



Chair's Report

AGM June 2022

The past year has been yet another dominated by the Covid Pandemic, which has taken its toll on individuals and communities everywhere, and changed the way that charitable organisations, like ours, have had to operate. As detailed in Ephraim's report, we have had to refine and develop our activities and ways of working responsively – but we are also trying to plan for a future that continues to be slightly opaque as the world takes tentative steps to recovery, so that we can go about our core business of *Representing, Connecting, and Supporting Jewish people in Scotland*.

One of the main tasks for us has been to secure funding to continue to operate and most significantly to develop the plans started by my predecessor in conjunction with the Board of Deputies, to employ a full time, fully funded Director, so that our current, voluntary Director can finally take a well-earned retirement. A lot of work has been going on throughout the year to take this forward and it is a great source of frustration that we haven't managed to bring this to fruition as yet.

When the new Offices Bearers gathered the relevant documents and spoke to the various parties, it emerged that there was still significant follow-up work to be done to complete the necessary discussions, and there was no firm agreement covering exactly how the arrangements would work between the two organisations and any other stakeholders. It was also not clear from the early drafts how policy would be decided, and how SCoJeC would retain its unique position as the lead agency representing the Jewish Community in Scotland to the Scottish Government, MSPs, Local Authorities, STUC, Scottish Churches, other Faith Communities, etc.

In addition, there was no budget or mid- to long-term projections detailing how the full funding package would put in place, including securing continuing, and hopefully increased, funds to incorporate not just the salary for a fully funded Director, but also the associated costs – expenses, equipment, training etc, – and to continue the work we were currently doing, funded by the Scottish Government.

It also emerged that the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC,) who for four years had generously funded a very successful Scotland Manager post, covering Public Affairs and associated functions, working across SCoJeC and Glasgow Rep Council, had not been party to the discussions with the BoD, and were blindsided when the announcement of this new arrangement was made. The JLC subsequently announced, following a 4-way meeting with SCoJeC, the Rep Council, and the Board, just before last year's AGM, that it was putting its funding contribution for Scotland on hold until they saw how things developed from negotiations with the Board. This was a huge blow, especially as GJRC went on to negotiate a separate grant from the JLC to employ someone to meet their own needs.

As a result, more pressure has ironically been put on our volunteer Director at a time when he had hoped to reduce his workload. Although I was able to assist, having previously worked as SCoJeC's Public Affairs Officer, my personal circumstances meant there were

lengthy periods when I wasn't available, and in consequence there have been a number of pieces of work put on hold. We did approach the JLC again, but they have maintained their position on this.

An added complication was that continued, or preferably increased, funding from the Scottish Government, was presupposed by the Board's proposal for a paid Director, but, as reported at the last AGM, they were in the process of restructuring their funding for equalities. In Spring 2021, they announced a new fund for "Equality and Human Rights", covering all the protected characteristics except religion! We did apply to this fund as it covered race and race relations, but unfortunately, we were unsuccessful, and meanwhile there was still no information about funding for faith organisations like ourselves. However, our previous grant was further extended from October 2021 until March 2022, with no changes to the terms, which meant we could only use it for specified work, and not core staff costs. so that Consequently, we were not in a position to take forward the recruitment process started by the previous chair as we did not have funds to meet the remaining portion of salary and other expenses.

It was not till November 2021 that we were told the terms of the new "Connecting Communities Fund" and invited to enter into a negotiated arrangement for funding, pegged at the previous level. Significantly this fund was to be directly managed by the SG, and not an intermediary organisation – and for the first time it could include some core staff costs. In late December, we were advised we had been successful and that a follow up meeting would be arranged to agree exactly how the money was to be used. but Unfortunately, this meeting was postponed because most of the SG team were redeployed to deal with the refugee crisis arising out of the war in Ukraine. It has now been arranged for the end of June.

Our third funding partner is the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust, and we are grateful to them for the significant grants they have awarded to us over the years. We are in continuing dialogue with them about how 'representation' for the Jewish community is provided and funded in the future. We will be working closely with the newly elected Rep Council President and his team to form a strategic plan, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities across the two organisations and potential for savings on backroom costs.

Whilst the funding for and restructure of SCoJeC to encompass a paid Director has dominated my first year in office, I have had some time to be involved in other areas of our work! Given my background in Social Work, I have taken a keen interest in the plans to introduce a National Care Service in Scotland, attending consultation events and liaising with both Cosgrove Care and Jewish Care Scotland, in order to ensure that the welfare needs of the community are communicated at the earliest stages of the planning process. This will be a major shake-up to how care services are delivered in Scotland and we were not all satisfied that it has been properly thought out, leaving many significant questions unanswered.

I attend the regular meetings of regional representative bodies, chaired by the BoD. It is helpful to hear what is happening around the country and be able to share knowledge. Meetings like these have greatly benefited by being held on Zoom, as people from across the UK can participate, without having to travel great distances for an hour's meeting.

Having been a past chair of Jewish Student Chaplaincy, it was rewarding to be able to work with Mia Spiro, the new chair, and her team to facilitate a meeting between Jewish students and the First Minister, and a follow-up meeting with Scottish Government officials and

Universities Scotland, where Jewish students were able to give first-hand accounts of their experiences of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment. These meetings had a huge impact, giving reassurance to students that their concerns were being taken seriously, and left the First Minister and other participants in no doubt about the continuing affects on the health and wellbeing of students.

I had the honour of attending a breakfast meeting with the Israeli President, Isaac Herzog in London, just as Covid restrictions were lifted. It was also a useful occasion to meet with colleagues from various organisations including the Board of Deputies and the JLC. We have continued to work closely with the Israeli Embassy and particularly with Christina Jones from the Centre for Scotland and Israel Relations. At a recent meeting with Efrat Perri, the new Head of Public Diplomacy at the Embassy, we spoke in detail about how SCoJeC supports Jewish identity in Scotland, which we know for the majority of people, includes a close relationship with Israel. She clearly understood why we cannot get involved in the politics of the Israeli Government, but are keen to continue to engage with Israeli speakers and organisations who are involved in a range of cultural, educational, medical and scientific fields who will be of interest to Jewish people in Scotland and complement the work we do.

In conclusion, I would like to say a huge thanks to all Office Bearers, Executive, and members of Council who have supported me personally and the work of SCoJeC throughout the past year. Contractors and sessional staff, Leah Granat, who is a font of knowledge on so many subjects; Kirsty Robson for picking up the role of Projects and Community Development Manager and carrying out her work to such a high standard – all whilst completing and achieving a First Class Honours Degree – and along with Eloise Bishop has kept us (me in particular) on our toes and brought a younger, more modern aspect to our work.

Special thanks to our voluntary Director, Ephraim Borowski, who has continued to carry and protect the reputation of this organisation at the highest levels across civil society – and who I promise we will let retire soon!!

Nicola Livingston
Chair
June 2022



Once again, the dominant theme of the past year has been the Covid pandemic, although fortunately less focused on the pandemic itself and increasingly on a range of aspects of a return to increasing normality. I reported last year on my weekly virtual meetings with the Scottish Government Faith and Belief team primarily about the effect on faith communities and places of worship of Covid-related health regulations and guidance. These meetings have continued, albeit less frequently, and indeed have developed into a monthly round table to enable civil servants to consult with faith communities about policy initiatives across government. This is a very valuable innovation as it also enables us to raise issues less formally than might previously have been the case.

There has in fact been no shortage of other matters that could affect Jewish people and the Jewish community – literally from cradle to grave! Although (as yet) birth itself is not regulated, baby naming ceremonies were provided for in Covid regulations, along with Bar and Bat Mitzvah events, weddings, funerals, and “funeral related events”, which we were able to interpret as including shiva and stone-settings. As Leah outlines in her report, we continue to liaise with National Registrars of Scotland to establish the bona fides of marriage celebrants from outside Scotland, and we remain in dialogue with SG about aspects of marriage and divorce legislation, in particular extending the *get* legislation that was SCoJeC’s first major achievement to civil partnerships. Unfortunately, death is also again on the legislative agenda, not only because of another proposal about Assisted Suicide, but because of proposals to license funeral directors; not only are the proposals onerous and disproportionate for small voluntary burial societies, but the list of functions listed in the draft include “indicating where mourners should park”! Meanwhile there is good news that the new death registration system has in fact reduced delays, in large part because of the good will of Medical Reviewers and Registrars, and very recently, thanks to Simon Dover, we have heard of a new initiative to promote virtual post mortems, something we have long campaigned for.

Between birth and death there are censuses! We can pride ourselves that we succeeded in our argument for “Jewish” to be mentioned under Ethnicity as well as Religion, and we actively encouraging people who consider themselves Jewish to indicate that under both. We were astonished to learn that ten years ago, 812 people wrote in “Jewish” in response to the Ethnicity question without being asked, of whom 219 (27%) did not identify as Jewish in the Religion question, so we will be extremely interested to analyse this year’s statistics. I have asked whether it might be possible to correlate these “ethnic only” Jews with the people who said Judaism was their “religion of upbringing” but not “current religion” in 2001, and I hope that our vice-chair, Gillian Raab, whose field this is, may be able to take that forward.

Another perennial, sadly, is antisemitism, and we have continued to have input into the implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act, and to hold our regular meetings with the CST, the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, and Crown Office. There have been very positive spin-offs from that, with, as Nicola has reported, separate meetings including Universities Scotland to discuss antisemitism on campus, which in turn led to opportunities for Jewish students to tell the First Minister in person about their experiences.

We also, of course, hosted a public meeting to enable members of the community to put their concerns directly to her. That was a major logistical challenge – and triumph – as we had in effect three audiences: around 80 people in the same room as the FM in Giffnock, another audience of around 40 with a live two-way link in Edinburgh, and more than 130 devices signed in on Zoom. The FM again took the opportunity to express her strongest condemnation of antisemitism of any kind, and her support for Holocaust education. She said she had a long conversation with the Israeli Prime Minister when he visited Glasgow for CoP-26 last year, apologised for some of her remarks during last year's conflict in Gaza, and reiterated her support for a two-state solution in the Middle East.

The meeting with the First Minister was also a stress test for our *Jewish Scotland Connected* hybrid events projects which Mike Beral has reported on separately. We are very grateful to the funders of this project, and all the communal organisations that signed up to participate, as well as to Mike and his team – Sami in Glasgow and Adam in Edinburgh – for all their work on this. We set out on this path in the early days of the pandemic when everyone was very keen on virtual events, and hybrid seemed a good gradual route back; and so it might have been after even one year, but after two fatigue has set in and people are just “*ausgezoozt*”, and our partner organisations are concentrating on returning to the real world. Nonetheless hybrid does offer opportunities, especially for a scattered and isolated community like ours, so we have agreed with the funder to pause for a while and reassess the situation next year. Still, we have learned a lot – even though things didn't always turn out as we hoped, knowing what doesn't work is also progress!

Obviously, our live events and visits to schools around Scotland have also been paused for two years, and they must be among our priorities for next year, with the added benefit of the technology that everyone is now so familiar with enabling us to be in more than one place at the same time. I want to thank Ruby Katz and Joanne Gabbay for all their work on events and education respectively; it is one of the penalties of contracting with sessional workers that they often have a portfolio of roles one of which offers them full-time employment, and so it has repeatedly been with us, so we are very grateful to Kirsty Robson and Eloise Bishop for expanding their roles. Congratulations also to Kirsty on her First-Class degree, and to Eloise on her award-winning photography, from which *Four Corners* has also benefitted!

Finally, as ever, my thanks to Leah who remains the mainstay of the organisation, and to other members of the Executive and Council who have assisted with specific tasks and projects, and especially to Nicola who has translated her experience as a former Public Affairs Officer into part of her enormous contribution as Chair. Other office-bearers have also been extremely helpful – the Executive has met formally eight times in the past year, and the Officers many more times in addition.

Once again, I end by reiterating that I share the aspiration of appointing a paid CEO, but I have become extremely frustrated by the failure of both the Board and the JLC to offer realistic support. We cannot employ someone unless we know funding is secure to pay them in at least the medium term, and we cannot represent the Jewish Community of Scotland to the Scottish Government and Scottish politicians, churches, and other opinion leaders unless we can assure them that our policy is made in Scotland. So I end with the hope that we can reopen discussions with the Board, the JLC, the Glasgow Rep Council, and the Glasgow Community Trust, and find a way forward that can deliver for Jewish people in Scotland.

Ephraim Borowski

June 2022



Treasurer's Report

AGM June 2022

Year to 31st December 2021

The formal report and accounts for 2021 are attached separately. No anomalies were highlighted by the Independent Examiner. The office bearers will answer any questions at the AGM, where we will seek to have them approved. Our income for the year was £96,840 and expenditure totaled £94,565, giving a surplus of £1,275.

It is appropriate to note then Lewis Osborne, who has been our Independent Examiner since our inception is stepping down as he is retiring. I would like to thank him for his services and advice during my term of office and those of my predecessors.

We will be seeking to appoint a new IE for this year's accounts, if any one has any recommendations, please let Ephraim or me know.

Current Year

Financial Summary for 2022	Updated to: 30/05/2022								Unrestricted Funds			2022 TOTAL
	SG CCD	Hybrid Events	People Postcode Lottery	Other Funds	Emergency Funding	Photography Project	Pilgrimage Project	General Funds	Events	Education		
Opening Balance at 1 January 2021	0.00	-2,669.56		0.00	0.00	6,816.94	3,575.00	8,012.94	0.00	0.00	15,735.32	
INCOME												
Affiliations								1,369.00			1,369.00	
Scottish Government - CCD	25,000.00										25,000.00	
General Donations								1,025.00	0.00		1,025.00	
Clarkston Trust									0.00		0.00	
Community Trust								0.00			0.00	
CST Funding								2,000.00			2,000.00	
BEMIS								0.00			0.00	
Education											0.00	
Peoples Lottery			0.00								0.00	
Hybrid Events		4,695.19									4,695.19	
Tikun in Action				916.13							916.13	
Photography Project											0.00	
Emergency Funding					0.00						0.00	
Miscellaneous								1,049.90			1,049.90	
TOTAL	25,000.00	4,695.19	0.00	916.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,443.90	0.00	0.00	36,055.22	
EXPENDITURE												
Charitable												
Staff	9,400.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			3,591.00			12,991.04	
Sessional Staff	4,421.96	5,427.25	0.00	3,028.39	0.00			0.00			12,877.60	
Office & Telephone	1,235.34	0.00	0.00	140.73	0.00			359.41			1,735.48	
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00			0.00	
Advert, Print & Stationery	995.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00			995.81	
Travel	139.00	522.27	0.00	13.98	0.00			0.00			675.25	
Hospitality & Events	668.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00			668.98	
Subs, Affiliations & Licences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00			0.00	
Professional Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00			0.00	
Sundry Expenses	0.00	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00			470.00	
Subtotal	16,861.13	6,419.52	0.00	3,183.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,950.41	0.00	0.00	30,414.16	
Governance & Admin												
Staff	921.00										921.00	
Sessional Staff	0.00										0.00	
Office & Telephone	123.45										123.45	
Volunteer Expenses	0.00										0.00	
Advert, Print & Stationery	0.00										0.00	
Travel	0.00										0.00	
Hospitality & Events	0.00										0.00	
Subs, Affiliations & Licences	0.00										0.00	
Professional Fees	0.00										0.00	
Sundry Expenses	258.57										258.57	
Subtotal	1,303.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,303.02	
TOTAL	18,164.15	6,419.52	0.00	3,183.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,950.41	0.00	0.00	31,717.18	
Surplus/Deficit to date	6,835.85	-1,724.33	0.00	-2,266.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,493.49	0.00	0.00	4,338.04	
Closing Balance	6,835.85	-4,393.89	0.00	-2,266.97	0.00	6,816.94	3,575.00	13,456.84	0.00	0.00	20,073.36	

Income

I have previously reported been awarded £50,000 per annum by the Scottish Government Connected Communities Division for 2½ years (to 30 September 2024, subject to SG budget constraints from 1st April 2023). As this sum is the same as we have received for the past 5 years (and less than we received prior to that) in the current inflationary environment it is significantly reducing in value in real terms. We have received the first quarterly payment.

As advised at the previous meeting the SG has announced a new “Investing in Communities” fund which will start in April 2023. Applications have now opened and regrettably we have decided that we cannot meet the four criteria: Tackling Poverty & Inequality, including Child Poverty; Developing and Sustaining Place Based Approaches; Community-led Regeneration and Ensuring a just transition to Net Zero, and so we are not making an application. Given that we did not receive an award from last year’s SG Equalities Fund we now have to think very carefully about the funding of MEMO, MEMO+ and PAB. The situation is exacerbated by BEMIS’s decision to cease support from 31 March this year.

The Hybrid Events project is showing arrears as we are only reimbursed costs after the expenditure is incurred. We keep in close touch with the funder to ensure that such reimbursement can be assured. The income shown from the Community Security Trust is last year’s contribution which was received after the year end. We understand that the Glasgow Community Trust has agreed to funding to the work of the GJRC and ourselves, but the split has yet to be determined. The GJRC AGM was held earlier this month and the incoming SCoJeC office bearers will be seeking to meet their office bearers to make an approach to the trust.

We received a donation of £1,000 from the Queens Park Charitable Trust to support a planned joint event with the Glasgow Virtual Committee (GVC – Matana Club). This was planned for late May but unfortunately had to be cancelled. The donation has now been returned to the trust. We also received a donation of £960 on behalf of the GVC, which was passed on this month.

We continue to seek other funding sources, ideally to allow us to appoint paid senior staff, in particular discussions are due to restart shortly with the BoD and hopefully the JLC.

Earlier this month we were delighted to receive an unexpected £30,000 donation from the Fanny and Moray Glasser Charitable Trust, which is being wound up. Moray Glasser was very involved in communal affairs, and I remember him speaking at many GJRC Delegate Meetings in the early days of my communal involvement in the 1970s and 80s. The trust has supported us for many years and this contribution is very welcome, especially as it is unrestricted; however we will also miss the regular annual donations (which we also received this year). The office bearers have yet to discuss how this should be used.

Expenditure

Expenditure has been in line with expectations. After adjustments we have a small current surplus of about £2,400. Whilst we are of necessity working within our budget, this is at a lower level than previously and reflects the reducing real value of our income.

Philip Mendelsohn
Treasurer



Political and other monitoring

- I monitor the activities of the Scottish, UK, Welsh, and Northern Ireland Parliaments and Governments on a daily basis, as well as the European Parliament, United Nations, and a large number of other relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations for information of interest to the Jewish community and to minority communities more widely. This is circulated to an extensive mailing list by means of *Political Affairs Digest*, *MEMO*, which is funded primarily by our Scottish Government grant, and daily briefing e-mails, enabling communal organisations to be aware of and respond to political and policy issues as soon as they arise, and facilitating public participation by a wide range of minority communities. In addition, these mailings alert MSPs, MPs, and others to issues of interest to the Jewish community.

Consultations

- I prepare consultation responses on matters of relevance to Jewish people in Scotland and consult with all branches of the community in order to ensure they reflect the full spectrum of views, and ensure that these are heard at policy level in the Scottish Parliament and Government, and other relevant bodies. In particular, we received a lot of praise from within and outwith the community for the effective and balanced way in which we presented the very different, even conflicting views about assisted dying that are held by different branches of the community. In addition, I have attended online consultation meetings with civil servants, and responded to enquiries about issues such as family law (including single sex marriages, opposite sex civil partnerships, and divorce), post-mortem, death registration, and the PVG (safeguarding) system.

Publications

- I design and regularly update SCoJeC's website. This received well over 2,000,000 hits during 2021, and extremely positive feedback from users reveals that it is regarded as a very reliable and comprehensive resource. I also manage and regularly update SCoJeC's facebook, twitter, and youtube accounts.
- Starting in early 2020, the website included a very popular mini-site providing information about matters relating to the covid-19 pandemic, including communal and national reassurance, information about welfare and social support, and details of online communal activities. The mini-site was closed down in May 2022 after the Scottish Government provided guidance about the ending of all pandemic special measures. This appears to have met a clear need for information, since the mini-site received a total of more than 130,000 hits.
- I produce 4-5 issues of *Political Affairs Digest* each week, and a weekly issue of *MEMO*. These publications are very popular – each new issue of *MEMO* is downloaded around 450 times and each issue of *PAD* around 500 times immediately after publication. The c9,000 hits on *MEMO* and c20,000 hits on *PAD* each month make it clear that people use back issues of *MEMO* and *PAD* as an accessible archive. *MEMO* is also circulated by Bemis to their extensive mailing list.

- I contribute to the writing, editing, and design of SCoJeC's quarterly newsletter *Four Corners*.
- I regularly update the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland* which, since first publication in 2007, has consistently been the most popular single item on the SCoJeC website. Since the beginning of 2021 it has been downloaded more than 15,000 times each month, a considerable increase on the previous year, which would appear to indicate substantial interest in the Scottish Jewish community.
- I assist with the production of briefings and other materials on a range of subjects relevant to the community.

Services to the Community

- I liaise with the Procurator Fiscal Service, Registrars, and Pathologists, to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused either by post-mortem examinations, or by the system of reviews to death certification procedures.
- I manage SCoJeC's sponsor registration with UK Visas and Immigration. This enables communal organisations to comply with the Points-Based Immigration System that regulates the employment (including voluntary work) of people from overseas, including people from European Union countries. I also provide information about the immigration system to communal organisations as required.
- I liaise with National Records of Scotland and each of the branches of the Jewish community in order to facilitate compliance with the relevant regulations when a couple wishes their marriage or civil partnership to be conducted by a Rabbi from outwith Scotland.

Other Activities

- I respond to a large number of miscellaneous enquiries each week from individuals, public bodies, the media, NGOs, hospital and care home chaplains, the police, the prison service, and others. These cover a wide range of topics relating to the Scottish Jewish community including communal welfare and social support services, access to kosher food and other communal facilities, religious activities, matters relating to weddings and funerals, and general information about Judaism.
- I provide information, support, and reassurance to members of the community who have been, or who fear becoming, the victim, of an antisemitic incident.
- I contribute to the drafting of a wide variety of SCoJeC documents including letters to Scottish Government Ministers, public statements, publicity materials, and responses to relevant publications from other organisations.
- I assist with the preparation of funding applications.
- I assist with the preparation of reports to funders, in particular the Scottish Government.
- I provide IT advice and administrative support to SCoJeC staff as required.

Leah Granat
June 2022

Written consultation responses

- [The Hate Crime and Public Order \(Scotland\) Bill – Freedom of Expression Amendments](#) (Scottish Parliament)
- [Inquiry into the Scottish Government's International Work](#) (Scottish Parliament)
- [PE1911: Review of Human Tissue \(Scotland\) Act 2006 as it relates to post-mortems](#) (Scottish Parliament)
- [Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally ill Adults \(Scotland\) Bill](#) (Scottish Parliament)

Four Corners

- July 2022 *[currently in press]*
- [March 2022](#)
- [November 2021](#)
- [September 2021](#)
- [April 2021](#)

Political Affairs Digest

- January to June 2022: 124 issues
- 2021: 178 issues

MEMO

- January to June 2022: 23 issues
- 2021: 42 issues
- MEMO+ Scotland's census 2022

Statements and Comment

- June 2022: [Platinum Jubilee congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#)
- May 2022: [Make Sure You're Counted!](#)
- April 2021: [The Jewish Community in Scotland pays tribute to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh](#)

Events

- March 2022: [First Minister's Hybrid Question Time](#)
- January 2022: [Celebrating Tu b'Shvat in Kirkcaldy](#)
- January 2022: [First Minister in Conversation with Jewish Students](#)
- October 2021: [Jewish Scotland Connected](#)
- October 2021: [Interfaith Woodland Welcome](#)
- October 2021: [Klezmer from Loch Awe](#)

- July 2021: [Does Scotland have a problem with religion?](#)
- July 2021: [The Wolf of Baghdad](#)
- June 2021: [Yet Again – What's happening with the Uyghurs?](#)
- June 2021: [“This Kilt of Many Colours”](#)
- May 2021: [Sharing the Sabbath with Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club](#)
- April 2021: [Scottish Jewish Climate Network Eco Panel Discussion](#)
- April 2021: [Baking Bread Together](#)
- March 2021: [“After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside”](#)
- March 2021: [Covid Across Borders](#)
- February 2021: [A very American comedy night](#)
- January 2021: [“Last Year in Jerusalem” with Scottish artist Stuart Duffin](#)
- January 2021: [“Operation Finale”: The Capture of Adolf Eichmann](#)

Politics

- August 2021: [SNP leaders visit synagogue](#)
- August 2021: [Meeting with the First Minister](#)

Jewish Scotland Connected training sessions

- May 2022: [Let's Exploit Hybrid](#)
- March 2022: [Using Zoom for hybrid events](#)
- February 2022: [Setting up a Zoom meeting with registration](#)
- January to February 2022: [Zoom tools and techniques: six online workshops for all](#)
- January 2022: [Optimising video and audio in Zoom](#)
- January 2022: [Key Zoom security settings](#)
- January 2022: [Setting up breakout rooms in Zoom](#)
- January 2022: [Managing security in Zoom](#)
- October 2021: [Kit set-up](#)



Events since 2021 AGM

- SCoJeC hosted Rahima Mahmut and Oliva Marks-Woldman to discuss the ongoing issues facing the Uyghur people.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2021/21vi_uyghurs/uyghurs.html
- SCoJeC welcomed musician and cartoonist Carol Isaacs to discuss her graphic memoir 'The Wolf of Baghdad'.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2021/21vii_baghdad/baghdad.html
- SCoJeC hosted a panel event discussing "does Scotland have a problem with religion?" with Anas Sarwar MSP, Prof Duncan Morrow and Mark Gardner.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2021/21viii_religion/religion.html
- Live from Loch Awe, SCoJeC hosted an online Klezmer concert.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2021/21ix_klezmer/klezmer.html
- Concluding our partnership with Interfaith Glasgow's 'Weekend Club', we worked with Scottish Forestry for an Interfaith "Woodland Welcome" event.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2021/21x_woodland/woodland.html
- Students from across Scotland were given the opportunity to ask questions of the First Minister in a digital conversation.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2022/22i_fm/fm.html
- SCoJeC partnered with UJIA and Scottish Forestry for a Tu b'Shvat celebration in Kirkcaldy.
 - https://scojec.org/news/2022/22ii_tu_b_shvat/trees.html
- SCoJeC and Jewish Scotland Connected joined forces for a hybridised First Ministers's Questions
 - https://scojec.org/news/2022/22iii_fm/fm_jsc.html

Going Forward

The post-covid world that we're moving towards is (thankfully) more suited to holding events, so we hope to restart an in person and more frequent delivery of the SCoJeC events programme.

As we move forward to a more certain future in the post-covid world, there are several goals that I'm keen to see met within the Projects and Community Development team. Due to issues in the pandemic, we were unable to replace our Highlands and Islands Coordinator Linda Martin, therefore I'm keen to move forward in the recruitment of a volunteer coordinator to help us connect with more remote communities.

In order to deliver a wide programme of events, we are keen to recruit volunteers (from within and outwith the Council) to use their passions and experience to help kickstart our lectures and ideally renew some of our clubs and activates. Please do come forward if there's an area you can help out with.

Our zoom room remains available to other organisations to facilitate delivery of events, and we encourage as many as possible to utilise the Jewish Scotland Connected (JSC) Project in order to reach every inch of Scotland.

Staffing

Thanks are due to Eloise Bishop for her work undertaken in the SCoJeC projects team, to my predecessor, Ruby Katz, and to Mike, Sami, and Adam for their effective running of the JSC Team.

Kirsty Robson

Projects and Community Development Manager



Jewish Scotland Connected AGM, June 2022



Towards the end of 2021 SCoJeC applied for and received external funding for the Jewish Scotland Connected (JSC) project. The aim of the project is to use hybrid technology to enable people who would not otherwise be able to attend in-person events, to participate and enrich their Jewish experience.

During lockdown many organisations started using Zoom and other applications to host fully on-line events – cultural and social, and depending on halachic requirements, religious as well. The JSC project was established looking forward to when in-person events could restart in a hybrid format, with participants online and in-person sharing an equal experience. That means setting up equipment so that people in the room can see and hear those online and vice versa, and having those that are running the events able to include both audiences.

The project team specified and purchased two sets of suitable video and audio equipment, to be based in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and this is now available to trained volunteers to support hybrid events arranged by different SCoJeC partners. An initial training course was run in Edinburgh in October, but the next lockdown meant that the course for Glasgow had to be postponed. Nevertheless, a handful of events were supported, through which the team, partners and volunteers gained valuable experience. These included smaller events for the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, the SCoJeC meeting with the First Minister, the Glasgow Rep Council Yom HaShoah event, and a Barmitzvah for Sukkat Shalom.

Recognising that both online and hybrid events will continue to use Zoom, we ran a series of training events on Zoom and published some hints and tips. These are available on the JSC pages of the SCoJeC website (https://www.scojec.org/resources/jsc/about_jsc/jsc.html).

The technical training and equipment is an enabler, but does not on its own deliver hybrid events – for that we need the support of partners to explicitly “think hybrid” in planning their programme. The project’s funder has stressed that the success of the project will be measured by its impact on bringing Jewish life to those otherwise unable or unwilling to attend in person events for whatever reason. It is somewhat of an experiment; we don’t know the extent a remote population will want to engage, and that depends on the SCoJeC partners that are putting on events (cultural and religious) making them attractive as hybrid events – they need to appeal to people both in the room and on-line. This is difficult and it requires additional effort in marketing as well as at the events themselves, and as I write (June 2022) most partners are focused on just getting back to a more normal situation without trying to take on new challenges. It is also clear that managing the technical aspects can also be quite complex, and volunteers will only become confident once they have run a number of events successfully. High profile events with additional technical requirements are likely to always need professional support.

Looking forward the team recommends that:

- We should offer one session of equipment training to Glasgow based partners so they can use our equipment if they wish, but only once they are planning to run hybrid events themselves; our volunteers need the chance to use their new found knowledge.

- SCoJeC should consider arranging events that demonstrate that hybrid can extend reach - either by running the events away from the central belt or by doing all the marketing to attract the more remote participants to events that will be appealing. We won't be able to rely on the partners to do this.
- In other respects we should put the project on hold for 12 months until the threat of further lockdowns is reduced, and partners have re-established a more normal programme of events which can then look to be “hybrid-ised”.

I'd like to express my thanks to the staff and volunteers at SCoJeC for their support and encouragement, and to our team: Adam Schwarz and Sami Zerovabeli (Technical Assistants) and Fiona Frank (Zoom Specialist).

Mike Beral
JSC Programme Manager