



Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Charity contact information

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC048275

30/8 Forbes Road, Edinburgh EH10 4ED

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 (from 4th November 2024)
- 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
- 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 20 July 2022.

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 8 years shall automatically vacate office on expiry of that 8-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

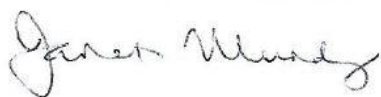
This was a successful year for EJCC, continuing our long-running programmes and introducing new ones, including partnerships with other Jewish organisations in Edinburgh.

The Israel/Gaza conflict has created new challenges for Jewish individuals and organisations throughout the world, and we have been working to break down barriers between ourselves and our non-Jewish neighbours. This included our "Seeds of Hope" programme, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All, which examined the positive role played by immigrants to Scotland since the nineteenth century through an inspiring concert and follow-up writers' workshop. Our annual Festival Open Day, in partnership with Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, provided a much-needed safe haven for Jewish performers at the Fringe, while our other programmes covered salient topics including anti-Semitism, family therapy and food.

Nearly 500 people attended our events in person during the year, with a further 800 following online, either livestreamed or recorded via Zoom, our YouTube channel or podcast platforms.

Moving forward, we will continue working to establish relationships with the wider community. In times of global tension related to the conflict in Israel/Gaza, we have a strong commitment to break down barriers, demonstrate our rich cultural traditions and Jewish contributions to life in Scotland and beyond.

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, Judy Gilbert and Robin Mair.



Janet Mundy
Chair

Achievements and Performance

May-June 2024 – Cooking Continents



We ran a series of three international cookery workshops introducing people to the culinary tastes and customs of Kerala, India, Israel and Greece. Participants not only learned how to prepare food from these cuisines, but those present sampled the delicious freshly cooked platters. Others were able to follow the recipes online, and we produced recipe sheets for anyone to try out these dishes.

18th August 2024 – Festival Open Day

Since its creation by David Neville, the Festival Open Day has become a cornerstone of Jewish cultural life at the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe. Now jointly produced by the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation (EHC) and EJCC, with David Neville joined by Adrian Harris as curators, the event attracts performers from across the 3,000-plus shows staged each August. So well established is its reputation that artists now approach the organisers seeking a place in the programme. The 2024 Open Day was particularly appreciated in the light of the increased challenges to openly Jewish performers since the start of the Israel/Gaza conflict.

The 2024 Open Day welcomed its largest audience to date, with over 160 attendees, including many who travelled from Glasgow. The afternoon opened with the Firelight Trio, featuring Phil Alexander, Gavin Marwick and Ruth Morris, whose performance – and impromptu nyckelharpa workshop by Ruth – set a lively tone.

Theatre highlights included *Long Distance* by rising Israeli playwright Eli Zuzovsky, a moving queer love story performed by newcomers Lewis Merrylees and Jonathan Rubin; *Revenge: After the Levoyah* by Nick Cassenbaum, an irreverent comedy tackling antisemitism; and *Do This One Thing For Me*, Jane Elias's poignant reflection on her Holocaust-survivor father.



The audience was also treated to Daniel Cainer's virtual performance of his song *Welcome to Edinburgh*, continuing his long association with the event.

And, of course, no Open Day would be complete without the EHC kitchen team's much-loved bagel lunch – once again delivered with flair and attention to every dietary need.

The Festival Open Day remains a celebration of talent, heritage and community – a place where Jewish voices are heard, shared and valued at the heart of the world's biggest arts festival.

Other memorable contributions included Julie Yammanee's comedic turn in *I Wish My Life Were a Musical* accompanied by the show's creator Alexander S Bermange; Jonathan Salt's powerful portrayal of Doctor Janusz Korczak protecting children in the Warsaw Ghetto in *Confessions of a Butterfly*; and stand-up Rachel Creeger's hilarious tricks and wheezes to outwit her teenage children from her show *Ultimate Jewish Mother*.



28th October 2024 – *Seeds of Hope* Concert



The ***Seeds of Hope*** concert, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All, wove individual stories of immigration to Scotland over the last 130 years with music, poetry, prose and imagery. The main stories featured were:

- Abraham Radutski, a Jewish refugee from Kyiv, who arrived in Glasgow aged 17 in the 1890s. His story was presented by David Neville (who also wrote the script for the concert), Michael Elam and Ellen Galford. This included his poetry, in both Yiddish and English, biographical details and photographs, all based on research carried out by Dr Phil Alexander, who curated the music for the concert and performed along with Greg Lawson, Aref Ghorbani and Farzane Zamen.



- Henry Wuga MBE, a refugee who escaped Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport in his late teens. A video presentation made late in his life (he died aged 100) was complemented by a live interview with his daughter, Gillian Field, who has continued his practice of attending schools and other events to raise awareness of the Holocaust through his life story.
- Agnes Isaacs, who fled with her family from Hungary following the 1956 revolution and now runs the Association of Jewish Refugees in Scotland.
- Dmytro Paliienko, who escaped Ukraine following the Russian invasion in 2022 aged 19 whose photographs of his journey through Europe to the UK featured in the concert. Both Dmytro and his host Stephanie Mitchell, who helped him negotiate all the bureaucracy needed to access a photography degree at Napier University, were interviewed on stage during the concert.



Many of the performers had their own migration stories, including musicians Aref Ghorbani and Farzane Zamen, who escaped the repressive regime in Iran.

The concert was performed to an audience of 100 (a full house) at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in central Edinburgh as part of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival. The concert was also recorded for EJCC's YouTube channel and has been viewed over 180 times.



Tickets were promoted through the Storytelling Centre and the concert attracted a diverse audience in terms of age and ethnicity. At a time of huge tension in the Middle East, the concert served as a powerful reminder that forced migration affects people throughout the world, and the positive contribution to Scottish life and culture made by refugees across the centuries.

Seeds of Hope workshop 16 February 2025

A follow-up writers' workshop was held at the Southside Community Centre in Newington, Edinburgh, offering 11 participants the opportunity to start writing their own migration stories. The workshop was led by Dr Rodge Glass, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde. Most attendees were researching and writing about their own families coming to Scotland from regions as diverse as Eastern Europe, Northern Ireland and Southern Asia, often escaping war and repression.



Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre *LIVE*

Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre *Live* is an ongoing series of Zoom interviews and events. Most events are also recorded and made available as a podcast (audio version) and as a YouTube video.

Events in the period 2024-25 included the following:-

7th July 2024 – Hugo Rifkind in conversation with David Ian Neville.

Times journalist Hugo Rifkind discussed his new novel, *Rabbits*. The novel, set in 1990s Edinburgh and Perthshire, follows the story of Tommo who has just moved to a prestigious boarding school. A product of the middle class, and with new-found independence thrust upon him, he finds himself invited into fading crumbling country houses. It's the early nineties and the elite he is now surrounded by is struggling for relevance. Alienated from the mainstream, and running low on inherited wealth, his peers have retreated into snobbery and fatalism. In this world, half remembered traditions mix with decadence and an awful lot of small dead animals. And sometimes, not just animals.

4th September 2024 - Author Rodge Glass in conversation with David Ian Neville.

Rodge Glass discussed his new book *Joshua in The Sky*. Rodge's nephew Joshua died the same day he was born, from a blood condition they both share. *Joshua in the Sky* charts the five years around Joshua's life and death as Rodge attempts to make sense of this loss. A family memoir and a memorial to a short life, it asks the questions: Whose life deserved to be remembered? And how?

During the interview Rodge discussed the medical condition that both he and his nephew and other members of his family shared. He talked about his guilt in not getting tested sooner. He also talked about his Jewish identity and his changing relationship to his background and religion.

7th November 2024 – Author Jenni Daiches in conversation with David Ian Neville

This was the opening event for the 2024 New College Festival of Books and Belief. The event was sponsored by the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre and the Edinburgh Jewish Studies Research Group at the University of Edinburgh and chaired by Hannah Holtschneider.

Jenni Daiches discussed her new novel *Somewhere Else*. Covering multiple generations, it explores womanhood and Judaeo-Scottish experience across two World

Wars, the creation of Israel and the fall of the Berlin Wall. It is a novel that explores today's most difficult and urgent questions, not least of which: how to find identity in displacement.



20th November 2024 – Author Scott Seligman in conversation with Stephanie Mitchell

Scott Seligman gave a very entertaining introduction to his book *The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902*, when 3,000 Jewish immigrant women in Manhattan protested against rising kosher meat prices, targeting butcher shops and clashing with police. Their collective action against the Beef Trust cartel successfully challenged powerful vested corporate interests, setting a pattern for future generations.

20th March 2025 – Author J. David Simons in conversation with David Ian Neville

J. David Simons discussed his new novel, *The Interview*, which is set against a vivid tapestry of locations including New York City, Los Angeles, Mexico and New Mexico. Simons invites readers to delve into the enigmatic life of his protagonist, Cal Drummond, the rise and fall of his meteoric fame as well as his stormy relationships. A once-celebrated TV talk-show host, Cal now lives a life of quiet retreat in a cabin in the woods somewhere in Georgia. But when he discovers the President of the United States has died, he agrees to one final, probing interview about his life and work, forcing him to confront long-buried truths about his professional triumphs and personal failures. The novel paints a portrait of a man wrestling with his past while searching for a path forward.

Learning for All

The very successful 6-year series Learning for All runs hybrid Zoom sessions reaching an audience from all round the world. Its aim is always to make The Torah accessible to everyone, and to show how relevant it is to living our lives today. Some presenters are live and others on Zoom, giving their expertise from different corners of the world.

Our objectives in these sessions are:

- Exposure to the baseline Jewish concepts and sources on a topic (and beyond).
- Group discussion on the topic.
- Sometime inside the actual sources themselves, with some historical/cultural context.
- Some challenges and debates within the topic (re-enacted by the group).

- How they compare to other classical and contemporary views or theories.
- How choices of behaviour actively impact individuals, groups and society.

Events during the year included:

- *The Shavuot Revolution* – Rav Isaac Ansell Forsyth
- *Family Therapy for Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Esau* – Alma Reisel
- *Food for the Soul* – Rabbi Yonatan Razel
- *Martin Luther King and the Jews* – Mark Creeger
- *Exploring Tu B'Shvat and our Relationship to Plant Life* – Sarah Beth Neville

And, of course, we always enjoy not only the speaker but the discussion which often lasts well after the official session has ended energised by the speaker and the refreshments.

Auld Lang Schmooze – Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre's podcast

During the year, we continued producing podcasts, some linked to our events, and others independent. These included:

May 24 – Herzfeld Prize video and podcast

The Herzfeld Prize Awards ceremony took place at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh at the end of the previous financial year. Dr. Mardge Cohen, a prominent figure in HIV advocacy and women's health for over 45 years who serves as the Medical Director of Women Equity in AIDS Care and Treatment Rwanda (WE-ACTx) and practises at Boston Health Care for the Homeless, received the Third Biennial Herzfeld Prize. However, the video and podcast of the event were released in May 2024 including brief interviews with Dr Cohen and others and excerpts from the ceremony. We are very grateful to Sabine Carter of Creation Editor for the production of the video. The podcast provided information about the background to the prize and more detailed excerpts from the ceremony.

24th September 24 – The Student Schmooze

This special back-to-school podcast was designed as a helpful and friendly guide for Jewish students arriving in Edinburgh. Hosted by David Ian Neville and Ella Lambert, the episode featured voices from the University of Edinburgh Jewish Society (JSoc), who shared tips and insights about Jewish life in the city. Listeners heard about local synagogues, kosher food options, and High Holiday services, along with personal stories of how students stay connected to their faith and traditions while at university. The episode aimed to welcome new students and show them that a strong and inclusive Jewish community awaits them in Edinburgh.

27th December 24 – Transatlantic Latke Making!

Just in time for Chanukah, this light-hearted episode followed Ella Lambert in the UK and Hannah Handelman in the US as they made latkes together over a video call. They discussed different family recipes and the memories tied to them, comparing British and American Chanukah traditions. As they cooked in real time, they reflected on how food connects Jewish communities across borders. The episode offered a warm and intimate glimpse into how two friends celebrate the same festival an ocean apart, one crispy potato pancake at a time.



Fundraising

We received £6,844 in individual donations during the year, including £5,805 from American donors through the British Schools and Universities Foundation and £1,039 from other individuals. We are grateful to these individuals for their support:

- Dr Hynda Klenmain and Nolan Danchik
- Adam Leven
- Michael Leven

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
- Ralph Slater Foundation
- Scottish Book Trust
- Shoresch Charitable Trust

EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO
SC048275

TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 which are set out on Accounts Pages 3 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 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 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 Regulationshave 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: 1 August 2025

EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR 1 April 2024 TO 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
Donations	1,539	15,012	16,551	7,303
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	2,023	-	2,023	3,156
Total receipts	<u>3,562</u>	<u>15,012</u>	<u>18,574</u>	<u>10,459</u>
Payments				
Cost of charitable activities	5,813	7,229	13,042	16,053
Governance costs	336	-	336	330
Total payments	<u>6,149</u>	<u>7,229</u>	<u>13,378</u>	<u>16,383</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for period	<u>(2,587)</u>	<u>7,783</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>(5,924)</u>

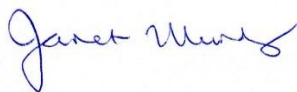
EDINBURGH JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE SCIO

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR 1 April 2024 TO 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank and cash in hand				
Opening balances	15,464	4,354	19,818	25,742
Surplus/(deficit) for year	(2,587)	7,783	5,196	(5,924)
Other movements in reserves	4,353	(4,353)	-	-
Closing balances	<u>17,230</u>	<u>7,784</u>	<u>25,014</u>	<u>19,818</u>

Approved by the Trustees on ...29th July 2025..... 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)

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. Restricted fund expenditure in the year relates to architectural concept design.

3. Related party transactions

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