

**OTTO SCHIFF CBE MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED
IN RESTORED MANSION AT NETHERHALL GARDENS**

4th July 2017 –**Otto Schiff House** at **14 Netherhall Gardens** received a special memorial plaque in its reception foyer to commemorate **Otto Schiff CBE**; an extraordinary man who lived and then worked in the property from the early 1920s. Otto Schiff was responsible for administering the emigration of tens of thousands of Jewish people from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia before the Holocaust.

In celebration of the plaque unveiling, David Rauch, **Trustee** of **Wiener Library** attended; alongside Rafi Cooper, Director of Communications at **World Jewish Relief**; Michael Newman, the Chief Executive of **The Association of Jewish Refugees** and Paul Godfrey, Managing Director of **Godfrey London**. Tal Orly, CEO of **Cogress Ltd.** also attended alongside Otto Schiff's nephew Hugh Sassoon and great niece Julia Shelley.

Otto Schiff was born in Frankfurt in 1875. The nephew of banker Jacob Schiff, he emigrated to London in 1896 at the age of 21, becoming a partner in the merchant banking firm Bourke, Schiff & Co. Known for his philanthropy, Otto Schiff became instrumental in supporting Jewish refugees escaping Nazi persecution. He set up the Jewish Refugees Committee in 1933 and worked tirelessly alongside the British Home Office to house and financially support the thousands of Jewish refugees seeking asylum.

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The locally listed mansion at **14 Netherhall Gardens** was originally built between 1879-1888, designed by British architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912), who also designed the Piccadilly Hotel and the architectural heritage monument, Flora Fountain, in Mumbai in 1864.

Otto Schiff acquired **14 Netherhall Gardens** in the early 1920s. Originally destined to be his family home, he converted the mansion into offices in the 1930s to confront the refugee crisis.

Throughout his time as head of the Jewish Refugees Committee, Otto Schiff assisted many of the estimated 60,000 Jewish people who fled from occupied Europe to England. Otto Schiff received a CBE from King George VI for his commendable efforts and achievements in assisting in saving the lives of Jewish refugees during the Holocaust.

After his death in 1952, Otto Schiff bequeathed his mansion as a Trust and care home for victims and refugees of Nazi persecution. **14 Netherhall Gardens** was subsequently named **Otto Schiff House** and operated as an independent care home until it was incorporated into Jewish Care in 2010 and later relocated to Golders Green.

With the financial support of exit-oriented property investment firm **Cogress**, which raised £3,400,000 of equity, boutique developer **Godfrey London** has now restored **Otto Schiff House** to its original purpose of residency by transforming the care home into seven luxury apartments. **Godfrey London** has also constructed **Otto Schiff Mansions**, a neighbouring new-build development on the property's vast grounds.

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Godfrey London have ensured that the original interiors of **Otto Schiff House** have been carefully restored to preserve the Victorian country house and Gothic revival style architectural features designed by Richard Norman Shaw. Large bay windows and stain glass windows still dominate the entrance hall of the mansion, alongside the original fireplace and grand staircase.

The plaque, installed in the **Otto Schiff House** reception foyer, is a fitting reminder of the remarkable history of the mansion. The important charitable work of Otto Schiff is reflected in the guests attending the unveiling, representing both the Anglo-Jewish community and the organisations Otto Schiff helped to found, which continue the work in aiding refugees.

David Rauch, **Trustee of Wiener Library** states: “Not only is **Otto Schiff House** a building of historical importance, it is also a symbol of how the work and values of one man helped to save thousands of lives. Through the renovation of the mansion and the new plaque, **Godfrey London** has helped to preserve the memory of Otto Schiff”.

Rafi Cooper, **Director of Communications for World Jewish Relief**, said: “Otto Schiff was an extraordinary advocate for Jewish refugees; without his drive and vision, our organisation would not exist today, let alone be helping refugees who have fled war and persecution. This plaque is an important recognition of the countless people who are alive today because of his determination”.

Michael Newman, **Chief Executive of The Association of Jewish Refugees** comments: “Otto Schiff and the home he founded are synonymous with the Jewish refugees who fled Nazi oppression; the plaque dedicated to his memory will stand in perpetuity in celebration of his visionary humanitarian work ”.

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Tal Orly, **Chief Executive Officer of Cogress Ltd.** comments: “The Netherhall Gardens development is a great addition to our diverse portfolio of property investments. We’re honoured to offer our network of qualified investors the opportunity to invest in a project with such a moving and inspiring history, and in doing so preserve the memory of Otto Schiff.”

Paul Godfrey, **Managing Director of Godfrey London** comments: “The history of **Otto Schiff House** is both significant and touching. It is something that deserves to be commemorated and we are delighted at the support we have received from the various organisations linked to Otto Schiff’s life and charitable works. The new apartments in **Otto Schiff House** and the pavilion building, **Otto Schiff Mansions**, still preserve the wonderful history of the original mansion”.

Apartments at **14 Netherhall Gardens** are available from £2,400,000 for a two-bedroom apartment (250 year lease). For further sales and visiting information contact joint sole agents **Goldschmidt & Howland** on T 020 7435 4404 / www.g-h.co.uk and **Savills (Hampstead office)** on Tel 020 7472 5000 / www.savills.co.uk
For further information on **Godfrey London** contact T 020 8209 3048 or visit www.godfreylondon.co.uk

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For further press information on **14 Netherhall Gardens** or **Godfrey London** contact **Lawrie Cornish Ltd** on Tel 020 7935 4084:

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Notes to Editors:

About Godfrey London:

Godfrey London creates exquisite apartments and houses in some of London's finest locations. We are renowned for upholding exceptional standards of quality through both the sympathetic revival of fine heritage buildings and in the creation of residential-led new build schemes. Our highly skilled internal team channels a breadth of expertise into a holistic approach to development from conception to completion. We work alongside carefully selected partners and premium brands and use only the highest quality fixtures and fittings to ensure each Godfrey London home reflects our quest for perfection.

About Cogress LTD:

Cogress is an FCA regulated, unique private equity firm connecting qualified investors with leading property developers. With low entry levels, our investment model provides access to property development opportunities usually reserved for the largest investors. Each opportunity is carefully vetted and aimed at sharing profits on exit. Since 2014, Cogress has raised more than £120m in equity, invested in more than 35 UK projects with a gross development value of more than £650 million.

About World Jewish Relief:

World Jewish Relief is the UK Jewish community's humanitarian agency. We were founded to support those fleeing war and persecution from Nazi Europe, including through the Kindertransport. We now support the world's poorest Jewish communities, helping older Jews with their every need - food, housing, medicine and companionship - whilst ensuring the next generation can find work and escape poverty. We lead the UK Jewish community's response whenever international disaster strikes. Our Jewish values extend through everything we do, driving us to support those living in extreme poverty and to empower communities to support themselves.

About Wiener Library:

The Wiener Library is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era. Formed in 1933, the Library's unique collection of over one million items includes published and unpublished works, press cuttings, photographs and eyewitness testimony. The Wiener Library traces its roots back to Germany in the 1920s and was founded by Dr Alfred Wiener, who brought his collection to the UK in 1938. Today, the collection is among the largest and most respected in the world and continues to grow. In 2011 it moved to new premises in Russell Square and began a programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve access and open its collections to the widest possible audience. In 2013, the Wiener Library celebrated its 80th anniversary year. The vision of the Wiener Library is to have a continuously developing library, archive and information service for the UK and for the international community, dedicated to supporting research, learning, teaching and advocacy about the Holocaust and genocide, their causes and consequences.

www.wienerlibrary.co.uk

About The Association of Jewish Refugees (The AJR):

The AJR is the leading national charitable organisation exclusively delivering social, welfare and volunteer services to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression living in Great Britain.

The AJR supports Holocaust education and research projects and initiatives to commemorate the Holocaust.

AJR Chief Executive, Michael Newman, is a member of the UK delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which brings together governments and nongovernmental organisations to raise awareness of the Holocaust and places political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research.