

CHANUKAH

5770 / 2009 @ CHABAD ON THE HILL

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Bottles from the menorah were sold off to raise funds for the centre. Below, Desmond Solomon, who constructed the menorah, pours in the whisky (EL18006-6)



Rabbi Odom Brandman samples the whisky (EL18006-8)

Jewish light festival has Scotch spirit

By SAM ADAMS

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SIXTY-FIVE litres of whisky from a Scottish distillery were poured into a seven-foot high ceremonial candle holder to celebrate the Jewish festival of light.

Dozens of people turned out at Buckhurst Hill Chabad in Princes Road as the 17-year-old Scottish single malt filled the menorah marking the start of Chanukah.

The idea came from Rabbi Odom Brandman, the centre's director who had earlier led the lighting of the public menorah in nearby Queen's Road.

He said: "We like to

celebrate Chanukah a little differently, and had a menorah made of old cans last year, and out of chocolate the year before.

"This year we decided to go for the world's first whisky menorah.

"We knew we needed a lot of whisky, so we contacted distillers Tullibardine who very kindly offered to donate 65 litres for our menorah.

"The whisky itself is really nice. It's smooth, mellow and has a slightly fruity flavour.

"I have been on a tour of the distillery and the management there have been so helpful, accommodating and as excited as us about making this

menorah really special."

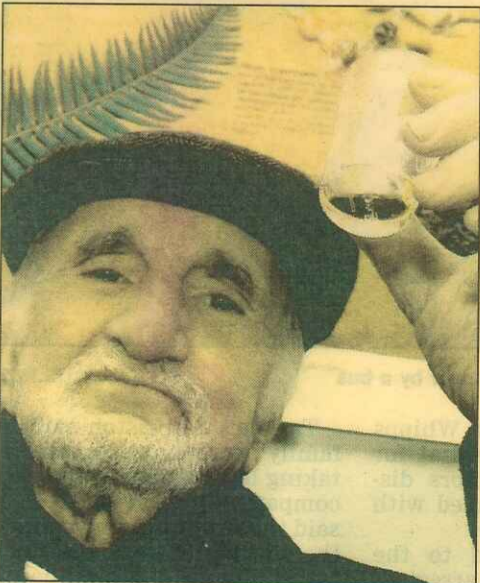
Whisky from the menorah was then auctioned off in bottles by Rabbi Brandman to raise money for a new centre for the area's Jewish community.

Chanukah is an eight-day holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Brandman's cousin, PC Jonathan Brandman - who was one of the officers on duty at the event - was asked to light one of the candles on the Queen's Road menorah.

He said: "I wasn't expecting to be asked.

"It is good to see so many people here enjoying themselves."



Joe Levi (left) raises a toast as Chanukah is celebrated in the right spirit. Right, dozens of people turned out for the celebrations



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