

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

BY MICHAELA 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. Menorahs will light a menorah in a different way, all lit by 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 it could be seen and shared by Covid-19 re-

MENORAH LIGHTINGS WILL BE STREAMED TO YOUR HOME



Rabbi Bransman of Chabad Buckhurst Hill prepares for Chanukah

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 the coming months. However, the charity's accounts by October showed a significant loss. It is now facing a decision on how to proceed.

In a statement, the charity said: "Regrettably, these changes mean that we are unable to maintain the full complement of the company staff that were needed 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 in the coming weeks."

The charity is currently working with staff on their exit and we hope to announce a new staff list in December. All the services we have been providing 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 Abot Tzivy – 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 recommend people being seated 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



Daniel Carmel-Brown

This has been an extremely difficult decision for us

after intensive negotiations with unions, landlords, staff, and other stakeholders, we have decided to close our offices and our community centre in Essex. We will continue to support our staff and our community in the coming weeks."

Mitzvahs are a piece of cake

THE young people of East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue all got together on Zoom on Friday 19th to bake cakes for Mill Grove children's home.

The cakes were then collected by Shoshana and 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 of our members all over the country (and small acts of kindness for others).

Read more on pages 14 & 15

The Editor and all those associated with the Essex Jewish News wish you a Happy and Healthy Chanukah and also send Seasonal Greetings to our non-Jewish readers and advertisers

THIS ISSUE OF THE ESSEX JEWISH NEWS IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW ONLINE AT: www.issuu.com/essexjewishnews

THE **CHANUKAH** EDITION OF **ESSEX JEWISH NEWS** HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND IS NOW AVAILABLE EITHER IN PRINT OR ONLINE IN DIGITAL FORMAT YOU CAN DOWNLOAD

With many synagogues closed we have taken every effort to make sure you can still get a printed version of the Essex Jewish News. We have therefore made extra copies available at the supermarkets and retail outlets listed below.

Delicacy Chigwell	Sainsbury's South Woodford
Deliphone Barking	Sainsbury's Southend
Gary Green Clayhall	Sainsbury's Westcliff
Just Kosher Clayhall	Shalom Bakery Gants Hill
Kosherie Westcliff	Tesco Barking
La Boucherie Barking	Tesco Epping
Morrison's Loughton	Tesco Westcliff
Sandra Davidson Redbridge	Tesco Woodford Avenue
Sainsbury's Barking	The Shop (SWHC) Southend
Sainsbury's Loughton	Waitrose South Woodford
Sainsbury's Ongar	Waitrose Southend
Sainsbury's Newbury Park	V&V Barking

To access a digital copy, which you can download to your computer or read online, go to: www.issuu.com/essexjewishnews
 It will also be available to read on the Essex Jewish Community Council website at: <http://ejcc.co.uk/essex-jewish-news/>

Happy Chanukah and thank you for your support in 2020