

## Welcome to Four Corners 16...

... and congratulations to everyone whose articles and photos contributed to our success in the Board of Deputies' Media Awards.

Four Corners started in response to requests from people across the Islands and Highlands who wanted to feel part of "Jewish Scotland", and find out what was going on in Scotland's established Jewish communities. The feedback you've given us has been tremendous, and we know that Four Corners is enjoyed quite literally from the Borders to the Shetlands – and, thanks to the website, from Australia to Canada and many places in between! Please do keep sending your articles and photos to Leah (contact details at bottom of page) to make our fifth year at least as good as the last four!

Just in case you missed any of them, back issues are on SCoJeC's website at [http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Four\\_Corners/Four\\_Corners.html](http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Four_Corners/Four_Corners.html), or, if you prefer, we'll be happy to post you a paper copy of any that we haven't run out of – let us know!



## A NEW RESOURCE

Do you want to know where to get kosher food in Scotland? Where to find a synagogue service to say kaddish? Jewish bookshops? Or do you need to know whom to ask for a vital piece of information you need to complete your family tree?

Lots of people do, and their first port of call is often SCoJeC. So, in response to that demand, we've put together *A Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland*.

In the Guide you'll find information about all the above, and more – all with links to their websites, and to maps of the local area, contact details, and a brief summary of their activities. It's been online for less than a month, and we know that it's already been downloaded more than 250 times!

Let us know what you think about the Guide – you can read it online at

<http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Communities/Guidebook.pdf>



# Congratulations TO FOUR CORNERS!

Four Corners has been awarded second place in the Small Communities category of the Board of Deputies Media Awards, which showcase the best in community publishing.

Paul Edlin, Vice President of the Board of Deputies with responsibility for Community Issues, who presented the certificate to Leah, said: "It is a great pleasure to present this as I know how much good work Leah and the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities do for the Jewish Communities of Scotland. This magazine makes a huge difference to the lives of many Jewish people in Scotland, especially those who live in remote areas. I know it is produced on a financial shoestring, but the quality of it when judged against other journals is remarkably high."



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[www.j-scot.org.uk](http://www.j-scot.org.uk)

**Please send your comments and contributions to Four Corners**

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FOUR CORNERS IS PRODUCED BY SCoJeC, THE UMBRELLA REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION OF ALL THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN SCOTLAND. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF SCoJeC.

# AJEX

## REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE

11 NOVEMBER 2007

ARNOLD MANN



KEN MACINTOSH MSP, AND JIM MURPHY MP  
JOIN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLICE, AND THE  
BRITISH LEGION AT THE AJEX REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE.

More than 75 veterans marched to the Mearns Cross War Memorial under the auspices of AJEX (the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women) on Remembrance Day this year, accompanied by their comrades in the British Legion. They were led by their standards and the band of the Glasgow Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, the only Jewish pipe band in the world.

Wreaths in the shape of a Magen David were laid at the Memorial, after which the Provost of Eastwood took the salute watched by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Councillors, MSPs, MPs, and the Chief Superintendent of Police.

The parade then marched to Newton Mearns Synagogue, where the Ladies Committee served a very welcome breakfast, and Rabbi Hackenbroch, assisted by Chazzan Refael Muller, conducted a most impressive and moving service. In his oration, Tony Faber extended a particular welcome to Arthur Lawson MBE, a past chairman of National AJEX, who came from London specially to participate in the parade. He also announced the re-forming of the Glasgow branch of AJEX, and invited ex-servicemen and women, and their family and friends, to join.

The names of Scottish Jews who gave their lives on active service in both World Wars were read by representatives of JLGB, B'nei Akiva, Habonim, the Scouts, and the Guides. AJEX particularly welcomes this participation by the young people, and looks forward to the future leaders of our community upholding AJEX's aims of "Remembrance, Welfare, and Combating Antisemitism".

**A list of those who gave their lives is on  
SCoJeC's website:**

**[http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Four\\_Corners/  
Files/AJEX.pdf](http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Four_Corners/Files/AJEX.pdf)**

**Please contact us if you know of anyone  
whose name should be added.**

**If you would like more information or  
would like to apply for membership,  
please contact Tony Faber: 0141 586 6605**



EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN WATCH AS  
WREATHS ARE LAID AT THE WAR MEMORIAL.



THE PIPES AND DRUMS OF THE JEWISH LADS AND GIRLS BRIGADE LEAD  
THE AJEX REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE TO THE WAR MEMORIAL.

## REMEMBERING THE **Holocaust**

KENNETH COLLINS

East Renfrewshire will once again host the Scottish National Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day, on Monday 28th January 2008. Baroness Helena Kennedy will chair a panel of speakers, including the Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, who will respond to questions from senior pupils of local schools.

The new Scottish Government has confirmed that it will honour the pledge made by Jack McConnell on behalf of the previous administration, to create a Scottish Holocaust Memorial Centre in East Renfrewshire. A company has been commissioned to develop the project, and representatives of Jewish community, Council officials and Government civil servants are discussing funding possibilities as well as the ethos and direction of the Centre. This is clearly a long term project, but one that has strong support from all the parties.





## The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities AGM

SCOJeC is an example to other communities”, said George Reid, the former Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, who was guest speaker at SCOJeC’s AGM, held in Glasgow on 28 October. He discussed the challenges facing people in Scotland today, and described how the Scottish Parliament responds to public concerns by reaching out and engaging with communities.

“I want to thank the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities for grasping the outstretched hand of the Parliament, and for getting involved. Ephraim and Leah are weel kent figures to Ministers, to MSPs, to the senior civil servants, to the leaders of the STUC. You bring common sense and decency to everything you do. And you do engage – how you engage!”

“In Scotland, your small community has made a remarkable contribution to our national life. Through the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities it has led to your full engagement with our new institutions.”

Ephraim Borowski (Director) thanked George Reid for his thought-provoking address – and for his compliments to SCOJeC – and presented him with a copy of “Second City Jewry”, written by SCOJeC Chair, Kenneth Collins.

Kenneth Collins told the meeting that SCOJeC’s impact extends beyond Scotland, and that the Board of Deputies, and the Community Security Trust have both publicly recognised its achievements.

Ephraim Borowski and Leah Granat (Public Affairs Officer) described SCOJeC’s activities during the last year, which include liaising with Ministers and MSPs, and monitoring the media, Scottish and Westminster Parliaments, Scottish Government, and Whitehall, on a daily basis.



### NEW OFFICE-BEARERS:

**Chair:** Kenneth Collins (Glasgow)  
**Vice-Chairs:** Philip Mendelsohn (Glasgow)  
 Hilary Rifkind (Edinburgh)  
 Frank House  
 (Argyll and the Highlands)  
**Secretary:** Paul Spicker (Dundee)  
**Treasurer:** Daniel Clapham  
 (co-opted member)

LEFT: GEORGE REID (FORMER PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT) ADDRESSES THE AGM, WITH KENNETH COLLINS AND EPHRAIM BOROWSKI LISTENING.

## Dundee Shul AGM

Dundee, the City of Discovery, now a biomedical and high technology centre, was once an industrial city famous for jute mills, jam and journalism. A port city on the Tay estuary, it is where many Jewish immigrants from Europe’s Baltic and eastern continental lands settled during the latter part of the 19th century.

The current Dundee Hebrew Congregation maintain a uniquely designed synagogue in St Mary’s Place under the shadow of Dundee Law. While a number of the current members are native Dundonians, many of the congregants originated from other UK cities while others hail from Canada, America, Israel, France, or South Africa.

Fourteen people attended the AGM on 13 November. This was preceded by an evening service led by Rabbi David Rose of Edinburgh (possibly only the second service in Dundee led by a Rabbi during the last two decades) and a discussion about the significance of Chanukah.

While not quite yet having achieved the tag of ‘vibrancy’, the Dundee community is undergoing a degree of uplift. The lively and interesting meeting, chaired by Henny King, agreed a programme of events including a monthly Friday night and Shabbat morning services, monthly Friday night meals, fortnightly Hebrew lessons, a ‘Rabbi Burns Supper’, and a communal Seder.

See <http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Communities/Dundee/Programme.pdf> for the full programme of events.

HARRY RIFFKIN



CHAIR, HENNY KING (WEARING HAT), AND MEMBERS OF THE DUNDEE COMMUNITY WITH RABBI ROSE (3RD FROM LEFT) IN DUNDEE, AT THE AGM.

### NEW OFFICE-BEARERS:

**Chair:** Henny King  
**Vice-Chair:** Paul Spicker  
**Treasurer:** Beth Glass  
**Secretary:** Harry Riffkin  
**Communications:** Lynn Azoulay  
**Outreach:** Ellen McCance

# Chanukah

## AROUND THE CORNERS



LIGHTING 6 CANDLES ON 'CHANUKAH SUNDAY' IN DUNDEE...



...AND ENJOYING THE AFTER-GLOW!

### CHANUKAH IN DUNDEE

SCoJeC's Chanukah party was held in Dundee this year, and was attended by around 30 people, some local, and others who travelled from as far afield as Inverness to join the fun. A lavish lunch was followed by a series of discussion groups for adults and children, and the day concluded with the lighting of many chanukiot, enthusiastic singing, and the consumption of yet more doughnuts.



MORE THAN 40 STUDENTS CELEBRATED CHANUKAH IN STYLE WITH GLASGOW J-SOC.



PLAYING DRIEDEL IN DUNDEE.



LIGHTING THE CHANUKIAH AT EDINBURGH SYNAGOGUE CHEDER



STUDENTS FROM ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, WITH NORTHERN REGION CHAPLAIN, RABBI DOVID COHEN.

# it's that time again!

EPHRAIM BOROWSKI

More years ago than I care to remember, I asked a very orthodox fellow-student, now a prominent rabbi, whether he was concerned by the fact that the Romans celebrated the 25th day of the midwinter month with the festival of Saturnalia long before we did so with Chanukah. He shrugged his shoulders: "The devil is allowed to sing the best tunes," he replied!

We may be less concerned about Saturnalia than another midwinter festival of the 25th, with its ubiquitous trees, lights, sales, and musak – although the accompanying conspicuous consumption, and the recent reports that barely 12% of the population know the basic details of the Christmas story, may suggest that the extended midwinter break is ever more saturnalian, and ever less Christian! Or perhaps 'winterval' is becoming increasingly Jewish, fronted by a vertically challenged and horizontally overendowed beardie, and celebrated by two festive days at the beginning, and two more at the end, with 'Chol HaMoed' in between!

But let's be serious: the Talmud is quite clear that the Chanukah story took place on the 25th of Kislev – indeed one explanation of the name is that it is made up of the word "Chanu," they rested, and the number Caf Heh = 25. There's no reason to any more suspicious of that date than had it been the 24th or 26th – the date doesn't cease to exist because someone else celebrates it.

Neither is there any reason for Jews to pretend they don't celebrate it! For us, 25th December, along with Diwali and Eid al Adha, are just ordinary days, although, depending where we live, we may get an unearned day off work. The Talmud does ban any benefit

from idolatrous activities, but that hardly explains why some orthodox Jews refrain from study on 'Nittelnacht', or why some guests refused to attend my wedding on 31st December – they must be almost the only people keeping St Sylvester's night alive!

As the Chief Rabbi argued in *The Dignity of Difference*, Judaism can embrace multiculturalism – we have no obligation to convert the world to our point of view. The challenge for interfaith activity is that we believe with perfect faith, as Maimonides put it, that we're right and they're wrong – but we also know that they believe with equal faith that they are right and we are wrong. But we can live with that, and with them. We don't need to be like them, or force them to be like us, or to pretend they do not exist.

That's why I've been puzzled by the attacks on the Chief Rabbi's new book, *The Home We Build Together*, on the grounds that it "is an extended attack on multiculturalism and argues that 'We need to reinvigorate the concept of the common good'" (Institute for Jewish Policy Research on-line discussion forum). What's interesting here is the idea that multiculturalism and the common good are in opposition. Perhaps that's why I've never understood the English media on the subject; if, as the grandiloquently titled "New Generation Network" say in their manifesto, "The true purpose of "multiculturalism" should be to help people from differing cultural backgrounds to understand each other better and overlap productively", then it's already alive and well in Scotland.

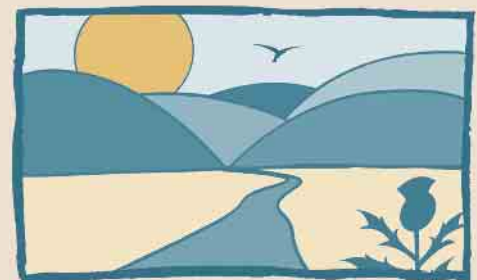
Here we understand that multiculturalism is promoting the common good, the good of all in, to coin a slogan, One Scotland of Many Cultures.



## Limmud Scotland

invites you to join in  
Scotland's biggest  
Jewish Culture Fest

## Scotland Day Limmud



## EXPANDING HORIZONS

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For information, go to [www.limmud.org/day/scotland](http://www.limmud.org/day/scotland)

# Visit from ALEX SALMOND the First Minister

At the request of the First Minister, SCoJeC arranged for him to visit the Jewish community in December, and to meet a cross-section of communal leaders.

Mr Salmond started the day at Calderwood Lodge Jewish Primary school, where he observed the Primary 7 class in a Hebrew language lesson, and chatted with the children about their school show, a musical production of "Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat". He then joined the rest of the school in the hall for the lighting of the chanukiah, and a performance of Scottish and Hebrew songs. Before leaving, the First Minister received a gift of a chanukiah, and, in return, he presented the school with books for its library.

A tour of Giffnock Synagogue followed, where he heard a presentation about John Clark's painted windows, which were moved here when Queens Park Synagogue closed.

He then joined communal leaders for a business meeting in the Community Centre, attended by representatives of SCoJeC, the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, the Board of Deputies, Orthodox and Reform religious communities, welfare and educational organisations, and the youth.



ABOVE: ALEX SALMOND, WITH PRIMARY 7 CLASS AT CALDERWOOD LODGE JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL.



BELOW: ALEX SALMOND, (4TH FROM RIGHT) AT A MEETING WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS (L TO R) EPHRAIM BOROWSKI (DIRECTOR, SCoJeC), STEPHEN KLINER (SCoJeC), PHILIP MENDELSON (PRESIDENT, GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL), AND PAUL EDLIN (VICE-PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS).



ABOVE: ALEX SALMOND (2ND FROM RIGHT), IN GIFFNOCK SYNAGOGUE, WITH (CLOCKWISE) PHILIP MENDELSON, EPHRAIM BOROWSKI, ELIOT LEVITEN (CHAIR, GIFFNOCK SYNAGOGUE), AND RABBI MOSHE RUBIN (MINISTER, GIFFNOCK SYNAGOGUE).

Responding to questions, Alex Salmond said that he is sure that "faith-based education in Scotland will continue, and probably grow", adding that "Calderwood Lodge is a great example to celebrate". He said he hoped that a member of the Scottish Government would participate in a Scottish schools visit to Auschwitz next year, and confirmed that the Scottish Government is committed to supporting interfaith and multicultural initiatives such as "One Scotland, Many Cultures".

In response to a briefing from the Community Security Trust, Mr Salmond condemned all types of religious intolerance, and emphasised the need both to make full use of the existing "religious aggravation" legislation, and to work towards a change in social attitudes. He not only confirmed an earlier commitment, made at a meeting with SCoJeC when he was in opposition, to financial support to improve security at synagogues and other communal buildings, but repeated that commitment the next day at First Minister's Questions in the Scottish Parliament.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Salmond said: "I have been particularly impressed by the work of Calderwood Lodge Primary School. This is a great example of the benefits that faith-based schools can bring when they are matched by local demand and married to their communities... The Jewish community sits at the heart of our modern Scotland and

shares a great deal of common ground with the other religions that make up our nation. The core values of family, faith and hospitality run strong through all and it's from these shared principles that the future of what it means to be Scottish will grow. "

SCoJeC Director Ephraim Borowski welcomed Mr Salmond's statement, saying: "We were delighted when the new First Minister, at one of his first engagements, asked to meet us in order to ask us to arrange a visit to the school and the Community. We are even more delighted that he was able to hear and respond to the concerns of representatives of all sectors of the Community, and that we have his personal commitment to a diverse multicultural Scotland in which the safety, security, and development of the Jewish Community are assured."

A fuller report of the visit is available at [http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Events/2007/07xii\\_FM/FM.html](http://www.j-scot.org.uk/Events/2007/07xii_FM/FM.html)