

THE EDINBURGH

STAR

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Long Live **King Charles III**

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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY

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Thank you

The Edinburgh Star would like to express its appreciation to all those who support the magazine with their continued subscriptions, and all those who make donations over and above this.

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We would like to ask our readers to support the people who have kindly agreed to advertise in The Edinburgh Star, in return for the support that they themselves give us.

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 Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Mr Edward Green
Edinburgh Star

8 August 2023

Dear Mr Green

I am writing to offer you and your readers my warmest wishes for Jewish New Year this September.

The special season of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur shines a light on the deeply valuable role Scotland's Jewish communities play in our country's civic life and I would like to express my gratitude for all your efforts in supporting those in society who are at the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

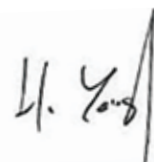
While Jewish New Year is doubtlessly a time for celebration, I also recognise the ongoing concerns you have in respect to the threat of antisemitism. Thankfully Jewish hate-crime has traditionally been lower in Scotland than the rest of the UK but nonetheless we must remain vigilant to the insidious forces which seek to divide us. Antisemitism, along with all forms of hatred and prejudice, is something which the Scottish Government unequivocally condemns and we are resolute in tackling it whenever it may arise.

In May I had the pleasure of visiting Giffnock Synagogue in Glasgow and in June I participated in a multi-faith event at Edinburgh Castle where I spoke with Jewish representatives regarding issues of interest to their community. The Scottish Government also continues to fund Holocaust Memorial Day and earlier this year launched our new hate-crime strategy which was informed, in part, by engagement with Jewish organisations.

I am delighted that Scotland is increasingly becoming a more diverse and multi-cultural place for all of us to call home. By working together with a common purpose we can build a better and more inclusive society, including for our faith communities, where everyone has a sense of belonging.

I once again wish you the most joyful Rosh Hashanah and all the very best with the year ahead.

Shanah Tovah



HUMZA YOUSAF
First Minister of Scotland



• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh

August 2023

Dear Edward,

I was delighted to be able to join you, Chair Rifkind, Rabbi Rose, and many other members of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation at the recent Synagogue service to mark the International Festival.

It is always a privilege to hear from you all in Edinburgh's Jewish community and to see the wonderful work that is taking place across the Capital. You truly represent the very best qualities of our city in your benevolence, fairness, and dedication to your communities.

In April, I was honoured and humbled to make a speech at the Peace Garden to mark a Remembrance Service for Jewish victims of the Holocaust. This was a truly emotional day where we grieved and remembered the terrible loss that was inflicted during that time. However, this was also a key opportunity to reflect on the atrocities of the past and use these lessons to imagine a future that is more compassionate, understanding and just for all of humanity.

I am incredibly proud that Edinburgh is a truly multicultural capital city, and one where we draw our strength from our diversity. This is a city where we want people from all backgrounds to feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and highly valued. We will continue our work to ensure that mutual respect occurs between our citizens, across our streets, and within our communities.

I would like to wish Edinburgh's Jewish community a wonderful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and I hope that this New Year brings health, happiness, and prosperity to you all.

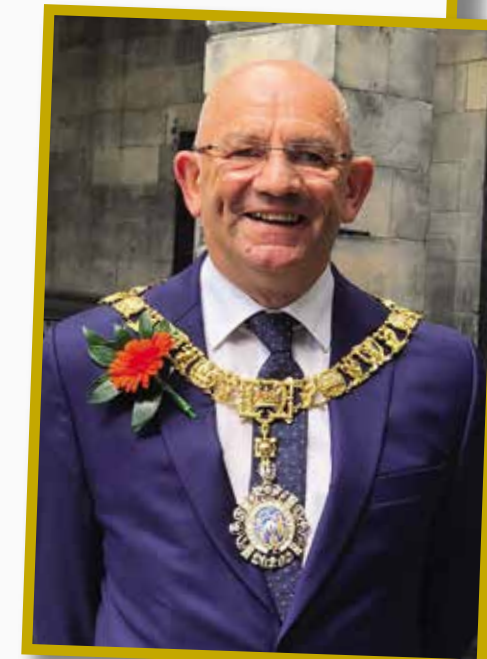
Finally on behalf of the City of Edinburgh and on a personal note, from the Lord Provost's Consort and myself, thank you for your excellent contribution to Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely


ROBERT ALDRIDGE
LORD PROVOST



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The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5784

The term 'Yamim Noraim' (Days of Awe) contains within it the key to transformative living.

Unetaneh Tokef, at the heart of our High Holyday Musaph prayers, commences: "Let us now proclaim the power of this day, for it is awe-inspiring..."

Awe is an emotion that is often elusive and fleeting, but when experienced, it can be unforgettable and life-altering.

Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, defines awe as the experience of "vast mysteries." In a widely acclaimed paper, written together with the noted social psychologist, Jonathan Haidt, Keltner identifies five spheres of experience which give rise to the feeling of awe.

1. Threat. When we encounter someone or something which has the power of life and death, such as a powerful natural disaster.
2. Beauty. When we see a striking piece of art or place of rare natural splendour.
3. Ability. When we appreciate in someone or something, an extraordinary talent.
4. Virtue. When we experience extraordinary acts of goodness which inspire us.
5. Supernatural Causality. When we feel the manifestation of the Divine in our lives.

Fascinatingly, these spheres of experience combine in the most extraordinary way on our Days of Awe.

Standing before our Creator on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we meditate upon our mortality and the gift of life. We are struck by the beauty of the sea of white in our Shuls and the rousing melodies of our prayers. We recognise in Hashem the capacity to help shape our lives and His boundless virtue to forgive us, no matter how frequently we err. Above all, our Days of Awe enable us to experience the hand of Hashem on our shoulders, comforting us, guiding us, and pushing us to fulfil our potential.

Significantly, in an extraordinary series of studies, Professor Keltner showed that people who had reported experiencing more awe in their lives, were more charitable and more altruistic. Reflecting on these studies, he wrote, "awe imbues people with a different sense of themselves, one that is smaller, more humble and part of something larger. In the great balancing act of our social lives, between the gratification of self-interest and a concern for others, fleeting experiences of awe redefine the self in terms of the collective, and orient our actions towards the needs of those around us." No wonder, therefore, that our Unetaneh Tokef prayer concludes with a call to engage in prayer, penitence and charity.

With this in mind, may our forthcoming Yamim Noraim, filled with heartfelt introspection and awe, inspire us to be more compassionate, more giving and more connected to our fellows. Let us strive to live each day with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep appreciation for the awe-inspiring moments that await us.

Valerie and I wish you all a shana tova umetukah, filled with awe and bountiful blessings.



Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE



Rosh Hashanah Message

As we come to the end of another year of dramatic events, both military, economic and political, both in the Jewish world and beyond, it is good to be able to take a breath and reflect on where we have been and where we might want to go.



Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are precisely designed for this purpose. The sound of the Shofar is meant to get our attention and awaken us from our focus on the head-long rush of events to contemplate the bigger picture.

This year, most of the festivals of this season fall on Shabbat. This has dramatic ritual consequences causing the main *mitzvot* of these days, blowing the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah and waving the Four Species on Succot, to be postponed to the Sunday.

It appears that Shabbat is so important that our awakening to reflection can wait another day.

Maybe this is because the weekly Shabbat performs the same function. Properly observed, it also enables us to step back from the rush of existence and material acquisition and contemplate our purpose and place in the universe. The same effect achieved once a year by the sounds of the Shofar can be experienced every week by those who take time out to observe the Shabbat.

As we approach a new year let us resolve to increase our observance of and relationship with this weekly day of reflection, so we can take time to connect with our ourselves and our lives not only once a year but once every week.

A Happy New Year
Rabbi David Rose

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Editorial

Losing my mother and then a few weeks later, on the first night of Chanukah, slipping on the ice and breaking my leg and ankle has reinforced to me how important we are to each other for the thoughtfulness and support we give, especially through difficult times.

I was most overcome by the people who attended the extra 'shiva' day I had when I returned to Edinburgh and the very many letters, cards and messages I received – every single one meant so much. But what it did emphasise to me was how little acts of kindness add up to so much and we in the EHC seem to excel in that.

Our kiddushim and Shabbat lunches, coffee mornings, the luncheon club, Chanukah dinner, Seders, and all the very many other events together with the generous concern we show to each other help us to feel part of an extended family and I like to feel that the Edinburgh Star plays its part. The medium of the written word is powerful, and I hope that our readers will find this edition even better than the last! We must always strive to improve on the last and I am sure there must be somewhere in our scriptures that says just that. This year's edition has been, as always, a pleasure to compile, and I hope that you will find it informative, interesting and re-invigorating.

Editing the Star to the professional standard we have has given my editorial board and me a good deal of work these past years and I am most grateful to the members of the board for their contributions, diligence and efforts. An Editor's style might not be to everyone's taste and has to be individual as has been witnessed by the past editors. Every era brings different requirements; and all effort has been made to ensure that the Star has moved with the times and been sympathetic to the needs and indeed ever-changing present mood of the community.



This year's edition of the Star has some fascinating articles and I continue to be grateful to members of the Editorial Board for their input. Gary Cowen has brought Hearts to life and even if you are not a football fan I am sure you will find it interesting as is the exceptional article detailing the work of AJEX. My thanks also go once again to Alan Meerkin for his wonderful 'Letter from Israel' as they do to all our contributors.

Maryla joins me together with our son, Freddie, in extending our new year wishes, this year with the fervent prayer that 5784 will prove to be a blessed year for all of us.

Edward Green

New Year

Message from the President

This Rosh Hashanah, I would like to focus on two wonderful events which demonstrate the esteem in which the Jewish community is held in this country. The first of these was the coronation of King Charles III in May. I was privileged to be invited to represent the Jewish community at the coronation. The King has said on a number of occasions that he wishes to be the 'protector of faiths' and he has been as good as his word. Having experienced King Charles' warmth towards our community on several occasions, I know he will be a wonderful monarch both for the Jewish community and the wider nation. I wish him much success.



Leading the service on that day was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. We were delighted that he accepted our invitation to be interviewed by historian and novelist Simon Sebag Montefiore at Bevis Marks Synagogue this summer. We invited every Board of Deputies-affiliated synagogue to send representatives to this wonderful event. The Archbishop spoke with great passion of his personal commitment to fighting antisemitism, the duty of care that universities have for their Jewish students and the historic relationship between the Church and the Jewish community. His views were both heartfelt and heartwarming for all who were there.

The Board's key work is in two areas. Firstly, we engage with politicians, civil society, and other faith groups throughout the UK at national, regional and local level, sharing with them the Jewish community's views about a wide range of topics including antisemitism, Israel, religious practice and social issues. Secondly, we work proactively to advance causes of great concern to our community. For example, we run Pikuach (The Jewish Ofsted) to inspect our Jewish schools, helping to ensure they provide an excellent Jewish education. We also have our Jewish Living Experience Exhibition, which is travelling around the country educating children and adults about the Jewish way of life, and we are developing a new on-line digital programme to teach non-Jewish children around the UK about Jews, Judaism, Israel and antisemitism.

There are still threats to the safety of our community. We have previously campaigned successfully to have both Hezbollah and Hamas proscribed in their entirety as terrorist organisations. We strongly believe that the Government has a duty to ban the state-sponsored terror group the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). In July we held an event in Parliament which featured impassioned evidence from advocates of proscription.

There is still bias against Israel in the media. One particularly egregious example occurred recently when a BBC News presenter, in an interview with former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, said that "Israeli forces are happy to kill children". We contacted the BBC's Director General to protest in the strongest possible terms. On this occasion the BBC apologised swiftly for the unacceptable language, but we must continue to be vigilant and proactive.

This is but a snapshot of the extensive and varied work the Board of Deputies carries out for the Jewish community. We do all this on an extremely modest budget, largely funded by your communal contribution.

I wish everyone a Shana Tovah and a happy year ahead.

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl OBE



**BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS**

ADVOCACY | DEMOCRACY | COMMUNITY

FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been one of normality and activity in our community.

The arrival of Rabbi Eliran and Ayalah Shabo last summer, together with their delightful children Abby and Nadav, heralded a new era as they took up their post as Student Chaplains for Edinburgh and the East of Scotland Universities. Edinburgh has become very popular with Jewish students and has a thriving Jewish Society, with 240 students attending the Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner held in our Community Centre, and subsequent Friday Night Dinners being very well attended. The J-Soc Committee have engaged well with EHC, showing respect and appreciation for the use of our facilities. The Shabo family immediately involved themselves in the life of the community and we welcome their input wholeheartedly.

Towards the end of last year, the Board was very eager to undertake some form of social action to help those in the wider community who would be experiencing winter poverty. We asked the community to contribute to either Edinburgh City Mission, which has many social enterprise projects across Edinburgh, supporting people experiencing deprivation or isolation, or the Warm Spaces Initiative at Southside Community Centre in Newington. EHC members responded wonderfully. Some donated with great generosity to the City Mission's Hardship Fund, and in addition essential clothing was delivered to the Mission's Clothes Bank at Tollcross. Other people volunteered to come into the shul kitchen every three weeks to make large quantities of soup, whilst others baked cakes at home, all for Southside's projects for the local community; and another group went into the Southside Community Centre on a regular basis to cook meals. Heartfelt appreciation has been extended to EHC for all we have done, which has been very rewarding for those who have contributed.

Recent months have seen many tourists contacting EHC through our website, asking to attend services, for Shabbat hospitality, or for provision of kosher ready meals. We receive many compliments on the warmth of our community and appreciation for all that is done for visitors. Most sincere thanks go to Rabbi Rose and his helpers who are involved in organising Shabbat hospitality and ordering kosher meals for visitors.

There has been an increase of requests from both individuals and organisations for tours of our synagogue. David Grant gives a wonderful presentation on the history of the building and the community. Sincere thanks go to David, and to John Danzig, who steps in when necessary. Tourists and visitors are such an important aspect of our communal life; not only because they enhance our activities, but they are also a valued source of income, as many give us donations after their visits. In addition, there has also been an increase in requests to hire the Community Centre.

I express gratitude to the Honorary Officers, to the members of the Board of Management, to all members of the affiliated committees and working groups, and to those individuals who privately perform acts of caring and kindness for others in our community, all of which contributes to the rich tapestry of our communal life.

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers of the Edinburgh Star a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

**Hilary Rifkind, Chair
Edinburgh Hebrew
Congregation**



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Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

The Board would also like to thank Mr & Mrs Harold Mendelssohn for kindly defraying the cost of sending The Edinburgh Star overseas.

HET Ambassador's Event

Scottish Parliament 26 Apr 2023

Gillian Field



Thank you for inviting me to speak here today.

My parents, Henry and Ingrid Wuga were born in Germany in 1924.

Through the 1930s, as antisemitism rose and the Nazi's racist Nuremberg laws were introduced, life for Jewish people in Germany became intolerable.

It became evident that there was no future for Jews in Germany and it was imperative to seek a way out.

Mum and Dad's parents managed to secure places for them on the Kindertransport and they came to the UK in 1939. They were only 15 years old! The Nazis denied them the future they would have had in Germany, but the wonderful humanitarian rescue effort that was the Kindertransport, allowed them to build a new future in Scotland.

My parents were spared the horrors of the concentration camps albeit they went through their own traumas in leaving their families and coming alone to a new country at such a young age.

We used to say "NEVER AGAIN" but genocides have taken place since the Holocaust (Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur) and we see what humanity, is capable of if racism, hatred and intolerance are allowed to persist.

Through the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust, you, the Ambassadors, help us keep the stories of the Holocaust alive.

As HET ambassadors you will know only too well what happened during the Holocaust and how important it is for us all to challenge hatred and intolerance.

I have recently spoken at several Holocaust related events including, in the presence of the former First Minister, at the Scottish Parliament.

At these events I have met some of your fellow HET ambassadors and have been inspired and encouraged by the work you do together. It is evident to me that you are wonderful young people who understand the importance of learning the lessons from the Holocaust, encouraging your peers to be inclusive, and tolerant of others.

Here we are in the Scottish Parliament whose support helps HET & the work you are doing.

As Ambassadors, you will have been on a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau with HET. I'm sure you'll agree that a visit to that chilling place, is something you will never forget and will likely strengthen your resolve to challenge racism and intolerance.

Looking back as a young girl growing up in Glasgow, I thought of my background as unremarkable.

My sister and I were just ordinary girls with ordinary parents... albeit they never hid their backgrounds from us.

Once retired, Mum & Dad volunteered with various charities: including the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow and with BLESMA where they were involved in the rehabilitation of limbless ex-soldiers by taking them skibiking in the Alps. They felt it so important to give back and repay the kindness that people in Scotland have shown to them. With the help of The Holocaust Educational Trust they spoke with thousands of school students about their holocaust experience.

I was fortunate to accompany them on some of these visits. I remember one in particular with well over 150 students. They were totally absorbed as they listened to Mum & Dad, hanging on every word!! You could literally have heard a pin drop!

When I accompanied them to evenings like this at the Parliament, I would see Mum and Dad surrounded by young ambassadors like you, waiting to speak to them. It was clear that hearing their testimonies, left a real impression on the young people in the audience.

It's very touching that two of the first HET ambassadors Mum & Dad met, still keep in regular contact with Dad. In fact, both of them (Kirsty Robson and Laura Pasternak), joined us for Dad's 99th birthday only a few weeks ago.

Kirsty and Laura said to us some time ago that meeting Mum & Dad, and listening to them talk with such openness & positivity, changed their own lives and influenced their career choices. How wonderful is that?!

Laura is Policy & Public Affairs Manager at Who Cares Scotland and Kirsty is the Scotland Support Worker for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Dad would have loved to be here this evening to meet and speak with you but it is too much for him to travel here.

Even at 99 years old though, he continues to speak of the importance of kindness, empathy and tolerance. As the daughters of two Holocaust survivors, the family responsibility of keeping our parents' stories alive, now falls to my sister Hilary and me. We know how important it is. You and HET are helping us do that.

I'm so pleased to be able to join you this evening and wish you all well as you continue in your role as HET Ambassadors.

Thank you



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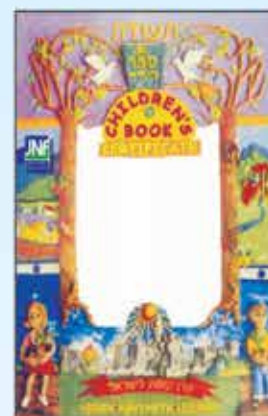
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It's Really Not So Bad



Jo Čapek

The day I began thinking about this piece, the newspapers' main headlines made for extremely gloomy reading.

Of the thirteen I looked at, all but one was a variation on Putin's threatening the west, the weeks' long search for a missing housewife, Brexit (yes, the arguments were still raging) and similarly uplifting topics. The sole exception was a somewhat lighter frontpage on the woke mafia seeking to rewrite Roald Dahl, which read, "It is grizzling and horrigust to gobblefunk with words. We must all stop squibbling." Turning to the BBC News website's 10 most read articles, these were equally soul-destroying. Along with many of the above, were included yet another row within the SNP hierarchy and a second catastrophic earthquake in Turkey.

In short, this statistically significant sample size of 23 pieces demonstrated that, other than a very few items which could be deemed neutral, every single one was of a subject about someone's, and in many cases whole population's frustrations, hardships, woes, miseries and tragedies.

What is worse is I did not choose a particularly bleak day to begin writing. It was one when, for once, we were not being reminded of Westminster's and Holyrood's squanderlust. Neither was Bibi's administration being berated yet again for ignoring every principle of Israel's founding fathers. Nor were we once more being notified that Edinburgh City Council's chief purpose in life appeared to be to reduce traffic within its boundaries to near standstill by only permitting penny-farthings, horse and carts or sedan chairs on its streets.

Since we have been fed on this interminable, opinionated diet of calamities and calumnies for longer than I care to remember, why am I now immune to all this doom-mongering?

Should I not be drowning my sorrows in buckets of alcohol and crates of anti-depressants?

Definitely not!

My general sense of well-being and contentment has nothing to do with my not having to fight, commute or struggle to heat myself. Neither is it because I do not have a boss devoid of functioning brain cells or a single scruple, though there have been some in my past. Nor does it stem from my not lingering on a hospital waiting list.

So, from where does my contentment originate?

If I was to say that the reason is my advancing years, you would probably conclude I had joined the gaga brigade, but I vehemently deny this. Read on and hopefully you will agree my grey matter is still in fine fettle, even if the primary cause of my current serene view of the world is childhood – and I stress, not my second but my first.

Search Google for 'old age quotes' and you will be presented with long lists that poets, humourists, philosophers and the self-styled intelligentsia deemed thought provoking and perceptive. The vast majority, such as Eleanor Roosevelt's melancholic "Today is the oldest you've ever been, and the youngest you'll ever be again," totally fail to cheer me but some individuals, such as George Burns, do make me chuckle. My guess is he had a take on life much like my own and possibly for the same reason. Why else would he say with a joyous twinkle in his eye, "You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there." Yes, he had surely witnessed humanity's follies many times and had learned to ignore them. Certainly, he had triumphed over many of life's trials and tribulations. Definitely, he had an optimistic and whimsical view of the world from the start, but I believe his cheery outlook principally stemmed from one word – grandchildren.

In my case, the reason for my being so chipper is certainly down to two young rascals. This enchanting pair have restored my joie-de-vivre by returning to me a cranium full of long forgotten memories.

Of course, before their appearance in my life, I recalled some of my primary schooldays in Liverpool, but six years of giggling and mirth had long been buried under adult recollections. However, an hour in their enchanting company reopens my eyes to times when zero responsibility, curiosity and boyish escapades were the norm. And more importantly, after they return home, this sense of elation persists, certainly until the next time they bring their cheek, humour, wonderment and whirlwind activity into my presence.

Thanks to these youngsters, the miserable catalogue of what the BBC deems important now has no bearing on my state of mind. Of all the uncountable memories these two mischief-makers have returned to me, I shall similarly limit my list to just ten. At complete random and in no particular order, these recollections are:

- 1 – The glee when the ginger beer plant exploded in the classroom stationery cupboard.
- 2 – The delightful bedlam when a dog entered the school playground.
- 3 – The annoyance at the inability of the school's windows to withstand any onslaught from my many and varied misguided missiles.
- 4 – The pride that came when the arm which regularly shattered glass also had me become the cricket team's opening bowler.
- 5 – The pleasure when frost and rain created an extra-long slide in the playground.
- 6 – The disquiet on learning the new headmaster's son was joining our class.
- 7 – The dread upon being handed my school report.
- 8 – Greedily making a bee-line for the chopped liver on crackers at a kiddush.
- 9 – The satisfaction at finding a vacant front seat on the top deck of the bus.
- 10 – And finally, the joyful, juvenile silliness of renaming The Seven Dwarves Oggy, Dickhead, Ding-Dong, Harry, Pistol, Ropey and Crikey after some of our teachers.

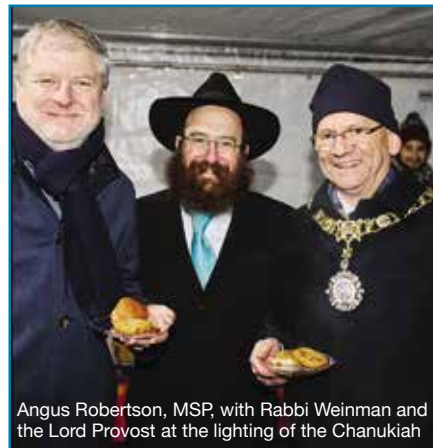
Thanks a trillion my young Scottish scamps. Despite the attempts of so many adults, not only have you proved that later life is really not so bad, but you have definitely made aging in this country an absolute pleasure.

Celebrating 15 Years of Chabad of Edinburgh: A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND GROWTH

Rabbi Pinny and Gitty Weinman

As we celebrate our 15th year at Chabad of Edinburgh, we find ourselves filled with immense gratitude to G-d for the remarkable success we have witnessed throughout this incredible journey. Inspired by the teachings and vision of the Lubavitcher Rebbe OBM, we moved from Brooklyn NY, on a transformative path, bringing the light of Judaism to the beautiful city of Edinburgh.

When we first arrived in this vibrant city, there were those who doubted that Chabad would be able to establish a lasting presence. However, looking back now, we are reminded of the early years, starting in 2008, when we ran our activities out of a humble home on Kilmaurs Road. Little did we know then that Chabad of Edinburgh would grow and flourish beyond our wildest dreams.



Angus Robertson, MSP, with Rabbi Weinman and the Lord Provost at the lighting of the Chanukiah

Over the years, our commitment to serving the local community has remained steadfast, and as a result, we continually outgrew our previous locations. Today, we are proud to operate out of a beautiful centre situated on Bread Street in the heart of Edinburgh. This central location allows us to cater to an ever-expanding audience, including students, locals, businesspeople, and visitors to the city. Our Chabad centre has become a hub of ongoing activities, providing a place for spiritual growth, educational programs, and social connections.

The growth and success we have witnessed would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our community and friends of Chabad of Edinburgh. We are blessed to have an exceptional team of volunteers who have dedicated their time, energy, and resources



Chanukiah Lighting celebrations

to our shared mission. Their commitment and assistance have proven to be invaluable in running our diverse range of social and educational programs. Together, we have cultivated a warm and inclusive environment where people from all walks of life can gather to celebrate Jewish traditions and embrace Jewish life. Thanks also to the remarkable generosity of Edward and Maryla Green, our Shul has recently undergone renovations, enhancing the beauty and ambiance of our services. We are deeply grateful for their contribution, which has made our community even stronger.

Together, we are writing a new chapter in the history of Edinburgh, demonstrating that Yiddishkeit can thrive and flourish even in unexpected places. The message of Am Yisrael Chai echoes through the streets, reminding us that our people's spirit is alive and well.

As we embark on our 16th year, which coincides with Rosh Hashanah 5784, we are filled with anticipation and excitement. We eagerly look forward to continued growth and prosperity for the Jewish community in Edinburgh. May this upcoming year be one of abundant blessings, success, happiness, and fulfilment for each and every member of the Jewish Community. On behalf of Chabad of Edinburgh, we extend our warmest wishes to the entire community for a Shana Tova Umetuka, a year filled with sweetness and joy. May it be a year where we find true meaning and purpose, and may we merit the ultimate redemption with the coming of Moshiach.



Purim celebrations

We celebrate our first year as Student Chaplains in Edinburgh

Rabbi Eliran and Rebbetzin Ayalah Shabo

A year ago, we made the decision to relocate from Athens to Edinburgh to join University Jewish Chaplaincy, completely unaware of the incredible journey that awaited us. Little did we know just how many students we would meet, the diverse range of events we would organise, the remarkable places we would visit, and the exciting experiences that were in store.



Our weekly visits to campuses across the east of Scotland, including Edinburgh and St. Andrews, as well as occasional trips to Aberdeen, Dundee, and Stirling, have given us the incredible privilege of connecting with hundreds of students who wholeheartedly embrace their Jewish heritage, seeking collective expression and exploration. From engaging Lunch and Learn sessions and joyous Shabbat and festival meals to casual Parasha hangout meetings and a cosy knitting club, our events were filled with meaningful connections. A standout moment was the unforgettable Friday Night Dinner at EHC, where we warmly welcomed 240 students from various universities across Scotland, fostering a strong sense of unity within the wider Scottish student community. Additionally, we were fortunate enough to organise a truly uplifting Shabbaton in Aviemore, bringing together dozens of students in a remarkable celebration of Jewish student activism and engagement. These events only scratch the surface of the diverse experiences we had the honour of facilitating during this year.

As university chaplains, our focus revolved around addressing and responding to instances of antisemitism on campus, while providing unwavering support to the Jewish Society (JSoc) committee. We dedicated our efforts to creating a safe and inclusive environment for Jewish students. Our role extended beyond that as we offered pastoral care, guidance, and advocacy. Regular meetings, organised events, and collaborations with other organisations aimed to foster interfaith dialogue and cooperation. We were there to provide emotional support, counselling, and spiritual guidance to Jewish students who faced challenges or discrimination.



The success of our first year owes a great deal to the incredible support and warm welcome we received from the EHC community. The availability of the hall and kitchen, coupled with the dedicated assistance and guidance from the Glasgow Chaplains, Rabbi Aharon, and Rebbetzin Hodaya Lemberger, made our journey as Jewish Chaplains in Edinburgh incredibly fulfilling. Their invaluable contributions over the past four years have greatly contributed to the success we have enjoyed this year.

University Jewish Chaplaincy is unwaveringly committed to preserving the Jewish identity and well-being of students across the UK. The dedication and investment of the organisation and its staff have propelled us forward this year, and we eagerly anticipate continued growth and success in the coming year. This has been an enlightening and fulfilling year for us and our children, and we look forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



The Editor writes: The entire Shabo family have endeared themselves to the Edinburgh Hebrew Community since their arrival just over a year ago with their charm, hard work, kind interest and involvement. Their presence and participation at our services, our events and all that happens has been so very much appreciated and enjoyed. We wish them continued success with their most valued mission amongst the Jewish students of Edinburgh and hope they will be with us for many years to come.

Elias Furst and the Hearts Connection



Gary Cowen KC

For as long as I can recall, the Jewish community in Edinburgh has always been Hearts-minded. Of course, there are notable exceptions to every rule and I well recall as a boy Sidney Caplan taking me along with his own boys, Andrew and Ian, to Easter Road to watch their beloved Hibs despite his father, Mike Caplan, supporting Hearts.

My own grandfather, Barney Lewis and my great uncle Louis Lindey were staunch Hearts fans who went to Tynecastle together and passed that maroon passion on to the next generations of their own families. The Rifkind family were also Hearts fans and sitting near them in Shul always sparked discussions of current form and future prospects. Anyone in Edinburgh wanting to wear the Hearts colours could get their scarf or rosette from Morris Kaye, a regular advertiser in the Hearts programmes of the 1970's. Morris Kaye was of course Morris Kaplan whose son David flies the flag for Hearts from afar.

Is there a reason why the Jewish community in Edinburgh has always been predominantly maroon? Well, perhaps the answer lies in the little-known connection between Edinburgh's community and the Heart of Midlothian Football Club in the shape of Elias Furst.

The Furst name will be familiar to anyone who has glanced at the plaques which adorn the entrance to the shul. Rabbi Jacob Furst led the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation for almost 40 years from 1879 until his passing in 1918 and is therefore a central figure in the story of our community. Born in Courland in what is now Latvia in 1844, Jacob moved to rabbinical school in Vilnius in Lithuania before leaving for Britain. Elias, the third of Jacob and wife Marion's ten children was actually born in Russia in

1873. Following positions in London, Hull and Middlesbrough, Jacob settled in Edinburgh living in an apartment attached to the synagogue on what is now Potterrow.

Much of the burgeoning Jewish community at that time was settling in the district of Dalry where many were involved in the waterproof clothing trade and Furst was involved in establishing a synagogue at Caledonian Crescent, not too far from Tynecastle Park.

By all accounts, Jacob was keen for his children to assimilate into Scottish life as much as possible so what better place to do that than at Tynecastle Park? Notwithstanding that almost all of their matches would be played on a Saturday, Jacob regularly took a young Elias to watch Hearts. Elias developed such an affection for the club that he became the youngest fully paid up member of the club at age 17. A jeweller by trade but with a keen business sense, a love of Shakespeare and a strong Scottish accent, the young Elias would often write to the committee which ran the club at that time offering financial advice which was seldom heeded.

Elias' influence over the club was more gradual than explosive and by 1901, he was organising a brake-club for fans to travel to away matches. In that year, Hearts reached the Scottish Cup Final and Elias took his family to Glasgow to watch the team win the trophy. The esteem in which Elias was held within the club is reflected in the fact that when Elias asked to display the trophy in the window of his shop at 45 South Bridge, the committee granted permission as confirmed in the Committee's Minutes for 18 April 1901. That shop was later my grandfather and father's flagship for Cowan Tailoring Co, another more personal connection with Furst.

By 1902, Elias was appointed as the club's auditor and he appears, wearing a dapper suit and bowler hat, in the

team photograph for the 1902-3 season. He then cautioned against the club's incorporation as a limited company in 1903 but the club's plans went ahead against his advice and proved disastrous, plunging the club into further debt.

Elias had a backer in the influential Liberal Councillor, James Leishman, who agreed to act as a financial consultant to the club on condition that the Committee paid more attention to the skills of their young auditor, Elias Furst. Once he had the ear of the Committee, Elias' star continued to rise and he drafted the Memorandum and Articles for a new limited company in 1905 and this time the launch proved successful. Perhaps unsurprisingly, then, he was the club's guest when Hearts travelled to Glasgow once again for the Scottish Cup Final in 1906 and he witnessed the team win its fourth Cup. Oddly, Elias' request for the Cup to be displayed once again in his jewellers' shop window was this time turned down. The board minutes do not explain why.



This is a Tom Curr cartoon of the directors which appeared in the menu for a dinner the club had to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1924. Shows Elias Furst in trademark bowler hat with a pipe.



Elias Furst was finally invited to join the board of Heart of Midlothian in 1907 and he remained a fixture in the boardroom for the next 28 years. Elias was a moderniser, persuading the board to relinquish their control over the playing staff and place it in the hands of manager John McCartney. He was also instrumental in the Club undertaking its first foreign tour as the team sailed to Scandinavia to test itself against the best players from Norway and Denmark, turning a profit from the tour at the same time. In the same year, 1912, Elias Furst was appointed chairman of the Club and he was quick to commit the Club to improving Tynecastle by employing the noted stadium architect Archibald Leitch to design and build a new main stand for the ground.

This coincided with the outbreak of the First World War and it is a mark of Elias' greatness that one of the finest of the Club's honours, the mass volunteering for McCrae's Battalion of the 16th Royal Scots by players and fans, should happen on Elias' watch. Elias and other board members wrote in the Scotsman on 1 December 1914 encouraging Hearts fans to join up with the players to do their duty. "Now then, young men", they wrote, "as you have followed the old Club through adverse and pleasant times, through sunshine and rain, roll up in your hundreds for King and country, for right and freedom".

This was a view echoed by his father, Rabbi Jacob Furst who was quoted in the Evening News as saying that "The supreme law of loyalty demands sacrifice and self-abnegation on the part of every man fit for service". One can imagine, then, that Elias Furst would have been very supportive of the bravery of his players' actions notwithstanding the dangers to themselves and the Club.

Seven first team players, Speedie, Gracie, Currie, Wattie, Ellis, Boyd and Allan, never came home. An eighth, Bob Mercer, was gassed in 1918 and died on the football field just eight years later. The dangers to the very existence of the Club were also all too real. The War caused revenue to drop through the floor and, simultaneously, the costs associated with the construction of the new stand increased beyond forecasts to £12,000 leaving the Club perilously close to financial ruin. But Elias Furst's financial acumen is widely acknowledged to have saved the Club from extinction, even going so far as to take Chelsea FC to court over an unpaid transfer fee for the player Laurence Abrams (not Jewish as far as I can tell despite the name) but later dropping the claim when Chelsea FC claimed that they would go into liquidation if the debt was enforced. Elias' generosity was also to the fore when, following a match at Tynecastle in April 1915 for the Belgian Relief Fund, Elias was the highest bidder in an auction for the match ball which he promptly donated to the Club.

Hearts survived the War and during the 1920's Elias oversaw a period when Tynecastle saw the highest average crowds in the whole of Scotland, the two Glasgow giants included. In 1922, he led the Club as it unveiled the War Memorial at Haymarket commemorating those who had been lost in the First World War. He also appointed his brother, Isaac Furst, as the Club's solicitor and Isaac's name appears on season tickets shortly after the First World War.

In 1930, Elias became the first Hearts official to be elected as Chairman of the Scottish Football League, a huge honour which saw Elias at the very pinnacle of Scottish football.

Just five years later, though, it all came to an end. Arsenal were keen to buy Hearts' hugely talented forward (and later most successful manager) Tommy Walker for a fee which would have come close to being a world record at the time and Elias advocated for the move to go ahead to ensure the survival of the Club for years to come. He was overruled by the other members of the board who opted to reject Arsenal's advances and even though he was then elected back to the board with the most votes, Elias resigned his position on the board in March 1935.

Elias continued to support the Club and provide his views on the major issues of the day including the potential relocation of the Club to a new stadium at Sighthill, a project shelved on the outbreak of the Second World War.

Elias passed away in 1949 after suffering a heart attack in his family home in Marchmont. Like many Hearts fans, though, supporting the Club was in the blood and I was delighted to bump into my fellow Hearts fan and barrister, Stephen Furst KC, Elias' grandson as we both made our way up to Edinburgh for the 1998 Cup Final.

So, Edinburgh is maroon. And that goes for its Jewish community too. Well most of it.

Gary Cowen KC is a Hearts historian, collector of Hearts memorabilia and member of the Hearts archive group.

The Importance of our Hearing

Katie and Martin are a husband and wife team who have over 35 years' experience between them. Having worked in the NHS and for some of the world's leading hearing aid manufacturers – they know a lot about ears.

The Edinburgh Hearing Practice provide the latest hearing test techniques, independent expert advice on the best hearing aid technologies, and a professional ear wax removal service at state-of-the-art practices in Corstorphine and Gullane.

I'll wait until it gets worse...

Hearing loss is often very gradual and in fact, on average it takes someone with a hearing loss around 10 years to do something about it. And let's face it – nobody particularly wants to wear a hearing aid. But do you want to wait 10 years and miss out on all of those great moments in life?

'People tend to forget about getting their hearing checked, it's a poor third behind eyes and teeth! Hearing loss happens in our ears, but affects many different aspects of our lives. We often hear people saying that they don't want to wear hearing aids as they will make them look old, but hearing aids can be extremely discreet and hearing better keeps people young, socially active and employed for longer as statistics show that people with a hearing loss tend to retire earlier. There is also a lot of discussion around new evidence which shows that untreated hearing loss increases a person's likelihood to develop dementia as they withdraw from social interactions.' Martin Smith, Director and Hearing Aid Audiologist.

What to expect from a hearing assessment at the Edinburgh Hearing Practice

Most hearing centres will measure the quietest sounds that you can hear and based on this will make a recommendation. Although this type of hearing test provides useful information, by no means does it provide a full picture, we hear with our ears but it is our brain that understands speech! With this in mind, we have designed our test protocol to ensure that we measure your exact individual issues.

First and foremost, we will listen to you. Hearing loss is personal and we take the time to listen to your experience.

We recommend that you bring someone with you as they can often provide useful information and support. Our hearing assessments usually take about 90 minutes.

We will ask some medical related questions so that we have a good understanding of your general health and history. Next we will examine your ears. We have the latest technology and can show you images of your ears on a screen if you are interested in seeing exactly what we are looking at. We thoroughly check your ears using state of the art video equipment and keep the images on your records so we can keep track of your ear health.

If your ears are blocked with wax your hearing test will not be accurate. You're in safe hands at the Edinburgh Hearing Practice as we can perform professional ear wax removal.

We take you through a thorough hearing evaluation using the very latest audiometric equipment to record the quietest sounds that you can hear, but also importantly, the way that your brain is able to understand the signal from your ears. This involves testing your speech recognition in both quiet and in the presence of the dreaded background noise.

Where appropriate, we perform tympanometry to check how the middle ear is working (this is a really simple comfortable test, and is nothing to be nervous about).

At each stage we will explain the results really thoroughly to you and make sure that everything is completely clear. Occasionally we may feel that onward referral is required – this is unusual, but you can trust us to always do the right thing. If hearing aids would help, we will discuss all the different solutions that are available to you based on your hearing loss, lifestyle, cosmetic preference and ease of use.

Our care plans are bespoke and suited around your individual needs and preferences. All our hearing aids are available to trial for 30 days at no cost. We believe that the proof is in the pudding!

Maybe it's just wax!

We are experienced in ear care and can provide a professional wax removal service using Microsuction. This is our preferred method of wax removal as it uses a small suction tip to remove wax from the ear without introducing any water. There is also no need to use drops or oil for weeks on end to soften the wax prior to removal. In fact, using olive oil for one or two nights is ample preparation.

Research Update

Hearing loss officially the TOP modifiable dementia risk

Dementia is the greatest global challenge for health and social care in the 21st century: around 50 million people worldwide have dementia and this number is predicted to triple by 2050.

There is a growing body of evidence that links hearing loss to cognitive decline as it denies people a cognitively rich environment and can lead to social isolation and depression.

A study conducted by 24 international experts, was recently published in The Lancet and presented at The Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London which highlighted 9 key risk factors which are potentially modifiable and appear to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease in later life. According to the international study, one in three cases of dementia could be prevented if more people looked after their brain health throughout life.

The most significant modifiable risk factor was hearing loss in middle age.

This particular report has showed the importance of addressing hearing loss at an earlier age – between 45 and 65.

"Although dementia is diagnosed later in life, the brain changes usually begin to develop years before" lead author Professor Gill Livingston, University College London

"Building a "cognitive reserve" or strengthening the brains networks means it can continue to function in later life despite damage."

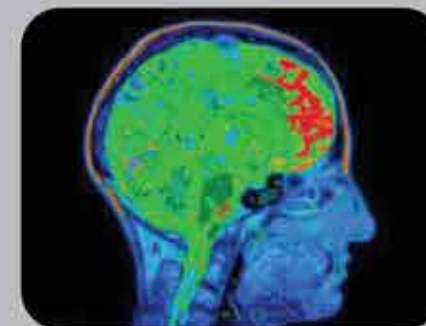
"Acting now will vastly improve life for people with dementia and their families and, in doing so, will transform the future of society."

Nine factors that contribute to the risk of dementia

- Mid-life hearing loss - responsible for 9% of the risk
- Failing to complete secondary education - 8%
- Smoking - 5%
- Failing to seek early treatment for depression - 4%
- Physical inactivity - 3%
- Social isolation - 2%
- High blood pressure - 2%
- Obesity - 1%
- Type 2 diabetes - 1%

These risk factors - which are described as potentially modifiable - add up to 35%.

The other 65% of dementia risk is thought to be potentially non-modifiable.



A recent study by **Which?** revealed a huge variation in customer satisfaction amongst large private hearing aid companies. However independent providers scored best for service, pricing, facilities and overall experience.

At the Edinburgh Hearing Practice, we often see people who have put off doing something about their hearing for a long time. The longer a hearing loss is left the more difficult it is for us to help. Our advice is to get your hearing checked on a regular basis – at least once a year.

So the moral of the story... don't wait 10 years to get your ears checked!



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OUT & ABOUT

OUR NEW HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT

The Editor and the Board of the Edinburgh Star are delighted to voice their congratulations together with their readers to Mr Alec Rubenstein who has been given the honour of the appointment as our new Honorary Life President.

Alec has been a stalwart of the Edinburgh Synagogue all his life. His late father was the esteemed Shammash and Teacher in the EHC for many years and a plaque in appreciation of his service is to be found in the hallway of Salisbury Road. Alec has served in all the senior positions within the EHC, has stood in for the Rabbi of the time on many occasions and when we had no Rabbi for an extended period would lead the services including barmitzvahs, funerals, shiva houses and stone-settings. Many a barmitzvah boy has passed through his hands and could have asked for no better or more learned teacher and mentor. The EHC owe Alec Rubenstein a great debt of gratitude and we voice our enormous pleasure at this appointment.

Alec married Pearl in September 1946 and they now receive a yearly congratulatory card from the sovereign, as does Alec for reaching his wonderful age. Attached are photos of Alec taken on his 106th birthday in February and in a moving show of respect and affection, his neighbours came out in the rain to wish him Happy Birthday.

Mazeltov Alec.



THURSDAY LUNCHEON CLUB

We hosted a **Gala Lunch** on 8th December 2022, honouring Avril Berger's achievement in captaining the Lunch Club for almost a quarter of a century. Avril was presented with artwork by JoLoMo, one of her favourite artists.

Even the most dedicated chef has to take a break some time from the fish fryer, however, and Avril is enjoying her well-earned retirement, putting in the occasional guest appearance.



Fortunately, Kate Goodwin has stepped up to the challenge of the Convener's job. Kate is well known to EHC members from her fundraising and prestige event management for WIZO and other good causes. Thanks to her redoubtable work, the Lunch Club continues to attract new members and talented cooks. The Edinburgh Synagogue Ladies' Guild Luncheon Club is proudly maintaining its reputation for excellent fare at value prices in a cordial and convivial atmosphere.

Harriet Lyall, Treasurer
Edinburgh Synagogue Ladies' Guild Luncheon Club

UPCOMING 80TH BIRTHDAY



The Editor and the Board of the Edinburgh Star are also pleased to mark the upcoming 80th birthday in December 2023 of our much treasured and respected Chair. We know that we will echo all our members in extending our sincere good wishes to Hilary on this milestone anniversary.

CHIEF RABBI'S VISIT

The Chief Rabbi's visit to Edinburgh the 23rd and 24th May

Edward Green



The Chief Rabbi addressing the General Assembly

The Chief Rabbi was met with a variety of questions from EHC members when he made a most welcome visit to us while he was in Edinburgh. Earlier that day, he had met with Jewish students at the university and the following day he addressed the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. His words to them, as to us, were warm and very witty at times whilst at the same time maintaining the seriousness that many of the issues required.

The Chief Rabbi told the General Assembly that working together with the Church of Scotland there was a determination to "engage in a process of healing through dialogue" whilst acknowledging that "relationships are sometimes difficult to sustain". He thanked all those who participated and contributed to their monumental work on a new Jewish-Christian Glossary describing the efforts to bring it to fruition as a sacred journey together. He went on to say "Please do read the Glossary – so much was invested in every word of it. It is so informative, so important, let not there be another statement or declaration relating to...Judaism without consulting the document first," and "You can only achieve peace if there is constructive communication," he added, as "we embark together on a brave journey."



The Chief Rabbi chatting to Norman Berger

The Chief Rabbi went on to commend the process of working together: "So we've been on a journey, and it's been a wonderful journey. I would like to congratulate our Church of Scotland colleagues. Thank you for your openness, for your sincerity, for your honesty, for your humility. Thank you for listening." He also went on to say "Because the most important ingredient of constructive dialogue is not what you say, but it's how you listen. We listened, you listened, and together, we restored a good relationship, it's not yet perfect. We've still got some way to go. We have still got some work to do. There are still some painful issues, but we continue to engage with warmth and in friendship on this sacred journey because we cherish the value of unity and peace and we don't ever more want to find ourselves in a position of painful divisiveness."

Work on the Glossary began following the Chief Rabbi's previous visit to the General Assembly after he had warned that a Church and Society Council report, The Inheritance of Abraham?, which was critical of Israel, had caused concern within the Jewish community and was putting a strain on inter-faith relations.

After the Chief Rabbi received a standing ovation, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland warmly welcomed the speech stating "Chief Rabbi, friend, I have rarely heard such powerful inspiring words in this General Assembly."



The Glossary is available to study on the Church of Scotland's website.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society 2022-23

Anthony Gilbert

The Lit had nine meetings this year, four in the first half by Zoom, five in the second, four of which were in person. As usual, the talks covered a wide spectrum of topics of Jewish interest.

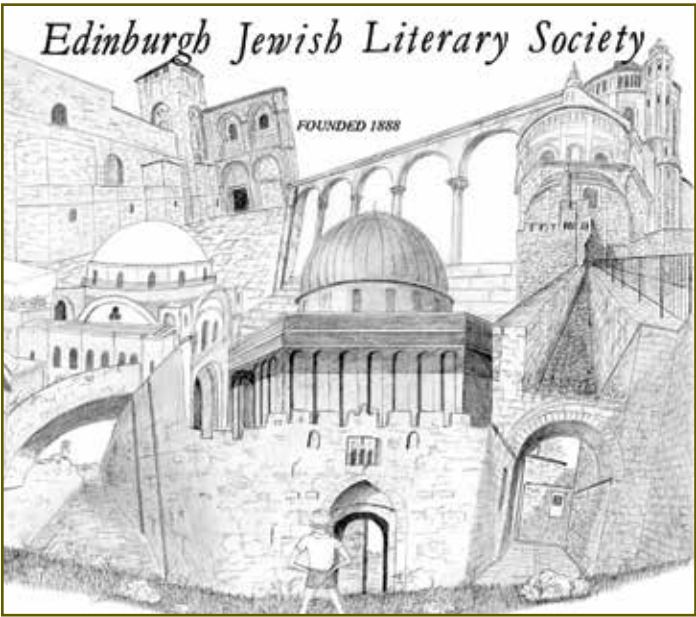
The first talk was given by Anshel Pfeffer, an English-born journalist based in Israel, who is one of Haaretz's leading political analysts. He reported on the war in Ukraine. He gave a fascinating insight into the much-changed relations between native Ukrainians and the Jewish population resident there, and surprised many of us when he described the vibrant Jewish life now in Dnipro, in part, a consequence of the mass emigration eastward of Jews by the Soviet authorities ahead of the German advance in WWII. This must have saved many from the fate experienced by most Jews in Eastern Europe.

We next had a very moving and very personal talk from the Lit's own secretary, Maria Chamberlain, who passed her early life in Krakow just after the end of WWII and whose Jewish identity was shaped by the extraordinary and harrowing experiences of her parents under occupation in the war years. Her family story is vividly described in her recently published book, 'Never tell anyone you are Jewish', the title possibly giving one a sense of what might lie inside. The next talk was given by David Horowitz, another leading English-born political journalist now living in Israel; he is the Founder and Editor of The Times of Israel. He summarised the political situation in the aftermath of the Israeli election. He gave us a masterful analysis, but one could not help feeling a sense of gloom about the outcome.

The first half was wound up by the well-known British rabbi, Jonathan Romain, exploring some of the issues which face Anglo-Jewry today. As well as touching on issues specific to the Jewish community, he also looked at the Jewish view of some matters, such as gender-identity, besetting society as a whole; some of these matters are discussed at length in his recently published book, 'Confessions of a Rabbi'.

The second half of our year was opened by Kerstin Stutterheim who has a Chair in the Creative Arts at Napier University. She generously shared a film she has made about a remarkable scientist-cum-engineer-cum-inventor, Emanuel Goldberg, whom she 'discovered' while engaged on other research projects. Goldberg was born in Moscow around 1870, but before WWII mostly worked in Germany. Among other things, he was a leading specialist in optics to the extent that he was kidnapped by Nazi thugs in 1933, but who were compelled to release him because of the international outcry that followed. He eventually emigrated to Palestine and helped with the development of sciences in the young Israeli state.

For the second meeting, the Lit hired a film about the life of the musicologist, Moyshe Beregovsky, who travelled extensively



in Eastern Europe recording the folk music of the Jewish population before WWII. Beregovsky eventually fell foul of the Soviet authorities and was exiled. He survived but returned in the early 50s in poor health. By an extraordinary stroke of good fortune, many of the wax cylinders on which he recorded the music have survived, and in doing so have become virtually the only 'living' record of a vanished community. The film was placed in context by our own Phil Alexander.

Next came a question and answer session with local Guardian journalist, Chitra Ramaswamy, talking to Hannah Holtschneider about Chitra's recent book, 'Homelands', documenting the friendship she has established over a considerable number of years with Henry Wuga, well-known to most of us in Edinburgh. This was a lovely heart-warming discussion about an unlikely pairing of 2 people far removed from their spiritual origins. The penultimate talk was given by Matthew Teller. He is a travel-writer, who has authored a considerable number of the books in the Rough Guide series, and also a journalist and documentary producer focussing on the Middle East. He has recently published 'Nine Quarters of Jerusalem: A New Biography of the Old City', which gives us an unusual view of the Old City of Jerusalem, in which he reveals some 'snapshots' of the Old City, not to be found in the conventional guidebook but introduces us to little-known stories of the City and some of its more colourful characters.

Our final talk was given by Cambridge based historian and playwright, Mike Levy, who documented the scale of the undertaking involved when Great Britain took in about 10,000 Kindertransport. He explained that the effort was mostly the work of private individuals, and he gave us portraits of some of the key personalities. In his book on the subject, 'Get the Children out! Unsung Heroes of the Kindertransport', Edinburgh gets an honourable, if short, mention.



Jubilee Procession of Council in July 1958

This fine picture records the July 1958 Silver Jubilee Procession of Council from the Communal Hall to the Synagogue celebrating 25 years since the opening of Salisbury Road. The Jewish Chronicle reporting on the event also said that it also celebrated the 150th anniversary of the congregation. However, there is dispute about this as academics usually date the establishment of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation to 1816 or 1817.

The Jubilee Celebration was attended by the Lord Provost Johnson Gilbert, Magistrates and Civic Dignitaries. The Chief Rabbi, Dr Israel Brodie was guest of honour.

This picture was featured in the Edinburgh Evening News.

1. Reuben Cohen	President 1938 – 1960
2. Abel Phillips	President for the following 4 years
3. Elijah Rifkind	Also known as Elky and father to Arnold and Malcolm
4. George Magrill	Chairman of the Jewish branch of the British Legion; his wife was an Oppenheim, Philip Oppenheim's father's sister
5. Isaac Cowen	President 1970 – 1974, Hon. Life President of the EHC, and Mickey Cowen's father
6. George Bindman	A fine cricketer and part of the Edinburgh Maccabi in the Public Parks team
7. Nissan Dorfman	Bernard and Joyce Davidson's father
8. Jack Levinson	Choir master before David Mendelssohn. His father was Rev Levinson EHC cantor in the 1930's
9. David Leigh	President 1967 – 1970 and Norma Brodie's father
10. Louis Lindey	Carole Cowen's uncle, her mother was a Lindey
11. Mr Burns	The caretaker then and father in law to Mrs Burns a past caretaker.

Hannah Primrose

Elizabeth Rosenbloom



"I never knew such a beautiful character"
Archibald, 5th Earl of Rosebery Hannah de Rothschild
Primrose, our Scottish Countess.



Hannah Rothschild by
George Frederic Watts

When Bertie, Prince of Wales visited the very grand Rothschild mansion Mentmore Towers in 1868, he was greeted not by Juliana Rothschild and her husband Mayer, but by their sixteen-year-old daughter, Hannah, who he described as 'white and pink, and plump and merry'. Her mother's constant ill-health meant that Hannah from a very early age had learned to help her father entertain in the grand manner and learned much about people and how to be the perfect hostess.

Hannah was born in 1851 into the world of great wealth and luxury as the granddaughter of Baron Nathan Mayer de Rothschild and daughter of Baron Meyer Amschel de Rothschild. Her grandfather was the founder of N M Rothschild and Sons, the English branch of the House of Rothschild, so named after the sign of the Red Shield of their home in Frankfurt's Jewish ghetto, in the 1760s. Baron Meyer had commissioned James Paxton who had just finished work on the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851, to design his new home to be what he described as 'an enduring monument'. The house certainly was of monumental proportions built in the 19th century style of revival Jacobean complete with

fabulously furnished interiors. It has been described as one of the greatest houses of the Victorian era, housing one of the most outstanding art collections to compete with any in the world. The Baron's tiny daughter Hannah, aged just 5 months old, helped to lay the foundation stone in December 1851. Mentmore was inherited by Hannah, who became Countess of Rosebery on her marriage to the 5th Earl Rosebery of Dalmeny near Edinburgh and remained within her descendants until fairly recently when the crippling inheritance taxes forced a protracted sale in 1974, and the unfortunate dispersal of much of its amazing collections.

Happily, there is much saved and on show at Dalmeny House for us to enjoy now. The legacy of Hannah's father's great collections of art and interiors of principally Renaissance and French styles were enjoyed by her small family for almost twenty years before her parents' deaths in the 1870's. She continued to enjoy them for the rest of her life.

This was then the world into which Hannah grew up. She learned much about art from her knowledgeable father. The Baron was also a great patron of horseracing, with several horses from his stable winning the Derby, the Oaks and the St Leger in the same year. The young Hannah spent many of her childhood years outdoors, riding and hunting, as well as having the somewhat limited education commonplace of women of

her era and class, with art and music being the main subjects studied. She was described by several visitors to the house as having a fine singing voice and a decided gift for music. Many people praised her accomplishments; she was presented to Queen Victoria as a debutante in 1869 at the age of seventeen. And undoubtedly from her mother, she acquired the skills of entertaining as a grand hostess, talents that were to serve her so well particularly after her marriage.

Hannah's young life at Mentmore ended abruptly in 1874 when her father Meyer died. At the age of just twenty-two, she inherited many properties including Mentmore and their London house at 107 Piccadilly, together with a staggering sum of two million pounds cash, with much more in investments. She became the richest woman in Britain overnight. This came with the huge responsibility of managing her phenomenal wealth. With her mother dying only three years later, this carefully brought up young woman and only child found herself without the guidance of her parents, unmarried, and somewhat unprepared for what the future held for her.

In her teenage years Hannah had often been in the company of Lady Beaconsfield, the wife of Benjamin Disraeli. Probably at Newmarket Racecourse in the 1860's and before her parents' deaths, she met the handsome and slightly older Lord Rosebery who was also close friends of the Disraelis. After being formally at her family home, they became firm friends, sharing their interests in art, books and sport. The Scottish Earl's good looks, sharp wit and love of sport made him a popular house guest at Mentmore.

Archibald the 5th Earl of Rosebery had inherited his title from his grandfather at the age of 21, together with a substantial income, and land in Scotland, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Kent. His father had died when he was eight and he was brought up by the distant figure of his

mother who had remarried. The Primrose family were old members of the Scottish aristocracy residing at their estate at Dalmeny near South Queensferry just outside of Edinburgh. It boasted a fine Tudor Gothic style main house and the old Barnbogle Castle overlooking the Forth estuary. Young Rosebery was considered to be strikingly handsome and very cultivated. Highly intelligent and educated at Eton and Christ Church, a brilliant future was foreseen for him by his tutors. Together, they would become a fine match, Rosebery finally becoming Prime Minister only after her death, but he served as Under Secretary at the Home office with special responsibility for Scotland, and as Foreign Secretary in her lifetime.

A few years after Hannah's father's death, there were rumours that she and the dashing Lord Archibald had agreed a secret match, but only after her mother's death in 1877 did Hannah let a mutual friend know her true feelings for Rosebery. That friend became their marriage broker. The young Archibald 'with sapphire locket in hand' arrived on the third of January 1878 at Mentmore and proposed. Hannah accepted him immediately saying in a letter, 'Remember darling, I have no one on earth but you', and then a few weeks later 'I cannot be thankful enough for the absence of the terrible loneliness'. The Rothschild custom of marrying cousins had to be overcome along with much antisemitism in the society of the day. However, she became the third of the English line of Rothschild women to marry 'out', and probably escaped much of the censure as neither of her parents were alive by then.

Their formal engagement was announced that day, and Rosebery forever regarded the day as sacred. In a letter to a friend, he described his wife as 'very simple, very unspoilt, very clever, and very shy. I never knew such a beautiful character'. They were married at the Board Room of Guardians in Mount Street, London on the twentieth of March that year, with

a Christian ceremony at Christ Church, Piccadilly following. To show 'official' disapproval, no male members of the Rothschild family were present, but the guest list was headed by the Prince of Wales, and the Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli gave the bride away! Hannah was distressed by Rosebery's mother's disapproval but had no plans to convert saying to her fiancé, 'If my religion is in your way, don't marry me. It would break my heart, but I could not face to be a hindrance.' Her 'iciness' as she sometimes felt she displayed from her strange lonely childhood at Mentmore would have time and love to melt it. In Rosebery she had found the man with the patience to do so.

Many unkindly thought that Lord Rosebery had married Hannah for her vast fortune. As Lord Archibald had once stated himself, he had three ambitions: to marry an heiress, win the Epsom Derby and become Prime Minister of Great Britain. With her at his side, he achieved the first and was well set up to achieve the second and third. However, Hannah devoted the rest of her short life to her husband and his career, marriage and home, and their four children. She supported and advanced him through politics, proving herself adept at guiding his position through careful support of Gladstone's so called Midlothian Campaign to regain a Liberal seat in this Scottish parliamentary constituency. These connections she used to advance her husband's career with great success for the future.



On the Roseberys first visit to Scotland as a couple, a huge crowd gathered at Waverley station to see their arrival. Lord Rosebery addressed the crowd saying, 'My wife as you know is Jewish by race, an Englishwoman by birth, and today, by adoption, you have made her a Scotswoman!'. The 250 local dignitaries then attended a fine banquet at Dalmeny.

At the start of Gladstone's Scottish campaign, the Gladstone family travelled to Dalmeny where they were greeted with torches, fireworks and bonfires. Hannah organised an 'At Home' to introduce him to supportive locals and the press. A spoof cartoon in Punch referred to Gladstone saying, 'I want no better welcome when I am in a strange town or house than that look from Lady Rosebery's kindly face'. The mention of Hannah's name won loud cheers when Lord Rosebery made a speech at Edinburgh's Scottish Liberal Club to his great amusement and admiration. When the Roseberys returned to London with the 1880 election campaign in full swing, they steamed out of Waverley Station in Edinburgh to a rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne' sung by the huge crowd which had assembled to bid them farewell.

Hannah and the Earl continued adding to her father's art collections and those of the Roseberys, and her catalogue of all the items displayed at Mentmore has become the definitive work on what had become the most magnificent collection of art in private hands in Britain. Hannah became a world traveller; her cousin Constance described her as 'from the outset of her married life, the most devoted and unselfish of wives who ever lived.' The couple added greatly to items at Mentmore and The Durdans at Epsom, by buying carefully curated choices, and also to those housed at Dalmeny, where they amassed a great library of rare books and a collection of interesting artifacts belonging to the Emperor Napoleon I. Their correspondence with each other revealed their great happiness in finding new treasures together. Her husband's collecting days stretched from his schooldays to almost his death in 1929.

As was the social custom in their circle, the Roseberys divided their time in the year among their various houses; London during the week, Mentmore for weekend

political and shooting house parties, and in August the whole household would move north to Dalmeny for grouse shooting as was common with other members of the aristocracy who owned Scottish estates. Derby meetings for the races would also take up much of their time.

Hannah continued the tradition of philanthropic works which she had learned from her parents setting up model cottages and schools on the Mentmore estate. Many of Hannah's public activities were centred in Scotland, where at Queen Victoria's request, she served as President for Scotland of the Jubilee Nurses Institute, the beginnings of the district nursing scheme. She was also an active organiser of the Scottish Home Industries Association, a charity for the encouragement of Scottish women, particularly widowed mothers, to work profitably from home, making what we would now call traditional craft items, to support their often- large families. This organisation survived into the 1960 in a George Street shop. She also was one of the conveners of the Women's Industry section at the huge Edinburgh International Exhibition of 1886, held in The Meadows.

She remained loyal to her Jewish faith despite her Christian marriage and was a member of the Central Synagogue in London. She always attended services on the anniversaries of her parents' deaths and attended a service in Melbourne, Australia when she was touring with her husband. She founded the Club for Jewish Working Girls in Whitechapel in the East End of London, among the many other Jewish charities that she supported financially. Her children later related how their father honoured his wife's religion on the High Holidays, when they were usually at Dalmeny in Scotland. At the end of Yom Kippur, Lord Rosebery would take up to her room a tray of food for her to break her Fast, and then they would sit together quietly talking for the rest of the evening.

Hannah eventually succumbed to serious ill-health at Dalmeny, where she died on November 19th 1890, at the age of only thirty nine. Typhoid fever complicated by a kidney disease and other health issues had meant her life was cut short.

It is documented that her husband was clearly painfully distraught at the removal of her body by the Rothschild family to be buried with full Jewish rights in Willesden Jewish Cemetery in London instead of in the family crypt at Dalmeny Church. 'I have lost the best wife a man ever had', he declared. For the rest of his life, he used black-bordered notepaper, and spent every anniversary of her death alone. He withdrew from politics for some time after, but later returned, becoming Prime Minister from 1894 to 1895. Winston Churchill thought him 'maimed by her death'. 'She was a remarkable woman on whom Rosebery leaned, she was an ever pacifying and composing element in his life.' Sir Edward Hamilton, Rosebery's closest friend said, 'her judgement of a whole was singularly sound and calm; indeed, there was a sort of intuitive wisdom about her advice which she would recommend...Hers was a singularly well- balanced mind... having the power to see through people quickly, she gauged characters of her fellow creatures with great perspicacity, and thus knew who to trust and of whom to beware. She possessed a high sense of duty and never allowed pleasure to interfere with that duty.'

Her beautiful white marble headstone in London at Willesden Cemetery was covered by an unusual and most extravagant mausoleum which unfortunately suffered destruction in the bombing of the area in 1941. The headstone which survived, framed by intricately carved ribbon edging, states:

*The child of many hopes
The woman of rich fulfilment
He giveth his beloved sleep*

A truly remarkable woman whose life it has been my pleasure and honour to research for this article. So much more could be written about Hannah Rothschild. I hope somebody will rise to the challenge soon. It would make a fascinating book. Even her town Pardes Hanna and citrus orchard founded in 1929 on the Sharon Plain in Israel still bears fruit in her memory!

Goodwins



15-16 QUEENSFERRY STREET, EDINBURGH 0131-225-4717
106-108 ROSE STREET, EDINBURGH 0131-220-1230

Letter from Israel

Alan Meerkin



Life in Israel remains as fascinating as ever. Every week I explore the mountains, caves, springs and ancient ruins with my cousin and his boys, who have named our little group “Meerkat Walks”.



After speaking at a conference at the Jerusalem Bird Observatory I was invited by a birding expert, Phyllis Weintraub, to spend a week in the desert town of Sde Boker, best known as the burial place of Israel’s first Prime Minister, Ben Gurion.



Families of indigenous Ibex wandered through the town feeding on the tended gardens. Phyllis and I spent hours traversing the surrounding wilderness in her souped-up jeep, spotting migrating birds. The highlight for me was climbing a canyon wall to find an elusive sooty falcon couple and their chick, nestled in the side of a cliff.

This year I had many birding ‘firsts’; I saw pink flamingos, godwits and lapwings stilted around the Eilat salt pans, and enormous flocks of pelicans congregating at Emek Hefer in the country’s centre. In Jerusalem, Haifa and Lachish, all manner of birds of prey patrolled the skies above me. Back at home, swifts, which spend most of their lives in the air, were landing in the streets from heat exhaustion, sometimes unable to launch themselves back up due to their underdeveloped legs. Finding one, I brought it to the zoo which evaluated its condition, fed it some worms and later updated me that, having regained its strength, it took to the skies.

I am constantly amazed at the unique wonders offered up by this country that most people miss, because they remain steadfastly focused on their own little rat race.

Although I’ll admit we have had other things on our minds. In late 2022, Bibi managed to stitch together a right wing religious coalition and wrest power back from the short-lived Bennet-Lapid government. Many lauded Bibi’s choices of Security Minister (Ben Gvir) and Finance Minister (Smotritch). These outspoken personalities had campaigned to regain control of society, which they viewed as having been eroded by a left wing agenda. Many others were aghast: in their youth these appointees had clashed with authorities and been arrested for suspected terrorism, the former even being indicted for incitement. And now they held high office.

Following the elections, a slew of reforms were swiftly proposed. Many of these were aimed at neutralising judicial review by empowering the government to override decisions of the Supreme Court. At first I thought it was a joke. But it wasn’t. Remember how Covid dominated the world media for two years? Here, it was replaced by proposed judicial reform. Organised national protests against the proposals have taken place weekly in every major city.

I am squashed in a crowd on Hanassi Street. Close by someone shouts into a megaphone. The Hebrew chanting gets louder, and I stuff my fingers in my ears to block it. “DE-MO-CRA-CY”; “THREE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT AND NO LESS”; “YOU’RE MESSING WITH THE WRONG GENERATION”. Everyone repeats. Plastic horns blare. I’m swamped in a sea of Israeli flags, and the large flag dangled over the shoulder of the person in front of me keeps whipping my face. A large gathering has amassed in front of the residence of President Herzog, near my home, and listens to speeches from a makeshift podium. After singing Hatikva, it marches along a well worn trail, through the streets to the Prime Minister’s residence.

The proposed judicial reform has far out-shadowed other concerns of Israeli life this year - surging inflation, a mini war against Islamic Jihad, domestic violence in the Arab sector. The proposals’ progress and the resulting protests continue unabated and are beyond the scope of this column. Much analysis of the reform is reported in the media, so for more details I suggest you do a quick web search. It will either keep you riveted or give you a headache. Or both.

In this Mediterranean paradise, however, the sun keeps shining. My kitchen is full of flourishing cuttings carefully planted in used cottage cheese containers. Autumn and spring festivals brought colour and dancing to the streets. Israel’s famous wildflowers – including cyclamens, poppies, and lupins – have painted the fields and hillsides in beautiful colours. Due to the delayed winter, berries from indigenous Katlav trees - the eastern strawberry – had a shorter season than usual. Poor quality fruits meant that I missed out on making my usual stock of jam. I have always loved the Israeli Katlav; its smooth, sinewy branches remind me of limbs from a Caravaggio painting.



Independence Day

Early this year my friend Jane Ansell, to whom I will always be indebted for introducing me to the Scottish Jewish experience, was in town and we met for coffee. As usual we had a delightful time catching up. Other visitors from Edinburgh, Lyn Cooper and her son Jon, accompanied by Rabbi Rose, graced my table for a Friday night meal. I made an occasion of it, taking the opportunity to introduce them to my local friends, some from Jerusalem and some from Tel Aviv. It was a wonderful evening. In the days that followed we managed to meet again and wander through Jerusalem’s picturesque German colony. We delved into the area’s history, strolled through the beautiful community gardens of the Nature Museum, where I volunteer, and visited the gallery hosting one of my photo exhibits.

While I was out enjoying nature the government – under ultra-orthodox coalition pressure – passed a law making it illegal to bring chametz into hospitals during Passover. The public didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. TV satire shows had a field day, sending up an assortment of characters trying to get hametz past hospital security.

Taxes legislated last year by the Bennet Government on sugary drinks and disposable plasticware to discourage their use for reasons of health and sustainability were repealed by the current religious coalition. They argued that the higher prices discriminated against low income ultra-orthodox families.



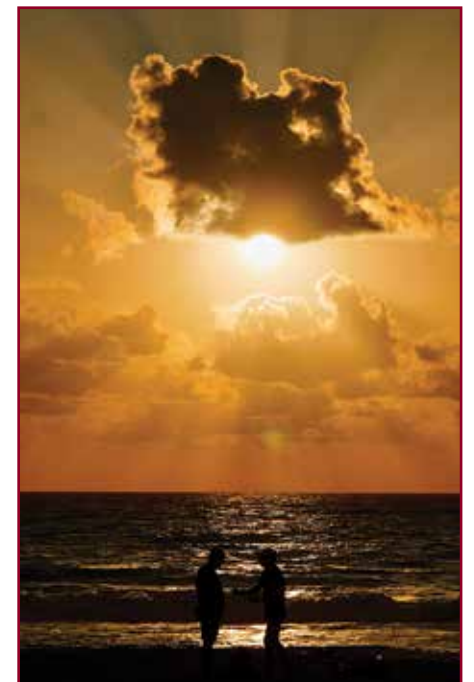
The Community Gardens, my little corner of sanity, are still my daily focus. With an ever growing number of activities, it has dominated my schedule. In cooperation with other local sustainability groups we have hosted decluttering and free-cycle events, as well as second-hand clothing markets from which the proceeds are donated to women at risk. Another group called ‘Food Saviours’ rescues surplus produce from the wholesale food market and distributes it at the Gardens. Public lectures, music performances, improv. theatre, pickling workshops and even Shabbat prayers amongst the trees – all free of charge – increase the profile of the gardens and make them an attraction, and a refuge, for so many in the neighbourhood.



Shavuot

And all the while I snap away with my camera, sharing my efforts on the Gardens’ website and sending family portraits directly to those whom I photograph. Some follow me quietly, hoping I will notice them and record the moment. There is no greater blessing than doing what you love and making others happy in the process.

After a long travel-drought, I am excited to be planning a visit to Edinburgh in the coming months. If you see me, come over and say hello. I’d love to connect.



The Editor writes:

A most interesting exhibition has been staged in the Community Hall over the summer featuring some of Alan’s photographs. We have been delighted to be able to see these images up close and not just in here and we are most grateful to him for allowing this small exhibition to be seen. His enormous talent is very clear to be seen.

Festival Open Day 2023

We knew he couldn't stay away for long!

Having created this wonderful event back in 2005 what a joy it was having David Neville and Michele 'back in the house' after their move to London. When David told me that he was planning to be in Edinburgh for the early part of the Festival it was a no-brainer to agree to work together on planning, programming and presenting the 2023 Festival Open Day for EJCC in partnership with EHC.

And so began several months of trawling the Fringe website looking for shows performed by Jewish artists or shows that have Jewish content. The development of online resources means that many more shows go on sale much earlier than in the past when everyone was solely dependent on the print brochure. Conversely, it also means that new shows are announced much nearer to the start of the Festival, often well after the publication of the brochure. This year, if you hit the What's On button on the Fringe website you will get over 3,700 results. From our point of view it means that we have to start looking for appropriate shows much earlier than before but be nimble enough to pick up on late arrivals into the programme.

Through regular Zoom calls and emails between London and Edinburgh we began to put together a programme which embodied the mix of comedy, drama and music that reflects the Festival Fringe, the internationalism of the event and a mix of established artists and new faces, very often first-time performers at the Festival.

Then the process begins of contacting performers, issuing invitations and putting together a tentative schedule for the day that reflects the artists' availability – how does our schedule dovetail with their own performance schedule – and our desire to present a balanced programme. The schedule can change right up to the last moment and even after the event has started as those of you who were at this year's show will have witnessed!

Nothing beats the buzz of expectation that fills a room as audiences arrive and settle in their seats. This year's Open Day was attended by over 150 people including over fifty visitors from Glasgow. Extra seats had to be moved into the Hall to accommodate everyone but finally everyone was settled and the show could begin!

So what did people see and hear in 2023?

The **University Klezmer Band** under the guidance of Phil Alexander opened each half of the show with music that got people's feet tapping and hands clapping.



Adam Lenson – Anything that we wanted to be



Bennett Arron



Avital Ash – Her Suicide Note



Christopher C Gibbs – Wiesenthal

We heard stories of migration expressed musically by **Naomi Paul** in songs from her show *They May Have Eaten Ham* and of more contemporary migration from Russian-Israeli comedian **Ivan Yavits** from his show, *Kosher Russian*.

Rachel Creeger, the *Ultimate Jewish Mother* and a favourite of Open Day audiences, entertained us with questions about Jewish life, Jewish mothers and combining family with a career as a stand-up comedian.

In **Adam Lenson**, **Avital Ash** and **Bennett Arron**, a new generation of Jewish performers each in their own way showed that guilt and anxiety were still very much part of our collective psyche and used comedy to explore what were sometimes painful and profound life experiences.

Lottie Walker performed an excerpt from *Chopped Liver and Unions*, her play about Sara Wesker and her role in the trades union struggles in the East End of London during the 20th Century.

A dramatic and sombre tone was struck by **Christopher C Gibbs** in his performance as the Nazi-Hunter Simon Wiesenthal, reminding us of his refusal to forget when that is what many in power in the post-war world wanted.



Out of the Forest Theatre – The Brief Life & Death of King Boris III King of Bulgaria



Deb Filler-Kravitz-Cohen – Bernstein & Me Bernstein



Daniel Cainer's Jewish Chronicles

David Thill from the USA focused on more contemporary political issues with his stunning performance of an extract from his show *Exit 20:20*, inspired by the banning in some American High Schools of Art Spiegelman's graphic novel, *Maus*.

Members of the cast of **Out Of The Forest Theatre** told us about the historical background to their play *The Brief Life & Mysterious Death of Boris III, King of Bulgaria*. They performed Jewish traditional songs from the show and probably for the first time in Edinburgh, were accompanied by the audience.

Who would have thought that when they came to this year's Open Day they would be singing songs by the Beatles and Rolling Stones in Yiddish? Well, that's where **Deb Filler** took us in an extract from her show *Kravitz, Cohen, Bernstein and Me* along with some great showbiz jokes and stories. If only we had let her tell some of those dirty jokes that she offered to tell.....



The Festival Open Day was compiled by Adrian Harris and David Ian Neville

In time-honoured fashion **Daniel Cainer** wrapped up proceedings playing favourites that we never tire of hearing including The Bagel Song and the traditional launching of the bagel into the audience!

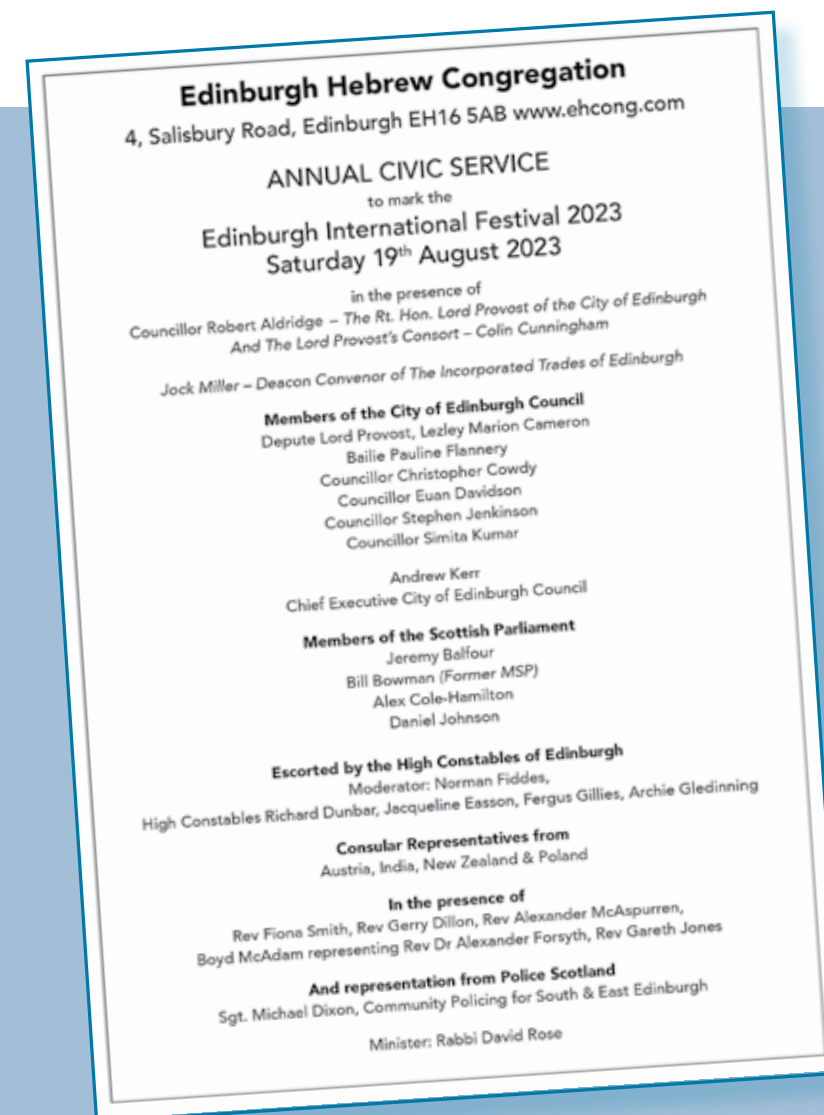
While David and I have been having fun I cannot over-emphasise the effort that Hilary and her team of volunteers put into organising the day and the work that Susie Kelpie and her team in the kitchen put in to produce such an excellent selection of refreshments. The Open Day could not take place without them and is a perfect example of what can be achieved when organisations, in this case Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre and Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation work in partnership towards a common goal.

Now, I think that one day someone should put on a show about what goes on in that kitchen during Festival Open Day...

Report by **Adrian Harris**
Photographs by **Judy Gilbert**



Breaking for lunch



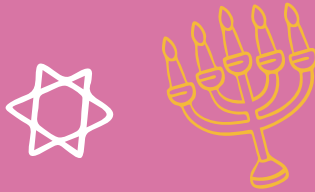
Annual Civic Service

The Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation were honoured and delighted with the enormous turn out this year for their civic service. Once again, the Lord Provost spoke most movingly about the value of the Jewish Community in Edinburgh and we were indeed most pleased to welcome representatives from differing churches, the Consular Corps, Councillors and MSPs.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year and well over the Fast



Jackie Abramson
Pinner, Middlesex



Margaret Aronson sends her
best wishes to everyone for the
coming year

**Susie, Jonathan,
Sam and Ruth Adler**

Michael Adler and Sue Fyvel

**James and Sally Barker
(née Cowen), Samuel and Sadie**
London

Claudia Bathgate-Starr

Shirley and Peter Bennett

Eli, Tiina, Boaz, Hannah and Leo

Zena Eunson (née Glass)

The Field family

Finlay Family
Edinburgh

Caroline and Lennie Freedman

**Einan and Merav Gardi, Omri,
Ilana and Shlomit**

**Judy and Anthony Gilbert
and family**

**May the New Year bring you and
yours Good Health! Professor Joe
Goldblatt, Nancy Lynner and family**

Kate Goodwin
Edinburgh

Barbara and Leslie Bennie

**Marcia and Leonard Berger
and Yvonne**

Avril and Norman Berger

Gerald Gordon

David, Alex and Michael Grant

**Maryla and Edward Green,
together with their son Freddie,
send you their best wishes for
the coming year**

**Stella and Norman Bierman-
MacLeod**

**Micheline, Duncan, David,
Shrutee, Ananya and Ayan
Brannan wish all Edinburgh Star
readers Shana Tova u'Metukah**

**Douglas and Rosalind Brodie
wish you health and happiness
in the coming year**

**Dr Rebekah Gronowski
and family**

Mrs Elizabeth Grubb
South Queensferry

Stephen Gruneberg
London

Norma Brodie and family
Edinburgh

Christine and Dave Burns

Louise and Brian Caine
Edinburgh

**Gidona, Robert, Oren and Kerr
Henderson wish everyone a
healthy, happy & sweet new year**

Rosalyn and Bernard Jackson
Liverpool

**Greetings from Howard
& Valerie Kahn**
27 Blinkbonny Road, Ravelston,
Edinburgh EH4 3HY

**Joyce and Jo Čapek and family
wish everyone a happy, healthy
and peaceful new year**

Helen Capitanchik
Dunfermline

**Andrew, Kathy, Ben, James and
Zoe Caplan wish everyone in
Edinburgh a happy & peaceful
New Year**

**Liselotte Kastner (née Adler)
and family**
Edinburgh

Lilian Kessly (née Dorfman)
Mervona, Western Australia

Isobel King
Melrose

**Ian, Rachel, Olivia and Daniel
Caplan wish everyone a happy
& peaceful year**

**Sandra & Sidney Caplan wish
everyone a happy & peaceful
year**

**Shari, Martin and Hannah
Cohn-Simmen**

**Sherma and Jonny Kisilevitz
Ein Kerem, Jerusalem**

Maureen and Martin Langman
Giffnock, Glasgow

Anita Levinson and family
Edinburgh

**Andrea and Malcolm Cowan
and Family**

Evelyn and Jack Cowan
Giffnock, Glasgow

Carole Cowen
Edinburgh

**Carol & Tom in Penicuik together
with Maurice & Benjamin in
London, wish all the community
a sweet and healthy new year**

**Elaine, Edddy, Sarah and
Clare, wish all their friends and
members of EHC Shana Tova
Um'tukah**

Tom Lowrie
Edinburgh

Joyce Cram

**Lesley, John, Samuel, Benjamin
& Jonathan Danzig,**
Edinburgh

Sylvia and John Donne

**May your year be filled with good
health, laughter, love, nachus and
simchas! Sara Lurie & Matthew
Shaps**

**Sharon and Michael Lurie
would like to wish everyone
L'Shana Tova U'Metuka**

**Ann Lurie wishes family and
friends Shana Tova**

**Betsy Dorfman wishes family
and friends Shana Tova
u'Metukah**

Max Dorfman & Rodney Dorfman
Edinburgh

Sara and Maurice Dorfman
Jerusalem, Israel

**Wishing you a peaceful and
prosperous new year.
Harriet Lyall**

**Irene and Philip Mason
and family**

**The Meiksin-Breitmoser family
sends their best wishes for a
happy new year**

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year and well over the Fast

A happy and healthy New Year from Harold and Esther Mendelssohn	A happy and healthy New Year from Cassie and Jonti Karo, Lily and Jack	A happy and healthy New Year from Roy Mendelssohn, Archie and Owen
Louis Mendelssohn	Gershon Mendick	L'Shana Tova from Janet Mundy, Martin, Rowan, Grant and Willow
David, Michele, Sarah-Beth and Katie Neville would like to wish everyone Shana Tova	Philip and Rosie Oppenheim Edinburgh	Charles and Gillian Raab and family
Elaine, Aaron, Joel, Elsa, Louis and Maya Raffel Edinburgh	Hilary and Arnold Rifkind and family	Sherrie and Malcolm Rifkind
Francoise Robertson Edinburgh	Phyllis Rosenberg (née Stoller) Edgware, Middlesex	Alec and Pearl Rubenstein Edinburgh
Jonathan and Molly Seckl, together with their son Benjamin and daughter Joanna want to wish you all the best for the coming year	Rabbi Eliran and Ayalah Shabo, Avigail and Nadav	Leonna and Alan Shenkin send best wishes for the coming year
Nick and Kate Silk	Judy Sischy and family	Rachael Skop
Carolyn and Mervyn Smith Cheam, Surrey	Joyce and Jonny Sperber Avigal, Mikael, Adina and Carmela Pommert, send you best wishes for the coming year	Leila Steel & Family
Harold Sterne Netanya, Israel	Raymond, Lawrence and Michael Taylor	Carole Weinberg Cheadle, Manchester
Rabbi & Mrs Pinny Weinman and family	Hilary, Graham, Laura, Martin, Jolene and Annie West	Madeleine Whiteson Wembley Park, London
Elizabeth and Derek Wilson	Alfred Yarrow Jerusalem, Israel	Syd and Paula Zoltie



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Recipes

Joyce Čapek



Fit for a King How to turn leftovers into a feast

Poulet Reine Elizabeth was created by Cordon Bleu chefs in London to feature at Queen Elizabeth's coronation lunch in 1953. Now known as **Coronation Chicken**, it has become a familiar sight at many a party. In this special royal year we should bring it to our Jewish festive tables too, especially as it is an excellent way of using up the moist chicken from your chicken soup! For dessert, following the theme of leftovers, **Summer Pudding** is an ideal way of using up stale bread or cake.

Coronation Chicken

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 whole cooked chicken or 4 chicken quarters (or whatever chicken you use for your chicken soup)
- 8 heaped tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons tomato ketchup
- 2 dessert spoons apricot conserve
- 2 teaspoons mild curry powder
- 2 teaspoons medium curry powder
- A handful finely chopped coriander
- A handful sultanas

Method

Shred the chicken and set aside in a large bowl.

In another bowl mix together the mayonnaise and curry powder.

Add the ketchup and apricot conserve and combine well.

Add the coriander and sultanas.

Combine this mixture with the chicken, cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Serve with rice salad. It is also an excellent filling for baked potatoes.



Summer Pudding

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 10 – 12 thin slices of bread, crusts removed, or sponge cake
- 1 kilo summer fruits of your choice (A mixture of 500g raspberries, 250g strawberries and 250g blackberries works well and frozen fruit is particularly successful)
- 200g caster sugar



Method

Put the fruit in a saucepan and heat for a few minutes.

Add the sugar and simmer until the fruit is soft and lots of juice is released.

Line the sides and base of a 1 litre pudding basin with slices of bread or cake.

Spoon a third of the fruit into the pudding basin.

Cover with one or two slices of bread or cake.

Spoon another third of fruit on top and cover with more slices.

Spoon the rest of the fruit on top and cover with the remaining slices.

Pour all the remaining juice over the top and down the sides.

With the back of a spoon press down the contents of the basin so the bread or cake is well soaked.

Stand the pudding basin on a small plate (to catch any drips) and cover with a plate. Refrigerate overnight.

Before serving, use a knife to carefully turn the pudding out onto a large plate or shallow dish. If you are concerned that it won't turn out in one piece, you can line the pudding basin with clingfilm before filling it, making it easier to decant.

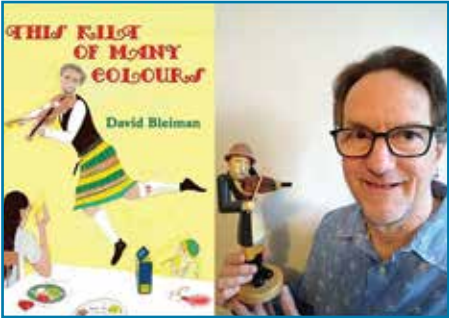
Review of David Bleiman’s poetry

Harriet Lyall



This Kilt of Many Colours
£8, *Dempsey & Windle*
Front cover artwork
by Tony Gilbert

“This Kilt of Many Colours” includes Bleiman’s best-known poem “The Trebbler’s Tale” (published in *Lallans* 96) for which he was awarded the Scots Language Society’s 2020 Sangschaw Prize and the Hugh MacDiarmid Tassie.



I first heard this terrific piece at the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society’s Zoom poetry evening in November 2020.

The couplet I’ve been carrying around in my head from the moment I heard it was:

“he’d schlep for miles tae scrape twa shillin
an on the train wad lay tefillin”

It brought to mind a Burns Supper at which Mark Cohen delivered a Scots-Yiddish version of the “Address to the Haggis”, opening with these immortal words:

“Fair fa’ your honest sonsie *ponim*
Deemed Kosher by oor ain *rabonim*...”

It can be seen that David Bleiman has turned to poetic account the unique fusion of Scots and Yiddish which was actually spoken by Scottish Jews from the 1890s or before, right up until recent times (my mum, Goldie Lyall, *née* Aronson, energetically and enthusiastically deployed this fusion in her daily life).

Like Hugh MacDiarmid, David Bleiman has created a new and unique poetic diction, although, unlike MacDiarmid’s invention of “Lallans”, which really only exists in “A Drunk Man looks at the Thistle”, and other poems in the same genre, Bleiman’s expressive and adaptable Scots-Yiddish was, and, to some extent, still is, a living language in regular use.

Bleiman loves layering languages, enhancing the possibilities in his poetry of conveying subtle, unique shades of experience. Most recently, following his son’s emigration to Madrid, he has added Spanish to his repertoire, as in his poems “Bitter fruit ripening”; “¿De dónde soís?” and “The Ballad of Fuente Grande”.

Your Swedish Flat Pack Love Kit
(Commended *caféwriters* 2022) £4

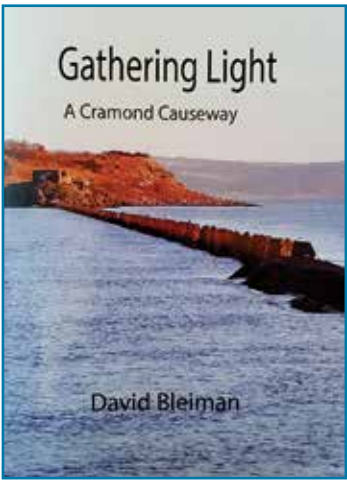
The most experimental of his books, “Your Swedish Flat Pack Love Kit” is more than just a ‘zine’* (Bleiman calls it a *weezine*) with a poem in it: it’s a work of art in its own right. Mine came girdled with its own dainty paper “belt” (unique to each ‘zine) in a Paisley-esque design in sparkly pink, and with cryptic words lurking among the patterns. The poem is illustrated by quirky doodles à la John Lennon or Spike Milligan. It actually does what it says i.e. folds out flat like a reverse origami. As an inveterate doodler and origami *aficionado*, I find this right up my street.



**Note: a ‘zine, short for magazine is an A5 or A6-sized booklet produced and published by the artist, containing original writing and artwork and sold in limited editions in art shops and local cafés.*

Gathering Light: A Cramond Causeway
£5, *Dempsey and Windle*

“Gathering Light: A Cramond Causeway” evokes Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Where Go the Boats?” and his other Edinburgh poems.



Bleiman makes excellent use of alliteration and onomatopoeia: he literally conveys the atmosphere of the littoral Scottish weather, raw and sodden, bracing with the tang of saltmarsh and seashore, fertile with experience at the interface of observation and reflection:

“And if one were able to breach the border?
If I could have crossed that marshy membrane
between head and heart,
my mind would have followed
the cloudy currents of my soul.”
from “Elusive Edges”

And again:

“pert potholes cup the murky slosh
wink saucily at lorries gushing by
waking the weary bus queue in their drench”
from “February Flashback”

Someone so receptive to and rejoicing in Nature cannot but be correspondingly downcast by the profanation of Planet Earth, which we humans have defiled with our banal detritus. Bleiman describes his feelings in “Unaccountable”, one of the most eloquent poems I’ve read on the subject of litter (believe it or not I’ve read one or two poetic effusions on litter!)

“Countless, these joys -
sunshine, fresh air and, yes, the rain -
yet countable
flat cans
line the path”

Common themes run through these poems: local Nature and local daily life, walking, public transport, weather, sky, sea, trees, birds, Cramond and the observations these inspire. His nostalgia bubbles up in “The Heron’s Dream” and the focus moves from reverie to reality. He rebels against the world as it is now, banal and dysfunctional, in favour of the better times he remembers. The grassroots lyricist wouldn’t take much to become a grassroots activist. The same powers of observation and expression that make him a poet could equally be applied to political rhetoric. Lyrical he may be but escapist or sentimental he isn’t, and his realism comes down to earth with a bump:

“It won’t even come
like a Christmas card comes
to a friend who died five years ago
and forgot to say”
from “Contact”

Bleiman’s pamphlets are available on his sales site:
poetrykilt.bigcartel.com

Readers of The Star can enjoy an exclusive discount of £3 on *This Kilt of Many Colours* using the code SHTERN at poetrykilt.bigcartel.com

David Bleiman biographical note:
David Bleiman was born in South Africa. His father, an advocate and activist in the Progressive Party, brought the family to London in 1960, in the wake of the Sharpeville massacre. He came to Edinburgh in 1982 as the first Scottish official of the Association of University Teachers. In a thirty-year career as a union official, he served as President of the Scottish Trades Union Congress in 2002.

Bleiman started writing poetry at age 65, achieving more than a hundred publications over the last four years in which he has poured out a lifetime’s memories and experiences in a cascade of heritage and learned languages, including English, Scots, Spanish, Yiddish and the part-excavated, largely reimagined Scots-Yiddish of *The Trebbler’s Tale*, which won the Sangschaw Prize in 2020.

Bleiman’s first pamphlet, *This Kilt of Many Colours* (Dempsey & Windle, 2021) has a striking cover by Anthony Gilbert of a family Seder with floating fiddler à la Chagall. The collection draws on family heritage and life in Scotland to celebrate the warp and weft of a complex and multilingual identity. It was described by poet John Glenday as weaving “a fabric at once local and universal; persistently beautiful and bound to endure.”

His second pamphlet, *Gathering Light: A Cramond Causeway* (Dempsey & Windle, 2022) plants its feet in the estuarine mud of his Edinburgh suburb, with its tidal island, but only as a standpoint to look at the world and the stars and to gather light in the dark winter of lockdown.

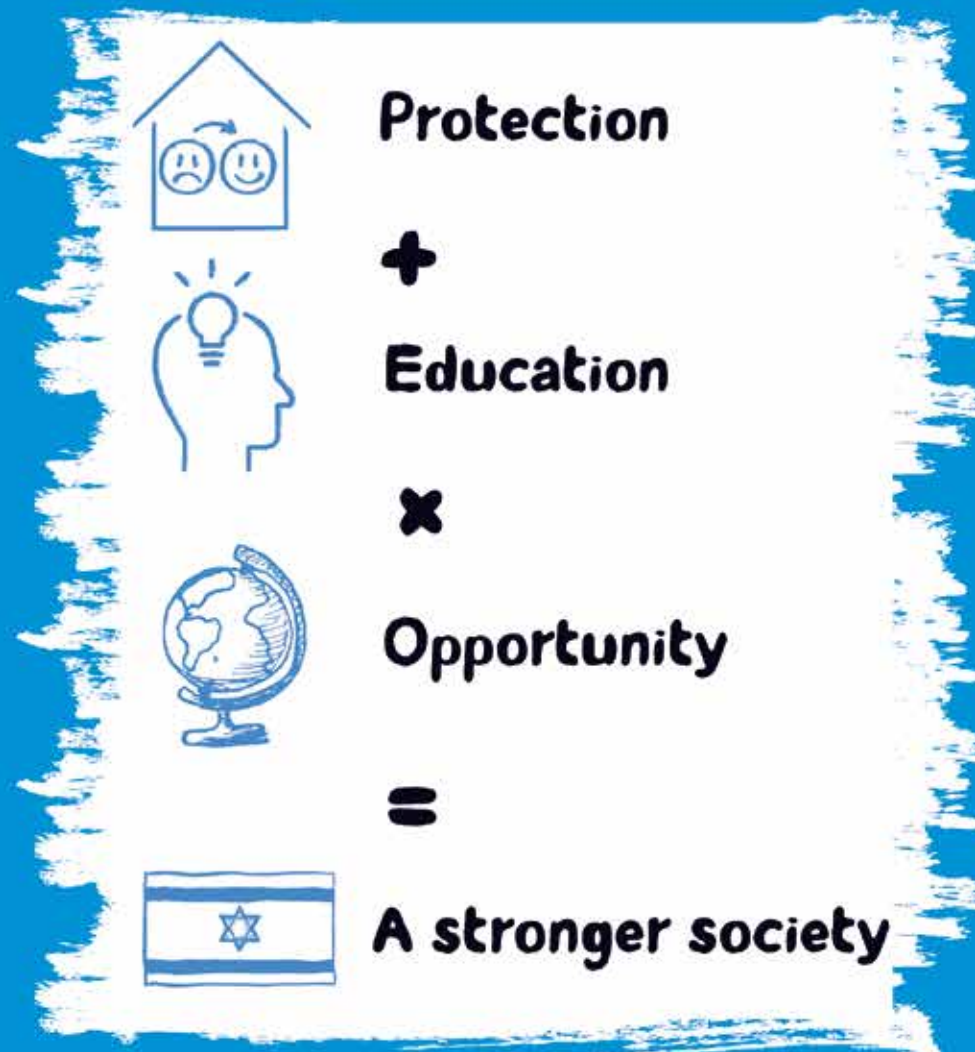
Yom Hashoah

Our **Yom Hashoah Commemoration** took place in the Peace Park of Princes Street Gardens on Tuesday 18th April, attended by over 60 people.

Hilary Rifkind gave a Welcome Address to which the Rt Hon Lord Provost, Councillor Robert Aldridge responded most eloquently. Moving readings were given by Gidona Henderson of EHC and Michael Elam of ELJC. The service was conducted by Rabbi Rose, together with Rabbi Shabo, and Jonathan Danzig lit the memorial candle.



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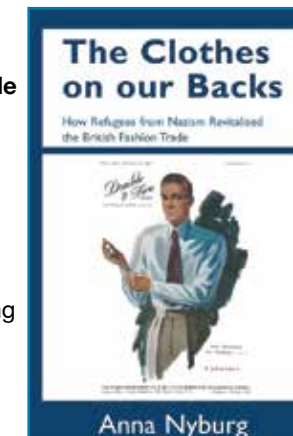
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Book Reviews

The Clothes on our Backs:
How refugees from Nazism
revitalised the British fashion trade
by Anna Nyburg



Bernat Klein: Design in Colour was the title of a wonderful exhibition which ran from November 2022 to April 2023 at The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, celebrating the centenary of the birth of the renowned Serbian born textile designer who set up business in his modernised Netherdale Mill in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders in the 1950s after studying Fine Art at the Bezalel School of Arts in Jerusalem. He eventually became one of these many Jewish refugees fleeing European Nazism to Britain. He painted all his life, and went on to supply his innovative fabrics to some of Europe's top fashion houses, and throughout a 40 year career worked in fashion and interiors, formed a colour consultancy, and was involved in industrial design. His influence was felt across fine art, architecture and colour theory, while his 1957 home and studio near Selkirk by Peter Womersley, is one of Scotland's best examples of domestic and commercial architecture. Many of us "of a certain age" will remember buying his jewel-coloured fabrics and knitting wools in Darling's Princes Street store in the 1960's.

Of course many of our own community's fashionistas in Edinburgh will have their own family stories of earlier arrival into the city, bringing snappy suits and tailoring, elegant fur coats and highly necessary raincoats to grateful ladies and gentlemen of the day – Waverley Tailoring; B Marks and Sons (Hymie Abrams); Dominion Fur Company and Seftor furs; the Scottish Waterproof company and many other raincoat manufacturers in and around the North British Rubber Company in Fountainbridge, all bringing their expertise and sense of style to their Edinburgh customers.

Bernat Klein's life is one of the many hugely interesting stories of the hundreds of Jewish refugees whose expertise and innovations in post war Britain influenced the fashion trade in this fascinating book by Anna Nyburg. The author is an Honorary Lecturer at Imperial College London, specialising in Exile Studies, and during the exhibition run gave a talk and showing of her film 'Refuge Britain' about these talented and innovative Jewish designers who added so much to the British fashion scene.

Jewish artisans had long been active in the clothing trade in Europe, and had developed new production and retail methods which when brought over to Britain from the 1930's on, were to have a profound effect on British clothing production and design.

The many who found asylum in Britain provided thousands of jobs at a time of high employment in the 1930's throughout the country. Kangol berets which we all wore at school, Monty made fashionable in the British Army; Miki Sekers glorious fabrics have upholstered many a sofa and hung curtains in our homes; Hans Schneider designer at Marks and Spencer; Double 2 shirts; Frank Usher evening gowns; Silhouette ladies underwear; Lord Kagan and the Gannex raincoat made famous by UK premier Harold Wilson, and of course our own Bernat Klein. HIS archive is held in The National Museums of Scotland. Treasure this, and take any opportunity to see many of his garments in their collection.

My own Klein memory is of Muriel Spark in 1969 at the post premiere party of the film of her book the Prime of Miss Jean Brodie at the New Victoria cinema in Nicholson Street, wearing a gorgeous long Klein evening skirt in the green and gold colourway of his angora and wool tweed interlaced with velvet ribbon. She even had the matching blouse and velvet headband. True glamour, Scottish style!

Elizabeth Rosenbloom



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The Association of Jewish ex-Servicemen & Women

Staff Sgt, Dan Fox National Chair, AJEX



I might not have been writing this as a serving Jewish soldier at all, had it not been for the repeal in 1828 of laws which restricted public employment, including military service, to those who had taken Holy Communion in the Church of England. The Test Acts had stood since 1673 but the history of Europe in the 18th century is one of near-permanent war, including the last pitched battles on these islands, and few remained un-involved. In November 1745, during the last Jacobite rebellion, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Scotland's Stuart pretender to the throne, sent his troops into England. A corps, led by the Grenadier Guards, was raised to defend London, and some younger members of the Jewish community, mainly from in and around the area of the Bevis Marks synagogue in Aldgate, East London, joined them.

The community's loyalty to the Crown during the "Forty-Five Rebellion" was rewarded by the Jewish Naturalisation Act of 1753. It was repealed a year later in the face of often violent antisemitic opposition but society's arc was now bending towards greater acceptance of the Jewish people.

In 1892, the overall numbers of serving Jews had grown to the point where a Jewish military chaplaincy was needed. Francis Lyon Cohen was the rabbi at Borough Synagogue in south London but had grown up in the Hampshire garrison town of Aldershot and was particularly aware of the need. With the support of the Chief Rabbinate and the Board of Deputies, he successfully petitioned the

War Office to establish the chaplaincy and he became its first chaplain. By the end of World War One (WW1) there were 20 Jewish chaplains, and over 50 by the end of World War Two (WW2).

Following the waves of immigration from the 1880s, 55,000 Jews served in WW1. And the community's official bodies, rabbis in their sermons, and the Jewish Chronicle encouraged recruitment. In Britain, a 1914 poster urged Jews to be "all they can be to Britain" because "Britain has been all she can be to Jews".

Specifically Jewish units emerged. The 'Russian' Labour Companies were so-called because they were made up of first or second generation Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. In the Middle East, the 650-strong Zion Mule Corps, consisting of Jews from the Yishuv and Jews captured from the Ottoman forces, was established in 1915; the first regular Jewish fighting force – with a distinctively Jewish insignia – to take active part in a war since the defeat of the Bar Kochba Revolt against the Romans 1800 years previously.

In 1917, the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers was stood up in the East End of London, drawing its men from the Jewish community there. As so many worked in the tailoring and 'shmutter' trades (more Jewish tailors!) they were nicknamed The King's Own 'Shnayders'. But I prefer their other epithet, the one referred to in the Fusilier Museum in the Tower of London: The Royal Jewsiliers!

A 39th Battalion was created, consisting of Canadian, American and a handful of Argentinian Jews. And a 40th Battalion of Yishuv Jews included one Private David Ben Gurion.

In 1928, AJEX was established as the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Legion, organised out of The League of Old Judeans. And In 1934, its first annual parade was held.

Within five years, the British Empire was engulfed in conflict once again. World War Two (WW2) saw 70,000 British and Empire Jews serve. A further 31,000 Yishuv Jews joined up as well – 26,000 had served throughout the war in the Allied forces before another 5,000 were recruited in September 1944 to form a Jewish Brigade and join the advance through Europe.

As WW2 gave way to the Cold War, at least 10,000 Jews were drafted into National Service up to 1960. British troops deployed over the proceeding decades into a number of theatres of operation. Berlin and West Germany, Greece, Malaya, Korea, Kenya, Cyprus, Aden, Biafra and Northern Ireland, to name but a few.



Since 1945, 11 British and Commonwealth Jewish servicemen have been killed in action and 49 Jews have been killed in training or accidents while serving.

In 1982, in the Falklands, Paratrooper Jason Burt, of Walthamstow, east London, was the second youngest British fatality of that war. Not yet 18, he was cut down by Argentine machine-gun fire at the Battle of Mount Longdon, just two days before the conflict's end. At the start of the day's fighting, he had run to a comrade who had stepped on a mine and injected him with the morphine which the injured man wore around his neck. When that did not ease his pain, Private Burt administered his own supply. An extraordinarily selfless act so early on in a battle.

The early life of Lt. Paul Mervis would be recognisable to any of us a typically Jewish one. Raised in Wimbledon, his family were members of the shul there. He was involved in youth movements and spent some time in Israel before university. In June 2009, at the beginning of what was to become the bloodiest summer for British troops in Afghanistan, in Sangin District, which was to become our most hellish location, Paul led a patrol to secure a school that had been recently recaptured from the Taliban. While establishing defensive positions on the roof, a low-metal content improvised explosive device, or 'IED', which had avoided metal detection (as it was designed to do), detonated. Caught in the blast and with the roof collapsing, Paul fell through to the floor below. He died a few hours later of his injuries.

This is the history and tradition in which I and colleagues now stand as very small links. For me, it all started as a volunteer Adult Instructor in the Army Cadet Force (ACF) in 2005. I had never done any sort of uniformed, organised 'fun' as a kid. Not even the scouts or the Jewish Lads & Girls Brigade. But I had been very involved both as a chanich and madrich with my own Jewish youth movement and by my early thirties I wanted to volunteer again in some form of youth or community work.

One of the opportunities near to me at the time, in Holloway, inner north London, was an ACF unit. Before I knew it, I was 'playing soldiers' two evenings a week, some weekends, and at longer camps. Much to my surprise, I found that I really enjoyed it. The ACF also brought me into the orbit of regular and reserve (or 'Territorial Army' as it was called back then) troops.

In September 2006, I signed up with a TA unit and almost exactly three years later, I was landing at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, having been mobilised into the regulars for a six-month operational tour.

When I first meet other Jews and they find out I'm in the services, there are always two questions. Well three, actually. But after "do they feed you enough?", there are two more pertinent ones.

First, how many of you are there? There are two organisations looking after military Jews. The Jewish Committee for HM Forces (JCHMF) was founded in 1947 as the devolved body from the Ministry of Defence responsible for appointing Jewish chaplains and overseeing ministration to Jewish troops. In the early noughties, the Armed Forces Jewish Community (AFJC) evolved alongside it as a more social and informal 'shop floor' body. The JCHMF and AFJC have around 200 members 'on the books'. Those who know best the military and Jewish communities estimate that there are probably another 300-400 serving Jews, yet to be involved with these bodies. That would put us at around 500 and in the same proportion in the forces as in the population in general

The second question I get is, is there antisemitism?

There are certainly reports of incidents but like in any other organisation these days, they are dealt with swiftly and formally. What I can assert with 100% confidence is that there is no institutional antisemitism in the British military. Every Jew I know in such roles is thriving. We are being put forward for all the promotions and training to which we are entitled; and consideration for honours and awards.

There is one unit and one unit only in the whole British military which has two cap badges: the Chaplaincy. One with a cross for Christian chaplains and one with a Star of David for Jewish chaplains.

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire includes the AJEX Memorial, one of only two there dedicated to an ethnic or religious group (the other is Sikh).

The British military has many problems. Antisemitism is not one of them.

Today AJEX, the Jewish Military Association, has some simple but vital aims: to continue Remembrance of the Jewish contribution to the military; to combat antisemitism through education; and to provide welfare for Jewish veterans and their families.

From providing specialist advice and guidance to financial aid, we are there to support the wellbeing of those members of our community and their families who need help.

We work closely with other organisations to ensure our beneficiaries' dignity and to help maintain their independence wherever possible.



Our annual Remembrance parade on Whitehall is a key event in the communal calendar. It brings together people of all ages to demonstrate our loyalty, take pride in our military activities and remember all the Jews who have fought for our freedom.

From engagement workshops for schools and youth groups to interviews with our veterans and adult-education themed lectures, we use the stories of Jewish veterans to explore ideas of Remembrance, History, Jewish identity and British values.

Through our education work we are fighting antisemitism in the UK by showing our patriotism and outstanding contribution to the society around us. With the recent rise in antisemitism, this work has never been more crucial.

We can always do more and we can always involve more people! If you'd like to volunteer or donate, or organise a talk or visit, please get in touch. To find out more about AJEX JMA, our Annual Parade, and other campaigns, please visit www.ajex.org.uk or call 020 8202 2323.

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The Herzfeld Prize

Harriet Lyall

Doctor Gertrude Herzfeld (1890 – 1981) was a pioneering paediatric surgeon in Edinburgh: in her memory and honour the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh have established the world's first prize to inspire future generations of Jewish female health leaders.

The Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre (EJCC) preserves and promotes Jewish culture in Scotland's capital city, and, since its founding in 2017, has produced a plethora of educational and cultural events. The EJCC is the founder of the Herzfeld Prize, a unique, worldwide recognition programme for Jewish women leaders in Health.

From its inception in 1505, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has been a seat of medical excellence. The oldest surgical college in the world, it has just under 30,000 members in 100 countries, touching every stage of the career path from medical student to consultant.



Dr Kleinman with 2022 Herzfeld Prize

The Royal College, where Dr Herzfeld was the second female fellow, is the co-collaborator and co-sponsor of the Herzfeld Prize.

The first Herzfeld Prize, in 2020, was awarded posthumously to Dr Herzfeld herself and was accepted by her family members on her behalf. She was the first practising woman surgeon in Scotland, and a trailblazer for future generations of female medical students.

The daughter of Jewish emigrés from Austria, Gertrude Herzfeld was born and brought up in London but moved to Edinburgh to study. She qualified from Edinburgh Medical School in 1914, just 22 years after women were formally admitted to the University, and two years before the Faculty of Medicine admitted women on an equal footing to men. Gertrude, or "Gertie" as she was affectionately known, was much loved by patients and colleagues alike. Her obituary in the British Medical Journal hailed her as a woman great in stature of both heart and mind, praising her warmth, wisdom and skill, while fondly remembering the sight of her ample figure bending over a tiny neonate, performing a delicate surgical procedure with the utmost care.

According to her family, Herzfeld was proudly Jewish and was inspired by the ethical values of her faith, to improve and to save lives in her work.

The 2022 Herzfeld Prize was bestowed upon Dr Hynda Kleinman, a researcher with over three decades of leadership at the United States National Institute of Health, who has filed multiple patents for scientific discoveries. Dr Kleinman successfully chaired the committee that examines opportunities to promote women at the NIH, while throughout her career she has mentored many young female scientists. The Herzfeld Prize is awarded biennially in March at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh during the week in which International Women's Day is celebrated and will next be awarded on the 3rd March 2024.



Portrait of Dr Herzfeld from Surgeons' Hall Museum

The 2024 Herzfeld Prize Committee is co-chaired by Hannah Handelman and Sarah Cohen. Committee members include Harriet Lyall, Stephanie Mitchell, Hannah Schlesinger and Professor Joe Goldblatt.



This drawing was dropped into Salisbury Road by an unknown man who was clearing a house. He does not know who it was, but it has a description on it: 'Jewish widow holding picture of late husband'. Can you identify it? A box of chocolates to the person who does!

Obituaries

Mickey Cowen

18/2/1939 – 8/2/2023

Mark Cowen (Son)
Gary Cowen (Son)
Sally Barker (Daughter)



Myer Solomon Cowen was born to Rosie and Isaac Cowen, a long awaited but only son, named after his maternal grandfather Myer Solomon Oppenheim. He shared the same name as two of his cousins and always wore it with pride.

They lived in Spottiswoode Road, Marchmont, alongside many other Jewish families, before moving to Braid Farm Road when Mickey as he was known was 12 years old. He attended George Watson's College and would have liked to have tried for University entrance to read Law, but the family business beckoned.

Before working with his father Isaac in Cowan Tailoring, our father was apprentice at James Howes in Leith, to learn the business skills that were the basis of his career. He joined his father in the shop in South Bridge and together they grew the business. Cowan Tailoring became the go-to place for Teddy Boys and Mods, selling parkas, Harrington jackets and stay-press trousers. Dad often recalled having to drive to meet a supplier between Edinburgh and Glasgow to stock up with Beatles jackets.

Our mother, Carole née Lewis, and father were married on 2 July 1963, at the start of the Trades fortnight – the first and last time he was allowed to take that fortnight off!! Together they set up home in Ross Road, close to our mother's sister Anita and Mickey's lifelong friend Gerald Glass, with his own dark room in the house in order to pursue a passion for photography.

As the family grew with the arrival of Mark and Gary, the business did too. Cowan Tailoring expanded into Lothian Road. And with the arrival of Sally, a third shop was added to the group. Coincidentally, the family outgrew Ross Road and moved to a modern family home in the outskirts of the city at Fairmilehead.

Having been brought up in a family which always served the Jewish community, our father followed in the footsteps of both his parents by committing huge amounts of his time to the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. He served for 25 years as the Treasurer of the Burial Society as well as for many decades the Shul Council where he followed his own father to become Secretary, Treasurer and then President in 1978. It was a time of huge transition for the community, and he was at the helm when it became clear that the community was shrinking. To be future proof, the community centre in Salisbury Road was sold to fund a wholesale remodelling of the existing Shul building.

Our father oversaw the fundraising, the design and build of the current layout of the building and with the support of our mother on the ladies committee, a fabulous events space with a professional standard kitchen was included.

Our father and mother made a great team; many will have a story to tell of their hospitality at home or in the Shul. Our mother's fabulous cooking presented to her very high and exacting standards and our father's notoriously generous measures!

Our father was very proud to take over the mantle as Honorary Life President in 2007. He continued to sit on the Council and to provide experience, wisdom and a robust vision when asked to contribute. Dad could always be relied upon to welcome dignitaries from all corners of the world and all denominations. He particularly enjoyed welcoming various Lord Provosts of the City and even a couple of Chief Rabbis to our community.

In recognition of his commitment and service to the Jewish community, Dad was nominated to become a Justice of the Peace in 1975. He served as a Judge of the District Court until his statutory retirement at age 70. He loved it, not just for the intellectual challenge, but for the camaraderie and banter with many of the local solicitors and advocates that he came to know over the years. He was delighted when he was voted Chairman of the Justices for Edinburgh for 10 years and the Chair for the whole of Scotland for a further 2 years. Dad was very proud when he was given the honour of a Civic Reception to recognise the work he had carried out for the City.

Cowan Tailoring continued to grow with the addition of Mister Michael's, a second shop on South Bridge, named after Mickey, as he was known in the business. Mickey and Isaac would walk down the Bridges every day to have their tea break in Patrick Thompsons, J & R Allens or the Pancake Place and everyone on South Bridge would know them. Dad with his pipe and Isaac with his bowler hat. They both really looked like the quintessential men's tailors and outfitters they were.

Our father's great sporting passion was golf. As one of Liberton Golf Club's longest serving members, Dad gained a lifetime membership in 2010. The odd hole-in-one came his way, along with the bar bill to go with it. He thoroughly enjoyed his golf, right up to last year. He was delighted that his grandson Sam took up the sport and played a few rounds with him.

After Mickey took early retirement and closed the menswear shops, his commitment to serving the City of Edinburgh took hold again and he joined the Citizens Advice Bureau, working for many years as an advisor on housing and financial matters. Latterly, he continued to meet and greet those who attended the CAB, putting many at their ease with his charm, wit and warm heart.

Dad was a man of habit, who liked his desk to be kept tidy, his soup scalding hot and whisky glass topped up. But his was a life dedicated to his family and to service; whether it was the service of the Edinburgh Jewish community, the District Courts and subsequently the Justice of the Peace Courts, or serving the public who wanted a pair of jeans, he was always there to help us all.

Jacqueline Rose Taylor

4/6/1952 – 1/4/2023

Hilary Rifkind (EHC Chair and friend)

Jackie was born in Manchester, the only child of Anne and Ivor Jacobson, and attended the King David's School. She then worked as a medical secretary in Manchester until June 1988.



Raymond met Jackie on a blind date in October 1987, on one of his visits to a supplies trade show in the North of England, a date which Raymond thinks was probably arranged by his mother. They became engaged on December 31st 1987 and married in June 1988 at Heaton Park Synagogue in Manchester.

After moving to Falkirk Jackie joined a secretarial agency, working in a doctor's surgery, at BP Oil Refinery in Grangemouth and then Forth Valley College of Midwifery until her family arrived. Lawrence was born in 1990, followed by Michael in 1994.

Shortly after Rabbi David Sedley came to Edinburgh, together with his wife Alit, to take up position at EHC in August 1996, Raymond and Jackie arrived at the Edinburgh shul, looking for Jewish education for their two little boys. This was the start of a warm friendship between the Sedleys and the Taylors, with Jackie and Raymond supporting the young rabbi and rebbetzen by giving guidance, stability and advice. Such was the depth of their friendship that the Sedleys flew over to visit Jackie, and to give her comfort, in the final weeks of her illness.

As Jackie had moved from the large Jewish community of Manchester it was of great importance to her that her Judaism was maintained and developed. She succeeded in raising a strong, engaged Jewish family, with her menfolk being active and committed members of communities both in Edinburgh and beyond.

In the early 2000s Raymond joined the Shul Council, followed soon after by Jackie, who thereafter took the position of Honorary Secretary. Jackie dedicated herself wholeheartedly to keeping the community fully informed of all events, both religious and social, and to strengthening links with organisations in the wider community throughout the UK. Maintaining Jewish values and standards for the community was of great importance to Jackie, and she developed a valued relationship with the Office of the Chief Rabbi, whose advice she sought when appropriate.

Jackie was very efficient in dealing with all the necessary details and paperwork needed in organising weddings, and in arranging the procedure on special occasions for EHC, such as the annual Civic Service, Yom Hashoah and the Remembrance Day Commemoration. She always enjoyed the task of phoning her various connections to find a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim, or a replacement rabbi when necessary, or a Mohel for a Brit Milah.

She was never daunted, and said herself that she was like a dog with a bone and would never give up, gaining great satisfaction when she inevitably found someone suitable and available.

The religious life of the community was very important to Jackie and she was always committed to helping with the events that are centred round the religious occasions, such as kiddushim on Shabbat and Yom Tovim, Seudahs on Purim and Shavuot, the "After the Fast" meal and such like. In recent years Jackie made breakfast every week for the men who attend Shacharit on Sundays. Even in the final weeks of her illness as she became more unwell, she would save her energy for the weekend to be able to come to shul and be involved in making breakfast on a Sunday morning, showing her commitment and devotion, as well as enjoying being with her friends in the community.

Jackie, together with Raymond, was always ready to immediately offer time and effort to perform whatever was needed for the religious life of EHC. They would drive down to Manchester or over to Glasgow, to take a Sefer Torah to be repaired, or to collect schach for the succah roof and collect the etrogim and lulavim for Succot. On many occasions they have driven over from Falkirk late at night, sometimes several times a week in the tourist season, to perform the sacred mitzvah of Jackie's attendance at the mikvah.

Jackie was a very content person, thriving on routine and continuity. As the family business was in the centre of Falkirk, every morning after coffee she liked to wander round town, and was particularly upset when M&S, her favourite shop, closed down. Every afternoon when she came home from the shop, she enjoyed making several phone calls, either discussing shul business or catching up socially. Jackie loved the sun and the annual family holiday to Florida in July was the highlight of the year for her. During the rest of the summer she would take her little blue deck chair out in the afternoons to relax in the sunshine and top up her enviable tan.

Of central importance to Jackie's life was her family. She helped Raymond in the shop every morning and was a huge support to him in caring for his late mother during her latter years. Jackie always had her phone close to hand in case her sons needed to contact her. She always knew as soon as she spoke to them if something was troubling them and immediately sought how to help and put things right; she always wanted the best for them, their happiness being paramount to her life. Her incredible devotion to the shul was only surpassed by her most caring and selfless devotion to her beloved husband and sons.

Jackie played a fundamental role in EHC for over 20 years, a role to which she dedicated her efforts tirelessly. She acted at all times in a quiet, efficient manner, never seeking or wanting public acclaim. Jackie was also a caring, thoughtful, and faithful friend, and we are all so grateful to have had her in our lives.



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Gerald David Gonshaw

20/03/1931 – 01/05/2023

Edward Green (Friend)

David Gonshaw's start in life was not easy. He was a victim of the times but also of his birth. His mother was a seamstress and housewife never showing great interest in him; his father left home before he was ten and he never saw him again.



David experienced the devastating effects of the Blitz, first being evacuated to Whitstable which proved to be equally dangerous where he saw fighting overhead and then when he returned to London, he witnessed the blowing up of a shelter next to his home killing many. He was once more evacuated which proved to be a mixed experience. On arrival, he caught scabies and was admitted to hospital, after which he was sent to a camp school near Hemel Hempstead where he was to stay for four years and enjoy some sort of contentment. When the time came for him to leave, he found it very distressing, and endured unsettled years in hostels and suchlike before returning to live with his mother.

His mother remarried; his stepfather had a credit drapery business and David helped him briefly before at the age of 16 joining the Merchant Navy for two years. Those navy days were not all 'plain sailing' as he also suffered from severe asthma once practically losing his life whilst out at sea. Unable to find a suitable ship to serve on two years later, David opted to undertake National Service and was posted to Germany becoming a dispatch rider in the Army.

On leaving the forces, David was a bus driver for London Transport before working for a Jewish owned company as a van driver, leaving two years later to join his stepfather once again in his business working as a collector salesman. Following years saw David running his own paraffin delivery service, making good money, before moving on and undertaking a hairdressing course, the idea to open a salon with his then girlfriend. Sadly, the romance failed leading to a nervous breakdown. Recovering, David returned to various delivery jobs whilst still living with his mother. It was then that David felt that the lapse in his education needed to be addressed as he had been unable to read or write until the age of thirteen. Recognising that he was way behind others, he wrote to Harrow Council for a grant to attend college. He was given funding to last him one academic year allowing him to attend Fairmont College in Birmingham. This is where he learned writing and other skills which were to help him move on in life.

It was on his return after this that his Jewish life was awakened. He had never been told by his mother that he was Jewish although she lit candles every Friday night. An aunt had let the secret of his birth slip. David had then been taken along by a friend to the West Central Club in High Holborn run by a Miss Levy, meeting a host of Jewish youth. That precipitated a trip to Israel in 1962 where he stayed for seven weeks; many years later David was granted Israeli citizenship. David persevered in his thirst for knowledge of the faith he was born to, learning to read Hebrew as an adult, and to his last day he read in Hebrew a daily parashah from the Chumash. On joining the EHC, David also became a member of Lodge Solomon and over the years remained a committed Mason.

1964 saw his return to Israel for a full year, living and working for a time on a kibbutz, and employed as a truck driver elsewhere during this time. But unable to settle, David returned by car overland through Italy to London; by this time his mother and stepfather had separated. Sadly, David had never enjoyed a strong relationship with his mother. David couldn't settle into work either on his return and took a variety of jobs before once again feeling that his lack of formal education needed to be further addressed. In 1973, he had saved what was then the princely sum of £500 to register for a residential year's course at Newbattle Abbey College in Dalkeith and it was there that his life would change finally for very much the better.

He met Irene who was the residential domestic bursar and they found a companionship that had eluded David through his life. David talked of Irene grounding him. They married and Irene encouraged David to buy a home for the first time. David became a driving instructor, an occupation that he followed for over twenty years. They enjoyed a companionship that middle age can bring with long drives into the countryside and travel abroad. Sadly, Irene died in March 2020 after over forty years of marriage.

David even took Irene flying, a pastime that he had enjoyed since the early sixties when he had wanted to become a commercial pilot, his lack of education and funds precluding him taking the flying course. He, over the years, had indulged his hobby and learnt to fly, eventually racking up over 850 hours flying solo. David also was a bit of a daredevil in his flying days, at one time in his mid-thirties flying under one of the bridges that span the Thames; that little exploit cost him a six-month ban! David also enjoyed riding his motorbikes owning, over the years, a Norton and a BMW amongst others. He played the piano well, but in his last years his major passion became writing. Stories about his flying and army days are well recounted, as well as novellas and fables about famous people. Pretty impressive for a man who only learnt to read and write in his teens.

Over the years, David had become a well-known and respected member of our community. An endearing character and most singular, he will be very missed.

Wishing our community a

Shana Tova



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Michael Adelman

24/7/1946 – 2/2/2023

Rosalind Landy (Sister)



Michael had friends everywhere: from his running partners, neighbours to his business, neighbours where he lived, Shul friends and school friends. He was slender of build, with the figure of a runner, took good care of his appearance and was described by his friends as dapper.

Michael was born to Esther and Barnet Adelman on 24th July 1946. He was one of the post-war baby boom. My father was particularly pleased to welcome a son into the family. Our father was born in Ukraine and our mother came from a Polish family so there was a European feel to the family background, particularly with Yiddish speaking grandparents. In our parents' generation there were six siblings to each parent and lots of cousins

Michael was not academic but was very keen on sport. He was crazy about football and played goalkeeper for the Edinburgh Maccabi team. On one occasion the opponents were not so much sportsmen as thugs and they pushed Michael to the ground in the goal mouth, kicked his jaw, and broke it. His jaw was wired up for quite a while, which meant he had to speak with his mouth partially closed. When a customer came into Michael's shoe shop and spoke with a part-closed mouth, Michael was petrified. He judged that if he said anything at all, the customer might think that there was mockery in the air. Michael worried that this person might punch him in the jaw and thus break his jaw again. Instead, all went well.

Some time later Michael took up running, starting with marathons. He arranged sponsorship for some marathons in order to raise money for the Edinburgh Shul. From marathons Michael moved on to half marathons, then running generally and eventually walking.

Michael had gone into our father's business, shoe retailing, in the Royal Mile and worked there for several years, modernising some of the stock, with our father sometimes reluctantly agreeing to the changes. When Mike sold up at the time of the start of the Scottish Parliament, it was a good time to sell, and Mike was pleased to be leaving retail behind and to start on a new segment of his life.

When Michael (aka Mike) reached his 20's he started bringing his girlfriends, one at a time, to Cambridge, 'for inspection' by his older sister and brother-in-law, Barry. Eventually Mike found the lady he was to marry, Sonya Levy, and that union produced two daughters, Suzanne now Black and Jennifer now Cox.

Both daughters had a Bat Mitzvah in the Edinburgh Shul in the era of Rabbi Danny Sinclair. Michael was also blessed with three grandchildren; Jamie and Sophie Black and Zara Cox.

After some years the marriage came to an end and a few years later Michael married Jill Main, who had two daughters from a previous marriage, Lorna and Fiona. This partnership was a happy time for Michael, during which he retired from the shoe shop in the Royal Mile and began serving as a volunteer for Witness Service in the law courts. He continued with Witness Service for two decades for which Mike received an award along with an invitation to a garden party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. In his retirement Mike travelled with Jill, visiting not only his own father but also Jill's parents regularly and bought shoes for himself whenever he would pass some interesting display. As this was his past business, Michael retained a lively interest in gentlemen's shoes till the very end.

Another aspect of Mike's life was ensuring that our father could live independently, by dealing with the recurring utility bills when that was a chore for the parent; to making sure the laundry was taken and fetched from the laundrette and arranging for repairs to the flat when needed. These were the quiet, understated tasks that Mike did, giving honour to our father.

He also visited his wife's mother regularly and was much esteemed by those he spent time with. Indeed, he remained a constant visitor to a friend disabled 6 months prior to Mike's own terminal event.

One oddity is that despite Michael and Rosalind being very different religiously they got on very well and that was true for the brother in law, whom Mike regarded as a big brother. It was a warm, reciprocal friendship. There would be visits from Mike and Jill to Cambridge to visit this 'big brother' and in turn the Cambridge pair would visit Edinburgh. The penultimate time that the four did fun things together was at the Edinburgh Fringe in September 2022, when Mike bought tickets for the foursome to see the Daniel Cainer closing show. A most enjoyable last visit to Cambridge by Mike and Jill followed in November 2022.

Michael was a dignified, hard-working man, modest in his ways, showing love and compassion to his friends always with a quiet sense of humour, enjoying sharing laughter with all. His popularity and wonderful personality was clearly shown by attendance of 200 people at his funeral.

He was my 'little brother', nine years my junior. Despite the age gap we had a warm friendship, perhaps because of our Adelman-ness! There is now a great hole in the family fabric. I and all the family will miss him very much.

Ronnie Goodwin

10/6/1937 – 21/2/2023

Sara Ferrier (daughter)
Ben Goodwin (son)
Joe Goodwin (son)



Ronnie Goodwin, our father, was born in Brighton in 1937, the eldest of four children to Kitty and Richard Goodwin. When WW2 broke out, our grandfather was conscripted into the Navy and Dad was evacuated to the countryside with his mother. He always made a joke of being the man of the house between the ages of 3 and 8 when his sisters Maureen and Susan and his brother Peter came along.

The family moved to London after the war to the now-chic area around Portobello Road. At first Grandad owned stall licences at the market and also ran an antiques shop. Dad succeeded in securing a grammar school place and the family moved to Greenwich. As well as his studies, from a young age, Dad helped around his father's antiques business until after school he undertook his National Service.

He was conscripted into the RAF and was stationed in Cyprus, working firstly in the Air Sea Rescue service and then driving petrol tankers to refuel planes. He enjoyed his time in Cyprus living on the beach in a tent and after his duties were over, he could spend the rest of the day sunbathing, swimming and fishing. He also boxed in the RAF.

After his National Service he returned to the UK and went into Grandad's business, buying antiques around the country, particularly in London and Edinburgh where his father had a warehouse on Rose Street.

Dad indulged his love of sport in Scotland meeting our mother Kate (née Rosin) at a tennis party in Edinburgh and later learning to play golf tutored by our much-loved Nana, Eva and her sister Cissy, who taught him at the Craigmillar Golf Course. He also trained during the late 50s and early 60s at George Kerr's gym as well as playing football for the Edinburgh Jewish community's Maccabi team.

Dad decided he wanted to stay in Edinburgh – we don't know if it was the golf or Mum, but he quickly became committed to the city. He moved into a small flat near the Meadows and courted Mum for years while saving up to get married.

Our parents were involved with the Jewish community all their married life and in the early days that meant a lot of playing bridge. He was a sociable man who was always generous with his time and resources, supporting friends and family. Theirs was a happy marriage. Mum says that when she first met Dad, a couple of her friends said she should be careful cos he was a

London wideboy – but she decided she quite liked that! Dad and Mum developed the business's Rose Street warehouse into a jewellery and silver shop. Dad worked hard but it was always sacrosanct that he had to be free three times a week to play golf and had time for boozy lunches.

Sara was born in 1968 but when Ben came along in 1971 the family needed more space. Antiques weren't only a business for Ronnie Goodwin, heritage was his passion and on a handshake he bought a large Victorian house on Ettrick Road. He and Mum took on the project together, picking up period furniture over years. Our parents would remain well known for their legendary summer parties which often hosted 100 people for a buffet lunch and dancing in the garden. They generously donated the house for numerous charity events.

Ettrick Road wasn't Dad's only move during the 70s – he established a larger antiques emporium in a single shop at 17A Queensferry Street, later moving into the corner site after Joe was born. Dad designed the interior of the new shop inspired by the brilliant antique shops he had visited in London as a child. Goodwin's has always been a family business – Dad learnt his trade from his father and he passed it on to Ben and Joe, who brought Goodwin's into the digital age. Dad was trusted by other dealers around the country not only for his encyclopaedic knowledge of silver and jewellery but also for his brilliant eye.

Every year as kids, we took off over the summer for holidays in Forte dei Marmi which Dad often described as Italian Brighton. Forte became a fixture within the wider family who joined us in a variety of villas near the beach. Dad's various nieces and nephews remember him lifeguarding as they played in the surf, teaching them to count to ten in Italian and organising card tournaments and fancy-dress competitions.

Latterly our parents sold Ettrick Road and they moved to a smaller Victorian home on Mayfield Gardens. Dad still loved hosting parties in the garden, playing more golf than ever as his sons took over running Goodwin's and he had trained them to his satisfaction!

When Dad contracted Parkinson's about ten years ago it was the first time in his life he was ill. He said he knew it was serious when he could no longer play 18 holes. Mum looked after him at home and the family rallied round; his grandchildren, Molly, Poppie, Louis, Imogen and Isaac were regular visitors. During Covid our mother had to look after Dad more on her own and finally in the summer of 2021 he was admitted to Strachan House Care Home. Mostly bed bound he made two final journeys – to visit his shop one last time, and to see the beautiful Georgian flat our mother moved to a year ago. Dad was concerned that his beloved Kate would be all right without him but as anyone who knows Mum will tell you, she has such a positive outlook it's difficult to think she would ever NOT be all right. At the care home, Dad made friends among the staff and residents, showing off shamelessly when Sara's latest publication won Scottish Book of the Year last November.

We will all miss him.

Toby Green Lawson

22/04/1925 – 27/11/2022

Edward Green (Son)

My mother was an outstanding woman whom I loved dearly. I was always enormously proud of her, proud of her for so much. She was engaging, always kind, highly intelligent, excellent company with a fast wit combined with a grounded savvy that stayed with her all her life.



Born to Mona (née Latter) and Joseph Sagman both family names we know here in Edinburgh, she grew up in Glasgow although the family spent much of the war years in Ayr as many Jewish families did. Before that her imposing and very strong-willed mother had taken the family to live in the South of France and Switzerland where a particular doctor was, in the hope that he would help my mother's sister who suffered from a rare illness. Their sojourn ended with a last-minute dash across occupied France as the Nazis were advancing south. Once back in Scotland, this indomitable mother decided that she and her four daughters would see the war out in America leaving my grandfather and uncle in Glasgow. Setting sail from Scotland in convoy, well out to sea my grandmother changed her mind and despite all that that entailed, bullied the captain into having a boat sent out to them. That was the type of stock my mother came from and a grounding for her life.

At the end of the war and an engagement broken by the said grandmother, my mother was shipped down to stay with a Latter cousin in London, who told her one evening to 'brush her hair' as a man was coming to fix the refrigerator. My mother remonstrated to no avail that it was not necessary, but in walked my father, the fridge was working fine! There was instant attraction; they were engaged within two weeks and married eight weeks later in one of the first big weddings after the war. My father was enormously charismatic and like my mother outstanding in his generation. Theirs was a love match that was to last until my father's death 38 years later, my mother being a true partner to him in every sense of the word. In that old-fashioned way, she ran the home to perfection, five children (a daughter and then four sons) within five years required near military precision and organisation. But that didn't preclude my parents from being very social and I remember a childhood with wonderful parties with my twin and I watching from the staircase and my father's dinner suit so often hanging on the line to rid it of the smell of smoke. However, family life was sacrosanct with Friday night a highlight of the week, my mother, despite having full-time help in the kitchen, cooking or supervising the meal, and Sunday nights smoked salmon bagels and pickled cucumber in front of the television. I don't think we knew what a pizza was!

My parents travelled extensively often for long periods. We children just got on with it; it was more our father's wish than our mother's to do so but she followed his lead on this one but not on all. My mother, like her own mother, had a very strong personality and was used to ensuring that all should be as she felt right. Despite leaving school when she was 15 (wartime), she was able to complete the Telegraph crossword well into her nineties, master Sudoku to a top level and play a mean game of bridge. She was also very good with figures; one of my brothers would give her quarterly a large box filled with receipts and suchlike for her to sort out. Apart from doing an excellent job, she couldn't resist telling him that she had noticed with every petrol receipt there was also a purchase of a large bar of Cadbury's!

After my father's death, she was on her own for a dozen years before re-meeting Arthur Lawson from Glasgow who had been widowed after 50 years of marriage. They had known each other during their teens. They were to enjoy 27 years of marriage, a marriage built on compatibility, company and respect. My mother always knew that she would be on her own one day as my father was over 16 years her senior and Arthur and their shared love of Scotland and so many other things ensured that comfort together. Arthur, now 101, has returned to Scotland to live with his daughter and son and their families.

My mother was a much-admired beauty and remained so all her years. She had a wonderful sense of humour, always evident, was ever optimistic and was adored by all her family; she was the core. My mother had this very special attribute of always making whoever was there feel that they were the centre of her attention. Whenever I visited, she did for me as she did for all and ensured that I was served the meal that I would like. My mother's favourite meal, however, was afternoon tea and it was always prepared whether there were visitors or not. I remember popping in one day with a friend from the US, and he couldn't get over that I had not rung my mother to say we were coming and despite unusually there being no other visitors that day, there were sandwiches, a fresh cake and scones ready to enjoy together with the news of the day both of the family (I'd ask her for her current worry list) and the world stage!

In her last thankfully brief illness, my mother, fortunately still at home, knew she was dying. She asked to see all her family. Her five children were with her constantly, but every one of her 17 grandchildren came in to see her over the ensuing days, many of those grandchildren bringing their own families with them, the oldest great-grandchild nearing twenty. With 22 great-grandchildren at the time of her death, (now 23), she leaves a terrific legacy as each and every one of us has so much of her in us. My mother treated each birth, every bar or batmitzvah and wedding in the family with the same excitement as if it were the first. She led her life with great dignity and style, making her life work her family, whether as a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, mother-in-law or grandmother – we have an enormous amount to be grateful for.

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Dr Olga Kennard OBE FRS

23/03/1924 – 02/03/2023

Susie Kelpie (Daughter)

My mother, Olga, was born in Hungary in 1924, the eldest child of Kato and Joir Weisz. Joir owned a small merchant bank and Kato was an antique dealer. They were an Orthodox family who led a comfortable life in Budapest, where they employed domestic staff including a cook and a governess (ironically to teach the children Hoch Deutsch).



Olga and her siblings, Judith and George, attended Jewish 'gymnasias' where they received an excellent education; many of the teachers were former lecturers who had been excluded from the university because of antisemitism.

In 1938, our grandparents travelled to London to attend a family wedding, leaving their children with the governess. Joir had read Mein Kampf and realised the danger facing Jews in Central Europe. After the wedding, he remained in London, staying with the family of Kato's cousin Solly Schonfeld, who later organised the rescue of hundreds of Jewish children from Europe via the Kindertransport. Kato returned to Hungary several times to make the arrangements for the whole family to leave. In August of 1939, she and her three children travelled by train across Nazi Germany. Upon arrival in the UK, just three weeks before the start of World War II, the family were given a visa for only 6 weeks. However, after the outbreak of the war they were given the right to remain, and first moved to Hove. As they were Hungarian, the family were classed as 'friendly enemy aliens' and as such were not allowed to live near the coast, so they subsequently moved to Evesham in Worcestershire.

My mother was 14 years old when she arrived in the UK and spoke very little English. Despite this, she was able to excel at Maths and Science at the school she attended, Evesham Grammar School. The curriculum was very similar to that in Hungary. During the war in 1942 she was accepted to the University of Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. At that time, women were not allowed to receive a full degree from the university and could only study for 2 years. When my mother completed her studies there in 1944, she joined the Cavendish laboratory as a research assistant, working with the molecular biologist Max Perutz. She went on to specialise as a type of chemist known as a crystallographer, studying the structure of biological molecules, working for the Medical Research Council in Mill Hill, North London.

My mother was one of the first scientists to appreciate the importance of the rigorous verification and management of scientific data and as such, she established the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC), which is now the recognised authority worldwide on the structure of biological molecules. In 1973 she was awarded a Doctor of Science degree by Cambridge and became Doctor Olga Kennard (she had been awarded an MA degree in 1948).

In the mid 1980s, I accompanied my mother to Buckingham Palace to witness her receiving an OBE from the late Queen, and my husband Dan and I also accompanied her to the Royal Society when she became a Fellow (FRS). As a new Fellow, she signed a remarkable gilded book, which dated back to the time of the Restoration of King Charles II. It contains the signature of every FRS including Isaac Newton, as well as every monarch and prime minister since 1660.

Throughout her adult life, my mother had enjoyed a keen interest in architecture. In 1960, she commissioned a renowned Danish architect to build our new family home in Cambridge. This building is now listed by English National Heritage. In 1992, the Data Centre moved to a custom-built office/lab building designed by the same architect. This building won that year's Sunday Times Building of the year.

In her retirement, Olga was appointed as a Trustee of the British Museum and was responsible for overseeing an extension to the building, designed by the Richard Rogers partnership. My mother was also an active member of the Reform community in Cambridge. Her final foray into architecture was to help raise funds for, and manage the building of, the Beth Shalom synagogue in Cambridge, which opened in 2011.

My mother married my father Dr David Kennard in 1948 having two children, my younger sister Julia and me. In 1962, my parents divorced, and my mother was single for over 30 years, until she married a fellow scientist and FRS member, Sir Arnold Burgen. She was 70 at the time so for the final three decades of her life, she was known as Lady Olga Burgen. Our mother and stepfather enjoyed 28 years of happy married life, travelling the world, and living in the same house she had built in Cambridge. In recent years, both our mother and Arnold's health slowly deteriorated and after Arnold died in 2022, our mother continued to live there with a full-time carer until her death this year in the home she had loved so much.

My mother visited us regularly in Edinburgh enjoying immensely the Bat Mitzvas of her granddaughters Alice and Isabel. She also much appreciated the friendly welcome she received at the EHC. She will be sadly missed by Julia and me, and her five grandchildren, Alice, Issy, Lottie Ramsay and Otto. She outlived both of her siblings and all of her cousins and as such, was the longest surviving member of her generation in our family who had lived through the holocaust.

Braid Place Cemetery

Sidney Caplan, Committee Member – The Edinburgh Jewish Burial Friendly Society

The cemetery is situated just off Causewayside. The area it is in was once interestingly enough called “The Jews Close”.



Would you be able to call it that now? The dates on the twenty one memorial stones go back to the end of the eighteenth century and continue through into the mid nineteenth century. The cemetery, however, was not consecrated until 1820.

Most of the first Jews to come to Edinburgh came following the French Revolution and the British war with France. Abel Philips in 1979 was able to decipher about twenty of the stones but now most are unreadable. They are listed in his book. For me it is fascinating that there are two Lipman graves, Lipman being my late mother's maiden name. However, our family did not arrive in Scotland until the eighteen nineties so I can have no claim to being related.

This cemetery served the Community until 1867 when Echobank was purchased. Braid Place was the first Jewish cemetery in Edinburgh though Herman Lyon, reputed to be the first Jew to be buried in Edinburgh, has a grave at the top of Calton Hill.

There is one stone however that is still clear and that is of Moses Ezekiel. He lived in Adam Street and was noted as a sealing wax manufacturer dying in 1850 aged 74.

The cemetery is owned by the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and looked after by either Historic Scotland or by the City of Edinburgh. There is a dispute on that as no-one really knows but I am pleased to report it is kept in good order.



In 1895, The Edinburgh Jewish Friendly Burial Society purchased land within the Piershill Cemetery and built a "prayer hall" there for their exclusive use. The first burial at the new grounds took place in 1896 and these grounds are still being used to this day.

With the Community shrinking, the Society has reluctantly had to stop taking on new members as there would be no guarantee with so few members that there would be funds available to bury all. Today in 2023, there are ninety members, but we have a 'stock' of two hundred and fifty lairs. We, therefore, continue to welcome burials for non-members of the Society carried out according to our "Halachah" rulings. As the Burial Society is a charity, it remains willing to help where there are difficult circumstances and we have been called upon in this way in recent years.

There have been Jews buried in Edinburgh from the time of the Napoleonic war continuing to the present day.

Cover Picture

This iconic image will be seen for generations going forward as part of the history of the Jewish people in the United Kingdom.

Taken on King Charles III's Coronation Day 2023 in Westminster Abbey, it shows the King being blessed by the Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis and other faith leaders as he set to leave the Abbey from the Great West Door. They quoted in unison: "Our Majesty, as neighbours in faith, we acknowledge the value of public service. We unite with people of all faiths and beliefs in thanksgiving, and in service with you for the common good". The Chief Rabbi was quoted as saying 'I felt the royal 'aura' at the Coronation, and it was very special, surreal yet regal'. As the coronation was held on a Shabbat, the Chief Rabbi stayed at St. James Palace the night before to allow him to walk to the Abbey and was seen on television being cheered by the crowds. It was undoubtedly a momentous day.



And There Was Evening and There Was Morning SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

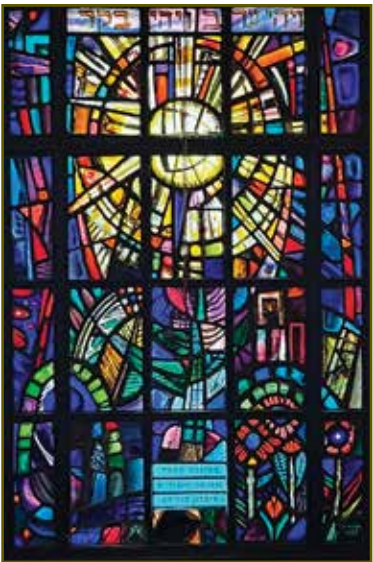
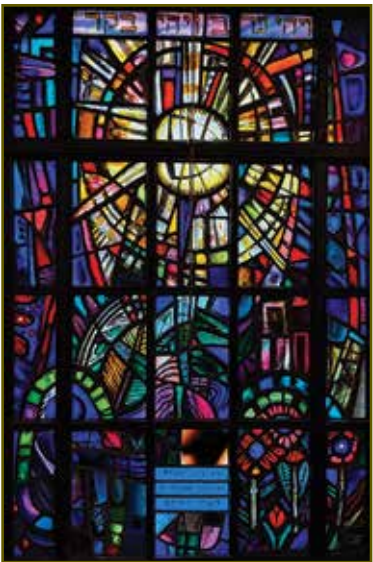
David J Grant

EHC is incredibly fortunate to house six stained glass windows by the distinguished Scottish artist William Wilson RSA. His nephew and executor William Bentley wrote about these windows for the Star in issue 44, 2003.



Three of them form a triptych and were donated in 1957 by the Oppenheim family in memory of their parents David and Rose Oppenheim. Originally situated in the main Shul, after the reconstruction in 1980 they were moved to the entrance corridor and lobby. The original centre piece of the three is the one now in the lobby and it is my personal favourite. The inscription at the top is from Genesis Chapter 1 "And There Was Evening and There Was Morning" indicating it to be a symbolic representation of the creation. Indeed we are fortunate to also have in our possession Wilson's handwritten design notes in which he states: "The central window is more deeply coloured. The central theme here is the sun, with below trees and green slopes and flowers. The whole meaning of this window is centred round the source of creation, the Divine beginning of the world..."

I have recently been guiding tours of the synagogue and some non – Jewish groups have shown great interest in these beautiful artworks. However the more I looked at this particular window the more I felt that something was not right. What struck me most was the featureless brown section in the middle panel on the bottom row, just above the inscription. I wondered if this element might represent the unformed earth before the act of creation, but if so, why was it in that position and not at the bottom? We are also fortunate to have a painting by Wilson depicting the three windows as they were intended to be, so I was able to compare the window with this painting. I could see that the formless brown section should indeed be at the bottom, ie the panel



appeared to be upside down, albeit the Hebrew inscription was clearly correct.

Arnold Rifkind informed me that this panel had been damaged several years previously and so I could only conclude that it had been incorrectly remade by a previous restorer.

Further scrutiny of the painting showed that the panel immediately above this one was also upside down, so that the tree – like motif that should flow between the two panels was completely disrupted. And the second panel on the bottom row (to the left of the one with the inscription) appeared to not only upside down but also inside out!

In 2022 The Royal Scottish Academy held an exhibition on Wilson and published an online catalogue of his works and I had previously been in contact with one of their curators Robin Rodger to inform him of the works in our possession. I wrote to him again to ask if he knew an expert locally who could help: he put me in touch with Maurice Jackson of the Stained Glass Studio who has restored other Wilson windows. Maurice was thrilled to see such a superb example of Wilson's work. He was easily able to realign the two panels that were misinstalled. He then removed the panel with the inscription and in his workshop was able to alter the featureless brown section, now at the bottom, to appear closer to Wilson's intention. He then sourced some light blue glass in a shade to better match the inscriptions in the other two windows and painstakingly rewrote the Hebrew inscription, with only minimal tuition! The corrected panel was then re-fired and reinstalled in the correct orientation. Help towards funding this work was secured from Philip Oppenheim for whom this window is a memorial to his grandparents and Harriet Lyall who shares my reverence for it and has made posters and laminates for sale to visitors.

My hope is that members and visitors to Salisbury Road will now be able to derive pleasure from this stunning work of art as Wilson originally intended it, for many years to come.

Dr Beverly Bergman OBE former army doctor with a passion for long term health of military veterans

By kind permission of
Simon Yaffe
Jewish Telegraph



Dr Beverly Bergman spent years working in the jungles of Belize. She also served in the British armed forces in Germany, Cyprus and Hong Kong, among other places, travelling the world in her role as a general practitioner.

Today, the Hull born 68 year old is head of the Scottish Veterans Health Research Group at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, the University of Glasgow.

And her work there as an honorary senior research fellow sees her carry out research into the long term health of military veterans.

It is something Dr Bergman is passionate about — and for which she was awarded an OBE in the most recent New Year's Honours.

“Pre 1960, virtually all adult men served in the armed forces, whether that was during a war or as part of their national service,” Dr Bergman told me from her home in Edinburgh.

Important to break some misconceptions

“That meant, for a long time, there were lots of veterans around and it is only in recent years that the number started falling quite substantially.

“In the past, everyone understood about the impact serving could have as most people had a veteran in the family.

“Today, it is far fewer and so people are less understanding. “That is why it is important to do this research and to try and break some misconceptions.”

Paradoxically, according to Dr Bergman, the vast majority enjoyed their military service and did not end up with mental health problems.

But she aspired to utilise the records in a bid to find out more about the health of veterans. “People started to talk about Gulf War Syndrome and that raised the profile of military health, with excellent work going on to help serving personnel, too,” she said.

“However, we did not know what happened to veterans in the longer term and how their health compared with the wider population.

“We couldn't respond properly unless we had the science. It really fascinated me and felt worth pursuing.”

Dr Bergman's own passion for the army began at an early age. Raised in Leeds and Solihull, her great uncle, Sol Schottlander, was awarded the Military Medal in the First World War after serving as a Company Sergeant Major in the East Yorkshire Regiment.

And another great uncle, Captain Alec Schottlander, served in the 5th Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, and later helped establish the Hull branch of AJEX.

Having read medicine at the University of Birmingham, Dr Bergman joined the army — which must have been an unusual job for a Jewish girl in the 1970s.

A lot of banter and black humour

“It was fairly unusual to be a girl in the army, altogether,” she laughed.

“I had a great sense of adventure, though, and my father had served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, of which he had happy memories.”

Dr Bergman spent three years in Bielefeld, Germany, before returning to the UK.

She then headed back to Germany and spent two years working as an army GP in Hong Kong.

Next came Cyprus and then the Central American country of Belize, where she was commanding officer of the military hospital.

She recalled: “It was challenging because we were very remote and we had to be self sufficient.

“It was a small hospital with a small team. “There were a lot of clinical challenges, especially in a tropical environment, but I loved it.”

Never denying her Judaism, she also never experienced any antisemitism during her days in the armed forces.

Dr Bergman explained: “I think for all we hear about rather unpleasant stories of intolerance, the vast majority of people in the army accept people of different backgrounds.

“Often, as there are in difficult situations, there is a lot of banter and black humour, but it was never unkindly meant, nor was it targeted at anyone's faith.

“They were always good to me in the officers' mess and they made sure I had the right kind of food because I don't eat pig or shellfish.



IN THE JUNGLE: Dr Bergman in the military hospital in Belize

“I remember at my farewell dinner in Belize, I got up and told them they can now eat all the roast pork they wanted, which went down well!”

We couldn't respond without science

Dr Bergman also met her husband, Scotsman Ian Melville, in the army. He died in 2003.

She transferred to public health in 1996 and was appointed senior lecturer in preventive medicine at the Royal Army Medical College and also an honorary senior lecturer in public health and epidemiology at the University of Birmingham.

Appointed Army Parkes Professor of preventive medicine in 2007, she was a member of the Army Medical Services Research Ethics Committee, the Surgeon General's Research Strategy Group and the Army Scientific Advisory Committee. And Dr Bergman worked in the army's health policy unit at the Ministry of Defence before moving to Scotland where she was seconded to the Scottish Government as Military Medical Liaison Officer.

She retired from the army in 2012, finishing in the rank of colonel.

Dr Bergman completed a PhD study on the long term health of military veterans in Scotland in 2015.

And her thesis was downloaded more than 100 times by policy makers, service providers and veterans' charities in its first year after being made available online.

Dr Bergman is currently researching data on 78,000 veterans and 232,000 civilians, where she is comparing their health over a period of up to 60 years.

In her spare time she is an active member of the Heraldry Society of Scotland, where she has just completed a three year term as chairman.

And she has just completed a second term as deacon (chairman) of the Incorporation of Cordiners in Glasgow, a charity which supports education and people in need.

Dr Bergman is also a member of the Council of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts and served five years as honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Geological Society.

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Forthcoming Events

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society 2023-24 programme

SPEAKER/EVENT	DATE	Title/Description
Bernard Wasserstein	15 Oct 2023	Opening Talk by Bernard Wasserstein on <i>A Small Town in Ukraine: Krakowiec and the Storm of History</i> . In person.
Adam Cohen	29 Oct 2023	Adam Cohen on Hebrew manuscripts in Edinburgh archives. In person in the Centre for Research Collections at the University of Edinburgh's Main Library.
David Gilinsky	12 Nov 2023	David Gilinsky on Persian Jewish Poetry from the Middle Ages. In person.
Scottish Jewish Poetry and Music	26 Nov 2023	Scottish Jewish Poetry and Music with the Lit. & EJCC at Push the Boat Out festival at Summerhall. In person.
John Lahr	17 Dec 2023	Arthur Miller: American Witness. Zoom.
Ulrich Loening and Nathan Levy	14 Jan 2024	Ulrich Loening and Nathan Levy on Jews and Judaism and the environment. In person at Marchmont St Giles.
Burns Supper	28 Jan 2024	Cross-community Burns Supper.
Daniel Lines	11 Feb 2024	Daniel Lines, Antisemitism and the Left: The French Case in the Thirties and Forties. In person.
David Shulman	14 Apr 2024	David Shulman on recent developments in Israeli politics. Zoom.
Sir Martin Chamberlain	5 May 2024	Sir Martin Chamberlain, Jewishness and equality law in the UK. In person.

2023 – 24 Festivals

Rosh Hashanah:	Evening of Fri, Sep 15, 2023 – Evening of Sun, Sep 17, 2023
Yom Kippur:	Evening of Sun, Sep 24, 2023 – Evening of Mon, Sep 25, 2023
Succot:	Evening of Fri, Sep 29, 2023 – Evening of Fri, Oct 6, 2023
Shemini Atzeret:	Evening of Fri, Oct 6, 2023 – Evening of Sat, Oct 7, 2023
Simchat Torah:	Evening of Sat, Oct 7, 2023 – Evening of Sun, Oct 8, 2023
Chanukah:	Evening of Thu, Dec 7, 2023 – Evening of Fri, Dec 15, 2023
Tu B'Shvat:	Evening of Sun, January 2024 – Evening Thu, Jan 25, 2024
Purim:	Evening of Sat, Mar 23, 2024 – Evening of Sun, Mar 24, 2024
Pesach (Passover):	Evening of Mon, Apr 22, 2024 – Evening of Tue, Apr 30, 2024
Yom HaAtzmaut:	Evening of Mon, May 13, 2024 – Evening of Tue, May 14, 2024
Lag B'Omer:	Evening of Sat, May 25, 2024 – Evening of Sun, May 26, 2024
Shavu'ot:	Evening of Tue, Jun 11, 2024 – Evening of Thu, Jun 13, 2024
Tisha B'Av:	Evening of Mon, Aug 12, 2024 – Evening of Tue, Aug 13, 2024



CHANUKAH

SAVE THE DATE

Please save the following dates in your diary:

Saturday 9th December – 3rd night of Chanukah

Chanukah Dinner at Community Hall,
Salisbury Road

Sunday evening 10th December

– 4th night of Chanukah:

Annual public Chanukah
lighting ceremony in St Andrews
Square by kind invitation of
Chabad Edinburgh

More information about
these events will be
provided nearer the time.