

## Fond Memories of Isidore Lewis

John Bodie

As a schoolboy I first met Isidore before the War. He was a friend of my late father. They both worshipped in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Shul, where Isidore lived in a very nice house immediately opposite. I recall that he was always impeccably dressed. Black jacket and striped trousers, homburgs and bowler hats were de rigueur. Shabbat Kiddushim were held in each other's homes and Isidore always produced the best spread. We lost touch for most of the War, but it was a happy coincidence to find him at the New West End when I joined in the 1950's. Isidore was still beautifully turned out, with the same old world good manners, and in my eyes very much the 'Elder Statesman.' The age gap never seemed to narrow! I always looked forward to his mellifluous voice reciting Haftarah in immaculate Hebrew.

He joined the Board of Management late in life and became the Senior Warden at the age of 80. He was a fine steward of the Synagogue's affairs. His charm, eloquence, good manners and dignity created a calming and happy environment for the Community; and yet he was authoritative.

I remember the occasion when one of our members tried to impose a mikvah on us in the basement. It caused much anxiety among many of us. Isidore convened an EGM to debate the issue. Without prior warning, the promoter of the project produced the Rosh Beth Din to put the case in favour of the mikvah. Things looked bad until Isidore rose to his feet and, in his typically eloquent but demure way, made an excellent case for abandoning the project. He sat down, no one overruled him, and that was that!!

Isidore was a man of great distinction, modesty and exceptional kindness, a treasure of yesteryear.

**We are delighted to invite you to a**

# **Table Quiz**

## **Who wants to be a Millionaire?**

Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• November 11th</li><li>• 7.30 p.m.</li></ul>
Herbert Samuel Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entertainment</li><li>• Supper</li></ul>
Can you win?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring your friends</li><li>• ticket price:£25</li></ul>

**Please book as soon as possible. Send your cheques to the Shul Office  
or call Rachel Cohen to pay by credit card on 0207 229 2631**