



Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Charity contact information

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC048275

52 Granby Road, Edinburgh EH16 5PZ

Independent examiner: Brodie Petrie, Chartered Accountant, 36 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh EH10 4HJ

<https://jcc.scot>



edinburgh.jewish.dialogue

Charity Trustees

- Jane Ansell (Vice Chair)
- Benjamin Carey
- Hannah Handelman (from 29 July 2025)
- Adrian Harris (Treasurer)
- Ella Lambert (Secretary)
- Stephanie Mitchell
- Janet Mundy (Chair)
- Jonathan Seckl

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre's Purposes

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre's purposes are the advancement of Jewish culture and Judaism; the promotion of religious and racial harmony; the provision of recreational facilities and the organisation of recreational activities through the following:

- the management of a Jewish Cultural Centre located in Edinburgh
- the creation, presentation and promotion of Jewish cultural activity. throughout Scotland to both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences
- providing and supporting cultural activity, facilities and services for Jewish people throughout Scotland
- collaborating with other Scottish national Jewish organisations with similar or complementary aims
- collaborating with other Jewish communities in Scotland to promote Jewish arts and culture
- collaborating with other communities to increase understanding of Jewish arts and culture.
- fostering and supporting community cohesion throughout Scotland

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre's mission

EJCC will build and expand a broad spectrum of Jewish-themed cultural events aiming to:

- Attract Jews from all traditions and backgrounds, both observant and secular, as well as non-Jewish people wishing to engage with Jewish cultural activities.
- Foster an atmosphere of cultural belonging, embracing all Jewish people in our region.
- Develop a comprehensive and regular programme of activities spanning the full gamut of Jewish culture including music, dance, theatre, comedy, cinema, art, history, archaeology, philosophy, cuisine, science and humour, working alongside Jewish and non-Jewish partners.
- Place particular emphasis on working closely with young Jews, including those coming to our city to study and work, to encourage them to make Edinburgh and SE Scotland their home, thereby establishing an increasingly vibrant Jewish future for our city and region.
- Beginning as a "centre without walls", gradually develop infrastructure to maximise Edinburgh's attractiveness to Jews as a location of choice to live, learn, work and play.
- Raise resources to fund EJCC's activities, with a clear eye on sustainability.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre SCIO was established by Constitution agreed by OSCR 6 April 2018 and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 19 June 2018, updated 29 July 2025.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The individuals who signed the charity trustee declaration forms which accompanied the application for incorporation of the organisation shall be deemed to have been appointed by the members as charity trustees with effect from the date of incorporation of the organisation on 6 April 2018. New trustee appointments can be made by the board at any time from existing members of

the SCIO. The board may at any time appoint any non-member of the organisation to be a charity trustee either on the basis that he/she has been nominated by a body with which the organisation has close contact in the course of its activities *or* on the basis that he/she has specialist experience and/or skills which could be of assistance to the board.

A person who has served as a trustee for a period of 10 years shall automatically vacate office on expiry of that 10-year period and shall then not be eligible for re-election until a further 2 years have elapsed.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our reserves policy is to ensure that all financial commitments are covered for a minimum of 3 months.

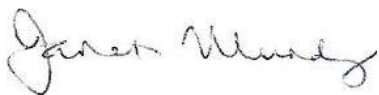
Chair's report

This year, we have continued our well-established *Learning for All*, *EJCC Live* and *Cooking Continents* programmes, our partnership events including the *Festival Open Day*, *Burns Supper* and *Gertrude Herzfeld Award Ceremony*, and one-off concerts, presentations and interviews. This year we also ran *Interfaith Learning for All*, a series of presentations each involving two speakers, one Jewish and one from another faith background. Our podcasts and YouTube videos have been well received and are gradually building up an online audience. All these events are in keeping with our values, particularly "the promotion of religious and racial harmony" in these troubled times.

EJCC operates in a challenging environment for Jews individually and collectively in the UK, and as trustees we are always mindful of our responsibility to ensure the safety of everyone attending our events. We consult with the Community Security Trust (CST) who protect British Jews from terrorism and antisemitism, and also our local Jewish partners, to mitigate the risks to people attending our events in the current climate. This may sometimes cause extra questions to be asked during registration or on arrival – please be patient with us if this happens to you as it's vital to protect everyone.

While our financial report for this year shows a loss, this is because much of the funding for the Herzfeld Prize in March 2026 was received in the previous financial year, which is not reflected in the receipts and payments accounts.

Many thanks to our trustees, members, volunteers and funders for all their work throughout the year to make this all happen. This includes the photographers whose images are included in this report – Eddy Maher and Judy Gilbert.



Janet Mundy
Chair

Achievements and Performance

We ran 24 events during the year, including four in partnership with other organisations. Over 600 people attended these events in person, with a further 166 livestreaming, and 810 picking up recordings or podcasts.

Rene Cassin event – 12th June 2025

Mia Hasenson-Gross, Executive Director of charity **René Cassin – the Jewish Voice for Human Rights**, spoke at a live event hosted by Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, in partnership with EJCC and Sukkat Shalom, Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community, about the vital work carried out by the organisation. She spoke about the UK's immigration detention system and the urgent need for safe and legal routes for refugees. Drawing on the Jewish experience of internment during WWII, this event reflected on how Britain once welcomed those fleeing persecution through schemes like the Kindertransport—and why such compassion is missing today.

She examined the harmful impact of indefinite detention, especially on women and LGBTQI+ refugees, and discussed humane alternatives that uphold dignity and human rights.

Festival Open Day – 10th August 2025



Celebrating its twentieth iteration in August 2025, the Festival Open Day once again played to a packed house at the community hall of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation (EHC). The Festival Open Day is a collaboration between EHC and EJCC and brings together Jewish performers from the fields of comedy, music and theatre as well as featuring work that contains Jewish-related themes and content.

In addition to the opportunity to showcase their work, the Open Day provides Jewish artists with a sense of solidarity, comfort and ease during troubling and challenging times. The cancelling of shows by Rachel Creeger and Philip Simon by their venue, simply because they were Jewish, shocked the community. We were delighted to have Rachel and Philip on the Open Day stage demonstrating their resilience and fortitude but more importantly, doing what they do best – making us laugh.

Our thanks to all of the artists from the UK, Europe and America who entertained us and to the volunteers who made the Open Day possible. A special thanks to the EHC catering team who did a wonderful job producing a superb bagel lunch.

Seeds of Hope Concert – 22nd October 2025



“Seeds of Hope” was a programme funded by the National Lottery Awards for All, to celebrate the contribution made by refugees to Scottish life and culture. Following a very successful concert in 2024, EJCC held a follow-up concert featuring Aref Ghorbani and Farzane Zamen, the two Iranian musicians who had played at the original concert, who not only played beautiful traditional and modern Iranian music, but also told their story of how they came to move to Scotland to escape the restrictions on performers (particularly women) in their native country. The concert was curated by Phil Alexander, who also accompanied Aref and Farzane on some of the pieces.

A live audience of around 50 people from diverse backgrounds attended this concert.

Manya Wilkinson – 7th November 2025



This event was held in partnership with the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society as part of the New College Festival of Books and Belief. David Neville interviewed author Manya Wilkinson about her book “Lublin”, which relates the often hilarious and sometimes heart-breaking story of three Jewish boys in the vanished world of early 20th century Eastern Europe travelling from their shtetl home to the larger town of Lublin to sell bristle brushes. “Lublin” won the 2025 Hawthornden Prize for Literature, 2025 Wingate Literary Prize and 2025 RSL Encore Prize.

Burns Supper – 25th January 2026



The Edinburgh Jewish community's Burns Supper is a cross-community event coordinated by the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre in partnership with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, Sukkat Shalom and Edinburgh University Jewish Society.

Expertly guided through the evening by David Ian Neville and performing to a full house, guests thrilled to Michael Elam's impassioned recital of Tam O'Shanter, Andrea Torres' dramatic Toast to the Haggis (with dirk in hand) wit and humour from Edinburgh University's Jewish Society's (JSoc) Benjamin and Maya along with beautiful music and song from Ella Lambert, Rabbi Mark Solomon and Phil Alexander. As a sign of our commitment to partnership, we even invited Fiona and Howard Brodie to join us from Glasgow to Address the Haggis!

Our thanks to all the participants and volunteers. A special thanks must go to Paul McPhail and Bruce Ballantyne who produced a wonderful meal and ran the kitchen and service with astonishing efficiency.

The Gertrude Herzfeld Prize – 8th March 2026



The fourth biennial Gertrude Herzfeld Prize took place at The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh on International Women's Day 8th March 2026.

The Herzfeld Prize was created by the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre in 2020 with the support of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine of Edinburgh University. These founding partners were joined in 2026 by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Our thanks go to all our partners for their support.

The Prize honours and highlights the career of Dr Gertrude Herzfeld (1890-1981), a pioneering paediatric surgeon in Edinburgh and only the second female Fellow of the College. A proud Jewish woman and the daughter of immigrant parents, she overcame significant challenges in advancing her career.

Following a call for nominations and a review by an expert panel, the 2026 Prize was awarded to Dr Rachel Yehuda PhD. Dr Yehuda is the Chemers Neustein Family Professor of Trauma and Resilience at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. Dr Yehuda was honoured for her world-leading research on understanding how the effects of trauma can transmit biologically beyond cataclysmic events to the next generation.

In a development for 2026, the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, created an award for a student who had to overcome comparable challenges to those faced by Dr Herzfeld. We were delighted to present this inaugural award to Sevgi Erkan.

We believe that Gertrude and all our prizewinners to date and to come will act as an inspiration to all women striving to make a career in medicine and the medical sciences.

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre *LIVE*

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre *Live* is an ongoing series of interviews and events produced on zoom. The audience is on Zoom and the event is usually recorded and made available as a podcast (audio version) and as a YouTube video.

Events in the period 2025-26 included the following:

Fiona Frank

My Jewish Journey – 28th April

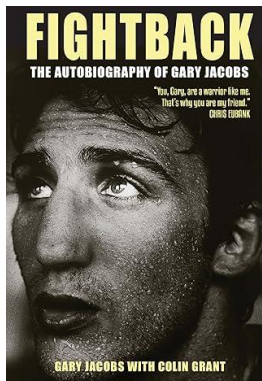
Hannah Frank – 16th June



Former projects and outreach officer for the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (since renamed the Jewish Council for Scotland) marked her retirement by undertaking a 14-month trip through the Americas, and gave two presentations for EJCC on her many experiences. The first focussed on the Jewish communities she discovered in Brazil, the USA and Canada, and in the second Fiona related the Brazilian journey of the art of Fiona's aunt, Glasgow artist Hannah Frank (1908-2008), in connection with Brazilian artist and engraver Artur Soar.

Gary Jacobs – 9th September 2025

A live interview with retired boxer Gary Jacobs and journalist Colin Grant



To mark the publication of ***FIGHTBACK***, the life story of Jewish boxer Gary Jacobs, David Neville interviewed Gary and journalist Colin Grant who co-wrote the book.

Gary has been described as the greatest Jewish boxer of the past half century by the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Glasgow-born Jacobs was a warrior from his early childhood. As a professional boxer he won the European, Commonwealth, British and Scottish Welterweight titles. After a glittering career his life spiralled downwards out of control, hitting rock bottom. Only then did he do what he does best...fight back. Gary's demons kept coming in different shapes and

sizes. One by one they were overcome. And yet, as he grows older, he knows there are still more battles to be won. As a sports journalist, Colin Grant was the first to interview Gary in the early stages of his career and they've been friends for many years.

The EJCC Live interview covered Gary's life and career and also explored how Colin facilitated writing the book with Gary. The event was made available as an audio podcast and was also made available on YouTube.

David Ian Neville – 4th December 2025

Journalist Colin Grant in conversation with playwright and director, David Ian Neville.

At the request of journalist Colin Grant the tables were turned on EJCC's regular presenter and interviewer, David Ian Neville.

David has worked in theatre, radio and television as a director, producer and writer. In this in-depth interview David talked about his training in drama and an overview of his career. Beginning in touring theatre in Scotland he went on to write for television and radio, winning awards for his theatre and television work. Several of his plays have had a Jewish theme, including a TV play set in a Glasgow synagogue, a theatre play set in a Jewish bakery and another about Refuseniks. For 25 years he worked for the BBC producing and directing radio drama.

This interview has been made available as an audio podcast and also available on YouTube.

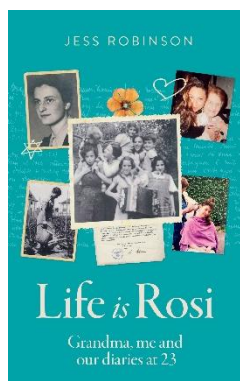
Chanukah Podcast – 14th December 2025



To celebrate the Jewish festival of Chanukah, Ella Lambert and David Neville presented a short YouTube video giving a recap of EJCC events over the past year in words and images. It was also an opportunity to send Chanukah greetings to subscribers to the organisation newsletter and to colleagues in other organisations.

Jess Robinson – 16th March 2026

A live interview with comedian and impressionist Jess Robinson



David Neville interviewed Jess Robinson about her new book: **Life is Rosi**.

"Life is Rosi: Grandma, Me and our Diaries at 23" is a fresh and funny family history following the lives of comedian and impressionist Jess Robinson and her German Jewish grandmother, Rosi.

When Grandma Rosi was 23, she was expelled from Nazi Germany and interned as a refugee in Zbąszyń, Poland. She used her diary to document every detail of her experiences, from being deported by the Gestapo to stolen conversations with her first love.

When Jess was 23, she was living in London, struggling with a fledgling acting career, a failed love life and rock-bottom self-esteem. She used her diary to rant about her mum and track her daily calories. Well, it was the noughties...

During the interview Jess gave an insight into researching and writing the book. It explored how her Grandma's traumatic experiences have had an effect on her mother and aunt and indeed herself.

This interview has been made available as an audio podcast and also available on YouTube.

Learning for All

Now in its seventh successful year, the **Learning for All** programme continues to reach a global audience through hybrid Zoom sessions. The series remains dedicated to making the Torah accessible to everyone while demonstrating its deep relevance to modern life. By featuring both live and remote presenters, we bring expertise to our community from all corners of the world.

Key Objectives

- **Core Concepts:** Introducing baseline Jewish concepts, classical sources, and essential historical/cultural context.
- **Interactive Discussion:** Fostering meaningful group dialogue, debate, and interactive source work.
- **Comparative Perspectives:** Exploring how traditional teachings compare with other classical and contemporary theories.
- **Practical Impact:** Examining how individual choices actively shape our personal lives, communities, and broader society.

Speaker Highlights

This year featured a diverse group of presenters covering a rich array of topics:

- **Rabbi Jeff Berger:** *Discovering the Divine in the Hidden*
- **Sybil Sheridan:** *Moses's Cushite Wife and Miriam's Leprosy*
- **Rabbi Isaac Ansell Forsyth:** *Jewish Spirituality: Finding Divine Light in Everyday Life*
- **Mark Creeger:** *The Upward Spiral of Time*

Whether attending in person or online, our participants continue to embrace the opportunity to think differently about the Torah and its impact on daily life.

Interfaith Learning for All



Interfaith Learning for All was a programme supported by Westhill Endowment with the primary aim of increasing opportunities for interfaith dialogue and understanding of different faiths' perspectives on contemporary themes. We planned six events in total, each involving two presenters from different faith backgrounds, both a live and Zoom audience. Each event was also recorded for EJCC's YouTube channel.

The first five events were:

- 4th June 25 **Ann Conway-Jones and Rabbi Margaret Jacobi:** *Reading the Bible: Meaning and Truth*
- 28th July 25 **Rev Gareth Jones and Rabbi David Rose:** *Divine Revelation and Human Response: Covenant and Words in Deuteronomy*
- 17th September 25 **Rabbi Natan Levy and Kamran Shezad:** *Caring for Creation: A Jewish-Muslim Dialogue on Ecology*
- 22nd January 26 **Revd Dr Scott McKenna and Rabbi Mark Solomon:** *To Dwell in Darkness: Light and Darkness in Jewish and Christian Mysticism*
- 9th February 26 **Karen Maxwell and Ravinder Kaur Nijjar:** *Actions, not Words: Women of Faith Working Together*

A total of 91 people attended these events in person, with a further 59 participating online. One unexpected outcome was the large number of people who watched recordings on Zoom or YouTube – 471.

53% of participants were from a Jewish background, 36% Christian, 2% Muslim, 1% Sikh and 8% other or unknown.

Cooking Continents



Cooking Continents is a kosher cookery series that brings us Jewish cuisines from around the world. Those joining in-person have the opportunity to taste the amazing meals created by the chefs themselves, while others can follow along alongside the recipes from home. Ingredient and recipe sheets are circulated in advance of the sessions for those who want to cook along. The sessions are also uploaded to EJCC's YouTube channel where it has proved very popular.

This year's sessions were:

11th November 2025: **Keith Warshow** *Vietnamese Sweet Almond Curry and Cavolo Nero, White Beans and Tomatoes*

6th December 2025: **Nathaniel George** *Chanukah Dishes from Kerala*

7th January 2026: **Paul McPhail and Bruce Ballantyne** *Scottish Jewish Cuisine including Vegetarian Haggis*

Fundraising

We received £1,068 in individual donations during the year. We are grateful to these individuals for their support:

- Professor Joe Goldblatt and Nancy Lynner
- Harriet Lyall

And many other anonymous donors.

We are also grateful to the following funders for grants towards our work:

- National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All
- Netherlee & Clarkston Charitable Trust
- Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Shores Charitable Trust
- Westhill Endowment

EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO

SC048275

TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO
FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 13 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention other than disclosed below

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Brodie Petrie

Chartered Accountant, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

36 Bruntsfield Place
Edinburgh
EH10 4HJ

Dated: 22 July 2026

EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1 April 2025 TO 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Receipts				
Donations	5,988	4,266	10,254	16,551
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	2,681	-	2,681	2,023
Total receipts	8,669	4,266	12,935	18,574
Payments				
Cost of charitable activities	6,361	9,247	15,608	13,042
Governance costs	360	-	360	336
Total payments	6,721	9,247	15,968	13,378
Surplus/(Deficit) for period	1,948	(4,981)	(3,033)	5,196

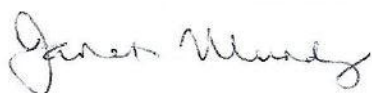
EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR 1 April 2025 TO 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Bank and cash in hand				
Opening balances	17,230	7,784	25,014	19,818
Surplus/(deficit) for year	1,948	(4,981)	(3,033)	5,196
Other movements in reserves	45	(45)	-	-
Closing balances	19,223	2,758	21,981	25,014

Approved by the Trustees on 21st July 2026 and signed on their behalf by



Janet Mundy
Chair

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

2. Funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year the charity operated four restricted funds as set out in Note 3. Where a project was completed with a small unspent balance, the remaining funds were transferred to unrestricted funds.

3. Movement in restricted funds

	Balance b/f £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Seeds of Hope (National Lottery)	1,478	-	(1,455)	(23)	-
Interfaith Learning for All (Westhill)	-	3,000	(2,812)	-	188
Herzfeld Prize	5,806	766	(4,002)	-	2,570
Live Events (Netherlee & Clarkston)	500	500	(978)	(22)	-
Total restricted funds	7,784	4,266	(9,247)	(45)	2,758

Restricted payments include a share of the administrator's salary allocated to funded projects together with direct project costs. Transfers represent unspent balances on completed projects released to unrestricted funds.

4. Related party transactions

No Trustees received remuneration for their services and no expenses were reimbursed during the year.