

Downing Street show for Ben Uri

BY JULIA WEINER

CHERIE BLAIR hosted a Downing Street reception for Ben Uri Gallery supporters, marking its 90th anniversary and the launch of a new patron scheme.

Mrs Blair spoke warmly and expertly about the museum, focusing on its progress since its renaissance nearly five years ago. She evinced particular interest in two forthcoming

exhibitions. "Children of Jerusalem Painting Pain, Dreaming Peace" — being launched at the House of Commons in November — features works by Israeli and Palestinian children.

She said the display reflected Britain's efforts towards bringing communities closer together and observed that the universal language of art was an appropriate method to pursue this end.

This other exhibition is "Jacob Epstein and Dora Gordine: Embracing the Exotic," which will highlight two immigrants' significant contribution to the British art scene.

Mrs Blair concluded by urging the new patrons to support the Ben Uri in its quest to acquire a centrally located building to house its collection and education programmes.

Chairman David Glasser thanked her for her genuine interest. He presented her with an honorary life membership and a copy of the recent book, "Jewish Museums of the World," which includes an article about Ben Uri. Over £250,000 was pledged during the evening.



The art of giving: Ben Uri chairman David Glasser presenting Cherie Blair with honorary life membership

Oxford's library

BY SIMON ROCKER

AN HISTORICALLY valuable library which survived the Nazi occupation of Holland has been donated to the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

The 30,000 titles, covering Dutch Jewry from the 17th century onwards, have been given by the Copenhagen family of Jerusalem and are the latest in a series of major book collections acquired by the centre in recent years.

Isaac Copenhagen — an Amsterdam scribe who died in 1905 — started the library. When the Nazis entered Holland in 1940, his grandson, Jacob, tried to preserve it at risk to his life, but was forced to go into hiding.

After liberation, he sought to retrieve the books. Some had been confiscated by the Nazis and had to be returned from Germany. Although part of the collection disappeared, some books periodically turned up in the post-war years.

Jacob Copenhagen made aliyah in 1969 and became the librarian for the Israel Broadcasting Authority. He died in 1997.

High level Jump role

BY DANIELLA PELED

AN ORGANISATION helping Jewish parents going through marital break-ups is the only ethnic minority support group invited to advise the government over proposed amendments to the Children and Adoption Bill.

Jewish Unity for Multiple Parenting (Jump) campaigns to raise awareness of post-divorce issues such as equal parenting and shared access at Jewish festivals. Jump representatives were yesterday scheduled to meet Baroness Morris and Lord Howe at the House of Lords to discuss mooted changes to the Bill, concerned with the welfare of children after parental separation, or during adoption.

A spokesman for the group said its work had clearly "struck a chord both inside and outside of our community."

"We will continue to do everything possible to ensure all children from separated and divorced families are able to share quality time and important social and Jewish events with each parent and their extended families."

Established four years ago, Jump is working to develop a Jewish parenting plan to be endorsed by the Chief Rabbi's Office.

Would you deny a child with poor hearing, a good education?

NORWOOD we.



Esther attends a small Jewish secondary school. She has hearing and visual difficulties and her speech is difficult to understand. Repeated educational failure has led to extremely low self-esteem.

The Educational Psychology team at Binoth, Norwood's learning support unit, assessed Esther and produced a report which led to Esther being given a Statement of Special Educational Needs by her local education authority. Norwood's involvement means that Esther will receive a substantial amount of specialist teaching, giving her more of a chance to reach her potential by learning with her peers.

Binoth is just one of the many ways Norwood is putting children & families first. To find out more call 020 8954 4555 or visit www.norwood.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1059050
Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Identities have been changed to protect confidentiality

NORWOOD
CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST