

January 2026

Winter newsletter



This edition of our quarterly update brings together recent highlights and reflections from across our community and our work.

It includes a range of updates and moments of recognition, alongside information on upcoming events and what is coming up next.



The Travers family with their great grandson at Welcome Wednesday.



Featuring: Len's Evacuation Story, Maureen Solomons honoured by JVN, remembering Joan Sellyn, Spring Fayre, and upcoming events.



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The Walton Community Care Centre



www.jcarescot.org.uk

Remembering the Past: Len's Evacuation Story



On Holocaust Memorial Day, we remember the experiences of those whose childhoods were disrupted by war. Lennie Isaacs, a member of our community, shared his memories of being evacuated from London as a child during the Second World War.

Before the war, Len lived in Hackney with his parents, sister Lily, and grandfather. At six years old, he and Lily were sent to Guilsborough in Northamptonshire. They arrived at the village at midnight and were taken to the home of Ethel Johnson, who said, "Come on, you're coming home with me!" Lily insisted they stay together, as their mother had told them.

It was the first time Len had pets. He remembers the Johnsons' Irish Setters, Dinah and Ruby, and kept a photo of Ruby with him for many years. He attended the village school, helped with the family's allotment, and made friends in the village, including Peter, the butcher's son.

Len stayed in the village for the six years of the war, while London faced bombing raids and rationing. Looking back, he remembers these years with a mixture of adventure, challenge, and connection to the community.

Sharing stories like Len's reminds us of the resilience of children during wartime and the importance of remembering the impact of conflict on families and communities.

Financial Assistance

We offer financial assistance and one-off grants to help with short-term pressures, unexpected costs, and Festival or holiday expenses. We also provide vouchers for food and household essentials, tailored to individual needs, and thanks to generous funds, additional support is available for respite, treats, and career development.

Essential provisions

We offer flexible support for people experiencing food poverty by providing vouchers to purchase food and household essentials to meet individual needs while we support you to explore more sustainable options for ongoing support.



Grants

We offer one-off grants for people experiencing financial crisis, for example to help with unexpected costs like replacing essential household items. Applications are open all year. We also offer grants to ensure that everyone is able to take part in Jewish Festivals without money being a barrier. Applications for Festival grants open a few weeks before Festival dates.

Please note that grants for these types of assistance are subject to individual financial circumstances and you may be required to provide financial information.

Contact us for a confidential discussion.

Telephone: 0141 620 1800

Email: hello@jcarescot.org.uk

Spring Fayre

Save the Date

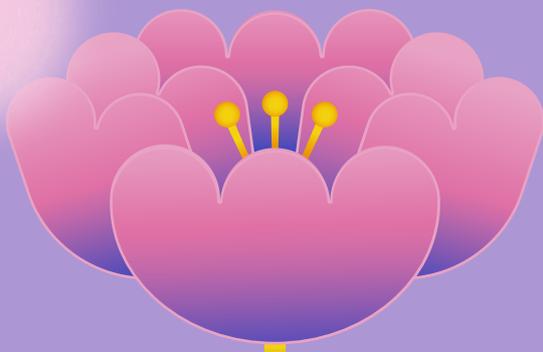
Wednesday 25 March
12pm to 3pm

A local shopping event

with stalls including:

Dear Green Candle Co.
Phil's Boutique
Mona & Nettie
Hearts 'N Stars
Cosgrove Care
Elaine Marks

Walton Community Care Centre | May Terrace
Giffnock | G46 6LD



Lifetime of Volunteering: Maureen Solomons Honoured by JVN

This year, Maureen Solomons, Honorary President of Jewish Care Scotland, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jewish Volunteering Network (JVN), recognising her 40 years of volunteering.

Maureen began volunteering in 1985, joining Jewish Care Scotland (then the Glasgow Jewish Welfare Board) after being recommended by her sister-in-law. She recalls, "The minute I walked through the door, I knew it was different from anything I'd done before. I just knew, and I never looked back!"

Over four decades, Maureen has contributed in countless ways: performing in community cabaret events, leading volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic, and helping establish 'Welcome Wednesday', a drop-in café that continues to bring the community together each week.

Among her proudest moments is seeing her volunteer team receive the Queen's Award for Volunteering, a testament to the commitment and impact of the volunteers she has led. She also had the honour of speaking at Glasgow City Chambers for Jewish Care Scotland's 150th anniversary.

Jewish Care Scotland congratulates Maureen on this well-deserved recognition from JVN, celebrating her remarkable service and the lasting impact she has had on the community.



Welcome Wednesday Discussion Panels

Over November and December, Welcome Wednesday hosted two engaging discussion panels led by JCS volunteer Lennie Wilson.

In November, Lennie was joined by a panel of Young Influencers including Shayna Conn and Ben Jackson from the SJYA, Jacqueline Dunn, Head Teacher of Calderwood Lodge Primary School, and Jonah Vulkan, recipient of the Adele and Edward Woolfson Award for Outstanding Youth Communal Excellence. The discussion covered a wide range of topics, from the impact of AI on homework to politics and mental health. Audience members commented on how articulate and impressive the younger panellists were.

In December, Lennie chaired a panel focused on the Social Budget, joined by JCS Chief Executive Linda Kemp, Dr Richard Groden, Prof. Henry Lovat and Heather Gray, CEO of Cosgrove. The conversation was thoughtful and informative, guided by Lennie's considered questions.

The next panel will take place on 25 February at 1.30pm, with more information to follow.

Upcoming Welcome Wednesday Events

We are looking forward to a busy few weeks at Welcome Wednesday, with a range of information stalls offering advice and support.

On Wednesday 4 February, Chai Cancer Care will be with us for World Cancer Day, from 12 to 3pm. They provide free, professional support to anyone in the community affected by cancer, along with their family and friends.

On Wednesday 11 February, RNIB Scotland will be at Welcome Wednesday with practical advice, support and referrals for anyone experiencing sight loss or vision concerns. This session is free and open to all, from 12 to 3pm.

Social Security Scotland will host an information stall to help challenge stigma around applying for benefits. Information on available support will be shared on Wednesday 4 March from 12 to 3pm.

Monday Funday

Monthly community events

1 to 3pm

Free to attend
plus
refreshments
provided

9 February Bingo Bonanza

2 March Purim Party

13 April Games Day

This monthly activity will continue following the success of previous months, offering a chance to meet with friends and enjoy activities or entertainment shaped by your interests. Please let us know if you have more fun ideas.



Remembering Joan Sellyn

Our Honorary Vice-President, Joan Sellyn, passed away in November, shortly after celebrating her 100th birthday in October. Joan's century of life was marked by dedication, generosity, and a deep commitment to Jewish Care Scotland and the wider community.

In October, Joan was joined by Jewish Care Scotland Chairman Dr Richard Groden, Honorary President Maureen Solomons, Honorary Vice-President Lesley Roles, and her grandchildren Marc and Gabrielle for a special celebration at her home. The occasion reflected on her remarkable contributions and her lasting impact, with Joan sharing memories and her ever-present motto, "just do it."

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Joan's family. Her legacy of kindness, guidance, and support will be remembered with gratitude by all whose lives she touched.



Recognising Monty

Jewish Care Scotland congratulates Monty Cowen on his appointment as an MBE in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours List 2025 for services to the Jewish community and the wider local community in Giffnock.

This recognition reflects many years of dedication and commitment to supporting others.

Monty's community work began in 1960 when he joined the Giffnock Synagogue council. Over the decades he has served in many voluntary roles, including honorary president of the Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society, 25 years on the executive committee of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, and over 30 years as AJEX brigade commander. Monty also helped establish the Giffnock Community Council and served as vice-chair.

