



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2015

In 2014 the Mamie Martin Fund became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. That change allowed us to apply for a grant from the Scottish Government to get some Monitoring and Evaluation done of the effect your donations here have had in our Malawi partner's schools. Particularly encouraging is how the recipients of your support have fared since leaving school (see page 5). Two reports have been drafted which will be used, among other things, in support of future applications to funding bodies. Copies will eventually be available to supporters, hopefully before the AGM on November 7, 2015.

At last year's AGM the grandchildren of Mamie Martin made a pledge to add a codicil to their wills so that the Mamie Martin Fund would benefit from a legacy on their demise. I can happily report that we are all well and in no imminent danger but have indeed made the necessary changes. In Scotland the process was simply a matter of writing and signing a letter to that effect and attaching it to the will. In Portugal things are done differently. For those who don't know us personally, the aforementioned grandchildren are:

Willie Sinclair (living in Irvine)

Mariot Dallas (in Falkirk)

Janet Hooton (in Braga, Portugal)

At the end of this newsletter we have included the necessary text for you to make your own Codicil, which you can then sign in front of a witness and keep with your Will. It really is that simple (in Scottish law) and it could make a big difference, so don't delay in adding the Codicil. But we wish you continuing good health!

Our newly refurbished, completely redesigned website is well worth a visit and I would urge you to do whatever social media sharing things you can to spread the word about MMF. It costs nothing to share the information, and the potential gain in educational support is immense. Maybe you could post a wee selfie on Facebook showing you with your signed Codicil?

Fuel poverty is defined as having to spend 10% of your income on heating and lighting. If we define Education Poverty in the same way then there is a huge number of families in Malawi who fit that description. The short description of Mamie Martin Fund's work is that within our

modest means we give financial support to girls who live in Education Poverty in Northern Malawi. And obviously, the more donations we receive, the more girls we can support. It really is that simple. So please spread the word. More donations = more support.

William J Sinclair

Convenor

Donations

There are different ways to donate to the Mamie Martin Fund – here they are:

- a Direct Debit through GoCardless OR a Standing Order made with your bank – this is a regular payment – monthly, quarterly, annually – you choose (details of both these ways of donating can be obtained from Hazel Dawson at admin@mamiemartin.org or 01259 742827). Direct Debits through GoCardless are the easier manner of donation to manage.
- one off donations made online through <http://www.everyclick.com/mamiemartinfund>
- one off donations via the Mamie Martin Fund website www.mamiemartin.org, or via mobile phones www.justgiving.com
- if you make an online search and do so via www.everyclick.com/mamiemartinfund MMF earns a little money for each search you make
- wording for a codicil to a Will can be found at the end of this newsletter. A legacy to the Mamie Martin Fund could be arranged in this way. The wording is also on the Mamie Martin Fund website (www.mamemartin.org)

Details of all ways of donating can be obtained from the website www.mamiemartin.org

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer Gift Aid can be claimed on your donation – currently this allows for 25% of any qualifying donation to be claimed back from HMRC – for example a qualifying donation of £10 allows for £2.50 to be claimed. Should you not already have lodged a Gift Aid declaration form with the Mamie Martin Fund please consider doing so now. These forms can be obtained from Hazel Dawson at admin@mamiemartin.org or 01259 742827 or on the Mamie Martin Fund website www.mamiemartin.org

The cost of maintaining a girl at secondary school in Malawi is about £300 per annum – this cost covers school fees, boarding costs, exam fees, books, uniform, toiletries and a little pocket money. On the following page you can read one girl's story of her time at school. "Naomi" was interviewed by Martha Chirwa as part of the Scottish Government funded research into the impact of MMF.

Naomi's story ...



Born into a family of nine, this young woman lost her father when she was still at Primary School. Her mother is not working; she brews beer for their survival. Her Uncle is the one who has been taking care of the family together with her mother. She was selected to go to Ekwendeni Girls through government selection. She was very excited as she was the only one out of 52 students but she was also worried about school fees. When she was in her first term of form one she was chased to go and collect school fees. She stayed home for a long time and then went back to school without school fees, her uncle wrote the head teacher to keep her. Then the head teacher interviewed her on her background. Then after some time she was put

on the bursary. She has stepbrothers who are well to do but they refused paying her school fees knowing they are not of the same mother.

As of now, she is a student at Mzuzu University doing Bachelor of Arts Education finishing this year. She says it made a difference that she finished Secondary School. She has reached this far because of MMF, if not for them she would have been in the village married with kids. She is proud she is finishing her tertiary education.

www.mamiemartin.org

The Mamie Martin Fund website has been redesigned and is now launched – do have a look at it – there you will find lots of information about how the Mamie Martin Fund was set up and how it operates today. There is a section there about the Trustees introducing them to members. If you have any comments or suggestions please direct them to Hazel Dawson on admin@mamiemartin.org who will pass them on to Calum McIntyre, our Webmaster.

Hold the date ...

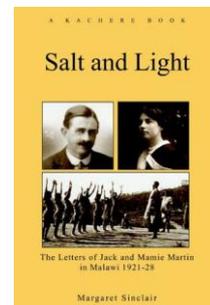
The AGM this year will take place on Saturday November 7th 2015 from 1230 until 1630 and will be held at the Ladywell Church Hall, Morrison Drive, Fir Entry, Hillpark, Bannockburn FK7 0HZ. The meeting will start with a soup and sandwiches lunch with time to talk and catch up with friends – then the formal part of the AGM will start about 1330 with speakers and presentations going on from about 1400 until 1600 when tea and coffee and cakes will finish the meeting.

Salt and Light: The Letters of Mamie and Jack Martin from Malawi (1921-1928)

(Kachere Study) Paperback – April 2003

By Margaret Sinclair

If you enjoy a good story, if you are wondering why it's important to educate girls in Malawi, if you wonder why we named this charity after Mamie, you should read this book.



In the family, we just call it 'Mum's book', because we remember the time she was writing it, a bit like giving birth, massive effort and a labour of love, but quite painful. However, it is much more than that. I've read it from cover to cover in one day (I'm not suggesting that's the only approach), but it's also well worth dipping into and browsing. Mamie and Jack's words ring very clearly down the years from the 1920s and provide inspiration for our work in MMF today. It's available from bookshops and the usual internet sources, although you may have to wait a little if it's not in stock. Mum has a small stock at home in Falkirk and can be contacted through Hazel. When Moira Dunworth visited Malawi earlier this year, she took copies for each of our partner schools and for the Synod and Mum signed each one in greeting.

Mum was adamant from the beginning of editing the letters that the book should be published in Malawi, as the story belongs there. Some of us read it as a story, others use it as a source of Malawian history. Many in Malawi (such as Liz and Maxwell Banda) know and love the book partly because it tells the story of their family members. While I was in Malawi in 2012 with Falkirk High's school party, I heard the story of baby Margaret arriving home in Bandawe and being greeted by her local friends and family. The person telling it (in a formal speech of greeting) knew it as a piece of local history, but it exactly matched what I knew from the letters in Salt and Light.

Our grandparents wrote a lot. Mamie wrote weekly, the 1920s way of keeping in touch with the family back home and way of thanking for gifts (*Ten Pounds arrived from Mother's Sewing Group in Tarbet*) or passing on news of their new and exciting life (*Our huge family here has made this home for us and we both love them all so much*). Some of what she says is factual, housekeeping concerns and to do lists, but her passion for other issues shines through. (*I told the girls about how clever Scottish girls were (when I think of some of the Scottish girls, I hope I may be forgiven)...as I was afraid the boys might be feeling left out, I warned them that unless they wanted the girls to beat them, they must work hard too. To both boys*

and girls this is a totally new idea, for the few girls who bother at all are miles behind the boys and content to remain so-the woman's proper place.)

Nowadays, we have to remind Mum of what she achieved in writing this book and what she and Dad achieved in setting up MMF, as she is living with dementia. The meticulous editing and scholarship involved in this project would be beyond her now, but we have the book. I strongly recommend you read it.



Margaret Sinclair – who, along with her husband John, founded the Mamie Martin Fund to honour her mother's memory – is pictured here signing copies of Salt and Light.

P.S It would be a good idea to have Salt and Light available as an ebook. Anyone who knows how to do this, let me know through Hazel.

P.P.S John and Rhiannon found the letters in the trunk all those years ago, let's not forget their place in all of this.

Mariot Dallas

The Falkirk Music Pot and the Mamie Martin connection

In January 2014, the town of Falkirk was awarded Creative Place status following a successful bid to Creative Scotland's awards scheme.

The acclaimed Falkirk musician Brian McNeill, who writes, performs and teaches traditional music worldwide and founded The Battlefield Band, directed two community concerts in Falkirk Town Hall in March 2015, featuring some of the area's most talented musicians - Sing Forth Community Choir, Falkirk Fiddle Workshop, Falkirk Traditional Music Project, and Falkirk's School Ensembles. (A selection of this new music is available on double CD through [Greentrax records](#))



So, where does Mamie Martin fit in with this?

The project takes its name from the Falkirk Pot, an iron three-legged cooking pot produced by the Carron Ironworks and Falkirk Foundry in the 1800s and exported to Africa and elsewhere around the world. It brings together Falkirk's international cultural strands and draws parallels between cultural exchanges and the sharing of songs, music and stories that historically marked the end of the Falkirk Trysts, the town's cattle markets, in the 18th and 19th centuries.

THE FALKIRK MUSIC POT A musical feast created and directed by acclaimed Falkirk musician **Brian McNeill**



In 2014, as part of this cultural exchange, Brian and his wife Jacqueline visited Bandawe Girls' Secondary School in Malawi. They chose to visit BAGSS because of the ongoing partnership with Falkirk High – Brian's old school - and they recorded the pupils singing, which features on the CD. A bonus of the trip was that they found three of the highly-prized cooking pots – one of which is still in use today.

Their time at the school was rich and memorable for all and Jacqueline's beautiful photos capture some of the experience. They also filmed the BAGSS girls singing and this film made a stirring first musical item at the Falkirk Pot concerts.



From left to right: Brian with Mercy Saka and Faith Banda, head and depute head girls at BAGSS, with their headteacher Benford Mwakayuni holding a Falkirk Pot, and Jenala Kamanga, a pupil at the school.

Jacqueline read Salt and Light before travelling to Bandawe and she and Brian were delighted to spend some time talking with Margaret Sinclair on their return.

The Mamie Martin Fund has been successful in obtaining two Capacity Building Grants from the Scottish Government – the first one ran from April 2014 until March 2015, and the second one began in April 2015 and will complete in March 2016.

Capacity Building Grant 2014 – this grant allowed for research to take place in Malawi which has provided the raw material for the production of an Impact Report showing how support from the Mamie Martin Fund has allowed girls to progress through their lives. Interviews were held with about 30 current and former pupils. One of the “case studies” created features in this newsletter (see page 3) which will permit readers to have a clearer picture of the girls who are supported through the Mamie Martin Fund. This grant also allowed us to redesign our website www.mamiemartin.org (now launched) and strengthen our fundraising strategy. The grant also included funds to allow for a Trustee to visit Malawi in January 2015 – a report about Moira Dunworth’s visit can be read below and is also on the Mamie Martin Fund website.

During the **Capacity Building Grant 2015** we will be able to produce a "glossy" Impact Report from the research into pupils' experience and onward development undertaken during 2014 - and also help establish a strong monitoring and evaluation system in the schools in Malawi with which we work.

In January 2015 one of our Trustees, Moira Dunworth, who is also a founding member of the Mamie Martin Fund, visited Malawi on behalf of the Mamie Martin Fund and writes about her visit here ...

I was privileged to go to Mzuzu in January with the tasks of:

- 1 Reviewing our Partnership Agreement.
- 2 Conducting a NIDOS Effectiveness ‘MOT’.
- 3 Support our research assistant in her impact research work.

I was, of course, made very welcome by all those connected with our work. I was even given the Education Secretary’s office for the period of my stay. Before he left for a trip we explored our partnership arrangements and I was finally able to understand the complex funding and selection processes within which our partners work. The Head Teachers came to meet me and we undertook the NIDOS Effectiveness Toolkit together, concluding that it was not all that useful in a rural Malawian context, but it was a nice process to explore its topics and, thereby, our work together. When we were together we explored the challenging area of how to select girls to be supported by MMF. The general level of poverty is such that the selection issue for the Head Teachers is one of identifying those in greatest need.

It was nice to take the opportunity of that meeting to tell the MMF story to the Head Teachers, none of whom had been involved at the start of our partnership. They were amazed at the way ordinary people give the MMF money in their wills and ask for donations instead of gifts at weddings. I was able to show a photo of cycling with Willie, our Convenor and Mamie Martin's grandson. This was taken on Arran and looked very Malawian with the mist on the hills.



It was lovely to meet old friends and to make new ones. I spent some time with Martha Chirwa, our Impact Research Assistant. She helped me to buy bananas and was startled at how the price varied when I was with her.

I was also able to start some discussion about monitoring and evaluation and this fitted neatly into the strategy of the CCAP Education Department who were addressing similar issues across their work.

It was great to see that we are such a valued partner in their work. I visited two of 'our' schools and heard first-hand how important our work is to the lives of the young women we are able to help. The need is much greater than anything we can meet but the bit that we are doing is very important, is having a big impact and, most important of all, we are still doing it after 22 years!

Moira Dunworth

We are updating records and would appreciate confirmation that you still wish to receive the Mamie Martin Fund newsletter and other information. The more we can relay information electronically the better so please let us have your email address if you have one. Please let us know by emailing admin@mamiemartin.org or telephoning 01259 742827.

The Mamie Martin Fund is working with CCAP to SUPPORT EDUCATION FOR GIRLS IN MALAWI

Registered with the Office of the Scottish Charitable Register as incorporated 24th February 2014

SCO No 021483

Registered Office: 43 Ravenscroft, Irvin, KA12 9DE

Admin Office: 6 Dewar Street, Dollar FK14 7EP

Tel: 01259 742827 or 0785 231 7825 Email: admin@mamiemartin.org Website: www.mamiemartin.org

For anyone wishing to leave a legacy to the Mamie Martin Fund here is an example of an addition to an existing will.

Codicil to an existing Will - Scotland

I (name)

residing at (address)

Do HEREBY make the following Codicil to my Will.

(One) I direct my executor(s) to pay and make over the sum of Pounds Sterling (£) to The Mamie Martin Fund (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number SCO21483)

Registered Address – 43 Ravenscroft, Irvine, Ayrshire KA12 9DE

Admin Office – 6 Dewar Street, Dollar FK14 7EP

to be used for their general purposes; the sum to be paid as soon as practicable after the date of my death without interest and free of Inheritance Tax or any other taxes or duties exigible in respect of my death.

(Two) I direct that (a) if The Mamie Martin Fund has changed its name or has amalgamated with or transferred its assets to any other body or has been wrongly designed then my Executors shall give effect to this bequest as if it had been made to such other body with similar purposes to the legatee as my Executors may in their sole discretion decide, and (b) the receipt of an authorised official of any such body shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executors.

(Three) Except as herein altered I RATIFY and CONFIRM in all respects the terms of said Will and any Codicils thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents are subscribed at the place and on the date shown below, in the presence of the following witness:

Signed at (place)

on (date)

Signature of Witness	Signature of Granter
Full Name of Witness	
Witness Address	