



# RE Centres Southern Regional Group

<http://users.xalt.co.uk/recentresgroup/>

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## Letter from the Chair.....

I am writing this very late, it is Ash Wednesday and seems a long time ago since we met up at Welwyn Garden City, some of us feeling quite envious at the amount of space our dear friend Ron has at his disposal. As usual we had a wonderful lunch, a really good root around Ron's resources, both for loan and to buy, and an interesting meeting.

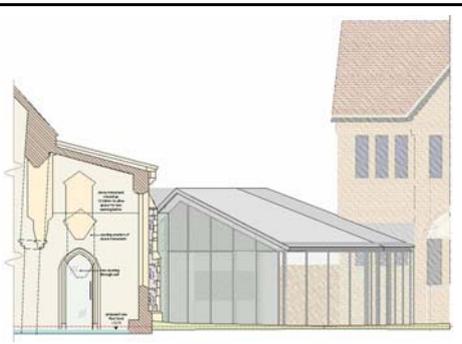
Then the intrepid journey into Neasden – some of us took the scenic route heading off in totally the wrong direction, but seeing a good deal of the outskirts of London on the way! The sight awaiting us when we did finally arrive was indescribable for those who have never visited the Hindu Temple built entirely by volunteers. This seems amazing to me, having a band of 13 who volunteer for me both in the shop and library – to be able to keep everyone on the right track, and then having a building of such intricacy being perfectly built at the end of it!

Having watched the video about the Temple, had a good look round and finally done the compulsory look through the resources in the gift shop, all too soon it was time to head out back to the M25 and home again, feeling the richer from the opportunities of the day. I look forward to seeing you all in July.

With blessings on all our work,

Shirley Nicholls

**St Nicholas' Centre**  
The new home for Shirley's Centre has just received planning permission.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference East Anglian Experience

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July  
St Michael's Centre, All Hallows Convent,  
Ditchingham  
Hosted by Shirley Nicholls,  
Suffolk Christian Resource Library  
£40 per person

Meet other faith tutors from Suffolk InterFaith Resource, check out the progress on the new home of Suffolk Christian Resource Library in St Nicholas' Church (see below left) and go shopping at *Revelations* bookshop.



Visit the amazing Anglo-Saxon royal burial site where the priceless Sutton Hoo treasure was discovered in a huge ship grave in 1939 and learn about our Pagan ancestors.

Visit the beach at Dunwich where there is now only one church left standing after years of erosion have taken approximately a mile from the town. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century St Felix was the bishop here at the centre of Christianity in East Anglia.

Visit Walsingham, one of the most famous towns during medieval times and again one of England's most important pilgrimage sites. See the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox shrines and take the opportunity to buy books, pictures, artefacts etc

[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)



# Making a digital video tour of Southsea Synagogue

Hampshire's RE team recently used the digital blue camera [see below] to film a virtual tour of Southsea Synagogue. The resulting film, burned onto CD-ROM, and accompanied by a teacher's resource booklet, is selling well to Hampshire schools.

The actual filming proved easy, assisted by a willing guide in the form of Julius Klein, the Jewish representative on Hampshire SACRE. It was not necessary to write a script or rehearse in any way – only a few clips required a second take – Julius was the ultimate professional! However, due to the fact that the camera's limit is four minutes of film, it was necessary to take along a laptop to download images before moving onto the next clip. For five minutes of edited film, we were two hours in the filming!

Then it was back to the ranch for the editing process. This was the more complicated part of the procedure, but, by accessing the *Help* facility (since the instructions booklet is very basic), and through trial and error, we were able to:

- build up a 'storyboard' from the individual clips filmed
- mute inappropriate background sound
- provide voiceover narrative with background music
- cut clips and insert others to ensure continuity
- decide what type of links between clips worked best
- insert titles, keywords and credits to the film in the typeface and colour of our choice.

Finally we were able to save the film onto recordable CD-ROM, thereby producing the film in a saleable package.



What did we learn from it?

- At times, three adults were required to work out filming and editing procedures in a device "recommended for ages 8 to adult", although we hope that the process will be easier next time around!
- Planning and continuity of filming clips is important – editing has its limitations.
- 5.27 minutes of film produced an 8.94 MB file. Video/audio files take up a lot of room on your computer.
- The quality of the film and sound is not as high as that provided by a more expensive digital video camera.

Remember that it is important to have the permission of individuals you are filming. Particular care should be taken when filming children.

Note that Becta produce an excellent free CD-ROM entitled *Teaching and Learning using Digital Video* which would be useful if you are considering using this medium. See [www.becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/](http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/) Next stop Hollywood!

Lydia Revett  
Hampshire County  
RE Centre

The CD-ROM and booklet are available price £15 from Lydia 01962 863134.

Digital Blue Movie Creator  
[www.playdigitalblue.com](http://www.playdigitalblue.com)  
Price £109.99 plus postage from Amazon



## Christmas and New Year in Jordan



Heather and a palm tree  
where Moses struck the rock for water

This was a truly wonderful experience! Nearly blown off Mount Nebo from where Moses was allowed to view the Promised Land before he died; scrambling down, watched by Bedouin goats and sheep, to find the rock that Moses struck to obtain water (Aqua Moussa); lunching, in my finery, with the British Ladies of Amman; watching bread baked in an open oven, all on view to passers-by in the street; sipping Arabic coffee with a local craftsman, having purchased some of his painted glass. A land of contrasts indeed! I had not known what to expect, in this Islamic country, in the way of Christmas celebrations – although I was staying with Malcolm and Veronica White. Malcolm had been our local vicar and member of the Advisory Committee of our RS Centre before he and Veronica trained with the Church Mission Society for their work in Jordan – Malcolm as the Anglican Chaplain for the English-speaking congregation in Amman. BUT - there were Christmas trees in shops, hotels and the church; I sang Christmas carols in English and Arabic; walked home from the traditional midnight service, dodging high pavement curbs and uneven flagstones - to be woken at 5 am by the muezzin at the top of the minaret of the local mosque calling the Islamic population to prayer. A 'family' Christmas meal introduced the different nationalities around the table to

turkey, pudding and cake! We sang in the New Year, in English, with the local Roman Catholic congregation, and another day saw a wedding of an Eritrean and a Sudanese, conducted in English and translated into Arabic so that both the Bride and Groom could make their responses.

Half an hour's drive from the city brought us to the Jordanian site of Christ's baptism, where the warmth allowed us to shed some of our winter clothing and walk by the banks of the River Jordan.

Another highlight was the visit to Petra – the ancient Nabatean city carved into the rose-coloured rock. I had not realised how large it was – walking through the *siq* (gorge between high-sided rocks), entering tombs along the way and taking photos, it was three hours before we stopped for refreshments of dates and water. We then continued for a fifty minute climb to Ed Deir, the monastery, for a magnificent view – and a cup of local tea – before clambering slowly back down, until Veronica and I decided to patronise the horse-drawn carriage trade! I had been walking for eight hours on what had been a truly memorable day.

I didn't want to leave – having been thoroughly spoilt and well looked-after; where, although seeming as if in a completely different world, I had felt quite at home. Future Christmas holidays could never be quite like this one in Jordan.

Heather Collins  
Slough RS Centre



Heather at Ed Deir (the Monastery) at Petra

## Some tips from Citizen Collins

“Legislation promotes the ideal of good citizenship and aims to equip children and young people with the skills and attitudes needed to be good citizens.”  
(Ecumenical Education Policy 2001).

At Slough, we have sorted many materials from the former PSE / PSHE and now PSME sections to resource our Citizenship section. Some publishers seem to have done the same, although many have produced new material and there is now a wide choice, from Big Books for the youngest - *How do you feel?* (Evans) and *Making Friends* (Cherrytree) to photocopiable *PSHE and Citizenship* for Key Stages 3 & 4 (Evans). Christian Aid publications are already well-known, particularly the pack, *Values in Action* and the Sathya Sai material on *Human Values and Citizenship* is worth looking at (EHV Promotions Ltd. The Glen, Cuckoo Hill, Pinner HA5 2BE).

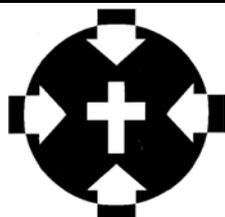
The Stapleford Centre has produced a series of four books entitled *Exploring Citizenship*. Alan Brown reports that it claims to approach the study of citizenship through “deep level questions asked by every community, questions that arise from the human condition itself”, but comments “whether the content of these slim books could ever live up to the cover blurb is a moot point, but they do contain some good ideas and some useful web addresses.” He adds that they are reasonably priced at £24 the set (£6.99 each).

There are plenty of publications about global concerns and world poverty, but *Faisal and Friends and the Litter*, mentioned in RMEP’s latest catalogue, is written for a multi-cultural audience of up to 7 years and deals with a very common problem in our environment. There are some videos mentioned on the same page (RMEP) that look interesting.

These are just some ideas - a taster from our present stock - but more appears regularly in the publishers’ catalogues. I will bring some to the Summer Conference, but please contact me at Slough if you wish to see a particular title. Maybe more will be on show at the CRE at Sandown Park 11th - 14th May - see you there?

Heather Collins  
Slough RS Centre

**Christian Resources Exhibition**  
Tuesday 11-Friday 14 May  
Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey  
01844 271476  
www.creonline.co.uk



## Jottings from Bath & Wells

### Neasdon Temple Visit



I made up an artefact box from things I bought during our visit in November, which has proved very popular as the items are a bit more unusual. Teachers have been impressed with the photographs and children like the brightly coloured door hangings.

### Money Matters

A subject of perennial interest to churches is fundraising so *The UK Church Fundraising Handbook* looks a useful buy (Canterbury Press ISBN 1-85311-516-9).

People are more sensitive about the subjects of stewardship, Christian attitudes to money, and debt, but there are good books from Credit Action ([www.creditaction.com](http://www.creditaction.com)) on all these topics: *Your Money and Your Life* book and video, a useful house group resource

*A Church's guide to helping people in debt*  
*What Christians should know about escaping from debt*  
*To will and to do: the Biblical principles of giving and inheritance*

Canterbury Press also publishes a worship anthology on generosity and giving called *First Fruits* (ISBN 1-85311-392-1).

### Story Sacks

A group of ladies from one of the Mothers' Unions has made five wonderful story sacks for us which we lend out to schools and churches. The idea is to encourage individual MUs to work with their local schools to provide tailor-made story sacks and, at the same time, develop a school/church link.

### Help!

We computerised the centre last summer. We keep our reader bar codes filed alphabetically on A4 sheets (10 per sheet) in plastic wallets in a large folder. This poses a problem of how to integrate new borrowers alphabetically - and the folder is beginning to fall apart! We considered a Roladex but the cards seem to fall out too easily. Any ideas on a post card please.....  
[resourcecentre@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:resourcecentre@bathwells.anglican.org)

Sue Bloomfield  
Bath & Wells Education Resource Centre