent Living Advisory service that provides specialist advice and support to people with disabilities living in their own homes in the wider community.

In October 2021 after 27 years as Chair of Jewish Blind & Disabled, John Joseph MBE assumed the role of joint President, alongside Malcolm Ozin MBE, and Marc Gordon became our latest Chair. Marc's appointment follows a review of our governance. In 2022 we will continue to strengthen our governance and we are advertising for new Trustees to join our professional and dedicated team.

We have big, bold plans for this year and beyond. Working alongside a fantastic team of Trustees and staff we are committed to do all we can. However, none of what we do is possible without your support.

If you would like to find out more about our plans or to arrange a visit to one of our developments please contact Rachel Barres on rachel@jbd.org or 020 4548 8692.

Thank you.

Full steam ahead for our new development

We are delighted to share that in February 2022 the London Borough of Barnet granted planning permission for a new state-of-the-art development in the heart of the growing Jewish community in Mill Hill East.

The development which, until a lead donor is secured, we are calling Number Eight, is located on the corner of Bittacy Hill and Langstone Way in Mill Hill East. The development will comprise 30 much-needed mobility apartments including 7 two-bedroom apartments.

The apartments will be designed to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities and / or vision impairments

using the latest technology and equipment, with accessible modern fitted kitchens and walk-in shower rooms spacious enough to accommodate wheelchairs.

There will be communal laundry facilities with accessible machines, a stylish communal lounge, garden and roof terrace. There is ample tenants' parking enabling those who drive to be able to retain this aspect of their independence.

We are now working to finalise the plans for the building and get everything in place so that work can commence on-site and we expect completion towards the end of 2023.



“THE APARTMENTS WILL BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND / OR VISION IMPAIRMENTS USING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT.”



“THE COST OF THE WORKS IS EXPECTED TO BE £10M. THIS IS OUR LARGEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS PROJECT.”

As an independent organisation that receives no government funding, all of our developments have to date been funded with the support and generosity of the community. The site was purchased in 2020 thanks to ongoing fundraising efforts. The cost of the works is expected to be £10m. This is our largest and most ambitious project. With planning permission secured we will shortly be embarking on a capital fundraising campaign to raise the £4.7m we need to fully fund this development enabling us to then continue with our ambitious strategy of growth and transformation and commitment to ensure that we can provide support to anyone living with physical disabilities and / or impaired vision in our community who needs it.



Marc Gordon, Chair, Jewish Blind & Disabled commented: “This will be our largest fundraising project to date. It is ambitious but if we are to meet the needs of the community we will need to be bold and ambitious in our approach. We are an organisation that has grown and developed thanks to the generosity of individuals and families from across the community. We hope alongside our long-standing supporters to be able to attract new individuals, families, Trusts and Foundations to support this wonderful cause. By working together, we can transform even more lives.”

If you are interested in finding out more about our new development or to visit one of our current developments please contact Rachel Barres on rachel@jbd.org or 020 4548 8692.



Jason's story

Before moving into his Jewish Blind & Disabled flat, Jason lived in a bed and breakfast for a year and had previously spent time sofa surfing, staying with family and friends.

“I FELT UNSAFE AND UNSUPPORTED. I NOW HAVE A PLACE OF MY OWN TO CALL HOME WITH SUPPORT ON HAND SHOULD I NEED IT. NOTHING CAN COMPARE TO THAT.”

Jason, who is 58, has osteo-arthritis and is waiting on a knee replacement. A bad fall when living at the bed and breakfast left him with a broken arm and after this not healing correctly, he is still undergoing treatment for it. He said “I am waiting on a knee replacement but I try to remain positive and focus on the good. Living in the bed and breakfast was honestly horrendous, the fall made things even more difficult. I felt unsafe and unsupported. I now have a place of my own to call home with support on hand should I need it. Nothing can compare to that.”

Having grown up in the area, Aztec House was the ideal location for him to move to and since his move last summer he has reconnected with people who he knew from as early as childhood.

When speaking to Jason, he instantly shares how happy he is to be living at Aztec House and it is clear what a difference it has made to him. Jason said “I moved into Aztec House

in August 2021 having previously been living in a bed and breakfast that was unsuitable to meet my needs for a year. Before this I was living with my parents and caring for my dad but unfortunately my dad died. I was placed temporarily in a bed and breakfast until I could be re-housed but then was unexpectedly given notice to leave with no reason.”

“I knew about Jewish Blind & Disabled but didn't realise they would be able to support me. Only 5 weeks after my initial desperate call to them I moved into my new home. I feel like I have a sense of security now, I have a proper home, support to hand should I for example have another fall. I'm happy, I am safe, I'm laid back and I take huge pride in my flat.”



“I FEEL AT HOME NOW AND MY FLAT IS GREAT, I LOVE IT - IT IS ABSOLUTELY MY PRIDE AND JOY. EVERYONE HERE IS SO FRIENDLY AND THERE IS A REALLY LOVELY ATMOSPHERE. I KNOW THAT WHENEVER I COME BACK TO MY FLAT, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE LOUNGE TO STOP AND HAVE A CHAT WITH. I HAVE AN ADDED SENSE OF SECURITY KNOWING THAT THE HOUSE MANAGERS ARE THERE SHOULD I NEED ANYTHING AND THEY ARE BRILLIANT AND THAT IS INVALUABLE.”

“All I can say is thank goodness for Jewish Blind & Disabled. They came to my rescue and I can't speak highly enough about the support I have received.”

“I didn't have anything to furnish my flat - the only thing I had was a television and my daughter gave me a bed. Keren (one of JBD's Tenancy Support Advisers) helped me to source a lot of furniture from different places including donated items from people who had left furniture once moving out of their flats in other JBD developments. I am so grateful for this support as furnishing a whole home whilst living on benefits would have been a struggle for me.”

“There is so much extra support on offer to tenants that I am not sure people know enough about. I don't drive anymore so benefit from the minibus service that takes tenants to the local supermarket or kosher shops as and when I need it. I try and be as independent as possible, that's important to me and that's what I am able to be thanks to Jewish Blind & Disabled.”

In and around our buildings

“TENANTS AT FAIRACRES ORGANISED A TALK BY RUTH BOURNE, ONE OF 1800 WOMEN WHO WORKED AS CODEBREAKERS AT BLETCHLEY PARK BETWEEN 1944 AND 1946.”

When the pandemic hit and our communal lounges closed, we strove to create thriving communities online with a programme of talks, classes and activities weekly on Zoom. However, we know that nothing can replace these things happening in person and it has been wonderful to see our tenants reconnecting with each other as well as getting to know new tenants who have moved in during Covid.

The summer saw the first of these events with post-lockdown barbeques held in every development shortly followed by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, celebrations for Succot and Chanukah parties aplenty.

We joined forces with Maccabi GB to pilot a programme of accessible sports for tenants living in two of our developments. The trial was a five-week programme of accessible golf suitable for any tenants that wished to join of any age or disability. There was positive feedback all round and we are looking forward to delivering two further programmes shortly.

In addition, there are weekly classes, talks and social gatherings held in each of the developments with anything from quizzes to exercise classes, film nights, lunches and afternoon teas. Tenants at Fairacres organised a talk by Ruth Bourne, one of 1800 women who worked as codebreakers at Bletchley Park between 1944 and 1946. At Frances & Dick James Court, a tenant gave a talk about her time as a London tour guide.

For Mitzvah Day, tenants supported the Together Plan and the Royal Free Hospital. Items of Judaica were collected to donate to the Together Plan which aims to connect Jews living in Belarus to their Jewish identity, and tenants made twiddle muffs (knitted bands with items attached) for patients living with dementia to use during their hospital stay at the Royal Free.

Most of the activities that happen within developments are led and organised by tenants themselves who play an active role in shaping their communities.



“THERE ARE WEEKLY CLASSES, TALKS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS HELD IN EACH OF THE DEVELOPMENTS WITH ANYTHING FROM QUIZZES TO EXERCISE CLASSES.”

A move into a Jewish Blind & Disabled development means so much more than just bricks and mortar. If you or anyone you know is struggling in unsuitable accommodation, visit jbd.org or call 020 8371 6611 to find out more and for details on how to apply.





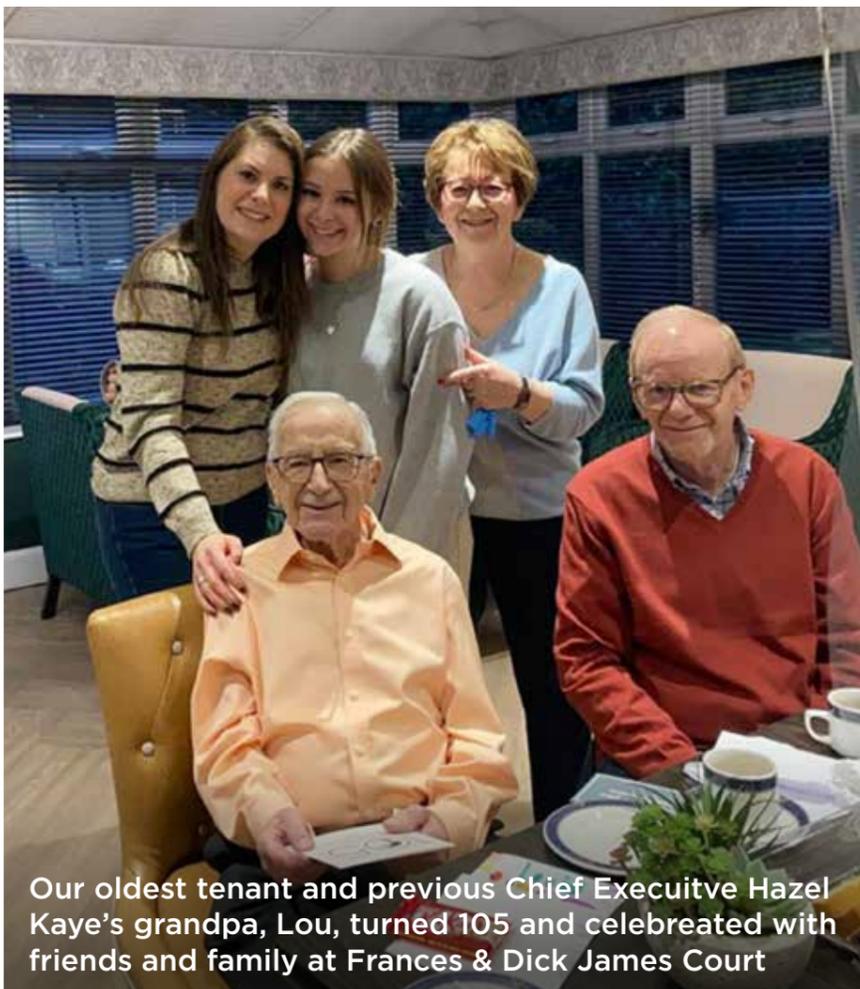
Dan Lee ran the 2021 London Marathon for Jewish Blind & Disabled and raised over £4,000



Malcolm & Diane were crowned as two of the winners of the accessible golf with Maccabi GB



We held a small reception to celebrate John Joseph MBE's contribution to JBD and he has assumed the role of Joint President with Malcolm Ozin MBE



Our oldest tenant and previous Chief Executive Hazel Kaye's grandpa, Lou, turned 105 and celebrated with friends and family at Frances & Dick James Court



Milne Court celebrated its 26th anniversary which coincided with Chanukah



Tenants came together to celebrate Succot

Fundraising update

As an independent charity that does not receive any government funding, it is only through our fundraising and the generous support from the community that we are able to continue to provide affordable housing and support.

CELEBRITY APPEARANCES

In October, we held our first major in-person fundraising event since the pandemic. We were delighted to be joined by Rob Rinder or Judge Rinder, as he's commonly known. Interviewed by broadcaster Jonny Gould; Rob spoke about his infamous TV Show, his Holocaust education work and how Jewish Blind & Disabled has a special place in his heart. Thanks to the support of those who attended in person and those who watched online, we have raised over £100,000 from the event.

At the event Rob spoke about his gratitude to Jewish Blind & Disabled for the support we provide to his father who moved into a Jewish Blind & Disabled development in 2020. "Those who experience change in their lives deserve the greatest dignity we can give them as a community. Life can change overnight, in my dad's case illness came and he was slowly presented by a reality that he needed the Jewish community and sanctuary and safety that Jewish Blind & Disabled offers. For us Jewish Blind & Disabled were and are a light in the darkness."

Rob has recently dedicated his gratitude through celebrity quiz show appearances in aid of Jewish Blind & Disabled. In November 2021, he appeared on ITV's Celebrity Who Wants to Be A Millionaire and won an amazing £32,000 for Jewish Blind & Disabled. Overall Rob won £64,000 with the other half of the prize money going to Buttle UK - a charity dedicated to helping children and young people in crisis. Adding to this in December, Rob appeared on Celebrity Quizness and won another £5,000 for us.

Chief Executive, Lisa Wimborne commented: "It is not very often that an independent Jewish charity like Jewish Blind & Disabled gets multiple mentions on prime-time national TV and is awarded a generous prize sum too. Having this recognition and support from Rob Rinder, the son of a tenant, is all the more special. Rob has seen first-hand the impact of our work, what better endorsement can we get? His decision to nominate us as one of his chosen charities means so much to us, we are so grateful to him for all of his support."

LEAVING A LEGACY

At least £1 in every £3 we raise is made possible thanks to the generosity of people who remember us in their wills. These lasting legacies can come in all different shapes and sizes and enable us to provide additional support to tenants, support refurbishment projects and help us to build for the future.

We were recently informed of a legacy left to us from an individual who knew people living in our North East London developments. Having volunteered to provide support to a blind person she was all too aware of the struggles that people with sight loss faced and this drove her to leave Jewish Blind & Disabled a gift in her will. Her generous gift will be recognised through an in-memory plaque in our new development.

For many people, leaving a gift in their will can be the last opportunity to say thank you to a charity that has had an impact on them in some way or one they have felt particularly connected to in their lifetime. That's exactly what Ann Meisbiser, a former tenant at Cherry Tree Court did. Her generous gift to Jewish Blind & Disabled was a lasting legacy to support the charity and say thank you for the support we had provided to her throughout her time living at a JBD development.

However big or small, leaving a legacy to Jewish Blind & Disabled will enable us to continue to provide our unique housing and support to members of our community both now and in the future. For more information please contact Rachel Barres on rachel@jbd.org or 020 4548 8692.



CELEBRATORY GIVING

Do you have a party or simcha coming up? To mark your celebration, why not consider asking family and friends to donate to Jewish Blind & Disabled as an alternative to receiving a gift.

These gifts will help us give a positive future to people living with physical disabilities and / or vision impairments, enabling them to live with the dignity and choice that are so easy for others to take for granted.

All donors will be thanked for their donation. When the date of your celebration arrives, we will notify you of who has donated without disclosing individual amounts and will send you a certificate with the total amount raised to mark the occasion.

Mazel tov and thank you to those who shared their celebration with us in 2021, you helped us to raise £5,000.

To set up donations for your celebration please contact Rachel Barres on rachel@jbd.org or 020 4548 8692.



A warm welcome and a fond farewell



Aidan McCarthy
Director of
Housing at JBD

After working at Women's Pioneer Housing for just over 6 years, Aidan McCarthy joined Jewish Blind & Disabled as our Director of Housing Management and Community Services in December. Aidan brings with him a wealth of experience in the housing sector as well as specific experience in managing sheltered housing schemes.

When asked what drew him to Jewish Blind & Disabled, Aidan said: "I saw the role advertised and thought it looked interesting and like the perfect role for me. While I had never heard of Jewish Blind & Disabled before, I did some reading and could see some similarities to my current organisation and really liked the sound of the job. In fact, it was the only job I applied for."

Aidan is looking forward to finding out more about the JBD community and looking forward to getting more involved with the Jewish community. He said: "I want to continue my mission of helping people and making a difference."

We wish Aidan a warm welcome and after 9 years working at Jewish Blind & Disabled we have said a fond farewell to Karen Zeff, Director of Housing Management & Tenancy Support. Karen decided it was the right time for her to leave us for pastures new at the end of 2021. Reflecting on her time at JBD, she said "I feel like I am leaving JBD in a really great place and I'm proud of the way the organisation operates; our buildings are warm, friendly and welcoming. Our house manager team is a great team, supporting our tenants on a daily basis. I'm truly proud to be part of this fantastic charity. Thank you to all my colleagues and tenants for making it such a great 9 years."

Chief Executive, Lisa Wimborne commented: "After over 9 years of working at Jewish Blind & Disabled our wonderful and dedicated Director of Housing Management and Tenancy Support, Karen Zeff, has decided that now is the right time for her to pursue new challenges. She will be missed, a huge thank you to her for her significant contribution to JBD."

I am delighted to welcome Aidan McCarthy, I am confident he will be an asset to the organisation."



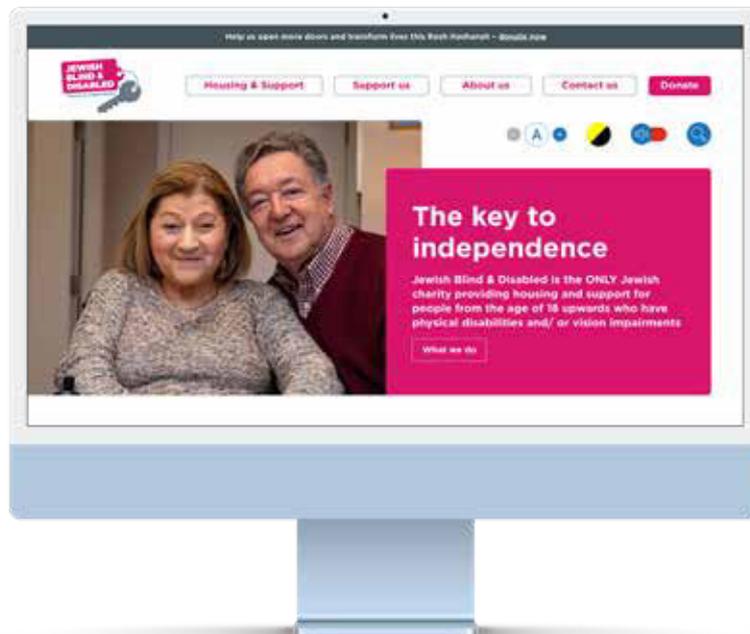
Karen Zeff
Former Director of
Housing Management
and Tenancy Support

OUR NEW ONLINE PRESENCE

Accessibility is at the heart of all we do and it goes beyond our bricks and mortar. We recently launched our new website. It is not only our shop window but a valuable tool to enable people to access information about our services, apply for our services, donate and find out more about our fundraising events and initiatives.

A significant area of our work on the website was to provide enhanced accessibility functions. Tenants across our developments were consulted to ensure that the website met the needs of people using a range of different programmes and aids to access information online.

While the main part of launching the new website is complete, we are continuously working on the website and we are always happy to hear feedback and suggestions. Please email natasha@jbd.org



To keep up to date with news and events, please follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram - [@JBDCharity](#).

If you would prefer to receive The Key by email or to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email tami@jbd.org



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