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Dates to remember:

4 July 2021: **July 4th on Portobello Beach.** Watch for email confirmation.

4th of July Celebration



- When: July 4th, 2021
- Where: Portobello Beach, Edinburgh, Foot of King's Road
- Time: 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM

We will try again to meet for a picnic on July 4th. Please understand that we will be following the Pandemic rules and if it recommends that we not meet as a group, we will let you know. We will be outside and masks will be mandatory unless eating and drinking.

Bring: Everything you would like. Alcohol is permitted on the beach, you can bring your bbq for cooking and of course bring your own food and drink. We do usually bring something else that we can share with others, but it might be smart to make sure they are individually wrapped and probably best to be store bought (sadly). Joyce will be sharing Prosecco with everyone, which should be fine as the bottles will be opened there and the cups will be wrapped also. Just use your best good common sense as to how to do the food.

By the way, most eating places are open on the Prom and the toilets are also available.

The weather sometimes dictates that we not meet, we will send all of you who responds to this event a note the day before it if looks to be a bad weather day and we need to cancel.

Questions?

Contact Us

Scotland Covid19 Links

Introduction to NHS inform.scot

"Test and Protect is Scotland's way of putting into practice the test, trace, isolate, support strategy.

It will prevent the spread of coronavirus in the community by:

- identifying cases of coronavirus through testing
- tracing the people who may have become infected by spending time in close contact with them
- supporting those close contacts to self-isolate, so that if they have the virus they are less likely transmit it to others

Breaking the chains of transmission in the community will stop the virus spreading. This will allow us to gradually change the restrictions that help to suppress the virus."

Testing

"There are test centres across Scotland for people with and without symptoms. You can also get tests to do at home.

You can get a test for:

- yourself
- someone you care for
- a child in your care"

[Get a test if you have symptoms](#)

[Get a test if you do not have symptoms](#)

AWCCS LETTERS

Letters from the Board

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

What made this Annual General Meeting different? A Welcome Surprise at our AGM!

By Nancy Lynner, Events Convenor

Greetings, Members. Let me share the news of our AGM, plus a Summer 2021 Update.

This May we had a fabulous **AGM**.

- · No, it was not held at the classy US Consulate Edinburgh.
- · No, we did not get to sip a cocktail, snack on hors d'oeuvres, or stand close to one another.
- · Yes, we did elect a new slate of officers and several members stepped forward to take on new positions on the night! ***The best surprise of all was that Cynthia Holden, who has been a member for many years during her Scotland life, stepped forward to become our new President.*** Congratulations, Cynthia. We look forward to your leadership and thank you for volunteering.

We have a new Membership Convenor, Lindsay Nygren, and two new Glasgow Representatives – Shannon Lee and Mary Jo Bone Castleton. Remaining in office are Kathy McGlew, Secretary; Susanne Hathon, Treasurer; Joyce Halsan, Communications Convenor; Caroline Graves, FAWCO Representative; Dale Finlayson, Parliamentarian; and I will stay on as Events Convenor.

But we still need a Charity Convenor. Would you like to join the Board and help to support/direct/influence the Club's charitable endeavors? Because all AWCCS Board meetings will be held via Zoom, they will be easy to attend, with no expense or travel. *Perhaps you would like to attend a meeting of the Board to "try us out" and discuss what might be involved – Club members are always welcome to attend Board meetings and dates are announced in newsletters and on the website.*

We also passed new Bylaws, which were needed to keep up with the times. The previous ones did not sanction an AGM to happen electronically. That is SO pre-Covid! Also, we have restructured several of the Board positions. The new Bylaws may be found on the Club website.

Ellen Wong, the Principal Officer at the US Consulate General Edinburgh, has almost completed her three-year term and will be moving to Berlin. Congratulations, Ellen! She has given us the news that our next Principal Officer will be male – and he is married. This means that his wife will be invited to be Honorary President of AWCCS. In addition to a new Principal Officer, there will be a Deputy Officer (another male) at the Consulate. *Does it take two men to replace Ellen Wong?* Maybe! Regardless, it will be a benefit to Americans in Scotland to have more diplomatic staff at our Consulate.

Summer Update: This newsletter covers the three summer months during which the club traditionally has only one event – celebrating the 4th of July!

Again, we are setting our event on Portobello Beach, and again, it is a Bring Your Own Everything event. We have been celebrating July 4th in this way for several years, because the weather in early July has proved problematic. This makes it easy to cancel the event due to wind or rain, and the Club will not have spent money buying food for a BBQ.

Looking forward to the fall, the Board hopes to plan a few casual, in-person gatherings – if the Covid health figures continue to improve and restrictions are relaxed. Over the winter, we will continue with Zoom activities including the series “One Woman’s Journey”, featuring fellow Club members and others, which proved very popular in recent months.

We hope that everyone can enjoy lots of social time outdoors during the summer, and that your physical and mental health will flourish.

Contact Nancy

Letter from the President



Hello to all and thank you so much for all you have done for the AWCCS we are delighted you are onboard with us. I am Cynthia Holden, your new president. I am sure everyone had their own unique way they dealt with the lockdown. I threw myself into personal development and lost 100 pounds. I finished my book and I dealt with the ramifications of closing a successful training and development company. So now I am retired, and the American Women's Club of Central Scotland is my life.

I have many ideas about what I would like to see happen in our club but mostly, I want your ideas. Two of the main things I plan on focusing on, as president, is our membership and our activities. We can do so much more but for us to do that, you will have to participate. After that last lockdown I just want to do everything. I have emailed everyone, whose email we have, and if you didn't get one it was an oversight, please do forgive me. Nothing made me appreciate life more than having it restricted. Please do get in touch, please follow us on the Facebook page, *Inside Scoop <https://www.facebook.com/groups/520696051612119/> and engage engage engage!

I am looking forward to working with you all!

Cynthia

Contact Cynthia

*Please note: to join Facebook, please first contact us at getinfo@awccs.org to request admission as it is private to members only. Thanks

New Board Members as of July 1, 2021

2021 AWCCS Board

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Cynthia Holden
Treasurer	Susanne Hathon
Secretary	Kathy McGlew
Membership	Lindsay Nygren
Communications Convenor	Joyce Halsan
Events Convenor	Nancy Lynner
Charity Convenor	*Katie Graham
FAWCO Representative	Caroline Graves
Glasgow Representatives	Mary Jo Bone Castelton and Shannon Lei
Parliamentarian	Dale Finlayson
	*appointed by the Board on 3 June 2021. Thanks for stepping up Katie

These Board Members are following the new Bylaws approved at the 2021 AGM. Please download the bylaws.

To Contact any of the Board Members, please use our [Contact Us](#) page and just put the Title of the person you wish to contact in the Subject area of the Email: i.e. "AWCCS President"

AWCCS CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

No upcoming events

Glasgow Kahoot

Kahoot: Pub quizzes in the comfort of your own home. All you have to do is download to your device and dust off the Covid fog to answer questions.

Good fun -- we will resume after the Summer. Contact us if you are interested. Look to the Autumn Newsletter for details.

Welcome New Members:

Katie Graham, who is returning to the club and has generously offered to accept the Board position of \Charity Convenor. Welcome Back Katie.



Happy Birthday

June 2021	July 2021	August 2021
Delma Dewar, 20	Cynthia Holden, 10	Catherine Dunlop, 2
Rebecca Dunlop, 14	Christine MacLachlan, 6	Charlotte Holmes, 10
Dale Flinlayson, 21	Joanne Macniven, 27	Kathy McGlew. 22
Florence Forbes, 24	Katie McGlew, 1	Janet McLellan, 6
Karen Gregory, 19	Jane Miller, 2	Sallie Redman, 12
Dorothy Maas, 2	Lindsay Oliver, 24	Yvonne Wilcocks, 28
Susana McCune, 26		
Patricia Peters, 25		
Lena Russell, 21		
Sofia Zucca, 11		



Edinburgh Book Group – future books

During the summer we will continue to meet on Zoom, from 10am on our usual third Friday of the month – with a pause in August, when the Book Festival will be online.

- 18 June – *Fludd* by Hilary Mantel
- 16 July – *Silas Marner* by George Eliot
- 17 September – Book to be chosen



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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Dean Gardens

will be open to the public under the Scotland's Garden Scheme. Come enjoy the beautiful private garden covering nine acres of semi-woodland garden

with spring bulbs on the steep banks of the Water of Leith in central Edinburgh. Founded in the 1860s by local residents, the Dean Gardens contain part of the great structure of the Dean Bridge, a Thomas Telford masterpiece of 1835. Lawns, paths, trees, and shrubs with lovely views to the weir in the Dean Village and to the St Bernard's Well. There is also a children's play area.



- **When:** **Sunday 6 June, 2021**
- **Time:** 2pm - 5pm
- **Where:** Dean Gardens, Edinburgh EH4 1Q - Entrance at Ann Street or Eton Terrace
- **Admission:** £4.00 for adults / children free

The money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer.

Thanks Susanne for this information.

Boswell Book Festival, the world's only Festival of Biography and Memoir

10-16 June 2021

Named after the biographer of Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, who hailed from Ayrshire, and normally held at the magnificent Dumfries House, this year's Festival will be online. Alongside the main festival there will be the popular Children's Festival featuring some of the best and most popular children's authors, illustrators, and performers. All events are free but donations are welcome.

Of particular interest, on Sunday 13th, Fredrik Logevall, who for a decade has been searching the historical records of JFK's first 37 years, will be in conversation with the broadcaster James Naughtie, who has written about the presidential elections he covered for the BBC in *On the Road: Adventures from Nixon to Trump*.

Before each Festival talk, the well-known Scottish actor Bill Paterson will be reading excerpts from James Boswell's books and journals.

For information about the Festival: <https://www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk/2021>

The box office is at: <https://www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk/2021/box-office>

FAWCO News

Remember to register for FAUSA and the FAWCO Environment Team free screening of "Picture a Scientist,"

a feature film by Sharon Shattuck, director of the LUNAFEST film, "The Scientists Versus Dartmouth." The longer film follows the career challenges of three female scientists "ranging from brutal harassment to years of subtle slights." Check out the trailer at <https://vimeo.com/405966332>

The film will be available for viewing from noon US Central Daylight Time/7:00 pm CET, **Friday, June 4 through the same time on Monday June 7**. Then join a film discussion on Zoom on Tuesday, June 9 at noon CDT/7:00 pm CET.

Register at <https://forms.gle/SAiMVbf3Gjq9xKNd8> You will receive a link and password for the film and the Zoom link. 24--48 hours before the screening begins. Be sure to check your spam. Questions to Therese Hartwell at counselor_therese@fausa.org.

U.S. NEWS

US Consulate General, Edinburgh

There will be a field representative from the Federal Benefits Unit in London in Scotland the week of June 21. For part of the week, this representative will be available for appointments at the US Consulate General in Edinburgh for anyone who requires social security or Federal Benefits Services.

This includes making an application for a social security number for yourself or your child for the first time, completing a change of name with the social security agency or having documents certified as part of a social security benefits claim (if you already have a claim in process). If you would be interested in obtaining an appointment for any of these in person services, please email Edinburgh-info@state.gov with the following information:

- Full name of the applicant;
- Your current UK address;
- The type of social security service you are requesting an appointment for.

If you have any other General enquiries for our consular services team, please see the information below:

Consulate General Edinburgh Contact Details

Email Edinburgh-Info@state.gov



Website <https://uk.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/edinburgh/>

Twitter [@USAinScotland](https://twitter.com/USAinScotland)

After Hours Contact

From the UK - 020 7499 9000 (Embassy switchboard)

From the U.S. - 011 44 20 7499 9000

International dialing code +44 20 7499 9000

Kind Regards,
Consular Services

US Consulate General
Edinburgh

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE US EMBASSY, US CONSULATE GENERAL EDINBURGH AND STATE DEPARTMENT CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Message to U.S. Citizens: U.S. Embassy London (May 25, 2021)

Location: United Kingdom

Event: U.S. citizens may directly return to the United States with certain expired U.S. passports.

If you are overseas and your passport expired on or after January 1, 2020, you may be able to use your expired passport to return directly to the United States until December 31, 2021.

You **qualify** for this exception if **all the following** are true:

You are a U.S. citizen.

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are currently abroad seeking direct return to the United States.
- You are flying directly to the United States, a United States territory, or have only short-term transit (“connecting flights”) through a foreign country on your direct return to the United States or to a United States Territory.
- Your expired passport was originally valid for 10 years. Or, if you were 15 years of age or younger when the passport was issued, your expired passport was valid for 5 years.
- Your expired passport is undamaged.
- Your expired passport is unaltered.
- Your expired passport is in your possession.

You **do not qualify** for this exception if:

- You wish to depart **from** the United States to an international destination.
- You are currently abroad seeking to travel to a foreign country for any length of stay longer than an airport connection en route to the United States or to a United States territory.
- Your expired passport was limited in validity.
- Your expired passport is a special issuance passport (such as a diplomatic, official, service, or no-fee regular passport).
- Your expired passport is damaged.
- Your expired passport is altered.
- Your expired passport is not in your possession.

Please be advised that currently, routine passport processing in the United States **can take 10-12 weeks.** If you need a passport in less than 10-12 weeks due to international travel plans, you can pay an additional \$60 fee to expedite your passport, which will shorten the processing time to 4-6 weeks.

If your U.S. passport expired on or before December 31, 2019, please see our website for information on how to renew your passport before traveling.

Actions to Take:

- All U.S. citizens should enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and ensure you can be located in an emergency.
- Visit our [Embassy webpage on COVID-19](#) for information on conditions in the United Kingdom.
- Refer to our website for the latest [Alerts and Messages for U.S. citizens](#).
- Consult the [CDC website](#) for the most up-to-date information related to COVID-19.
- For the most recent information on what you can do to reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19, please see the [CDC's latest recommendations](#).
- Visit the [COVID-19 crisis page](#) on [travel.state.gov](#) for the latest information.
- Check with your airlines, cruise lines, or travel operators regarding any updated information about your travel plans and/or restrictions.
- Visit the [Department of Homeland Security's website](#) on the latest travel restrictions to the United States.

Assistance:

U.S. Embassy London, United Kingdom

33 Nine Elms Lane

London, UK SW11 7US

+44 (0) 207-499-9000

from U.S.: 011 44 207-499-9000

SCSLondon@state.gov

<https://uk.usembassy.gov/>

U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh

+44 (0) 131 556-8315

Edinburgh-info@state.gov

State Department – Consular Affairs

888-407-4747 or 202-501-4444

United Kingdom Country Information

U S Tax Returns for Overseas residents not due until 15 June

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an [automatic 2-month extension](#) to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. If you qualify for this 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the 2-month extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers). However, even if you are allowed an extension, you will have to pay interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers). *For further information see:*

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/us-citizens-and-resident-aliens-abroad>

Biden and the G7 Summit

Global Ambitions and the Domestic Agenda

Environment | Health Security | Economy

President Biden is setting a bold Democratic agenda to drive COVID-19 pandemic recovery while bringing the USA back to the world stage, engaging global leaders on shared issues and values.

The G7 summit, taking place in Carbis Bay, Cornwall this June, will be Biden's first major international engagement since taking office and will focus global attention on Democratic issues at home. Many of these issues facing us in the pandemic recovery, such as climate change, global health security and economic recovery, are front and center on the G7 agenda.

Join our upcoming DAUK panel discussion on the G7 to hear more from thought leaders on the outcome of the summit, the interconnected nature of these key themes and how President Biden and Congressional Democrats are tackling it all through the pandemic recovery agenda.

June 15th, 6:30-8 p.m.

Moderated by

Wen-Wen Lindroth, DAUK Chair

Panellists:

Naomi Ages, Leader, DA Global Women's Caucus Climate Action Team;

Deborah Rozansky, Co-chair, DAUK Health Policy Committee;

Matilda Bress, Office of US Rep Antonio Delgado (D-NY)

The panel will first look at the impact of the G7 themes on the Covid-19 global recovery before focusing on their relevance to the Democratic agenda.

The event will wrap up with time for Q&A.

RSVP for the event by clicking here.

We hope to see you there!

Supported by the DAUK Policy Network and Resolutions Committee and DA Global Women's Caucus

Democrats Abroad UK

<http://www.democratsabroad.org/>

AWCCS BOARD NEWS

AWCCS Board 2021-2022

President

Cynthia Holden

Honorary President

U.S. Consul General,

Secretary

Kathy McGlew

Treasurer

Susanne Hathon

Membership

Kristina B. Royer/Lindsay Nygren (Sept 21)

Communications Convenor

Joyce Halsan

Charity Convenor

Katie Graham

Special Interest Group Coordinators

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 or work on a Team

Events Convenor

Nancy Lynner

FAWCO Representative

Caroline Graves

Glasgow Representatives

Mary Jo Bone Caselton

Parliamentarian

Dale Finlayson

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:

Communications Convenor is looking for members who would like to help as a team in the following areas: Newsletter writing on line, Advertising/PR and working on the website. Expertise is helpful, but training is available if you want to learn a system. Please notify Joyce of your interest.

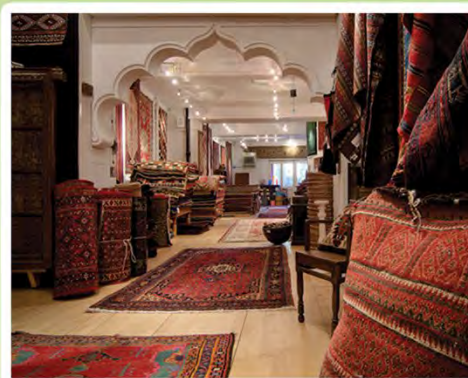
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Email going to Spam?

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.

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We are an award-winning U.S. law practice providing strategic immigration law advice and support for businesses wishing to establish or strengthen a U.S. presence and individuals interested in visiting, working in or immigrating to the United States of America.

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

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