

PREVIOUS WINNERS

The Evening Times Scotswoman of the Year awards have been honouring the achievements of women since 1963.

It is a celebration of female endeavour – from politicians to pioneers, from charity workers to community champions, the winners of the prestigious title are all ordinary women doing extraordinary things and all have a profound effect on the lives of others.

The 60s were in full swing when the Evening Times Scotswoman of the Year awards burst on to the scene. Women’s lib had arrived, fashions were changing and workplace barriers were finally being broken down. Our first winners summed up the spirit of the event – which affectionately become known as SWOTY – and set the tone for the decades to come – meet the SWOTYs from 1963 – 1969.

1963-1969

**1963:
BESSIE JOHNSTON**

Our first SWOTY worked tirelessly for the Glasgow branch of the British Red Cross for more than 50 years. She was a great supporter of many other charities, and became a leading authority on civil defence. She received an MBE in 1953. Bessie was also a member of the board of management at Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital and the Glasgow Western Hospitals Group and worked for the British Empire Cancer Campaign and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

**1964:
DR NORA WATTIE**

For 31 years, Nora was principal officer of health for maternity and child welfare in Glasgow. The service she set up and ran, with its ante-natal care and health visitor system, gained national and international recognition. This pioneer of social medicine, who died in 1994, was also in charge of the city’s home help and home nursing services and was a member of a string of associations, including the General Midwives Board and National Association for Maternal and Child Health.

**1965:
SISTER JUDE**

As director of Glasgow’s pioneering and world famous Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic in Glasgow, Sister Jude (born Maureen McAleer in Glasgow, in 1912) devoted her life to helping parents and children with emotional problems. Under her directorship, a pioneering service for adolescents became the first unit in Scotland to bridge the gap between children’s clinics and adult out-patient hospital departments.

**1966:
HELEN TROUP**

Helen was a powerful figure in politics at a time when it was considered predominantly a “man’s world”. She was the first woman to be elected Provost of Grangemouth and firmly believed women had an important contribution to make to both civic and national affairs in the modern world. Helen was also a primary school teacher, local councillor, housewife and mother.

**1967:
ISOBEL MURDOCH**

When Isobel and husband Tom learned their daughter, Lindy, had Down’s Syndrome, they were told she was unlikely to live longer than five years. Lindy survived, but, at the age of 16, all special schools and services stopped. Inspired by a visit to America, Isobel decided to set up the pioneering Hansel Village, a community of supervised homes and places of work and leisure for those with learning disabilities, in her home town of Symington in Ayrshire.

**1968:
MARGARET BAYNE**

Margaret helped to change attitudes towards elderly people in her role as honorary convener of Lamb’s House Day Centre for the elderly in Leith. A well-known community figure, Margaret, who lived in Edinburgh, believed “old age” should be fun. Her pioneering work at the centre made a huge difference to the lives of the men and women who attended, boosting their confidence and reducing isolation.

**1969:
MARGARET KIRKPATRICK**

The first island community winner of SWOTY, Margaret represented the courageous wives and widows of all the boatmen of Britain after losing her husband and two of her sons in the Longhope lifeboat disaster in 1969. The Longhope capsized in the Pentland Firth while sailing from its base in the Orkney Islands to rescue the crew of a Liberian freighter which had become grounded.

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Women continued to make their mark on Scottish society as the 70s arrived, and SWOTY was there to shine a light on the female campaigners, reformers and entertainers who enriched our lives – meet the SWOTYs from 1970 – 1979.

1970-1979

**1970:
MARGARET HERBISON**

Former MP for North Lanark, Margaret, from Shotts, fought fiercely for women's place in politics and championed social reforms. She graduated from the University of Glasgow and rose quickly through the ranks of politics, becoming Britain's first Minister for Social Security and the first woman to be appointed Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

**1971:
BRIDIE CONNELL**

Bridie, from Dennistoun in Glasgow, was the driving force behind the renowned St Mungo's Old Folks Club in the city's Townhead area. St Mungo's started as a lunch club and, under Bridie's direction and enthusiasm, grew into a day centre offering varied and valuable services and help to the elderly. She was a member of the executive committee of the Glasgow Old People's Welfare Association and part of the Scottish Council of Social Service in Edinburgh.

**1972:
MARGARET STEVEN**

Through her work at Edinburgh's Saughton Prison, Margaret won the respect and admiration of male inmates, supporting them through their own difficult times. Described as an inspiration by many of the men she helped, Margaret took on a number of roles at the prison, from organist, choir mistress and concert organiser to head of the popular bible class and drama group.

**1973:
JEAN MILLIGAN**

As vice president of the Scottish Country Dance Society, Glasgow-born Jean spearheaded a revival of interest in the genre, inspiring people all over the world. Her enthusiasm in researching old dances, teaching and writing about dance – she published 25 books on the subject – was infectious and the society's annual summer school, held in St Andrews under Jean's direction, was famous. She worked tirelessly as an ambassador for Scotland and Scottish dancing for many years.

**1974:
EDITH WHITE**

A keen church worker – and the first woman to be appointed to the congregational board of Orchardhill Church – Edith ran free dancing lessons for children, transporting them from the gloomy back-courts of 1930s Gorbals to a magical world of music and fun. Edith, who was from Giffnock, did not let her own health problems – she was partially sighted – stand in her way and she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of elderly people and children with disabilities.

**1975:
CAPTAIN MARY CAMPBELL**

Mary devoted her life to helping poor and vulnerable people in southern India. As a member of the Salvation Army, she left her home in Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, to run a leper hospital, working amongst poverty and drought in an area which had the highest rate of the disease in the world.

**1976:
ALICE SCRIMGEOUR**

Church of Scotland deaconess Alice swapped life in Perthshire for the tenements of Glasgow's Gallowgate in the war-torn years of 1939 to 1945. Known affectionately in the city's east end as Sister Alice, she became the church's youth organiser

for the west of Scotland after the war. One of her first tasks was to try to bring together the young people of countries which had been at war and in 1953 she organised her first German-Scottish holiday exchange for children.

**1977:
MOLLY WEIR/AGNES HOEY**

Actress, author and broadcaster Molly, from Springburn, had a special place in the hearts of many Glaswegians thanks to her down-to-earth personality and couthy humour. Molly was a household name in Scotland thanks to long-running radio and TV shows like Dr Finlay's Casebook, All Creatures Great And Small and Within These Walls.

Agnes lived for music and loved to share her passion with others. She founded the Glasgow Youth Choir, regarded as "the pride of Strathclyde", in 1938, and travelled with it all over Europe.

**1978:
JANET HYSLOP**

For more than 30 years, Janet, from Clydebank, worked tirelessly on behalf of the disabled. She was the first secretary of the Voluntary Association for Handicapped Persons in Clydebank and opened the town's first hostel for disabled children.

**1979:
CLAIRE MULHOLLAND**

When Claire Mulholland's daughter Clara was diagnosed with leukaemia, she became a dedicated supporter of the Leukaemia Research Fund. Following Clara's death, Claire, from the west end, founded the Glasgow branch of the Scottish Leukaemia Research fund. She dedicated her time to raising thousands of pounds and offering vital support to parents of ill children.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

It was the decade of power-dressing and pop. The women who held the SWOTY title in the 80s summed up the confidence of the decade, taking the title for their courage, compassion and kindness – meet the SWOTYs from 1980 – 1989.

1980-1989

**1980:
JEAN McLEOD**

Despite her own disability, Jean, from King's Park in Glasgow, opened up her home to dozens of fellow multiple sclerosis sufferers. Wheelchair user Jean turned her living room into support group meeting place, welcoming members of all ages for evenings of counselling and craftwork. She also helped to raise thousands of pounds towards a holiday home for MS sufferers.

**1981:
SHEENA WALKER
/JEAN WADDELL**

Driven by a desire to help other parents with disabled children, Cumbernauld housewife Sheena ran two day centres and a youth club for young people with learning, physical and mental disabilities. She also set up religious instruction classes, combining her charity work with the demands of looking after her own four children, two of whom were born with disabilities.

On a church trip to Iran in the 60s, missionary Jean was shot and held captive by revolutionaries. She was imprisoned for seven months, much of it in solitary confinement, gripped by desperation, uncertainty and fear. She never lost hope and said her faith deepened as a result.

**1982:
DR MARGARET KERR**

Margaret's expertise throughout a long and distinguished career in medicine saved the lives of hundreds of premature babies. The consultant paediatrician at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill, Glasgow, won the respect of parents and colleagues for her compassion and honesty. She also founded the Friends of the Babies Society, raising much-needed funds for vital equipment.

**1983:
SHEILA BETT**

As matron of the Marie Curie hospice in Glasgow, Fife-born Sheila ensured people in the final stages of their illness had happy, enjoyable and fulfilling lives. She brought laughter to the wards and raised huge sums of money for the charity in her spare time.

**1984:
BETTY McALLISTER**

The outspoken champion of the people of Glasgow's east end, "Battling Betty" improved life for thousands of her neighbours. She set up the Calton's first residents' association and campaigned for better homes, jobs and community facilities. She was involved in numerous groups, including the Crime Prevention Panel and the Barrowland Action group.

**1985:
MARJORIE JACKSON**

Marjorie became famous all over the world in her quest to adopt David, the young Peruvian boy helped by her surgeon husband Ian. She cared for him through a series of complex operations to restore his facial features, and trekked through the South American jungle to find his biological parents. Her determination and compassion helped to change attitudes to disfigurement around the world.

**1986:
BETTY SMART**

The larger-than-life Lenzie woman was a fundraising powerhouse, collecting more than £1m for a variety of charities, hospitals and people in need. She spent every spare moment of her time helping others.

**1987:
SUSAN WIGHTON**

Susan became known as the "Angel of Beirut" for her courage under fire. Our youngest SWOTY, the Glasgow-born health worker looked after the sick and injured in Palestine refugee camps, risking her own life as she worked amongst squalor and death.

**1988:
SHEILA HALLEY**

Sheila was the driving force behind the Dixon Day Centre for the elderly in Govanhill, Glasgow. As its first, and for a long time, only full-time staff member, she made it one of Scotland's biggest and most welcoming centres for the elderly, creating a whole new community for pensioners.

**1989:
MARION ROBERTSON
/JANET GIBSON**

Marion, from Simshill, was an energetic champion of elderly people. After a lifetime of trade union service, she became chairperson of Strathclyde Elderly Forum, encouraging pensioners to lead more active lives and fighting for members on everything from the poll tax to post office closures.

Janet accepted her award on behalf of the women of Lockerbie, the town devastated by an appalling plane bombing in 1988. As the tragic events unfolded, Janet and her neighbours rushed to the scene to support rescue workers and comfort victims.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

The 1990s arrived and SWOTY was still going strong. In a world where women were increasingly expected to juggle the demands of work and family life, our awards discovered Scotland had more than its fair share of superwomen – meet the from 1990 – 1999.

1990 - 1999

**1990:
DR ISOBEL MAIR**

Isobel, a mother-of-five, minister's wife and medical health officer, set up the Busby Care Centre, a part-time clinic for children with complex disabilities which later became the Glendale Centre, a full-time service supported by more than 200 volunteer workers. After retiring, she joined Voluntary Service Overseas in Thailand, providing support to mothers with disabled children.

**1991:
ANNETTE TURNER**

The Paisley housewife embarked upon a one-woman fundraising campaign when she founded the Paisley Friends of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. She was named Scotland's top fundraiser for the charity, helping the small group she chaired to collect £100,000 in five years.

**1992:
DR ANNE GILMORE**

The former music teacher, who took night classes to get into Glasgow University to study medicine, founded the internationally-respected Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice on Glasgow's south side. Countless patients and their families were given hope and comfort at the hospice in the final weeks of illness thanks to Anne's vision and determination to create bright and cheerful surroundings.

**1993:
PEGGY O'DONNELL**

Peggy was honoured for her round-the-clock commitment to the elderly. As co-ordinator of a street warden scheme in Govanhill, she was paid for a 35-hour week to oversee voluntary street wardens, but worked all hours to ensure the wellbeing of almost 800 pensioners. She created and ran two community care flats and provided a network of services for the elderly – everything from collecting their library books to draught-proofing their homes.

**1994:
MAXIE RICHARDS**

The Bearsden housewife launched a one-woman crusade to change the way heroin addicts were treated in Scotland. A staunch opposer of heroin-substitute methadone, Maxie preferred to use compassion and love to win users back to health and she took many into her own home, allowing them to live with her until they were drug free.

**1995:
BETTY BROWN**

Caring Betty put the heart and soul back into the Garnethill community. As chairperson of Garnethill Community Council she fought for a children's play park and a multicultural centre for the area, and organised regular community events including pensioners' clubs and bus trips.

**1996:
SISTER MARY CHISHOLM/
GWEN MAYOR**

Sister Mary Chisholm, of the Daughters of Charity, devoted her life to battling for the rights of deaf people. Working at the St Vincent Centre, she made herself available 24 hours a day, learning to sign and completing a course in counselling to be able to provide professional support for people in need. Gwen Mayor was the courageous teacher from Dunblane, who died protecting the tiny children in her class after a gunman went on the rampage in the school. Her daughters collected the posthumous award on her behalf.

**1997:
ANNE MCKELVIE**

Anne, from Battlefield, was rewarded for her inspirational work at Thornliebank's Woodfarm High School. The physics and guidance teacher saved the life of a depressed teenage girl who was on the brink of suicide before Anne stepped in to offer support. Anne also regularly gave up all her free time to offer extra tuition to her students.

**1998:
ANN CONLAN**

Ann worked tirelessly to improve asthma services in Drumchapel, providing information, advice and health care for sufferers and their families. She set up the Drumchapel Asthma Support Group and took on health chiefs in a bid to transform services. Many of the initiatives she helped to establish were used as models in other areas of Glasgow.

**1999:
DR ANNA MURPHY**

Between 1972 and 1984, Dr Murphy established and developed the country's first renal unit at Yorkhill Hospital. After learning that French hospitals were treating Scottish children who would have died from kidney disease had they stayed in this country, she was determined to provide the same care here.

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The Noughties arrived in a blaze of excitement as Millennium fever gripped Scotland and SWOTY entered another decade of honouring inspirational women from all over the country - meet the SWOTYs from 2000 – 2009.

2000-2009

**2000:
SISTER CATHERINE
CAMPBELL**

Our millennium SWOTY set up Glasgow's first one-stop breast cancer care clinic at the city's Stobhill Hospital. Catherine, of Lenzie, was the patients' advocate, co-ordinating their care and supporting them through the trauma of diagnosis and treatment.

**2001:
MAUREEN McKENNA**

Maureen battled back from alcoholism and depression to help others rebuild shattered lives. The Scotstoun woman established the Open Door Trust to support Glasgow's homeless people, drug addicts and alcoholics. Driving her double decker bus, she was once a familiar sight in Glasgow, delivering hope and compassion to those in need.

**2002:
EILEEN MCKIERNAN**

Eileen founded the Meningitis Association of Scotland after her teenage son died of the disease. The Glasgow woman has devoted her life to fundraising for research into the disease to prevent other families from suffering the same pain. Over the years, she has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds.

**2003:
TRACY COSGROVE**

On a trip to the Far East, Tracy, from Alexandria, was appalled by the conditions in which people were living. She set up a foundation and opened orphanages, day centres and schools across Thailand and Burma, giving hope to vulnerable street children and orphans in both countries.

**2004:
OLIVIA GILES**

Olivia was a successful lawyer when she fell ill with meningococcal meningitis and had to have her hands and feet amputated. She campaigned passionately to raise awareness and funds, helping to change outdated attitudes towards disabled people.

**2005:
SANDRA BROWN**

Sandra believed her own father was responsible for the death of a young Coatbridge girl who disappeared in 1957. She worked tirelessly to find the truth and set up the Moira Anderson Foundation to help sexually abused children and their families.

**2006:
PROFESSOR ANNA
DOMINICZAL**

The Polish-born professor officially became Scottish when she picked up the SWOTY trophy for her achievements in medicine. A world leader in research, she led the fight to rid Glasgow of its label of heart disease capital of Europe and campaigned relentlessly to bring the state of the art British Heart Foundation Centre to the city.

**2007:
LIZ CAMERON**

Former Lord Provost Liz won the title of SWOTY for her unstinting service to Glasgow. She represented the city all over the world and was a major influence in the £35million refurbishment of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and the £15m renovation of the City Halls.

**2008:
JEAN DONNACHIE
AND NOREEN REAL**

Two Glasgow grandmothers, who campaigned relentlessly to stop Home Office dawn raids on asylum seekers in Scotstoun, were named joint winners of SWOTY 2008. Jean and Noreen worked hard to transform their community, bringing neighbours together and breaking down barriers.

**2009:
DR MARGO WHITEFORD**

The consultant geneticist, who has spina bifida, helped to raise hundreds of thousands for the Scottish Spina Bifida Association. She completed the London Marathon in her wheelchair and devoted her time to helping people with the condition.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

The new decade is very different from the one in which SWOTY began. Difficult economic times mean life is tougher for most – but one thing remains the same. In every walk of life, there are women who rise above their own problems and hardship to make life better for others. And SWOTY is here to celebrate them all – meet the SWOTYs from 2010 to date.

2010 - PRESENT

2010: EILEEN MCCALLUM

Eileen, from Glasgow, is one of Scotland's finest actresses but it was for her work in raising awareness of muscle-wasting diseases that she was named SWOTY 2010. Driven by her desire to help her own grandsons, who have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Eileen lobbied the Scottish Parliament for a breakthrough inquiry into support for patients with similar conditions.

2011: DR MARY HEPBURN

The consultant obstetrician at Glasgow's Princess Royal Maternity Hospital has worked tirelessly for more than a generation to improve the lives of disadvantaged mothers in the city and beyond. Known around the world for her ground-breaking work to help deprived and socially-excluded women, Mary set up the Glasgow Women's Reproductive Health Service in 1990 and she remains in charge of the unit, now known as the Glasgow Special Needs In Pregnancy Service, more than 20 years later.

2012: ERIN MCNEILL

Erin McNeill nearly died in a fire which left her with horrific burns to her arms and chest and a severely damaged vocal cord. Since the blaze, the 22-year-old from Menstrie has dedicated her life to helping educate people about the dangers of fire, visiting schools and prisons across the Central Belt and volunteering for the British Red Cross. Her inspirational work with young people won her the charity's top humanitarian award in 2012, and she has also raised more than £100,000 for firefighters' charities.

In the past year, Erin has won beauty pageant titles in the US, Portugal, France and Jamaica, including Miss Scotland International and Miss United Nations International. She believes passionately that people who have disfigurements should not hide away and, through her hard work and determination, plans to change traditional perceptions of beauty.

2013: ANN MOULDS

Ann, from Ayrshire, endured a terrifying two-year ordeal at the hands of a stalker, having to move more than 80 miles away from her home, her business and her friends. Waiving her right to anonymity, she was determined to ensure no-one else suffered in the same way. At the time, stalking was considered a misdemeanor. Thanks to Ann's determination and courage, the law has now been changed and stalking is recognised as a crime, carrying severe penalties, in Scotland, the rest of the UK and, subject to ratification in the coming months, across Europe. She also set up Action Scotland Against Stalking, which has support from all political parties, criminal justice agencies, victim support organisations, health organisations, educational institutions and the legal profession, and introduced a national awareness day. Because of Ann, victims of crime have a voice – and lives have been saved.

2014: CARA HENDERSON

Cara suffered the loss of a friend but has battled for 15 years to overcome the pain of that loss and prevent others enduring similar hurt, by battling to cure a cancer in our society. She has faced challenges, abuse and hatred with a steely, resolute determination to continue the battle against sectarianism. After the mindless killing of her friend she founded a charity dedicated to transforming society and driving out the bigotry which so often divides our nation. 15 years on and Nil By Mouth is still speaking out fearlessly and campaigning against sectarianism across Scotland.

2015: ADELE PATRICK

Adele was the driving force behind the Glasgow Women's Library is a place for all women, not a stuffy, elitist place but rather a community hub which welcomes women of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, and helps them get back in control of their lives. Today Glasgow Women's Library is a multi-award-winning and internationally respected institution, thanks to that vision ... and thanks to the determination and perseverance of one woman. Adele has made an immense difference and has worked tirelessly to preserve and celebrate the achievements of everyday women in Scotland.

2016: Laura Young

Since her eight-year-old daughter passed away from Lupus and cancer, Laura has devoted her time and energy to running the Teapot Trust. Verity Young spent much of her short life in hospital coping with illness and until she discovered art therapy, she hated the endless rounds of injections and treatments. When Laura saw the difference art made, she wanted to be able to help other children in the same way. The charity now employs 17 art therapists and runs 22 projects in 11 towns and cities from Inverness to the Borders, helping children with long term health conditions cope with the fear and unpleasantness of hospital visits. Despite her personal, devastating tragedy, Laura has spearheaded the charity's fundraising to the tune of almost half a million pounds - and given hundreds of families across Scotland a lifeline.