



Merry Christmas



Issue 73

December 2022

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SOLAS President



Natalie Cooke

Dear Members

On the 5th of November 2022, Lynne Alexander passed the role of National President on to me, and I would like to thank Lynne for all the work she has done during the last two years which has been very challenging.

I joined the Edinburgh Branch Committee a number of years ago and quickly got talked into taking on the role of joint Secretary at my very first meeting. I then became President of Edinburgh Branch a few years ago following Richard Murray stepping down from that role and continue to be the President of Edinburgh Branch.

I have been sitting on General Council for a number of years now and was Vice-President before taking over the role of President in November.

I would urge any members of SOLAS to become involved whether that is at branch committee level or joining General Council. I would also urge members of SOLAS to support the branch seminars. The branch secretaries have joined forces and have arranged 8 seminars for the CPD year. Due to the branch seminars joining force these will take place on different nights depending on which branch is organising that month's seminar and these seminars will continue to be held online. The CPD seminar calendar can be found online. I would also urge members to attend the National Seminars in March and September 2023. The March Seminar will be held online with the September one being held face to face.

As all of you will be aware every member requires 2 hours of structured CPD to be a SOLAS organised seminar or event. This is being trialled until 31 October 2023 and

will then be reviewed after this date to see whether it will become a permanent requirement. We have taken this step as a number of branches were organising seminars but most of the members attending the seminars were the committee members.

SOLAS continues to need the support of their members and without the support of our members SOLAS would not be able to continue and I would hate to see any other branches having to close as it was a shock when the Inverness branch closed.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lorraine MacLeod who took over the SOLAS administrators role on 1 November 2022. I would like to say a massive thank you to Dorothy Nicholson who stepped back into the role as administrator at short notice shortly after retiring from the role. Dorothy kindly stayed on in the role until 30 November 2022 to assist Lorraine where necessary. I don't know where we would have been without Dorothy's assistance. Thanks once again Dorothy for all your help and assistance over the years that you have been involved in SOLAS.

We held our dinner and AGM in Edinburgh on 4 and 5 November 2022 and it was a good night. I would just like to thank the Edinburgh Committee members who helped organise it and thank you to all the members and their guests who attended on the night. Next years dinner and AGM will be held and organised by the Glasgow Branch.

I would just like to wish everyone along with their family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes
Natalie



Administrator

My name is Lorraine MacLeod and I am the new administrator. It's a bit daunting taking over from Dorothy!!!! I worked for Innes & Mackay in Inverness for 40 years as the Cashier and then the Office Manager. I also lectured in Cashroom Procedures for more years than I can remember!!!! So I know my way round Solicitors Accounts. If there is anything I can help you with just drop me an e-mail and I will ask Dorothy the answer!!!! I look forward to meeting you all at the Seminars next year and especially the Annual Dinner.

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. However, I would mention that for 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.

During October a diary was sent to all members who had previously requested one. Please let me know if you no longer wish to receive a diary.

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

Lorraine MacLeod
Administrator



Annual Dinner Edinburgh 4th November 2022



Lynne Alexander with an Irish guest and SOLAS members from Aberdeen and Edinburgh and thanks John Sorrie for photo bombing!!



Edinburgh Committee



Glasgow members





Richard Murray



SOLAS members with the
Incoming new President
Natalie Cooke



Lynne Alexander giving her last speech



Branch Reports

Aberdeen

It's good that we have a bit more normality this year and things are slowly returning to what is probably a different normal.

We had 4 students, Elaine Knight, Nicki Greig, Lorraine Leith and Kyle Milne who passed their diploma this year and 3 joined us on 5th October 2022 for a dinner to receive their diplomas and celebrate their achievements . All 4 members have now joined SOLAS.

Congratulations to you all.

Joyce



We continue to hold our CPD meetings by webinar but we now use Microsoft Teams. This enables all members to join any branches talks . We have some very interesting talks coming up over the next session so please look at the SOLAS website where the syllabus is listed .



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2023 and look forward to seeing you next year.

President Wilma MacPherson 1st Additions Tax & Bookkeeping Services

Treasurer Laura Sim (Wilsone & Duffus)

Secretary Joyce Forbes (The Law Practice)

Committee members

Blair Chalmers (Andersonbain)

Jenny Hiscox (Andersonbain)

Wilma McPherson (Ist Additions Tax & Bookkeeping Services)

Jennifer Ingram (Ledingham Chalmers)

Joyce Forbes (The Law Practice)

Laura Sim (Wilsone & Duffus)



Dundee

Dundee Branch is very proud to have added 2 new members this year, Emma Bell, who graduated in October 2021 and Kerri Dearsley, who graduated this year with Distinction in all 3 subjects. Welcome to SOLAS!

Dundee Branch would like to thank Edinburgh Branch for hosting the Dinner/Dance and AGM this year. It was good to see everyone and I think it is safe to say that a good time was had by all. Our own Lynne Alexander has retired as SOLAS President and Natalie Cooke, from Edinburgh Branch, has taken that role. Thank you, Lynne, for your service to SOLAS over the past two years.

National (as opposed to Branch) CPD is now being provided monthly via Teams with each Branch taking it in turns to host. Dundee were pleased to have Jack Boyle present this December's which was entitled "The Christmas Cracker You Wish You Never Pulled: Keep Yourself Right With Employment Law Over The Festive Season." As always, it was very entertaining.

If you are not receiving emails from the Dundee Branch Secretary with CPD updates please would you email me direct so we can sort that out? Over the pandemic quite a few emails were "scrubbed" due to people being furloughed (and sent emails not being opened) and the system will not allow me to use the same email to add you back in.

If you are looking for ways to be more involved in SOLAS, Dundee Branch needs 2-3 committee members and one member who would be interested in joining the National Committee. The commitment is not onerous for either. If you would like to discuss either position, please speak to me, or anyone, on the Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays. Please take some time, during what is often a very frenetic few weeks, to relax and refresh.

All the best.

Nikki Scott
Dundee Branch President and Secretary



Edinburgh

Another SOLAS year is off to a cracking start with Edinburgh hosting the AGM! I hope those who were able to attend enjoyed the dinner and the opportunity to catch up with colleagues as well as attend to the business of the organisation. Many thanks to all who assisted in setting up a fabulous evening! We look forward to next year in Glasgow!

Edinburgh hosted a New Student Reception face to face in the Angel's Share pub in August and were pleased to welcome the new students over drinks and snacks. It was a good evening providing a chance for the students and lecturers to get to know each other and the Edinburgh committee before the start of their training. The Edinburgh committee wishes the new students every success with their studies this year and looks forward to seeing them again at graduation and as members in due course!

Edinburgh Committee was pleased to congratulate Mike Davis, Sharon McNeill and Nicole Kinghorn who passed their SOLAS Diploma this year, Mike with Distinction. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to hold a graduation ceremony, but the committee was delighted to hear of their completing their course and to encourage them in the next steps of membership of SOLAS.

At a national level, as members are probably aware, the branches have decided to work together to offer online evening seminars for CPD. The first seminar, hosted by Edinburgh on 16 November was given by Sarah Lonie of Anderson Strathern on **Considering efficiencies and common problems in executries** and was very well attended. It is always a pleasure to have Sarah address us and she had lots of good ideas to make executry practice less stressful. This week saw the second seminar, hosted by Dundee with Jack Boyle of Blackadders giving insight into points of employment law to consider during the festive season his talk entitled **The Christmas Cracker You Wish You'd Never Pulled: Keep Yourself Right With Employment Law Over the Festive Season** on 1st December. I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to the other seminars - the syllabus is shown on the SOLAS website - please contact the secretary of your branch for a link to attend.

Each branch will be arranging their own AGM and will discuss whether this is face to face or held online closer to the time.

The Edinburgh committee would like to make one point regarding the online seminars, **please would you make every effort to log on to the call prior to 6pm** which is the time the speakers are introduced and start their talks. There have been a number of participants joining the meeting for the first time around 6:30pm in the

recent seminars. It is quite discourteous to the speaker for participants to arrive late (you would probably not do this in a face to face seminar) and it is unfair to claim the full CPD when you have only attended for the last few minutes. We are aware that sometimes there are internet issues or times when the connection drops and you will be re-admitted to the meeting but the Teams attendance record will show when you joined and left the call so this will be taken into consideration when verifying CPD claimed. Attending CPD seminars online is a convenience for us all, and I think we need to set a few ground rules.

All that remains is for me to wish you a merry Christmas and all the best for 2023!

Tracey O'Brien



SOLAS Glasgow Branch

Committee News

SOLAS Glasgow Branch Committee would like to inform members that our President Gillian Gray had a baby boy on 25th June 2022. Mum and baby are doing well.



Congratulations Gillian! He is beautiful. Gillian will continue her role as President, whilst on maternity leave, and will participate in as many events as possible with full support of the committee.

Branch CPD News

The new 2022-2023 syllabus is now available to view online at www.solas.org.uk

- November 2022 – Anderson Strathern – Considering Efficiencies and Common Problems in Executries
- December 2022 – Blackadders – Party Do's and Don'ts
- January 2023 – Ledingham Chalmers – Private Client Seminar
- February 2023 – Natwest – Fraud Education
- March 2023 – SOLAS National Seminar
- April 2023 – Glasgow Branch AGM
- May 2023 – Digby Brown – GDPR
- June 2023 – Anderson Strathern – IHT
- August 2023 – Harper MacLeod – Executry Procedures
- September 2023 – SOLAS National Seminar
- October 2023 – Law Society of Scotland – Cashroom

It was decided by General Council that ALL Branch CPD events would be merged.

Therefore, all Branch seminars have now been combined and are being held online per MS Teams. This allows SOLAS Members from across the country to join online. All Branch Committees are now working together, and each Branch will host in turn.

Glasgow Branch will continue to confirm the CPD dates and speakers by email to all Glasgow Branch Members when upcoming CPD Events are due to take place.

Please ensure your contact details are up to date to keep informed of all Branch News and Updates. 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 Thursday 24th November 2022. This was a fantastic event, and it was lovely to meet our Graduates, New Members and their family and friends. Again, 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:











Hello

Glasgow Branch would like to take this opportunity to welcome on board new General Council President Natalie Cooke and new Administrator Lorraine MacLeod. It's lovely to have you onboard and we look forward to working together.

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 2023!!





New Members Admitted

The Society warmly welcomes the undernoted students who were admitted as members at their General Council meeting on 5th November 2022.

Associate

Elaine Knight	Aberdeen
Nicki Greig	Aberdeen
Lorraine Leith	Aberdeen
Kyle Milne	Aberdeen

Emma Bell	Dundee
Kerri Dearsley	Dundee

Mike Davis	Edinburgh
Sharon McNeill	Edinburgh
Nicole Kinghorn	Edinburgh

Susan Reid	Glasgow
Jennifer Holmes	Glasgow
Jillian Brackenridge	Glasgow
Graham Johnson	Glasgow
Elizabeth Kirkwood	Glasgow
Sky Thomson	Glasgow
Justine O'Malley	Glasgow
Claire Sherry	Glasgow
Lynn Robertson	Glasgow
Jacqueline McLachlan	Glasgow
Angela Fox	Glasgow
Helena Ribeiro	Glasgow
Sarah Marshall	Glasgow
Stuart Taylor	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
Brodies LLP
Edinburgh

Gillian Gray, General Treasurer
The Law Society of Scotland

General Council Members

Aberdeen

Blair Chalmers, Wilson & Duffus
Joyce Forbes, The Law Practice
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

Branch Secretaries

Aberdeen

Joyce Forbes, The Law Practice,

Dundee

Nikki Scott, Blackadders,

Edinburgh

Tracey O'Brien, Anderson Strathern,

Glasgow

Kirsteen Conway, Wright & Crawford,

Solas Administrator

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