



Glasgow Necropolis, Jewish Enclosure

## 200 Years on... an uncelebrated milestone

Recent research by Michael Tobias indicates that the first synagogue was opened in Glasgow 200 years ago, about 1821, in the High Street flat of Moses Lisenheim. Unfortunately, there are no surviving Jewish community records pre-1850s, other than the tombstones in the city's oldest Jewish cemetery, the Jewish Enclosure in the Glasgow Necropolis, in use 1832-1855.



# Scottish Jewish Archives Centre Newsletter

Volume 33, No. 2, Autumn 2021

### Recent 200 Club winners

**May 2021:** Harvey Kaplan (£25),  
**June 2021:** Susan Carr (£100);  
Alma Wolfson (£25),  
**July 2021:** Marilyn Silverdale (£25),  
**August 2021:** Hilary Mason (£25)

### Archives Centre Open Day

Sunday 24th October, 2-4pm

- booking essential -

[www.trybooking.co.uk/BHHP](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/BHHP)

### Dr Kenneth Collins

Wednesday 27th October, 7.30 pm - at the  
Archives Centre!

Scottish launch of his new book about his  
family history, 'Zev's Children - An  
International Jewish Family.'

Admission Free

this event will also be streamed online - To book:  
[www.sjac.org.uk/book-launch-wednesday-27th-october/](http://www.sjac.org.uk/book-launch-wednesday-27th-october/)

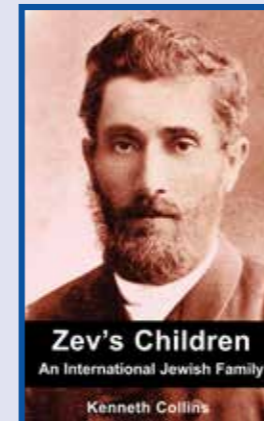
### From the Director...

The Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre and the Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre opened in July and have already been attracting new visitors to Garnethill and the Archives Centre (see below). It's great to see activity slowly starting up again on site.

It was a busy summer. In June, I spoke (virtually) at an international conference on 'Jewish Immigration in Myth and Reality - a conference to uncover the stories and explore the truths,' and also gave a presentation to the Common Thread Vision interfaith group. Also in June, Mark Gardner of CST spoke to us via Zoom on 'The Swings and Roundabouts of Modern Antisemitism,' while in August, David Cohen looked back on 'a varied life.'



David Cohen



Throughout the summer, new material continued to be acquired by the Archives Centre, including some very significant documents (see below).

As we go to press, our next speaker on 17th October is Edinburgh-born journalist Hugo Rifkind (son of former Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm), whose subject is 'From Princes Street to Fleet Street.' And on 27th October at 7.30pm, our chairman, Dr Kenneth Collins, will speak at the Scottish launch of his new book about his family history, 'Zev's Children - An International Jewish Family' (admission free).



Hugo Rifkind

Harvey Kaplan

## Amazon Smile - Help support the Archives Centre!

If you currently purchase goods through Amazon, please consider using AmazonSmile and nominating the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre as your preferred charity. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC030542>

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, Returns and Shipping costs) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation selected by customers. In order to browse or shop through AmazonSmile, you must first select an organisation. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC030542> These small amounts will mean a great deal to the Archives.

### Leaving a Legacy

Legacies to SJAC are vital to our work. They allow us to continue collecting and preserving our collections for future generations. Email us to request a copy of our Legacy Leaflet.

### Friends of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre

Please support the Archives Centre  
by becoming our Friend!

Membership is £15 per year,  
couples £25, 11 years for the price  
of 10 (£150). You will receive a  
newsletter twice yearly.

Contact Howard Brodie  
at [info@sjac.org.uk](mailto:info@sjac.org.uk)



### The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre

is housed in Garnethill Synagogue, Scotland's  
oldest, opened in 1879 at 129 Hill Street,  
Glasgow G3 6UB

The Archives Centre is currently open by  
appointment only (telephone 0141 332 4911)  
Check out the Archives website at  
[www.sjac.org.uk](http://www.sjac.org.uk) - e-mail: [info@sjac.org.uk](mailto:info@sjac.org.uk)

## Update on the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre, incorporating the Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre - Kerry Patterson, Heritage Centre Manager

The Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre officially launched on the 27th July 2021, with the launch of our website [www.sjhc.org.uk](http://www.sjhc.org.uk). The culmination of many years of hard work and planning, this joint initiative by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre and Garnethill Synagogue Preservation Trust has now begun to welcome visitors. The weekly guided tour service, led by a team of volunteer guides, began running in mid-August, with tours bookable on the new website. By the end of September, we had welcomed 28 visitors on weekday tours. Although we were unable to have an official launch event, we have enjoyed welcoming some of our funders for individual visits, including the Architectural Heritage Trust and CST. We have also enjoyed visits from Glasgow Lord Provost Philip Braat, Kaukab Stewart MSP, Patrick Grady MP and Alison Thewliss MP. We've even been mentioned in the Scottish Parliament!

On Sunday 19th September, we were delighted to participate in Glasgow's annual Doors Open Day Festival. Due to Covid and security concerns, instead of being fully open as in previous years, we ran guided tours for groups throughout the day, and were able to show 63 people round during the course of the day.

The next area of the service to be developed is our school visits. Our volunteer facilitators have been back on the premises, getting trained up on the new Learning Kits, developed using material from the Archives and we hope to welcome schools soon. Before the end of the year, we are also planning to launch our Heritage Trail about refugee-era Garnethill.



Doors open visitors



Welcoming Patrick Grady MP  
and Kaukab Stewart MSP

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## Govanhill Jewish Walk

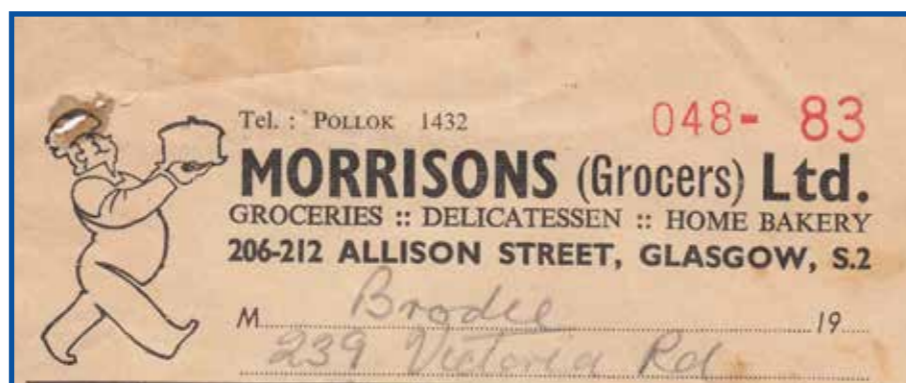
One of the highlights of this summer's Govanhill International Festival was the Archives Centre's ever-popular guided walk around the Govanhill and Crosshill area, looking at the history of the once vibrant Jewish community of the area. Around 30 participants were led by Harvey Kaplan and Fiona Brodie, assisted by Deborah Haase.

The area has been home to a number of immigrant groups over the years, including Irish, Jewish, Asian, East European and Roma immigrants. For most of the 20th century, there was a strong Jewish community in the area, with synagogues, educational organisations, social groups, youth groups and kosher shops, such as Morrisons, Watermans and Godfreys. Using census records, examples were given of Jewish families who once lived in the area.

The tour started at 355 Langside Road, just before Queen Mary Avenue - where the original Langside Hebrew Congregation was holding cheder classes and Shabbat services in shop premises from 1914. Jewish connections in Queen Mary Avenue, Albert Road and Dixon Avenue were explored, including the former Crosshill and Progressive synagogues and the JLGB hall. Other streets with Jewish associations included Alison Street, Annette Street, Westmoreland Street, Calder Street and Victoria Road. The walkers stopped to reminisce at the former Scout Hall in Queens Drive and ended at the former Langside Synagogue in Niddrie Road.



Govanhill walk



Morrison's



Jewish Nursery, Queen Mary Avenue

## A Shawlands Attic Reveals its Treasures

Earlier this year, we were invited to sift through the contents of an attic in Bellwood Street in Shawlands, being cleared out by the house's new owners. The results included some of the most important finds of Scottish Jewish records in the last ten years or more.

We were amazed and delighted to retrieve a huge amount of records relating to Glasgow Jewish Students' Society, including five minute books covering the period 1928-1956, correspondence, membership records and early copies of Hadardar Magazine from the 1950s. There were also membership cards from Edinburgh University Jewish Society from 1949-1958.

Other treasures included:

- concert programme from the first Glasgow Zionist group Chovevi Zion, 1894
- concert programmes and syllabi from Glasgow Jewish Literary & Social Society, 1893-1911
- Glasgow Jewish Volunteers: order of Chanukah Service, Garnethill, 1899
- South Portland Street Synagogue: Order of consecration service, 1901
- Glasgow Jewish Institute: guest list, dinner of opening of Institute, 1935
- Renfrewshire Jewish Boys' Club: minutes, correspondence, 1956-1957
- United Jewish Youth Movement: minutes, 1939

There were also correspondence, annual reports etc from Glasgow New Synagogue, Glasgow Young Zionist Organisation, JNF Glasgow, Jewish Old Age Home, Queens Park Hebrew Congregation, Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, Glasgow Association of Youth Organisations, Glasgow Board of Shechitah, Habonim, Glasgow Jewish Hospital Fund & Sick Visiting Association, Friends of the

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Glasgow Rabbinical College, Children & Youth Aliyah, Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society, Glasgow Jewish Board of Guardians, Giffnock & Newlands Hebrew Congregation, WIZO, Joint Palestine Appeal, Talmud Torah & Board of Education and JLB.

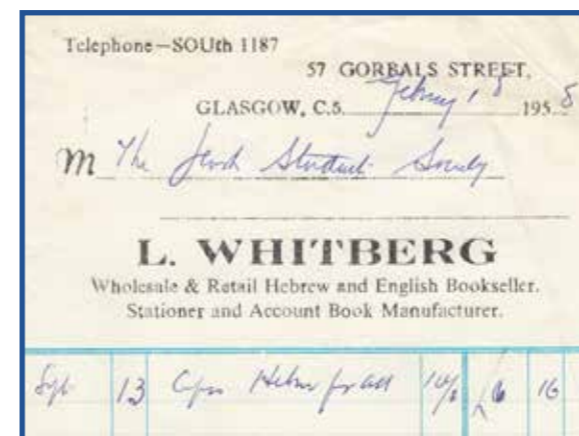
The moral of this story is that everyone should check their attics for Scottish Jewish records and memorabilia. You never know what you will find!



South Portland Street consecration, 1901



Students magazine Hadardar, 1954



Receipt from Whitberg's Jewish bookshop in the Gorbals, 1958