

Beis Hamedrash Nishmas Yisroel Visits Kerestir

A group of over 40 members of Beis Hamedrash Nishmas Yisroel in Hendon enjoyed a brief and unique trip to Hungary last Motzoei Shabbos for a *melaveh malkah* in the hometown of Reb Shayale of Kerestir, *zt"l*.

Departing quickly after Shabbos, the group, led by their dynamic Rav Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft, arrived in Bodrogkeresztúr at close to 4 a.m. local time. Despite the hour, a beautiful *seudah* awaited them, arranged by the *hachnasas orchim* at Reb Shayale's Guest House.

During the *melaveh malkah*, the visitors were regaled with stories about Reb Shayale and with *divrei Torah* from Rabbi Tugendhaft and Rabbi Shloime

Yitzchok Bixenspanner of Hendon Adath, who also joined the trip. There were moments of lively dancing as well as contrasting periods of *kumzitz*-style singing, with the lights dimmed and candles flickering creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere — not too dissimilar to the unique *seudah shelishis* held each week at Nishmas Yisroel.

Immediately after the *melaveh malkah*, the group made the short journey to the *tzizyun* of Reb Yeshaya, whose legacy as a "people's Rebbe" who resolved unsolvable problems, healed the incurably ill and warmed souls numb with cold continues to draw Yidden from around the globe nearly 100 years since his holy *neshamah* left this world.

As dawn approached, the group *davened Shacharis* at Reb Shayale's house, which has been restored to its former pre-war glory, offering all manner of visitors a constant flow of hot meals and *minyanim*, as well as a *mikveh* and a warm place to stay for those seeking a *yeshuah* or simply an injection of classical *chassidische ruchnius* and *varmkeit*.

After breakfast and on the way back to the airport, the group stopped to *daven* at the *kever* of the Yismach Moshe in Ujhely (Sátoraljaújhely) as well as at the old *beis hachaim* in Ujhely to afford Mr. Hershy Stimler the opportunity to say *Kaddish* at the grave of his grandfather, who lived in Ujhely before the war.

The group greatly benefited from the

presence of Rabbi Nosson Maimon of Breslov Yerushalayim, who joined the trip after having been in London for a lecture tour. Rabbi Maimon's warm and engaging manner and inspiring *divrei Torah* on the various coach journeys added an additional dimension to the trip, as he spoke of the importance of pushing oneself and leaving one's comfort zone in order to achieve spiritual advancement.

Those fortunate enough to have taken part in this exhausting yet memorable *melaveh malkah* certainly left their own comfort zones, but will have no regrets as the unique aura of Reb Shayale continues to radiate in their hearts and minds.



The London group in Kerestir.



Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft, Rav of Beis Medrash Nishmas Yisroel, speaks to members of his *kehilla* and others at a *melaveh malkah* at Reb Shayale of Kerestir.



Part of the crowd during *melaveh malkah*.



Great fun was had by all when "Emily's Adventures in Wonderland" organised a science week at Lubavitch Boys School in Stamford Hill. The boys made rockets, elephant toothpaste and volcanoes.



Rabbi Shmuel Goldberg (R) of Shtiebel Prestwich together with Rabbi Schneebalg (L) of Edgware at the *melaveh malkah* of the Shabbos *hisachdus* of the shtiebel.