

80 trees for 80 years



80
YEARS
1941-2021

This winter, to mark our 80th anniversary, the AJR will be planting 80 native oak trees around Britain in honour of people and places that symbolise the enormous contribution of Jewish refugees. And we would love you to get involved.

This exciting and high profile project has already caught the imagination of dozens of communities around the UK, who will be organising local activities around the tree planting ceremonies.

As well as helping to mark the heritage of our members these trees will enable the AJR to give back to and create a living legacy within the country that became our home. Britain's native oak trees are in decline and new trees are desperately needed. Our 80 trees will be appreciated by future generations and provide natural habitats for other native species for many decades to come.

Each tree will also act as a platform for telling the story of Britain's Jewish refugees and celebrating the remarkable contribution that we have made to every walk of British life. Local publicity activity will focus on this and we will also be planting a time capsule alongside the roots of every tree, containing the life story of one or more AJR members.

Logistically, this is an enormous project which requires significant resources and support. So we are delighted to be working with a number of key organisations, including **The Tree Council, The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, The Jewish Small Communities Network and The Holocaust Educational Trust.**

80 Trees for 80 Years has also been welcomed by the organisers of **The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)** – the

unique tree planting initiative which will mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Its Head of Communications has described the AJR's own project as a "wonderful initiative".

Overleaf are more details about how to get involved. And here is just a small selection of some of the other feedback received so far.

"We would be very proud and honoured to take part in the 80 Trees project. I think this is a great living memorial idea."

– Teacher at a large secondary school in Horndean, Hampshire

"We are 100% behind this exciting project and are sure we can find a perfect location"

– Tourism manager in the Peak District town of Buxton

"This is a really excellent concept and we would definitely like at least one oak tree"

– Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Essex

"This seems to me a project very much worthy of support"

– Councillor in Haslemere, Surrey

"What a fantastic idea! We would be thrilled and honoured to host a tree!"

– Chief Executive of The Fed, Manchester

"We are delighted that you have chosen Shefford. Planting this tree will be the start of the Town Council's new tree planting programme"

– Town Clerk, Shefford in Bedfordshire

"I have just heard that Leicester City Council has been in touch with you about planting an oak tree. I can't tell you how happy I am that this is going to happen."

– AJR member, Leicester

"This is a fantastic project and we in Millisle would certainly want to be part of it."

– Leader of Millisle Community Association, Northern Ireland

"The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation is delighted that the AJR is marking its 80th anniversary by creating a living legacy for its members."



There are very few aspects of British culture and society that have not positively benefitted in some way from the thousands of Jewish refugees who found refuge here from Nazi persecution. Their arrival and contribution is a hugely important part of Britain's own narrative surrounding the Holocaust. The planting of these 80 trees will help to convey this story to audiences throughout the UK, prompting deeper understanding of the Holocaust, and of Britain's responses to it.

The Foundation looks forward to helping the AJR to share its members' stories with communities around the country and, eventually, through the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre."

THE RT HON LORD ERIC PICKLES,
UNITED KINGDOM SPECIAL ENVOY
FOR POST-HOLOCAUST ISSUES

"I can think of no finer blessing than this, with which to honour the legacy of those who sought refuge in this country, made it their home and have contributed so much to its success. May the symbol of these 80 Oak trees, marking 80 years of the AJR, inspire us all to be just like them."



CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS

80 trees for 80 years



WHY OAK?

Britain's native oaks are under pressure like never before. They are declining at an unprecedented rate due to drought, flooding, pollution, pests and diseases.

Oak trees are such an important part of our past and future heritage, living for centuries and supporting thousands of species of precious wildlife. A 200-year-old oak has around 260,000 leaves, providing shade, releasing oxygen and helping tackle flooding to make our cities healthier places to live and work. For all these reasons (and more) it is tremendous that 80 new oak trees will be planted between November and March this winter and cared for.

The Tree Council is a small but influential national charity which, for nearly 50 years, has been bringing people together for the love of trees. The charity inspires and empowers organisations, government, schools, communities and individuals with the knowledge and tools to create positive, lasting change at a national and local level. It is helping the AJR to bring our **80 Trees for 80 Years** vision to life by providing expert advice and guidance during the initial stages of our project.

For Tree Council Chief Executive, Sara Lom, this project is also a remarkable example of how tree planting can bring people together: *"Trees are not only vital to tackle climate change and improve biodiversity, they also play an important role lifting our spirits and bringing communities together. We are delighted to have provided early guidance to the AJR on sourcing suitable trees, with additional advice on planting and aftercare. We look forward now to seeing your bold vision come to fruition to mark your 80th anniversary."*



www.treecouncil.org.uk is advising us on the sourcing, planting and maintenance of our trees

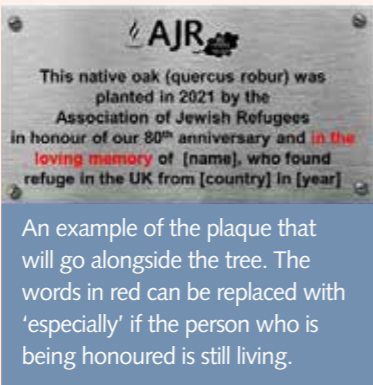
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

We hope that every AJR member will engage with our tree planting initiative, whether by sponsoring one of the trees or the time capsules or by providing some time and enthusiasm to support the project. Please contact 80Trees@ajr.org.uk or call the AJR office to register your interest. Please note that all sponsorship packages will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Sponsor a tree in the name of your loved one(s)

Each tree will be dedicated in the name of an AJR member, and the name of that member will be featured on the plaque that accompanies the tree – see example.

The cost of sponsoring a tree is £250. The member's family will be invited to attend the tree planting ceremony and will also be presented with a certificate. The member will also be listed on the project's own webpages and in the new UK Holocaust Map.



Sponsor a time capsule

We will be burying a time capsule close to the roots of each tree, to help

share details about this project with future generations. As well as generic information about the AJR and the contribution of Britain's Jewish refugees these time capsules will each contain the life story of an individual AJR member.

The cost of having you or your loved one featured in one of these time capsules is £80. You will also receive a certificate and the member will be featured on the project's own webpages and in the new UK Holocaust Map.

A time capsule containing the life story of one AJR member will be buried near to the roots of each tree.



Donate towards extending the project

We appreciate that not all AJR members can afford to sponsor a tree or a time capsule. But even the smallest of donations can help to extend the reach of this project, for example by allowing us to develop educational resources for local schools.

The minimum donation is £15. Members making a donation can choose to either have their name included on the project webpage or remain anonymous.

Care for one of our trees

We are recruiting a network of 'AJR Tree Guardians' whose role, as volunteers, will include:

- Liaison between the local community and the AJR's Project team
- Overseeing the logistics of the planting



and the tree planting ceremony

- Regularly checking the tree during the first 18 months to ensure it has enough water and photographing its progress

The appointment of the volunteers will naturally depend on the final location of the 80 trees and we are happy to hear from anyone who wishes to be considered.

GET INVOLVED – AT A GLANCE

Category	What's involved?	Cost	Availability	How
Sponsor a tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of loved one on tree plaque• Certificate• Invitation to Tree Planting ceremony• Inclusion on project webpage	£250	80	Call the AJR office or email 80Trees@ajr.org.uk as soon as possible
Sponsor a time capsule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life story of a loved one in a time capsule• Certificate• Inclusion on project webpage	£80	80	Call the AJR office or email 80Trees@ajr.org.uk as soon as possible
Donation only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusion on project webpage (if wanted)	£15 minimum	Unlimited	Call the AJR office or make a donation via the 'Donate' button on the AJR website
Become a volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help to plant and care for one of our oak trees by liaising with the local community on the AJR Project Team's behalf	Time only	80	Call the AJR office or email 80Trees@ajr.org.uk and please make it clear that you are seeking to volunteer

WHERE WILL THE TREES BE PLANTED?

The full list is still being finalised but the map below shows most of the locations that have already been agreed - see examples below.



Tendring, Essex

Tendring is close to the port of Harwich and the site of the Dovercourt camp, both of which played a crucial role in the Kindertransport.

Mousehole, Cornwall

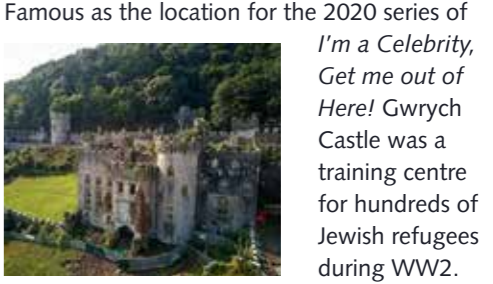


During World War II dozens of evacuees from London's Jewish Free School – many of whom were refugees – were taken in by Mousehole residents.

Buxton, Derbyshire

The Peak District spa town of Buxton provided refuge for approximately 300 Jewish families during WW2 until 1946.

Gwrych Castle, Wales



Famous as the location for the 2020 series of *I'm a Celebrity, Get me out of Here!* Gwrych Castle was a training centre for hundreds of Jewish refugees during WW2.

For further information on our locations please contact Karen Diamond at karendiamond@ajr.org.uk or 07966 631 778