

AGENDA

Thursday, March 21

7:50-8:30

Guided Walk of the Grounds

8:00-17:00

Registration

8:00-18:00

Communications Center open

8:00-9:00

Breakfast Meetings

9:00-9:50

Welcome and Orientation

10:00-11:00

Annual General Meeting - Session 1

11:00-11:15

Networking Break

11:15-12:15

Annual General Meeting - Session 1 (continued)

Friday's

Reminder:

Meet at 7:50 in the Conservatory for a guided walk of the grounds. Breakfast is served from 6:30 for all of our early birds!

[2018 Annual Report](#)

AGM Session 1

Opening Keynote Speaker, Alice Thompson, of Social Bite

Social enterprises are inherently innovative. Social Bite is a Scottish social enterprise and one of the cofounders, Alice Thompson, was our Keynote speaker Thursday morning. Social Bite started out as a café chain, employing 1 in 4 of their staff from homeless backgrounds, feeding and supporting the homeless community every day. Now, in 2019, Social Bite is also a national scale charity with a much wider mission than the café.

- It is on a mission to **end homelessness** in Scotland by being a thought-leader and positive disruptive force in the industry.
- So far Social Bite have done this by creating an alternative to temporary accommodation through the Social Bite Village which houses and supports up to 20 people in the community at a time in low-cost yet dignified accommodation, and
- Using the Housing First model by funding the UK's largest ever Housing First programme (The 830 Homes Campaign), and working with the Scottish Government to implement this.
- This year Alice plans to continue her Wee Sleep Out programme engaging young people in creating their own fundraising sleep outs for Social Bite's charity while educating them with workshops throughout Scotland on how to use social enterprise to tackle the world's problems.

Alice spoke of the specific issues that come with hiring and depending upon staff who are, or have been, homeless. If you've ever had to manage staff, you might imagine the standard operation procedure will not suffice. A job offer is not enough – they need:



The very inspirational, Alice Thompson, 'Strong Woman' of **Social Bite**



Agenda Continued

12:15-13:30

Lunch
Regional Meetings

13:30-14:00

Conference Photo

14:00-15:15

Workshop Session 1 (Choose One):
-FAWCO Reps Workshop
-Club Presidents Workshop
-Combatting Sexual Harassment, Abuse and Exploitation in NGOs
-Finance Committee Meeting (open)

15:15-15:30

Networking Break

15:30-16:45

Workshop Session 2 (Choose One)
-National Trust for Scotland Locations on Screen
-Resolutions and Recommendations Committee Meeting (open)
-The FAWCO Foundation Workshop – How to Get the Most Out of Your Foundation
-The Edinburgh Fringe Festival-the Largest Arts Festival in the World
-Scottish Ceilidh Dancing Class

17:30-19:00

Drinks Reception with Bagpiper

19:00-22:00

Highland Fling Opening Dinner
Scottish Ceilidh (dance)

- Help into employment
- Support throughout their employment: counselling; practical support with benefits; how to budget and pay bills; placement experiences outside of Social Bite
- A Social Impact Team

Social Bite has grown steadily and quickly, and has gained international notice from attracting President Bill Clinton, George Clooney and many other celebrities to their Edinburgh fundraising events, and just last week they welcomed Malala Yousafzai, Noble prize winner, to their event. If you want to find out more, the website is www.social-bite.co.uk

2019 FAWCO Welcome by Special Guest, Ellen Wong

Ellen Wong, Principal Officer of U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh, welcomed the FAWCO delegates and thanked FAWCO and the members of American Women's Clubs for all that they did to bring American women together and to present a positive face of America to the world.

Highlighting the importance of American Women's Clubs as partners for U.S. Embassies and Consulates, she thanked in particular the AWC of Central Scotland for their impressive hosting of this biennial conference and its longstanding cooperation with the U.S. Consulate. She also commended FAWCO for giving back to the world through its "Hope Beyond Displacement" program, noting that due to her work with the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, she knew first hand how important such contributions are for helping the most vulnerable victims of conflict.



Ellen Wong, Principal Officer of
U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh



The EDINBURGH EDITION

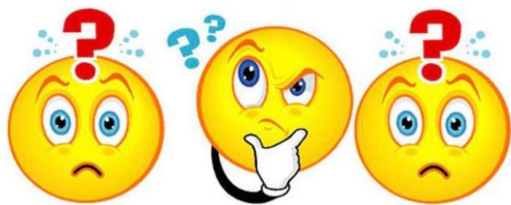


The 2019 FAWCO Foundation Quilt, "Tell Me a Story"

FAWCO Foundation Quilt Reveal

The 2019 FAWCO Foundation Friendship Quilt, "Tell Me a Story", was unveiled at Thursday's AGM session by FAWCO TFF President Suzanne Wheeler.

Approximately 375 books are represented on this beautifully finished artisan quilt comprised of blocks created by many clubs and individuals which are then put together and quilted by the very talented, Roberta Zöllner of Munich IWC. The raffle raises money for The Foundation's programs and charitable causes. Tickets are available throughout the conference. The winner will be announced on Sunday.



Inspiring Women Photo Quiz

Can you match the images and our clubs? We have collected photos from 55 of the FAWCO clubs. All you need to do is work out which is which!

The photos are displayed in & around the main conference room and a quiz sheet will be on your conference room seat. Please note entries need to be in by 12 noon on Friday and there is a prize for the winner.

From Outlander to James Bond: National Trust for Scotland Locations on Screen – Conservator East, and Antonia Laurence-Allen Curator for Edinburgh and East Scotland NTS

With more than 50 slides showing rich and luxurious Scottish locations belonging to the National Trust for Scotland, Julie Bon, a Trust Conservator, and Antonia Laurence-Allen, a Trust Curator, spoke to a packed FAWCO session Thursday afternoon. The Conservator and the Curator shared the details and stories of how film and television crews work with the National Trust for Scotland to use actual historical settings to bring their films and fictions to life.

We heard the implications for these projects on the Trusts' historic interiors and collections; additionally, we learned of the planning involved and the measures that are put in place to protect NTS properties while facilitating their use for filming projects. Reaching wider audiences is their worthy goal for all this work.

The staff must go to great lengths to protect the properties, and still allow access to the crews. We saw photos from many productions including *Outlander*, James Bond's *Skyfall*, the newly released film *Mary Queen of Scots*, *Churchill* (The one starring Brian Cox and Miranda Richardson, 2017) and *The Outlaw King*, 2018. We all felt we were standing off stage, breathlessly participating in a production.



FAWCO slate of officers 2019-2020



FAWCO Foundation Slate of officers 2019-2021



THE EDINBURGH EDITION

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival: The Largest Arts Festival in the World

On Thursday, The Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, Shona McCarthy, spoke to the delegates. She runs The Fringe - the world's largest arts festival.

In August 2018 the festival had 25 days' worth of 3,548 shows, with 55,000 performers in 317 venues. Unusual spaces become a Fringe Venue. One year I saw a 'sold out' show with only 3 other audience members inside a yellow VW van!

In 1947, Britain needed to begin its recovery from WWII. Fortunately, no bombing had marred Edinburgh. To attract visitors back to the city, an international festival was created that summer in Edinburgh. Music, opera, dance and theatre performances were scheduled.

Eight uninvited theatre troupes showed up as well. They found their own venues, staged their own shows, and welcomed the audiences. The first festival had 700 attendees. A journalist referred to these shows as being 'around the **fringe** of the official Festival' -- and the name stuck. In 1958, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society and this structure helped nurture the Fringe—allowing anyone to bring a show, find their own venue, and welcome in an audience, without ever having to get permission as to the content of their show.

The Edinburgh Fringe outgrew the Edinburgh International Festival years ago, but both continue to flourish simultaneously.

Locals

When locals were heard saying that it was mostly for the tourists, the Society listened and harnessed the data. The analytics were examined to ensure locals were benefitting and not being harassed by the festival and the data found that 600,000 of Edinburgh residents attend the festival and 94% of the locals love the Fringe.

Shona mentioned that investing in the arts, not only when a city is distressed, but when a city is thriving is the right thing to do. In addition to boosting the economy, it builds community, brings people together, encourages

conversations, welcomes diversity and ensures tolerance as well as showing both festival goers and residents alike one heck of a good time!

Big Ambitions

The Fringe Society set up a "Fringe Blueprint" which is their statement of intent, it will now inform what they do from the present until 2022, their 75th anniversary. This blueprint consists of 8 firm commitments. After listening to Shona McCarthy's inspirational speech, there is no doubt that with the help of participants, members, audience, government, partners or funders, this society will achieve their goal to make the world's greatest platform for creative freedom even more accessible, affordable, connected and relevant than ever before.

Freebies

The Fringe Society purchases tickets every year and then gives them away. Approximately 60,000 GBP worth of tickets go to vulnerable communities who may not otherwise have the chance to experience the arts. The society have also now managed to ensure a transportation company offers free tickets to the community members who are gifted the Fringe tickets, to ensure there are no roadblocks for them to enjoy the arts and experience something that could possibly change their life

In August, Edinburgh's population grows by an extra 250,000 people, and 3 million tickets are sold. In 2009 I worked in the Fringe shop on the Royal Mile, helping tourists find how to get to a venue, ringing up mugs and T shirt sales using the till, and answering questions. Many locals want to leave town then, for two reasons: they can rent their home for a great deal of money, and they don't like being amidst the chaos of so many extra strangers. Personally, I enjoy it. By mid-July, I begin to notice characters walking the streets with a wheelie suitcase, and perhaps several hula hoops and a Jester hat on, looking for an address. In August, I was in a coffee shop and could hear the table of 7 people behind me having a family argument. I was shocked...until the tone changed, and one person said, "We've got to take that part again—we've got the lines wrong."

Theatre is everywhere in Edinburgh in August.

by Nancy Lynner,
and Kathy McCarthy



Combatting Sexual Harassment, Abuse and Exploitation in NGOs – Carolyn Aeby, Interaction



Scottish Ceilidh Dancing Class

Scottish Ceilidh Dancing Class

A hugely enthusiastic group of novices had an introduction to Scottish dancing given by Kellie Dingwall of the Audio Description Association Scotland and her lovely guide dog, Ash.

Kellie sometimes had to work hard to get the group to listen and learn, but she was successful in teaching several key dances.

A band member from the Scottish ceilidh band and Colin, the caller for the evening, assisted.

The class was very successful and greatly appreciated!

Interaction for PLEDGE to Action

Carolyn covered a wide range of topics around this subject, including topical issues such as the Oxfam Haiti controversy, questions about accepting charitable donations from possibly 'tainted' donors, the # MeToo movement, calling out unacceptable workplace behaviour, as well as supporting victims of harassment and abuse.

She works with major international organisations like Oxfam and Save the Children, as well as smaller local groups. She provides training, to staff (including CEO's), demonstrating the benefits of good practice, and how to spread good practice of safeguarding personnel and making certain there is informed consent.

PLEDGE to Action also works with governments and global development organisations, and in a few short years Carolyn has been successful in procuring funding and getting CEOs on board with their goals. A lively series of questions demonstrated how relevant her presentation was and how great the need is.

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