

2021 Newsletter for February and March



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AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland

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Dates to remember:

- 4 February: Greenback tax webinar
- 6 February: Valentine Making and Sharing
- 8 February: Deadline to let FAWCO know you want to attend the Commission on the Status of Women session,
- 16 February: Zentangle II with Suzie St. Denis
- 19 February: Edinburgh book group
- 20 February: February Sour Dough Bread with Joyce Halsan
- 24 February: Patricia Ramaer, One Woman's Journey into ART
- 27 February: Moody's US Citizenship Renunciation Webinar
- 6 March: Amanda Drollinger, 3PM "One Woman's Journey into Architecture" zoom
- 19 March: Edinburgh book group

Letters from the Board

Dear Members,

The world continues to challenge us in so many ways and I'm sure your own challenges day to day are filling up your lives. We look forward to continued health for all of you, healing for all of us, and a promise of the end of the pandemic as well. What a roller coaster ride we've been on. I call it the good, _____ the bad _____ and the ugly _____, You can fill in the blanks.

Please let us know if you are struggling or just need someone to listen. Please join us in our **Events planned** for the next two months--we would love to see you and enjoy your stories. Also, join us on our **Facebook page** to share in the many experiences, sometimes sad, but sometimes very funny as well. **Sue Stout** is great at putting up recipes and new dishes she is cooking. **Nancy** always has a new adventure to share with us, and many other contributors are keeping in touch. Let **Kristina** know that you would like to join as it is a closed group and she will sign you up.

We will continue to send out all club emails when new issues crop up and you will all receive an email when a new event has been planned. These events are a good avenue to getting to know our members better and to appreciate the many talents we have in our group. Do you have a special talent or expertise you wish to share by doing an event for us? If so, please contact Nancy Lynner and she will prepare the announcement with you. Just respond to your email and I'll forward it on to her.

My good news is that my husband, Bill, got his vaccine three weeks ago and I get mine this Thursday. One of the few perks for getting older...

Best to you all,

Joyce Halsan, Website Manager

My wee letter to you, my AWCCS Friends!

Home sweet HOME?!!!

Have you ever thought, okay! Enough is enough – I'm getting out of here! I'll just put on two masks and gloves and a hat and hop in the car or on the bike - but where shall I go? What is allowed?! Would taking a different route to the supermarket spice up my life? I haven't shopped for nearly 2 weeks and I have enough milk for the week – perhaps that's *too* risky! Shall I go for a stroll on a local path or will there be dozens of like-minded walkers and cyclists all crammed onto a narrow, muddy or icy track?

The supermarket. Many friends have been solely shopping online to stay safe. Good Idea. I have, however, never done online supermarket shopping and even though I know I could do this, I get discouraged by the different offers and availability of items that the family wants which are not available online as they are in the shop. And Lidl's. We've been getting on very well saving money there compared with our other local national supermarket. I buy at least 3 filtered long life milk bottles, lots of extra eggs, veggies etc and put them in cool boxes and bags outside. I buy large family size packs of meat or fish to divide into servings of two in sandwich bags to freeze. My husband is addicted to the Lidl 'middle aisle' - if you ever need an unusual work tool or gadget, wafflemaker or gazebo – give me a call! And did you know if you use their new app and spend £200 in a calendar month, they give you a £10 coupon on the app – not bad, just be sure to use it in 7 days. And need I forget! Where else can I go to practice my German! That Liberal Arts degree didn't go to waste after all!

We know lockdown is necessary, but boy is it dull in the winter! It was more interesting at the beginning! Last March, coming into April, there were lots of new challenges which may have spurred great creativity with many. I started to garden, using any old pots and compost or earth I could find, buying some seeds at the supermarket to plant some vegetables and herbs, with varying degrees of success! Herbs worked a treat – it was nice to make a few egg and cress sandwiches each week from cress grown on window sills! Tomatoes – well they never quite worked – I believe I managed to produce 5 cherry size ripe fruits by October! Cooking. At the beginning of this pandemic in April, I watched Jamie Oliver's lockdown cooking program every day – learning new techniques and following inventive recipes using the most commonly available food items when supplies were short. I then started to watch a bit of *every* cooking show: James Martin, with his rich French inspired recipes, Ree Drummond, with her very American family recipes. Ina Garten –it is nice to imagine to be a guest at the fancy dinner parties of the Barefoot Contessa! Gok Wan – who knew the fashionista was brought up learning Chinese cookery from his restaurateur father? The Hairy Bikers – my goodness, have you seen them cooking on top of the gorgeous mountains in Austria?! Wow! I almost feel like I am there too! And Rick Stein- I'd sure like to travel to all the places he goes to in search of good food and cooking influences!

Back in *my* kitchen I followed Jamie Oliver's recipe to make some pasta sauce by roasting most of the vegetables I had in the house since the shelves of sauce at the shop were empty. I dusted off the old inexpensive food processor and blitzed the veggies with cans of tomatoes found in my cupboards. I divided the

cooled sauce into large freezer bags to lie some flat in the freezer for future use. I made a lasagne with some and my son said it was the best he'd ever had – “could I make it again”, he asked, but I don't know! I used random numbers of zucchini, eggplant, onions, carrots, celery, mushrooms, leeks, garlic and herbs etc, but I never wrote down the *quantities*!

It has been a tough year. I feel for the parents who have never had it tougher, needing to home school the kids, as well as work. My university student sons are not finding that all online teaching works well. (Oh dear!) I admire all the people who are key workers keeping us all going – hopefully healthy, fed, and encouraging our wellbeing!

Well, I reckon this is enough writing for the day! As mentioned at the start, I NEED to get out! It is 2:40 and the day is already looking darker. It is, however, nice to know that the days shall now become longer! And as the days become lighter and vaccines become more available to us we may all look forward to a brighter 2021! Best wishes to all of you, my friends, for good health and happiness this year!

Sue Stout

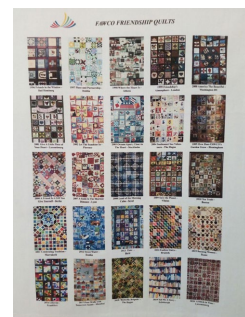
Thanks so much for all our contributors to the Newsletter: Sue Stout, Nancy Lynner, Dale Finlayson, Amanda Drollinger, Kristina Royer and Joyce Halsan. If you wish to contribute to our next Newsletter, please send your article to Joyce Halsan.

AWCCS News

Tea Towels for Sale

Help our AWCCS Charities by buying a FAWCO Tea Towel. (ONLY 10 MORE LEFT) This is a tea towel with the images of the famous quilts made by FAWCO members and auctioned each year at their Conferences. If you didn't win the actual quilt in their auction, take a few of them home in this tea towel. I got mine this month and Love it. (Joyce)

Price: £15.00 GPB



Order and pay :

1. By using Paypal (your order will be automatically sent to Kathy who is holding the towels and will be sent out to you): https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=KC832EWTXD6BC
2. Direct Deposit to Bank of Scotland: Sort Code: 80 02 78 and Account number 00952279. When you deposit the money to the account, please email Kathy to let her know you have paid.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Valentine Making and Sharing

6 Feb 2021 16:00
Your Zoom Room

ZENTANGLE II with Suzie St Denis

16 Feb 2021 18:00
Your Zoom Room

February Sour Dough Bread with Joyce Halsan

20 Feb 2021 16:00
Joyce's Kitchen and Your Zoom room

One Woman's Journey into Art: Patricia Ramaer

24 Feb 2021 18:00
Your Zoom Room

One Woman's Journey into Architecture

6 Mar 2021
Your Zoom Room

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Although we will not be meeting in person, some of these groups may be meeting online. [Contact us](#) if you would like to participate.

Edinburgh: Dale Finlayson for Morning Book Group, Coffee Plus Edinburgh and Voting Coordinator

Glasgow: Books Beverages and Banter hosted by various individuals.

Fife: Pat Peters for Fife Dinner Club

Join us as a Board Member

Interested in joining us as a board member? We would love to hear from you. We are meeting online at the present, but still very active in the club. We have the following openings: President, Advertising/PR and Charity Chair.



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Edinburgh Book Group – future books

During the Pandemic we are meeting on Zoom, from 10am, on our usual third Friday of the month. (Sorry, this event is closed to new members at this time)

- 19 February – *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George & Simon Pare
- 19 March – *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
- 16 April – *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman



Have you received your \$600 stimulus check?

If it has not arrived or been deposited in your US bank account, you can check your eligibility and the date the check was or will be issued at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

Happy Birthday

February 2021

(no Feb birthdays - correct us if we're wrong!)

March 2021

- 10- Tara Scott
- 16- Roseline Marshall
- 19- Ruby Raheem & Diedra Turner
- 24- Alexandra Harrington & Susanne Hathon
- 30- Kathy McCarthy & Michele Wirt

Notes from the Website

Please Log in to awccs.org

Your AWCCS Newsletter has been sent to you in an eMail blast with links directing you to our Member's Only site. You will have to have logged in to read the details. Let me know if you are having trouble logging in. You can also use your Facebook and Google login to sign in. websitemanager@awccs.org

Email going to Spam?

If your communication from us is going to your Spam folder, all you need do is to place our email (the 'reply to' on the email you receive from us) into your Contacts and it will recognize us as a "friend."

Please Update your Profile

Did we miss announcing your birthday in our Newsletter? We want to make sure to include you in our good wishes, but sometimes we just don't have the information we need.

If there is anything in the directory you don't want to be included, you can just go into your profile and remove permission.

To edit your profile

- sign in with your login name and password
- Go to your Profile page by clicking on your name on the top right corner
- To change anything on your Profile, click on "Edit Profile"
- Be sure to save when you have edited it.

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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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FAWCO News

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

UN Women has announced that registration is now open for the 65th session of CSW (CSW65), which will take place March 15–26, 2021.

CSW, the largest global gathering of women's rights activists, usually happens at UN Headquarters in New York; however, **CSW65 will be all virtual**. There does not seem to be a restriction on the number of delegates who can register from each NGO. There will also be a virtual NGO CSW Forum, organized by and for the NGO CSW community around the world. **If you are interested in participating** virtually in CSW and the NGO CSW Forum, please [send me an email](#) no later than **February 8**.

CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. **The priority theme of CSW65 is: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.** If you would like to contribute substantively to FAWCO's advocacy at CSW65, let me know.

Announcements and Entertainment



AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD
EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND INFORM

Several organizations, including ACA, have joined together to form the **Residence-Based Taxation (RBT) Coalition**, a group of advocacy, think tank and professional organizations that support the adoption of residence-based taxation. The purpose of the RBT Coalition is to focus on the need for tax reform for Americans who are living and working overseas and to support enactment of residence-based taxation. The Coalition will present widely accepted arguments, research and documentation in favor of residence-based taxation, making information available to the US Government, the media and the public. Residence-based taxation would allow US citizens living overseas to exclude from US taxation foreign earned income – income not in connection to any economic activity in the United States, taxing them only on income earned or sourced in the US.

The RBT Coalition is currently made up of: Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), American Citizens Abroad (ACA), Americans Overseas, Bright!Tax, Dunhill Financial, National Taxpayers Union (NTU), Swiss American Chamber of Commerce, and White Lighthouse Investment Management. Membership is open and will grow as groups come forward to identify themselves with this effort.

The RBT Coalition will not posit any specific tax reform platforms or proposals but, as approved by members, will provide those responsible for tax reform with the data, information, background, and details as to why residence-based taxation should be enacted. RBT Coalition members will bring a wealth of knowledge not only on the tax and compliance issues of Americans living and working overseas, but also information on the demographic and financial make-up of the community.

For information on the RBT Coalition [visit](#) or [contact them](#).



American in Britain is a glossy magazine, published quarterly in London. While it is definitely England (especially the south) centric, it often contains useful information relating to taxes, reports from American women's clubs elsewhere in the UK, and other matters – including restaurant and hotel reviews – of more general interest. A subscription is free, and the editor tells me that if the readership in Scotland were to increase, more sponsors could be encouraged to head up to Scotland to host and sponsor events. And we would be more likely to get the AWCCS onto their Club pages, which would increase our profile.

To subscribe, send an email to [Helen Elliott](#) with the Subject “Subscribe please”.

They also have a [website](#), with information and advice for American expats, and send out a monthly email

newsletter. Subscribe by [emailing](#) with "Newsletter request" in the subject line.

Greenback tax webinar – 25 Things Expats need to know about taxes

Thursday, 4 February, 17:00 GMT

To register, go to: https://www.greenbacktaxservices.com/tax-webinars/expat-tax-webinar-2021/?utm_campaign=Wrap%20Up%20Your%20Taxes%202020&utm_medium=email&hsmi=108366338&hsenc=Cj3gspziidO11uWPgyLcjqSVIksr9GNdSkOMBmk1NRfHicWKrh_jHuqdzCDUqdkBpvazHaMVuF8RF4gvKk

If you cannot attend the webinar, a recording will be sent to you – register to have it sent.

You can also access the information in PDF downloads at: <https://www.greenbacktaxservices.com/us-expat-tax>



DA has also been broadcasting tax webinars. An excellent one last month is now recorded and can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7G-NauyF6c>

For other items on the webinar –

Presentation Slides: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AJHrOCUhIYurghl6HTGLStHTD56h94Qz/view?usp=sharing>

Answers to pre-submitted tax questions:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q7rBRR9oEoU62NYU9W925Ttu3aEThTFX/view?usp=sharing>

Moody's US Citizenship renunciation webinar

Saturday, 27 February, 13:00–15:30 GMT

Even if you have no intention of renouncing your American citizenship, Moody's webinar (I watched a previous one) is a helpful exposition of the difficulties involved in paying taxes in both the US and the UK. There was also useful information on the rules governing inheritance for dual citizens.

To register, go to: <https://www.moodytax.com/us-citizenship-renunciation/>

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