

### **Crossing the Line**

On Tuesday 9th December we saw the film 'Crossing the Line.' This film was produced by Jerusalem B and is being distributed in partnership with an organisation called 'Stand with Us UK.'

The film is a report of events on campus over the past 4-5 years, showing anti-Israel and anti-Semitic events that actually happened and are still happening. It is not an everyday occurrence but most Jewish students and supporters of Israel will have had such an experience during their time at University.

What the film shows, however, should not be seen as just a campus problem; it is also a community problem and a social problem. University and campus experiences have a profound and life-shaping impact on students that often shapes their thinking for the rest of their lives. To counter this we need to better educate our young people and our communities to enable them to have the knowledge to counter the flagrant propaganda of the Palestinian side. This film really should be more widely shown.

### **Wandering Jew**

On 16th December we welcomed back Lee Benson. Since giving up the Number Nine Gallery, Lee has spent time doing what he loves most, painting, travelling, photography and playing the piano. Over past few months he has been doing all these things having travelled in Europe and in England. Today he told us about some of his travels and showed us many wonderful photographs he had taken. Lee is obsessed with the sea so there were many photos of sea views, cliffs etc. Every picture had a story, and Lee is a wonderful storyteller. Over Sukkot for example he spent the first day in Paris in the largest Ashkenazi Synagogue in Europe, on the third day he was in Solihull shul and for Simchat Torah he was in Plymouth at the oldest Ashkenazi Synagogue in England.

Lee kept us all enthralled with his wonderful pictures and stories and we look forward to a follow up in 2015.

### **Poetry Reading**

On Tuesday 30th December we continued showing a video of Pam Ayres Live at the Theatre Royal, Windsor. She is such a brilliant raconteur and to see so many people really laughing out loud was a great tonic, and we still have more to come.

### **Reminiscence Quiz**

On Tuesday 6th January we were due to have a 'musical quiz' presented by Lillian Wenble but due to her indisposition Christine Elliott stepped in at the last minute and presented a Reminiscence Quiz; 30 questions very much based on things that most of our diners would know. Example questions were 'How many pennies in an old pound?' 'What colour are Harrods bags?' 'On what line did they hang their washing on according to the song?' Many people took part and some good scores were recorded, however the winner was Sophia Fletcher with 27 correct answers. Well done everybody.

### **Antarctica**

On Tuesday 13th January Jon Spector shared with us a little of his recent trip to Antarctica, illustrated by slides he had taken. At the end of December Jon flew to Buenos Aires and after a couple of days looking around this amazing city he flew to Ushuaia, the southern tip of Argentina, to join a Norwegian cruise ship the M S Fran. Ushuaia is where Jeremy Clarkson and the Top Gear team had to leave quickly a few months ago.

The ship travelled north East to the Falkland Islands and stopped at St Jon Island which just has the one residence run by a couple who entertain all the visitors, usually with a great tea. The ship then travelled overnight to Port Stanley where there was time to have a look around. This island is very English with its red letterbox and phone box. Jon showed us one of the many memorials to the Falklands War including the one which commemorated the sinking of HMS Coventry in 1982.

Jon saw an abundance of penguins, seals and birds and Jon on his travels and showed us some photos of the various colonies. From the Falklands the ship travelled in a south-westerly direction to South Georgia on which they saw the derelict whaling stations which had been very big business but which closed in the 1960s. Jon showed us a picture of Ernest Shackleton's grave. When his expedition to Antarctica got into trouble Shackleton left the group on Elephant Island and went to South Georgia for help, where he found a Chilean captain who came to the rescue. In the 1920s Shackleton returned to South Georgia to live and hence his grave is there.

They travelled on to the Southern Shetland Islands and on to Antarctica. As they travelled further south they encountered their first iceberg and snow covered landscape and more penguins, seal and birds. Jon explained that it never gets dark in this area; the sun sets but it stays light. Quite difficult to get used to.

On the return to Buenos Aires they stopped at a town called Trelew where a few Welsh settlers, who left Wales in 1860 to find a place where they could live a more Welsh way of life, founded this town. It has flourished and now has several thousand residents, but that's another story.

We hope Jon will return later in the year to tell us more about his journey.



---