

Issue 65

December 2018

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Congratulations



Glasgow Branch 60th Anniversary

Your New President



Shirley Green, President

Dear Members

I took on the role of National President at the General Council meeting on 10th November from Richard Murray the retiring President. I would like to thank Richard for highlighting Legal Wellbeing and Mental Health Awareness to members.

I completed the SOLAS two year course in 1999. After passing my exams and joining the Society, I attended a Glasgow branch AGM shortly thereafter with two of my SOLAS classmates/friends. When you spend every Wednesday with a group of people in a class for two academic years you forge close and lasting friendships. At the AGM the then branch committee asked for new committee members. I asked what was involved and was advised the only remit was to attend four committee meetings a year, "I can to that" I thought and up went my hand to volunteer.

I was many years on the Glasgow branch committee watching and learning how the branch worked. I then took on various roles, Branch Secretary, Vice President and then President of the Glasgow branch in 2011. I joined the General Council committee in 2014 and again I watched and learned what was involved in being a member of General Council. I took on the role of Vice Present of General Council in 2016 and as I mentioned I took on the role of President at the General Council meeting last month.

The year ahead will see the start of a significant change for SOLAS with the Law Society proposing to offer SOLAS members accreditation and I will discuss later in this newsletter.

2018 saw the Glasgow branch celebrate its 60th Anniversary and the AGM dinner was held at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. 105 members, guests, colleagues, family and friends attended the dinner, which is record attendance for the AGM dinner. Hopefully it won't take another 60th anniversary for us to have these numbers attending the AGM dinners in the future! An AGM dinner really is a great night to socialise and connect with members from other branches on an annual basis. We welcomed our guests from England, Ireland and the Law Society and Sarah Charlton from the Institute of Legal Finance & Management in England presented the Glasgow Branch with an engraved paperweight to commemorate our special anniversary, which was a lovely gesture.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and enjoy the festive holidays.

With kind regards
Shirley

Administrator's Report



Dorothy Nicholson, Administrator

Here we are again and it hardly seems like a year since the last Christmas issue.

We had our Autumn seminar which was given by members of the Law Society of Scotland. Attendance was very good with approximately 180 delegates. I thought after the Beast from the East in March, September's seminar would be ok. However I did not expect to have to deal with the gales which unfortunately caused a lot of problems for delegates who were travelling from the islands and other areas on the mainland. I can only hope that the weather is a lot kinder to us next year.

I am pleased to say that the forthcoming March seminar is booked for Wednesday 20th and it will be a Private Client Seminar. I am also able to confirm that the speakers booked are as follows:-

Sandra MacDonald	- The Ex Public Guardian
Stewart Dunbar	- Blackadders LLP
Ian Burrell	- CLSRS
Alison Hempsey	- T C Young

I am sure with such experienced people this will be a very interesting seminar. Look out for the flyer in late January.

I have received a great many CPD forms and sub. However there are still a number to be submitted. Can I please ask those who have not yet done so to send them to me as soon as possible as they are now overdue.

If any member who had requested a 2019 diary did not receive one please let me know and I will forward one as soon as possible.

May I remind members that it is very important that you keep your contact details up to date. Please notify me of any changes.

All that is left is for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Kind regards
Dorothy Nicholson

New Members Admitted 2018

General Council agreed on the 10th November 2018 that the under noted named should be given Associate Membership of the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland. Congratulation to them all.

Aberdeen

Morven Tough

Lesley George

Kim Marie Riddoch

Dundee

Donna Gray

Ainsley Al-Saffar

Susie McCrystal

Alexina Duncan

Fiona Whittaker

Marjorie Pryce

Linda Taylor

Lesley Reid

Edinburgh

Lorraine MacDonald

Sarah Jane Paterson

Emma Smillie

Glasgow

Pauline Ryan

Victoria Boyd

Jean Kerr

Dalia Katoola

Rachel Miller

Damien O’Kane

Rajani Maharjan

Allan Gallacher

Angela McLaren

Tammy Mitchell

Darren McLean

Antonia Crawford

Inverness

Eilidh Anderson

LAW SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND/ SOLAS JOINT BOARD

Dear Members

Following upon the Law Society's announcement that they are to set up an Accreditation Scheme for Law Accountants, they have intimated to the Joint Board that it would no longer be appropriate for the Board to continue in its present form. The Law Society felt there could be a perception of a conflict of interest if the body operating the Accreditation Scheme was an equal partner in the Board that provides the training for Law Accountants.

Accordingly with effect from 1st January 2019, the Joint Board of Examiners between SOLAS and the Law Society of Scotland will cease to exist and a new Board of Examiners under the auspices of SOLAS will be set up with an inaugural meeting being held mid-January 2019.

Further information will follow and I will keep you updated.

Shirley Green, President General Council

SOLAS

History of SOLAS

The Society originated in 1910 in Aberdeen and flourished until the First World War which disrupted its activities, and in 1924 due to the loss of membership during the War and the lack of new members it was allowed to lapse.

In 1953 there was a renewal of interest, again in Aberdeen and the Aberdeen branch was reformed in 1954 and then in 1958, a branch was formed in Glasgow.

Branches in Edinburgh and Dundee followed shortly thereafter and although the Dundee branch lapsed for some years it was re-established in 1988. Classes started in Inverness in September 1991 and a branch was formed in 1993.

Objectives

These are laid down in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, to provide an organisation for people employed in accountancy work in Scottish law firms, in which they can meet with others with a view to the interchange of opinion on questions of practice.

Our regular branch meetings give facilities for members to hear talks by various speakers and for organising discussion groups.

The Society wishes to promote the education and advancement of individuals with a view to assisting them in becoming proficient in all aspects of law accounting.

Glasgow's 60th Dinner

Glasgow Branch hosted the Annual Dinner and AGM this year as it was their 60th Anniversary, congratulations must go to all those who helped make it such an enjoyable night. Here are some of the photographs taken.











The Celebration Cake



Glasgow Branch President
Shirley Green &
Jackie Somerville
Cut the Cake



The Top Table Guests



GLASGOW SOLAS 2018 DINNER - GIFT



In response to feedback from members on the power bank charger gift, please see image above showing the correct orientation for the charger cable. If anyone has any further queries regarding the gift please contact any committee member from Glasgow branch.

Branch Reports

Aberdeen

Our AGM was held on 30th August 2018 after an excellent CPD talk by Graham McKenzie from The Law Society. We had a really good turn out and have swelled our Committee members to 10.



Our awards night took the form of a buffet evening this year and we were delighted to have 4 students receive their certificates.

General Council purchased a lap top so that Aberdeen and Inverness branches could join forces for their CPD meetings by webinar. This has been well received by the outlying members of each branch.

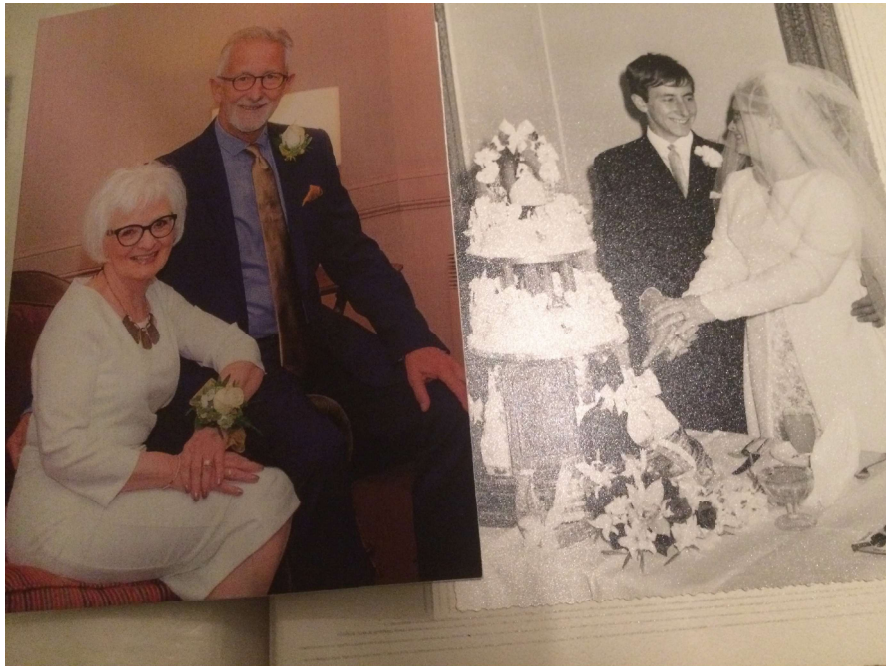
Committee changes

June Payne retired as Aberdeen Branch Secretary after many years of hard work and dedication. We wish June a fulfilled and happy retirement. Joyce Forbes has taken over as Secretary.

New Venue

Our CPD meetings are now held in the offices of The Law Practice, 3 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 1XE.

Our past President Carol Baxter and her husband Michael celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in August .



Dundee

A warm welcome to Nikki Scott who became a member of both Dundee Branch and General Council



The 2018 Dundee Students who attended the diploma:

Fiona Whittaker, Colin Whyte (Dundee Branch President), Moira Shepherd (gave out the Diplomas), Susie McCrystal, Alexina Duncan, Marjory Pryce. Congratulations to all students who became members at the 2018 AGM who include the 4 above and Donna Gray, Ainsley Al-Saffar and Linda Taylor.



The Blackadders staff who attended the AGM

Congratulations to Lynne & Gavin Alexander - married on 7 September 2018



Edinburgh

Edinburgh Branch Report

A new Student Reception was held for The Edinburgh Branch at RCIS on Wednesday 29th August. It was a good opportunity for the committee and lecturers to meet the new students and introduce themselves and SOLAS.

Congratulations to all nine students (Kim Burton, Dairo Coia, Karri-Ann Henderson, Ethan Reid, Lorraine MacDonald, Denise Mennie, Sarah-Jane Paterson, Lisa Claire Penman and Emma Smillie) who completed the SOLAS course in Edinburgh this year. Well done to Kim, Dario, Karri-Ann and Denise who got passes with Distinction in all three subjects. A Graduation Ceremony was held at the Law Society on 10th October to celebrate their achievements. Richard Murray joined us on the evening to hand out the diplomas. Many thanks to the lecturers Lynne, Carole and Cathie for their hard work in encouraging the students through the course. I am pleased to advise that Lorraine, Sarah Jane and Emma have become members, and no doubt you will join me in welcoming them!

Edinburgh Branch Seminars

We were fortunate to have Alison Edmundson from SKO Family Law to present a very interesting talk to us on 26 September entitled “What is a parent?” covering the times when establishing parenthood is important particularly in the light of how family structure has changed in 21st Century Scotland. Eric Lumsden of Sneddon Morrison addressed us on 21st November in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Scottish Solicitors’ Disciplinary Tribunal which was very interesting and well attended.

Forthcoming seminars include:

February 20 Lianne Lodge of **Gillespie Macandrew** – *Paying for Care in Scotland*

March 27 Brian Glass of **Choose Life Training** – *Health and Wellbeing for the Brain – some useful strategies*

April 24 Natalie Cooke of the **Law Society/Edinburgh SOLAS Branch President** – *Financial Compliance – Accounts Rules, Requirements Update*

May 25 Donald Winskill of **Gillespie Macandrew** - *Powers of Attorney and the EPOAR system*

Committee News

The Committee want to pass their thanks to Lauren for her assistance to the Edinburgh Branch for the last few years and wish her all the best in her new endeavours. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact me for more information.

Thank you to Richard Murray

Lastly, and importantly, the Edinburgh Branch want to record their thanks to Richard for his involvement with Edinburgh Branch and SOLAS generally over the years.

Richard has been involved with SOLAS since 1987 when he sat the course while working as a junior in the Executry Department of Shepherd and Wedderburn. Once through the course and exams he became a member in 1989 and has been a member ever since. He has held a number of roles in the Society including, Executry & Investment Lecturer, Inheritance Tax lecturer, SOLAS/The Law Society Joint Board representative as area organiser for Edinburgh, Edinburgh Branch President (twice), National Vice President and National President!

Richard continued studying law, accomplishing an HNC two year course at Napier Polytechnic in Legal Studies which qualification allowed him to take on the role of an executry assistant, the equivalent back then of a paralegal, when the course was completed. Richard knew that he wanted to become a Solicitor and the only way that could be achieved was through the Law Society's own course for qualification. Richard said "Getting onto that course is extremely difficult. Firstly you need the support of your employers, and secondly the Law Society need to be satisfied that anyone on the course is there by merit, and qualifications in the bag is a key aspect of that. My school exam results would not have been enough, but with my HNC in Legal Studies and my SOLAS qualification, I was accepted onto the course. To this day I firmly believe that it was my SOLAS qualification that made the difference for me." Richard completed the course and then his Diploma in Legal Practice (at Edinburgh University), and was accepted by Shepherd and Wedderburn as a trainee in 1994 qualifying a Solicitor in November 1996. He is still working as a solicitor and doing what he loves.

Richard regards SOLAS as a key component of his legal development. He said "The SOLAS course and qualification are a valuable asset on your CV, and the course has always and continues to be highly regarded. SOLAS membership provides opportunities to meet other people of people working in the legal sector and a chance to forge lifelong friendships."

The Edinburgh Branch thought it fitting to commemorate Richard's many years of dedicated service to SOLAS, in all his varied roles, by asking him to present the Diplomas at the Graduation in October. We also took the opportunity to present him with an engraved whisky glass (and something appropriate to put in it!) to show our gratitude for all his input, enthusiasm and support over the years. Thank you Richard, I know that you deserve a well-earned break from SOLAS but I can see how much of your time and career has been involved with SOLAS and SOLAS members and I know you will continue to follow our activities with interest.

Glasgow

SOLAS Glasgow Branch Graduation

30th November 2018



The Glasgow branch Graduation was held at the Royal Faculty of Procurators with ten students passing all three subjects this year. Richard Murray the National President of SOLAS presented the certificates to the Graduates who attended the ceremony. Thanks to Richard for coming through from Edinburgh to present these Certificates.

The Graduates were joined by their families, friends, the Glasgow branch committee and branch members, who enjoyed the buffet and wine.





Congratulations to the Graduates:

Antonia Crawford
Allan Gallacher
Jean Kerr
Rajani Mahajan
Angela McLaren
Darren McLean
Rachel Miller
Tammy Mitchell
Pauline Ryan
Victoria Boyd
Damien O'Kane
Dalia Katoola

BRANCH MEETINGS

All meetings are held (unless otherwise stated in writing) at The Royal Faculty of Procurators, 12 Nelson Mandela Square, Glasgow, G2 IBT

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

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

Tuesday 13th November 2018

"GDPR"

Ruth Weir, Blackadders

Tuesday 5th February 2019

"Dead famous: Estate planning lessons from the celebrity gossip column" Stewart Dunbar, Blackadders

Tuesday 12th March 2019

"Cashroom"

Gillian Gray/Natalie Cook The Law Society of Scotland

Tuesday 16th April 2019

AGM with CPD Meeting & Buffet Booking form to follow (by email) "Mr MAN-management"

Simon Allison/Jack Boyle, Blackadders

Tuesday 7th May 2019

"Pension and Financial Planning" Duncan Arthur, Blackadders

Tuesday 10th September 2019

"Auction valuation and house clearance" Smellie & Sons

Tuesday 8th October 2019

"Issues Affecting Firms Today" The Law Society of Scotland

Inverness

“The Inverness Graduation Ceremony was held on 23rd October at the Palace Hotel, Inverness. We had one student, Eilidh Anderson, who received her Diploma. We had a very enjoyable evening. The meal was superb and the company lively. Well done Eilidh!”



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Gillian Grey - General Treasurer
Law Society of Scotland
Tel: 07875 628424

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Joyce Forbes
Blair Chalmers,
The Law Practice
The Law Practice
Wilsone & Duffus

Dundee

Heather Davidson
Nikki Scott,
Rollo's Law LLP
Blackadders

Edinburgh

Natalie Cooke
Gillian Forsyth
The Law Society
Murray Beith Murray

Glasgow

Carrie McQueen
Noreen Hope
Milne Craig

Inverness

Lisa McIntyre
Irene Yule
MacLeod & MacCallum
South Forrest

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