

# THE THUNDERER

## A.K.A. THE INMATES' GAZETTE

March 2008

Number 17

St Pancras Almshouses

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### THE EDNA BROWN CINEMA CLUB

Saturday evenings at 7 pm in the Hall

(usually finishes at about 8.30 pm)

March 1	Double Indemnity
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Citizen Kane
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Henderson Presents
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Shirley Valentine
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Educating Rita

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### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Calendar Girls  
The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner  
Kes  
Chariots of Fire

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### TRISH HILLIS 1947 – 2008

IN MEMORY OF TRISH HILLIS, WHO DIED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, in her own flat, sadly two days before her 61<sup>ST</sup> birthday, after a long, exhausting illness, which she so bravely battled.

However, she left an abiding memory with those of us who had the privilege to know her at the Almshouses and through her work, as a brave, charming lady, who loved all of nature and this was reflected in her funeral which she herself had planned when she was made aware of the outcome of the cruel illness which was to take her life at an early age. Five of our residents, both of our managers and Tony Rouse, representing the Trustees, attended her funeral at Golders Green, which was unusual in that it was not the basic religious service, but had been arranged by

“Green Endings”, an environmentally based organization, as a celebration of her life.

I may say that the Chapel was packed with friends of Trish and her two daughters and her son-in-law who graced the occasion. We were all deeply moved by the simplicity of the whole arrangement and there were two readings.

The first was a William Wordsworth poem and the second, Elizabeth Farjeon’s verses on “Cats” which Trish loved. Our four moggies gave her untold delight during the long days when she was unable to leave her flat

**Cats sleep anywhere,  
Any table, any chair.  
Top of piano, window ledge,  
In the middle, on the edge.  
Open drawer, empty shoe,  
Anybody’s lap will do.  
Fitted in a cardboard box,  
In the cupboard, with your frocks.  
Anywhere! They don’t care! Cats sleep anywhere.**

Tania, her daughter, who carried out her mother’s wishes, asked me to thank those residents and our managers, for the very generous donations that have been made to Edenhall (Marie Curie Hospice) where Trish received treatment prior to returning home.

It is sometimes said of people “that we shall not see their like again”.  
In Trish’s case, it is entirely apt.

Julia Smith

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## **TWO PARABLES FROM ANTHONY DE MELLO**

### **The Little Fish**

Excuse me, said the little fish, “Where can I find the ocean?”  
“The ocean” replied the older fish, “It is what you are in. It’s all around you”.  
“This? But this is only water. I’m looking for the ocean”, said the little fish, swimming away in disappointment.

**Hafez Hayyim**

A tourist from the States went to visit the famous Rabbi, Hafez Hayyim.  
He was astonished to see that the rabbi lived in only one room, with a  
bench and books.

“Rabbi, where is your furniture?” asked the tourist.

“Where’s yours?” replied Hafez.

“Mine? But I’m only a visitor here.”

“So am I”, said the Rabbi.

Submitted by Wendy 6C

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**Ever** noticed, the older we get, the more we’re like computers?  
We start out with lots of memory and drive then we become outdated and  
eventually have to have our parts replaced.

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### **TELL ME THIS WON’T HAPPEN TO US.**

Three retired gentlemen, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one  
fine March day last year. One remarked to the other, “Windy, isn’t it?”

“No”, the second man replied, “It’s Thursday.”

And the third man chimed in, “So am I. Let’s have a beer.”

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Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years,  
they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their  
activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.  
One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said,  
“Now don’t be cross with me. I know we’ve been friends for a long time,  
but I just can’t think of your name! I’ve thought and thought, but I can’t  
remember it. Please tell me what your name is.”

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and  
glared at her.

Finally she said, “How soon do you need to know?”

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And as for driving-Forget it !

As a senior citizen was driving down the Motorway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Jerry, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on the M4.

Please be careful!"

"Heck," said Jerry, it's not just one car. It's HUNDREDS of them!"

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Another time, Jerry phoned 999 to report that his car had been broken in to. He was almost hysterical as he explained his situation to the dispatcher. "They've stolen the Stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" he cried.

The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way."

A few minutes later, the officer radios in.. "Disregard." He says, "He got in the back seat by mistake."

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**This may be in poor taste but it was submitted by my Sister-and she actually READS The Thunderer.**(so I have no choice)

### **SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN BOARD BLOOPERS!!!!**

- 1. Don't let worry kill you. Let your synagogue help. Join us for wine and cheese in the Lobby after services. Prayer and medication to follow. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our congregation.
- 2. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- 3. We are pleased to announce the birth of David Weiss, the son of Rabbi and Mrs Abe Weiss.
- 4. Thursday at 9, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All women wishing to become Little Mothers please see the Rabbi in his private study.
- 5. The ladies of Hadassah have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the basement on Tuesdays.
- 6. A bean supper will be held Wednesday evening in the community centre. Music will follow.
- 7. Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the JCC. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.
- 8. Rabbi is on vacation. Massages can be given to his secretary.
- 9. Goldblum will be entering hospital this week for testes.

- 10. The Men's club is warmly invited to an evening hosted by the Hadassah ladies. Refreshments will be served for a nominal fee.
- 12. We are taking up a collection to defray the cost of the new carpet in the sanctuary. All those wishing to do something on the carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.
- 13. If you enjoy sinning, the choir is looking for you.
- 14. The Associate Rabbi unveiled the synagogue's new fundraising campaign slogan this week: "I upped my pledge. Up yours."

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### **FROM THE VATICAN ????**

The Pope was being wafted along in his new car when he suddenly said to the driver, "I want to get behind the wheel of this superb Mercedes-Benz, so stop and get in the back". The car took off like a scalded cat and attracted the attention of the Traffic Police, who gave chase at great speed.

When they eventually caught up they were at a loss to know how to deal with the situation so one of the officers phoned his chief at HQ to ask his advice.

"We've stopped a speeding car", he said "but he's a VIP- It's all very embarrassing."

"Well, who is he?" asked the chief- "is he the Prime Minister?"

"No - Far more important than him", said the officer.

"For goodness sake, is it the President?"

"No - more important than him".

"For crying out loud, who on earth can it be?" the Chief asked angrily.

"I haven't the faintest idea" said the officer, "But the Pope is his chauffeur."

Chris 12A

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**This poem was found on the body of an unrecognized soldier killed in Italy during the Second World War.**

Look, God, I have never spoken to you,  
But now I want to say, "How do you do."

You see, God, they told me you didn't exist  
And, like a fool, I believed all this.  
Last night from a shell-hole I saw your sky,  
I figured right then they had told me a lie,  
Had I taken the time to see the things you made,  
I'd know that they weren't calling a spade a spade.  
I wonder God, if you'd shake my hand?  
Sometimes I feel you will understand,  
Funny I had to come to this hellish place  
Before I had time to see your face.  
Well I guess there's not much more to say,  
But I'm sure glad, God, that I met you today,  
I guess the zero hour will soon be here,  
But I'm not afraid, since I know you're near.  
The signal! Well God, I'll have to go,  
I like you lots, this I want you to know,  
Look now! This will be a horrible fight,  
Who knows, I may come to your house tonight.  
Though I wasn't friends with you before,  
I wonder, God, if you'd wait at your door?  
Gosh! I'm crying – me shedding tears,  
I wish I'd known you these many years,  
Well, I'll have to go now – goodbye,  
Strange, since I met you, I'm not afraid to die.

Submitted by John Doe

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### **BEST EVER BLONDE JOKE?**

A blonde calls her boyfriend and says, 'Please come over and help me. I've got a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started'.

Her boyfriend asks, 'What is it supposed to be when it's finished?'

'According to the picture on the box , it's a rooster.'

Her boyfriend decides to go over and help her with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment then he looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

‘First of all, no matter what we do, we’re not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster.’

He takes her hand and says, ‘Second, I want you to relax. Let’s have a nice cup of tea, and then.....’ he said with a deep sigh,

‘Let’s put all the Corn Flakes back in the box’.

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## **THE MAID GETS A PAY RISE**

The maid asked for a raise.

The Madam was very upset about this and asked:

‘Now Maria, why do you want an increase?’

Maria: ‘Well Madam, there are three reasons why I want an increase. The first is that I iron better than you’.

Madam: ‘Who said you iron better than me?’

Maria: ‘The Master said so.’

Madam: ‘Oh.’

Maria: ‘The second reason is that I am a better cook than you.’

Madam: ‘Nonsense, who said you were a better cook than I?’

Maria: ‘The Master did.’

Madam: ‘Oh’.

Maria: ‘The third reason is that I am a better lover than you.’

Madam (very upset now): ‘Did the Master say so as well?’

Maria: ‘No Madam, the gardener did.’

Maria got her raise.

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**OH CANADA**

A Canadian reader sent this reprint of a letter to the editor of a Canadian newspaper.

Sir,

So many letter writers have explained how this land is made up of immigrants. Maybe we should turn to our history books and point out to people why today's Canadian is not willing to accept the new kind of immigrant any longer.

Back in 1900 when there was a rush from all areas of Europe to come to Canada, people had to get off a ship and stand in a long line in Halifax and be documented. Some would even get down on their hands and knees and kiss the ground. They made a pledge to uphold the laws and support their new country in good and bad times. They made learning English a primary rule in their new Canadian households and some even changed their names to blend in with their new home. They had waved goodbye to their birthplace to give their children a new life and did everything in their power to help their children to assimilate into one culture. Nothing was handed to them. No free lunches, no welfare, no labour laws to protect them. All they had were the skills, craftsmanship and desire they brought with them to trade for a future of prosperity.

Most of their children came of age when World War II broke out. Canadians fought alongside men whose parents had come straight over from Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Sweden and so many other places. None of these first generation Canadians ever gave any thought about what country their parents came from. They were Canadians fighting Hitler, Mussolini and the Emperor of Japan. They were defending Freedom as one people. When we liberated France, no one in those villages was looking for the Ukrainian Canadian or the German Canadian or the Irish Canadian. The people of France saw only Canadians and we carried one flag that represented our country. Not one of those immigrant sons would have thought of displaying another country's flag and waving it to represent who they were. It would have been a disgrace to their parents who had sacrificed so much to be here. These immigrants truly knew what it meant to be a Canadian.

And here we are in 2007 with a new kind of immigrant who wants the same rights and privileges. Only they want to achieve it by playing with a different set of rules, one that includes a Canadian passport and a guarantee of being faithful to their mother country. I'm sorry, that's not what being a Canadian is all about. They should ADOPT our country, and

our flag and our morals and our customs. Leave their wars, hatred, and divisions behind. I believe that the immigrants who landed in Canada in the early 1900's deserve better than that for the toil, hard work and sacrifice they made as they legally searched for a better life. I think they would be appalled that they are being used as an example by those waving foreign flags, fighting foreign battles on our soil, making Canadians change to suit their religions and cultures, and wanting to change our country's fabric by claiming discrimination when we do not give in to their demands.

It's about time we get real and stand up for our forefathers' rights.

We are CANADIAN lest we forget it!!! NO MORE POLITICAL CORRECTNESS ! NO more not saying CHRISTMAS in stores and our schools, Seasonal Holiday be dammed!!!

I want my Canada of birth BACK!!!

Big Jim

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## **ESTATE PLANNING 101**

I loved this.

### **ESTATE PLANNING STORY**

Dan was a single man living at home with his father and working in the family business.

When he found out that he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million pounds."

Impressed, the woman took his business card and three days later,

She became his stepmother.

Moral of the story: Women are so much better at estate planning than men.

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**HAVE A GREAT MONTH.**