

SEPTEMBER 2017 | ISSUE NO. 1

BON ACCORD

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN OF ABERDEEN



MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

DON'T MISS OUT
Come to the first general meeting in September

SAVE THE DATES
Craft Fair, Fall Social and More

WHAT'S ON IN ABERDEEN
A list of the family-friendly events this month

happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again



PURPLE HEATHER OF ABERDEENSHIRE
COURTESY OF CHRISTINE JACKSON
ON THE COVER: ABERDEEN BEACH
COURTESY OF LILLIAN SMALL



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AWA, PO BOX 11952,
WESTHILL, AB13 0BW
WWW.AWAABERDEEN.ORG



DID YOU KNOW??

You can invite a friend to come to one of our meetings or group activities. Ladies are allowed to attend twice without an obligation to join

They can "try before they buy"

Please inform JenniferMartin
(newcomers@awaaberdeen.org)
so we can give your guest a warm welcome

*Help us make AWA stronger and better
than ever before*



**If you or someone you know
owns a business and
wants to advertise
in our monthly newsletter
contact Lucia
awapublicity2013@gmail.com**



Letter from the President

Welcome!

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer and is settled into the post-holiday routine. We are so happy to have you join the AWA this year, and we are looking forward to fellowship and fundraising for our chosen charity, ARC Hippotherapy!

A warm thank you to our board member volunteers for 2017. You will find their friendly faces and profiles in this newsletter. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, Jane Easton is currently coordinating members in support of this year's charity. In addition, we will be seeking volunteers for our annual Craft Fair, so be on the lookout for those announcements this fall!

Also mark your calendars for these upcoming events. More details are in this newsletter.

Wednesday, 13th September. the 1st General Meeting of the year at the Hazelhead Park Café @10:30am.

Saturday, 7th October. We are excited to announce a first-time joint meet up with the Central Location of the American Women's Association! Please plan to bring your families along to meet fellow expats in Scotland as we tour the cathedral and castle in the stunning St. Andrew's.

Saturday, 28th October. Mark your calendars for our Fall Social at Crathes Castle for a haunted tour.

Please feel free to email if you have any questions, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Jeanne Rodriguez



Don't miss our September General Meeting

Hazelhead Park Cafe

Wednesday 13 September | 10 AM

Join us for the first general meeting of the year.
Enjoy light refreshments, meet the board, reconnect with
old friends and make some new ones.
*At this meeting you can also pay for your membership dues and
sign up for all the groups/activities we have planned.*

American Women's Club of Central Scotland Invites AWA Aberdeen

**St Andrews Cathedral and Castle Tour
Saturday 7 October**

**Families
Welcome**

Meeting place: St Andrews Bus station

Time: Both clubs to arrive at 12:20 to depart on the walk together at 12:30

Plan: St Andrew's Cathedral ruins; St Andrew's Castle; British Golf Museum café

Departure: Everyone can head home to Aberdeen or Edinburgh on their own schedule.

More details and information on how to sign up will be emailed & posted on Facebook



AWA Fall Social Haunted House

Crathes Castle Ghoulish Ghost Tour
Saturday 28 October | 6 PM

£20 per person (includes admission and transportation to and from castle)

RSVP on Facebook or by contacting Sandra Green

Limited to 24 ladies so sign up ASAP

Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Sunday 12 November | 11am - 4pm

It's all hands on deck to ensure this event is a successful fundraiser for RDA!

We'll be looking for volunteers for various positions.

Contact Katie Muck and Kate Osborne for more info

LIKE the Facebook page and share with your family & friends

<https://www.facebook.com/AWAHolidayCraftFair>

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

HOLIDAY

CRAFT

FAIR

12th November 2017

**DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON
ABERDEEN TREETOPS**
161 Springfield Road
Aberdeen, AB15 7AQ

11am - 4pm

Admission: £3

AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

AWA NEWS

Submit your annual dues by October 11

It's time to start renewing your membership for the 2017-2018 year!

Fill out a paper form (last page of newsletter) OR online at bit.ly/AWAform



Payment can be made by cheque, Paypal (via our website), bank transfer or at the September General Meeting

The fee for annual membership is £40.

Reduced rates for full-time students available.

Contact Jennifer Martin with questions & to get bank details.

<http://awaaberdeen.org/membership/>



PAID ADVERTISEMENT: PLEASE MENTION YOU SAW THESE ADS IN THE AWA BON ACCORD



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AWA CHARITY for the year



As voted upon at our April Meeting, the AWA is proud to be fundraising for the local charity ARC Hippotherapy: SCIO (a member group of the national charity Riding for the Disabled) this year. ARC Hippotherapy: SCIO are based at the Aberdeen Riding Club premises at Nether Anguston Farm, Peterculter and offer hippotherapy for children and adults with disabilities, provided by a Qualified Physiotherapist.

What is Hippotherapy?

Hippotherapy literally means treatment with the help of a horse, from the Greek word hippos meaning horse.

The therapist utilises the rhythmic movement of the walking horse. A client appropriately positioned on the horse experiences and responds to significant sensory input.

This positions them ideally to develop postural control, equilibrium reactions, balance, co-ordination and spatial orientation.

There are also psychological, speech, language and cognitive benefits.

Hippotherapy is a treatment carried out by, or under the direction of a specially trained Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist – the hippotherapist. Valerie Cooper is the trained hippotherapist. She observes the rider and gives instructions to 2 side helpers, who walk either side of the horse to ensure that the rider is in the correct position at all times to gain maximum benefit from the treatment.

Interested in Volunteering?

Role of the volunteers

In being part of the Hippotherapy group you are helping to make a real difference to the lives of disabled children and adults. Volunteers are essential to the group and the sessions could not run without them.

The duties performed by them are :

- Grooming and tacking up the horses
- Lead each horse around the school
- Side helpers
- Meet and greet the riders and their carers/parents, offer tea/coffee

Training will be given for all roles and responsibilities so previous experience with horse management is not essential.

ARC Hippotherapy would welcome any of our members able to volunteer to help at their sessions. Each Friday, they run 8-9 sessions. Sessions are from 9am to 1:30pm. Volunteers will be required to complete an application form, disclosure check and an online sign-up system to confirm their availability for the dates and times that suit them best.

If you are interested contact VP Charity, Jane Easton or Kate Osborne. They will put you in touch with the contacts at ARC Hippotherapy



MEET THE BOARD

Jeanne Rodriguez | **President**

I am excited to serve as President this year for the AWA. I was born, raised, and attended university in South Louisiana, married a Texan, and embarked on the expat adventure that has taken us to Mumbai, Surrey, Houston, and now Aberdeen. I moved here almost 7 years ago and am happy to call the Granite City my “for now” home with my husband Joel, children Joseph and Juliana, and our first-born (and most spoiled!) dog child, Bella. I look forward to seeing old friends and introducing myself to new faces as we kick off the 2017 AWA year!



Christine Jackson | **1st Vice President - Meetings**

Hi everyone! I am thrilled to be back on the board again this year and look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as meeting new ones :) My family and I have been living in Aberdeen for over five years. I have a five year old daughter in Kindergarten at ISA and a three year old son enrolled in the preschool. I absolutely love living in Scotland and enjoying it's stunning scenery. As a photographer, you will often find me with a camera in hand. I am so excited to get this year started and raising money for an amazing charity!



Leila Metzger | **1st Vice President - Meetings**

Hi all! Originally from Calgary my husband Kyle and I moved to Aberdeen just over 4 years ago. I have served on the board for 3 years and am excited to be back again as 1st VP meetings. We have two daughters, Bellamy (21/2) and Madeleine (5 months). Our family loves to travel but when at home, we love to explore the beautiful Scottish highlands and all that it has to offer. We love living here and have been lucky to make so many good friends over the years. I am looking forward to another amazing AWA year.



Sandra Grisby-Green | **2nd Vice President- Social**

My name is Sandra Green and I look forward to serving as 2nd Vice President-Social. I was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Attended Grambling State University undergraduate and University of Phoenix, MBA. Moved to Aberdeen 1 year ago from Houston, Texas with my husband Roderick, and three children Imari, Kennedi and Jordan. I'm your typical Louisiana native that loves to cook and never meets a stranger. I'm excited to see what the new year brings with AWA!



MEET THE BOARD



Melissa Plain | **2nd Vice President- Social**

I have been living in Aberdeen with my fiancé Mitch and our newborn son Rockford for the past three years, after spending my first three years in the UK based in Newcastle upon Tyne. Mitch's work brought us up to Aberdeen, but surprisingly not oil based! Enjoying this year on maternity leave, I'm excited to see more of Aberdeen (enjoy a cocktail or 2) and get everyone out and about!

Jane Easton | **3rd Vice President-Charity**

Hello, I'm Jane and I'll be serving as co-chair for the 3rd VP position this year with Kate Osborne. I'm originally from Michigan but have lived in Scotland since 2010 and was in Germany prior to moving here. My husband Angus and I live in a little village called Auchenblae south of the city. I currently am a full-time student at the University of Aberdeen but also work part-time for a local law firm. I hope to see you at the September and October general meetings to share more about our chosen charity, ARC Hippotherapy: SCIO.



Kate Osborne | **3rd Vice President-Charity**

Hi I'm Kate and I am living here with my husband, Seth and son, Jackson. I am originally from Virginia, but grew up in Texas and I am happy to call Dallas home. I am a labor and delivery nurse, however I have not been working since 2013 when we left the US. We started our expat journey in Port Gentil Gabon, where we spent 2 years, before happily making our way to Aberdeen in 2015. Being a member of the AWA for the past couple years has been a great experience and I look forward to contributing!



Jennifer McKinnon Magee | **Secretary**

I'm one of the more permanent AWA ladies, as my husband is Scottish and Aberdeen is now my official home. I'm originally from Granbury Texas. I have a degree in Theatre Arts from Sam Houston State University and I taught Theatre Arts at the Junior High School level back in the states. When I moved to Scotland I began teaching Musical Theatre Acting at the College level as well as Drama in Aberdeenshire public schools. I am also a professional actress/singer and perform locally in Aberdeen and throughout the UK.





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Scotland

MEET THE BOARD



Lauren Babcock | **Activities**

I'm from Chicago and have been living in Aberdeen for 3 years now. The cow field next door is a long way from my previous view of Louis Vuitton, but dare I say, much prettier. I moved here with my husband, Erik and dog Stella. Last year our family grew by one- as I am the deliriously happy owner of my first horse: Hamish. I am a freelance Social Media Content Manager for a handful of clients back in the states, and otherwise if I'm not at the barn I'm kept busy exploring Scotland, planning holidays, reading, illegally streaming Bravo TV, and volunteering with Riding for the Disabled.

Jennifer Martin | **Membership & Hospitality**

Hey Y'all! My husband, Leigh, and I moved to Aberdeen from Houston, TX in 2014. We have 3 children, Jack (12), Tyler (11), Emily (6), and our dog, Dottie. We have enjoyed exploring England & Scotland (by car) and traveling around Europe. Our family loves a good road trip, Rugby, and the beach. I look forward to meeting you all and welcoming you to the AWA!



Annabel Byrne | **Treasurer**

The Treasurer is the custodian of all funds of AWA. She is responsible for all funds received and dispersed by the association, and for preparing a monthly Income and Expenditure Statement, a copy of which is to be presented to each Board member at each Board meeting. The Treasurer is also responsible to make this information available to the general membership if necessary. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to ensure that operating capital of not less than £1,000.00 is on hand at the end of the fiscal year.

Lucia Ochoa | **Publicity**

I am from Bogota, Colombia married to a Brit that had me moving around for the last 20 years. Aberdeen has been our first home posting and we have enjoyed it for the last 2 years. I am embracing my last year as a full-time mum before my youngest girl flies the nest, Andie is a senior at ISA and Hannah is in her 3rd year of engineering at Warwick in England. I love to play Mah-jong, read and lately I have taken a liking for golf. I am looking forward to working with AWA this year.



MEET THE BOARD



Lillian Small | **Newsletter**

It's my first year on the Board and I'm happy to flex my creative skills to bring you the monthly newsletter. I'm from Toronto, Canada with Portuguese roots. I studied Chemical Engineering and worked in Oil & Gas for 5 years. In 2013, I moved with my husband to Paris and then to Aberdeen last summer. I'm currently in a Masters program in Digital Marketing. I love to travel, bake French desserts, listen to podcasts, binge on Netflix and staying active (running, Crossfit, yoga). I enjoy learning new things, taking on challenges and sharing my knowledge and experiences with others.

Elizabeth Jantz | **Parliamentarian**

I'm currently on my first (and probably only!) expat assignment here in Aberdeen. My husband, Greg, and I have lived here for 5.5 years and both our children were born here. Aberdeen has provided us with lots of fresh air, beautiful countryside, and amazing travel opportunities. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any recommendations.



Lorie LeDrew Sigut | **Web Mistress**

I'm from Nova Scotia (Latin for New Scotland!) and just moved to Aberdeen in January. My home life is surrounded by boys - two sons, my husband, and a chihuahua. I was lucky enough to have joined the AWA during one of my visits last year, and meeting such great people so soon upon my arrival has really made the transition easy. Seafood is what brought us on this adventure, and we sure are enjoying the ride. Looking forward to making more great memories abroad!



Stacy Townson | **FAWCO Rep**

I've lived in Aberdeenshire for 4.5 years and love every minute of it - the opportunity for golf and hiking, whisky and beautiful scenery is what keeps me happy :-)





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Promotions...

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DON'T MISS A THING! CONNECT WITH AWA ONLINE

If you haven't already, go join our closed Facebook group to stay up to date on all our activities, stay in touch with other members and get answers to the questions you have about life in Aberdeen

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/awaaberdien/>



Join our Swap Shop group on Facebook Buy, sell and swap everything from furniture, cars, children's clothes with other AWA members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/386166418071686/>

SIGN UP FOR ACTIVITIES

Most activities run all year long & you can sign up at any time.

Contact the leaders to join.

Due to moves, some groups still need a leader, so if you are interested in leading a group, OR if you don't see an activity here that you like, volunteer to start your own, Contact **Lauren Babcock**.

Note: there are no rules and you can run your group however you like.

Stay Active & Meet New People

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

LUCIA OCHOA

We meet once a month and usually accompany our discussion with a light lunch. The next books are Sky Burial by Xinran (Sept. 5th) and The Ballroom by Anna Hope (Oct. 3rd). New books will be chosen on Oct 3rd, so please submit your proposals! We will vote on them. Information will appear in the Facebook Page.



BIBLE STUDY

GRETCHEN DILLON
DEBBIE CROCK

an interdenominational group of women who seek a deeper walk with Christ. We will begin Tuesday, September 26th from 1-2:30pm. Don't worry if you don't have a book at the first meeting. You can download the study guide to Kindle, ask Gretchen to order for 8GBP, or order your own. This study by Ann Voskamp, entitled One Thousand Gifts, is a celebration of grace and a recognition of the power of gratitude.

CHICK FLICKS



Looking for a leader

Join us as we take in the magic of the silver screen at various locations around Aberdeen. We'll try to plan something for everyone: Sci-Fi, Action, Drama, Comedy and Suspense, not just Romantic Comedies. Join us for lunch or coffee afterwards. See you at the movies!

COOKING CLUB



Looking for a leader

The Cooking Club will meet every so often to partake in various cooking school activities around the Aberdeen area. One month may be at the Nairn Cookery School, the next making chocolate at Cocoa Ooze to a wine course sampling. See you in the kitchen!

EVENING BOOK CLUB



LEILA METZGAR

Do you like wine, snacks, reading, and girl time? Evening book club is the place for you! We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00. We are a very welcoming group and would enjoy having you join our lively discussions....even if you didn't manage to finish the book. Next meeting: September 20 - The Handmaid's Tale

WELCOME/CATCH UP COFFEE



JENNIFER MARTIN

We meet once a month at various locations for coffee and conversation. All members are welcome and so are guests! The information about coffees will be posted on the AWA Facebook page. There is no requirement to sign up for this activity, however please try to reply if you are coming.

SIGN UP FOR ACTIVITIES

BUNCO



Looking for a leader

One evening per month, rotating hostesses in member homes. Bunco is a simple dice game (it's 100% chance; no strategy) that is played as an excuse to get together and chat. You can read a very good introduction at buncorules.com.

CRAFTER'S CORNER



Looking for a leader

Gatherings are 2-3 hours depending on the project. A crafting group exploring the art of beading, ceramic painting and anything striking our fancy!

CULINARY CARAVAN / HAPPY HOUR

JENN MAGEE jenniferjackson2727@hotmail.com

On evenings of our choosing and usually once a month we meet up to try a variety of cultural cuisines in and around Aberdeen. Time, dates and locations vary from month to month. Spouses welcome!



EXPLORERS (Hiking/Hill Climbing)

MARY LAMMERS

We meet at the Marcliff overflow car park, with dates/frequency TBD with weather. Hikes will vary in length and difficulty (easy to difficult). Departure time will vary depending on the distance to hike location. We strive to return by the end of the school day however, we are planning a couple of hikes which will go beyond this time. Please bring water and sack lunch, wear appropriate footwear and clothing, and always be prepared for inclement weather.

DISCOVER ABERDEEN



Looking for a leader

Either on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of the month with times depending on the destination (usually between 10am-3pm). Come join us as we discover new gems, or rediscover old ones, in and around Aberdeen!

GEOCACHING



Looking for a leader

Geocaching is a real-life treasure hunting game. Players try to locate Hidden containers called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices. We meet about once a month on a morning. If you have interest and a GPS, bring it along!

GOLF



JEANNE FRUGE-RODRIGUEZ

Golf group meets for lessons at all ability levels. We attend 1 hour group lessons at Paul Lawrie for a 6-week block at a cost of £70. The next available block will begin in late October/early November. Please join us as we learn new skills, have a few laughs, and enjoy some time on the course outside of lessons - we'd love to have you!

LUNCH BUNCH



Looking for a leader

We meet once a month at noon for lunch. Each month this group meets at different restaurant locations around Aberdeen. It's a great opportunity to meet members and make new friends, as well as experience the local cuisine.

SIGN UP FOR ACTIVITIES

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

CHRISTINE JACKSON

Meet once a month on Fridays. A bit of walking and photographing Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire as well as learning photography basics.



SCRAP HAPPY

Looking for a leader

We meet for scrapbooking plus friends. Teas and coffees will be provided, what more could one ask for?



STITCHIN' CHICKS

MARY ARKLES

Every Thursday from 10- 12pm. The Stitchin' Chicks get together to sew, embroider, knit, quilt, crochet, macrame, cross-stitch or make lace. People bring along projects to finish or start new ones to learn a new skill.



TENNIS

RADINUM THEMSEN

We meet at Kippie Lodge and try to match people with the same level of tennis skills so we can have some nice games. My goal is to make a monthly schedule, so let me know if you are interested.

TOURS AND TRIPS

Looking for a leader

Normally plan a fall and spring trip for the ladies of AWA. Most look for a long weekend but can plan whatever length trip you want.



MAH-JONG

Looking for a leader

We are always looking for new players who want to learn the game. Mah-jong originated in China and is played with tiles. It's a game of skill, strategy and luck! We play with the North American way with National Mah-jong League cards.



MOMS AND TOTS

LEILA METZGAR l.metzgar@yahoo.ca

Parent/infant/toddler group that meets weekly at kid-friendly venues in and around Aberdeen or at members' Homes for playtime and light snacks. We also have a monthly "Mom's Night Out!" - happy hour without the kiddos. We Look forward to welcoming you into our friendly, laidback group of Moms!

WALKABOUTS

Looking for a leader

walking an easy to moderate 4-6 mile walk on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. A slower pace then Explorers! We then head off for lunch in a nearby pub or local restaurant near our walk location.



*Eat more
cake!*



Happy Birthday to our members that celebrate this month

September 4 - Sandra Green
September 9 - Donna Helgeson
September 11 - Asha Luthra
September 12 - Lynn Towart
September 16 - Donna Griffith

September 17 - Nicole Delcros
September 18 - Chrissy O'Farrell
September 19 - Pam Bamber
September 20 - Allison Merrick
September 21 - Tasha Backus
September 23 - Jane Easton



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WHAT'S ON

EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
IN AND AROUND ABERDEEN THIS MONTH



▼ Aberdeenshire Doors Open Days 2017

September 16-17

Doors Open Days is a free national architectural event in which properties of historic, cultural or architectural interest throw open their doors to the public
<http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/>



▼ Deeside Local Food Festival

September 16-17

A one day festival to bring people together to celebrate local food. We look forward to welcoming you to this year's event which will be focussed around the theme of 'Health'
<https://www.deesidefoodfestival.co.uk/>

▼ North East Open Studios

September 9-17

Artists, makers and designers open their studios to the public. Featuring a diverse range of artists this is a unique opportunity to meet and chat to individual artists, see their inspirations and working methods. Most artists will have work available for purchase and you may even wish to commission an original piece.

<http://www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk/neos-2017/>



▼ Scottish Home Show

September 29- October 1

You will find everything you could imagine at the show from new build homes, conservatories, smart home technology, garden furniture to the latest designs in kitchens and bathrooms, furniture, soft furnishings, art and design, cookware, gifts and much, much more.

<http://www.scottishhomeshow.com/>





CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

October's newsletter will feature day trips from Aberdeen.

So if you've taken a day trip and have a story to tell
OR have some great suggestions. Please send them!

Do you have a beautiful photo for our next cover image?
Is there information about life in Aberdeen
you think everyone should know about? Send those too!

If you have anything you want to share in the monthly newsletter
or see any mistakes/omissions

Contact Lillian (awaaberdeen.newsletter@gmail.com)

Deadline for the next newsletter
is September 24

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN OF ABERDEEN
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2017-2018



Renewal _____ New Member _____

CLASSIFICATION: Active _____ Associate _____

**(See By-Laws Article below for details on membership.)*

MEMBER INFORMATION (Please print):

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Mobile #: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Birth Month: _____ Birth Day: _____

Area: _____

Post Code: _____

Citizenship: US _____ Canada _____ UK _____ Other _____

Profession and/or Employer: _____

Trades/skills/talents/areas of expertise that you have and would be willing to share:

Partner's Name: _____

Profession and/or employer: _____

Partner's Citizenship: US _____ Canada _____ UK _____ Other _____

Children's names/ages: _____

Any previous foreign assignments: _____

Have you ever been a member of another American Women's Association or any other volunteer organization?

YES / NO If so, where and what did you do? _____

May we invite you to join our AWA Facebook pages? AWA Main Page _____ Swap Shop _____ Moms & Tots _____

Email address for Facebook invitation (if different from above): _____

Would you be interested in helping with any of the following AWA activities (please circle)?

Charity Hospitality Newsletter Programs Social Events Travel F.A.W.C.O.

***BY-LAWS ARTICLE-MEMBERSHIP:** ACTIVE membership shall be open to persons who are United States citizens or Canadian citizens or spouses of United States or Canadian citizens. A person, not eligible for ACTIVE membership may apply for ASSOCIATE membership. ASSOCIATE members pay dues, participate in AWA activities and have the right to vote. ASSOCIATE membership shall not exceed 40% of the total ACTIVE membership and is to be distributed as follows: 20% non UK passport holders, 20% UK passport holders. Membership will be granted in order of applications received. Should the ASSOCIATE membership percentages be met, a waiting list will be established.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Payment can be made online via **Paypal** at <http://www.awaaberdeen.org/membership> or by check payable to AWA & posted to AWA, PO BOX 11952, **Westhill** AB13 0BW. Contact: membership@awaaberdeen.org for more information