

All Change at Chaplaincy!

After a very successful three years as Jewish Student Chaplain, Rabbi Garry Wayland is returning to his native London to take up a new appointment as Assistant Minister at Woodside Park Synagogue (whose senior rabbi, Pinchas Hackenbroch, spent several years at Newton Mearns shul in Glasgow).

Hard on his heels, the new Chaplain has already taken up his post. Rabbi Yossi Bodenheim was born and raised in Jerusalem after his parents made aliyah. His rabbinical smichah is from the Jerusalem Beit Din, and he also has a BA in Judaic Studies and a teaching qualification. He enjoys working with young people, and has often hosted visiting students for meals, singing and discussions at his home in Israel.

His wife Sarah was born and raised in a moshav in central Israel, after her parents made aliyah from Miami, where her father was a rabbi. She trained in special education and teaching and has worked extensively with high school students and as a medical secretary.



THE NEW STUDENT CHAPLAINS, YOSSEI AND SARAH BODENHEIM

The Bodenheims enjoy entertaining, and, because they both come from large families, are used to feeding the multitudes! They look forward to meeting and connecting with new people, and sharing their experiences with Jewish students in Scotland.

SCOJeC looks forward to continuing the excellent relationship we have had with the Chaplain and the Chaplaincy Board, and wish both families every success in their new posts.

Rosh Hashanah Message

FROM THE FIRST MINISTER, ALEX SALMOND MSP

PICTURED BELOW WITH THE CHIEF RABBI LORD SACKS, LEAH GRANAT AND EPHRAIM BOROWSKI

ALLAN MILLIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY



On behalf of the Scottish Government, I am delighted to wish our Jewish communities – in Scotland and further afield – a happy and fulfilling Rosh Hashanah.

The festival allows for a period of reflection, to assess the achievements of the past year, to look forward positively, and to

reaffirm the values of your faith. It also provides the opportunity for people of all faiths and none to consider the contribution made by the Jewish community to Scottish society. It is less than 200 years since Jewish people first came to Scotland in significant numbers. Since then Jewish workers and entrepreneurs have helped to grow Scotland's economy, while Jewish writers, artists and performers have contributed to our culture. Charity is a fundamental principle of Judaism, and I am grateful for the active participation of the Jewish community in many welfare projects that benefit all our communities.

I wish you all a *"Shanah tovah umetukah"* – a good and sweet year.



RABBI DAVID ROSE OF EDINBURGH HEBREW CONGREGATION, WHO IS JOINT CONVENOR OF EDINBURGH INTER-FAITH ASSOCIATION, GREETING THE DALAI LAMA AT EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
www.scojec.org

THE UMBRELLA REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION OF ALL THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN SCOTLAND

'INTER-LINK' free IT training!

SCOJeC has been awarded £10 000 by the Voluntary Action Fund to implement some of the findings of the Being Jewish in Scotland project. We found that many isolated older Jewish people around Scotland live far from their children and grandchildren, and our new project aims to link them using communication technology.

Would you like to take part in this project? We want to hear from:

- ▲ older people who want to learn how to use IT to keep in touch
- ▲ people who want to improve their skills to help others get on-line
- ▲ IT-savvy young people and students

We will provide training, travel, and equipment.

If you'd like to get involved, contact fiona@scojec.org or 0777-920 652

- ▲ **Rosh Hashanah:**
Sun Sept 16 evening,
Mon 17 and Tue 18 Sept

- ▲ **Fast of Gedaliah:**
Wed 19 Sept

- ▲ **Kol Nidre:**
Tue 25 Sept evening

- ▲ **Yom Kippur:**
Wed 26 September

- ▲ **Succot:**
Sun 30 Sept evening,
Mon 1 and Tue 2 Oct

- ▲ **Chol HaMoed:**
Wed 3 to Shabbat 6 Oct

- ▲ **Hoshannah Rabbah:**
Sun 7 Oct

- ▲ **Shemini Atzeret:**
Sun 7 Oct evening, Mon 8 Oct

- ▲ **Simchat Torah:**
Mon 8 Oct evening, Tue 9 Oct

The Holiday of Mortality

YOSEF
TRADBURKS

“On Rosh Hashanah our fate will be recorded and on Yom Kippur it will be sealed ... who will live and who will die ...” – surprisingly, these powerful words have very little impact on me, and I think that I am not alone in this. Am I indifferent to what my fate will be this coming year? Definitely not! So why is it that I am unmoved?

Part of what hardens our hearts may be that we believe that we are going to live forever. The thought of death is foreign to us, because we don't really believe that it will ever happen to us. And although we all know cognitively that everybody eventually dies, emotionally we don't feel it.

I recently visited my wife's grandmother. Every time I've been there, she invariably tells me, "My mother would say to me, 'you know, one day you will also be old. And, you know, obviously I believed her, but I didn't really understand it. Now I'm old. One day you'll also be old, even though you may not believe it now, but it's true you see.'"

The young think that they will always be young, and the middle-aged think that they'll always be middle-aged. It is the elderly who begin to realise that they won't always be as they are. Sometimes they can't do all of the things that they used to do. Some have lost much of what they used to take for granted: sight, hearing, balance, memory, health, and energy. They don't feel all-powerful and self-sufficient any more; they feel frail and dependant, fragile and vulnerable. Man's delusion of being an invincible, immortal, all-capable being is shattered. The disease that plagues all of mankind sinks in. We are mortal. Our time will come.

Yet, strange as it may be, we naturally feel that the status quo will continue. The verse in the book of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) says, "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feast and festivities." We need constantly to remind ourselves of the reality that we too will one day meet our end.

“Who before his time, who by water, who by fire ... who by plague ...” Unfortunately, to many this sounds all too familiar. *“Angels will hasten, a trembling and terror will seize them, and they will say, ‘behold the Day of Judgement, to muster the heavenly host to judgement!’”* How ironic that the angels, immortal beings, are afraid that their end is near, while we mortals stand confidently unmoved, not batting an eyelid.



Where will your Jewish Journey take you this year?

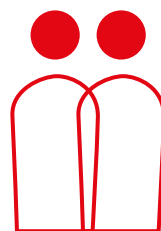
NADIA LIPSEY

Limmud offers the opportunity to learn about a vast range of subjects related, however tenuously, to Judaism. A day Limmud feels a bit like doing the Edinburgh Festival in a day! There are several sessions every hour to choose from – workshops, lectures, performances, panels or study groups – with short breaks in between, to catch a cup of tea, or to continue where the last session left off, and there is also a separate programme for children and teenagers.

Limmud has no denominational or political agenda. It's an opportunity to socialise, have fun, and meet new people. Whether your interest is Jewish music, history, Israel, genealogy, books, festivals, textual interpretation, ... (the list goes on – and on!), Limmud is your chance to listen to and engage with everyone from international experts to your next-door neighbours.

There will be events in both Edinburgh and in Glasgow, but if you are coming from further afield in Scotland, then SCoJeC can help meet the cost of advance rail or coach fares. Details from: fiona@scojec.org, 07779 206522

www.limmud.org/day/scotland



Get Connected with 'PaL'

PHONE AND LEARN

JUDY SILKOFF,
PROGRAMME
COORDINATOR

“Rebecca is quite simply wonderful. She helps, guides, understands, supports, and is

my friend as well as my tutor.

She's such a blessing; I'm so grateful to PaL for getting us together.”

These words, from a PaL partner in East Lothian, are typical of those who join us to learn more about Judaism. Since she registered with PaL in November 2011, Alex and her tutor, London-based Rebecca Frankel, have been exploring the basics of Judaism once a week, and, despite the geographical distance between them, have become firm friends.

PaL was set up in the UK in 2004, and is an affiliate of the Partners in Torah organisation in the USA. The programme is open to anyone Jewish who wishes to explore any aspect of Jewish heritage – be it practical, spiritual, or even mystical! And because every person has his or her own experienced 'tutor' for one-to-one study over the phone, there is a lot of flexibility. Partners can pick the Jewish topic of their choice, and learn at a time and from a location that fits their own schedule.

It's the 'WWW' option: you can learn Whatever you want, Wherever and Whenever you like, and our fantastic team is always available to offer support. Best of all, the programme is completely free!

www.phoneandlearn.org
0800 055 3276, info@phoneandlearn.org

Meet people from throughout Scotland who share your interests!

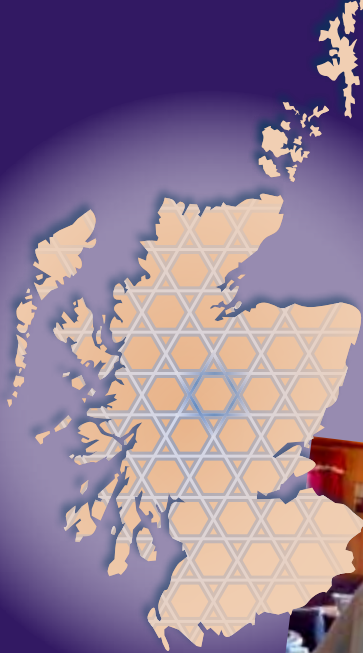
**Sun 25th Nov
Glasgow**

HOLYROOD SECONDARY SCHOOL,
100 DIXON ROAD,
GLASGOW G42 8AU

More than 40 presenters...

- Glasgow's Jewish heritage
- the art of Italian-Jewish cooking
- interpretation of a biblical text
- insights into the Middle East situation
- a Klezmer ceilidh band

scotland@limmud.org



Being Jewish in Scotland



TOP TO BOTTOM:
FIONA RECORDING AN INTERVIEW FOR BBC SHETLAND; THE KOSHER BUFFET AT YELL, SHETLAND; DISCUSSING BEING JEWISH IN SCOTLAND IN KIRKWALL LIBRARY, ORKNEY



Road to the Isles

SKYE, ORKNEY, AND SHETLAND

FIONA FRANK, SCoJeC PROJECT WORKER

"It took me an 8 hour round trip, 300 tortuous miles driving – some of it on single-track roads – and two nights away from home, to attend the buffet and film event in Portree. Why did I make that effort? The choice was simple: because community is important, being Jewish is important, networking is important, supporting SCoJeC is important, supporting each other is important, and conveying what it is to be Jewish in Scotland is important."

Linda Martin's sentiments about the event she attended in Portree on Skye, (above and next page) were similar to those of the people I met in Kirkwall in Orkney and Yell in Shetland, when I took to the road – and the ferry – to meet up with island-dwelling Jewish people to discuss the findings of the *Being Jewish in Scotland* project, and to show the award-winning film, *Lies My Father told Me*. In Orkney eight interested people turned up, and I met up with another local Jewish resident earlier in the day - you have to work around ferry times when people live on a collection of small islands! The event was hosted at Kirkwall Library and Archive. Gary Amos, manager at the library, who himself has Jewish heritage, said:

"Libraries can play a central role in helping societies to accept minority groups and think about different religions and cultures. Libraries are key to education and the acquisition of knowledge. This leads to better informed individuals and therefore to better civilisations and societies – they are the ideal place to be doing events like today's."

On Yell, a small island north of Shetland mainland, I met what is probably Britain's most northerly Jewish family, Hilary Franklin and her son Daniel, and some of Hilary's work colleagues joined us. I also made contact with two other Jewish people in Shetland. One, Dave Hyams, wasn't able to come to the event but wrote to us:

"I am a 63-year-old guy with a Jewish background, and have been happily living in Shetland for just over 4 years with my wife, a non-Jew. I haven't followed the religion for over 50 years, and neither my elder brother nor I had a barmitzvah. However, I am aware of my roots and know that that my maternal grandparents arrived in the UK in the early 1900s from Russia having fled the pogrom there at the time. And I have seen photos of some of the relatives whom I never got a chance to know because of the Holocaust."

"I was totally unaware that there was anyone else Jewish in Shetland, but I knew Ethel Hofman had lived here previously, and have a copy of her excellent book, Mackerel at Midnight. I have read of your intentions for the project and wish you every success in its successful completion."

We heard from local Jewish people about the difficulties of getting kosher food during a recent stay in hospital, and how one boy always takes a packed lunch to school as pork is on the menu more often than not. There was lots of interest across the islands in 'webinars' – Jewish learning with a Scottish focus – and for more Jewish cultural events and get-togethers locally. Several people we met are hoping to take advantage of our offer to help with public transport costs to get to Limmud, Scotland's festival of Jewish learning (see page 2), so we look forward to seeing them in Glasgow in November!

THE 'RABBIS' RELAY RIDE' MARKS THE END OF ITS MARATHON WITH A BLAST ON THE SHOFAR



SCoJeC on Skye

LINDA MARTIN

“There’s a SCoJeC Film on Skye on Sunday”, I shouted down the telephone line. “Oh, good,” said she, “I used to enjoy watching Kojak.”

I have found the Highlands and Islands to be a region where distances shrink like a well-washed woollie. What to the Sassenach appears to be a major expedition is, when one lives here, a mere jaunt down the road. So my road atlas lulled me into an over-confident assuredness about my ability to make a one-day round-trip to attend the SCoJeC social event in July.

YouTube had confirmed my hopes that the film *Lies my Father Told Me* would be well worth the effort, and, as a fellow old-Prestonian, I dearly wanted to support Fiona Frank in her outreach endeavours. Besides which, I consider it important to connect with fellow Jews in the area, to say “I am here if you need me”. There is a sense of kinship that perhaps only a Jew can understand. To attend would be a pleasure and a mitzvah – and who could resist a kosher buffet?!

The Voice of the Sat-Nav reminded me, however, that although distances may appear to shrink with familiarity, they also stretch with age. Common sense, and a shallow pocket, persuaded me to book into Portree Independent Backpackers’ Hostel for a couple of nights – and very comfortable and friendly it was.

Portree itself is a very pretty fishing port, with houses, restaurants, and friendly pubs hugging the sheltered harbour. There was time, on the Sunday morning, to take a boat trip to view the lovely island of Raasay. Almost immediately, a pair of porpoises broke surface in the harbour, then a common seal popped his head above the surface for a look around. Seabirds skimmed the water and floated by in rafts; even a pair of scoter were on the water for a Sunday outing – a first sighting for our skipper.

The venue could not have been better. Although numbers were low, the spirit of comradeship was high, and the personal histories of those present were every bit as interesting as the poignant story related in the film. After Louis Woolfson made the brochah over the challah, we all tucked in to cream cheese, hummus, smoked salmon, bagels, kichlach – absolutely delicious!

It might seem self evident that, if one wishes to immerse oneself in Jewish life, one does not divorce oneself from the large centres of Jewish population. Yet, although people may move to remote places, perhaps keeping to the old ways, perhaps leaving Judaism to live a secular life, perhaps disregarding their roots altogether through fear, choice, or circumstance, Judaism never leaves the people.

There is a sense of homecoming, being welcomed into a community. No matter how widely dispersed that community may be and whether secular, shomer shabbat, orthodox, liberal, reform, masorti, or any of the myriad of personally adapted and adopted ways of living we choose, it is still a Community, and I thank SCoJeC for playing a valuable role in opening the door to welcome us home.

BEING JEWISH in St Andrews

BENJAMIN CARROLL

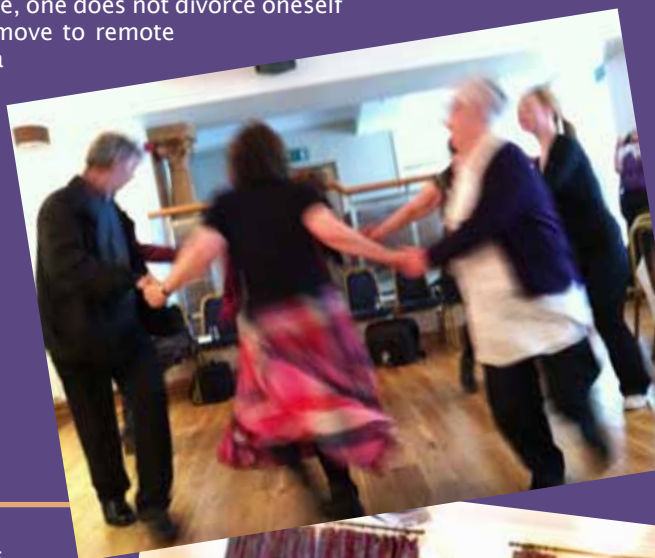
My connection to Judaism is fairly typical of any Glasgow-born Jew. I attended the local Jewish primary school, had a Bar Mitzvah, and was involved in a Jewish youth group. After school I took a year out and spent part of it in Israel. But I decided against joining many of my friends at one of the ‘Jewish’ universities, preferring to go to St Andrews, where the closest you’ll get to hummus and pitta is an off-tasting pint of beer!

When I arrived there, I immediately got involved in the Jewish Society, attended Shabbat meals, helped wherever possible, and got to know the committee and the Student Chaplain. I found myself meeting Jews from all different backgrounds. Some had a similar background to myself, but many American students regard themselves as Jewish yet know little about their faith. This made for an interesting mix within the J-Soc, and was a learning experience for me. Because they regarded me as ‘the religious one’, I began to find out more about what parts of Judaism I liked and disliked, and what place being Jewish has in my identity. I have grown to appreciate having been raised in a closely-knit and traditional Jewish community like Glasgow, and I have become increasingly confident of the positive role that Judaism plays in my head and also in my heart.

Many of my non-Jewish American friends had Jewish friends back home and were therefore very aware of Judaism and Jewish culture. It was comforting that describing my experiences and affection for Israel, or my craving for some of my bubba’s best chicken noodle soup, wasn’t new to them. But I also began to make non-Jewish friends who had little to no experience of anything Jewish besides phrases they had picked up from TV. I decided to introduce my housemates to Chanukah. I used beer bottles to make a small Chanukiah, recited the traditional blessings, and we concluded the evening by listening to Adam Sandler’s ‘Chanukah Song’. Whether they got anything from the event or not, it gave me a sense of pride about my faith and its rich heritage and culture, and helped me realise more about myself and the strong role that Judaism will forever play in my identity.



BEING JEWISH IN SCOTLAND EVENTS:
ADMIRING JOHN PEAR’S PHOTOGRAPHY
AT THE AROS CENTRE, SKYE; DANCING TO KLEZMER
IN DUNOON; FIONA WITH OUTGOING STUDENT CHAPLAIN
GARRY WAYLAND AND STUDENTS IN ABERDEEN.





Reuben Livingstone Minister to Small Communities

Contrary to the common perception that Jewish life in the UK is increasingly centred in London and Manchester, the smaller Jewish communities around the country reflect an incredibly rich variety of Jewish flavours. Pound for pound, there is, indeed, often more vitality to be found away from the complacent centre. Even more than this, smaller kehillot may have a great deal to teach their larger cousin communities in terms of levels of commitment, involvement, and shared responsibility.

When I was rabbi of large London communities, it was often excruciatingly difficult to find volunteers to help support shul programmes, services, and welfare provision. In the end most of this had to be outsourced at considerable cost – both financial and moral. In small communities there is a profound recognition that everybody counts and that their contribution is absolutely essential. The auto-pilot mentality found in large synagogues – whereby people are happy to assume that things will happen automatically because someone else will invariably pick up the slack – simply does not exist.

On a recent visit to Dundee, I was fascinated to discover that the Synagogue has not one but two Arks. The reason for this, it was explained, is that the architect was working from a North African design that incorporated a second Ark for the Koran (no doubt due to a local requirement to show respect to the national religion). But for me the dual Arks are a wonderful metaphor for the two very different modes of Jewish life in this country; large centralised communities and smaller regional ones. They are different but equal in importance – with each having a unique pride of place. Dundee, and many other small communities (and tiny J-Socs), model a self-reliance and gravity-defying optimism and creativity that we can all be inspired by and learn something from.

The Talmud tells the story of a great sage who was able to glimpse the World to Come. "What did you see?" asked all his colleagues. "I saw a topsy-turvy world! Those who we thought to be dominant and important in this life were not so prominent, while many of those who we imagined to be unimportant and peripheral occupied a most exalted position."

So, next time we are tempted to imagine that London, Leeds, and Manchester are the 'be all' of Jewish life on these Isles, we can remind ourselves that small is also beautiful!

The Edinburgh Festival *Jewish* fringe



For the ninth year running, The Edinburgh Community hosted and organised a show of Festival Fringe productions with a Jewish connection.

LEFT TO RIGHT: ANNETTE ROMAN, WHOSE ONE-WOMAN SHOW *HITLER'S LI'L ABOMINATION* EXPLORES HER BACKGROUND AS THE DAUGHTER OF A HITLER-YOUTH MOTHER AND A KINDERTRANSPORT FATHER (BOTH PICTURES!); MEMBERS OF THE RUBY DOLLS PERFORM EXTRACTS FROM *RUBIES IN THE ATTIC*; NAOMI PAUL PERFORMS EXTRACTS FROM HER ONE-WOMAN SHOW *RESHAPE WHILE DAMP*; DEAN FRIEDMAN MAKES A SURPRISE RETURN WITH HIS SONG *A MILLION MATZO BALLS*; MIRIAM MARGOLYES (BELOW RIGHT) ALSO SPOKE AT THE EVENT.

Diamond Jubilee

My first task when I was elected Vice-Chair of SCoJeC, was to attend the Queen's Diamond Jubilee service in Glasgow Cathedral. The instructions with my invitation were to wear a hat and to be seated a full hour before the service. I was less than thrilled at the prospect of the hard Cathedral seats, but the hour passed quickly in interesting conversation, and in no time the processions of churchmen and women in their robes, the Company of Archers with their feathered caps, and Heralds and Persuivants in playing card costumes. Some faith representatives were disappointed that the service was an entirely Christian one, but it was a splendid occasion, and I was proud to represent SCoJeC there.



GILLIAN RAAB WITH LAMA YESHE RINPOCHE, ABBOT OF SAMYE LING MONASTERY

Dickens's Women

Award-winning actress Miriam Margolyes is touring Scotland with her one-woman show, *Dickens's Women*. Entertaining, fascinating, and challenging, it is the flagship for *Dickens 2012*, the international celebration of the bicentennial of Charles Dickens's birth. Miriam, whose father was born in Glasgow, always enjoyed coming to Scotland as a child to visit her family. She is keen to meet local Jewish people wherever she goes, so SCoJeC's outreach worker Fiona Frank arranged events for her in Pitlochry, Inverness, and Aberdeen after her run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. After the Inverness event Miriam commented, "Brilliant – such a good idea! I loved it, and all who attended did too".



PHOTO: PRUDENCE UPTON



LEFT TO RIGHT: FIONA FRANK, SHARON LEVY, GILLIAN RAAB, HILARY RIFKIND, NEIL LIVINGSTON, ELLEN McCANCE, LEAH GRANAT, EPHRAIM BOROWSKI

Although SCoJeC has been around as long as Devolution – since 1999 – for the first time this year, the AGM elected a Vice-Chair. Previously SCoJeC’s structure reflected its history and function as an umbrella representative body set up by the various organised communities in Scotland, with the President of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council and the Chair of the Board of Management of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation acting as Vice-Chairs ex officio. That, however, has disadvantages in terms of possible conflict of interest, and earlier this year the constitution was amended to create a Vice-Chair distinct from the representatives of the different communities.

LEAH GRANAT WAS PRESENTED WITH A SILVER HAVDALAH SPICE BOX TO MARK HER FORTHCOMING ALIYAH. SHE WILL CONTINUE WORKING FOR SCoJeC AS RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS OFFICER



The AGM elected Prof Gillian Raab of the Edinburgh Liberal Community, Sukkat Shalom, as the first Vice-Chair, and confirmed Hilary Rifkind, immediate past Chair of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, who has been Acting Chair for the past six months, as Chair. Sharon Levy, the outgoing Chair of the Dundee Hebrew Congregation, joins the SCoJeC Executive as the representative of the smaller communities, and the meeting also agreed the co-option of Judith Sischy, who recently retired as Chief Executive of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools.

The meeting also approved a new staffing structure, including the appointment of Ellen McCance, who is the secretary of the Dundee community, as our part-time Public Affairs Officer. Originally from Los Angeles, she graduated in politics from Princeton, and her experience since she came to Scotland includes many of the diverse aspects of SCoJeC’s work, such as the voluntary sector, community development, interfaith relations, event management, and tackling rural disadvantage. We are delighted that Leah Granat will be able to continue working for us as Research and Publications Officer after she has made aliyah, and that Fiona Frank will continue as our Outreach Worker.

Leveson, Murdoch, Salmond – & SCoJeC!

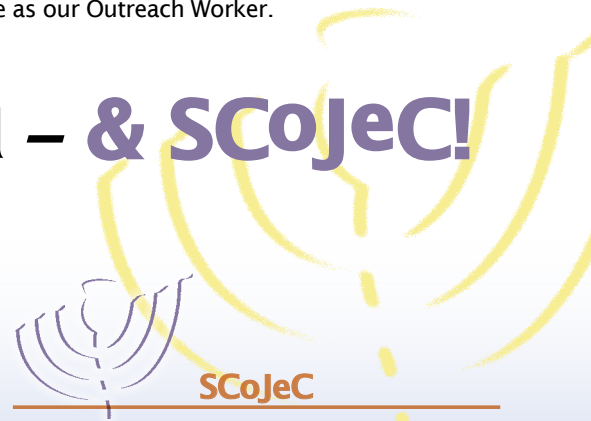
As it made headlines day after day, it sometimes seemed that the Leveson Inquiry was truly stranger than fiction, with its parade of media heroes and villains, larger than life characters like Rupert Murdoch, prime and other ministers, and the important and merely self-important. But for all its bizarre subplots and unforeseen twists and turns, even in our wildest imaginings we did not expect that SCoJeC would join the cast!

But when Lord Leveson’s inquiry into “the culture, practices and ethics of the media” asked First Minister Alex Salmond about a meeting in November 2009 to discuss “concern ... related to comments posted on newspaper websites by members of the public which you felt were offensive and prejudiced”, he replied:

“I had a meeting with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities – we have regular meetings – and at one of the meetings they gave me examples of offensive comments that had been placed on newspaper websites ... which seemed to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and to me to be antisemitic in their nature. ... I wrote to the editor of the Herald, editor of the Scotsman, pointing this out and saying, ‘Look, the newspaper has to have responsibility to moderate the comments onto the website and it’s not acceptable for that to happen.’ It might not be legal under certain circumstances now, particularly with the new legislation, but certainly not acceptable, whether it’s legal or not. ...”

Following the First Minister’s intervention, both newspapers introduced systems for monitoring comments posted on their website. The Press Complaints Commission, however, refused to take action on the Kafkaesque grounds that since no editorial discretion had been exercised, they could not adjudicate on the exercise of editorial discretion!

While it is disappointing that the media did not see fit to acknowledge publicly the offence caused to the Jewish community, we have welcomed the fact that both papers have changed their procedures to prevent any recurrence, the intervention of the First Minister and Lord Advocate, the conviction of one of the perpetrators, and the support of the many MSPs who wrote to the editors to express their revulsion at what they had allowed to appear under their names.



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