

GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



September 2021

A Letter from the President

As Rosh Hashanah and the High Holy days approach the Rep Council are busy working for the Glasgow Jewish Community. In November the COP26 environment conference will be held in Glasgow and we have planned various events for the community during this international event (see below right).

Covid 19 has presented unprecedented challenges and bereavements in the past year, but these have brought the community together as never before. Harmonious community relationships with other faith groups are most important and we continue to work on these following antisemitic incidents at a few schools in June.

In addition, we have held Zoom discussions with Nicola Sturgeon and Douglas Ross recently and just last week we welcomed the SNP's Westminster leader, Ian Blackford, to Giffnock Shul, along with local MP, Kirsten Oswald. Earlier I met Glasgow's Lord Provost Philip Braat, along with Tim Lovat (see below).

Let's hope the year ahead will be easier for Glasgow's Jewish Community and we wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year. *Shana Tovah.*



Susan Siegel is leading our preparations for COP26 which involves gathering information about Jewish delegates and how we can welcome them.

For example, we're producing an information leaflet for them containing details of Jewish resources like shuls and Kosher eating places and activities in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

We are also planning an Eco Shabbat supported by Scotland's synagogues who will be encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices.

COP26 coincides with Inter-Faith Week and we are taking part in that as well. More details on our website.

Farewell to Danielle Bett

This summer I left my post as the Jewish Leadership Council's Scotland Manager, after three and a half years in the post. Working with and for the Jewish community in Scotland was a pleasure and an honour. I'm thankful to the JLC for the opportunity to learn and grow, and to the Glasgow Jewish Rep Council and SCoJeC for welcoming me so warmly.

Our community came together through so many different periods of challenges – from the political to the pandemic. We so often get caught up in what more we ought to do, what more we could have done, that we forget all the achievements.

The Glasgow Jewish Representative Council has worked strenuously to try and diversify its board and widen its reach in the community – as well as to work with other communities. I think this is something that ought to be celebrated and I hope that diversity and growth continue to be a focus.

I'd like to thank and congratulate Paul Edlin for his friendship and leadership. It was a pleasure to be a part of delivering incredible events such as hosting Gordon Brown, or the celebration of Glasgow Jewry at the city chambers.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Nicola and Evy, who were co-presidents when I first started. It was inspiring to see strong female leadership in our community. Our community may be relatively small, but our strength comes in our delivery and hard work.

Finally, a warm welcome to Colin Grant who has joined the GJRC team. I'm sure that you'll be welcomed as warmly as I was. Thank you to the Jewish Leadership Council for all that you do for Jewish communities across the country. I look forward to keeping in touch with the friends I've made over the years.

Please, don't be a stranger.



Ian Blackford and Kirsten Oswald with Rabbi Lemberger at Giffnock Shul last week, with Paul Edlin, Ephraim Borowski and Philip Mendelsohn looking on.





For further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact us

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