



AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland



Hi!

Welcome to our bi monthly electronic newsletter. **You will receive it through your email as a pdf file you may wish to save it and the calendar on your desktop to view.** *There are now some live links to information, other websites, and to club forms and payments.* If you would like to submit an article or info for our newsletter, please send it to newsletter@awccs.org by the 10th of the preceding month..

Thank you! - Susannah Stout, Newsletter Editor

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Submissions are welcome and should be sent to sus.stout@yahoo.co.uk by the 10th of the month. Please accompany submissions with images if you have any! Contact the Editor by phone or email for details. Late submissions may not be included. Although material may be edited for clarity or space, contributions should be submitted ready for print. Our next 3 month issue shall be published for November 2017. Please submit info early, thank you!

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Newsletter Editor Susannah Stout

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Edinburgh

Morning Book Group	Dale Finlayson	dale.finlayson@which.net
Coffee Plus Edinburgh	Dale Finlayson	dale.finlayson@which.net
Voting Coordinator	Dale Finlayson	dale.finlayson@which.net

Glasgow

Books Beverages and Banter	Susan St.Denis	msusan448@aol.com
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Fife

Fife Dinner Club	Pat Peters	pat.peters39@yahoo.co.uk
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*Remember to check the website for the latest updates: www.awccs.org
You will need to register in order to log in to the Members Only Section.*

*If you've got a favourite activity and would like others to join, please let
Nancy Lynner know at nlynner@gmail.com and we will start
a Special Interest Group for you.*

AWCCS President's Letter - September October 2017

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family rejuvenated after the summer vacation months, and that you found some good entertainment within the thousands of August Festivals offerings.

At our AGM last June we announced that this autumn members will be voting/nominating on at least two items, and this will be done by email. We'll ask you to vote on dues increase. The amounts are not set as of the writing of this president's letter. (I'm writing this in late July)

Secondly, we will ask you to nominate worthy Scottish charities that we can then select as the local charity that we will raise funds for the next two years. We have just completed our two year stint of raising funds for Move On, a charity for homeless young people. We raised and donated over £1400.00 to Move On.

We have some unusual events and meetings this September and October, and we often add in and amend the details of events through use of the mid-month emails, so you can always find more details within the mid-month emails, or on our website www.awccs.org and Facebook pages.

Events:

September Event:

The Linlithgow Canal Boat trip on 10th September meet at 12 noon at Linlithgow Canal Centre 5 min. walk from the train station. Bring cash for boat ride and lunch. £8 for boat ride down the canal. RSVP to Amanda Drollinger adrollin@pratt.edu. The website of the Canal Boat is <http://www.lucs.org.uk/>

October Events:

October Theatre event:

Amanda has reserved a group of seats for Tennessee Williams' steamy play **A Streetcar named Desire**

DATE: Tuesday 3rd October
WHERE: King's Theatre,
3 Leven St, EH3 9LQ
Curtain 7:30pm.
Cost: £20 per ticket,
If you wish to join the group,
RSVP: Amanda Drollinger
adrollin@pratt.edu

October Event:

Meeting up with American Women's Club of Aberdeen in ST ANDREWS

We have invited the AWC of Aberdeen to meet us in St Andrews on Saturday 7th October. RSVP to Nancy Lynner so I will be looking for you.

Meeting location: The St Andrews Bus Station.

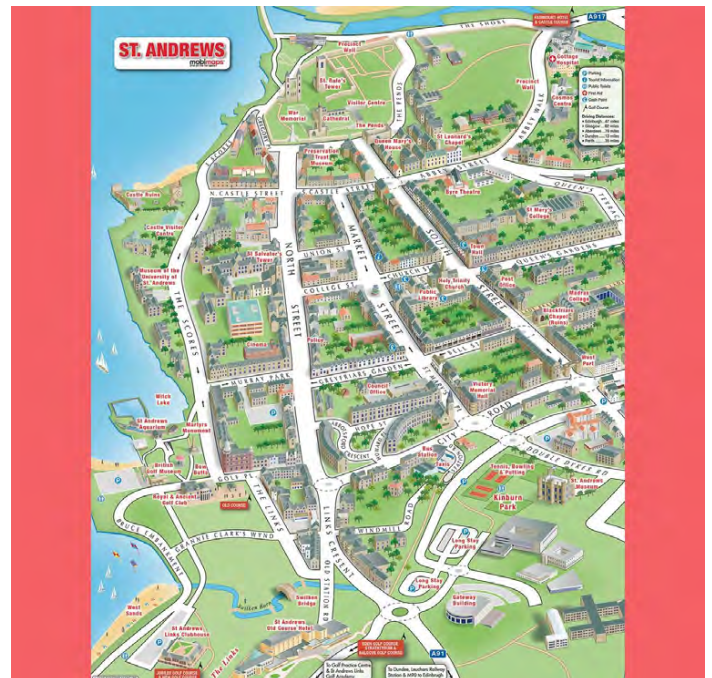
Everyone may choose to drive, take the train, or take the bus to St Andrews, and we'll all meet at the Bus Station, which is a good point to begin our day.

- We will walk along the street to St Andrews Cathedral ruins. The ruins are free admittance, but those who wish to climb the tower or view the museum can do so for



By each individual handling their own transportation, neither of the clubs incurs the up-front cost of renting buses.

I hope you'll all consider joining in this unique opportunity to meet fellow AWC members and to tour St Andrews. RSVP to me. Here is a map, to get you excited!

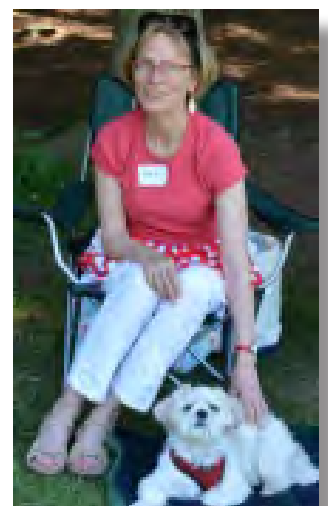


Then we can walk to St Andrews Castle...



And finally, it wouldn't be the autumn if the AWCCS were not already planning a FABULOUS THANKSGIVING! Look for the articles and emails about our Thanksgiving 2016—the biggest one yet!

Nancy Lynner,
AWCCS
President



And finally, we'll walk to the British Golf Museum Café, where we can each purchase our own lunch. The views of the harbor, and of the famous "Olde Course" are fantastic.

Member Meetup Opportunity @ Craft Scotland Summer Show

Sunday, 20th of August at 3pm

Craft Scotland Summer Show

Location: 2nd floor of White Stuff - 89 George Street, EH2 3ES

Join me at the Craft Scotland Handmade pop-up event above White Stuff on George Street. The market is a carefully curated selection of distinctive home-wares, handcrafted textiles, design-led jewellery and considered furniture. We can browse the artists' stalls and then catch up over coffee at the cafe on site.

RSVP to Kristina Royer, if you'd like to attend.

More info about the event here: <http://www.craftscotland.org/summershow/>
note: the event location requires going up a couple flights of stairs and there is no elevator.

Kristina Royer, Prospective Membership Chairperson

the NOMADS tent  *a warehouse of tribal art*

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FAWCO Book Recommendation - Meet up with Tara!

The FAWCO education task force has recommended the book, ['The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind'](#), by William Kamkwamba. It is hoped that many clubs will read this book.

Friday, September 8th is international literacy day. I thought that those who are interested in reading it could **meet at Pralines on Leith Walk at 2 pm** in Edinburgh for coffee and chat about the book on the International Literacy Day.

If you are interested or know of other people who are interested let me know and I will organise it. Even if there is only one person, I would be happy to have a book chat.

Thanks, Tara Scott
AWCCS Co-Treasurer and FAWCO Education Task Force Representative



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Surrey GU22 0PP

September AWCCS Fun Event!

The Union Canal Boat trip in Linlithgow



Sunday, September 10th, at 12 noon

We shall meet at the ***Linlithgow Canal Centre***, a 5 minute walk from the Linlithgow train station, at 12 noon for lunch in the café and we'll take a two hour canal boat ride.

Cost: £8 (for the boat ride per person) plus money for lunch.

RSVP to Amanda Drollinger, adrollin@pratt.edu, if you'd like to attend.

The website of the Union Canal Boat is <http://www.lucs.org.uk/>



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Elemental Nutrition

September and October Birthday Bashes 2017

SAVE THIS DATE! We haven't seen you all summer—come have a drink, even if it isn't your birthday

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY BASH

WHEN: **Thursday 14th September-**

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: Peacock Lounge, Waldorf Astoria Caledonian Hotel

RSVP- Nancy Lynner nlynner@gmail.com



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BASH

WHEN: **Thursday October 19th**

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: To Be Announced! Check for emails!

RSVP- Nancy Lynner nlynner@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

September

Jana Doughty, 8th

Jana Livermore, 4th

Tracey Rosenberg, 15th

Olivia McLaren, 25th

Janice Simpson, 25th

October

Paige Whitman, 10th

Kathryn Cross, 20th

Tahitia McCabe, 27th

Caroline Graves, 29th

Melissa Kaplan, 29th



Have a fantastic Birthday, gals!



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Edinburgh Morning Book Group

Friday, 15 September:



Home of Susan Elliott
susan1929@btinternet.com
A House Called Askival by Merryn Glover

Friday, 20 October:

Home of Chris MacLachlan
c.maclachlan@blueyonder.co.uk
Saint Maybe by Anne Tyler

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St Andrews day trip for American Women's Club of Central Scotland and AWC Aberdeen

Saturday October 7, 2017

We are looking forward to a great opportunity to meet up with members of the American Women's Club of Aberdeen in St. Andrews! Please join us for a great day out in St. Andrews and have the chance to get to know our American neighbors who live in Aberdeen!

Travel suggestion:

Train, Edinburgh Waverley to Leuchars, 1 hour 10 minutes followed by Shuttle bus from Leuchars – St Andrews bus goes every 15 minutes and takes 15 minutes to arrive at St Andrews Bus Station, which is our meeting place.

Meeting place: St Andrews Bus station

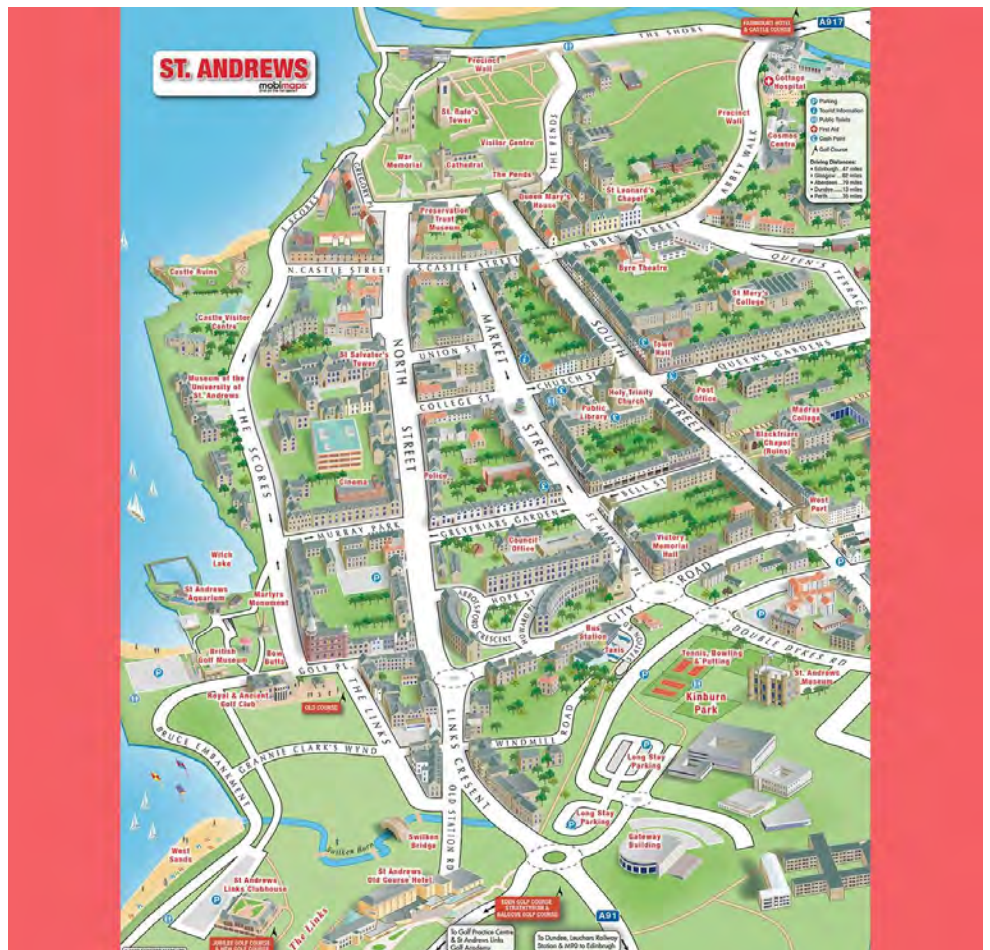
Time: 12:20 Both clubs arrive at Bus station for 12:30 departure together

We walk to St Andrew's Cathedral ruins - (free entry)

1:30 we'll head to St Andrew's Castle (Historic Scotland passes, or £6.00 adults £3.60 children 5-15)

About 2:15, we'll walk to the British Golf Museum café, And this takes about 15 minutes to reach. You can purchase your own tea and snacks/ cake, etc.

Everyone can head home to Aberdeen or Edinburgh on their own schedule.



Upcoming Theatre Outings with AWCCS Friends!

October:

Tuesday, 3rd October, 7:30pm

Street Car Named Desire

At Edinburgh Kings Theatre

Cost: £20 per ticket,

RSVP: Amanda Drollinger

November:

Tuesday, 14th November, 7:30pm

Trainspotting

At Edinburgh Kings Theatre

Cost: £20 per ticket

RSVP: Amanda Drollinger

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About Olivia McLaren: A U.S. qualified attorney admitted to the bar of the State of New York, who worked in U.S. immigration and nationality law in New York City for a decade before opening Olivia McLaren, Ltd. in Edinburgh in 2014. Listed in *Who's Who in Corporate Immigration* (2015-2016). Co-columnist for the *New York Law Journal* bimonthly immigration law column between 2012 and 2014. Also selected as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in NY Metro in 2013 and 2014, as published in *NY Times Magazine*. Graduated with a J.D. and LL.M. in International & Comparative Law from Duke University in 2004.

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Michael Manely is licensed to practice in Georgia and American Federal Courts. Additionally, he is admitted to practice in multiple state courts and Costa Rica on a case by case basis.

FROM THE AWCCS WEBSITE MANAGER: **by Joyce Halsan**

There is no doubt that we are getting more and more email spam, and it doesn't hurt to be reminded how handle it.

It's known under different names, Spam, Junk mail, Phishers, Hoaxes, and Spoofed Email Addresses (email addresses that appear to come from a trustworthy source) but it is an attempt to get you to use a link or respond to them. They can be just "annoying" or quite dangerous to your computer if they contain malware, so be careful and robust in your handling of these emails.

Here are some suggestions of how to identify spam: ***If you see it, delete it and don't click on any links or answer it.***

1. Does it appear in your Spam (or Junk) folder? It may be spam, so treat it very carefully. Most things are spam, but sometimes an email ends up there because it is part of a bulk mailing. Treat these emails on a case-by-case basis, but most of them can be deleted.
2. Do you recognise the Sender's email address? if you see a long string of numbers in front of the @ sign or a country ([like.ru](#)) you don't know, don't open it, delete it.
3. Is the content asking you to do something immediately or very soon, they are depending on you to be anxious and expect you to follow their link. Don't . Delete it.
4. If they are asking you to change your password, usually saying something like someone has tried to change your password, don't follow any links they give you. If you are worried that someone has tried to change your password, go to that website and log into your account through your browser (not by linking to this email) and check to see if they sent that email. This is very common, saying they are from large companies like PayPal or Amazon. If you copy the text from the email and put it in Search in your browser, you will see many links discussing this spam.
5. Are there many spelling errors in the content? Typically spam has many spelling errors, easy to identify, delete it.

6. Do they ask for personal information? Delete it. Legitimate companies won't ask for personal information in an email. (Same thing goes for a Phone Call—don't give out any personal information over the phone).
7. Does the email address you directly, using your first or last name? Generally this is genuine as they want to get your attention. If it is Dear Valued Customer, or the like, delete it.
8. Don't click on attachments. Malware can damage your computer, don't open any email attachments you weren't expecting.
9. Does the email seem too good to be true? It is. Owing you money, get rich quick schemes, fake lottery win. You are offered a large sum of money, but you have to provide a small sum first. They are all classic phishing scams.
10. Has someone you "know" written to ask for funds to help them get out of trouble somewhere in the world? Very popular scam used to get your sympathy and money. Usually calling the person who it is supposedly from assures you that they aren't on an Island in the Pacific Ocean stuck with no money.
11. Any email address can be used to send phishing emails and the only way you would know that yours was used is if you received a "mail can't be delivered" message. Our club has had this happen from the AWCCS and there is very little we can do to keep them from using our email address to send phishing emails. If this happens to you, start by contacting your email provider to check to see if they see any phishing evidence on the server. If not, it is a wait and see game, and usually the phishing emails become less and less. Very discouraging to have this happen.

Be sure to invest in a powerful anti-spam software. Ask your friends to recommend one to you rather than using the advertising techniques they use to get you to buy theirs.

Our Newsletter from AWCCS can appear in your Spam folder, if it does, please mark it Not Spam and be sure the info on our "reply to" is entered in your address book, or is marked not spam in order to continue getting your Newsletters.

Hope this helps you keep your emails safe and helps to eliminate potential problems. Let me know if you need help in further identification of these problems.

SCOTTISH CHARITY NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS - Take note!

It is time for you to nominate a Scottish charity that you believe in. Our Charity Chair, Maureen Hakes, will gather all the suggestions and we will vote, using email.

The Scottish Charity we choose will be one that we raise funds for over the next two years.

Additionally, we continue to raise funds for the FAWCO charity, which for the next two years is Hope Through Displacement—and will provide education for women and girls who have escaped war-torn Syria and have currently settled in Jordan.

Some of the Scottish Charities we have chosen in the past include:

- Sense Scotland,
- The Yard,
- Music in Hospitals,
- and Move On- helping homeless young people move into society.

We find that choosing a small charity makes our relatively small total of funds make a bigger impact, rather than choosing a large charity. However, it's important that you choose the charity you wish to nominate.

Greenback Expat Opinion Survey 2017 (- submitted by Dale Finlayson)

Greenback Expat Tax Services provides tax services and consulting for Americans around the world. Each year it conducts a survey of American expat opinion on a wide range of topics. There were over 2100 responses to the 2017 survey on the subjects of taxes, government representation, the presidential election, the new administration, and citizenship renunciation and the results highlight the growing dissatisfaction among US expats with the US government.

Survey Highlights

- **Voting:** Though 73% of the expats surveyed in 2016 intended to vote in the upcoming presidential election, only 64% reported actually having voted. Of those who didn't vote, 36% said it was because they didn't feel any candidate represented their interests. This number is up markedly from 26% in 2016 and 8% in 2015. The drop in expat voting may have had a material result on the election. 28% don't know how to vote from abroad or think it's too complex; 20% don't feel their vote would make a difference; 13% don't feel voting as an expat is important.
- **Representation:** 88% of US expat respondents said they do not feel their interests are fairly represented by the US government – up 5% from last year.
- **Taxation:** 66% of US expats surveyed do not feel they should be required to file a US tax return while living abroad, though 62% reported not owing taxes any taxes last year (or receiving a refund).

Awareness of FATCA, the 2010 law that requires all American taxpayers to report foreign financial accounts and offshore assets, appears to be slightly down from 2016: 15% of respondents said they do not know what FATCA is versus 13% not aware in 2016.

33% of survey respondents said they are affected by FATCA and must file Form 8938, while 42% said they are not affected – both numbers up 1% over 2016.

57% of US expats would support an initiative to repeal FATCA.

- **Citizenship renunciation**: 43% are not currently considering it but wouldn't rule it out; 19% are seriously considering it but haven't made a decision yet; 5% are already planning to renounce. When asked how the result of the 2016 presidential election affected their thoughts on renouncing their US citizenship, 48% said it had made them somewhat more likely to renounce and 18% cited it as a major factor contributing to their decision. 50% of those considering or planning renunciation cite the burden of US tax filing requirements as the reason – up 13% from 2016.
- **Banking**: 10% of US expat respondents said they're seeking a new bank because their foreign financial institution doesn't want to deal with US citizens – down 2% from 2016.
- The top three actions that Americans working overseas would like addressed by the US government are:
 - The repeal of citizenship-based taxation,
 - Simplification of the tax filing process,
 - An increase in the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion and other deductions/credits to lower tax burden.
- **IRS Amnesty programs**: 46% of US expats surveyed have never heard of the Streamlined Filing Process and the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program, put in place by the IRS to help US taxpayers catch up on their US taxes without late filing or FBAR penalties. This number is up 1% since 2016 and 5% since 2015.

This trend is disturbing because, on January 1, 2016, a law was implemented to allow the US State Department to revoke passports for late tax filers owing more than \$50,000 to the IRS. The law includes a penalty starting at \$10,000 for wilfully failing to report foreign bank accounts – which means, for example, that if you have 5 unreported accounts, you could potentially hit the \$50,000 total in a single year and lose your passport.

Coffee Plus Edinburgh

Wednesday, 27 September
Scottish National Portrait Gallery
10 a.m. for coffee and chat
then...

Graham Fagen: The Slave's Lament

This is an incredible **audio-visual installation** based on Robert Burns's beautiful lyric, written over two hundred years ago and his only work to empathise with the appalling hurt of the displaced, the trafficked, and the enslaved.

With a moving score written by Sally Beamish, performed by the Scottish Ensemble and reggae singer Ghetto Priest, and produced by legendary On-U-Sound founder Adrian Sherwood, Graham Fagen creates a fascinating soundclash, where Burns' poetry finds a haunting bedfellow in Jamaican reggae music – and finds much common ground. This evocative video installation was curated by Hospitalfield, Arbroath and exhibited at Scotland + Venice 2015, when Graham Fagen represented Scotland at the Venice Biennale.

The Portrait Gallery opens at 10am and I will be there to grab a table under the windows on the right-hand side. There is no need to book, but it would be helpful if I knew you were coming, so I know how many seats to save.

Dale Finlayson

dale.finlayson@which.net

0131-667-9369

07962-010-944

Dale Finlayson

dale.finlayson@which.net

0131-667-9369

AWCCS Glasgow Books, Banter and Beverages (BBB)

Looking forward, I know we have already purchased tickets to go to the Pantomime in December arranged by Shannon Lei, and I reckon we shall certainly get together before then, but shall be in contact by email - so - Watch this space, West of Scotland gals!!

Sue Stout

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August

Sunday, 20 August at 3pm, Member Meetup Opportunity @ Craft Scotland Summer Show in Edinburgh

Saturday, 26 , August 2017, 10:30 a.m.
Board meeting at Starbucks, Waverly Steps.

September

Friday, September 8th, 2 pm
International literacy day. Meet up with Tara at Pralines on Leith Walk at 2 pm in Edinburgh

Sunday, 10th September ,12 noon
The Linlithgow Canal Boat trip from the Linlithgow Canal Centre

Friday, 15th September, 10:15 a.m.
Edinburgh Morning Book Group , Home of Susan Elliott

Thursday, 14th September, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
September Birthday Bash, Peacock Lounge, Waldorf Astoria Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh

Wednesday, 27 September, 10 a.m.
Coffee Plus Edinburgh. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 10 a.m. for coffee and chat and then the audio-visual installation, Graham Fagen: The Slave's Lament

October

Saturday 7th October, 12:30 in St.Andrews
Meeting up with American Women's Club of Aberdeen in ST ANDREWS

Thursday, 19th October, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
October Birthday Bash To Be Announced! Check for emails!, Edinburgh

Friday, 20 October, 10:15 a.m.
Edinburgh Morning Book Group , Home of Chris MacLachlan

November

Tuesday 14th Nov. 7:30pm
Edinburgh Kings Theatre outing to see Trainspotting, £20 per person

AWCCS Thanksgiving details to follow