

Green Team News

Issue 14: Iyar 5786 / April 2026

Welcome to EHC's Green Team News. Contributions are welcome from any member of the community – if you have visited an interesting environmental project, discovered a relevant book, radio programme/podcast or TV show or if you have ideas from your garden that you would like to share. Please contact The Green Team through notifications.ehc4@gmail.com. **Please note that after this month we will be moving to a quarterly newsletter and the deadline for the next edition is 8 July.** The most recent newsletter will be uploaded to the [Green Team page of the EHC website](#) shortly after publication.

Nissan Blossom



Finally blossom has arrived in the EHC orchard! Rabbi Rose sent us a photo with the following message: 'Made a blessing on our first budding fruit tree.'

When one sees blossoming fruit trees for the first time during the month of Nissan, one should say this blessing:

'Blessed are You, Lord G-d, King of the Universe whose world lacks nothing and who made wondrous creations and beautiful trees for human beings to enjoy.'

In Australia and other countries in the southern hemisphere, where the trees blossom during the months of Elul and Tishrei, the blessing can be said at that time instead.



<https://www.ehcong.com/jewish-edinburgh/green-team/>

Garden Notes

Shirley and Peter Bennet have kindly given us their patio set which we plan to put in the lower garden for people to enjoy sitting on when the sun comes out!

The gardeners have been working hard to keep the garden in trim.



Carmel watering the compost bin



Howie and Jonathan clearing the ground for planting



The new shed!



Ethel pruning the bushes

Newcastle Reform garden visit



A group from fellow Eco Judaism members Newcastle Reform Synagogue visited on 12 April to meet EHC's Green Team, including a tour of the garden and a bagel lunch, which gave us an opportunity to exchange ideas about sustainability and other themes of mutual interest. John Danzig then took the visitors on a tour around the shul building.

On Yer Bikes!



Three bike anchors are now in place in the forecourt of EHC with Jonathan Adler shown here fixing the last one in place. Many thanks Jonathan!

Visit to Millerhill Recycling Centre

**MILLERHILL
RECYCLING VISIT**

Have you ever wondered what happens to your rubbish? Millerhill uses our landfill to power electricity and heat homes instead of burying it which just allows methane to build up underground.

SEE HOW USING LANDFILL HEATS HOMES
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 10 ALLOWED IN ANY GROUP SO REGISTER AS SOON AS YOU CAN!
NOTIFICATIONS.EHC4@GMAIL.COM

EHC GREEN TEAM MILLERHILL RECYCLING CENTRE 2:30pm MAY 24

We have been given the unique opportunity of visiting this local centre on a Sunday!

Date: **Sunday 24 May at 2.30 pm** which we hope will suit many of our members and friends. Please register your interest here to join our visit by Thursday 30 April notifications.ehc4@gmail.com.

Diary Date

A reminder to write **June 13 EHC Eco Shabbat Kiddunch** in your diaries.

Feel Good End to an 'Uplifting' Mystery



A Council uplift was arranged for 3 large broken items in the garden. And on the day it looked like all had gone to plan but then a notification from the Council said they couldn't take them as they weren't there and to 'please arrange another date'...! Then the items were spotted in the Salisbury Centre's front garden. CCTV showed a female cyclist moving them from the gate and as it turned out, next door was able to contact her. This is what she had to say:

"Given the political context in the wider world and recently had been told some narratives from Jewish people around me about attacks, I thought that it was some sort of hate crime of people blockading the exit. I understood the sign on the entrance gate saying something along the lines of "do not obstruct/keep clear", it was the night just before or on the exact night of the start of Passover and I thought that that was why whoever had put the objects there had done so as a political statement.

"Having interpreted it as this, I felt conflicted, do I leave someone's act of protest as a signal for those in the synagogue or do I remove it as an act of goodwill so the people in the Synagogue didn't have to receive it. It being Passover I felt moved to move it from a place of goodwill so that the people at the Synagogue would not have come to find their entrance blocked.

"The objects of wood held together by wire and a trolley felt like makeshift blockade objects!

"I moved them out of sight into the Salisbury garden thinking that if the people who had done it saw them on the street they would re-block it. I had planned to come out after to return and clean it up but I was hosting that evening and completely forgot. Salisbury is a familiar and friendly space to me so I instinctively did that but I am so sorry I left it there. I appreciate it was littering and also confusing so I am very sorry for that.

"Clearly I completely misunderstood the situation! I am sorry for the impact on you and the centre and those at the Synagogue.

"I would be very happy to speak with those at the Synagogue to explain as well as do anything or support with any aspects on the Salisbury side to help resolve or take care of this practically or relationally with/for you or anyone else."

I am delighted to say that the Salisbury Centre has recycled our broken outdoor metal shelf to use the pieces in their greenhouse. And another uplift date for the remaining two items has been arranged.

Advice from RSPB re bird feeders



You may have heard in the news that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has issued new advice regarding bird feeders, in order to avoid the risk of disease for some much-loved garden birds.

Full details can be found here <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds>.

To summarise the advice:

1. Take a break from feeding between 1st May to 31st October ("feed seasonally, feed safely")

However, if you do feed:

2. Small amounts of meal worms, fat balls or suet (enough for 1 or 2 days) can be offered all year round
3. Clean feeders thoroughly once per week
4. Move feeders to a new location after each clean to prevent the buildup of contaminated debris
5. Water should only be provided if it can be changed daily using only fresh tap water
6. Clean bird baths weekly

Recycling Reminders

Please remember to put **recyclables** - cardboard, paper, recyclable napkins and rinsed out plastic tubs, bottles, milk containers - into the red **'Recycle' Bin**.

Non-recyclables go into the red **'Landfill' Bin**.

Rinsed out **plastic bags** go into the **'Soft Recycling'** bag hung on the cupboard handle in the kitchen.

Glass bottles go into the **Blue Box** under the dishwasher or outside in the blue box.

Non cooked food waste – vegetable and fruit peel etc into **garden compost bin** in EHC garden.

Cooked food waste into green **council compost bin** on kitchen counter.

Eco Judaism One Green Step – Iyar



The poster features a logo with a birdhouse and a bird, and the text 'eco judaism One Green Step Iyar Eco Judaism Counts'. It includes the text: 'As we count the Omer Let's count how we, as Jews, are enhancing biodiversity across the UK Send us photos/details or a 20 second video clip of: Eco gardens/vertical gardens/planting schemes/bird boxes/bird feeders/bee hotels/ponds In your community outside spaces/your gardens or balconies at home Email: welcome@ecojudaism.org.uk To be showcased in our Summer Newsletter and Awards Celebration Even in difficult times, we count Chodesh Tov!' and an illustration of a beehive.

eco judaism
One Green Step
Iyar
Eco Judaism Counts

As we count the Omer
Let's count how we, as Jews, are enhancing biodiversity
across the UK

Send us photos/details or a 20 second video clip of:
Eco gardens/vertical gardens/planting schemes/bird
boxes/bird feeders/bee hotels/ponds
In your community outside spaces/your gardens or balconies
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Celebration

Even in difficult times, we count
Chodesh Tov!



As we count the Omer let's count how we, as Jews, are enhancing biodiversity across the UK.

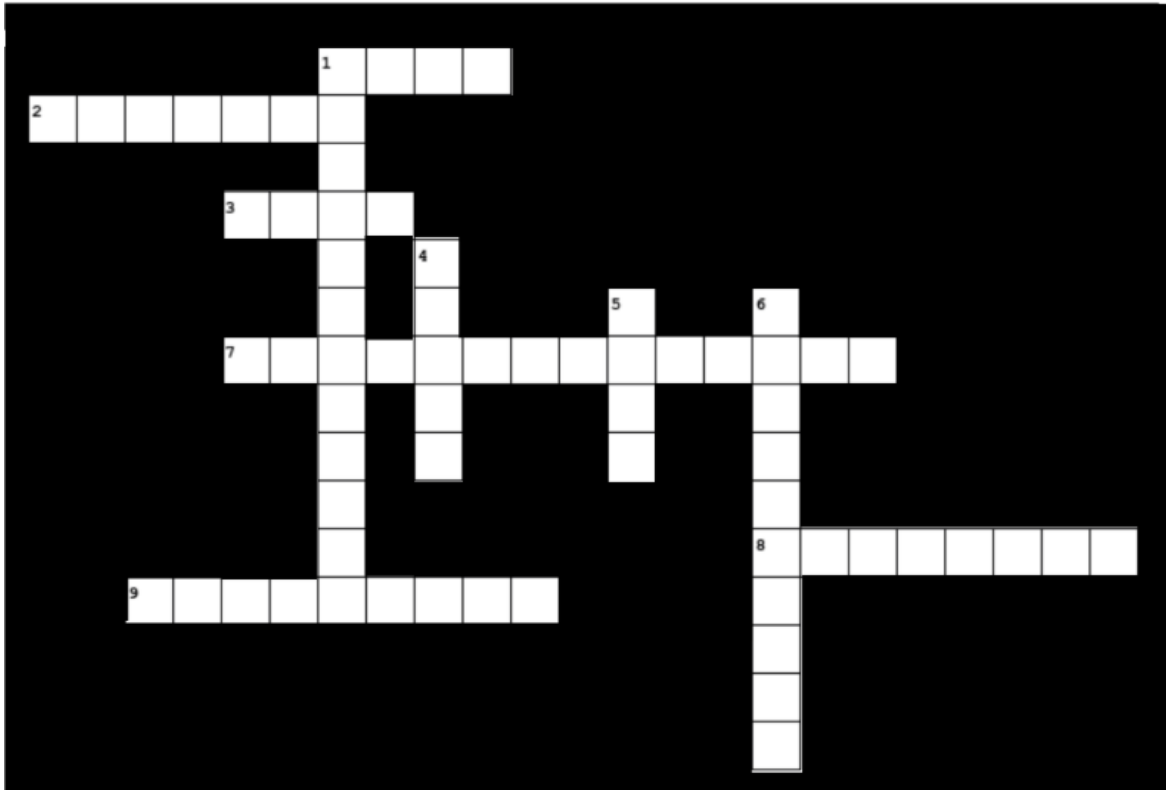
Send us photos/details of a 20-second video clip of eco gardens/vertical gardens/planting schemes/bird boxes/bird feeders/bee hotels/ponds in your community outside spaces/your gardens or balconies at home.

Email: welcome@ecojudaism.org.uk.

To be showcased in our Summer Newsletter and Awards Celebration.

Green Team Crossword Iyar 5786

All the answers are inspired by last month's newsletter.



Across

1. No tears required for tools (4)
2. Firm reversing bee colony reductions (7)
3. Supplier to Passover single-use plastic (4)
7. Flush with handwash (6,1,7)
8. When is a hive not a hive (8)
9. Cause of Windrush wildlife deaths (3,6)

Down

1. Bee contribution to food production [percent] (12)
4. Move to what for Pesach (5)
5. Recycling visit month (3)
6. Powered by landfill (10)

Solutions to Nissan crossword

Across

2. Tu B'Shevat caterer (5,1) **Merav G**
6. Flight of treble b objectives (3,3,4,5) **Bat and bird boxes**
7. Mild clashes for members (5,3,7) **Leeks and rhubarb**
8. Descent of future plans (5,6) **Lower garden**
9. Tree communications (4,4,3) **Wood wide web**
10. New EHC saplings count (6) **Twelve**
11. Protects Mediterranean (4) **SPNI**

Down

1. Increasing Scottish wealth returns (3,8,7) **The Circular Economy**
3. New orchard initially publicised (2,2,2) **JC, JT, JN**
4. IMMRAC studies (9) **Cetaceans**
5. Body of natural Scottish things (10) **NatureScot**
6. Bushes still to plant (5) **Berry**