



Merry Christmas



Issue 75
December 2023
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SOLAS President



Natalie Cooke

I have now been National President for a year and I am enjoying my time in the role. As I write this we are nearly at the end of November. Where has the year gone. I feel one minute it was January and I blinked and somehow ended up nearly at the end of November! It has been another fast and busy year.

The uptake on the classes has again been good and these started in September with the classes being carried out remotely and the exams being held in person.

Many of the branches held a graduation ceremony for students who enrolled in the course last year and who had successfully completed the course and I want to congratulate all the students who passed the SOLAS course as I know how hard it is to study and continue to work and deal with busy personal lives. Well done to all and hopefully many of the students who passed the course have taken up membership of SOLAS.

The branch secretaries continue to work together to bring joint online seminars which all members can attend. By the time this article is published the Edinburgh Branch will have held the November Seminar with nearly 200 members signed up to attend.

We have made some changes to the way we present these seminars via teams, which is fully detailed in the Edinburgh Branch article. Changes include members registering for these seminars which if unable to attend on the night they will be able to watch the recording of the seminar at a later date which will count towards their CPD. So, if you can't make a seminar, please still register so that you can get access to the recording.

As advised in my previous article a survey was issued to members. The survey was sent out to 462 members but only 338 members opened the email and only 84 members responded. Most of the responses were from full members.

The survey covered seminars, whether the membership fee was good value for money etc. There was agreement that the National Seminars continue as is i.e., one on-line and one in person. 81 members believed the membership was good value for money. There were some comments about the branch seminars and hopefully with the changes we are introducing this will address these comments.

National Seminars were held in March (on-line) and September (in person) and these were well attended with great topics being covered and thanks go to Lorraine for organizing and to the speakers who gave up their time to present to us.

Glasgow hosted this year's Dinner/Dance and AGM and it was a great night and enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was lovely to see so many members and their guests attend. Well done Glasgow for organizing a great night and thank you to the Glasgow Branch for their hard work in arranging this. Next year Aberdeen are hosting the Dinner/Dance and AGM and they are celebrating a big birthday so look out for the invite later on next year. I am sure it will be another great night and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

I want to thank all committee members whether they sit on General Council or on branch committees for their dedication to SOLAS and for all their hard work throughout the year, it is greatly appreciated. I would urge members to continue to support SOLAS whether it is by attending branch seminars, attending the dinner/dance/AGM or by sitting on branch committees or General Council because without your support SOLAS would not be able to continue. The National AGM is now available to attend online as well as in person so hopefully we will see more members attend the AGM in the future.

I hope everyone has a lovely festive break when it comes and see you all in 2024!

Kind Regards

Natalie Cooke,
National President of SOLAS



Administrator

Well that was a quick year!!!! I can't believe I have been the Administrator for a year. I have certainly learnt a lot!!!! I'm not sure if you are all aware that we have a Facebook page, Twitter and LinkedIn. It's a great way to keep in touch with everyone and so far we only have 196 followers on Facebook but we have nearly 600 members. So, log onto Facebook and follow our page!!!

Here is a list of approximate dates when emails will be sent out during the year.

February	First/Second Week	March seminar (online)
May	Late	Evening Course enrolment
June/July	Late/Early	Newsletter
August	First/Second Week	September seminar
August		Annual Dinner & AGM
September		CPD reminder
December		Newsletter

I am pleased to say that there has been a very good return of subs/CPDs. Please remember that 2 hours of Structured has to include SOLAS Seminars. Any member who has not met the deadline date of 31st December, a 14 day letter will be issued incorporating a need for payment of a late fee of £10. If we don't have any correspondence from you after the 14 day period I will be on the phone to you!!!!

During October a diary was sent out to all members who had previously requested one. Going forward I will be handing out the diaries at the September Seminar and the Dinner/AGM in November as the price of postage has increased considerably. If you are unable to attend these events and require a diary I will post them out at the beginning of November. Please let me know if you no longer wish to receive a diary.

Upcoming Seminars are as follows:-

Dundee Branch	14 th December 2023	Allan Hume – Estate Search – The missing billions in estate
Aberdeen Branch	16 th January 2023	Catherine Hart of Digby Brown Data Protection The Fundamentals
Glasgow Branch	20 th February 2024	Catherine Hart of Digby Brown Mental Health
National Seminar	March 2024	Law Society Update
Branch AGM	April 2024	
Aberdeen Branch	May 2024	Private Client
Edinburgh Branch	June 2024	Private Client
Glasgow Branch	27 th August 2024	Law Society – AML
National Seminar	September 2024	Private Client
Dundee Branch	3 rd October 2024	Catriona Black from Lindsays Abolishment of C5 & changes to C1, IHT400

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Lorraine MacLeod

Administrator



Branch Reports

Aberdeen

We held our graduation dinner on 18th October 2023 with Robert Marshall and Moray Fraser both receiving their diplomas, unfortunately Moray was unable to join us, we extend a warm welcome to our branch.

I along with 9 members of Aberdeen Branch attended the annual dinner hosted by Glasgow Branch, it was a great night and as always great to catch up with other SOLAS members. Thank you Glasgow branch for organising this, the venue, food and of course the company were excellent. I can thoroughly recommend attending the dinner and on this vein it will be Aberdeen's turn to host the dinner in November 2024 when it will be the branches 70th Anniversary so lets make it a very special event with as many of you attending as possible.

As I have said before geography plays a big part in our branch but with national CPD now available on Microsoft Teams we are definitely seeing more people attend these sessions. CPD meetings continue to be provided by all 4 branches and you can join in any branch CPD meetings. If anyone has any suggestions for topics or speakers that could provide a talk, please let me know.

We need 2 new committee members. This is not an onerous task with only about 4 meetings a year which are being held by Microsoft Teams. Anyone interested please contact me.

Your branch is here to work for you, please help by supporting us.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024 and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Best wishes

Joyce





Dundee

Dundee Branch is pleased to welcome Gail Taylor as our newest member. Gail successfully completed all three modules and her accomplishment was celebrated with dinner at the Gidi Grill in Dundee.

We would like to thank Glasgow Branch for hosting the excellent dinner/dance and this year's AGM. It is safe to say that a good time was had by all.

As always, Dundee Branch are looking for members to join the Committee at both the Branch and National level. Please contact Nikki Scott at dundeebranch@solas.org.uk if you are interested in becoming involved with either.

Tracey McCardle, a long-standing Dundee Branch member, has retired from teaching the Cashroom and Feeing modules and her much appreciated service to SOLAS was recognised with flowers and a voucher. Thanks again Tracey for all you have done, and continue to do, for SOLAS.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a very blessed holiday season filled with love and laughter.

Nikki Scott
On behalf of Dundee Branch



Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Branch of SOLAS has had a busy few months. After holding our AGM face to face in April when Christine Reid provided a talk on 'Feeing' followed by a lively discussion about feeing and holding seminars in person. As usual, drinks and snacks were served and several members and guests enjoyed a meal out afterwards.

Edinburgh hosted the online seminar in June with a talk by Ian Burrell of Savendale Insurance on 'Bonds of Caution and other executry bonds'. This was very interesting and well attended as usual by Edinburgh members, members of other branches and guests.

Apart from these Edinburgh members have joined the seminars arranged by the other branches. As I write this the Committee is looking forward to hosting a talk on Thursday 23rd November at 6pm online. The speaker is **Aleks Tomczyk** of **Exizent** who will be discussing the findings of the Bereavement Index. This does sound very intriguing as the Index is a fascinating piece of research designed with the purpose of finding ways to improve the bereavement processes for everyone involved. Further, as members should be aware, a new format has been designed to invite all SOLAS members to register for the seminar, links will be sent out to those who have signed up and the slides and recording made available afterwards to all registered participants. Very many thanks to Paul McRobb from myself and the other Branch Secretaries for the work he has done in automating out online seminars. He has also taken on board the requests from those Branch committee members who have to keep track of the CPD records and obtaining the register is going to be much easier than before. I note that when members register for the seminars, they will be asked to provide their membership number. Guests are still welcome to join, but will have to email the SOLAS administrator to obtain a registration code.

The Edinburgh branch was very pleased to congratulate 12 students who had graduated after completing the SOLAS course this year. A graduation ceremony was held on the 26th of October at the Law Society offices which was attended by several of the students and their guests. We served a selection of snacks and drinks before and after the ceremony where Natalie Cooke as National President handed out their diplomas. After a pleasant evening getting to know the new students, the committee members and some of the lecturers attended went out for a meal. The committee was very encouraged as 6 students have applied for membership with SOLAS and we look forward to welcoming them into our online seminars and other SOLAS going this year. The graduates are Louise Alexander, Aileen Gilholm, Gabriel Hughson, Toni Lizier, Mark O'Brien, Lewis Young, Hannah Feeney, Annelise

Ronaldson, Amy Dawson, Gemma Bisby and Peter Currie. Congratulations and best wishes to all from the Edinburgh Committee. Special mention must be made of Annelise who had achieved distinctions in all three subjects. It was great to be able to congratulate our students in person and to celebrate their achievements.

The Edinburgh Branch committee is also pleased to welcome a new member - Melissa Blackwood - and we look forward to the contribution she will make to the running of the Branch.

All that remains is for me to wish you a merry Christmas and all the best for 2024!

Tracey O'Brien



SOLAS Glasgow Branch



Branch CPD Meetings

The new 2023-2024 syllabus should now be available to view online at www.solas.org.uk

If you have any CPD requests, please let us know.

We want ALL our Members to get the very best of their membership. If the dates or CPD topics do not suit you, please let us know. If you would like something covered in CPD the Committee will do its absolute best to allocate a speaker.

CPD is now held per the new MS Teams format, which is hoped will improve the experience of attending a SOLAS online seminar. You now need to register for access to all CPD events so please ensure your details are up to date to be informed of all Branch News, Upcoming CPD and Events.

Please contact GlasgowBranch@solas.org.uk to inform us of any changes.



SOLAS Glasgow Branch Student Graduation

The above event was held at Glasgow Caledonian University on 26th October 2023. This was a fantastic event, and it was lovely to meet our Graduates, New Members and their family and friends.

The turnout for this event was fantastic and it was lovely to celebrate with a glass of bubbly and buffet and get to catch up with everyone.

Thank you for everyone who was in attendance and to the Glasgow Branch Committee for all their help in organising a successful event enjoyed by all. Here are some of the photos from the night:











Glasgow Branch Annual Dinner and AGM

The above event was held at the Raddison Blu Hotel on 3rd and 4th November 2023.

This was a fabulous night, with circa 90 guests in attendance. It was a lovely meal with plenty of drinks and dancing. There were some fuzzy heads at the AGM meeting the next day.

It was lovely to catch up with everyone. Everyone looked amazing and a good night was had by all. The feedback has been fantastic.

Thank you for everyone who was in attendance and to the Glasgow Branch Committee for all their help in organising a successful event enjoyed by all. Here are some of the photos from the night:













Season's Greetings

The Glasgow Branch Committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all in 2024.



New Members Admitted

The Society warmly welcomes the undernoted students who were admitted as members at their General Council meeting on 4th November 2023.

Associate

Robert Marshall	Aberdeen
Moray Fraser	Aberdeen

Gail Taylor	Dundee
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Louise Alexander	Edinburgh
Toni Lizier	Edinburgh
Gabriel Hughson	Edinburgh
Mark O'Brien	Edinburgh
Lewis Young	Edinburgh
Annelese Ronalson	Edinburgh

Radia Moutar	Glasgow
Christine McCulloch	Glasgow
Diane Patterson	Glasgow
Debbie Carr	Glasgow
Margaret Morrison	Glasgow
Michelle Kerr	Glasgow
Hannah Crawford	Glasgow
Diana Blanco	Glasgow
Leanne Reidford	Glasgow
Darren Paton	Glasgow
Karen Bell	Glasgow



SOLAS Office Bearers

Natalie Cooke, President
The Law Society of Scotland

David Hamilton, Vice-President
Hamilton Mullan Law Accountants Ltd

Lindsay Murray, General Secretary
Brodiess LLP
Edinburgh

Gillian Gray, General Treasurer
The Law Society of Scotland

General Council Members

Aberdeen

Blair Chalmers
Joyce Forbes, Your Cashier
Jenny Hiscox, Andersonbain

Dundee

Heather Davidson, Rollos Law LLP
Nikki Scott, Blackadders

Edinburgh

Gillian Forsyth, Murray Beith Murray
Paul McRobb, Your Cashier

Glasgow

Carrie McQueen
Noreen Hope, Milne Craig

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