



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Report of the Chair

AGM, June 2016

SCoJeC was established in 1999 at the time of Devolution, when all the Jewish communities in Scotland agreed that there should be a single representative voice that could speak authoritatively for the entire Community to the Scottish Government and other Scotland-wide public bodies, and it continues very effectively to serve that purpose, as well as providing a number of other services to support the community.

Much of SCoJeC's work takes place behind the scenes. We meet regularly with Government ministers, officials, MSPs and others, and attend a myriad of meetings and briefings to ensure that the interests of Jewish people in Scotland are always taken into account. Our Director, Ephraim Borowski, undertakes the bulk of this work in a voluntary capacity, and was assisted by Nicola Livingston as our Public Affairs Officer until March. Leah Granat is responsible for research and publications, producing digests of matters of interest in politics and the media for the Scottish and UK Jewish communities, and for Scottish minority communities in general. The latter, MEMO, is supported by the Scottish Government's Equality Fund which also supports other Outreach activities and enabled us to continue to employ Fiona Frank as our Outreach and Projects Manager, and Zoe Jacobs as Education and Community Development Worker.

A great deal is achieved throughout the year and I will highlight some of our many successes. When we met the First Minister, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon, in June, she undertook to engage with the Jewish Community, and we subsequently arranged for her to visit Garnethill Synagogue and the Jewish Archives Centre. She attracted a capacity crowd of over 300 people when she spoke in Giffnock Synagogue hall. Acknowledging that SCoJeC's recent inquiry into the experience of What's Changed About Being Jewish in Scotland had given real cause for concern, she said "I don't want to be the First Minister, or even live in, a country where Jewish people want to leave or hide their identity." We also subsequently arranged for her to meet groups of Jewish students and Israelis in Scotland to hear about their experiences first hand, and she renewed her promise to combat antisemitism in all its forms.

On the Education front SCoJeC's Education and Community Development Worker, Zoe Jacobs, spent four days in Shetland in September as part of an Interfaith Scotland project, and has since been travelling around Scotland giving presentations to schools, training teachers on how to teach about Judaism, and then also meeting local Jewish people. We are very grateful to the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust for their generous support for this work. In addition, following discussions with Education Scotland about the need for good quality, authoritative, and reliable educational resources about Judaism for use in Scottish schools SCoJeC was asked to participate in a "Glow Meet" – a live on-line meeting between a group of schools and an outside presenter, and there was standing room only at the launch of SCoJeC's new "positive, educational, and memorable" educational resource, "JOES Boxes", which will be available through local Education Authorities.

In December SCoJeC's Chanukah tour took in Alloa, Lochaber, Inverness, and Dundee, and schools in Dunblane and Fort William. The First Minister and the Scottish Parliament's Presiding Officer also joined the Community to light candles.

Over the course of the year we successfully completed our volunteering “cluster project”, along with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, and Sukkat Shalom, and our own volunteer training course had its first graduate! The course aims to help volunteers who represent Judaism in the local community or who would like to do so, by leading synagogue visits, going into schools, or working with youth, adult or interfaith groups.

In September SCoJeC joined with the Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church in Scotland, and the Muslim Council of Scotland to issue a joint statement in response to the current desperate situation facing the thousands of refugees fleeing war and persecution beyond Europe's borders.

During the year SCoJeC joined the Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism at Westminster to brief Scottish MPs about the nature and extent of antisemitism in Scotland, and Ephraim has also met the SNP leader at Westminster twice, last year with the Board of Deputies, and more recently with the Jewish Leadership Council, to discuss matters of concern to the Jewish Community in Scotland.

In November SCoJeC briefed Ministers on issues surrounding last year's extraordinary rise in antisemitism. Thereafter Sandra White MSP apologised following SCoJeC's strong protest to the First Minister and the SNP about her circulating a grotesque caricature based on traditional antisemitic stereotypes and neo-Nazi imagery. Also in November the Scottish Government met SCoJeC in the immediate aftermath of the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris in order to explore how it can support the community. The then Lord Advocate, Frank Mulholland QC, also wrote to SCoJeC to update us on the outcomes of prosecutions for antisemitic behaviour that had concluded within the past year.

SCoJeC was pleased to arrange a meeting between Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Co-ordinator on Combatting Antisemitism, and a representative group from the Scottish Jewish Community. As part of SCoJeC's continuing programme of engagement with Scottish political leaders, we were delighted to arrange for the Leader of Scottish Labour, Kezia Dugdale MSP, to visit Giffnock synagogue and meet a cross-section of communal leaders. Also in March SCoJeC Director Ephraim Borowski participated in a panel on the topic "Racism – are we winning" at the biennial conference on Hate Crime hosted by the Lord Advocate and the Chief Constable, at which both they and the First Minister again restated their “zero tolerance” of antisemitism.

Before the Scottish elections in May, SCoJeC presented the leaders of all the main Scottish political parties with the 'Manifesto' we published jointly with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council and the Board of Deputies, to inform candidates about the interests and concerns of the Jewish community of Scotland, and we have now sent copies to the successful candidates with letters of congratulation.

During the year SCoJeC has submitted responses to a wide range of consultations by the Scottish Government, Equality and Human Rights Commission and other bodies, on matters affecting the Community, including Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc) Bill, The Police Act 1997 and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007, Remedial Order 2015, and Management of Hospital Post-Mortem Examinations. We have received praise from all sectors of the community for our concern to ensure that all views are properly represented in responses, especially when the subject is controversial and potentially divisive. All these responses can be accessed on our website at <http://www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html>.

Within the community, SCoJeC also acts as umbrella for a number of legal purposes, such as the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme (“Disclosure”), sponsoring visa applications on behalf of Jewish communal organisations, and confirming the authenticity of proposed marriage officiants who are not synagogue rabbis for National Records of Scotland. Our website (www.scojec.org) is increasingly popular as the source of information on the Jewish community for government and other officials, visitors, ex-pats, and others.

Sadly on the financial front the situation is far less positive as we have not received funding for some time from the Board of Deputies, and the Jewish Leadership Council is to withdraw its funding this month, leaving the viability of our organisation seriously threatened. We are undoubtedly grateful to the communal Trusts which do support us financially, especially the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust, Netherlee and Clarkston and Queen's Park Charitable Trusts. Our thanks also go to the West of Scotland Kashrut Commission, the Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society and the congregations that support us financially, demonstrating that they understand the need to lobby to maintain religious freedoms.

Looking to the future our first priority must surely be to secure sufficient funding to enable us to employ the staff we need to enable us to continue our essential work. We have been extremely fortunate that from the outset our Director has undertaken his work in a voluntary capacity. However, continuing to presume on both his time and his good will is neither fair nor sustainable, and we need to plan on employing an appropriately salaried Chief Executive in our strategy for the future.

In conclusion I wish to thank our Director Ephraim Borowski, Leah Granat, our full-time Research and Publications Officer, our former Public Affairs Officer Nicola Livingston, and part-timers Fiona Frank and Zoe Jacobs for their outstanding service, not just to SCoJeC but to the Jewish Community of Scotland. We recognise that our success is entirely dependent on their good will, and that we need urgently to address how to put our work on a sustainable footing. As I demit office my thanks are extended also to my fellow members of the SCoJeC Executive and the Council, for all their efforts on behalf of our organisation and the Scottish Jewish Community.

*Hilary Rifkind
Chair*

June 2016



Director's Report AGM, June 2016

I am delighted to report that SCoJeC has again had an extremely successful year in terms of delivering on our objectives, which we have come to see as four-fold:

- **Representing the Community** – meeting politicians, civil servants, and others to brief them about issues of concern to the Jewish community; responding to consultations by the Scottish Government, Parliament, and others on matters that could affect the Community; ensuring that the concerns expressed by participants in our government-funded studies of *Being Jewish in Scotland* are heard where they are needed.
- **Advancing Public Understanding** – responding to general enquiries, whether from officialdom, members of the Community, and the general public; formal and informal education about Judaism, Jews, and the Jewish Community; and maintaining our much commended website as a key source of information about the Community.
- **Community Development** – providing a support network for the smaller Jewish communities and for potentially vulnerable Jewish people outwith the formal community; publishing *Four Corners* and arranging events to foster a sense of community amongst people of Jewish background; working with Jewish Student Chaplaincy Scotland to support Jewish students in Scottish universities and colleges; and assisting people to report antisemitic hate crime and liaising with the police and prosecutors about these incidents.
- **Community Empowerment** – keeping all minority ethnic communities in Scotland informed about political and civic developments by publishing *MEMO*, a weekly digest of current information (<http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>), and *MEMO+plus*, a series of occasional papers on specific topics; alerting relevant national and local communal organisations about matters that might affect them; and assisting Scottish communal organisations to comply with Child Protection and Immigration regulations.

Our achievements under all of these headings are detailed in our formal Annual Report and elsewhere in the AGM papers, but it is worth singling out a few highlights:

- Following our meeting with the First Minister last June, she has made good on her pledge to engage publicly with the Community, attending communal events, as well as addressing a packed public meeting and meeting Jewish students and Scottish Israelis.
- We are dealing with an average of around 50 very miscellaneous enquiries a week ranging from the urgent and tragic to the surreal. (Where *is* the mikveh in Elgin?)
- Our Education and Community Development Officer, Zoe Jacobs, has developed our “JOES Boxes” kits and other resources to bring lessons about Judaism to life, and has visited nearly 40 schools to make her “positive, memorable, and educational” presentations to more than 3000 pupils.
- We’ve held around 20 events all around the country, providing Jewish social and cultural connections for more than 700 people many of whom have never had any previously.
- Our website is ever more popular with well over 10 000 pages attracting 1.3 million hits last year, and the monthly average has already more than doubled this year!

... and I could go on!

However, all these bricks are made with remarkably little straw, and the pressures on SCoJeC as an organisation are increasingly unsustainable. Our primary source of income is the Scottish Government's Equality Fund, and we are particularly grateful for its increase last year, but the grant is currently for one year at a time, and even in the first week of June we do not yet know how much, if anything, we will receive for the year beginning in July. Our next largest source of income was from the Jewish Leadership Council on behalf of a consortium of UK communal organisations for our daily "Public Affairs Brief"; they have decided to discontinue this, and although we would like to offer the service to other organisations we do not have the resources to do the necessary marketing. The Board of Deputies, which has previously justified its small annual contribution on the grounds that it also contributed to PAB, has given us nothing since 2014. We are fortunate that a number of Scottish communal organisations and Trusts have recognised the importance of the services we provide, and have supported us generously, and in that regard I must single out the Netherlee and Clarkston Trust for their support for Zoe's education and community development activities, as well as the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust and the Queens Park Trust.

Nonetheless, we finished last year with a deficit of over £14 000, and our break-even position for 2016 to date is largely due to a reduction in our already tiny staff. When Nicola stood down as Public Affairs Officer to concentrate on her other communal commitments, and Zoe's contract ends this month, we are not in a position to commit to replacing them. I have repeatedly warned that so much of our activity is dictated by external events that we have to respond to – whether formal consultations or media enquiries – that we do not have the space to develop our own strategy, and even the fire-fighting suffers. This was underlined when I was ill earlier this year and it was simply not possible to cover all our commitments; as a result the Executive unanimously agreed that our top priority has to be appointing a properly resourced Chief Executive whose priority will be our representative function.

That, however, cannot be all we do. Our funding from the Scottish Government hitherto has been mainly for our community development activities and the production of MEMO, both of which are crucial – the former because it keeps us in touch with our scattered constituency, and the latter because researching the information to include also contributes to our own awareness of public policy developments. Most of that work is in fact done by Leah Granat, our former Deputy Director, who is now a self-employed contractor providing these and other services, including assisting communal organisations with regulatory compliance. That work is unpredictable and can be exceptionally time-consuming, particularly advising and assisting with immigration queries and applications. When we explain the complex, restrictive, and constantly changing regulations and people become, as Leah reports, "incredulous, and then upset, and finally angry", and we are short of resources, it may be tempting to regard this service as peripheral and withdraw it, but that would be exceptionally short-sighted – SCoJeC exists above all to ensure the well-being of the Jewish Community and of individual Jewish people throughout Scotland, and that includes doing all we can to help them to negotiate the system, as well as ensuring there are no banner headlines about scandals involving the Community. I said last year that Leah does the work of two if not three people, and even though we have managed to get that down to nearer one and a half, we do need to rationalise Leah's duties as part of a staffing strategy that also includes education, outreach, and community development, as well as public and political engagement, and the Executive have calculated that that would require another £100 000 to do properly. So if employing a new CEO is a priority, raising the funds to do so is even more so.

Meanwhile, I remain grateful to all the colleagues I have worked with throughout the year: our Executive, Council, and all the others who regularly volunteer to take on particular aspects of our work – Debby speaking in schools and organising shul visits in the north-east, Linda arranging imaginative events in the West Highlands, Micheline sharing the burden of meetings and editing *Four Corners*, Hilary taking on PVG, Alan Kay and Margalit representing us at interfaith events; doubtless there are others I have omitted and to whom I apologise. We are also very grateful to the “cast” who have made our events such a success, and especially the renowned Klezmer and Yiddish song expert Michael Alpert, recipient of last year’s US National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Edinburgh-based Klezmer musician Gica Loening, and our two Israeli community artists, Roi Carmeli and Tom Krasny. And our paid staff, Leah, Nicola, Fiona, and Zoe, have more than delivered on their obligations, and it is largely thanks to them that we can declare this year, on balance, and with qualifications, a resounding success!

Commenting on our report on our use of last year’s grant, VAF, on behalf of the Scottish Government, said we were *“listening to what people are telling you, ... increase[ing] the reach of your work, ... address[ing] isolation, ... engag[ing] with young people, ... focus[ing] on community development. ... People feeling safe is a major priority. ... You’ve described how you balance what can be done, with current resources, with what needs to be done.”* But what people are telling us is that they feel more vulnerable and anxious, so even more needs to be done; and that needs time to develop strategy and sufficient staff to plan and deliver; and that all depends on adequate funding. We need the UK national Community to see not only its obligations but its self-interest, and we need to stop talking about fundraising and get on with doing it.

Ephraim Borowski, Director

May 2016

Parliament and Government

“What’s changed about Being Jewish in Scotland”: implementation
Meetings with new Ministers and engagement with the Community
Scottish Election: “Jewish manifesto”
Scottish Election 2016: analysis and consequences
Hate Crime
Community Safety Unit
Title to moveable property: restitution issues
International engagement and public procurement
Burial and Death Registration: continuing implementation issues
Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill: secondary legislation

Interfaith and Community Relations

Church of Scotland: theological dialogue group
planned report on Kairos and Balfour
BEMIS re GRAMnet
Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees
Interfaith Scotland

Media interest (excluding JC and JT)

Antisemitism: CST report, Sandra White, Labour party, campus, Israel, convictions, nazi dog
Being Jewish in Scotland (and *Being Jewish in Scotland*)
Consultation responses: Higher Education, organ donation,
Declining religious affiliation, Pesach, and other census issues!

Projects

Equality Fund: Education, MEMO, Outreach and Community Development
Photography project
“JOES Boxes”, the “Jewish Way of Life”, and “Jewish Living Experience”

Communal Matters

Board of Deputies and JLC
Regulatory activities: PVG, immigration, marriage registration.
Bicentenary of the Scottish Community

Finance and Administration

Finance and Funding
Staffing
Fundraising

Dates of meetings

Proposed:	Sunday 4th September	Glasgow
	Sunday 4th December	Edinburgh



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Consultation Responses submitted

2015–16

- January 2015: Connecting Scotland – how the Scottish Government and its agencies engage internationally (Scottish Parliament)
- March 2015: Age and Social Isolation (Scottish Parliament)
- April 2015: Proposed Bill Relating to Burial and Cremation and Other Related Matters in Scotland (Scottish Government)
- May 2015: Draft Charity Test Guidance (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)
- July 2015: Proposals for a Lobbying Transparency Bill (Scottish Government)
- Sept 2015: Higher Education Governance Bill (Scottish Parliament)
- October 2015: Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) Bill (Scottish Parliament)
- October 2015: Prescription and Title to Moveable Property Bill (Scottish Government)
- November 2015: The Police Act 1997 and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 Remedial Order 2015 (Scottish Government)
- January 2016: Scotland's Census 2021 Topics (Scottish Government / National Records of Scotland)
- January 2016: The Police Act 1997 and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 Remedial (no.2) Order 2015 (Scottish Parliament Education Committee)
- April 2016: Management of Hospital Post-mortem Examinations (Health Improvement Scotland)
- May 2016: Disclosure Scotland consultation meeting

Copies of all of these responses, and of responses submitted in previous years, are available on SCoJeC's website at www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html



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SCoJeC Events

2015–16

- April 2015: Inverness – Explanatory Third Seder
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15iv_pesach/pesach.html
- June 2015: Inverness – An evening of Jewish music
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15vi_inverness/inverness.html
- July 2015: Culmination of our first volunteer training course.
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15vii_volunteering/volunteering.html
- Sept 2015: Shetland – educational events during 4-day interfaith visit
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15vii_volunteering/volunteering.html
- Nov 2015: Dumfries and Inverness – ‘Art, Religion, and the Environment’ (Scottish Interfaith week)
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15xi_ifw/ifw.html
- Dec 2015: Dunblane, Alloa, Fort William, Inverness, and Dundee –
Chanukah tour of schools and outreach events
http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15xii_chanukah/chanukah.html
- Jan 2016: West Highlands – Tu B’Shvat tree planting
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16i_tu_b_shevat/tu_b_shevat.html
- Feb 2016: St Andrews – Klezmer music and Yiddish song, and presentation on ‘JOES Boxes’ *
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16ii_st_andrews/klezmer.html
- March 2016: Linlithgow – An Evening of Jewish Food, Jewish Learning, and Jewish Crafts,
and presentation on our JOES Boxes’ project *
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16iii_linlithgow/linlithgow.html
- April 2016: Fort William and Spean Bridge – linked Passover events and visits to schools *
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16iv_fort_william/fw.html
- May 2016: Stirling – An Evening of Jewish Food, Jewish Learning and Jewish Crafts –
and presentations on our JOES Boxes’ project and on the festival of Lag B’Omer *
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16v_lag_b_omer/lag.html

Forthcoming:

Edinburgh, Sun 5 June, and Glasgow, Thurs 9 June (with Glasgow Jewish Representative Council):

*The story of the Jewish people and the human race in song, music, and the spoken word –
an evening of Jewish Food, Jewish Music and Jewish Learning.*

A concert of Yiddish song and Klezmer music with award winning Klezmer multi-
instrumentalist Michael Alpert, and Edinburgh Klezmer fiddle player Gica Loening.

* We are grateful to the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust for their generous support for these events.



Scottish Council of
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Meetings, Briefings, Conferences, etc attended 2015–16

Regular Meetings

BEMIS

Interfaith Scotland

Police Scotland National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Police Scotland Glasgow Division Community Advisor Group

Police Scotland Forth Valley Division Diversity Advisory Group

Church of Scotland: Moderator, Principal Clerk, and Church and Society Council officers

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Human Rights

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Race Equality

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Religion

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Joint Faiths Advisory Board on Criminal Justice

Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education

NHS Spiritual Care Committees

Board of Deputies: Plenary meetings

Regional Deputies Assembly

Defence and Group Relations Division

Executive Committee

Occasional Meetings and conferences

First Minister: Nicola Sturgeon

Lord Advocate: Frank Mulholland

Justice Secretary: Michael Matheson

Secretary for Social Justice, Communities, etc: Alex Neil

Minister for Community Safety etc: Marco Biaigi

Minister for External Affairs and International Development: Humza Yousaf

Minister for Public Health: Maureen Watt

SNP Westminster Leader: Angus Robertson (with Board of Deputies and JLC)

Leader of Scottish Labour: Kezia Dugdale

Leader of Scottish Conservatives: Ruth Davidson

Leader of Scottish Liberal Democrats: Willie Rennie

Scottish Government Justice Dept: Community Safety Unit

Various MSPs to discuss matters of concern to the community

National Holocaust Memorial Day

Jewish Leadership Council political coordination group

CST telephone briefings on antisemitic incident statistics

Holocaust Education Trust Parliamentary reception

Crown Office and Police Hate Crime Conference

Education Scotland

Voluntary Action Fund seminars

Ahlul Bayt Parliamentary reception



Research and Publications Officers Report

AGM, June 2016

Political and other monitoring

- Daily monitoring of the Scottish, UK, Welsh, Northern Irish, Parliaments and Governments, the European Parliament, United Nations, and a very large number of statutory and non-statutory organisations, in order to raise awareness of relevant activities by means of MEMO, PAB, and daily briefing e-mails.
- Daily monitoring and circulation of relevant items published in the Scottish media, and weekly monitoring of the UK media.

Consultation Responses

- Consulting with relevant communal organisations and drafting consultation responses as listed above that represent the views of all branches of the Scottish Jewish community.

Publications

- Designing SCoJeC's website, and updating it at least weekly. Updating SCoJeC's facebook and twitter feeds.
- Contributing to the editing and production of *Four Corners*.
- Ensuring that the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland* (the most popular single item on the SCoJeC website) remains accurate and up-to-date.
- Assisting with the production of *What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland?* reports.
- Assisting in the production of briefing materials on subjects of relevance to the community.

Services to the Community

- Enabling communal organisations to comply with the **Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme**, which regulates people who work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults.
- Enabling communal organisations to comply with **immigration and visa regulations** governing employment of people (including volunteers) from outwith the European Union, advising organisations and individuals about immigration law, and, where appropriate, assisting them through the application process; and providing information to MSPs and Councillors to assist them with immigration queries raised by their Jewish constituents.
- Liaising with the **Procurator Fiscal Service** to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused by post-mortem examinations.
- Liaising with **National Records of Scotland** to enable couples who want to be married by a rabbi from outwith Scotland to comply with the relevant regulations.

Other Activities

- Responding to e-mail and telephone enquiries (averaging 50 per week) from public bodies, media, NGOs, the general public, and others on a wide range of matters relating to the Scottish Jewish community.
- Providing support, advice, and reassurance to members of the community who have been the victim, or who fear becoming the victim, of an antisemitic incident.
- Assisting with the preparation of reports to funders, in particular the Scottish Government.
- Providing IT advice to SCoJeC staff as required.

Leah Granat June 2016



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Outreach, Projects, and, Education report SCoJeC AGM, June 2016

JOES Boxes (Jewish Objects for Education in Scotland)

Our Education and Community Development Worker, Zoe Jacobs, has worked tirelessly to deliver a project providing a box of Jewish artefacts for every local authority in Scotland, with the enthusiastic assistance of Joe Goldblatt, who was able to obtain donations in cash and kind from the USA, and many others. The project was launched in January at the JCC, at a very successful event attended by two MSPs as well as more than 30 teachers from the local area and as far away as Caithness. At the event, the Senior Education Officer for Religious and Moral Education at Education Scotland was very complimentary about SCoJeC's work and this project in particular.

We still have some objects to source, but we are on course to have all the boxes filled by the end of June, and Joe Goldblatt plans to deliver some of the last boxes around Scotland in August. Zoe has presented information about the project at all our outreach events over the last few months, to great interest. She has also prepared the first three videos to accompany the artefacts, so that teachers have an idea of activities to do with children to bring the items to life. An accompanying booklet is also available on the SCoJeC website.

Volunteer training

Building on last year's VAF funded volunteering programme, Zoe organised training for young people and adults in Glasgow on behalf of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, including schools placements, and has obtained accreditation for the course from AQA. Unfortunately however, the courses didn't recruit enough people to go ahead, but Zoe is completing the materials and course notes so the course can be delivered in the future.

School visits

Zoe has continued to visit schools and youth groups, sometimes with a volunteer, and Debby Taylor does this work in the north of Scotland. Between them they have presented information about Judaism in interactive sessions and interfaith sessions to over 2750 young people this year. We now use an on-line evaluation form, and their sessions continue to be reviewed highly with people particularly praising the enthusiasm of the presenters: "Fantastic session led by Debby – very informative and child friendly. Gave them a real insight into Judaism"; "It was very nice to have a friendly, positive ambassador especially being in the highlands where the children may have very limited experiences meeting and discussing Judaism"; "I would like to thank Zoe for her great communication and flexibility".

Young People and their Synagogue: video

Zoe and a young Jewish film maker worked with young people in Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, and Aberdeen to make a short film for use in schools, with the young people talking about what their synagogue and their religion mean to them. With generous funding from the Netherlee and Clarkston and Queens Park Charitable Trusts, we plan to complete the video this month with some footage from the remaining Glasgow shuls to give a fuller picture of Jewish places of worship in Scotland.

Outreach events

In December Zoe visited schools in Dunblane, Alloa, Fort William, Inverness, and Dundee, coupled with evening events for local Jewish people and interested others, and in January Linda Martin, our Volunteer Ambassador for the Highlands and Islands, organised a Tu B'Shvat tree planting in the West Highlands, and awarded "tree-planting certificates"! In February around 100 people attended our Klezmer concert in St Andrews, which was preceded by a talk by Zoe on her educational work. In March we ran an event on the theme of "Jewish food, learning and crafts" in Linlithgow, where our two Israeli community artists, Roi Carmeli and Tom Krasny, helped participants to decorate personalised Kiddush cups for our 'JOES Boxes' project. We also held two Passover events in Fort William – one raising awareness of the JOES Boxes project and the other singing Passover songs with local Jewish people. One participant told us he hadn't had any contact with local Jewish people since he moved to the area many years earlier, and he spent much of the evening feeling very emotional, for example when he found that he could remember the Four Questions after so many years!



We held a second arts event in Stirling in May to mark LaG b'Omer, making hand decorated bows and arrows out of found objects with the Israeli community artists. This was supported by the local Regional Equality Council, whose network brought several councillors and the Lord Provost, and it was attended by no fewer than 56 local people who had seen the advert in the local paper, so we ran out of food! We are very grateful for the funding from the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust for this and a further five combined educational and outreach activities, which has enabled us to advertise in the local press and attract high attendances. This funding will also support two concerts with award winning Klezmer and Yiddish song expert Michael Alpert, and Gica Loening, one in Edinburgh on the same day as the AGM, and one in Glasgow, in partnership with Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, at Giffnock shul, on Thursday 9th June.

Future plans

Zoe's contract ends in June, and we need to establish a plan for continuing to provide school visits (in partnership with the Representative Council for Glasgow schools), as well as outreach and community development work with local Jewish people throughout Scotland. There is great demand for the school visits that Zoe and Debby have been delivering this year, and an interest in awareness raising sessions on Jewish festivals and the Jewish way of life for non Jewish groups around Scotland. We are interested in working with the Board of Deputies in the future on creating a Scottish version of their 'Jewish Way of Life' exhibition.

In response to the needs that we have heard about as part of our *Being Jewish in Scotland* inquiries, we have been seeking funding to work in partnership with Jewish Care Scotland. Our proposal to train volunteers around Scotland to work with older Jewish people was unfortunately unsuccessful, and we await the result of our application to fund events to reach out to Jewish people around Scotland who are socially isolated, and to train local volunteers to support them.

**Fiona Frank, Projects and Outreach Manager.
May 2016**