This has been another successful and interesting year in the life of the Mamie Martin Fund and we hope you enjoy reading our summer newsletter.

The date of our AGM is Saturday 26th October and this year we will be meeting in the McCallum Room at the Stirling Baptist Church on Murray Place in Stirling FK8 1AU. It’s a short walk from the railway and bus stations and there are several carparks nearby. Two Trustees will just have returned from a governance visit to Malawi and will bring news of schoolgirls as they start a new academic year and will have spent time with Mercy Sibande, our Manager in Malawi.

We are absolutely delighted to be able to look forward to welcoming Mercy to Scotland for her second visit which will take place in 2020 - probably in June - thanks to a very generous contribution from a Scottish business.

If you’ve been visiting our website recently, you’ve probably noticed that it’s had a bit of a makeover, funded by a grant from St Andrew’s and St George’s West Church. The work was done by a Trustee with professional help and the website is now much easier to use. We have an online shop on the website where you can buy Mamie Martin Fund gift cards, cotton bags, wristbands and pens. Methods of donation have also been streamlined. We hope you’ll enjoy visiting the website, which is full of news and information about our work.

Fundraising - which always involves a lot of awareness-raising - has been as active this year as ever. We are massively grateful for donations from individuals which mean that we can commit to the education of girls in our partner schools in Malawi for the four years of their school-life. The generous actions of individuals never ceases to amaze - recently one donor asked for donations to MMF at her wedding and we also received a donation from a family who had received a legacy.

This year we welcomed another little person to Mamie and Jack Martin’s extended family, when their great-great-grandson Andrew Robbie was born on June 17th.
Many thanks to Hazel and the Trustees for working on this newsletter.

Mariot Dallas and Willie Sinclair, Convenors.

Footnote from Willie

The Scottish Government started making funding grants available to charities working with Malawi in 2005. Until then all the administration and day-to-day running of the Mamie Martin Fund had been done by my passionately focussed but elderly parents, Margaret and John Sinclair, from their wee house in Chartershall, Stirling. The first grant we received allowed us to fund many good things: Scotland-Malawi school links; reciprocal visits; teachers’ accommodation; admin help both in Scotland and in Malawi. This last was of immense value, freeing my parents in their later years from some of the stresses and burdens that came with growth and bureaucracy. Hazel Dawson’s temporary, maternity-covering, appointment became permanent when Isa Uny, our first administrator, was offered a full-time post in a larger organisation. In these intervening years Hazel’s calm and unflappable presence has helped the Mamie Martin Fund to steer through and manage the challenges posed by the demise of its founders in 2009 and 2016, the change of legal status to SCIO, multiple grant applications, stewardship of endowments and large donations and of course the dreaded GDPR. All this in addition to the “normal” work of a small charity. She has gently prodded the Trustees when we needed to be, and kept us on the straight and narrow if we showed signs of wandering, with never a cross word uttered. Her minute-taking has been meticulous and diplomatic, a fine skill and invaluable when writing for such diverse readers as trustees, partner organisations, beneficiaries, donors and Government Ministers. However, all good things are finite and Hazel is retiring in early 2020.

So, on behalf of Trustees, past and present, MMF beneficiaries, our CCAP and SOKO fund partners and everyone else who has met and worked with her over the years we wish Hazel a long and happy retirement and she takes with her our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks.

Another footnote: we are now in recruitment mode. The nature of the job is changing slightly so track down the advertisement or find the details on our website if you, or someone you know, is interested.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY!

We are looking to employ a person based in Scotland to work part-time from the beginning of 2020 as Administrator/Book-keeper for the Mamie Martin Fund. Anyone interested should contact Hazel Dawson on admin@mamiemartin.org to ask for details and receive information on the application procedure. It would be appreciated if readers of this newsletter pass the information about this work on to anyone interested.
The closing date for applications is September 30th 2019. More information about this post can be found on www.mamiemartin.org

I am retiring from work this December and leaving the Mamie Martin Fund after nearly 12 years. What started as a maternity-cover post lasted a much longer time than expected! During these years I have learned a great deal about Malawi, gender equality and the education of girls and met some terrific people. The loyalty, generosity and thoughtfulness of individuals will always stagger me. The Mamie Martin Fund is a very impressive charity which has done an amazing amount of work for over 25 years. This work will continue and go from strength to strength. I will hear how things are going and I will appear at future events I am sure – it’s much more than “just a job” – and should any of the many people I have gotten to know over the years and regard as friends want to contact me the telephone number is the same one you are used to: 01259 742827. Thank you to everyone for helping me enjoy this job so much!

Hazel

Get involved

You can support our work in a number of ways. Most importantly you are on our mailing list, since you are getting this newsletter. Thanks for that and for your on-going support.

We always welcome new people onto our Board of Trustees, even if you just want to serve for a year or two – it’s not a life sentence.

Outside of the Board you can support our work by:

- Becoming a regular donor, for any amount large or small
- Running your own event to raise funds and awareness
- Persuading your choir or other group to choose the Mamie Martin Fund as the beneficiary of a concert or event
- Ask your family and friends to donate to the Mamie Martin Fund in your name for big birthdays, rather than getting gifts. We can help you to set up an online page if you’d like to do it that way
- Following us on social media – like, share and retweet our posts
- Support any current fundraising activities or donate directly by BACS
- Leave a legacy to the Mamie Martin Fund in your Will.

Thanks for your interest and support. It makes a huge difference to the girls we help.

Annual General Meeting – the Mamie Martin Fund AGM this year will be held on Saturday October 26th at Stirling Baptist Church, 67 Murray Place, Stirling FK8 1AU starting at 12 noon and finishing by 1600. The Stirling Baptist Church is in the very centre of Stirling – two minutes’ walk from both the railway and bus station, and there is good carparking nearby, so we are hoping that this location – as well as the interesting contents of the AGM itself - encourages people to attend.
Governance - two Trustees - Moira Dunworth and Angie Wynn – will visit Malawi at the end of September this year. This annual visit is an extremely important part of the Mamie Martin Fund’s work as it allows contact with our partners at CCAP (Central Church of Africa, Presbyterian), Mchegautuba and Karonga Diocese as well as visiting all the schools where girls are supported and spending time with our Manager in Malawi – Mrs Mercy Sibande. Mercy will make a second trip to Scotland in the Summer of 2020 thanks to a generous donation from a Scottish business. We are absolutely delighted to be looking forward to welcoming Mercy again – and she is thrilled to be coming here. During the trip she made here in 2018 Mercy was able to meet many donors and organisations interested in furthering the work of the Mamie Martin Fund and we are keen to make this visit as memorable so if there are any suggestions for events or visits during Mercy’s stay please get in touch with admin@mamiemartin.org.

Outreach – we now have 5 speakers who would be delighted to respond to invitations from groups looking to arrange a presentation. Not all these speakers are based in the central area of Scotland as we also have contacts in other parts of the country and are keen to attract speakers who would enjoy going to talk to school groups. Please make contact with the Mamie Martin Fund by emailing admin@mamiemartin.org or telephoning 01259 742827 with your request and you will be put in touch with the appropriate person. Our website www.mamiemartin.org contains lots of downloadable materials which are there to be used to publicise the Fund.

Website – www.mamiemartin.org - the Mamie Martin Fund website has been re-modelled and is now easier to find your way around. It contains lots of information about the Fund’s activities in both Malawi and Scotland, together with fundraising materials and downloadable documents. Gift Cards, paper or electronic, can be bought via our ‘MMF Shop’ on the website. You can also buy a bag, pens and wristbands there. The website also gives various donation options and if anyone wants any information that is not there please do not hesitate to contact Hazel on admin@mamiemartin.org or 01259 742827.

Online donations - BTMyDonate, a system which has been used for online donations and fundraising pages, closed at the end of June and so the Mamie Martin Fund is now using VirginMoneyGiving to facilitate on-line donations. The donate
buttons on our website lead there as do links about fundraising activities such as Pedal for Scotland.

Salt and Light – the book of letters between Mamie and Jack Martin in the 1920s – continues to bring inspiration. There are two recordings on the website of Mariot reading sections from the book and we hope to have more soon. It’s a great read but Mariot, one of Mamie’s grand-daughters, feels it would be good to have some bite-sized chunks of the book and is planning to present selected portions of Salt and Light in booklet form. Watch out for more news of this!

CCAP - there have been changes at CCAP with an Acting Executive Director of the Education Department in Joseph Munyimbili and a new finance Director, Maclean Gondwe. Moira and Angie look forward to meeting Joseph and Maclean in the Autumn; Joseph is already known to Moira from a previous visit. If you are able to attend the AGM in October you will hear first-hand about the Trustees’ visit.

MMF’s Manager in Malawi will visit Scotland in June 2020. We are absolutely delighted that we are able to welcome Mercy to Scotland again following her visit in September 2018. The 2018 visit was a great success and Mercy was able to meet a number of MMF donors as well as attend the AGM and address the Cross-Party Group on Malawi at the Scottish Parliament. Next year’s visit is being planned following receipt of an extremely generous donation from a Scottish business. Mercy is not only a hard worker but is an excellent ambassador for the Mamie Martin Fund in Malawi and has recently passed her driving test – no mean feat for those of you who may have seen Malawian roads!

Fundraising

The Wee Jaunt took place on May 12th this year with nine cyclists, four of whom were primary-age, taking part raising £638.00. The weather was kind and it was not only a successful fundraiser but a happy day for the participants! A few of the older cyclists will ride the ‘Classic’ – Glasgow to Edinburgh – on 8th September.

The Hoolahoopathon – now in its third year - is being held on August 26th. Members of the Curves fitness centre in Dunfermline hold an event where, between them, they keep a power hoop off the ground for at least 5 hours! Sponsorship can be given to the group or to a known individual. The funds raised are given to the Mamie Martin Fund. We are so grateful for this annual support.

Schools and numbers

The number of girls who are supported through their secondary schooling via the Mamie Martin Fund fluctuate slightly throughout any academic year sometimes as a
result of funds available in Scotland but also because of the personal circumstances of individual girls in Malawi – but bearing that in mind, we expect to support 137 girls next year. The numbers of girls at each of the schools are listed below.

Bandawe Girls’ Secondary School – 44 girls
Elangeni Girls’ Secondary School – 24 girls
Embangweni Secondary School for Deaf Children - 4 girls
Karonga Girls' Secondary School – 42 girls
St Mary’s, Karonga – 6 girls
Mchengautuba Community Day Secondary School – 16 girls
One more girl through the Thompson Fund as a school yet to be specified.

It is possible to offer bursaries to all these girls because of the generosity of donors – largely individual. We receive money from churches, family trusts, trade unions, businesses, fundraising events and celebrations like weddings and birthdays where individuals ask that money be donated to the Mamie Martin Fund rather than a present bought for those celebrating. Below is information about two major sources of funding.

**Thompson Scholarships** - a fund was set up by the Thompson family following the death of Dr Jack Thompson last year. Jack’s wife, Phyllis died later in the year. It was wonderfully generous of the family to arrange for these scholarships to be set up at a time of great personal sadness. The Scotland Malawi Partnership asked the Mamie Martin Fund to manage the Fund and we were very honoured to do so. Funds raised so far total just over £7,000 and 2 girls are starting their secondary schooling in September 2019 with support from these Scholarships. Donations to the Scholarship Fund are still being received so it is expected that the number of girls supported will increase. Donations can be made to the Thompson Scholarship Fund via [http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ThompsonScholarship](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ThompsonScholarship)

**Alison Cameron Scholarships** – the Scottish Government honoured the work of Colin and Alison Cameron in 2017 by establishing what are known as the Alison Cameron Scholarships and asking the Mamie Martin Fund to manage these Scholarships. It was possible to fund 22 girls at secondary school and 3 at tertiary education with the aid of the Endowment received from the Scottish Government. A second Endowment from the Scottish Government will support a similar number of girls who start their secondary education in September this year. The girls supported through these Endowments are included in the number of girls noted above.
These donations are in addition to the ever-loyal and generous individuals who have faithfully donated regularly to the Mamie Martin Fund over time - some for many, many years – and whose donations are hugely appreciated.

We are now moving into the third year of our partnership with the Soko fund. This Scottish based charity enables poor women students to complete vocational degree courses in Universities in Malawi. The agreement we have with Soko allows us to nominate young women who have been supported by MMF, and who have gained a place at University, to Soko for a scholarship.

The Soko fund is currently supporting 63 undergraduate women - including 6 who were supported by MMF at School. This formal partnership therefore offers at least a few MMF girls the opportunity to continue their education onto tertiary education and graduation. Soko has now established a graduate association (SGA) which focuses primarily on helping graduates into employment through, for example, internships and job shops. This successful association is run by the women themselves.

The big news from Soko this summer concerns one of their earliest graduates - Winnie Mkandawire. Winnie lost both her parents while still at School - but was determined to continue her education. She qualified for University at age 15 - incredibly young - and after several years of searching and struggle, was awarded a Soko Scholarship, graduating in biomedical sciences, and getting part-time work as a medical researcher. She has also been key to the early success of the SGA. Last year was very difficult for Winnie for personal reasons – just one example being that she lost her home (completely) in the floods. However, determined and talented in equal measure, she has now been awarded a two-year Fulbright scholarship, and will shortly travel to the USA to study for a Masters degree.

Her story, and continuing success, will, we hope, inspire and motivate MMF girls. Here is a photograph of Winnie with Mercy as they work together on girls’ educational opportunities.

We will also be continuing our joint fundraising efforts with Soko. On September 8th our team made up of ageing but ageless, super-fit Trustees will be undertaking the gruelling (for them at least!) Miles for Malawi/Pedal for Scotland classic Glasgow- Edinburgh cycle event, which last year raised several thousand pounds shared between the two charities. That funded quite a lot of education. So lets beat that target! More information about the Soko fund can be found on www.thesokofund.org or on Facebook.
Gift Cards – the perfect gift

The gift cards which were brought out last year have been very popular – it is possible to buy to ‘give’ a uniform (£16.00), notebooks and pens (£5.00), sanitary products (£10.00) or school fees for a month (£25.00) as a gift to your family and friends instead of a more conventional present. The cards can be obtained at any time of the year. One of the cards, pictured, is ‘Christmassy’ and can be purchased for a donation of any amount. Cards, paper or e versions, can be purchased through the website or by contacting Hazel on admin@mamiemartin.org or 01259 742827 at any time of the year.

Cotton tote bags – (cream with the Mamie Martin Fund logo in black and red) make useful gifts and cost £3.00 each. Mercy likes to have some to give to girls in Malawi who have made notable progress in their studies. One recipient was this girl at Elangeni Secondary School last year. Available online.

Mamie Martin Fund pens and wristbands – each costing £1.00 - can also be bought through the MMF website. The wristbands were produced in response to a request from schoolgirls supported through the Mamie Martin Fund who wanted to display some sign of that support!

We continue to benefit enormously from our membership of the Scotland Malawi Partnership, Scottish International Development Alliance and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. We enjoy reading the SMP’s and Alliance’s regular bulletins and are looking forward to their AGMs in the Autumn.

This newsletter is available by email so if you wish to receive it electronically please let us have your email address. Please let us know of any change to your contact details by emailing admin@mamiemartin.org or telephoning 01259 742827 – thank you for your help.

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Registered Office: 43 Ravenscroft, Irvine, KA12 9DE; Admin Office: 6 Dewar Street, Dollar FK14 7EP
01259 742827 or 0785 231 7825 admin@mamiemartin.org www.mamiemartin.org

Facebook Mamie Martin Fund Twitter @mamiemartinfund