

FACULTY GOOD DEEDS 2018

The first Scottish Bar International Human Rights Award, launched by the Faculty to honour those who champion human rights in the most challenging of circumstances, went to Salome Nduta, of Nairobi, a protection officer with the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Kenya. She spent a week in Edinburgh to receive advocacy training and to make contacts with Scotland's human rights defenders in civil society.

This year saw the third Tumbling Lassie Charity Ball to raise funds to fight human trafficking and modern slavery.

The "tumbling lassie" is a nameless girl who featured in a court case in 1687. She had been "bought" from her mother and forced by a travelling showman to work as a performing gymnast until, physically worn out, she fled and was given refuge by a couple.

The showman went to court and demanded damages from the couple, but the judges in the Court of Session dismissed his claim, and the official report of the case stated: "But we have no slaves in Scotland, and mothers cannot sell their bairns."

A group of seven Advocates uses the "tumbling lassie" to raise funds for two charities working at home and abroad, Community Safety Glasgow's Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) and International Justice Mission (IJM).

In previous years, TARA and IJM benefited through the Ball, and an associated Seminar on ways of disrupting trafficking, to the tune of £14,000 and £17,000.

This year, the international author, Alexander McCall Smith, and his musical collaborator, Tom Cunningham, wrote the Tumbling Lassie Operetta and it was given its premiere at the Ball. The operetta also had a week's run in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and was featured on BBC radio and television, bringing home the message about trafficking and slavery to an even wider audience.

The total raised by the "tumbling lassie" events was £29,227, split between TARA and IJM.

The Free Legal Services Unit (FLSU) can provide advice and representation when funds are not available for people involved in litigation and disputes. Of its 19 cases in 2018, one in particular illustrated the Unit's philosophy.

The ceiling in the living room of an 84-year-old woman's tenement home partially collapsed and cracks appeared in other ceilings after building work started in the flat above. Her insurance did not cover the damage.

Through the Unit, an action was raised at Edinburgh Sheriff Court against the owner of the upstairs flat and the contractor who had carried out the building works.

Roddy McIlvride, QC, appeared for the woman at a four-day hearing, and she was awarded just under £5,000.

The woman said she did not know what she would have done without Mr McIlvride's help.

"Roddy was absolutely fantastic and so friendly. He was really, really nice. I am forever grateful to him for all the work he has done for nothing," she said.

Mr McIlvride commented: "I am just very glad that she obtained a favourable outcome in circumstances where she wouldn't otherwise have been able to obtain legal representation. This is what the FLSU is all about."

The Criminal Appeal Service worked pro bono in aid of a dog facing a death sentence.

Eva, a six-year-old Bullmastiff, bit another dog and its owner, and a sheriff ordered destruction of Eva.

The order was suspended while an animal charity took up Eva's case and sought help from the Faculty's appeal service. An application was made to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission, which referred the case to the High Court so the judges could consider substituting a contingent destruction order; it would come into effect only if requirements to control the dog were not met. A hearing is due in the Spring.

The Faculty Choir staged its 23rd charity carol concert and raised £776 for Edinburgh City Mission to help its work with the homeless. Also, a further £1,000 was gifted to Edinburgh City Mission, from sales of Faculty Christmas cards and a donation by the Faculty.

The Faculty sponsored the gala opening of Bloody Scotland, the Scottish International Crime Writing Festival in Stirling, at which the winner of the McIlvanney Prize for crime book of the year was announced...it also supported amateur football team BSC Glasgow AFC, and provided new kit for the players...as well as the European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL) initiative to provide free legal advice to asylum seekers on the Greek island.

On Doors Open Day, there were 21 conducted tours of the Advocates Library for 285 visitors.

Donald Findlay, QC, put on a one-man show, "Madeleine Smith – did she or did she not?", based on the 1857 trial of Smith for the murder, by arsenic poisoning, of her lover, Pierre Emile L'Angelier, and it raised £2,370 for The Merchants House of Glasgow, which awards more than £700,000 a year to deserving charities and individuals in the city and beyond.

Robert Sutherland, Advocate, trekked to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of Children 1st, and raised £5,463.

Neil Mackenzie, Advocate, cycled from Land's End to John O' Groats to help Shelter and raised £1,785.

Sharron Wilson, of the Advocates Library, was in a team which completed the MoonWalk and raised £1,192. Also, she was part of the Edinburgh Kiltwalk and made £500 for the haematology unit at Kirkcaldy's Victoria Hospital.

Iain Gordon, of Data Operations, ran the Edinburgh Marathon and donated £982 to Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity.

Scott Brownridge, Faculty Superintendent, completed a 10-mile walk around Loch Venacher and raised £3,000 for the British Lung Foundation.

Compass Chambers raised more than £5,000 for Social Bite through fundraising at its conferences in 2018.

Members of Faculty and staff raised cash for a number of charities by different means

- £301 for the Scottish Book Trust by a book sale as part of Book Week Scotland
- £307 for Maggie's Edinburgh by a cake sale
- £191 for Macmillan Cancer Support by a coffee morning
- £80 for Jeans for Genes by wearing denim

The Bar National Mock Trial Competition held its Scottish heat at the High Court in Glasgow. The event is organised by Young Citizens (part of the Citizenship Foundation), and is supported north of the Border by the Faculty, which provides mentors to each of the schools, to prepare the teams and coach them in the skills of advocacy, and wigs and gowns to be donned on the day. Lord Mulholland presided over proceedings, and chose Boclair Academy, Bearsden, as the winner.

A MiniTrials event, where youngsters learn about the law by acting out trials, was held at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, for pupils from eight secondary schools in the Capital. Also, Roddy MacLeod, Advocate, held MiniTrials at two primaries, his former school, St Mark's RC Primary in Edinburgh, and his children's school, Lauder Primary.

Several organisations were grateful to the Faculty for use of its accommodation to host events, such as the Hamlyn Lectures, the Stair Society's annual general meeting and annual lecture, and a seminar by the Scottish Public Law Group about the Scottish Feminist Judgments Project.

Six young stars of the Malawian Youth Choir took time out from performing at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to visit the Faculty. The group, from the Edinburgh Girls' High School in Malawi, were shown around Parliament House and the Faculty by Mark Lindsay, QC, and also enjoyed an informal chat with the Clerk of Faculty, Dr Kirsty Hood, QC, and Paul Harvey, Advocate.

