

## **D.S.J.D.C. BANQUET REUNION**

**by Colleen Daniels Secretary of RSJDC**

The first Grand Reunion Banquet for the ex-pupils of the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children was held at Seymour Place, London on Sunday, May 24th, 1992. The Banquet was like a dream come true and was the final result of some eighteen months of fundraising and organising by the RSJDC committee. It was joined by 200 people. Ex-pupils arrived from countries as diverse as USA, Canada, Germany, Gibraltar, Israel, South Africa, Yugoslavia and of course, Britain. Some of them have not seen each other for 40 years and were overwhelmed to see their childhood friends. For the duration of the evening, we were joined by our former teacher, Charlotte Balkanyi who was born and bred in Budapest, Hungary where she began to teach Jewish Deaf children. After toiling with the authorities, she was able to obtain a passport and came to UK in 1955. She worked at our Nightingale School, London from 1955 to 1957. She seemed to possess a remarkable memory because she managed to remember many more pupils than I could!! We were very fortunate to have Mr. E. Denton, our former headmaster and his wife with us too. We all had a very enjoyable evening with many good memories highlighted in our first published book "The History of the RSJDC" which was launched to all who attended the Banquet. The book contains the entire history of the School from the setting up in 1885 to the closure in 1965 and has many excellent illustrations and photographs. The book was edited by Joan Weinberg, collated and published by David Jackson, bounded by Martin and Malka Bogard.

The week following the Banquet were filled with related events at the JDA such as :-1. Videoshow of the School's old films organised by Harold Fallman. 2. A super Archive Exhibiton showing old reproduced photographs and items of school property donated by ex-pupils and organised by Myer Solomon. 3. An Israeli Folk Dance evening organised by the Jewish Deaf Circle. 4. A coach outing to Havering House (the place where the Jewish children were evacuated to during the war), organised by Harold Fallman. 5. Drama Show by the Jewish Deaf Drama group. 6. Farewell Barbeque on Sunday 31st May.

I must finally say - big thanks to all the committee who pulled together and made the above events possible, to Mika Brojer who posed the question eighteen months ago "What do you think of the idea of a Reunion?" Well, the result was there for all to see! Additional thanks go to Alan Daniels for his talented producing of the display stands and to all ex-pupils who donated their possessions and made it an interesting and successful Exhibition.

There are still some books on "The History of the RSJDC" available for sale for £5 each plus £2 postage. Please make a cheque payable to:- Mr A. Daniels 210 Wards Road Newbury Park ILFORD Essex IG2 7DY