

Sukkat Shalom

November 2012

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Scottish Charity No SC035678

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Secretary: secretary@eljc.org
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Community Phone: 0131 777 8024 Email info@eljc.org Web www.eljc.org

Events and Services

Date **Friday 2 November 2012**

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

Date **Saturday 3 November 2012**

Event Inter-community quiz night and pot-luck supper
Venue Function room, St Mark's Unitarian Church,
Castle Terrace
Time 7.30 pm
Please bring a dish and some drinks to share.
To book your place contact Kristi Long
kristilong66@yahoo.com. A small charge of £3
will be payable on the night,

Date **Friday 9 November 2012**

Event Erev Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 7pm

Date **Friday 16 November 2012**

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

Date **Friday 23 November 2012**

Pre-Limmud Shabbat, for details see p. 6

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

Date **Saturday 24 November 2012**

Event Shabbat Service
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 11am
Event Tea & Talmud
Venue Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace
Time 3pm

Date **Friday 30 November 2012**

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

Date **Friday 7 December 2012**

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

**Deadline for copy for
December 2012 newsletter:
Wednesday 28 November.**

ELJC support line

0131 208 1447



Use this number if you have an emergency and really need to speak to someone. It goes to one of our members. Otherwise 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.

Chanukah	9.-17.12.2011
Tu B'Shevat	26.1.2013
Purim	24.2.2013
Pesach	26.3.-2.4.2013
Shavuot	16.-16.5.2013
9 Av	16.7.2013



Connections 2013

“Being the Difference”
CONNECTIONS 2013 - 36th WUPJ Biennial
Conference 1 - 5 May

2013 Jerusalem, Israel, Registration Now Open

Inspiring keynote speakers, workshops and sessions, as well as amazing musical performances, festive opening and closing ceremonies, a Tamar conference and Netzer presence, a celebration of 75 years of Leo Baeck Haifa – all this while allowing opportunities to connect and exchange ideas with one another!

Find out more & register online at:
www.wupjconnections.org

Rabbi Fuchs leaves WUPJ

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) announces that Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs has left his post as President, effective October 2012. Rabbi Fuchs has made significant contributions to the WUPJ over the past year and a half.

Women of the Wall arrested

The JC, 17th October 2012

Three members of religious rights group Women of the Wall have been arrested for praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem wearing a tallit.

Woman of the Wall leader Anat Hoffman had been holding prayers for the “Rosh Hodesh Heshvan” at the Wall in Jerusalem’s Old City when she was arrested for “disturbing public order” and placed in prison overnight. Her crime had been to sing the Shema, and wear a prayer shawl – practices forbidden to women by the Orthodox rabbinate, which controls all services at the site.

Director Lesley Sachs and board member Rachel Cohen Yeshurun were arrested on Wednesday morning for the same offence.

The arrests highlight the organisation’s mission: “To achieve the social and legal recognition of our right, as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray, and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall.” Currently under Israeli law, it is illegal to hold a religious ceremony in the women’s section of the Wall

The group have been holding - or attempting to hold - services at the Western Wall for 25 years and over that time have frequently been confronted, attacked and arrested.

Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism said they were “dismayed” at news of the arrest. Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism said: “When women are intimidated and treated as criminals for asserting their basic human and Jewish right to pray as Jews, it’s wrong. These women pray at the Kotel because it is a place of holiness and remembrance. The policy of giving one group complete control of the Kotel must be changed.”

Chairman’s word

The community looks to be in good form to go forward to 5773 and beyond. Cheder is going strong - see Norman Crane’s article on the next page. We have had two babies born to members over the summer. We also have several new members of the Choosing Judaism class and some who will be going to the Beth Din in London soon. As many of you will know the group study with Mark on Sunday mornings and study Hebrew with Norman. Those who decide to take it forward are registered with Liberal Judaism as potential converts, attend services and fulfil their study requirements before meeting with the Beth Din. To help support them Eva Wiseman is currently organising a mentoring scheme that will pair members of the class with community members who they can turn to for information and support when Mark is not here.

There is also a new creative energy in the

community towards looking for a long-term home. We reviewed this before a few years ago and Joe Goldblatt and Stew Green worked on it for us, but it is something that always needs revisiting. We are lucky enough to have two new people interested in this, not only with time to contribute, but a happy coincidence of professional expertise in architecture and town planning. See page 5 for their ideas. Various possibilities of existing buildings are being explored. Would you be interested in being involved in seeking out a possible solution? If you would like to contribute please contact Catherine Lyons (catherine@explicatrix.com).

Paradoxically, this growth and enthusiasm comes just as the clocks go back and the dark and the cold are upon us. And indeed, the community is also faced with the gloomy reality that our finances are not what we would want them to be. To take forward these exciting ideas we are going to have to think of some ways of increasing our income.

In recent years our income and expenditure have been pretty well breaking even, but our treasurer's recent review suggests that we are now running at a modest deficit. While this does not pose an immediate problem, since we are fortunate in having some reserves to fall back on, it does mean that we need to think to how we can sort this so as to secure our future. An analysis of our income and expenditure shows that there are two main reasons why we are no longer breaking even. The first is that our subscription and donation income, which has risen consistently with our increasing membership, has remained more or less static this year. The reason for this is not hard to find: these are hard times and some members are affected by the recession and have had to pay reduced rates and a few have yet to contribute. Secondly, in the first years of our life as an independent community we benefited from many generous donations. These funds have now come to an end.

We held a recent council meeting to discuss various ways we might be able to raise funds to meet our deficit, and we have several ideas about this that we will be taking forward. Among them was a suggestion that we should ask the membership for their ideas and also see if any members might be in a position to consider a giving a special donation at this difficult time. Many shuls benefit substantially from legacies that people leave in their wills. Because we are a relatively young congregation this is not likely to have much impact on our immediate problem – but why not think about it now, even if it will be far ahead, so that we may secure the future for our successors?

As you will see in this newsletter there is a lot to look forward to in the coming month. Wishing you all a good month and hoping to see you at many of our events.

Gillian Raab

***Ideas for fundraising?
Able to donate?
Able to support our community in your will?
Please get in touch with Gillian:
chair@eljc.org***

OUR CHEDER AUTUMN TERM 2012



We have made an encouraging start to Cheder this term. At the end of the Summer term we were visited by parents who were interested in perhaps sending their children to our cheder. We must have got something right because the children have enrolled in our cheder and their parents joined the synagogue. We now have two Emilys and a Lucy on our roll. In addition Connie, who is well known as a super attender at Shul services, has started at cheder. We have four classes arranged according to age, and it is pleasing to note that the majority of our children are in the two younger age groups. We also have two b'nei mitzvah are in preparation for events in the next 12 months.

We, as a teaching group, would be quite able to deal with more children within the same setup. So if anybody knows of any children (or their parents) looking for a cheder, please let us know! When older children join without previous experience of Hebrew, they are able to join their peer group for most activities. They have been able to catch up with Hebrew, thanks to help from Jonathan Staal, one of our parents, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

We aim to teach Jewish knowledge and values in a way that is pleasant and attractive to the children. We are confident that we have gone a little way at least to achieving this aim this term.

Norman Crane

Community Matters

Members' news

Mazal Tov to Elad Schreiber and Genevieve Patenaude on the birth of Samuel Olivier Patenaude on October 4th, 2012 6lbs 11oz. His brit milah was carried out by Dr Howard Cohen, who is also our link person to the Liberal Judaism executive, when he was given the Hebrew name Shmuel.



Our best wishes go to David Nelson who has been struck down with a bad case of shingles. We wish him refuah shlema, for a full recovery very soon.

New members

We are delighted to welcome **Maurice Shamash** as a new member. Maurice's family from Kirkcudbright are long-standing members of Glasgow Reform Synagogue. Maurice is now based in Edinburgh along with his partner Sarah Nesbit. We look forward to having them both in our community.

Kol Nidre Appeal

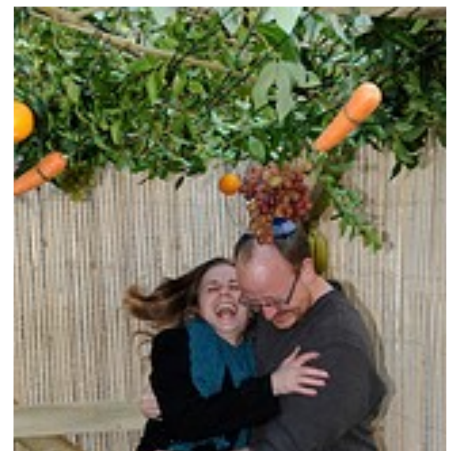
There is still plenty of time to send in your contributions to our Kol Nidre appeal. Details of the charities we will support were in the October newsletter, but here is a quick reminder:

1. Our local Jewish Charity is Jewish Care Scotland is for this year (<http://www.jcarescot.org.uk>)
2. Our local non-Jewish Charity is Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise project (<http://makeabignoise.org.uk/welcometobignoiserafloch/>)
3. Our Israeli charity is Neve Shalom (<http://nswas.org>).
4. Our international charity is Money for Madagascar (<http://moneyformadagascar.blogspot.co.uk/>)

Please send your donations to our treasurer Claudette Hudes, 14 Old Perth Road, Milnathort, Perth and Kinross, KY13 9YA, with cheques payable to Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh, and a note explaining that it is for the Kol Nidre appeal. If you would prefer to credit your donation directly to our account please email treasurer@eljc.org for bank details.

Sukkot

We are most grateful to Claudette Hudes, Robbert Hermanns and friends for designing and building our splendid new sukkah. Its numbered parts are all stored away safely now so in future years we need never suffer from last year's collapsing sukkah disaster.



New Premises for Sukkat Shalom?

Karol Schlosser:

I am a fairly recent member of Sukkat Shalom and the welcoming atmosphere, the warmth and the sense of community that exists within our group has overwhelmed me. However, the one thing that does put me off is our lack of permanent premises. The term 'wandering Jew' always comes to mind as I struggle to remember where our next meeting place will be.

As a town planner and mediator with over 20 years' experience working in the voluntary sector, I have seen other groups pull together to raise the money to buy or rent premises suitable for their purpose. From what I have so far gathered from conversations, Sukkat Shalom can do this too. We appear to have a number of options available to us:

- Do nothing and maintain the status quo
- Explore possibility of sharing premises with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
- Raise money to purchase permanent premises
- Find long-lease permanent accommodation

We now need to have some serious discussions about what we want to see about the future of our community. I have some good connections that can advise us on suitable church properties that may be available for long lease or purchase. If sharing premises is an option, I would be happy to facilitate a meaningful discussion between the two synagogues to see if we can take this further. If buying premises is an option, I can advise on issues such as change of use, etc. and also help with funding applications.

There are now 8 places of worship for the Muslim community in Edinburgh. Many of the buildings are modest affairs but they are a testament to the dedication and commitment of their community to work together to provide them with a spiritual home. We should follow their example, but do it soon, or else we will continue to be 'wandering Jews' with no place to call our own.

Rebecca Wober:

As an architect of nearly 20 years experience it is really really encouraging to think that Sukkat Shalom is directing some of the community's energy in crafting a permanent home. Just think of designing a gathering place, a sanctuary for a permanent place for our Torah, and a familiar place for us to meet! My partner Gordon Duffy has run his own practice for over 15 years and in the last 4 years I have been contributing to this. Here are three of the ideas which we have come up with so far:

- We have identified a fund available from the RIAS (Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland) which will finance 100% of a feasibility study specifically for community groups such as ourselves.
- We have identified a selection of buildings largely (some not on the market but with contacts channels open with the owners) within central Edinburgh which could be scrutinised with respect to converting for our use.
- I have begun to make contact with the Three Faiths Forum, an organisation which unites the progressive branches of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, in case of any future shared goals in this respect.

I am excited to see if there is a ground swell of interest to take this further and happy to discuss.

LIMMUD SCOTLAND EDINBURGH,

23rd to 25th November
2012



We are having a number of events in Edinburgh, building up to Limmud Scotland Day in Glasgow on Sunday 25th November. If you haven't booked already, please go to <http://www.limmud.org/day/scotland/> where you will find out all about the main event, including programme and speakers, as well as the application form. Speakers include some you may recognise, including our Rabbi Mark Solomon and our newsletter editor Hannah Holtschneider. If you wish to join the Limmud Bus, which will take you directly from the corner of Salisbury and Dalkeith Road (and a few joining stops on the way) to the event, please indicate the number of seats that you wish to reserve on the application form.

1. Friday night dinner: Friday 23rd November courtesy of Sukkat Shalom. At our pot luck Friday night meal at the Columcille Centre at 7pm, we will be joined by people who will be attending Limmud Scotland. Everyone will be bringing a dish to contribute, excluding any meat or shellfish. Soft drinks and a bottle of wine are also very welcome. Rabbi Mark Solomon will be there and there will be other Limmud speakers including Lydia Aisenberg. Lydia has worked tirelessly over the past 25 years for the Givat Haviva Institute of the Kibbutz Artzi Movement (Mapam) to build "an inclusive, socially cohesive society in Israel." A member of Kibbutz Mishmar Ha'emek, Lydia has been invited by Limmud Scotland to speak at the main event. So we are really pleased that she has agreed to speak to us in Edinburgh about the work of Givat Haviva. For a taster, see: <http://www.givathaviva.org.il/english/info/about.htm>. You will find out a little more about the Lydia herself at <http://www.blacklistedjournalist.com/column88h.html>

2. Saturday night ceilidh klezmer dance: Saturday 24th November
The Klatsh Klezmer Band (with 'callers') will be playing (and calling you to dance) at the Blue Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street, Leith at 7.30 pm. £5 for Limmud ticket holders, £6 for others.

There is also a dance workshop and song workshop, with opportunities for musicians to play for the dancers, at Pilrig Church Hall, 1B Pilrig Street, off Leith Walk from 2-5pm. Cost £5 per workshop or £8 for both - the workshops will run one after the other. (Since this takes place on Shabbat, I am assuming that this is not an 'official' Limmud event).

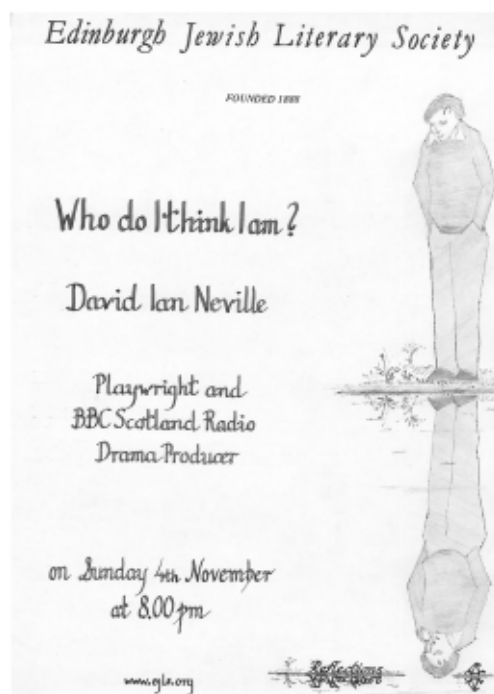
3. The Limmud bus: Everyone who submits an application to Limmud Scotland and ticks the Edinburgh bus box will be put in contact with Anna Duncan by the Limmud Scotland office. Anna will contact you to confirm your seat(s) on the bus, as well as take details of where you wish to alight. She will also take your mobile number and give you hers, so she can check that you are on your way if you are late! Anna's email address is: 'Anna Duncan' [tarzanna_duncan@yahoo.co.uk]. The bus is being heavily subsidised by Limmud Scotland. However, there is a suggested contribution of £8 for the round journey (free for children), to defray some of Limmud's expenditure. It will be collected on the bus, if you have not already sent it to Limmud Scotland on line or by cheque.

STOP PRESS: For a list of Limmud sessions see the web site
<http://www.limmud.org/day/scotland/Sessions/>

You will be spoilt for choice. A full programme will be available soon so you can decide which sessions to attend.

Events and Announcements

The following events have been notified to ELJC for members and friends who may wish to attend them.



Opening Lit meeting

Playwright, BBC Scotland Radio Drama Producer David Neville will read from and show excerpts of his work, focusing on the presentation of Jewish themes in modern drama.

Sunday 4th November:

8.00pm, Marian Oppenheim Hall, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 4 Salisbury Road.

All welcome. You can sign up for the whole season at the opening meeting or contact the treasurer: Michelinehbrannan@msn.com for a full syllabus and registration form. If you only want to attend this meeting, the charge is £3 or £2 for students.

Jewish book group

Are you interested in reading and discussing books of Jewish interest and the occasional playreading? The book group meets in members' houses usually on the first Monday of the month. For details please contact Betsy Dorfman brdorfman@yahoo.com.

Rabbi Mark Solomon lectures at Edinburgh University

An Edinburgh Inter-Faith Week Lecture

Islam's Influence on Judaism

A lecture by Rabbi Mark Solomon

With responses from Shaykh Ruzwan Mohammed (Solas Foundation) and Professor David Fergusson (Professor of Divinity and Principal of New College).

About the speaker:

Mark Solomon is Rabbi of the Edinburgh and Manchester Liberal Jewish Communities, Associate Chair of the Rabbinic Board of Liberal Judaism and Interfaith Consultant for Liberal Judaism.

Monday 26th November 2012, 7pm
Martin Hall, New College
(University of Edinburgh), the Mound.

For more information visit: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk
or email: thealwaleedcentre@ed.ac.uk

This event is free of charge.

On 26th November at 7pm at Martin Hall New College, the Mound, as part of Interfaith week.

The lecture will be followed by responses from the principal of New College and from one of the founders of the Solas Foundation (see <http://solasfoundation.org/>) an organization established in Scotland in 2009 to cater for the knowledge and research demands of both the Muslim as well as the wider community in areas relating to Islam and Muslims.

Ha'aretz Articles on Scottish Jews

A series of articles by Anshel Pfeffer are currently appearing in the English language version of *Ha'aretz*. The first two have been published **Kilts and Knishes – are Scottish Jews a dying breed?**

Jews on Scottish independence: More faintheart than Braveheart

And there are more to come. You can read them online at

<http://www.haaretz.com/misc/writers/anshel-pfeffer-1.292>



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Alwaleed Centre

Film

American Stories at Filmhouse, Lothian Road, Monday 26th November at 20.45pm

<http://www.filmhousecinema.com/showing/american-stories/> Somewhere between Woody Allen and Freud, between documentary and fiction, American Stories conjures up the stories of several generations of Jewish immigrants in New York. Played by professional actors, but based on real-life testimonies, shifting from the comic to the tragic and interspersed with slapstick, this eerily hybrid film celebrates Jewish memory, culture and humour.

Dark multicultural alternative folk music

Israeli-born singer-songwriter Avital Raz will be performing at Harry's Cellar bar 8-16 Morrison Street (near top of Lothian Road) on Monday 26th November at 7.30pm. Entry £5 (£4 Concessions).

<http://www.avitalraz.com/>

Conservative Friends of the Union

Mike Freer, the Conservative MP for Finchley and Golders Green, is coming to Scotland on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd November to engage with the Jewish community in Scotland both on any specific issues of concern but also from his involvement in the Conservative Friends of the Union. These meetings would be open to anyone interested in attending and Mike is interested in speaking to people from all political perspectives and none. If you would be interested in sharing your views with him please contact Mark McInnes (Mark.McInnes@scottishconservatives.com).

S-CoJeC News (<http://www.scojec.org>)



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER

UJIA is working with a group of bar and bat mitzvah children in Glasgow to support Jewish learning for Ethiopian bar and bat mitzvah candidates in Israel. Do you know someone who's coming up to their bar or bat mitzvah, living outside Glasgow, who would like to be part of a larger group of Jewish children who get together once a month to plan activities to support their 'twins' in Israel? UJIA are also running leadership training sessions for young people aged 16/17 - the first is this Sunday 28th October, and there'll be more ... and they support young people to go on UJIA Israel Experience tours in the summer.

Matt Goldring at UJIA would love to link up young people outside Glasgow with any of these groups by skype or speakerphone. For more info contact him, email matthew.goldring@ujia.org or tel 0141 530 5340. (And don't forget our offer of help with transport).

INTERNSHIP

S-CoJeC is recruiting a graduate internship, funded by the Scottish Government through the 'Adopt an Intern' scheme. The post will be for 3 days a week for 3 months. Duties will include working on communications with younger Jewish people in Glasgow and further afield, analysis of focus group data and survey results for the Glasgow Community Futures project, and support for S-CoJeC's outreach work. The post will be advertised under 'current vacancies' on www.adoptanintern.org.uk from Monday 29th October. Please pass this on to anyone you think may be interested.

JEWISH INTER-LINKS

Do you know an older person who'd like help to get on-line? And/or, would you like to train to provide IT support for older people in their own home or in care homes? S-CoJeC has funding for six months from the Voluntary Action Fund to make all this happen and we're working with Age UK in Edinburgh who will be providing training for up to ten volunteers from around Scotland in early December. Fiona Frank has been talking to volunteers in St Andrews this week and will be visiting interested people in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow over the next few weeks to talk about this - contact Fiona Frank at fiona@scojec.org to find out more.

Scottish Jewish Archives Centre – 25th Anniversary

Harvey L Kaplan, Director

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, which was opened in April 1987. Based in Garnethill Synagogue, Scotland's oldest (opened 1879), the centre has grown to become a popular and valued institution in the Jewish community and further afield.

We welcome school pupils, students, postgraduate researchers, journalists, authors, tourists, genealogists, as well as members of the local Jewish and wider communities.



Our remit is to document the Jewish experience in Scotland, including religious, organisational, social, economic, political, cultural activity and family life from Shetland down to Dumfries. We encourage the study of Jews in Scotland and publish books and articles.

Our collections include the records of Jewish organisations in Scotland, including correspondence, annual reports, membership lists and brochures from charity organisations, friendly societies, cultural groups, youth groups, political groups, educational institutions and Jewish businesses.

We have personal papers naturalisation documents, immigrant passports, family trees, family histories, press cuttings; thousands of photographs, around 370 books and dissertations relating to Jews in Scotland, newspapers, newsletters and magazines. For the first time, we have gathered together the records of all 17 Jewish burial grounds in Scotland, indexed on our computer database of over 38,000 Scottish Jews.



We also collect artefacts, such as ceremonial keys, silver trowels, memorial plaques from former synagogues, tennis trophies, old charity collection boxes, war medals. We have textiles - Torah mantles, sashes from friendly societies, and flags and uniforms from Jewish Scouts and JLGB. Works of art include sculptures by Benno Schotz and Hannah Frank, paintings by Joseph Ancill and Hilda Goldwag.

Our oral history collection contains tape-recorded interviews with around 60 members of the Jewish community who have played a leading role in communal life or were able to describe aspects of the history of the community

We even have our own little museum. A New Life in Scotland is a professionally- designed display and historical timeline. In our 25th anniversary year, we look forward to a bright future for the Archives Centre, as



we continue to build up the collections, develop new storage facilities, conserve fragile old documents, continue the ongoing digitisation of collections and continue to provide a service to researchers. To help us in these tasks, please contribute to our 25th Anniversary Appeal – email us on info@sjac.org.uk for details. And visit our website at www.sjac.org.uk.

Celebrate the Archives Centre's 25th anniversary this year by coming to our open days and special events. Contact us at info@sjac.org.uk if you wish to be kept informed.

NOTE: Our newsletters will be forming part of this archive for future generations.

