

# Green shoots of renewal emerge with help of HGS Synagogue



HGS Synagogue group in Lvov

Our magical journey through the Ukraine began in Kiev in July and wended its way across the country until it reached the HGS twin community in Western Ukraine, the beautiful city of Lvov. Travelling through the countryside was like travelling back in time to a land of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Fields of wheat, rye and buckwheat were shot through with red poppies and wild flowers. Sour cherries hung from trees and by the roadside, country folk sold juicy blueberries and ripe redcurrants. Horses and carts were more common than cars and village pumps provided water for the wooden houses. Storks nested on chimney tops and flocks of geese and ducks waddled down the roads directed by women with red kerchiefs and sturdy sticks.

Our group visited sites famous in the Jewish world, graves of world renowned Rabbis and abandoned synagogues laid waste by the Nazis during the last war.

Then to our twin community in Lvov, where our financial support helps to fund a school

for over 100 children. Some of these poor students rely on the school to feed them one hot and healthy meal each day.

Unemployment is endemic and average wages are only \$70 per month, even though the cost of a pair of shoes is the same as in London!

Thanks to our help, Rabbi Bald and his wife can provide food for poor families, a soup kitchen for the elderly and a first class education for the children aged from 2 to 18 years.

Under Soviet rule, religion was suppressed but since independence in 1991 there has been a revival of Jewish life. Churches have been built and

Synagogues restored. The Jewish children of Lvov and their families are once again able to practice their religion and learn about Jewish culture. We watched performances by the children and we enjoyed Friday night and Saturday Services in the Synagogue. We broke bread with old and young and sang songs together. It was a memorable and humbling experience which we hope to repeat next summer. As Mrs Bald told us in an email sent upon our return, "More than the money, which enables us to eat, your visit shows the people that you really care for them and will not forget them. Thank you."

GILL FREEDMAN



Bringing in the hay



Lvov opera house



The restored synagogue in Skver

## Temple Fortune danger

The ombudsman's office has responded to the Residents Association's letter of complaint about Barnet's lack of consultation over the Temple Fortune 'improvements'. They maintain that the council had complied with the 'appropriate consultation' laid down by the Finchley and Golders Green Environment Committee. The RA will continue to press for changes on safety grounds highlighted by the ROSPA report commissioned by the RA. Siddiek Meer, who chairs the RA's Roads and Traffic committee asked that residents write to him (123 Erskine Hill NW11 6HU) with details of any incidents that occur in Temple Fortune. He announced at the RA council in September that Barnet, after many denials that it was dangerous, have now agreed to a refuge in to the zebra crossing near the Post Office.

### RA New Year Celebrations

Be there, on the Square!

FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER  
10.45pm-12.15am

Wine (sponsors: the Suburb Trust) and nibbles in St Jude's Church, Central Square, NW11, followed by fireworks (sponsors: the Residents Association) on Central Square.  
Admission free

The revolutionary **all-in-one** Air Conditioning system with a built in condenser



UNICO



- No external condensers or pipe work required
- Easy installation from within the room
- Discreet external grilles
- Quiet, high efficiency cooling and heating
- WxHxD mm 870 x 400 x 280
- Prices start from £895.00 excl VAT

acacia  
air

T 020 7644 0558 [www.acacia-air.co.uk](http://www.acacia-air.co.uk)

berriys

landscaping  
design  
patios  
planting  
drives

020 8209 0194

maintenance  
turfing  
watering systems  
fencing  
lighting



Caring for the Suburb for 20 years

Fine Art

home and property insurance



020 8658 4334

zen

Brownhill Morris and West  
(insurance services) Ltd

e-mail [masterpiece@brownhills.org](mailto:masterpiece@brownhills.org) [www.brownhills.org](http://www.brownhills.org)