It was unbearably hot yet again, I was too tired for words, the wrong political party just got into power, and I finally made my decision.

“Scotland, here I come,” I thought, and it only took me a few weeks to make all the arrangements – to inform the Kibbutz I was leaving, to give away most of my books, pack two cases for travelling, and fill three boxes to be sent to me once I had an address. The most difficult of all was to tell my aunt it, and I was on my way.

All that happened in the 70s and I have lived in Inverness ever since, being – to my knowledge – the only Jew in the area.

The Highlands were a hundred hues of green and it rained a lot – a wonderful experience for someone who had spent all her adult life in a hot, dry, edge-of-desert environment.

The hills wore lilac and purple with heather and the lochs, rivers and waterfalls made my new world into a multi-coloured patchwork. Any time I wanted to be outdoors, I could just walk out my front door and open my eyes to all that glory about me.

People were cautiously friendly, and nobody poked their nose into my past, present, future and private business.

Today, aged 61 and retired, I still have my batteries recharged every day with domestic beauty all of their own, I can’t help smiling, despite my wet feet.

One of the locations I have always loved (but I didn’t see the hills around, none of them has the best views in all Jerusalem) and when I do not claim to be unbiased, I maintain that my area has the best views in all Jerusalem) and see the hills around, none of them approaching the wild majesty of the Highlands, but with a peaceful domestic beauty all of their own, I can’t help smiling, despite my wet feet.

THE CORNERS OF SCOTLAND
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Four Corners is your newsletter, to share events, insights, stories, photos, poems, cartoons, memories, history, Mazeltovs, or anything else with those in other Corners!

Your contributions are welcomed for the next edition. Please send to Leah Granat at leah.granat@onetel.net or 222 Fenwick Road, Glasgow, G46 6UE

What does the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities do?

Amongst other things, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities responds to requests for consultation by the Scottish Parliament. It has recently written a response on the subject of Civil Partnership Registration, and is currently preparing responses on the subjects of Post-Mortem Examination in Hospital, Organ Retention, the Anatomy Act, and the proposed Sexual Wellbeing and Relationships Strategy.

The Scottish Council liaises with other bodies, within and without the Jewish Community on these and other issues, and works to develop interfaith relationships, and relationships with other minority communities. In this way it hopes to enable the Jewish Community throughout Scotland to keep up-to-date with issues that affect us all, and also aims to increase awareness of the needs of Jewish people among other groups. With this in mind, the Scottish Council has been active in helping to develop Spiritual Health policies in several Health Board areas.

If you would like any more information about these or other activities of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, then please contact Leah Granat as above details.
It's all going on in Scotland

Stephen Kliner
President of Glasgow Jewish Representative Council

As reported at the last SCOJeC meeting in Dundee the Glasgow community has planned a community week of coordinated events from 27th February till 8th March, under the banner J-Fest 2004.

Some forty plus events are to be hosted by the synagogues, care organisations, charities, youth organisations and movements. It will show that while the community may be getting smaller it is certainly no less active. J-Fest 2004 will open the doors to all the richly varied elements that go to making up this vibrant community.

Eleven days of events for the entire community - a ball, a book launch, a bus tour, a card brunch, coffee mornings, discos, a fashion show, Limmud "Moral Maze", open days, Purim events, Question Time, Self Defence, Shul Suppers, lunches, and speakers a-plenty.

Something for everyone - come and join in.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society
Lewis Stevens

The 'Lit' as it is familiarly known as to its members was founded in 1888 and has functioned continuously since then. It holds 8-10 meetings per year usually between Rosh Hashanah and Pesach. These generally take the form of talks given on Sunday evenings. In addition there are occasional concerts performed by local musicians, and occasional debates. Although meetings are held in the Community Centre which is part of the synagogue complex, they are open to all. The term 'literary' is quite loosely applied as can be seen from the titles of some examples of recent talks:-


The speakers do not have to be Jewish although the subjects always have some relevance for Jews. Speakers are drawn from a mixture of "local talent" and others, mainly from the UK. We have often been able to get visitors from abroad, who are either visiting the UK or are on sabbatical in the UK to speak. Examples of recent speakers are: Eva Hoffman, Clay Lowton, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Claudia Roden and Bernard Wasserstein.

The Edinburgh Jewish Community is relatively small. A recent analysis by Professor Gillian Raab, published in the Edinburgh Star (the Magazine for Scotland on whom 774 were resident in the City of Edinburgh) was founded in 1888 and has functioned continuously since then. It holds 8-10 meetings per year usually between Rosh Hashanah and Pesach. These generally take the form of talks given on Sunday evenings. In addition there are occasional concerts performed by local musicians, and occasional debates. Although meetings are held in the Community Centre which is part of the synagogue complex, they are open to all. The term 'literary' is quite loosely applied as can be seen from the titles of some examples of recent talks:-


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JEWISH CHAPLAINcy IN NORTHERN REGION

RAIBI DOVID COHEN

I have served as chaplain in Scotland and NE England for close to 10 years. The Scottish universities I cover includes those in Glasgow(4), Edinburgh(3), Dundee(2), St. Andrews, Aberdeen(2), and Stirling.

The nature of chaplaincy work is multi faceted. It is best broken down into the following categories of the services Jewish Chaplaincy provides...

... A Jewish experience

This is based on the ethic that every Jewish student deserves an equal opportunity to be involved with other Jewish students on all levels, regardless of the place they have chosen to study. The chaplain helps to publicise and encourage local and regional events where students meet, eat, socialise, debate, and study. These include Friday night meals, pub nights, shabbatons, speaker events, and others.

... Hospitality

The chaplain's home is a centre for Shabbat and Festival meals, as well as a place to stay for students from outside of (the south side of) Glasgow. The family atmosphere with the chaplains wife and family is one of the most important, and best remembered provisions for students away from home. The chaplain also often transports kosher meat and other foods to students out-of-town; several universities have a dedicated kosher freezer for storage.

... University liaison

The chaplain is recognised by each university authority as the representative of Jewish students on campus. On a proactive basis, the chaplain meets regularly with the main University chaplain in the various universities, ensuring that the best interest of Jewish students are served. On a reactive basis – the chaplain can arrange alternative exam dates for those that clash with Shabbat and Festival, and also monitors negative activity(anti Zionist, Israel, and Missionary) on campus. In many cases he is the first port of call when problems occur.

... Education

The chaplain offers shiurim and one-to-one learning opportunities across the region.

... Confidential listening

When a student is in crisis, or when he/she is concerned about a personal issue of any nature, the chaplain in confidence to listen, discuss, and explore the relevant issues. In some cases there be a need to refer the student on to a specifically trained professional.
The story of my homefinding in Israel is impossible in space available... Although many of the events were not so remarkable on their own, each seems intertwined with the other... altogether it was quite a saga. Many visitors here say "WOW" and I'm surely British to be one of them, but on day 2, home-hunting with a tight agenda in Nachlaot (my chosen area of Jerusalem) my "wow" echoed around a bare white cavern of space with high arched "arab ceilings." Walk thru these doors into a big room then an inner room with same ceiling, and through that to a large rectangular room with small kitchen area, and bathroom beyond. And a tiny private yard with wall and locked door. My new home will be like a cool cave in the hot yard with wall and locked door. My new rectangular room with small kitchen area, ceiling, and through that to a large room. Many visitors here say "WOW" and I'm surely...