



SCoJeC E-news Summer 2017

Dear supporter,

What a year 2017 is turning out to be. Though almost half-way through the year, with a few exciting events already under our belt, we've got plenty of sensational events left to share with you to help you celebrate the Bicentenary of Scotland's Jewish Community. From nature walks looking at the life of Arthur James Balfour, the architect of the Balfour Declaration, to history talks exploring how Jewish Communities in Scotland began, grew and prospered over the last 200 years, as well as a klezmer extravaganza across Scotland, and another Fun in the Forest event, there's plenty for everyone to get involved with and join in. Hopefully we'll see you at something soon!

The first things that are coming up in our programme are our AGM in Edinburgh, followed by three talks by author, researcher and genealogist Michael Tobias, in Dunfermline, Falkirk and Ayr, on 19th, 20th and 22nd June. Read on for more details!

As always, if you have any questions about our events, about our work or have any ideas for Jewish-related social or cultural events in your area, feel free to get in touch. We want to hear from you! Email: events@scojec.org or call 07724 549817.

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Fire and Light in the Forest – report on Lag B’Omer in Callendar Wood

SCoJeC, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, in association with Newton Mearns Hebrew Congregation, held a great day of fun woodlands-based activities in Callendar Wood, Falkirk, on Sunday 14 May, 2017, to celebrate Lag B’Omer – for around 200 Jewish people from all over Scotland. The event was generously supported by Forestry Commission Scotland, Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, and the Jewish Youth Fund (Scotland).

Read more about the event and see some great photos [on our website](#): [Back to top](#)

SCoJeC Volunteer Ambassador Training Update

We are currently running a training programme to give volunteers the confidence and skills to bring Judaism to schools, youth and adult groups across Scotland. Joanne, our events and education assistant, writes: “We are half way through the course now: everyone is frantically completing their homework, and some of our volunteers have already been on visits to schools with their mentors to begin to put their learning into practice. We are also looking forward to a visit by the assessor to make sure we are all on track to gain accreditation and a qualification from our training.” Cheryl, one of the volunteers, told us:

I am really enjoying the training as it's good fun, participative and provides great tips and techniques for delivering group activities. The trainer and mentors are very supportive and I am really looking forward to the remaining training days and to eventually trying out the learning in practice.

We’ll be repeating this training course in other parts of the country so please get in touch if you’d like to know more. [Back to top](#)

Upcoming events

Pens at the ready and mark these dates in your calendar:

SCoJeC AGM with Deputy Chief Constable

The SCoJeC AGM will be on Sunday 11 June in the Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre, Salisbury Rd, EH16 5AB (opposite the Commonwealth Pool). We are delighted to announce that the guest speaker will be the newly appointed Deputy Chief Constable, Johnny Gwynn.

DCC Gwynne's remit includes Counter Terrorism and Public Protection, and he has previously been Regional Coordinator for Special Branch in Scotland. He has managed several high profile counter terrorist enquiries including the Glasgow Airport attack. He began his career in the RUC before moving to Strathclyde, and later was deputy head of the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, before being seconded to the UK National Crime Agency as Director of the Organised Crime Command and later of the Child Exploitation Command.

A light lunch will be available from 12.45, and the meeting will begin around 1.30 with an address by DCC Gwynn, followed by consideration of the annual report and accounts.

The meeting is open to the public, but, to assist with catering etc, if you would like to attend, please e-mail events@scojec.org. [Back to top](#)

Bicentenary History Talks: exploring Scotland's smaller Jewish Communities

To mark the Bicentenary of Jewish Communities in Scotland, we will be holding seven talks across Scotland, discussing the history of the Jewish Community in each location. Michael Tobias, author, researcher, and Jewish genealogist, will open our series of talks, speaking in Falkirk, Ayr and Dunfermline in June, as part of [Refugee Festival Scotland](#).

Nathan Abrams, now teaching history and film at the University of Bangor, author of "Caledonian Jews" (McFarland 2009), will be speaking in Aberdeen, Dundee, and Inverness in September as part of the [European Days of Jewish Culture](#).

Our final talk will take place in Greenock in November as part of [Interfaith Scotland week](#). Our speakers, Fiona and Howard Brodie, from the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, will discuss how the work of the Archives is charting the history of Scotland's Jewish communities, as well as sharing a few special stories. There will also be a chance to meet Greenock-born Viki McDonnell who has made a special study of the history of the Jewish community there.

Dates:

DUNFERMLINE: Monday 19 June 6.30 p.m. Michael Tobias at the James Allan Centre, Paton St, Dunfermline KY12 0BU

FALKIRK: Tuesday 20 June 6.30 p.m. Michael Tobias at Bainsford Community Hall, David's Loan, Bainsford, Falkirk FK2 7NS

AYR: Thursday 22 June 6.30 p.m. Michael Tobias at MacLaurin Gallery, Ayr KA7 4NQ

ABERDEEN: Sunday 10th September (10 a.m.) Nathan Abrams at Aberdeen Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre, Dee St, Aberdeen AB11 6DS

DUNDEE: Sunday 10th September (early evening, time tbc) Nathan Abrams at Dundee Synagogue, St Mary Place, Dundee, DD1 5RB

INVERNESS: Monday 11th September (early evening, time and venue tbc) Nathan Abrams.

GREENOCK: Sunday 19th November, (afternoon, time tbc): Fiona and Howard Brodie, Beacon Arts Centre, Custom House Quay, Greenock PA15 1EQ

At each event there will be a kosher buffet, a talk, and a discussion – and everyone is welcome! All the events are free, but we will be asking for a voluntary contribution towards costs. The event on 10th September at Aberdeen is part of the 'Aberdeen City Doors Open Day' and will be raising money for Aberdeen Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre.

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Whittinghame Estate Walk – Sunday 20th August 2017

Join us on Sunday 20 August 2017, when East Lothian Park Ranger, Richard English, will be leading a walk in the Whittinghame area, where we will get a sight of the Whittinghame estate, the childhood home of Lord Arthur James Balfour, which was also a school for Jewish refugee children during the Second World War. Together let's celebrate the centenary of the Balfour declaration. Transport will be provided from central Edinburgh. Time tbc – contact Joanne for further information; tel 07724 549817 or email events@scojec.org. [Back to top](#)

Crossing the Border: a Jewish musical journey in Scotland

Award winning Klezmer musician and Yiddish singer, Michael Alpert, is doing a mini tour of Scotland in early September with Edinburgh fiddle player Gica Loening. These two extraordinary musicians evoke a feeling of *Der Heim* like no other. Don't miss out!

See them as part of the programme for the [European Days of Jewish Culture 2017](#):

GLASGOW: Monday, 4th September: The Record Factory, Byres Road, Glasgow G11 5RD

LAMLASH, ISLE OF ARRAN: Tuesday, 5th September - A very special House Concert.

EDINBURGH: Wednesday, 6th September: Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AB

Come early and enjoy a Kosher buffet prior to the music. Let your stomach get your soul ready for the heartfelt Yiddish melody and energetic beat of Klezmer and Scottish fiddle.

For details about any of the above events, contact Joanne at 07724 549817 or email events@scojec.org.

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Other things in the pipeline

Though all the details for our autumn / winter calendar aren't finalised, these juicy titbits should get you excited...

Forest craft in Forres

After the success of our Lag B'Omer extravaganza earlier this month, we are planning to hold another outdoor activity day, this time in Forres, in the autumn. Once again we will be working with Forestry Commission Scotland, this time with the Grampian branch, along with Earth for Life who delivered our activities in Callendar Wood. Together, we will be holding an interfaith event in the woods in Forres, where various cultures, faiths and backgrounds will enjoy Scotland's beautiful woodlands. Transport from Aberdeen and Inverness will be arranged closer to the time.

Jewish and Islamic Art – paper cutting workshop

Jewish paper cutting specialist Abi Pirani (who held a workshop during Limmud in 2015), will be working with Islamic paper cutting specialist Maryam Golubeva, to share their beautiful art, and hold an interfaith-based paper cutting workshop. The workshop will be part of Interfaith Week in November, and will be open to all. Venue to be confirmed. [Back to top](#)

You can see our calendar of events with further details as we get them [on our website here](#): and other events of interest to Scotland's Jewish communities [here](#). If you are organising an event of interest to Scotland's Jewish communities please send details to scojec@scojec.org for our web calendar.

Though our calendar is quite full of exciting things to see and do, there's always room for more. If you want to have a SCoJeC event in your area, get in touch and we can try and make it happen.



Bicentenary of Scotland's Jewish Community – get involved!

There are plenty of things happening across Scotland alongside our calendar of events to mark the Bicentenary of Scotland's Jewish Community.

Edinburgh bicentenary

The Edinburgh Jewish community are organising a packed programme of events to mark 200 years of Jewish people in Edinburgh. This includes walks of Jewish Edinburgh, two musical performances, a celebration at the end of October, and a Chanukah Gala Dinner in December. For full programme details visit the Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/edinburgh.jewish.dialogue/

Scottish Jewish Archives Centre

Whilst there is plenty of information available about the history of the Scottish Jewish Community, there is always more to learn. Visit the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre during their forthcoming open days on 11th June or 16th July to learn more about Scottish Jewish community, or share your own stories. You can also email them at info@sjac.org.uk or visit their website for more information www.sjac.org.uk. [Back to top](#)

Thank you ...

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work we do at the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities. Together, we work to ensure that Judaism and Jewish traditions are included in the rich tartan of languages, traditions, religions, and cultures that form 21st century Scotland.

Best wishes

Fiona, Joanne, and Shayna
Events and Education team.

Contact Joanne at 07724 549817 or events@scojec.org

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