**Jewish London by Rachel Kolsky and Roslyn Rawson**

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R**eview by Gerald Normie for Wessex Jewish News (August 2012)**

Well, well, well! And that‘s not just because I found so many things I didn’t know before in this lavishly illustrated book. It’s also because this compendium of information about contemporary and historical Jewish London is well researched, well written and well presented. At the heart of the book are ten walking tours of parts of London which are of interest to the Jewish visitor and will also interest the Jewish Londoner.

Rachel Kolsky is a Blue Badge London guide and her detailed knowledge contributes to the skilled layout of the walks which are illustrated with detailed maps. Her co- author, Roslyn Rawson, has a legal background and is well informed about the Jewish London scene today. There is information about synagogues, restaurants, food, art and artists and many other things the visitor might like to know about.

In addition to the coverage of Central and North West London and detailed information about the old East End there are also sections about trips of Jewish interest outside London including Montefiore’s Ramsgate and Waddesdon Manor, the country house built by Ferdinand de Rothschild.

How up to date is the book? A guide book can never be entirely accurate as things change very quickly, particularly in London. The authors mention the delightful New End Theatre in Hampstead and note its presentation of many plays with Jewish themes. Just before the publication of the book in March this year it was announced that the theatre would be converted into Hampstead Village’s first ever synagogue-from player to prayer.

However the reader will find that, apart from small exceptions like this, the information presented is current, extremely useful and, I should add, also topical. There is a photograph in the section, Jewish Londoners, of the blue plaque on the former home of Harold Abrahams, the 100 metres Olympic gold medallist in 1924. Roslyn Rawson and Rachel Kolsky went for gold in this Olympic year and their achievement is something to celebrate.