

Eshet Chayil Shabbat and Award

Gaby Morris



This year we have introduced an award formally recognising the important role of women in our community and designated a special Shabbat to celebrate the award. We call this award Eshet Chayil and with it we shall each year recognise women who have made an outstanding and valuable contribution to the New West End Synagogue.

We are fortunate in having so many women who give an awful lot of time, energy and hard work to the community. Often this work is behind the scenes and unobserved but crucial for the running of our communal and charitable work.

For this inaugural year, we had a large number of worthy candidates to consider. Two names rose to the fore, Susan Katz and Lynne Melzer. Their hard work and dedication to our community is an example to us all. They have both served for many years on our Board of Management and have been key contributors to the growth of the community and its success. By happy coincidence the date we settled for the Eshet Chayil Shabbat was also International Women's Day; wow appropriate! Congratulations to Lynne and Susan and thank you for all you have done for the New West End

The Collector

Elliot Burman

Most of you know me as the Choirmaster of the NWES, and all of you have seen me conducting the choir at some time or another. I have been singing in Shul choirs since 1971, but I have another hobby which is entering its 50th year...

Way back in about 1958, I was in short trousers and if I was lucky, I would get tuppence ha'penny a week pocket money. Well, one of the pennies caught my eye it was King Edward VIII, dated 1909, but in very nice condition. I decided to keep it and look out for other coins of interest. There was plenty of scope because you could find pennies and halfpennies going back to 1860, and there were still farthings in circulation. So, with the help of

Chanukah gelt and little gifts from Buba, I started a captivating collection at very little cost.

I managed to keep some of the old silver coins and remember swapping a 1913 sixpence for a 1918 one with one of the boys at Cheder who also collected; while his 1913 was a rarer date, my 1918 one was in better condition!

Apart from the fun of collecting, I use coins as a teaching aid. I have a fascinating (albeit of very little numismatic value) D-Day display, all dated 1944, in three sections – Allies, Axis and Neutral; a World War One collection with all the 5 dates from 1914 – 1918. I have an old penny from 1805 that I use when covering the Battle of Trafalgar (no English coins of that year). Of more recent issues is the Euro where one front has twelve different backs and I have nearly completed the USA 25 cents collection, with 50 different States depicted on the reverse.

It is a continuing hobby of great interest, enjoyment and education. If, by any chance, you have a few coins stuck in the back of a drawer at home, I would possibly be interested in buying them, as that could very well be the one that I've been looking for.

May I wish you all a happy Pesach and well over the matzah!

