



MITZVAH DAY 2011 JCC LONDON

Comedienne and Great British Bake Off presenter Sue Perkins dropped in to the World Peace Garden to help JCC London Mitzvah Day volunteers on Sunday.

Around 60 people turned up to clear, dig and plant, put down decking and put up fencing at the site in South End Green, by Hampstead Heath station.

The World Peace Garden project was one of four set up by the Hampstead-based Jewish Community Centre for London this Mitzvah Day.

In Hampstead High Street former X Factor contestant Katie Waissel popped in to donate to JCC London volunteers collecting food for the New North London Synagogue Drop In Centre for destitute asylum seekers. Katie posed for pictures with some of the younger volunteers saying she was “really pleased to do her bit for Mitzvah Day.”

In all volunteers collected £675 worth of non-perishable items and cash donations of £131.

Young volunteer Jonah Stanton, 6, from Mill Hill, said: “It was really nice that people stopped to listen to us asking for food and then went and bought it.” His brother Jacob, 8, added: “It was good to get food for people who don’t have enough.”

Other projects included clearing an overgrown outdoor classroom for science and environmental studies at Gospel Oak School in Mansfield Road, Hampstead, and Singing to Seniors at Spring Grove Care Home in Finchley Road, where Baroness Julia Neuberger came along to boost the harmonies.

Volunteer Hannah Viner, 15, who was at the Gospel Oak project, said: “There was a brilliant atmosphere, people of all ages working together at whatever level they could manage. At the end of the afternoon, we all had a real sense of accomplishment. It feels really good to have done something which makes a difference and my aching muscles provided a good reminder of what we achieved!

Social action and campaigns co-ordinator for JCC London Solomon Slade said: “It was a great day. We were thrilled with the turn-out and it was great to see people of all ages being generous with their time and hard work.”