

Shifting Demographics

In the mid to late 2000s, younger members of the community began moving out of Redbridge sometimes further east to bigger properties, in places like Chigwell, or to North London - Golders Green and Stamford Hill. Children of the early settlers, now young adults, often the first generation to go to university, would not return to Redbridge and would make their lives elsewhere and out of the community.

"I think it was gradual, I wouldn't have noticed it at all. Children were growing up or maybe they didn't go to Hebrew any more"
(Rita L)

"... people started to drift first off all towards North West London and because of that they built... more shops and then they had more schools up there, Jewish schools, and so gradually, you know, just followed the crowd"
(Maureen)



Redbridge Jewish Boys and Girls Brigade c.2000



Newbury Park Synagogue, 2012.
Courtesy of JewishGen.

In June 2008 two long-term bastions of Jewish life in the borough, Brownstein's deli and Ilford Kosher Meats, closed only a few weeks apart.

"There were Jewish and Kosher shops and restaurants but my one regret about the area is that that in the last 20 years, 30 years, has diminished and now there are just two kosher butcher shops in the whole of the area... The shuls are closing down or amalgamating at the moment and my shul, I think I've attended three shuls in the last decade... I belonged to Wessex Close before that, is now called Redbridge United"
(Ray)



Seder Plate.

"... it reflects the age of the community. We've still got quite a lot of people belong to our synagogue but as a lot of them are in their eighties and nineties a lot of them tend not to come out anymore which is a shame but their numbers have drastically gone down and its very noticeable... You know, when people reach their eighties and nineties they're not so quick to go out... We do have some younger people in the area and some of them come along but it is mainly the older people"
(Kenneth)



Gants Hill Roundabout Menorah, c.2005.

Dan Jones mural of 60 year Commemoration March on Cable Street.



An Eastside Community Heritage Exhibition. Visit: www.hidden-histories.org.uk