



## SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



'FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GIRLS' EDUCATION IN MALAWI'

### Convenor's Message

We are living in uncomfortably interesting times. From the political hurricane of the Arab Spring whose political and military consequences have swept the globe, to the riots and looting in North London, the Diplomatic tit-for-tat between Britain and Malawi and the public demonstrations over that government's increasing authoritarianism, this year has had its share of uncertainty and unrest.

What we have to remember though, is that for the vast majority of people, life goes on as usual. Charities cast about for new sources of funding; teachers worry about limited resources; schools take in pupils; families agonise over paying for their children's secondary education; HIV/AIDS threatens to make an orphan generation. The same concerns, year after year.

It's nearly 20 years since Margaret and John Sinclair set up the Mamie Martin Fund. At a recent meeting in Stirling, groups of trustees (past and present) looked at the challenges facing us and at how we overcame similar challenges in the past. What was most encouraging was that at the conclusion of the day's deliberations it was clear that we felt the Mamie Martin Fund's biggest strength is the precision of our stated aim. The backbone of that is the close relationship between

- our donors here in the UK
- the management committee in Scotland
- the management committee in Mzuzu
- the Synod of Livingstonia (CCAP)
- the CCAP secondary schools
- pupils we support

But what was also very clear was that, especially in these interesting times, the need for the resources and support of Mamie Martin Fund and the continued generosity of its donors is as great today as it was when we started.

On behalf of the girls in CCAP, Synod of Livingstonia Secondary Schools in Northern Malawi, I thank you for your continuing financial donations.

**William J Sinclair**

### Musicians for Malawi

An evening of music held in Irvine on September 9th for MMF raised an impressive £500—**thanks to all the musicians and everyone who came along.**

### Saturday October 22nd 2011

The Mamie Martin Fund Annual General Meeting will be held this year at 12.30 pm on Saturday October 22nd at Ladywell Church Hall in Bannockburn.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, SUPPORT US, OR SIMPLY NEED MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT:**

**11 Harviestoun Road, Dollar  
FK14 7HG**

**Phone: 0785 231 7825 or 01259 742827**

**E-mail: [admin@mamiemartin.org](mailto:admin@mamiemartin.org)**

**Web: [www.mamiemartin.org](http://www.mamiemartin.org)**

## Website

### [www.mamiemartin.org](http://www.mamiemartin.org)

The Mamie Martin Fund website now has a new look so if you haven't seen it for a while it is worth checking out – [www.mamiemartin.org](http://www.mamiemartin.org)

On the website are various documents which can be read or downloaded as well as Standing Order Forms and information about the Gift Cards which were so popular last Christmas.

Any ideas or suggestions about the website, fundraising initiatives, are, as always, welcome. Please contact Hazel Dawson – by email :

[admiin@mamiemartin.org](mailto:admiin@mamiemartin.org) or by phone 01259 742827 or 0785 231 7825.

## Gift Cards

On the website you will find information about fundraising through MMF Gift Cards. These cards offer a way to give a gift and donate to MMF at the same time. Should you wish to take part in this please follow instructions on the website. If you have any queries at all about the Gift Cards contact the MMF Administrator in Scotland – Hazel Dawson – by email [admin@mamiemartin.org](mailto:admin@mamiemartin.org) or by phone 01259 742827 or 0785 231 7825.

## 500 Miles and Elvas

Those of you who were able to attend the MMF AGM in November 2010 heard from Olivia Giles about her charity 500 Miles [www.500miles.co.uk](http://www.500miles.co.uk) which has as its particular focus the development and delivery of prosthetic and orthotic services. A student from Ekwendeni Girls Secondary School – who was supported by MMF during her school days – Elvas Singini – worked in the 500 miles workshop in Lilongwe for a year before going to Tanzania in the Autumn of 2010 to start a diploma course in prosthetics. Elvas is undertaking this training as a result of being awarded a scholarship by 500 miles valued at over £22,000 and was able to be put forward as a candidate for this very generous scholarship as a result of support from the Mamie Martin Fund. Both MMF Administrators are in contact with Elvas by email now she is at TATCOT (Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologies) and can report that she is enjoying her studies and doing well. So **huge** thanks to all donors – this is an outstanding example of the progress of one individual.

Elvas is in touch with Kenmay Academy in Inverurie which is raising funds for 500 Miles. 500 Miles is very pleased with Elvas and her performance and have high hopes for her future. MMF has been asked to put forward names of possible scholarship candidates for 2011.

## School News

Falkirk High School greeted the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament in July 2010 – the theme for meeting was “Our Malawian Friends” and the aim was to explore the unique friendship that exists between Scotland and Malawi; to learn about the snapshot of Malawian activity being taken forward in the Falkirk area; and to highlight the role of the Scottish Parliament in this friendship.

Kinross High School was originally partnered with Livingstonia Secondary School but the Malawian school no longer exists and its premises have been taken over by Livingstonia University. KHS has recently moved into new premises in Kinross and is still actively seeking another partner school.

Balfron High School continues in its partnership with ROLASS (Robert Laws Secondary School) in Embangweni – ROLASS now operates on a “boys only” basis.

Williamwood High School has established a strong partnership with Ekwendeni Girls Secondary School – both parties have visited the other – and David Maxwell from WHS spoke very eloquently of the moving reception that he and colleagues from Williamwood received from EGSS and the whole community at Ekwendeni. Further visits are planned for September 2011 and June 2012.

Alva Academy is partnered with Karonga Girls Secondary School which is in the very far north of Malawi. An earthquake in Karonga in December 2009 caused damage to buildings in the town - including the school and hostels for pupils. These buildings are only now being repaired so for well over a year pupils have been sleeping in tents and classes have been held in an assortment of locations! The headteacher of KAGSS visited Alva in October 2009 and a party from Alva planned to visit Karonga the following year – but because of the earthquake these plans were put on hold for a while and the Summer of 2012 is now a potential time for a visit.

Alan Kimmitt is a member of the MMF Management Committee and has been on the Committee since “the beginning” in 1993. Alan is currently studying divinity at Edinburgh University and as part of his studies visited Malawi in the Summer of 2010 for a work placement in Zomba. During his time in Zomba Alan sent the following email to the MMF Committee in Scotland “I was walking into town today with one of the lecturers at Zomba Theological College. As we were chatting, I discovered that he is originally from Karonga. I mentioned MMF and he was delighted. His step-sister was supported by an MMF grant for three years. He is hoping that she may be able to carry on her education in Zomba. He – the Reverend Malongo – was also previously a presbytery moderator and referred girls for MMF grants. The fingers of MMF reach well beyond Livingstonia Synod.”

At the end of his work placement Alan’s family came from Scotland to join him and they travelled together to the north of Malawi and visited CCAP in Mzuzu and met up with Paul Thole, the MMF Administrator. They also visited most of the “MMF schools”.



Alison Cameron is a Patron of the Mamie Martin Fund and attends all Committee meetings - she and her husband Colin spent many years living in Malawi and on their return to live in Scotland continued to play a prominent and very active role in the Scotland/Malawi connection. Colin very recently retired as the Malawian Consul in Scotland. Alison and Colin travelled out to Malawi in March 2011 for an extensive trip, staying in the country for a few weeks, and visited as many “MMF schools” as time permitted. Alison is pictured here with Paul Thole, MMF’s Administrator in Malawi, at Ekwendeni Girls Secondary School together with the Headteacher and some pupils.

As always, the strong foundation of MMF depends on its loyal and generous individual donors. During the past year MMF has also benefitted from donations from:

- The Mary Hodge Trust (allied to the Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling)
- Prentice Events—Allan Prentice is a member of the MMF Committee (see [www.prenticeevents.com](http://www.prenticeevents.com))
- The Souter Charitable Trust

MMF has also recently received a legacy from Judith Fairley who gave a great deal of her time and energy to MMF during her lifetime including serving on the Committee until last year.

**Scottish Charity Number SC 021483**

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