



By Freddie and Clare (an EHC Production 5767)

## Editorial by Freddie

In this edition we have found out about Succoth, Shemini Atseret, and Simchat Torah. We asked other people how they celebrated Simchat Torah.

The festival of Succoth falls on Tishre the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the festival of Simchat Torah falls on Tishre 22/23.

Succot is a pilgrim festival which means that people would walk to Jerusalem to bring produce from the fields to the Temple

The festival of Succot has 4 names:

1. **Chag chag:** The festival of festivals
2. **Chag Ha'asif:** The festival of ingathering
3. **Zeman Simchatenu:** The time of our joy
4. **Succot:** Booths

The editors want to wish Mazel Tov to Benjamin, Sarah, Jessica on their recent Bat/Bar Mitzvahs. The next Barmitzvahs are Jonathan and Isaac which we are looking forward to.

Look out for our next edition - The Daily Dreidle coming shortly to a Synagogue near you.

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## Competition Time

**Design a flag for Simchat Torah on an A4 piece of paper. We will make flags from the best one to use next Simchat Torah**

## How to build a Succah

By Freddie

It is customary to start building the Succah the night after Yom Kippur. As soon as the fast ends and the meal is eaten the building of the Succah begins.

The next day work continues. In Israel Succahs are often made from wood or aluminium frames with blankets or sheets fixed to the frame to make walls. In England where the weather is colder a small hut is often used with wooden walls to keep the wind and rain out.

It must be a temporary building with 3 or 4 walls and a roof of branches which must not be living. We must be able to see the stars at night but have some shade from the sun (shelter from the rain). Children often decorate the Succah with paper chains and bags of fruit.

It is customary to eat in the Succah and invite people to eat with us.



We invite special guests from our past (**Ushpizim**). Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David and Solomon. Some people invite women from our past such as Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Leah, Miriam, Abigail and Esther.



# Simcha Celebrations 2

## The Lulav and Etrog

By Clare and Sarah-Beth

The Lulav and the Etrog are the names for plants and a fruit which on Sukkot we shake. Every day of Sukkot which is not Shabbat we shake the Lulav and the Etrog east, west, north, south, up and down. On the last day called Hoshannah Rabba we beat the Aravot (the willows).



The Etrog is yellow, citrus fruit that is similar to a lemon. The Lulav is made up of three different branches. The longest and the middle branch is from a palm tree and is called the Lulav. Another of the branches is myrtle this is called Hadasim. The last branch is willow which is called Aravot.

A popular explanation for using the Lulav and Etrog is that the different types of leaves symbolise the different types of people. The Etrog has a nice taste and a nice smell so this is said to be the Jews who learn Torah and do good deeds.

The Lulav has good tasting dates but no smell so this represents the Jews who learn Torah but do not do good deeds. The Hadasim has no taste but has a smell symbolising the Jews who do not know Torah but do good deeds. The Aravot has no smell and no taste so it symbolises the Jews who don't know Torah and don't do good deeds. The reason we hold these together is so that the things one person has makes up for the things another person is missing.

## CHol Ha-Moed by Clare

These are the last five days of Succoth. You can go to work and School but still use the lulav and etrog and live in the Succah

## Shemini atzeret

This is the last day of Succoth . A special prayer called Tefillat Ha Geshem is said which is the prayer for rain. Yiskor, the prayer for the dead is also recited

## Simchat Torah.

On Simchat Torah we celebrate the reading of the last portion of the Torah and the start of the new cycle of reading from the beginning. We take all the Torahs out of the Ark and process 7 times around the Shul. Different communities celebrate in different ways, with lots of dancing and sweets. (see next column). The next morning in the service every man has an aliya and even the children are called to the Bimah. A tallit is held over their heads and they all recite the blessings.

There are two special people called up. The first one called Chatan Torah (the Groom of Torah) is called up when the last verses are read and the second is Chatan Bereishit (the Groom of Genesis) when the first verse of the Torah is read. These aliyot are given to special people in the community.

## Freddie's flag





# Simcha Celebrations 3

## Simchat Torah - celebrations

In Edinburgh the children follow around behind the Procession (Hakafot) of Torahs and the ladies give the children sweets. The men and women dance either side of the Shul with the Torah.

We asked other people how they celebrated Simchat Torah when they were young.

All the children had an apple stuck on their flags. Each time they went round the Shul they took a bite from the apple and there would be lots of pips on the floor by the end. (Carol)

When we were young men, the Rabbi in our Shul had to ask us not to dance so much because the Chandelier above the ark was shaking. (Arnold).

Our Rabbi would march at the head of the procession with his Mazchor in one hand swinging a red road side lamp in his other. (Melissa)

We were given flags decorated with glitter. The flags had a picture of an ark and little doors opened to show the Torah inside. We were given a bag with sweets called Spangles and an orange. (Elaine)

We had flags with apples on top of the stick to stop us poking each others eyes out. We would visit several Shuls in the area and collect sweets from everyone. (Joy - Clare's Grandma).

	w	e	r	t	g	h	s	k	l	n
search	l	p	l	o	k	i	w	y	g	h
flag	u	f	g	b	h	u	e	s	e	u
lulav	l	n	g	a	r	t	e	e	d	s
Tishrei	a	i	r	t	e	t	t	t	v	h
sweets	v	o	g	h	r	a	s	r	c	p
Chag chag	t	i	s	h	r	e	i	o	b	i
etrog	g	a	w	s	e	d	f	g	h	z
torah	a	f	d	r	g	h	y	r	y	i
ushpizim	l	g	y	h	j	k	r	f	d	m
	f	c	h	a	g	c	h	a	g	b