



Issue 63

December 2017

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Contents

Greetings from the President	2
Administrator's Report....	4
New Members Admitted.	5
Dundee	7
Edinburgh	8
News Release	9
Glasgow	10
Inverness	17
Distance Learning.....	18
Inverness Annual Dinner	21
Pictures from the dinner	22
Pictures cont.....	23
Even More	24
Still More	25
Still Flowing	26
And Flowing.....	27
Final Cut.....	28
Then the dancing started	29
And continued	30
General Council Office Bearers	31

Merry Christmas to all members



Best Wishes for 2018

Greetings from the President



Richard Murray

How time passes by – here we are on the verge of the festive period again in what seems to me the blink of an eye. It's been a busy last few months.

It was my privilege to represent the Society at the annual lunch in London on 20th September hosted by our English equivalent the Institute of Legal Finance & Management. The lunch was held in the Middle Temple area of London beside the Law Courts and Barrister Chambers. A fascinating place and very beautiful. The Institute's keynote speech was given by Professor Stephen Mayson of the Faculty of Law, University College London. A very interesting man with some insightful views about the English legal system and reforms that he believes must happen to prepare the profession for the challenges ahead pre and post Brexit.

In October it was again my privilege to represent the Society at the Irish Legal Accountants Conference in Galway with my fellow General Council member, Lynne Parks and her partner Gavin. A lovely few days – it's safe to say that a number of pints of the black stuff was consumed by yours truly – all in the spirit of course of maintaining the excellent relationship we have with our Irish cousins. The day after Lynne and I departed from Galway it was hit by hurricane Ophelia that caused significant damage. We counted ourselves very lucky indeed – having to spend another few days living the high life and drinking Guinness like there was no tomorrow would have been too much even for me.....I think though that Lynne would have managed to cope better than I would have.

This year's AGM was held in Inverness. Sue Williams of the Institute of Legal Management was our guest along with Elizabeth McGillivray who is chair of the joint SOLAS/Law Society Board. Our guest speaker was Mary McRae, Solicitor who regaled us all with anecdotes of her career in the legal profession. The dinner was excellent – a good time was had by all I think it's fair to say. The hotel was superb and the food and service equally so. It would be remiss of me not to thank and indeed congratulate Inverness branch for all their hard work in pulling together a superb evening. Roll on Glasgow next year.

The AGM was attended well and was for me something of a personal challenge as President to get through in the best way that I could. Those in attendance will understand one particular and very sensitive matter that led to the Society's first (and I hope last) implementation of our disciplinary procedures in respect of the actions of a member that fell below the required standard we expect from our members. This involved working with the Society's Solicitors, Shoosmiths, Edinburgh. Inevitably this led to incurring legal fees at a level the Society has not had

to deal with before. The level of fee was self-evident in the accounts presented to members at the AGM and of course needed to be explained.

Over 400 Law Society of Scotland registered paralegals became known as accredited paralegals as of 7th August. The name change better reflects the high professional status of paralegals under the scheme. This collaboration between the Law Society of Scotland and The Scottish Paralegal Association can only be applauded but it did make me wonder how the SOLAS course and qualification was perceived by the Law Society and the wider profession. Was SOLAS still relevant? I was fortunate recently to have a one to one meeting with the current Law Society President Graham Matthews and I put that very question to him. Within a fraction of a second his answer was absolutely yes. He does not see a paralegal accredited person as being any more qualified than that of a SOLAS member – both are valuable in their own way. He went as far as to say that SOLAS had strength in depth built up over the years and for him the SOLAS qualification was an absolute must as an employer, especially where a cashroom position needed to be filled. He congratulated the Society on its many years of service to the Legal profession and was absolutely clear that the Society's view of SOLAS is that it is as much relevant now than it ever has been. Indeed, as a case in point, Mr Matthews intends to put forward a recommendation that SOLAS members are invited to be members of the various committees within the Law Society that there are and specifically committees that involve the good running of a legal firm. Who better to have an understanding of that than a SOLAS qualified cashier? He intends to kick-start that process but unfortunately this is something that he will not see through in his tenure as President. It's a step in the right direction though and appropriate recognition of SOLAS. I will feed back when I hear further from Mr Matthews and very probably his successor.

I mentioned before that the Law Society and LawCare have joined together to promote good mental health wellbeing. I attended a meeting a few weeks ago at the Law Society on behalf of SOLAS and have pitched in with a few thoughts of my own as to things worthy of consideration. This is an issue that affects people who work within the legal profession from Office junior to Partner. I would very much like to hear from members with their own views or experiences of anxiety and depression so that I can put these forward for consideration. Please email me at rjm@connellws.co.uk. All emails will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for the new year. Look after yourself and those around you.

My best wishes

Richard

Administrator's Report

I find it hard to believe that we are in December again and Christmas is just a few weeks away. It must be a sign that I am getting older as each year seems to go quicker than ever.

As usual this is my busiest time of the year. I have received a good number of CPD forms and subs although there are quite a number still to come in. If you have not yet sent yours, please do so as quickly as you can.

As is normal there have been two national seminars this year. A Private Client one in March when we had speakers from Murray Beith Murray, and in September the Law Society Update, both were very well attended. I would like to thank those who helped me on the day.

The next seminar will be on Wednesday 7th March 2018 and will again be a Private Client seminar, topics to be covered will include, IHT, Tracing Beneficiaries, Landmark Financial Search, and Pensions. I look forward to seeing a great number of you there. The flyer will be sent out in January.

Thanks to those who submitted items to be included in this newsletter.

Please remember to keep me updated with any changes to your contact details.

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

Dorothy Nicholson

Administrator

New Members Admitted

I am pleased to announce that the undernoted were granted membership of the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland by General Council at a meeting held on 4th November 2017.

Aberdeen

Associate

Nicola M Argo

Dundee

Associate

Sian Singer

Jacqueline A Urquhart

Valerie Forest

Lauren K P Daly

Monica M R Scott

Gina Bowie

Michaela Mills

Lauren Smith

Catriaona J S McCann

Carol Massie

Full

Teri Reilly

Edinburgh

Associate

Elwira Tomiczek

Lynn Herkes

Paul C McRobb

Leanne Wilson

Glasgow

Associate

Sally Ferguson

Kirsten Hilland

Lynne McComish

Kay McFarlane

Helen McKay

Vicky McLeod

Lesley Miller

Glasgow cont.

Associate

Megan Moir

Seonaidh Munro

Zoe Robb

Chloe Tennant

Alison Kennedy

Karen Whitelaw

Angela Williams

Miriam Asad

John Flanagan

John McKenzie

Inverness

Associate

Lorraine Copland

Martyn Robertson

Glasgow cont.

Full

Claire Mitchell

Honorary

Tom McCafferty

Dundee

Dundee branch are pleased to announce that the undernoted students successfully passed all the required modules and were presented with their Diplomas at our branch meeting in October.

Bowmans	Gina Bowie
Blackadders LLP	Sian Singer
Blackadders LLP	Jacqueline Anne Urquhart
Blackadders LLP	Monica Mary Reid Scott (she is known as Nikki)
T Duncan & Co	Teri Reilly
Fords Daly Legal	Lauren Katy Paterson Daly
Thorntons Law LLP	Michaela Mills
Thorntons Law LLP	Lauren Smith
Thorntons Law LLP	Catriona Jane Stewart McCann
W. & J.S. Gordon	Carol Massie
Watson & Lyall Bowie	Valerie Forest

Edinburgh

Edinburgh branch held their diploma ceremony in the Royal Overseas League, Edinburgh in October. Three students were presented with their diplomas by Peter McMenemy of Glasgow branch.



The students with Peter McMenemy, Richard Murray, Edinburgh Branch & National President together with lecturers Carol McGovern & Lynn McAllan.

News Release

The following news release was sent to the Administrator:-

Edinburgh, 27th October 2017

NEWS RELEASE

LawWare Client Support goes from strength to strength with new SOLAS graduate

LawWare's Paul McRobb recently graduated with SOLAS qualifications in Cashroom Accounting & Administration, Executory Administration and Feeing.

Helpdesk Supervisor, Paul, studied for his qualifications at evening classes over the course of the last year and is delighted with his success.

Warren Wander, Managing Director of LawWare, commented:

"Paul is one of the key members of our client facing team. With an honours degree in E-Business Systems and extensive client relationship management experience, his latest SOLAS qualifications complete the picture and will enable him to provide first class service to our clients throughout Scotland."

Simon Greig, Sales Director, added his congratulations to Paul and noted that this now brings LawWare's complement of SOLAS qualified staff up to 4. Simon commented:

"LawWare's client facing team now has 4 SOLAS qualified members and can provide both knowledge and experience at every stage of the process – from planning, through data conversion, training delivery and client support. This continued investment sets LawWare apart and underlines our strong commitment to Scottish law firms."

The graduation ceremony took place on October 26th.

-ENDS-

Glasgow

GLASGOW BRANCH EMAIL ADDRESS

Please note you can contact and keep in touch with the Glasgow Branch of SOLAS by emailing the branch at

solasgw@gmail.com

The Glasgow branch will communication with members by email and all invitations to the recent graduation ceremony were sent via email.

The Glasgow branch would like to hear from its members and we recently received feedback on our branch seminars via email and this was most welcomed. Please keep in touch with the branch as your views and opinions matter to us.

My thanks to the Glasgow branch Secretary, Kirsteen Conway, for her hard work in the initial setting up the Glasgow branch email account.

Please ensure the SOLAS administrator has a note of your current email address to ensure you receive all communications from the Society and your branch.

By Shirley Green
Glasgow Branch President

CONGRATULATIONS Glasgow Graduates!

Sharon Dorans,	Sally Ferguson,	Kirsten Hilland,
Lynne McComish,	Kay McFarlane,	Helen McKay,
Vicky McLeod,	Lesley Miller,	Megan Moir,
Seonaidh Munro,	Zoe Robb,	Chloe Tennant,
John Flanagan,	Alison Kennedy,	Karen Whitelaw

The Glasgow Branch Graduation Ceremony took place at the Royal Faculty of Prosecutors on 25th October. We had 15 students graduating this year and 13 of them attended the graduation ceremony. We were delighted to welcome the graduates and their guests to the Royal Faculty of Procurators.

We invited Tom McCafferty to present the certificates this year as the retiring Faculty Auditor, however Tom sustained an injury while running around the park with his grandchildren! He had every intention of hobbling in and presenting the certificates to the graduates but on medical advice handed over the duty of presenting the certificates to his trusted wingman, 'Mr Solas' Peter McMenemy. Peter very kindly stepped in to take on the role of presenting the certificates to the graduates. While Tom was missed on the evening Peter was a great substitute welcoming and congratulating the graduates to the Glasgow branch of Solas.

Campbell Quinn, Glasgow branch member and previous Solas lecturer, very kindly took photographs on the evening.

A buffet and drinks followed the graduation ceremony with around 55 people attending, there was some networking and chatting with the graduates, their proud families and guests.....even some possible recruiting to the Glasgow committee!

In total we had 18 applications for membership of SOLAS this year with some previous graduates applying.

My thanks to the committee for all their hard work in making the evening a great success!

By Shirley Green
Glasgow Branch President



A good number of you reading this newsletter will recognise Jackie Sommerville in this photograph.



Jackie has been enjoying retirement for a number of years. She was a prominent member of the Glasgow branch of Solas having held the roles of Treasurer and President of the Glasgow branch. As a retired member we don't see as much of Jackie as we would like and a group of us meet up on an annual basis for a girl's lunch. With work commitments this year only Jan Williamson, Liz Brawley (both Glasgow branch committee members) and myself met Jackie on 23rd November for a catch up lunch. Much food was consumed and stories exchanged! Jackie is looking great as usual and we thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon catching up. She is looking forward to coming along to the Glasgow 60th anniversary AGM in November 2018 and catching up with people she hasn't seen in years.

By Shirley Green
Glasgow Branch President

Tom McCafferty

I received a phone call a couple of months ago from Peter McMenemy suggesting I put a member forward for Honorary membership at the Solas AGM in Inverness on 4th November. The member in question was Tom McCafferty. General Council duly agreed his nomination for Honorary membership at the AGM. Unfortunately Tom couldn't attend the AGM this year due to a prior engagement which meant he wasn't at the meeting to hear the nomination for his Honorary membership.

Tom was a lecturer for the Solas classes, Treasurer and President of Glasgow branch and Treasurer and President of General Council. He was Auditor of Court for many years and recently retired from the role of Faculty Auditor.

The next Glasgow branch meeting following the AGM was on 14th November being Jack Black and Richard Wilson from Blackadders talking on the Do's and Dont's of the Office Party. A talk which I knew Tom would be attending and I took the opportunity to make an announcement/presentation at the start of the talk. I presented Tom with a retirement card and gift from the Glasgow branch and I was also very proud to present him with a Certificate of Honorary Membership of SOLAS, to a round of applause. I think we pulled off the surprise as Tom was somewhat overwhelmed!



A day or so later I received the following email from Tom.....

Shirley,

Just a note to thank you for presenting me with the Certificate of Honorary Membership of SOLAS at Tuesday night's Glasgow Branch Meeting. To say I was surprised is an understatement. I have emailed Dorothy to thank her for the kind words in her letter to me. It was doubly surprising to receive the gift from Glasgow Branch following my long planned retiral as Auditor of The Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow. When I took up that post in 2012 it was never envisaged it would last so long. Please pass on my grateful thanks to Glasgow Branch Committee Members for their thoughtfulness in marking the occasion. I'm just sorry I missed the Cake in October!

On a personal note I recall some years ago your trepidation at having to stand up and speak to a room full of Branch Members following your appointment as Glasgow Branch President. As I said at the time you get used to it and you certainly have. I notice from the latest Newsletter that you are presently National Vice President and as such I assume you will be Glasgow Branch's nomination to succeed Richard Murray when his Presidency ceases. If that were to transpire then your experience as Glasgow Branch President will stand you in good stead. Again many thanks for your part in both surprises.

Kind Regards and Best Wishes

Tom McCafferty

**THE SOCIETY OF
LAW ACCOUNTANTS
IN
SCOTLAND**

(Glasgow Branch)

Syllabus 2017/2018



President

Shirley Green Tel: 0141 248 1888

Vice President

Gillian Gray Tel: 0131 476 8121

Class Organiser

Noreen Hope Tel: 07584 498144

Treasurer

Karen MacDonald Tel: 0141 848 0303

Minutes Secretary

Stacy McAvoy Tel: 0141 248 3456

Secretary

Kirsteen Conway Tel: 0141 227 7817

General Committee Members

Jan Williamson Tel: 01236 756 188

Evelyn Livingstone Tel: 0141 552 3422

Carrie McQueen Tel: 07981 275917

Janette Cooley Tel: 07986 553707

Ilona Stepinska Tel: 07927 014815

Liz Brawley Tel: 07879 644340

Lorraine Rillie Tel: 07920 198020

If anyone is interested in joining the committee please contact
a committee member.

Wednesday 25st October 2017

Graduation Ceremony & Buffet
Booking Form to follow (by email)

Tuesday 14th November 2017

Jack Boyle, Blackadders –
Do's and Don'ts at the office party

Wednesday 7th February 2018

Tricia Meiklejohn – Commissary Clerk

Paisley Sheriff Court

Tuesday 13th March 2018

Craig Samson, - Blackadders – Family Law
The Big Issue-Who Gets to Keep the Dog?

Wednesday 18th April 2018

AGM with CPD Meeting & Buffet
Booking form to follow (by email)
Jack Boyle, Blackadders – Social Media Misconduct

Tuesday 8th May 2018

Graham Mackenzie – Law Society of Scotland
Anti-Money Laundering Regulations

Wednesday 5th September 2018

Toni McNicoll - Blackadders
Income and Capital Gains Tax in an Executry

Tuesday 2th October 2018

Siobhan McGuigan - Blackadders
Guardianships

BRANCH MEETINGS

All meetings are held (unless otherwise advised by email) at The
Royal Faculty of Procurators,
12 Nelson Mandela Square, Glasgow, G2 1BT

Meetings, which qualify for CPD, commence at 6.00pm (with
complimentary coffee/tea from 5.30pm)

Unless otherwise stated no further notification of meetings will be
issued and members should make a note of key dates in their diary.

**Please note all correspondence from SOLAS will be by email –
please ensure Dorothy Nicholson, Solas Administrator, has your
current email address.**

Any friends/colleagues of Members are welcome to attend our
meetings which are free to members and their friends/colleagues

CPD

Members are at present required to complete
5 hours structured and 5 hours unstructured training between 1st
November and 31st October each year.

CPD and Subscription Forms are available online at:
www.solas.org.uk

**Please note that completed Subscription forms and annual fees
must be submitted to Dorothy Nicholson - Administrator no
later than 30th November.**

Inverness

It has been a very difficult year for the Inverness branch. At the start it was looking like the branch may fold as the outgoing Committee posts could not be filled. However, the Committee thankfully stayed on & it is good to report that we have had volunteers step forward to take on the roles at our next AGM.

Our 4 CPD events were well attended and received positive feedback from our members.

The Solas course was once again delivered via webinars. We had two students attending. Kim Riddock from Buckie & Susie McCrystal from Blairgowrie. It is great that the courses can be delivered this way to enable students who cannot travel to classes to take part. Both students sat the examinations and are currently waiting for the results. We wish them every success.

Inverness Branch were delighted to host this year's annual dinner dance. What a great night it was. It was fabulous to see members from all over the Solas network travelling north to attend. The Kingsmills hotel did us proud and the evening was filled with good food & drink, great company & we all danced the night away. Our thanks go out to all on the General Council for their help in the organisation and many thanks go out to Jean & Lisa who made up the lovely crackers for the table displays. Although there was not the usual rubbishy jokes inside them I think everyone was delighted with the beautiful tartan scarfs, which came in handy when the band started playing "The Bay City Rollers!!" I think you can see by the photos that a great night was had by all. Roll on next year's!!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Shirley Sargent

Distance Learning

The first year Distance Learning programme has now been successfully completed. The following students have passed the exams, several achieving distinctions:-

Cashroom

Robert Learmonth , Lows, Kirkwall.

Margaret MacKay, Anderson MacArthur Limited, Isle of Lewis

Margaret Ross, Anderson MacArthur Limited, Isle of Lewis

Lorraine Copland, The Orkney Law Practice, Orkney.

Karen Flett, JEP Robertson & Son, Orkney

Martyn Robertson, Tait & Peterson, Lerwick.

Executry

Lorraine Copland, The Orkney Law Practice, Orkney.

Karen Flett, JEP Robertson & Son, Orkney

Martyn Robertson, Tait & Peterson, Lerwick.

Feeing

Lorraine Copland, The Orkney Law Practice, Orkney.

Karen Flett, JEP Robertson & Son, Orkney

Martyn Robertson, Tait & Peterson, Lerwick.

Lorraine, Karen and Martyn having passed all three modules therefore qualifying for Associate Membership of Solas.

Due to their location on the Islands the Diploma Presentations where held locally at their respective offices.

This is Karen receiving her Certificate from Anne Robertson.



This is Lorraine receiving her Certificate from Colin Marcus



This is Martyn Receiving his certificate from Eric Peterson



Report by Barbara Duckworth

Inverness Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was held in the Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness on Friday 3rd November. After dinner the guests enjoyed dancing the night away to Dubl Trubl. A great night was had by all.

Many thanks to Shirley Sargent, Inverness branch for supplying me with the following pictures.



The top table guest from left to right.

Lindsay Murray, General Secretary, Sue Williams of the Institute of Legal Management, Richard Murray, National President, Lisa McIntyre, Inverness Branch, Elizabeth McGillivray, Chair of Joint Board, Mary McRae, Speaker, Tina Hunter, General Treasurer.

Pictures from the dinner



Pictures cont



Even More



Still More



Still Flowing



And Flowing



Final Cut



Then the dancing started



And continued



General Council Office Bearers

Richard Murray – President
Connell & Connell WS
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 556 2993

Shirley Green - Vice President
Blackadders LLP
Glasgow
Tel: 0141 248 1888

Lindsay Murray – General Secretary
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Edinburgh, EH3 8HA
Tel: 0131 656 0018

Tina Hunter – General Treasurer
Tel: 07538155811

June Payne – Education Fund Treasurer
Ledingham Chalmers
DX AB15 Aberdeen
Tel: 01224 480408

General Council Members

Aberdeen

Carol Ann Baxter
Joyce Forbes

The Law Practice
Alex Hutcheon & Co

Dundee

Heather Davidson
Lynne Parks

Rollos Law LLP
Blackadders LLP

Edinburgh

Natalie Cooke
Gillian Forsyth

The Law Society
Murray Beith Murray

Glasgow

Gillian Gray
Carrie McQueen
Noreen Hope

The Law Society

Milne Craig

Inverness

Lisa Marie Macaree
Irene Yule

Macleod & MacCallum
South Forrest

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Lynne Parks, Blackadders, LP6 Dundee, Tel: 01382 229222

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Inverness

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