

A SECOND Tumbling Lassie seminar and ball raised £17,000 for the fight against human trafficking at home and abroad.

Similar events in 2015 had made £14,000 and the proceeds went again this year to two charities, International Justice Mission and Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance.

A girl referred to only as the “tumbling lassie” was a central character in a court case from 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, *Reid v Scot of Harden and his Lady*, stated: “But we have no slaves in Scotland, and mothers cannot sell their bairns.”

Alan McLean, QC, found reference to the little-known case in a footnote in a law book, and was struck by the trenchant rejection of slavery as an early vindication of human rights. He and colleagues in the Faculty of Advocates formed the Tumbling Lassie Committee, which, in memory of the girl, raises awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking.

AROUND 100 Syrian parents and children enjoyed some unique Scottish hospitality at a special Burns Supper hosted by the Faculty in the Grassmarket Community Project, Edinburgh, and organised through the charity, The Welcoming.

A group of the Syrians followed up the supper with a visit to the Faculty and Parliament House, and brought a present with them – an artwork created by Hasan Al Shbeib from pieces of his wife’s jewellery.

He said: “We feel grateful that we were invited (to the supper) and had a warm welcome, and wanted to show our appreciation to the Faculty of Advocates. I am not an artist – I’m a builder – but wanted to create something for this special occasion.”

His artwork depicts scales of justice against the background of the Saltire, and a photograph of it was used as the cover of the Faculty’s Christmas card. Proceeds from sales of the card were donated to The Welcoming.

A short video of the supper can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/hxNmLqOgfuc>

MORE THAN 70 guests from across public life enjoyed an inaugural Dean’s Dinner in the splendour of the William Playfair-designed main corridor of the Advocates Library. The event was held in celebration of Scottish society.

THE Faculty was chosen as a joint winner in the Community Contribution of the Year category at the Scott + Co Scottish Legal Awards 2017.

The judges were unable to split the Faculty and Innes & Mackay, Solicitors and Estate Agents, Inverness, and decided that the prize should be shared.

Gordon Jackson, QC, Dean of Faculty, said: “The Faculty attaches great importance to its position in Scottish society and is immensely proud and honoured to be joint winner of the Community Contribution award.

“This recognition belongs to each and every one of those within the Faculty, both advocates and members of staff, who selflessly do so much to help others.”

HIGHLIGHTS of the year for the Faculty’s Free Legal Services Unit included providing assistance to campaigners in a successful fight to save Newarthill Library from closure by North Lanarkshire Council.

Also, a mother, who was represented at an employment tribunal by an FLSU volunteer advocate, won £23,724 in compensation and interest for being unfairly dismissed as a call centre adviser after maternity leave.

DONALD FINDLAY, QC, gave a talk, “42 Years of Advocacy”, at the Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow and raised £694.70 for Fight Against Cancer in Edinburgh (FACE).

THE SCOTTISH CRIMINAL BAR ASSOCIATION makes an annual donation to charity and this year £800 went to The Haven, which provides a residential programme for men with alcohol or drug addictions at a purpose-built facility in Inverclyde.

TIM HADDOW and his family took a very different kind of two-week summer break – helping to build a classroom at a primary school in Uganda.

NIAL McCLUSKEY ran the Stirling Marathon and raised £1,900 for Peace Brigades International, which assists human rights defenders.

THE Faculty Great British Bake Off made £140.34 for Streetwork, which works with the homeless in Edinburgh, while a Cake Sale raised £185.20 for Cancer Research.

IRENE CUMMING, Faculty Superintendent, took part in the midnight Run the Runway 5k at Inverness Airport in aid of Maggie’s, and raised £420.

AMPERSAND adopted as its charity of the year, A Smile for a Child, which helps disabled and disadvantaged children to participate in sports. As well as a charity lunch and fashion show which raised £11,000, clerks Alan Moffat and Cheryl Stevens, with colleague Catriona Still, of Axiom Advocates, completed the 10-mile Great Edinburgh Run and made more than £1,000.

TEAM TERRA FIRMA - Andrew Bowen, QC, Graham Dunlop, Roddy MacLeod and clerks Emma Potter and Andrew Veitch – was part of Sleep in the Park, the world’s largest charity sleep-out, and raised £3,000 for the fight against homelessness.

COMPASS CHAMBERS asked delegates at conferences to make donations to its nominated charity for 2017, the British Red Cross – Syria Crisis Appeal, and raised £2,877, with Gift Aid still to be added. Also, clerk Gavin Herd ran the Stirling Marathon and raised £2,832.20 (+£627.80 Gift Aid) for Cancer Research.

WESTWATER ADVOCATES supported the Dean & Cauvin Young People’s Trust, one of Edinburgh’s oldest charities.

A new group, the Scottish Ethnic Minorities Lawyers’ Association (SEMLA), was launched with support from the Faculty.

SEVERAL overseas groups enjoyed visits to the Faculty – members of the Punjab Bar Council; students from Erasmus Honours Law College, Rotterdam, from the University of Lorraine, France, and from the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland; and young lawyers from New Zealand and the US under the Pegasus scholarship scheme.

TEN Strathclyde University constitutional law honours students, with their lecturer Dr Christopher McCorkindale, were welcomed by the Faculty on a visit to Parliament House.

THE Faculty sponsored an event at the Bloody Scotland crime writing festival, in which Laura Thomson cross-examined three lawyers turned crime writers about their portrayal of court proceedings.

LIZ ARCHIBALD, of clerking, ran the Scottish Half Marathon and raised £666 for CHANGES Community Health Project.

THE Faculty Choir staged its traditional Christmas carol concert, to raise funds for the Edinburgh City Mission, which helps the capital’s homeless.

JUSTICE, the law reform and human rights body, produced a “pocket guide” for MSPs - **Law for Scottish lawmakers** – with support from the Faculty.

STAFF of the Advocates Library took 250 visitors on 19 conducted tours of the library on Doors Open Day. And VIPs from law commissions in the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands had a tour of the Advocates Library as part of the itinerary of their annual conference.

THE Scottish heat of the Bar National Mock Trial Competition was held at the High Court in Glasgow. The event is organised by 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 of the final.

MINITRIALS, where youngsters learn about the law by acting out trials, were held at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, for secondary school pupils, and Stirling Sheriff Court, for a primary school class.

THE English Speaking Union was thrilled to have the Reading Room as the venue for the Scottish final of its Schools' Mace debating competition. Jess Anderson, of ESU Scotland said: "We would like to thank the Faculty for the use of their room. The magnificent surroundings lent a real sense of occasion to the event, and all the staff were incredibly helpful and made us feel really welcome."

THE PROSPECT of appearing as a witness in court become less daunting for a group of paediatricians after they received some expert tuition from members of Faculty.

After counsel had presented a "mock trial" at a course run by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in Edinburgh, arrangements were made for a visit to the Faculty, and six doctors were shown around Parliament House and the Advocates Library, and they also saw proceedings in the Court of Session and the High Court.

Marnie Greenrod, head of RCPCH Child Protection Education, said: "We are greatly indebted to the advocates who so generously offered their time and expertise in better preparing our paediatricians for appearances in court."

KEN MAXWELL, Faculty Officer, broke the £100 barrier within three hours of collecting for Poppyscotland on Poppy Saturday. He also befriends a man living in supported accommodation funded by the Leonard Cheshire Disability charity.

ANNA POOLE, QC, organised "Carols in the Crescent" and raised more than £300 for The Mango Tree, a charity which helps poor rural communities in Africa.