



Cake crew: Rinkoff shop manager Tzion Araya, left, with Debs, Ray, Jennifer and Esther Rinkoff.

## History in the baking for a small family business

By Jane Marsh

The history of a family bakery business spanning four generations and more than a hundred years was celebrated recently at a book launch in Whitechapel. *History in the Baking* by Pam Fox is the story of Rinkoff's, the last remaining Jewish bakery in Whitechapel, started in 1911 by Russian immigrant Hyman Rinkoff.

Long-time Hampstead Garden Suburb residents Ray and Esther Rinkoff are among the third generation involved in the business and now two of their three children, Jennifer and Debs, are continuing the family tradition, producing speciality bread, cakes, sourdoughs and pastries.

As well as recounting the history of Rinkoff's, *History in the Baking* examines the colourful history of Whitechapel, once one of the poorest and most crime-ridden parts of London, and how the huge wave of Jewish immigration over the past century put its stamp on the area. Thus Pam Fox brilliantly weaves the Rinkoff story into the bigger picture of Jewish life in London at the time, creating

a fascinating read.

### Family past and present

Ray, a Master Baker, and Esther, who organised the launch event, were among over 30 family members who had travelled from countries as far away as the USA to be at the launch. Joining them were a host of friends, author Pam Fox and Professor Michael Berkowitz of UCL, whose foreword introduces the book.

Esther started the evening with a welcome and introductory speech. This was followed by Professor Berkowitz interviewing Pam Fox about her approach to writing the book and then answering questions from guests. A backdrop of family photographs from the past hundred years added to

the amazing atmosphere of the evening. Guests were also treated to delicious sweet and savoury delicacies, giving them a taste of Rinkoff's baking expertise.

### Read, walk, talk, bake

Copies of *History in the Baking* are available for £12 from the Rinkoff Bakery at 224 Jubilee Street or 79 Vallance Road, both in E1. Alternatively, you can find it on eBay or at the Brick Lane Bookshop, E1.

Esther also organises *Walk Talk Bake* guided walks around the East End, following in the footsteps of Hyman Rinkoff and his wife Fanny, and ending with lunch at the Rinkoff Bakery. Details are available on Facebook and Instagram.

## Gardens judge succeeds Wossy

By Marjorie Harris

TV presenter Jonathan Ross and screenwriter Jane Goldman, then newly moved-in residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb and newly-appointed Hon Presidents of HGS Horticultural Society, paid their first visit of many to open the Horticultural Society's Summer Flower Show in June 2001.

When Jonathan and Jane opened that first show, they were presented with L-plates, since they were self-confessed non-gardeners at the time, but said they were looking forward to learning by example from members. Over the years, they drew the crowds, judged children's scarecrow competitions and ate a lot of home-made cake at the shows.

In 2019, after 18 years, it was time to step down, so at the Horticultural Society's recent AGM, chair Chris Page

expressed everyone's heartfelt thanks to Jonathan and Jane for the time they had given so freely and the fun they had brought to the many shows in which they had been involved.

Succeeding them, Stephen Crisp has no need of L-plates. He is head of horticulture for the US Ambassador at Winfield House, Regents Park, where he has worked since 1987, as well as being a committee member of the London Gardens Network, and an RHS Britain in Bloom judge.



Honorary president: Stephen Crisp

## Clean up and stay in touch with the Wood

By Debbie Linton, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood held a successful litter pick on Sunday 8 December and the next one is scheduled for Sunday 12 January, 2pm to 3pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Summerlee Avenue gate. Come along and help keep our lovely wood tidy, or come along to simply touch base with us. We are always pleased to hear from people.

As reported in *The Archer* last month, a small community orchard is planned for the area between the tennis courts and the main path. Barnet Council are happy for the project to go ahead and we hope to hold an event which will include planting the trees in February. Further details will follow.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 January, 7.30pm to 9pm, in Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Park House, 16 High

Road (beside the High Road entrance to the wood). Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about our activities during 2019 and our plans for 2020. Quite a lot will be going on so any community involvement is much appreciated.

Do drop us an email with your views at [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com). Also keep up to date via our website [friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog](http://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog).



Ready for planting: The site of the future community orchard next to Cherry Tree Wood tennis courts.

### Convivial Lunch Club

The North London Probus Club welcomes retired and semi-retired PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS men and women on the third Wednesday each month for lunch and a talk at Stephens House East End Road N3 3QE. Next meeting 15 January: Professor Martin Conway analyses the growth of democratic governments in postwar Western Europe, the challenges they faced from new movements and ideologies in the 1960s leading to the contested democratic order in Europe today. Details from Eveleen (8455 6431).

## East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

Crèche and Sunday School during service

For more information please contact the Church Office

Email: [office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk](mailto:office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

(Minister: John Lowrie)

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