



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

Message from the Co-Convenors – Willie Sinclair and Moira Dunworth

The first six months of this year have been encouraging months for this small charity of ours. We've had the appointment of a new and enthusiastic coordinator in Malawi and she, Mercy Sibande, introduces herself to you in this newsletter. We have forged a partnership with the Soko Fund whereby, each year, five of our girls will be awarded a University scholarship to study in Malawi. Funding for higher education was the biggest area of identified need to emerge from our impact evaluation and this partnership meets some of this need for those girls who have been supported through secondary school by the Mamie Martin Fund.

As if all of that was not wonderful enough we've been named as the beneficiary charity of a new coffee project. Brodies, who launched 'Scotland Street Coffee' in March, donate all of their profits to the Mamie Martin Fund. Read more about that further on.

In spite of all these welcome developments, we would not be able to continue our important work without your steadfast, regular support. Our funding has always come from small, individual donations. Knowing that ordinary people donate small but regular amounts makes a huge impression on people in Malawi. To continue our support of 80 girls a year at a fee level of approximately £300.00 each is a huge commitment and we move slightly anxiously from year to year in the hope of maintaining that level of support. Thanks for your part in making it possible year after year – you are making a huge difference to the lives of these girls, their families and communities. Mercy Sibande is clear that you are also making a difference to the nation of Malawi. She says 'For our nation to develop we need to be serious in girl-child education'.

It's worth repeating that we have been able to raise our profile at home this year without having to spend donors' money. The Soko Fund - Mamie Martin Fund partnership signing, the Scotland Street Coffee launch, the publication of the Impact Report, were all made possible by resources other than donations. Margaret and John Sinclair, co-founders of the Mamie Martin Fund, were always mindful of the generosity of time and energy that friends and acquaintances were willing to freely give in aid of "the cause". Such gifts are not easy to quantify and it's the nature of volunteering in what is trendily referred to as the Third Sector that they should be accepted with grace and acknowledged with gratitude. We are a small charity, but we are blessed with generous supporters. Thank you again.

Donations

A huge “thank you” to all who have donated to the Mamie Martin Fund throughout the year – including those regular donors who have changed their method of payment to GoCardless or a Standing Order to our new bank account.

Just as a reminder - 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 easiest donations 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
- if you make an online search and do so via www.everyclick.com/mamiemartinfund MMF earns a little money for each search you make – this is really worth doing!
- Should a donor wish to leave a legacy to the Mamie Martin Fund the wording for codicil to a Will is on www.mamemartin.org

Details of all ways of donating can be obtained from the website www.mamiemartin.org Should anyone have any questions about donating please contact Hazel Dawson using the contact details on this newsletter. Any forms requested can be emailed or posted to individuals.

The Mamie Martin Fund bank account at Pitt Terrace in Stirling closed in July 2016 and the account which the Fund operates is now with the Royal Bank of Scotland in Inverness.

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. Individual donations always have been, and continue to be, the bedrock of the Mamie Martin Fund and form the basis of the work that the Fund carries out. The work of the Fund is entirely dependent on these donations and the generosity of donors is most definitely a ‘team effort’ when it comes to supporting girls at secondary school in Malawi.

New Faces



There is a new MMF Administrator in Malawi – Mrs Mercy Sibande – who will be working closely with the four schools at which the Mamie Martin Fund supports girls (at Bandawe, Karonga, Elangeni and Ekwendeni) to implement and strengthen the monitoring and evaluation work that is being undertaken in Malawi and Scotland, and also to implement the MMF/Soko Fund arrangement about scholarships for girls who have received support from MMF and who are going on to tertiary education. Mercy is settling into her role and she introduces herself with these words:

‘Mercy Moyo Sibande is an educationist from Mzuzu, Malawi, who obtained her Bachelors from Mzuzu University in 2015. She is the Coordinator for the Mamie Martin Fund in Malawi. She has a passion for work that deals with women and children affairs thus, girl child education and empowerment falls under her desired goals. She is an honest reliable individual who loves to bring about change and meaning in somebody's life by making them realise that they can reach as far as their dreams can take them, no matter what background they are coming from.’

You can see her speaking with passion about the importance of girls' education in the video on our website. <http://www.mamiemartin.org/2016/07/20/why-girls-education-matters/>

The Mamie Martin Fund Committee has been joined by two new Trustees – Brian Kerr is the chair of the Soko Fund (see the other item in this newsletter about the partnership between the Mamie Martin and Soko Funds), and Jean Gordon is a freelance social research and training consultant who did a great job of working on all the research data produced by Martha Chirwa and getting it into a shape so it could become the published Impact Report.



Here are Brian and Jean at a recent Trustee meeting in Stirling.

Hold the date ...

The AGM this year will take place on Saturday November 5th 2016 from 12.30 until 16.30 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 13.30 with speakers and presentations going on from 1400 until 1600 when tea and coffee and cakes will finish the meeting.

Impact Report

The Mamie Martin Fund is currently coming to the end of a 2nd Capacity Building Grant from the Scottish Government. At the beginning of the grant period we were able to produce a "glossy" Impact Report from the research into pupils' experience and onward development undertaken during 2014. The report is available on www.mamiemartin.org and paper copies were distributed to donors who do not use the internet – any other copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Hazel Dawson (phone and email details at the end of this newsletter). The report has already been immensely useful by illustrating the work that the Mamie Martin Fund has accomplished over the last 20 years and more.

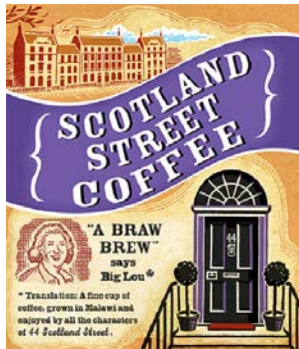
The work of the grant continues as we establish a strong monitoring and evaluation system in the schools in Malawi with which we work. The existence and strength of such a system will enhance the work of the Mamie Martin Fund in both Malawi and Scotland. As part of the management of this work one of our Trustees, Moira Dunworth, will visit Malawi in September 2016.

All the current work and the earlier research which led to the publication of the Impact Report has been entirely funded through the generous Capacity Building Grants received from the Scottish Government.

Kilombero rice

Kilombero rice is harvested in the area around Karonga where some of the girls supported through the Mamie Martin Fund go to school. Since May this year this rice is being stocked by Co-op stores – whereas before it was only available through Fair Trade shops. This means local Malawian farmers have access to a major market through which this rice can be sold. Moira Dunworth hopes to meet some of the Kilombero rice farmers in September.

Scotland Street coffee



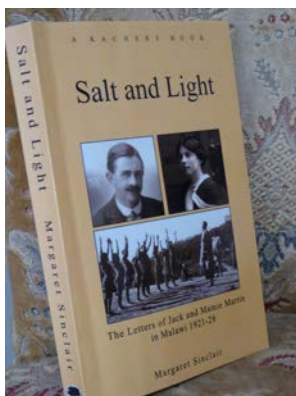
On 30th March 2016 there was an official launch of the Mamie Martin Fund's agreement with Brodies, the well-known coffee and tea merchant based in Edinburgh. Brodies have very kindly and generously offered to market Malawian coffee and transfer profits from the sales of the coffee to the Mamie Martin Fund. Alexander McCall Smith, whose novels are published internationally, and who is the author of the Scotland Street novels, wrote a short story about the coffee and those who drink it.

(To read more about Big Lou and friends, you need to visit www.brodies1867.co.uk/scotlandstreet).

Both Alexander McCall Smith and the Brodies chairman, Ralph Lutton, were at the Elephant House on the Bridges in Edinburgh, for the launch. The owner of the Elephant House, Iain Fraser, is a coffee fan and has been generous in his support of the MMF/Brodies link.

Scotland Street coffee is for sale in many shops and outlets and is available in all branches of Dobbies Garden Centres.

In June 2016 an email from Brodies contained the following news: *"We have sold enough coffee bags to put one girl through secondary education for 4 years and I am hoping by the end of the year it will be at least two."* This is terrific news and a big contribution towards the on-going work of the Mamie Martin Fund.



Salt and Light

By Mariot Dallas, one of Mamie Martin's granddaughters.

Some of you might have read my article in Life and Work. I was prompted to write it by thinking about legacies in the wider sense and particularly about what has been achieved in memory of Mamie. If any of you would also like to add a codicil to your Will, it is really easy!

What I'm now thinking about, at this time of our family life, are the partners and couples that are so important in the Salt and Light and Mamie Martin Fund story. Jack and Mamie's love story as glimpsed through their letters is so romantic and so beautifully expressed, but yet

they were also very practical, seeing their marriage as a working and effective partnership. They were determined to make a difference.

And then, of course, there were Margaret and John, our parents, wanting to make a difference after their life-changing visit to Malawi in their middle age. Back then, the Mamie Martin Fund emerged from their address book, word processor, telephone and dining room table. They were careful to keep the idea simple and to keep in touch with their Malawian partners and to establish the charity on firm foundations. And here we still are, many years later. Maybe they had that same blend of romantic love and practicality.

Margaret was 89 in June and on her birthday I reminded her of the sweet little poem written by her doting dad when she was born. You can find the story of her birth on page 288 of *Salt and Light*. Here is the poem.

Triolet

Friendship turned to Love unbroken
Brings at last our hearts' desire.
Fortitude and Faith unspoken
Friendship turned to Love unbroken.
Here we have the surest token
Nothing more can love require;
Friendship turned to Love unbroken
Brings at last our hearts' desire.

That article about *Salt and Light*, appeared in the August 2016 issue of the Church of Scotland magazine, *Life and Work* and is entitled "Educating girls, empowering Malawi." *Salt and Light* is the book of letters between Jack and Mamie during the years of their courtship and marriage which their daughter, Margaret Sinclair, compiled and published in 2003. The following is an extract of the article: "*Mamie's writings are full of life and energy and passion but are bitter-sweet to read when we know she died too soon. Her big idea was that women and girls have a right to education. She could see that help with education had a lasting benefit for the girl, the woman she becomes, future generations, her community and her country.*"

The full article can be accessed through [our website](#), read in *Life and Work* or can be obtained by contacting Hazel Dawson on admin@mamiemartin.org

Trustee visit

One of the Mamie Martin Fund Trustees, Moira Dunworth, will be visiting Malawi in September this year. If anyone has any questions to ask before then or has suggestions for issues to discuss please contact Hazel Dawson on admin@mamiemartin.org

MMF and Soko

On 14th June 2016 we signed an agreement with The Soko Fund whereby five of our girls will be funded at University in Malawi by the Soko Fund each year. This is a huge step forward for Mamie Martin Fund beneficiaries; we have been aware of how hard it is to get funding to continue education after school but we have not been able to fund this.



The signing of our agreement took place at a celebratory event hosted by the University of Edinburgh and funded, through the Scotland Malawi Partnership, by the Scottish Government. Speakers emphasized the way in which our joint work contributes to the Global Goals of Gender Equality, Education and Partnership. We were honoured to be joined by Alison Johnstone MSP who has recently lodged a successful parliamentary motion about this partnership. The new Scottish Minister for International Development was unable to attend but sent a warm letter of support which was shared with the audience.

The event was chaired by Professor Viv Cree who told us about Chrystal Macmillan, the first female science graduate of the University and a strong supporter of the cause of women's university education in Britain, long before it was widely accepted as a right.

The One World shop provided a stall so that we could see some of the lovely goods produced in Malawi and by other African women too. No Mamie Martin Fund event would be complete without Scotland Street coffee and this was available for sale.

We are constantly 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
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