

## Women of Dumfries and Galloway Lunch

The inaugural Women of Dumfries and Galloway Lunch was held on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2003**. Over 200 guests celebrated the contribution of women to the life and economy of the region. The event was sponsored by Bank of Scotland and the guest speakers were **Colette Douglas Home**, newspaper columnist and **Christine Glover**, Health Consultant. Over **£4,000** was raised on the day.

On **12<sup>th</sup> March 2004** the event saw an increase in the number of women attending to 250. **Lorna Clark**, International three-day eventer and **Sarah Harrison**, Novelist and Broadcaster were the guest speakers. The main event sponsor was the Stoneypath Trust, founded by Neil Stevenson of Langholm. Over **£5,000** was raised in support of the Foundation.

In **March 2005** the event was oversubscribed with a waiting list. The speakers were **Dr Anne Lorne Gilles**, Singer, Writer and Broadcaster and **Dr Joy Hendry**, poet and Literary Guru. A total of **£3,168** was raised. The Barfil Charitable Trust were the main sponsors of the event.

**March 2006** was another sell out although the total raised was down slightly at **£2,591**. The speakers were **Annabel Goldie**, MSP and Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party and **Lady Lucinda Lambton**, writer, photographer and broadcaster. The event sponsors were Crichton Development Company, Jacquie's Health and Beauty Salon, Monaghan Jewellers, Solway Offset and Mr and Mrs J Tulloch.

The fifth anniversary Lunch was held in **March 2007**. The scheduled speaker, Martha Andreasen, was due to come over from Barcelona but unfortunately had to cancel. Two very interesting replacements were luckily found in **Mary Contini** of Valvona and Crolla, and **Shelley von Strunckel**, world-renowned astrologer. The sponsors were Barfil Charitable Trust, Andrew Hamilton and Co., Jacquie's Health and Beauty Salon, Monaghan Jewellers and Solway Offset. A total of **£4,795** was raised.

The **March 2008** Lunch saw the best total raised to date at **£8,421**. The event sponsors were the Royal Bank of Scotland, David Stevenson, Solway Offset, Prana Hair and Beauty Ltd. and Monaghan Jewellers. The speakers were **The Right Honourable Elish Angiolini QC**, The Lord Advocate and **Meredith Etherington-Smith**, Journalist, Broadcaster and Editor.

For **March 2009** the guest speakers were **Prue Leith**, cook and author of popular fiction and **Dr Judith McClure**, lawyer, historian and head of St George's School in Edinburgh. The fundraising total was **£6,436**, which included an amount raised from the auction of a Sotheby's catalogue for the sale of Diana, Princess of Wales' dresses.

In **March 2010** the guest speakers were **Hannah McKeand**, record breaking polar explorer and **Fiona Armstrong**, broadcaster and journalist. Tickets were at a premium and a total of **£10,032** was raised. The event was sponsored by Royal Mail.

**The Honourable Mrs Justice Gloster DBE**, the first woman Commercial Court Judge and **Professor Anne Glover CBE FRSE**, Chief Scientific Officer for Scotland were the speakers in **March 2011**. The event was sponsored by Bonhams and raised **£8,440**.

The tenth anniversary event was held on **9<sup>th</sup> March 2012**. **The Right Honourable Ann Widdecombe**, retired MP, Privy Councillor, novelist and TV personality and **Sarah Mackie**, a senior Director for Tesco, were the guest speakers. A fundraising total of **£9,973** was achieved. Bonhams were once again the sponsors.

The speakers on **8<sup>th</sup> March 2013** were **Isobel Rutter**, actress, comedienne and playwright and **Terri Duhon**, a global financier and author. Sponsored by Bonhams the event raised **£10,542**.

Due to the extremely high demand for tickets for the Lunch in 2012 The Right Honourable Ms Widdecombe kindly agreed to return to Dumfries to speak to over 240 women who had been unable to secure tickets for the Lunch in 2012. In April 2103 the Foundation hosted **An Evening With Ann Widdecombe**. Guests enjoyed a glass of wine whilst listening to the talk, which was followed by a question and answer session. A total of **£3020** was raised.

The Lunch was a sell-out success yet again on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. One of the speakers, the actress Diana Quick, was unable to make it however, guests greatly enjoyed hearing from the **Countess of Carnarvon** about the fascinating history of Highclere Castle. The highest fundraising total to date of **£12,669** was reached. Bonhams were the generous sponsors for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

In 2015 the Lunch took place on **20<sup>th</sup> March** and was once again sponsored by Bonhams. The guest speakers were **Victoria Stapleton**, Founder and Creative Director at Brora and **Dr Brooke Magnanti**, Child Health Scientist and bet-selling author. A total of **£11,647** was raised.

The fourteenth annual Women of Dumfries and Galloway Lunch took place on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016**. **Mary Bell**, BBC Music Day's Unsung Hero in Scotland and **Arabella Dorman**, portrait painter and war artist were the speakers and did not leave a dry eye in the house. Bonhams once again generously sponsored the Lunch. The amount raised was **£11,615**.

From its inception in 2003 the Women of Dumfries and Galloway Lunch has raised **£112,349**, which has been used 100% to support locally based students.