

Sukkat Shalom January 2012

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Events and Services

Date Friday 6 January 2012

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date Friday 13 January 2012

Event Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon followed by communal supper. Please bring a non-meat dish to share.
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Date Saturday 14 January 2012

Event Tea & Talmud
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 3pm

Date Sunday 15 January 2012

Event Choosing Judaism
Venue Usual location
Time 10:30am

Event Spinoza Reading Group
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 4pm

Date Friday 20 January 2012

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Date Saturday 28 January 2012

Event Shabbat Morning Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 11am

Date Friday 3 February 2012

Event Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Venue Marchmont St Giles, 1a Kilgraston Road
Time 6:15pm

Holocaust Memorial Day - 26th January 2012

The main events this year will be hosted by Dundee City Council. For details see page 7.

Deadline for copy for February 2012 newsletter: 23 January 2012

ELJC support line

0131 208 1447



Use this number if you have an emergency and really need to speak to someone. It goes to three of our members one of whom should be able to organise help for you. For non-urgent matters please leave a message on the community phone and we will respond as soon as possible.

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Future Dates

Our regular schedule is as follows:

Our **Erev Shabbat service** will be on the **SECOND** Friday of each calendar month and our **Shabbat morning service** on the Saturday after the **FOURTH** Friday.

These services take place in the **Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.**

Jewish Calendar

Festivals begin on the evening before the day listed.

Tu B'Shevat	8.2.2012
Purim	8.3.2012
Pesach	7-14.4.2012
Shavuot	27 - 28.5.2012
9 Av	29.7.2012
Rosh Hashanah 5773	17-18.9.2012
Yom Kippur	26.9.2012

Kol Nidre Appeal 2011/5772

– Your last chance

We will be closing the Kol Nidre Appeal at the beginning of January, so this is your last chance to contribute. To remind you of our charities:

Water Aid <http://www.wateraid.org/>, **Physicians for Human Rights, Israel** (PHRI) <http://www.phr.org.il/>, **Jewish Care, Scotland** <http://www.jcarescot.org.uk/>, and the **Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/>.

The latest edition of *Four Corners*, the bulletin of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, contains an article by Edgar Prais about the Scottish Refugee



Council where he volunteers twice a week. He is seen here along with Jamie McIntosh from the Council. Quotes from his article are the following:

'British, Scottish Jews owe it to their collective experience of living here to do their utmost to advance the cause of those now seeking asylum. The Scottish Refugee Council is entitled to expect wholesale backing from the Jewish Community across the entire spectrum of its activities. "I'm alright Hymie" just won't do. Show me the Jew, from Michael Howard up, without the commitment to welcome asylum seekers, and I won't recognise a Jew'.

You can read the whole article in *Four Corners* which you can pick up at our events or read online at http://www.scojec.org/4cs/4cs/11xii_4c32.pdf.

If you have not contributed already, please rise to this

challenge and send your donation to our hon. Treasurer, Jonathan Broadie, 26 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HP with cheques payable to **Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh** (Kol Nidre Appeal 2011).

Chairman's word

Jewish or "Jew-ish"

I've been reviewing our membership numbers in preparation for the AGM which will be in early February. During 2011 we had 80 paid up members -rising steadily from the 43 in our first year (2004).

But we have almost twice as many people who receive our newsletter by email. We don't hold many details for most of them. But we do know that some of them are students, some are members of other congregations, some have left Edinburgh and some are from other faiths. But I believe that the majority are Jewish people living in Scotland who are not affiliated to any Jewish congregation. We are delighted when some of them give us donations from time to time.

If you expected that my next point would be a heavy sell to encourage everyone who is eligible to sign up as Sukkat Shalom members and/or to send us a donation, you would be mistaken. Though don't let this discourage from doing so to contribute to our ever-increasing costs.

It doesn't cost us anything to have extra people on our email list and we are pleased that these people want to keep in touch with the Jewish world. This newsletter attempts to cover items of Jewish interest for people in Scotland, as well as our own Sukkat Shalom events and reports. But we would like to encourage those of you in this group to do two things:-

FIRST Do send any items of matters of Jewish interest (films, talks, plays, events) to our newsletter editor, we are happy to receive these from members or non-members.

SECOND Respond to the SCoJeC survey on Being Jewish, even just "Jew-ish", in Scotland via the web page www.scojec.org/JewishinScotland.html. See page 5 for more details about it. Fiona Frank, the researcher, would like to hear the views of Jews of all sort of affiliation, or lack of affiliation. Also consider joining some focus groups that Fiona will be organising. You may receive a further email from me with an invitation. It will be from me, not the organisers as we never pass on email addresses.

Wishing a Happy secular New Year and all the best for 2012 to all our readers.

Gillian Raab

ELJC Israel Trip

Would you like to visit Israel with a group from ELJC? Maurice Naftalin writes below about plans he has started making. We would welcome all members and friends of Sukkat Shalom to join us. If you are interested in principle in going (regardless of the trip date) please contact Maurice (webmaster@eljc.org) as soon as possible.

Introduction

For three years our Kol Nidre Appeal has benefitted “Physicians for Human Rights — Israel” (PHR-I). To find out more about their work, we had a visit last year from Miri Weingarten, who spoke to us at a chavurah supper. After her presentation—disturbing and inspiring in equal measure—we asked what we ourselves could do about the situation in Israel/Palestine. Her reply: “go and see for yourselves”. In that spirit, I propose a Sukkat Shalom trip to Israel on which we will be hosted by PHR-I and other human-rights-oriented NGOs; they will show us what's going on, and we will learn from them directly. And though I hope we would do more than merely visit, even by the act of going we would be helping—human rights organisations tell us that they take great strength from supportive visits such as this.

What We Can Do

I have had some contact with two human rights organisations with which I have links, PHR-I and the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). Both are very enthusiastic about a Sukkat Shalom visit. PHR-I are eager to tell us about what they are doing on health equity issues inside Israel, including a day in the Negev to see their work in unrecognized Bedouin villages. They can take us to the East Jerusalem to tell us about their co-operation with Palestinian medical institutions there, and to the West Bank to see the work of their mobile clinic. My contact with ICAHD threw up lots of suggestions, including among many others:

- A half-day tour to East Jerusalem to learn about house demolitions, the separation wall, and the new geography of Jerusalem
- A half-day tour of the Old City to understand about the process of “Judaizing” Jerusalem
- A day tour to various areas of the Jordan Valley
- Half day tour to Lod and Jaffa (this could then be combined with PHR-I, New Profile and Combatants for Peace)
- A visit to Beit Arabiya, ICAHD's peace centre, to be hosted by Salim Shawamreh, who has suffered four house demolitions - truly unforgettable!
- A visit to Hebron guided by Breaking the Silence (ex-soldiers who have served there)

When We Can Go

My idea is a trip of about nine days in length with about six of them in organised activities, leaving about three days free time. . On the other days you would be free to explore on your own. We would expect to be based in Jerusalem, but Israel is a small country so you could easily visit other places.

Possible dates I have in mind are Easter (immediately after Pesach, getting back before the Wadler-Lyons bnei mitzvah) or early summer. I have looked at two possibilities: 9th April - 18th April and 4th June - 13th June. Currently I have more interest in the earlier date. It may even turn out that we are too late to organise a trip before the summer, though I'm still hoping it will be possible—I have it on the best authority that the tent cities will be springing up again at Passover, so that would be a good time to be there!

What it Might Cost

There isn't space here to go into detail about the possible options for travel and accommodation. A couple of weeks ago, when I last looked at costs, fares for the spring dates were about £400 return from Edinburgh and accommodation was between £450 and £700 for nine nights.

What To Do Now

If this sounds interesting, get in touch as soon as possible, and we can start working out consensus dates and plans. Do consider it seriously; it's going to be a great experience—we're going to learn a lot (and have some fun too!).

Maurice Naftalin

Human Rights Shabbat 9/10 December 2011

On Human Rights Shabbat this year Rabbi Mark Solomon took items from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and added quotes from the Torah and the Talmud that were relevant to each. This formed the basis of a discussion that followed our Erev Shabbat Supper.

The theme was continued the next day when a group of us made Havdalah with the participants in the Occupy Protest in St Andrew Square, followed by a discussion with some members of the Protest. We were impressed by the way things were organised and the discussion was able to continue despite various interruptions. Some of these were very welcome (members of the public arriving with donations of money, food or boxes of tissues), but others (mostly drunks) were less so, but addressed with tact by the organisers.

Here is an extract (comments on just two of the rights) from Mark's Commentary on Human Rights. Comments on another 28 rights can be found on our web site. There is a link under RECENT EVENTS on the front page or you can go there directly from [here](#).



If you would like a full copy and don't have internet access, do just leave us a message and we will post one to you.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH JEWISH SOURCES **Compiled by Rabbi Mark L Solomon**

Introductory Note

Jewish references, mainly in the form of biblical verses, have been appended to some of the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is not suggested that these texts are the sources of the articles in question, although in a general way it could be said that the moral tradition of the Bible is one of the ultimate sources, and possibly the most important source, of the ethical universalism of the Declaration.

The Bible and Rabbinic tradition both speak of obligations, rather than rights, and the concept of universal human rights would probably have seemed alien to biblical and rabbinic writers. It has often been argued in modern times, however, that just as rights imply obligations (if you have a right to have your property respected, I have an obligation not to steal it) so obligations – mitzvot, in Jewish terminology – imply rights (if I have an obligation to give generously to the poor, the poor have a right to be provided for).

Many of the verses cited below can be, and have been, interpreted in particularistic ways, as imposing obligations only towards fellow Israelites, for example. While it is important to understand the original meaning of such commandments in their ancient context, there is a long tradition of universalising the moral obligations implied, and Liberal Judaism has always insisted on the most universalistic application possible.

The citations are mainly from the Bible, with occasional references to Rabbinic literature. Many more references could be found from the latter, and the absence of any citations for a particular article does not imply that Jewish sources could not be found. That said, clearly the Declaration uses concepts that were unknown in Biblical or Rabbinic times, such as nationality and democracy.

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Genesis 1:26–27. And God said: 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' And God created

man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Note: Many interpretations have been offered for the concept of creation in the image of God. Jewish tradition rejects any notion of a physical image. Prominent among the interpretations are the attributes of reason and conscience, referred to in Article 1.

Leviticus 19:18. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

Malachi 2:10. Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Note: In context this clearly refers to people of Judah, but it has frequently been taken, by Jews and non-Jews alike, in a much broader spirit. The same applies to Lev. 19:18, which is referred to in halakhic literature as the mitzvah of ahavat yisrael (love of one's fellow Jew), but which most modern Jewish writers take in a more universal sense. For love of the stranger, see the next Article.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Leviticus 19:33–34. When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 24:22. You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the Lord your God.

Numbers 15:15-16. For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the Lord. 16 One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.

Note: Rabbinic tradition often understands the word ger [stranger] to mean a convert to Judaism. Modern scholars recognise that this is anachronistic, since no religious conversion existed at the time the Torah was written. The “stranger” is therefore to be understood as a resident alien, a non-Israelite foreigner (or possibly an indigenous survivor from pre-Israelite times) living in an Israelite society, and presumably landless and relatively disadvantaged.

Being Jewish in Scotland

From Fiona Frank

fiona@scojec.org

Being Jewish in Scotland Project Worker

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)

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0141 638 6411

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The 'Being Jewish in Scotland' project is a small scale enquiry, being carried out by SCoJeC, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (www.scojec.org), and funded by the Scottish Government, designed to hear about the experiences of Jewish people all over Scotland.

We are hoping to hear from groups and individuals who might be prepared to talk about, for example, what's good about being Jewish in Scotland, what's less good about it, and to tell us some typical 'stories' that you feel sum up being Jewish in Scotland.

Continued next page

We have an online (and paper-based) survey which we would invite you to complete. There's a draw for people who respond to the survey, with some interesting Jewish-themed prizes.

- You can find the online survey and more information about the prizes at www.scojec.org/JewishinScotland.html.
- Copies of the paper survey are available as inserts in the ScoJec newsletter (Four Corners) which you can pick up at services, or we can post you a copy if you email info@eljc.org or leave a message on the community phone.

As well as the survey, we would very much like to recruit some interested people to join in small group discussions about these issues.

Are you interested in what makes Jewish people in Scotland 'tick'? Would you like to help this project, either by recruiting some people to take part, by co-facilitating a focus group, or by taking part in an on-line discussion?

Could you recruit a small group of people (4-8 people) to get together for an hour or so, in your home or somewhere else? Would you like me to come and lead a discussion with an existing group one morning, afternoon or evening, in January? Or would you just like to take part in a focus group or on-line discussion group that you don't have to organise? I can offer to come to other parts of Scotland besides Edinburgh and Glasgow if suitable arrangements can be made.

We're hoping to hear from young people and older people, and people across the whole religious spectrum, whether you're Jewish or even just 'Jew-ish'.

If you'd like to hear more, please contact me on email jewishinscotland@scojec.org, including your telephone number and a good time to contact you, or phone me on the numbers below. It would be helpful if you could let me know that you heard about the project from the Sukkat Shalom newsletter.

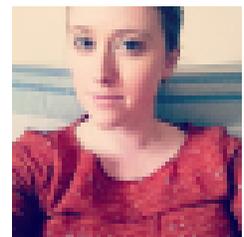
Community Matters

Emergency phone

The more observant of you (not in the religious sense) will have noticed the change in the emergency phone number on Page 1. This new number will be forwarded to three community members one of whom should be able to pick it up and help you in an emergency. Do make a note of it or put it into your contacts. We had always envisaged that this number would be used only for emergencies such as accidents or illness. Another type of emergency that can happen to our members, and has done so, is when someone turns up at the wrong venue for a service. Now that it goes to several of us, you might even use this number if this happens to you. But better, check the newsletter or diary page before you set out!

Many Thanks

to Kat Angus who will be standing in to cover the maternity leave of our newsletter editor, Hannah Holtschneider. Do make her life easy by sending in lots of interesting material for the February edition (see deadline on page 1).



Moving on

The Lee family (Lisa, Joseph, Adam Elliot and Eva) have moved back to England.

It was nice to see them all when they came back to Edinburgh for Sam Montague's Bar Mitzvah in December. We will miss them all and hope they will have other opportunities to visit. Also Edinburgh we will miss former members **Stephanie, Josh and Miriam Brickman**, more recently members of EHC, have moved to Copenhagen and will have arrived there to light their first Chanukkah candle on 20th December. We wish both families all the best in their new homes and hope that we may hear from them.

Condolences

to Kate Silk on the recent death of her Mother. We wish all the Silk family (Kate, Nick, Andrew and David) all the best for a long and healthy life.

Events and Announcements

TV Series - Jerusalem: The making of a holy city

If you missed this BBC four series, narrated by Simon Sebag-Montefiore, there is still just time to catch it on the BBC i-player. The first episode was only available until midnight on New Year's Eve, but the other two are still available.

Waltz with Bashir

The acclaimed Israeli animated documentary about the war in Lebanon is being screened by the **Traverse Theatre** as part of their "Manipulate" visual theatre festival. It will be shown at **9.15pm on Wednesday 1st February** (certificate 18).

Holocaust Memorial Day - 26th January 2012

The main events this year will be hosted by Dundee City Council. The main event will be in the evening of the 26th in the Caird Hall in Dundee, followed by a reception. Highlights will be the guest speakers who will include Rabbi Melchior, an international peace activist from Denmark. If you would like to attend please contact Gillian Raab (chair@eljc.org) as soon as possible who can arrange for you to get an invitation.

For details of other events see the HMD web site (<http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/52.html>).

These include screenings of the film *Inside Hana's Suitcase* to school children in Dundee and Edinburgh. There will also be a public screening of the film in Edinburgh (see below).

Filmhouse Edinburgh: Inside Hana's Suitcase

Monday 23 January, 6.00pm £7.50 (£5.50 concessions)

At Filmhouse, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, www.filmhouse.co.uk

Hana Brady was just a little girl when she and her brother George were singled out as Jews, and sent away from home by the Nazi's. 70 years later a class of Japanese children doing a project on bullying received a package from the Holocaust museum in Germany. It contained what appears to be Hana's suitcase and from this starting point the children and their teacher begin to unravel the story.



Blending documentary, archive and reconstructions, the film tells Hana's tragic story, and her brother's more hopeful one, A moving film which deals with the difficult subject of the Holocaust, and a wider theme of tolerance. The film is narrated by children in Japan, Czech Republic and Canada, who have all learnt the story of Hanna and her suitcase. The screening will be followed by Q&A with director Larry Weinstein and Hana's brother and Holocaust survivor George Brady, Fumika Ishioka, the author of the book on which the film was based and filmmaker Larry Weinstein.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

8pm, but PLEASE ARRIVE BY 1950 TEN MINUTES TO 8PM. We would like everyone in their seats at 8pm for a prompt start.. The venue is the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road.

8 January 2012

Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG QC MP, 'The Arab Spring'

Sir Malcolm needs little introduction to the Edinburgh Jewish Community as he grew up and was educated in Edinburgh, belongs to a leading family within our community, maintains a home here, and was for many years the MP for Edinburgh Pentlands, holding various Cabinet positions throughout the 1979 to 1997 Conservative Government. This is a unique opportunity to hear a leading national and international statesman speak on a topic of burning importance to the World and to Israel.

Chanukah miracle in St Andrew Square.

A crowd of around 200 of us gathered in St Andrew Square to witness the lighting of the giant menorah on the first night of Chanukah. There were participants from Sukkat Shalom, the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and the organisers Chabad Lubavitch of Edinburgh. The large crowd might be related to the fact that the reception afterwards was not being held outdoors, as last year, but on the fourth floor of Harvey Nichols department store nearby. On our arrival no Menorah was to be seen. It transpired that a metal one had been erected the day before but subsequently been found broken down into pieces. But the miracle was that a new one was constructed in the few hours before the lighting was to take place. It arrived within 30 minutes of its expected lighting time with a carpenter available to fix the two lamps we needed for that night. By the next day it had a full set of lamps and a coat of silver paint ready for the lighting on subsequent nights, at least those when the storm-force winds were not blowing. It is a mystery what happened to the original one. The police have recorded it as a hate crime – but why no message or graffiti? We can't imagine that the Occupy movement were involved as they seemed a very well ordered and peaceful group at our visit on Human Rights Shabbat (see page 4). Congratulations to Chabad Lubavitch for orchestrating the miracle.



Impressions from Sukkat Shalom's Chanukah Party

Many thanks to Phil Wadler for all his work in preparing latkes for the Chanukah party. I am told that other members of the Lyons-Wadler family were drafted in to peel the spuds. Thanks also Adam, Leora and Rohan for organising dreidl games and to everyone else who came and brought contributions to make the party such a success.

The miracle of the oil by Catherine Lyons

Latkes, pakora, fritters, and deep fried Mars bars! In our house this year we have the problem not of how to make the oil last eight days but what to do with litres and litres of leftover, used oil. I have arranged for it to be collected by a Glasgow-based company so that it can be turned, by a technical miracle, into biodiesel. Would any of our readers be interested in arranging to do this next Channukah? There must be a huge amount of waste oil in Jewish households this time of year.



Scotland's flag almost raised at Shanghai

Jewish Museum

Joe Goldblatt reports



As you probably already know, during World War Two, 30,000 Jewish refugees from Europe were held captive in a ghetto in Shanghai, China. No other country in the world would grant them immigration privileges. When Japan later occupied China they put the Jews in a ghetto and as their lives were severely restricted, the Jews built a synagogue on this spot and created a community. This is the original site of their synagogue and community which is now the fully restored Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum (as of 2007). The last time I visited the museum was ten years ago and it was a white-washed building without any restoration and the caretaker was a Chinese man named Mr. Wang. He has since died. I asked him if he was Jewish and he said in broken Chinglish, "I am what they call the shabbas goy!" I asked him about my attending services and he said they were held at the Rabbi's house. I remarked that the Rabbi must have a big house and he said, "Small house, few Jews." I learned there were less than 50 Jews at that time in Shanghai.

When I visited in mid-December I discovered that I was the first visitor from Scotland. I noticed the flags from visiting dignitaries of countries but could not find the Saltire. So, with the help of my host, Dr. Chris Wang, I had one made, in only 24 hours! Only in China could a factory produce a flag (or in this case 20 beautiful perfectly printed small cloth flags) in 24 hours for less than £12.00 total!

I asked if we could move another country's flag to position the Saltire closer to China and the manager agreed it was appropriate. I wanted the Saltire to be right beside China's flag but that spot she said belongs to Israel and given the Jewish history involved, I decided in the interest of future world peace that it was best to leave Israel in its rightful place beside China!

According to the Director of the museum there are now 2,000 active Jews in Shanghai and they attend three synagogues. So, there is hope for Edinburgh and our community as we continue to grow from strength to strength.

And the rest of the story

We had planned to include a picture of Joe with the flag in this issue but we are only showing Joe and he explains why

My local host received a email today from the local governing council where the Shanghai Jewish Museum is located advising him to please not promote the placement of the Scottish flag at the museum. According to the officials, they only display flags of countries that are officially recognized by the Chinese government. The museum officials accepted and placed the flag so I am not concerned about this issue, however, in respect for my host I ask that you do not publish this photo until official permission is received. I suppose this will only occur when Scotland becomes a independent country with full diplomatic relations with China.



Liberal Judaism Biennial Weekend

Early bird booking ends 31st January

The Liberal Judaism Biennial weekend is your chance to spend time with Liberal Jews from across our movement. It is an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, to learn, discuss, sing and pray in a relaxed environment. The programme starts at 7:00 pm on Friday 20th April and finishes at 4:00 pm on Sunday 22nd April. It takes place in the luxurious Totworth Court Hotel near Bristol. For information on travel from Edinburgh contact us.

For details and to book see <http://www.liberaljudaism.org/events-activities/biennial.html>.

