

## 5 Garnetbank Primary School, 231 Renfrew Street

Many of the boys from the Hill Street hostel attended this school. Extracts from the school log book in 1939 show:



**16 May** – 'Enrolled this morning 12 Jewish Refugees (Boys) from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Ages 8 to 14. Some speaking very little English. Have therefore formed a class of them – 57. No teacher meantime...'

**18 May** – 'Miss Jessie Dempster MA (Hons) began duty this afternoon with the Class of Refugees. She speaks German....'

**5 October 1939** – '49 pupils from Garnetbank and Willowbank School districts were evacuated to Kinross.'

*Image: Edgar Benjamin from Breslau in Germany (now Wroclaw in Poland) came on the Kindertransport in December 1938 and stayed in the hostel for a time*

## 6 Refugee Club, 358 Sauchiehall Street

The Refugee Centre was set up in 1941 in a flat in Pitt Street, in the city centre. In February 1942, it moved to Sauchiehall Street and became the Scottish Refugee Centre (Club).



'We came to the centre to speak German to each other and because most of us felt lonely at first. The house was alive with left-wing ideas, there were lectures on Marxism in the canteen and we would stay up half the night discussing what was happening in Europe and planning for the future. But we also went there to meet Scots because it was one of the few places where we could.'

*(Ernst Fettner, Viennese journalist, Glasgow Herald, 7 September 1988)*

*Image: The Refugee Club, 1940s, set back from Sauchiehall Street, now the location of the Dental Hospital*

## 7 Scott Street Art Centre, 7 Scott Street

Publisher David Archer moved to Glasgow from London during the Second World War, and set up the Scott Street Centre as a meeting place and resource centre.

It was used by Glasgow-based artists including the 'Two Roberts' (MacBryde and Colquhoun), JD Fergusson, and refugee artists Jankel Adler and Josef Herman. Originally from Warsaw, Herman spent time in Glasgow during this period, working alongside fellow Polish artist Jankel Adler, who came to Glasgow in 1941.



*Image: Refugees by Josef Herman (1911–2000)*

## 8 Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street

Estonian-born Jewish sculptor Benno Schotz (1891–1984), was Head of Sculpture and Ceramics at Glasgow School of Art at this time. Although not a refugee, he was a significant figure in the art scene at the time and did much to assist the refugee artists. Among the refugees who later taught here were:



- Sculptor Paul Zunterstein, who fled the Nazi Anschluss of Austria in 1938
- Architect Frederick Selby, who came from Germany, and was interned in England alongside Paul Zunterstein.
- Isi Metzstein who came from Berlin as a child on the Kindertransport. He is best known for designing the iconic St Peter's Roman Catholic Seminary at Cardross.

*Image: Benno Schotz sculpting Leib Jaffe (Detail)*

## 9 Scottish Jewish Archives Centre & Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre, 29 Garnet Street

The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC) was established in Garnethill Synagogue in 1987 and has a nationally significant collection relating to the Jewish experience in Scotland.



The Synagogue also houses the **Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre** and **Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre**, based on The Archives Centre's wide-ranging collection of documents, photographs, memorabilia and oral testimonies from this period. The Heritage Centre runs a school visit service and a weekly guided tour service, which includes the Synagogue and displays covering 200 years of Jewish life in Scotland.

## Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre 129 Hill Street, Glasgow, G3 6UB

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SCAN HERE  
to see an online  
version of the trail



This trail is a partnership between SJHC and SJAC, using information from the collections of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.

Find out about the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre: [www.sjac.org.uk](http://www.sjac.org.uk)

The Centre is operated by the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre, a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (Scottish charity number SC051205), working in partnership with the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (Scottish charity number SC030542) and Garnethill Synagogue Preservation Trust (Scottish charity number SC043103).

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## Jewish Glasgow: Garnethill Refugee Trail



*Image: Refugee boys on a car outside the Boys' Hostel on Hill Street, 1939*



# Welcome to the Garnethill Refugee Trail

Here you will discover places in Garnethill that are connected with Jewish refugees who came to Glasgow from Europe before, during and after the Second World War.

When Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish refugees fled from the Nazi regime to the United Kingdom and neighbouring European countries. Committees in the UK began raising funds for Jews in Germany, and some Jewish people were helped to escape, using schemes such as the Domestic Visa, to work in Britain. Following the violent anti-Jewish events known as *Kristallnacht* in 1938, the UK Government agreed to take in 10,000 unaccompanied children up to the age of 17 on the *Kindertransport* scheme. Each child had to be sponsored. Hundreds of these children came to Scotland and many stayed in the Garnethill area.



Images: Boys' Hostel in 1940 and Hilda Goldwag's passport

## 1 Garnethill Synagogue, 129 Hill Street

Opened in 1879, this is Scotland's oldest purpose-built synagogue and a Category A listed building. In the 1930s and 1940s, Garnethill Hebrew Congregation played an important role in helping to look after Jewish refugees from Europe. The Synagogue had been built in the garden of the house at 125 Hill Street. As the Congregation still owned the house, they gave it over to be used as a hostel for refugee boys.



Image: Garnethill Synagogue

## 2 Boys' Hostel, 125 Hill Street

Between 1939 and 1948, around 175 refugees (mostly boys) from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia lived in this hostel.

'The boys will virtually run the house themselves. They will have certain duties to perform, such as making their own beds and cleaning their own shoes, and they will appoint their own prefects, who will see that all duties are properly carried out and good conduct maintained... they will each receive 6d a week pocket money and a 2 ½d stamp for a weekly letter to their parents.' (The Jewish Echo, 24 February 1939)

In May 1939, Irene Marchand and her son Ernst reached Scotland from Germany. Irene later became hostel matron, and the hostel became home for her and Ernst.

Image: Boys on the hostel steps, 1939, with Ernst Marchand in the middle of the front row



## 3 Hilda Goldwag's Home, 155 Hill Street

Hilda Goldwag (1912-2008) escaped to Scotland in 1939 from Vienna, where she had recently graduated from Art School. She was assisted by the Scottish Domestic Bureau for Refugee Women, a combined Jewish and Quaker women's initiative. After working for a Church of Scotland minister in West Linton as a domestic help, Hilda did war work in a factory in Govan.

Hilda later worked using her artistic skills, designing scarves, working as a freelance illustrator, and painting throughout her life. Hilda and her companion Cecile Schwarzschild (1914-1998) - also a refugee, from Germany - lived together at 155 Hill Street. The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre holds the Hilda Goldwag collection.

Image: Cecile (left) and Hilda (right) in the 1940s



## 4 Women's Hostel, 258 Renfrew Street

Now a nursery, the hostel was run by the Quakers from 1940-1942 and had accommodation for around 15 Jewish refugees, who were looked after by a matron.

"The smaller room I slept in could hold three to four beds - it was pretty small. Since most of the women were working, it was mainly in the evenings that the sitting room was quite busy. Those not working could have meals there. The person in charge was Miss Niven and the cook was Miss Wittelschofer."

(Rosa Sacharin, 2014)

Image: Jocheweth Goldszal (centre) reunited with daughters Betti Pheil (left) and Rosa Sacharin (right), who both stayed in the hostel, Glasgow, 1949

