

Green Team News

Issue 15: Summer 2026

Welcome to EHC's Green Team News, now issued quarterly. 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. **The deadline for the next edition is 4 October.** The most recent newsletter will be uploaded to the [Green Team page of the EHC website](#) shortly after publication.

MAZAL TOV EHC!!!



EcoJudaism Gold Award Presentation to EHC

On 14th June, Howie Carson accepted our much-deserved Gold Award from EcoJudaism which took place inside the pavilion building of [Brent Cross Town](#) (north London). Pitched as a "Park Town", Brent Cross Town - a former brownfield site - is a newly developed estate located in and amongst the concrete jungle surrounding the North Circular Road and Brent Cross shopping centre (for those who know it, I think you'll agree this is a sympathetic description). Most strikingly about this new "Park Town", however, is the result of a commitment to provide beautifully landscaped green spaces for the community and visitors to engage with. In addition to tree and flower-lined, boulevard-style streets beneath the high-rise tower blocks (of course!), there is a large pond, VERY large children's playground and fields, all with spaces dedicated to promoting biodiversity in view. Rarely, compared to estate planning in the Lothian region (at least), there is even a parade of newly built shops that includes a Jewish-run bakery! Speaking of diversity, one of the highlights of the trip for Howie was seeing so many Jewish and Muslim families playing happily side-by-side in the children's playground.



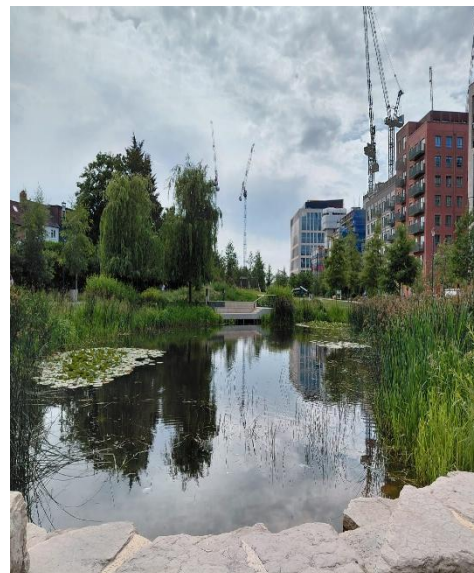
<https://www.ehcong.com/jewish-edinburgh/green-team/>

Of the event itself, there were approximately 50 attendees coming all the way from Edinburgh to Brighton. There was much mingling in a wonderful modern exhibition space at the centre of the [pavilion](#); Pimms, fruit and pastry platters were provided in copious amounts. Everyone was very excited to meet Howie, having travelled all the way for the event and having heard about our new orchard at EHC. Notably, a representative from Finchley Reform Synagogue approached him to discuss connecting in the future for advice as they embark on their Eco journey - our reputation is already spreading! Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, the founder of EcoJudaism, hosted a wonderful interview with Merlin Hanbury-



Tenison, an ex-military veteran, who has set up [Cabilla](#), a tropical rainforest retreat in Cornwall designed to promote mental healing. With a lot of enthusiasm, sadly alongside a lot of tech issues, EcoJudaism then announced the launch of their new major project to redevelop an abandoned space by the Brent Cross Flyover (with built-in fundraising opportunity!). Finally, awards were presented during the event's finale with cheers, mazel tov and simantov-ing (in true bar/batmitzvah-style), confetti,

photos and smiles. Well done to all those in the Green Team who made this award possible!



Orchard Notes

After the Nissan blossom all the new fruit trees have sported beautiful fruit. But sadly we couldn't let the fruit mature as the 'Orla' rule means that halachically we are not allowed to pick, use or even give away any of the fruit in the first three years of planting. The fruit has been removed and the trees growth will benefit from this action. We are looking forward to 2028 when we will have our first harvest.



Meantime the fight with the weeds continues. Unfortunately, although the wood chips look lovely they have not done the job so we have now laid down garden weed control membrane in between the trees. The intention is to leave it for the Summer then lift it with the hope the weeds will have died.

However, we will have cucumbers and looks like a few tomatoes too! Broad beans are in full flow, some potatoes, garlic and onions on the way.

On Yer Bikes - padlock available!

With the new bike anchors in place, a bike lock with key is available for users. Just ask security in the foyer. After usage please replace on window shelf in foyer before riding off!

Visit to Millerhill Recycling Centre in May



Yes, that's nine of us, top to toe in full protective gear, getting ready for the tour of the Centre.

The official description of the centre is that it's a thermal treatment plant which processes 155,000 tonnes of local residual non-hazardous material annually. It works 24/7 burning landfill. We learnt that there are no landfill sites now where rubbish is buried but instead after the recyclable material is removed the remainder is burnt to produce electricity and heat.

A by-product of this process results in over 38 tonnes of ash which is used in the construction industry. Definitely conforming to the Circular Economy!

We had a very informative and interesting visit led by Georgios Tsikas, the Lead Administrator, who very kindly arranged the visit on our request for a Sunday afternoon.

EIFA Ladies Group Visit



On June 7th Carol Levstein arranged tours for a group of ladies from a variety of religions under the auspices of EIFA (Edinburgh Interfaith Association). Before taking a tour of the main Shul, they enjoyed a tour of the Biblical Garden. We were then treated to refreshments of the Seven Species after which John led them upstairs to show them the Shul and tell its history.

Extra Tables for the Green Team's Eco Kiddush!

A very well attended vegetarian Eco Shabbat Kiddush prepared in house by the Team, was held on June 13th. A colourful display of brown mushroom pate, red beetroot humous, green broad bean dip, yellow egg mayo, potato salad to eat with crackers, with gluten-free apple cupcakes and chocolate chip cookies to follow. A bowl of apples was offered on each table. Mint and lemon balm water was available to drink. The ingredients were a mixture of EHC garden and as local as possible produce.

Lesley gave a talk on apples - the history, the medicinal qualities and an update on the orchard. Who knew that an apple a day really might keep the doctor away?!!!

Looking After the Birds - Fatballs.....

After the advice by the RSPB not to feed seeds to the birds from May to October, we invited the Cheder children to help make fatball holders created from twigs and twine by one of EcoJudaism's members.

The kids also helped to plant geraniums and weeded some of the garden.

Date for your diaries – Seven Species Market

Sunday 30th August

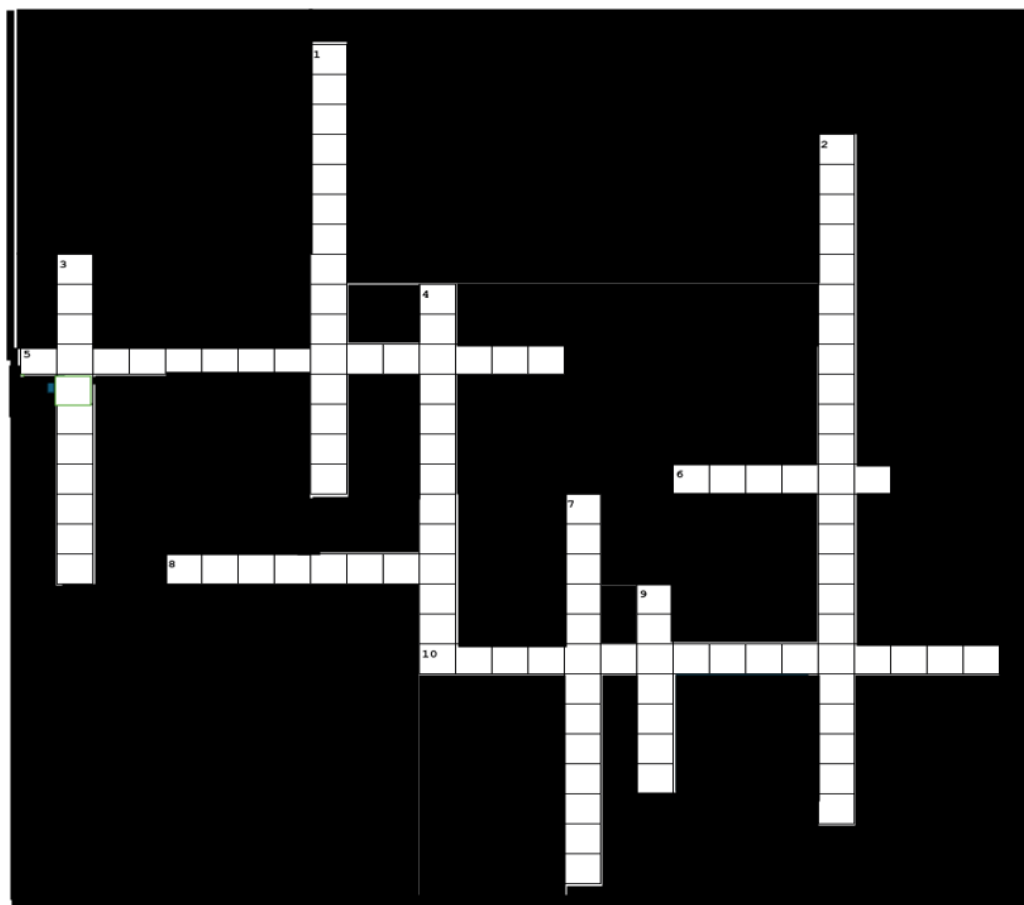
Craft Stalls, Tea Making Workshop, Biblical Garden Tours, Food and more.

More details coming soon.



Green Team Crossword – Summer 2026

All the answers are inspired by Green Team Newsletter issue 14 (April).



Across

- 5. April visit from fellow Ecojudaism members (9,6)
- 6. Hebrew month for special blessing when fruit tree first blossoms (6)
- 8. Increasingly heats homes (8)
- 10. Non-cooked food waste destination (6,6,3)

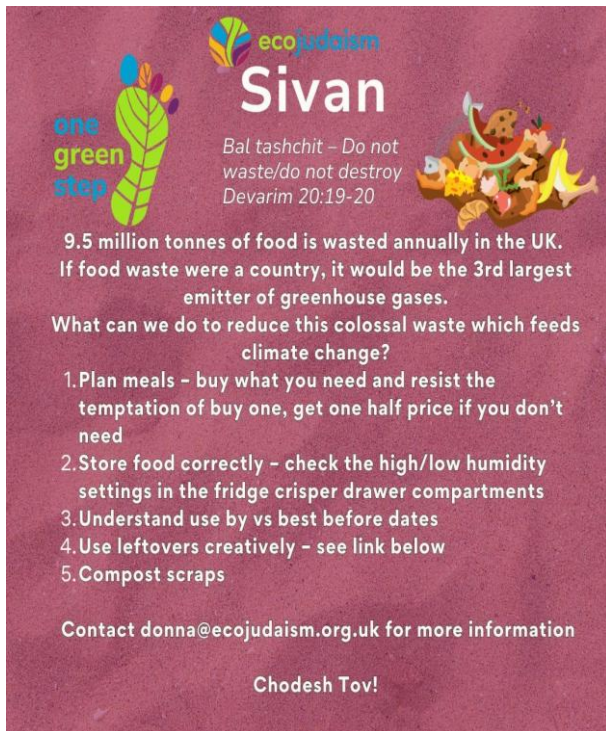
Down

- 1. Location of uplifting mystery (9,6)
- 2. Summer food for birdfeeders (9,3,5,2,4)
- 3. Three now installed in forecourt (4,7)
- 4. Bin for plastic bags (4,9)
- 7. Donor of new patio set (7,1,5)
- 9. Bin for milk containers (7)

SOLUTIONS TO ISSUE 14 CROSSWORD: **Across:** 1. No tears required for tools (4) **Shed**; 2. Firm reversing bee colony reductions (7) **Beewise**; 3. Supplier to Passover single-use plastic (4) **Ikea**; 7. Flush with handwash (6,1,7) **Baylis & Harding**; 8. When is a hive not a hive (8) **Robotics**; 9. Cause of Windrush wildlife deaths (3,6) **Raw sewage**. **Down:** Bee contribution to food production [percent] (12) **Seventy-five**; 4. Move to what for Pesach (8) **China**; 5. Recycling visit month (3) **May**; 6. Powered by landfill (10) **Millerhill**

EcoJudaism One Green Step

Sivan



eco judaism
Sivan
*Bal tashchit – Do not waste/do not destroy
Devarim 20:19-20*

one green step

9.5 million tonnes of food is wasted annually in the UK. If food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

What can we do to reduce this colossal waste which feeds climate change?

1. Plan meals – buy what you need and resist the temptation of buy one, get one half price if you don't need
2. Store food correctly – check the high/low humidity settings in the fridge crisper drawer compartments
3. Understand use by vs best before dates
4. Use leftovers creatively – see link below
5. Compost scraps

Contact donna@ecojudaism.org.uk for more information

Chodesh Tov!

Tammuz



eco judaism
One Green Step
Tammuz
A Hot Topic

☀️ **34.8c** at Kew Gardens on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. The hottest May temperature on record

☀️ **Climate change** is right here, in the UK!

☀️ **Plants:** To keep your plants alive, water early morning or late evening to avoid evaporation. Install a water butt to collect rainwater for your garden

☀️ **Let your lawn grow:** Leave parts of your lawn untrimmed to provide food and shelter for bees and butterflies

☀️ **Make your own air con unit:** Place blue freezer blocks in a metal saucepan in the air flow of a normal fan

☀️ **Choose ocean-safe sunscreen:** Many traditional sunscreens contain chemicals that bleach coral reefs and damage marine life. Switch to a reef-safe brand eg. Nivea Protect & Moisturise Sunscreen SPF30

☀️ **Travel:** Choose train over air travel for your summer holiday to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Chodesh Tov!

Av



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One Green Step
AV
Share the Love on Tu B'Av

Tu B'Av – 15th Av which falls just a few days after Tisha B'Av is the ancient Jewish **Festival of Love**. According to the Mishnah, young women dressed in white danced in the vineyards and marriage proposals were made. It was a vibrant celebration of nature, community and continuity

This **Tu B'Av** let's show the next generation the **love**. Consider hosting a social gathering, or singles event, offering locally sourced vegetarian foods and zero disposables - sharing joy, continuity and a thriving planet for the next generation

Chodesh Tov!

LOVE