

SCoJeC was established in 1999 to represent the Jewish Communities of Scotland to the newly devolved 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.

Our Director, Ephraim Borowski, and I as Chair have divided the representational role between us over the reporting year. We had hoped to be able to recruit a paid CEO during that time but funding has not permitted this, and we have preferred to devote scarce resources to direct services to the Community rather than to public affairs.

We are very grateful to the funders who support our paid staff and overheads. The main grant-giver is the Scottish Government, which through its Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund (PECF) supports a number of functions. We are particularly grateful for this funding, which was significantly increased in 2016-17 and without which SCoJeC could not continue in its present form. Unfortunately this funding ends on 30th June, and the funding announcement for the next three years has been delayed because of the General Election, so at the time of writing we are unable to plan beyond the end of this month.

In particular, Leah Granat is responsible for research and publications, producing a daily media digest and political affairs digest. The weekly publication MEMO, supported by PECF, is also a partnership with BEMIS Scotland, a strategic partner in the Scottish Government's Race Equality Framework. Our partnership with BEMIS Scotland involves both a funding contribution to MEMO and to our outreach activities (see below) and is of key importance to SCoJeC. PECF also supports other Outreach activities and has enabled us to continue our contract with Fiona Frank as our Outreach and Projects Manager. Zoe Jacobs stood down at the end of June 2016 as Education and Community Development Worker but continues to work on a sessional basis delivering training for our volunteering programme. Rather than a direct replacement, we have appointed 4 sessional staff for different roles overlapping with what Zoe used to do (see below).

Since becoming Chair I have had the privilege of meeting Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities; and the Lord Advocate James Wolffe QC for courtesy meetings and introductory discussions. We also met John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, to make representations about a proposed educational package on Israel and Palestine for P6 to S2 pupils, which would give young people a very skewed version of this complex topic.

We paid a courtesy call on Kirsten Oswald, MP for East Renfrewshire, and discussed many matters of mutual interest with Jackson Carlaw, MSP for East Renfrewshire. We have had contact with other MSPs as the occasion demanded it, and attended many meetings with officials of the Scottish Government and its subsidiary bodies.

In May, after representations from the Jewish Community, Angela Constance announced that the Scottish Government accepted the definition of antisemitism that is now associated with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) (although the EU Monitoring Centre devised it some years ago). We have had discussions with officials of the Justice Department, Police Scotland, and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service about what this might mean in practice, and it has been made clear that it is up to the courts to decide what constitutes an antisemitic aggravation. Nonetheless, the IHRA definition – which includes demonisation of, delegitimisation, and applying double standards to the State of Israel – is a useful guide.

In another gesture of respect for the Jewish Community, the First Minister, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, gave the toast to the Immortal Memory at the Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue Burns Supper in January 2017.

On the Education front we are very grateful to the Pears Foundation for funding a project to train volunteers to deliver high quality, consistent education about Jews and Judaism in Scottish schools, supported by "JOES Boxes", genuine Jewish artefacts and learning materials, which are now available through local Education Authorities. The Volunteering 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.

The course is organised by new sessional worker Joanne Gabbay and delivered by Zoe Jacobs. While the volunteers are being brought up to speed we are very grateful to Debby Taylor and Margalit Borowski, who have been delivering sessions in schools, sometimes several a week, in different parts of Scotland, and to Professor Joe Goldblatt, who has not only personally delivered JOES boxes to different locations but also led educational sessions during many of these visits.

We have also been fortunate to be allocated a grant by the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Foundation to continue our programme of outreach visits and special events throughout Scotland. We held 15 such events in 2016, attended by more than 500 people, in Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Dumfries, Alloa, Lochaber, Inverness, Dundee, Aberdeen and Fort William. In 2017, in addition, we held a Purim event in Dundee, combined with a Council meeting, and a Lag B'Omer barbecue in Falkirk's Callendar Park, with the assistance of the Forestry Commission.

We are delighted that Shayna Conn has joined the SCoJeC team to specialise on social media and as part of that a strapline has been developed to encapsulate what SCoJeC does in terms of "connecting, representing and supporting Jewish people in Scotland". This is now being incorporated into a revised design of our logo.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the Scottish Jewish Community (1817 being the year in which an organised Jewish Community first started up in Edinburgh, though there were individual Jewish residents in Scotland from an earlier date) SCoJeC facilitated the distribution of a new publication, *The Jewish Experience in Scotland*, to every public library in Scotland. We also attended a highly successful reception by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh on 1 March 2017 to mark the Bicentenary and we commissioned a logo for the Bicentenary programme, which is now in use in publicity materials.

Other anniversaries occur in 2017, which is also the Centenary of the Balfour Declaration and the fiftieth anniversary of the Six Day War. Since I became Chair I have been very clear that it is the job of SCoJeC to support our community in celebrating such landmark anniversaries. It is also our role to try to protect Jewish people in Scotland from the adverse effects of extreme hostility to the Jewish state as evidenced by our *Being Jewish in Scotland* reports. This does not mean that SCoJeC defends the policies of any particular Israeli Government. Rather it is our duty to remind Scottish public officials and bodies of the key importance of the State of Israel to Jewish people in Scotland; and to the risks of antisemitism when the politics of the Middle East conflict are imported into our Scottish national life.

During the reporting year, we have tried to strengthen links with other faith groups but we have encountered particular obstacles with the Church of Scotland, which again has chosen to publish a report relating to Israel about which we had severe reservations. The General Assembly passed a detailed Deliverance pertaining to this report, which raises a number of issues of concern. We are, however, committed to starting a formal dialogue with the Church of Scotland to clarify where we have common interests and where we diverge (such as on the meaning of scripture) and we hope that this dialogue will prove fruitful.

At the level of social action we continue to have friendly and co-operative relationships with other faith groups including the Church of Scotland. We continue, for example, to play our part in the interfaith group Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees which was established by the Church of Scotland.

During the year SCoJeC has submitted responses to a wide range of consultations by the Scottish Government, and other bodies, on matters affecting the Community, listed separately below. All these responses can be accessed on our website at www.scojec.org/consultations/consultations.html. 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.

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.

Sadly on the financial front the situation is far less positive. National representative bodies (the Jewish Leadership Council and the Board of Deputies) do not provide any grant aid to SCoJeC. While we work closely with the JLC's Scotland Director, Peter Speirs, this is no substitute for employing our own staff and leaves us carrying out an unrealistic burden of public affairs work on an unpaid basis.

We are immensely grateful to the communal Trusts that support us financially, especially the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust which increased its funding significantly this year, Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, which has very generously supported our outreach events, and the Queen's Park Charitable Trust. Our thanks also go to the West of Scotland Kashrut Commission, the Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society, and the congregations that also assist us, showing 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, and it is clear that serious fund-raising will be required.

In conclusion I wish to thank our Director Ephraim Borowski, Leah Granat, our full-time Research and Publications Officer, and Fiona Frank, who has developed the education and outreach role to a new level this year, for their outstanding service not just to SCoJeC but to the Jewish Community of Scotland. I add thanks to Joanne Gabbay, Shayna Conn, Margalit Borowski, and Leah Balint who are making a great contribution as sessional staff.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council for the terrific partnership we enjoy in the public affairs role; and to the work of Ruth Kennedy, Nigel Goodrich and others in partnership with SCoJeC on combatting the antisemitism that arises from extreme antizionism. I do consider there is a partnership with the Board of Deputies, which I have set out to refresh and rebuild in my first year in office. While Scotland is devolved and is different, we are still in one UK and partnerships with major representative bodies such as the BoD are of considerable importance and benefit to the Jewish Community as a whole.

Last but not least I must thank the Council and the Executive for all your support during the year and I must especially mention the co-Presidents of GJRC, Nicola Livingston and Evy Yedd for their unstinting support to me personally. I also pay tribute to everyone who has done a massive amount of voluntary work in their communities including places where it is difficult and involves great sacrifice to maintain a Jewish life. SCoJeC's unique role is to reach out to Jewish people in far-flung places and to support their leaders but their leaders also support us, for which we are immensely grateful.

*Micheline Brannan, Chair
June 2017*



**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
Financial Summary for 2017**

at 7 June 2017	General Funds	SG Equalities 2016-17	Clarkston	Pears	Photography Project	Pilgrimage Project	2017 TOTAL to date	2016 TOTAL
Opening Balance at 1 January 2017	8,131.90	-3,914.39		10,588.67	12,718.82	3,575.00	31,100.00	29,705.40
INCOME								
Affiliations	1,827.50						1,827.50	8,037.50
Equalities Grant		27,600.00					27,600.00	50,600.00
General Donations	5,209.50						5,209.50	9,477.77
Community Trust Funding	3,500.00						3,500.00	7,000.00
CST Funding	0.00						0.00	2,000.00
JLC								5,000.00
Clarkston			2,466.11				2,466.11	6,798.00
Pears							0.00	12,714.00
Total Income	10,537.00	27,600.00	2,466.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,603.11	101,627.27
EXPENDITURE								
Staff	5720.00	9802.50	1,192.50	510.00			17,225.00	55,247.87
Sessional Staff		2,417.90	3,630.00	3089.20			9,137.10	10,572.39
Office & Telephone	546.83	2015.47	82.34	50.17			2,694.81	9,912.29
Advert, Print & Stationery	197.50	677.53	1,272.17	561.45			2,708.65	6,672.75
Travel	422.55	320.95	1,095.42	859.91	359.06		3,057.89	7,517.82
Hospitality & Events	23.35	1556.55	2,450.93	307.02	67.62		4,405.47	6,091.47
Subscriptions, Affiliations & Licence Fees	250.00	0.00					250.00	925.00
Professional Fees	491.50	432.50					924.00	1,412.40
Bank Charges								78.38
Depreciation								1,077.29
Total Expenditure	7,651.73	17,223.40	9,723.36	5,377.75	426.68	0.00	40,402.92	99,507.66
Accruals re previous year	175.00	175.00					350.00	-725.00
Closing Balance	11,192.17	6,637.21	-7,257.25	5,210.92	12,292.14	3,575.00	31,650.19	31,100.00
Surplus for period							550.19	1,394.61

Membership of Council

Glasgow:	Nicola Livingston, Evy Yedd, Philip Mendelsohn, Fiona Brodie
Edinburgh:	Raymond Taylor, Gillian Raab, Hilary Rifkind
Aberdeen:	Mark Taylor
Tayside & Fife:	Paul Spicker
Highlands:	Frank House
Student Chaplaincy:	Simon Dover
Israelis in Scotland:	Danielle Bett
Coopted:	Micheline Brannan (Edinburgh), Joe Goldblatt (Edinburgh), Judith Sischy (Edinburgh), Debby Taylor (Aberdeen)

I am delighted to be able to report on another very successful year for SCoJeC in terms of delivering on our four principal objectives:

- **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 of members of the Community 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 communities informed about relevant political and civic developments by publishing *PAD*, a daily *Political Affairs Digest* for Jewish communal organisations (<http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html>), and *MEMO*, a weekly digest of current information for minority ethnic communities (<http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>), and *MEMO+plus*, a series of occasional papers on specific topics; alerting relevant organisations in the national and local Jewish Community about matters that might affect them; and assisting Scottish communal organisations to comply with Child Protection and Immigration regulations.

Our formal Annual Report and the lists elsewhere in these AGM papers give a flavour of the huge range and diversity of what we do, so there is no need to repeat that here. However, here are a few themes that are worthy of comment, of which sadly the most worrying is that the unprecedented sense of alienation and vulnerability that we reported in our 2014 report on *What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland* has not subsided in line with the actual number of incidents reported to the police. Last year I reported that we had raised with Police Scotland that some local policing teams seemed to take the view that the easiest way to keep the peace in the face of threatened demonstrations is for the event not to take place rather than dealing with those who want to disrupt it, and we have taken the opportunity of consultations on police priorities and the prosecution service to comment on the ways in which the reality falls short of the assurances that we have received. As chair of Police Scotland's National Strategic Advisory Group (a post to which I have been reappointed), I have taken the opportunity to press for recognition that "communities" are not only neighbourhoods, and the new policing strategy recognises this with a commitment to "support an increasingly diverse set of communities, whether defined by place, identity or virtual connection, to increase their resilience". Members of the Community do now appear to be receiving more support, possibly as a result of the new national policing policy and structure. There have also been some successful prosecutions and a number of other cases continue to inch their way through the courts.

A continuing concern, however, is that every incident, wherever it might occur, adds to, or at least prevents a reduction of level of anxiety in the Community. The official definition of a hate crime is “crime motivated by malice or ill-will based on a victims actual or presumed membership of a social group”, and therefore, as police hate crime manuals put it, “Whilst all crime can increase the fear of being targeted in people other than the victim, fear of hate crime escalates dramatically in those who share with an immediate victim, the same group identity that has made a victim a target.” Unfortunately that applies equally to failure to condemn such incidents, which is why we are concerned by the evident impact on Jewish people living in Scotland when those in authority, including government and the churches, condemn Israel but are silent both about it’s right to defend its citizens, and about conflicts with far more casualties; and when the very people who rushed to condemn the stigmatisation of the entire Muslim community following terrorist incidents are voluble in stigmatising the entire Jewish community. The Church of Scotland is prone to talking about “speaking truth to power”; we have repeatedly reminded them that in Scotland they are the power, and they need to hear the truth of the effect of what they say – and what they fail to say – on Jewish people in their own parishes. I am pleased to say that an article by me to that effect was published in *Life and Work*, and a similar article in the brochure for the STUC St Andrews Day anti-racism rally.

That said, it is a matter of regret that we find ourselves having to devote so much of our limited resources to this essentially negative activity, so that we are less able to respond to the many other aspects of public policy that have the capacity to affect Jewish life in Scotland. We are extremely fortunate to receive the very generous support of a number of communal trusts, and it is primarily thanks to the Netherlee and Clarkston Trust that we have been able to expand our outreach and community development work, holding more events in more places and attracting more people, many of whom, particularly Israelis who live in Scotland, have had little or no prior contact with the Community. We are also very grateful to the Pears Foundation for their support for our work to ensure that teaching about Judaism and the Jewish Community in Scottish schools is accurate, positive, and engaging. I am very grateful to Fiona Frank for managing this side of our work and to her and her new team of part-time staff, Joanne Gabbay and Shayna Conn, and a growing band of volunteers for delivering these programmes so effectively. Fiona reports separately in detail below.

We are also very grateful to the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust for very generously increasing their support over the last three years, and to the other communal organisations that have recognised the importance of our representative role in maintaining Jewish life in Scotland, literally, in the past year, from conception to post mortem! Sadly we now receive almost no financial support from the UK community, although the JLC’s appointment of a Scottish official to assist both SCoJeC and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, has been beneficial, and we hold regular meetings to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate – the “3Cs”!

Our one full-time (and more!) member of staff remains Leah Granat, whose commitment and efficiency cannot be commended enough. As Research and Publications officer, she is responsible for our various digests of current affairs (MEMO and PAD), consultation responses, and *Four Corners*, as well as being the first port of call for the large number of general enquiries we receive by phone and e-mail, averaging around 50 a week. Her post is largely funded by our grant from the Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund, and we are extremely grateful to the Scottish Government for generously increasing this grant for 2016-17. However, after this was extended for a fifth quarter till June, we are still awaiting news about our application for the next three years, since the announcement was delayed by the General Election, so at this point, we are unable to plan any of the activities supported by this fund beyond the end of this month.

In that context, it is worth restating and emphasising the important connection between the strands of our work. In order to be able to represent and convey the concerns of Jewish people in Scotland, we first have to listen to them, and – as the Scottish Government recognised when it funded our two studies of *Being Jewish in Scotland* – that means getting people into the room to hear what they say by holding varied events in varied locations throughout the country. These events also have a positive value in themselves, in that they help people feel more connected, and so more secure, and so and more at ease with their identity as Jewish Scots, and when participants share their feelings and concerns with us, often for the very first time, that in turn also makes them feel better supported and so less vulnerable.

So does our website – also maintained by Leah – which continues to grow. There are well over 10 000 pages, which last year had more than three million hits, and so far this year it has already had almost that number. *Four Corners* is read by almost 2000 people a month on line, as well as the copies circulated by post and through communal organisations. MEMO is read by around 6000 people a month, and since we made PAD publicly available it has a similar readership. The *Being Jewish in Scotland* reports continue to be read by around 2500 people a month, the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland* by more than 1000, and our education resources by an average of 3000 a month.

We have a huge amount to be proud of, and we continue to make vast numbers of bricks with very little straw. However, as we continually say, this is not sustainable. The Scottish Community – and indeed the UK Community – needs SCoJeC, but it has to be paid for. That we deliver our objectives, and do so cost-effectively, is not in question, as has been demonstrated by the continuing support of the Scottish Government. But we need to be able to take a break from fire-fighting to be able to plan strategically; that needs better structures and more and properly rewarded staff; and that needs adequate funding. We need to employ a Chief Executive and a Public Affairs Officer, and the Executive have estimated that it would cost around £100 000 to do so. We need the support of the UK national Community through the Board and the JLC, and if we will that end, we have to will the means!

Finally I want to thank all my colleagues whom I have worked with throughout the year: our Executive, Council, staff, and volunteers. In particular I am grateful to Micheline for her leadership and for sharing the burden of the public affairs portfolio, Leah for the huge range of her work and the skill and dedication with which she does it, Hilary administering PVG for the Community, Linda and Debby for doing so much in the north of the country, Alan Kay for representing us in Interfaith Scotland, to Fiona, Joanne, Shayna, and Zoe for all their work on events and education, Jacqueline Friedman for her excellent design work (and putting up with our perfectionism!) especially on *Four Corners*, Daniel Clapham for his assistance with finance, and to all the others who assist in one way or another by representing us at meetings, performing and helping at events, speaking in schools, writing articles and reports, and a myriad other ways. We have had a very busy, and a very successful year, and I hope I am speaking for SCoJeC, and SCoJeC is speaking for the Community, when I thank you all whole-heartedly for all your whole-hearted support.

Ephraim Borowski, Director
June 2017

Parliament and Government

General Election: analysis and consequences
Meetings with Ministers and engagement with the Community
Annual meeting with SG Community Safety Unit, CST, police, and Crown Office
Educational issues: bullying and harassment in schools
Education Scotland "Israel/Palestine resource"
Cross-Party Group on Palestine – antisemitic incident
Israeli Ambassador's visit to Parliament
Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill: secondary legislation
Title to moveable property: restitution issues
Commission on Parliamentary Reform
Cross-Party Groups on Race Equality and Religious Freedom
Keeping "What's changed about Being Jewish in Scotland" up to date

Interfaith and Community Relations

Church of Scotland: Balfour report; proposed dialogue group
Contacts with other churches

Media interest (excluding JC and JT)

recent requests for comment: Antisemitism and various antisemitic incidents, Labour party, Church of Scotland, CPG incident, UK Holocaust memorial, kosher food in prisons, terrorism.

Projects

Equality Fund: MEMO, Outreach and Community Development
Pears Foundation: Educational materials, "JOES Boxes", volunteer training
Photography project

Communal Matters

Bicentenary of the Scottish Community
Antisemitic incidents: communal reactions and current prosecutions
Regulatory activities: PVG, immigration, marriage registration.
Board of Deputies and JLC

Finance and Administration

SG Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund
Communal Trust Funding
Staffing
Fundraising



Regular Meetings

SCoJeC / GJRC / JLC liaison meetings

BEMIS

Interfaith Scotland

Police Scotland National Independent Strategic 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 Building Bridges with Israel

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Freedom of Religion

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Joint Faiths Board on Community Justice

Scottish Churches Committee Safeguarding Group (Disclosure)

Board of Deputies: Plenary meetings, Regional Deputies Assembly, Defence and Interfaith Division

Occasional Meetings and Conferences

Lord Advocate, James Wolffe QC

http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16xi_la/la.html

Communities and Equalities Secretary, Angela Constance MSP

http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16xi_ac/ac.html

SNP delegation and young Scots living in Israel

http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16xi_scots-israelis/si.html

Scottish Government Justice Department Community Safety Unit

Scottish Government meeting with Equality Organisations

Scottish Government Hate Crime Advisory Group briefing

Scottish Government 2017-2021 Equality Outcomes briefing

Scottish Government Race Equality Framework conference

Scottish Government Equalities Unit (various meetings)

Scottish Government Cohesive Communities (various meetings)

Various MSPs to discuss matters of concern to the community

National Holocaust Memorial Day

Jewish Leadership Council

CST briefings on antisemitic incident statistics

Holocaust Education Trust Parliamentary reception

Education Scotland

Voluntary Action Fund seminars

Scottish Institute for Policing Research conference

National Records of Scotland (re census)



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, Political Affairs Digest, 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.
- 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.
- Production of briefing materials on subjects of relevance to the community.

Services to the Community

- Liaising with the Procurator Fiscal Service to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused by post-mortem examinations.
- Enabling communal organisations to comply with the Points-Based Immigration System that governs the employment of people (including volunteers) from outwith the European Union.
- 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.
- Contributing to a wide variety of SCoJeC documents including letters to Scottish Government Ministers, public statements, publicity materials, and responses to relevant publications from other organisations.
- 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.
- Providing a variety of administrative support.

Leah Granat
June 2017

- August 2016: Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland (Scottish Government)
- October 2016: The role and purpose of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (Scottish Parliament)
- January 2017: Unelected church appointees on Local Authority Education Committees (Scottish Parliament)
- January 2017: Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review (Scottish Government)
- February 2017: Guidance on Religious Observance in Schools (Scottish Government)
- March 2017: Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (Scottish Government)
- May 2017: Commission on Parliamentary Reform (Scottish Parliament)

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



Four Corners

- June 2016: http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/16vi_4c50.pdf
October 2016: http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/16x_4c51.pdf
December 2016: http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/16xii_4c52.pdf
April 2017: http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/17iv_4c53.pdf

Political Affairs Digest: A summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
4-5 issues per week during the parliamentary session; as required during recess, dissolution, etc

- 2016: <http://www.scojec.org/pab/2016.html>
2017: <http://www.scojec.org/pad/pad.html>

MEMO: A weekly overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland
Including the 500th issue with congratulatory messages from, amongst others, the Cabinet Secretary for Equalities, Angela Constance MSP, the Lord Advocate, James Wolffe QC, and the Police Scotland Deputy Chief Constable, Ruairaidh Nicolson.

- http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16x_memo_500/memo.html
2016: http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo_2016.html
2017: <http://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>

MEMO+: Occasional briefing papers of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland

- June 2016: The European Union Referendum 2016
http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2016/16vi_eu_referendum.pdf
October 2016: The Scottish Parliament and Government 2016-17
http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2016/16x_sp_and_sg_2016-17.pdf
October 2016: The Scottish Government Legislative Programme 2016-17
http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2016/16x_sg_legislative_programme_2016-17.pdf
May 2017: Voting in the UK General Election 2017
http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17v_voting_in_the_general_election.pdf

Other Publications

- June 2016: Guide to “JOES Boxes” educational resource
http://www.scojec.org/resources/files/joes_boxes.pdf
July 2016: Final report: *What’s Changed About Being Jewish in Scotland*
<http://www.scojec.org/resources/files/bjis2.pdf>
November 2016: STUC St Andrew’s Day Anti-Racism Brochure 2016
What’s it like Being Jewish in Scotland in your workplace?
http://www.scojec.org/pov/stuc/16_st_andrews_day.pdf
November 2016: Life and Work (Church of Scotland)
What’s Being Jewish in Scotland like in your parish?
http://www.scojec.org/pov/misc/16xi_life_and_work.pdf



- June 2016: Klezmer in Giffnock
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16vi_giffnock/giffnock.html
- August 2016: "Knish-Nosh" Jewish Cookery Demonstration in Inverness
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16viii_inverness/inverness.html
- December 2016: Pre-Chanukah event in Dumfries
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16xii_dumfries/dumfries.html
- December 2016: Pre-Chanukah event in Inverness
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16xii_inverness/inverness.html
- December 2016: Pre-Chanukah event in Alloa
http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16xii_alloa/alloa.html
- March 2017: Purim events in Ayr, Dumfries, Inverness, and Dundee
http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iii_purim/purim.html
- May 2017: Fire and Light in the Forest: LaG b'Omer event in Falkirk
http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17v_lag_b_omer/lag_b_omer.html

Forthcoming:

Bicentenary History Talks: exploring Scotland's smaller Jewish Communities (with buffet)

- DUNFERMLINE: Monday 19 June 6.30 p.m. Michael Tobias, James Allan Centre, Paton St, 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, 74 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

Whittinghame Estate Walk – Sunday 20th August 2017

Crossing the Border: a Jewish musical journey in Scotland (with buffet)

- 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: Wed 6th September: Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Rd, EH16 5AB

Forest craft in Forres – October, date tbc

Jewish and Islamic Art – paper cutting workshop – November, tbc

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



Outreach:

Our new part-time events team of Joanne (events coordination) and Shayna (marketing and communications) has been working flat-out this year, not just to deliver activities, but also to plan a programme running right through to November.

We ran three Purim events, in Ayr, Dundee (after the SCoJeC Council meeting), and Inverness. These included explanatory Megillah readings and festive food and activities – a hamantaschen demonstration in Inverness, and mask and fancy dress making with our Israeli community artists Tom and Roi, in Ayr and Dundee. In Inverness Linda Martin our Highlands and Islands Volunteer Ambassador also gave a talk on Purim to a local older people's group.

We have been supporting fledgling communities: in Dumfries, a local minister who has contacts with many local Jewish people has been hosting events in his church hall. We ran a Chanukah party with him and his local community last December, and supported a Purim party this year, sending down refreshments. They also held a 'third night seder'. We remain in communication with him and will support future events at their request.

In Inverness, though sadly a key player who helped bring together a lot of local people last year has returned to London, the 'Inverness Kehillah' brought together 16 people for a second night seder, prepared and coordinated by Linda Martin. We underwrote the event and helped with publicity.

In May we worked in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland and Newton Mearns Hebrew Congregation to run a LaG b'Omer event in Callendar Wood, Falkirk, which brought together around 200 Jewish people from the four corners of Scotland, with coaches from Aberdeen and Dundee, and from Glasgow, and many people also coming from Edinburgh and other parts of the country. A large contingent of Israelis came, and many people who had no previous contact with the community. 'Earth for life', the organisation commissioned by the Forestry Commission Scotland to deliver a set of games and activities in the forest for younger and older participants, ran a whole day's programme of archery, foraging, weaving, and story telling, which were enjoyed by all. Unfortunately there were difficulties with the third-party catering, and we have taken steps to ensure that we retain more control over events so that this cannot happen again.

As Council members will have seen in the latest "e-newsletter" (please let us know if you did not receive this), we have (so far) arranged a set of seven history talks to be delivered in the seven small communities discussed by Nathan Abram in his book 'Caledonian Jews'; a walk to the Whittinghame Estate (birthplace of Lord Balfour) led by a local ranger and repeating the successful walk led by the Edinburgh Jewish Community Centre last October; Klezmer concerts with Michael Alpert and Gica Loening in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Arran; a paper cutting workshop with a Muslim and a Jewish paper cutter working together for Interfaith Scotland week; and another forestry activity, this time in Grampian, in partnership with the Grampian regional Forestry Commission office. And that takes us back to Chanukah! Working on advance planning has allowed us to get publicity into different national and regional calendars such as Refugee Festival Scotland week in June, the European Days of Jewish Culture in September, and the Doors Open calendar.

All of this work has been generously supported by the Netherlee and Clarkston Charitable Trust, and the Lag B'Omer event was also supported by the Jewish Youth Fund (Glasgow) and Forestry Commission Scotland.

Education:

With financial support from the Pears Foundation, Zoe has been delivering a new round of our "SCoJeC Education Ambassador" accredited volunteer training programme. We have now held two of the four sessions, and several of the trainees have attended their first placement, either to a school with an experienced volunteer, or accompanying a volunteer on a group visit to a synagogue. We have six new trainees – from Dumfriesshire, Invernesshire, and Glasgow – and three mentors. Five or six other people are keen to do the course if it is repeated. Joanne is doing all the course admin and coordination, including arranging placements, and is also taking the course herself, with a view to delivering the next round. As we wrote in our E-newsletter, Cheryl – who hasn't been in touch with SCoJeC before but joined the course after reading about it in the Jewish Telegraph – 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 wrote last time that we had an idea of a Shabbaton in Shetland around Shavuot. There wasn't much interest in this plan but we are thinking about maybe doing something in Shetland in 2018 – anyone for Up Helly Aa in January?!

Debby Taylor, Joe Goldblatt, and Margalit Borowski have continued to deliver programmes in schools in the North East, Edinburgh, Glasgow and the Borders, with Debby continuing to host shul visits at Aberdeen – including one visit with sixty primary school pupils and several teachers and parent helpers. Joe presented three programmes for 45 S2 students in May at Stromness Academy, Orkney. The programme was well received and he was invited to return next year.

We are also working on improving the resources for our partners who hold the "JOES Boxes" (Jewish Objects of Education for Scotland) around the country, which will be funded by our Pears grant.

Communications

As in my last report, we continue to send out a regular E-newsletter, we are communicating with people about our events on social media (including, since December, 'live-feed' facebook videos!) and Linda continues to host a monthly video chat with isolated Jewish people from around the country.

**Fiona Frank,
Projects and Outreach Manager
June 2017**