

# It's Chanukah – but not as you know it!

**BY MICHAEL BLITZ**

CHANUKAH is traditionally a time of celebration for the whole Essex Jewish community. As part of that, Chabad has, for many years, organised large public menorah lightings across Essex – attracting large crowds and bringing the light and joy of the Festival to so many.

The coronavirus pandemic means that things are going to be a little different this year – but still just as much for the community as ever.

The public menorahs will still be lit in Essex, but the community will be able to view the lightings from the comfort of their own homes. Members of the Essex Jewish community will light a menorah in a different way, all lit from a camera eye and live streamed for everyone to enjoy.

Rabbi Chabad Bransman of Chabad Buckhurst Hill has been working together with his colleagues Rabbi Seltin and Rabbi Pines, as well as other religious leaders within the community, to plan these events in order to bring everyone together and share the joy of Chanukah during these uncertain times.

Rabbi Bransman told the Essex Jewish News: "We wanted to be able to find a way to still do something to celebrate Chanukah that would be safe and where everyone could see it."



**Rabbi Bransman of Chabad Buckhurst Hill prepares for Chanukah**

Chabad Bransman is preparing for Chanukah by lighting a menorah. He will be joined by other rabbis and community members for a live-streamed event.

# Jewish Care is to make staff members redundant

**BY MANNY ROBINSON**

WHILE CARE is in consultation with 120 staff members, with around 100 facing redundancy, as the charity battles against coronavirus and the financial impact the pandemic has had on the organisation.

Chief executive Daniel Carmel-Brown and Jewish Care had been hopeful for rescue and recovery. In a statement, the charity said: "Regrettably, these changes mean that we are sadly unable to run the services when we could meet our members in person and we have not taken it lightly. We deeply value the contribution of each and every one of our staff and we will continue to support them."

"This has been an extremely difficult decision for us to make and we have not taken it lightly. We deeply value the contribution of each and every one of our staff and we will continue to support them."

The charity is currently working with staff on their options and we hope to make a new staff plan in December. All the services we have been running recently and throughout the pandemic, will continue and will be delivered by many familiar faces.

"The Jewish Care Community Centre will continue to offer a programme of entertainment including magic acts, puppets, a band and a live performance from Vince UK, constant Adam Topsy – all broadcast on a digital screen. There will also be the chance to buy kosher food and drink, which can be delivered to your car."

The event, which has the capacity for around 200 cars, is set to be the only, one-off event commemorating Chanukah celebration happening this year, and organisers recommended people bring tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Further details about both events, and how to purchase tickets for the digital Chanukah Drive-In, can be found on the Jewish Essex website at [www.jewish Essex.com](http://www.jewish Essex.com).



**Daniel Carmel-Brown**

**This has been an extremely difficult decision for us**

after intensive negotiations with staff on wages, pensions, and other matters. We are grateful for the support of our members and the wider community.



**Mitzvahs are a piece of cake**

THE young people of East London's Essex Liberal Synagogue all got together on Zoom for Mitzvah Day to bake cakes for Mill Grove children's home.

The cakes were then collected by school head Jonathan Young and delivered to the South Woodford home, which care for children and young people who cannot live with their own families. This year was a special day for them due to the coronavirus pandemic, but still some children's joy, and all over the country (and small acts of kindness for others).

Read more on pages 14 & 15



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<b>Deliphone Barking</b>	<b>Sainsbury's Southend</b>
<b>Gary Green Clayhall</b>	<b>Sainsbury's Westcliff</b>
<b>Just Kosher Clayhall</b>	<b>Shalom Bakery Gants Hill</b>
<b>Kosherie Westcliff</b>	<b>Tesco Barking</b>
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**Happy Chanukah and thank you for your support in 2020**