



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

Message from the Convenors - Willie Sinclair and Moira Dunworth

It has been an encouraging year since our last newsletter. It is heartening to see that the work of the Mamie Martin Fund is being recognised more widely than ever before. We have received financial support from a range of sources, all of which is hugely important to the ongoing support of our girls in Malawi but is also encouraging for our Trustees and regular supporters. The work we are doing is being seen as valuable and our organisation is being recognised as being worthy of support. It is thanks to all of you that we have reached that stage – without our regular supporters we would not be able to help any of our girls and we would not be the established organisation that we seem to have become.

Our work and your support has been recognised and endorsed by the Scottish Government who have asked the Mamie Martin Fund to disburse and manage four years of the newly-created Alison Cameron scholarships. Alison Cameron is our Scottish patron and this scholarship fund has been created by the government to honour the work of Alison and her husband, Colin, over six decades in, and in relation to, Malawi. These scholarships will allow 23 extra girls to complete four years of secondary school and a further two young women to study at university through the Soko Fund, each between 2017 and 2021.

In this newsletter there are reports of a heartening number of fundraising successes. While it costs £300.00 to send a girl to school for a year, it can be easier to think about it as £25.00 a month. Our income is made up of many small donations, so never think that a few pounds is too little. It all makes the difference between girls being able to stay at school and not. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the current fundraising activity – we like fun to be a central element of all our fundraising.

At the same time as all those positive developments was the sad event of the death in December of our founder, Margaret Sinclair, whom so many of you knew. We include in this newsletter an appreciation of her and an account of the service held in Malawi on the same day as her funeral in Scotland.

Formal notice of our **AGM** is in this newsletter and we hope you can join us on Saturday 4th November at Ladywell Church, Bannockburn, starting with the traditional soup at 12.30.

Fundraising successes and welcome surprises...

The cost of supporting a girl at secondary school in Malawi is £25.00 a month or £300 for a year. Small donations from individuals have always been the strong foundation on which the Fund depends. The work of the Mamie Martin Fund would not continue without the generosity of individuals who have enabled the Fund to support girls during 2600 school years since 1993.

Coffee

In last year's newsletter we told you about the contribution being made by Brodies, the tea and coffee merchants, through 'Scotland Street' coffee. In May this year a cheque for £3,454 was handed over to a very grateful Mamie Martin Fund – this contribution will pay the cost of three girls throughout the four years of their secondary school career.

Left to right: Kathryn Chipperfield (Scotland Malawi Partnership), Hazel Dawson, Angie Wynn, Moira Dunworth (all Mamie Martin Fund), Ann Hamedra (Brodies) - outside the Brodies offices in Musselburgh (April 2017)



Ascent

In a very welcome surprise development, the Ascent Charitable Foundation has made a funding arrangement to support six MMF girls during the four years of their secondary school education. Angus McLeod of Ascent will be at the Mamie Martin Fund AGM in November to talk about the Foundation's involvement in Malawi.

Strathendrick

The Strathendrick Baptist Church continues to donate £1,000 a year to the Mamie Martin Fund – this funds at least three girls each year.

Doughnuts



Patrick Mallon, a former Falkirk High School pupil who took part in a school trip to Malawi organised by his school, arranged a "Doughnut Day" at the Ernst & Young office in Edinburgh where he works. Not only did Patrick's colleagues give generously but the Ernst & Young Head Office in London made a "mirror" contribution, leading to a total of £700.00. Wonderful, thanks!

Dundee Kiltwalk 2017



Lynsey and Andrew Kimmitt are taking part in the Dundee Kiltwalk – a 25 mile walk from St Andrews to Monifeith Beach - on 20th August. They each aim to raise enough for one girl's fees for a year - £300.00. Their fundraising pages are -

<https://dundeekiltwalk2017.everydayhero.com/uk/team-marmitt>

Garden opening



The Mamie Martin Fund is the charity benefitting from Frank Kirwan's garden ('Humbie Dean') openings through Scotland's Gardens and privately. That his garden recently featured on the BBC's Beechgrove Garden has really boosted interest in this lovely woodland garden.

<http://www.scotlandsgardens.org/gardens/garden/670663d9-5a95-41a5-8362-9e0d00f13899>

Have a Blether & Make a Difference

Could you open your garden for us? Or have some friends round for a coffee morning or some other fundraiser? We can send you our **Have a Blether & Make a Difference** pack, including all you need to have a successful event. Email Mariot on Mariot@mamiemartin.org or phone her on 01324 639245.

Birthday donations



Two people – that we know of – pointed well-wishers in the direction of the Mamie Martin Fund in order to give donations in lieu of birthday presents. Thank you and Happy Birthday!

Alison Cameron scholarships



Alison Cameron with Mercy

The most recent boost to our resources was the invitation by the Scottish Government to disburse a fund of £50,000.00 through our existing structures and systems so as to provide school education for 23 extra girls for four years from September. This fund also includes two university scholarships through the Soko Fund. As well as being a most welcome addition to the number of girls we can support, we are thrilled at this indication of trust by the Government – we will honour that trust by managing these funds in the same careful, accountable way as our core funds.

The Mamie Martin Story

We have a good story to tell and have a range of presentations and resources ready for taking out to schools and other groups. If you know of a group or school who would like to discuss or book a visit, contact Mariot as above.

If anyone has a fundraising idea we can provide them with materials that give information about the Mamie Martin Fund. Please look on our website www.mamiemartin.org or contact Hazel Dawson by emailing admin@mamiemartin.org or phone 01259 742827.

Coming up



A big event for us in September is a team of cyclists from the Mamie Martin Fund and our partners the Soko Fund entering the Pedal for Scotland event on September 10th. The team – ‘Miles for Malawi’ – will cycle the 45 miles between Glasgow and Edinburgh. There is one donation page for the whole team and that is www.tinyurl.com/MMF-Soko

Updates are posted regularly on the Facebook page for that event – <https://www.facebook.com/Miles4Malawi/>



The AGM this year will take place on Saturday November 4th 2017 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. We will be joined this year by Angus McLeod of the Ascent Foundation which has become a generous donor to the Mamie Martin Fund. We hope to be able to share a video contribution from Mercy Sibande, MMF Manager in Malawi.

Please indicate whether you are able to attend by October 31st to Hazel Dawson by email admin@mamiemartin.org or telephone 01259 742827.

Updates

MMF and Soko

Our partnership with Soko was formally launched in June 2016 and is now coming to the end of its first academic year of operation and so our first five MMF beneficiaries have completed their



first year of university study. The Soko Fund is another small Scottish Charity and it is devoted exclusively to securing university level vocational education for disadvantaged women in Malawi. Established in 2014, it currently supports 50 women studying for degrees at three public Universities in Malawi. There are now Soko Fund Graduates working in Malawi across the professions of teaching, medicine, midwifery, pharmacy, accountancy, agriculture and business.



The five MMF beneficiaries who have now completed their first year of tertiary education on Soko Fund scholarships will (supposing they pass their exams!) be supported all the way through to graduation, and then five more will be able to start. We hope that this number will increase if resources become available to Soko (*see joint fundraising*

effort 'Miles for Malawi' on Page 4) 'Our' girls are studying Education, Accountancy, Soil Science, Agribusiness and Nursing at four different Malawi Universities. We are pleased that four of the five were able to attend the launch of the Soko Graduate Association in May and we got a photo of them there! We wish them well in their future studies.

The partnership has already brought other benefits, beyond support for individual students. For example, Moira Dunworth on her MMF visit to Malawi in September 2016, was able to do meet Soko colleagues and bring 'messages' from Scotland. Then in April 2017, Lindsay Graham, secretary of the Soko Fund, was able to reciprocate on her visit there. We will be working together both on fundraising events and strategies, and learning from each other in all sorts of ways. Perhaps most important of all, Mercy Sibande, MMF manager in Malawi, has formed a close working relationship with her Soko equivalent (and personal friend!) Winnie Mwkandawire; they support each other's work, offer practical support and networking opportunities to the students and to MMF and Soko trustees in Scotland. Already this pair are a significant force to be reckoned with in Malawi!

Trustee trip to Malawi in October



MMF Convenor transport!

Our co-convenor and trustee, Moira Dunworth, will go to Malawi in October and visit each of our schools with Mercy. This is part-funded by the Alison Cameron Scholarship Fund and is an essential part of our good governance. It helps us to keep abreast of MMF work there and the successes of our beneficiaries as well as the challenges they face. Our costs on such visits are kept to a minimum and this is a photo of the minibus in which Moira travelled from

Karonga to Mzuzu on her last visit! If you would like her to bring back any Malawian products, such as wooden personalised keyrings, get in touch with us.

Margaret Sinclair (1927-2016) and the Mamie Martin Fund.

An appreciation by Willie Sinclair and Mariot Dallas



The church at Bandawe built by Jack Martin in memory of his wife Mamie

The Mamie Martin Fund was founded by our parents Margaret and John Sinclair. Our Grandfather Jack Martin had kept, in meticulous order, the letters that he and Mamie had exchanged when courting, and the letters they had written to their parents from Nyasaland (now Malawi) during their time there. Mamie died in Bandawe in 1928 when Margaret was only 15 months old. Jack brought his wee daughter home and then returned to Nyasaland

for one more spell of duty. During the rest of his long life he kept in contact with Malawian friends but neither he nor Margaret went back to Bandawe. After his death, the letters were "rediscovered", thank goodness, and ignited in Margaret the desire to return to the place of her birth and her mother's death. She and John visited at last in 1991 (just before the first Iraq war, preparations for which influenced the air-lines' flight plans on their return). They met with Revs Mezua Maxwell Banda and Matiya Nkhoma of the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia, who persuaded them that a fitting memorial to both Jack and Mamie would be a fund to provide educational support for girls in secondary education at CCAP schools. Mamie's interest had been to address the gender imbalance in the 1920s. 70 years later that was still an issue. And so in this very small, very focussed way, the Mamie Martin Fund was born. They were quite a team, Margaret, John, Maxwell and Matiya. That MMF is still doing its core work today is largely due to their focus on the absolute necessities.

In the early years, Margaret and John ran the Fund from their home in Bannockburn, with the help of the first committee members. It was an exciting time as the charity became established and together they generated interest amongst their friends and family and encouraged new supporters and donors. They did a memorable 'double act' for church groups when they each read aloud from the Jack and Mamie letters accompanied by John's photographic slides. Along with the work on the Fund, Margaret was forming the letters of her parents into 'Salt and Light', published in 2003.

Inevitably, they couldn't continue at this pace and in 2007 decided to stand down from the committee. A better description would be standing aside, as they each kept a keen interest and were free with advice and suggestions!

For both, the Malawi strand of their lives was strong right to the end. At the time of John's death in December 2009, a party of pupils and teachers from Bandawe Girls Secondary School was visiting Falkirk as part of the schools partnership and he enjoyed hearing about the plans and preparations. During Margaret's last year, when she was in the nursing home, she liked to hear bits of news about Malawi and the Mamie Martin Fund. She managed to record a video of congratulations on the SOKO partnership and enjoyed the news about the donations from the Scotland Street Coffee. As she became more frail, her reaction to talk of Malawi and the Fund was to listen intently, pause and then say quietly 'Isn't it wonderful, that it's still going on?'



On the day of Margaret's funeral in Falkirk in December 2016 a memorial service was also held in Bandawe, where Margaret had lived from 1927-28 with her parents Mamie and Jack. This service was attended by many friends, members of the CCAP, representatives of schools where the Mamie Martin Fund supports girls, present day beneficiaries,

MMF's Malawi Manager Mrs Mercy Sibande and many more. A great deal of loving care and thoughtfulness by Rev. Maxwell Banda and Mrs Fiddes Msowoya went into the planning of this service and it meant a great deal to the family in Scotland on the funeral day.

As we take forward Mamie's vision, put into action by Margaret and now embedded into an established and respected charity, we can appreciate the words written by her Malawian friends in 1928 at the time of Mamie's death:

Though her work here has ceased, her words and character still preach after her. Her life was like salt and light to many people.

The Mamie Martin Fund website is well used and looks great – check it out if you have not looked at it recently – it benefitted from a major re-design in 2015. On the website we introduce all the trustees, including our newest trustee, Angie Wynn, who is already making a big contribution to our work. The website is an easy way to find out about the Fund, the family nature of its work and ethos, the structure of how it works today and it contains information about donating, fundraising tools, upcoming events and much more www.mamiemartin.org



Our Facebook page is popular with supporters around the world and with former MMF pupils in Malawi. It's a light-hearted way of posting updates about our activities and those of our supporters – there is always something going on! <https://www.facebook.com/MamieMartinFund/>

Donations

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
- one off donations via the Mamie Martin Fund website www.mamiemartin.org
- Should a donor wish to leave a legacy to the Mamie Martin Fund the wording for codicil to a Will is on <http://www.mamiemartin.org/downloads/>
- You can donate to the 'Miles4Malawi' cycling project on www.tinyurl.com/MMF-Soko

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 paper copies posted to individuals.

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 our website www.mamiemartin.org

The more we can relay information electronically the better (cheaper) so please let us have your email address if you have one. Please let us know of any change to your contact details by emailing admin@mamiemartin.org or telephoning 01259 742827.

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