

Early Pioneers of the SWRI

Jo Ozga

SWI Heritage Project Volunteer



Past Presidents of SWI

Mrs C Anstruther Gray (Fife)	Clayre Anstruther Gray, CBE	1917 - 1933
Mrs E. Gooch (Inverness-Shire)	Eva Gooch, OBE	1933 - 1948
Mrs S. Kennedy (Ayrshire)	Sylvia Kennedy, OBE	1948 - 1954
Miss A. McKenzie (Aberdeenshire)	Alexandria McKenzie, MBE	1954 - 1957
Mrs E. Shann (Argyll)	Esme Shann, MBE	1957 - 1963
Mrs T. P. D. Murray (Angus)	Sybil Murray, MBE	1963 - 1969
Mrs D. M. McQueen (Stewartry)	Rachel McQueen, MBE	1969 - 1975
Mrs J. A. Lumsden (Dunbartonshire)	Sheila Lumsden	1975 - 1981

Clayre Anstruther Gray, CBE



Mrs C. Anstruther Gray, C.B.E.

— FIFE —

1917 - 1933

- Clayre Jessie Tennant Anstruther Gray (1872-1958)
- Born in Glenelg, South Australia
- Chairman of SWRI from its inception in 1917 to 1933
- One of the first women in Scotland to be made a Justice of the Peace
- Gifted the first Anstruther Gray Challenge Cup for Drama in 1930
- Awarded a C.B.E. in 1934



Mrs E. Gooch, O.B.E.,
INVERNESS-SHIRE
1933 - 1948

Eva Gooch

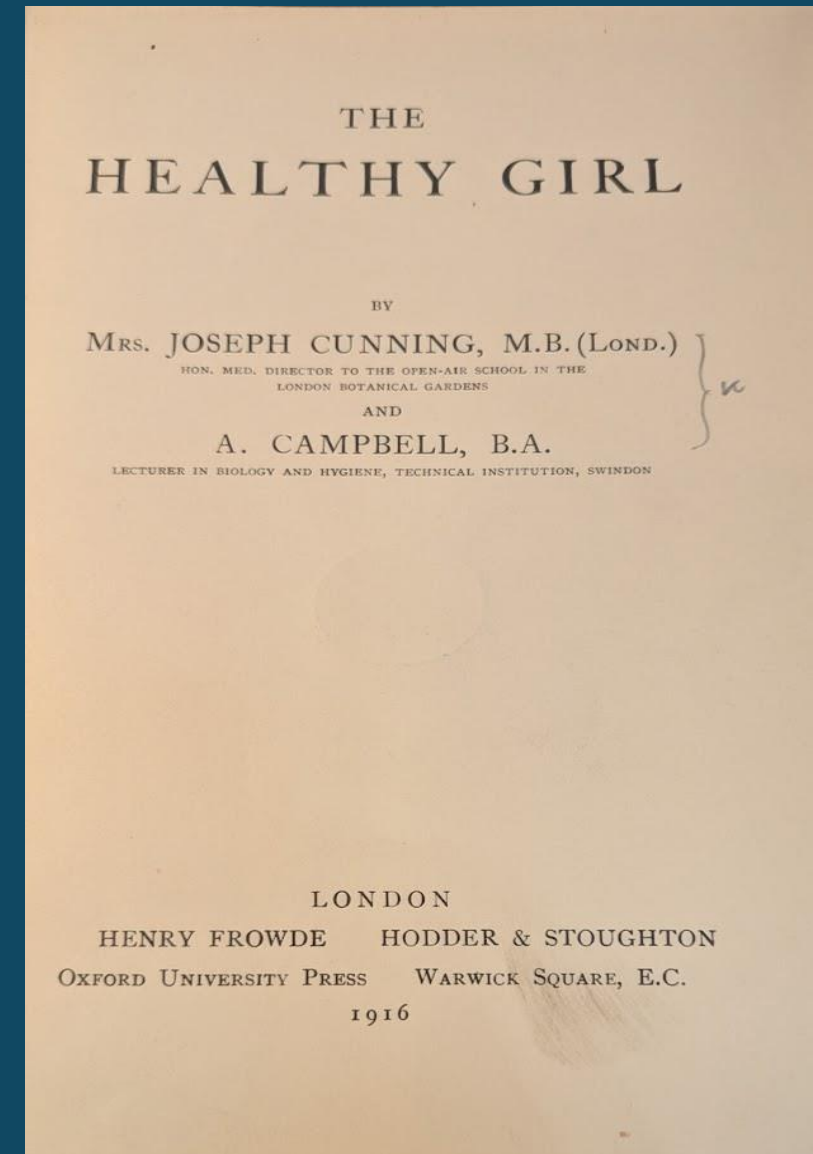
- Eva Conway Everard Gooch (1880 – 1967)
- Involved in the early establishment of the SWRI in 1917
- Set up many branches of the SWRI in the highlands and islands.
- Chairman throughout WW2
- Awarded an O.B.E. in 1958 in recognition of her public service

Agnes Campbell

First organiser of the SWRI from 1917 – 1922

Prior to working for SWRI

- Degree from the University of London
- Spent three years in South Africa
- Worked as a teacher at a girl's school in Jamaica from 1908 – 1910
- Joint author of the Healthy Girl published in 1916



Agnes Campbell

Laid foundations for the development of the SWRI across Scotland

In 1918, 38 institutes had been formed, by 1920 this had risen to 150

“The formation of an institute was never urged upon a rural community. The demand for it had to come from the women themselves, and from women representative of all the various interests in a particular village or district before the organiser took action and proceeded to the formation of an institute.”

Agnes Campbell

Returned to Hampton School Jamaica as Head Mistress, from 1922 – 1933



Hampton School

Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Continued to contribute to SWRI - visiting institutes on her annual home visits and writing articles for the magazine

“To Miss Campbell we owe a great deal, for she was very wise and had the vision to see what the WRI could be in the future.”

Eva Gooch, Scottish Home and Country, February 1954

Nannie Brown



Agnes Henderson Brown (1866 -1943)

Assistant Organiser 1917 – 1928, continued as Honorary Adviser following her retirement

Leading role in the development of the SWRI across Scotland

“...the post of Assistant Organiser ...will ensure your continued work in this movement, work which is eminently suited to your abilities and in a Movement, you have already done so much to further. To you is due much of the success in its inception, and I can wish nothing better than you should continue to throw your energies into it.”

Catherine Blair, letter to Nannie Brown, National Museum of Scotland

Nannie Brown



- Active member of the Women's Freedom League
- In 1912 marched from Edinburgh to London to petition for women's suffrage
- Writer of plays, stories and lectures and an active participant in amateur dramatics in Edinburgh

"The members loved her; her vivid personality, her gladness to come, her feeling of good-heartedness made the evening glow.... We mourn her loss; she was a citizen who gave much to her country."

Catherine Blair, The Scotsman, December 1943

Winifred Howard, MBE (1885 – 1980)

- Joined SWRI in 1920 as Assistant Organiser
- Qualified in Domestic Science and experienced in Child Welfare
- Awarded an MBE in 1932 for services to SWRI

“She was ‘Truly Rural’, one of the deepest ‘roots’ of the WRI in Scotland”

Fife Free Press - 1 February 1980



Miss Howard instructs Perthshire members on the bottling of fresh fruit

(Photo. by Cowper, Perth)

Scottish Home and Country, September 1940

SWRI Demonstration Van



Scottish Home and Country, May 1940

Toured Scotland during 1940 to give advice on growing fruit and vegetables and the best ways of cooking and preserving them.

It was staffed by:

- Cynthia Harrison, trained florist, gardener and beekeeper.
- Miss Munro, trained cook and dietician
- Lillas Forest, dietician, replaced Miss Munro in 1941

The success of the Caravan Tour of 1940 led to cooperation with the Scottish Gardens and Allotment Committee and Ministry of Food.

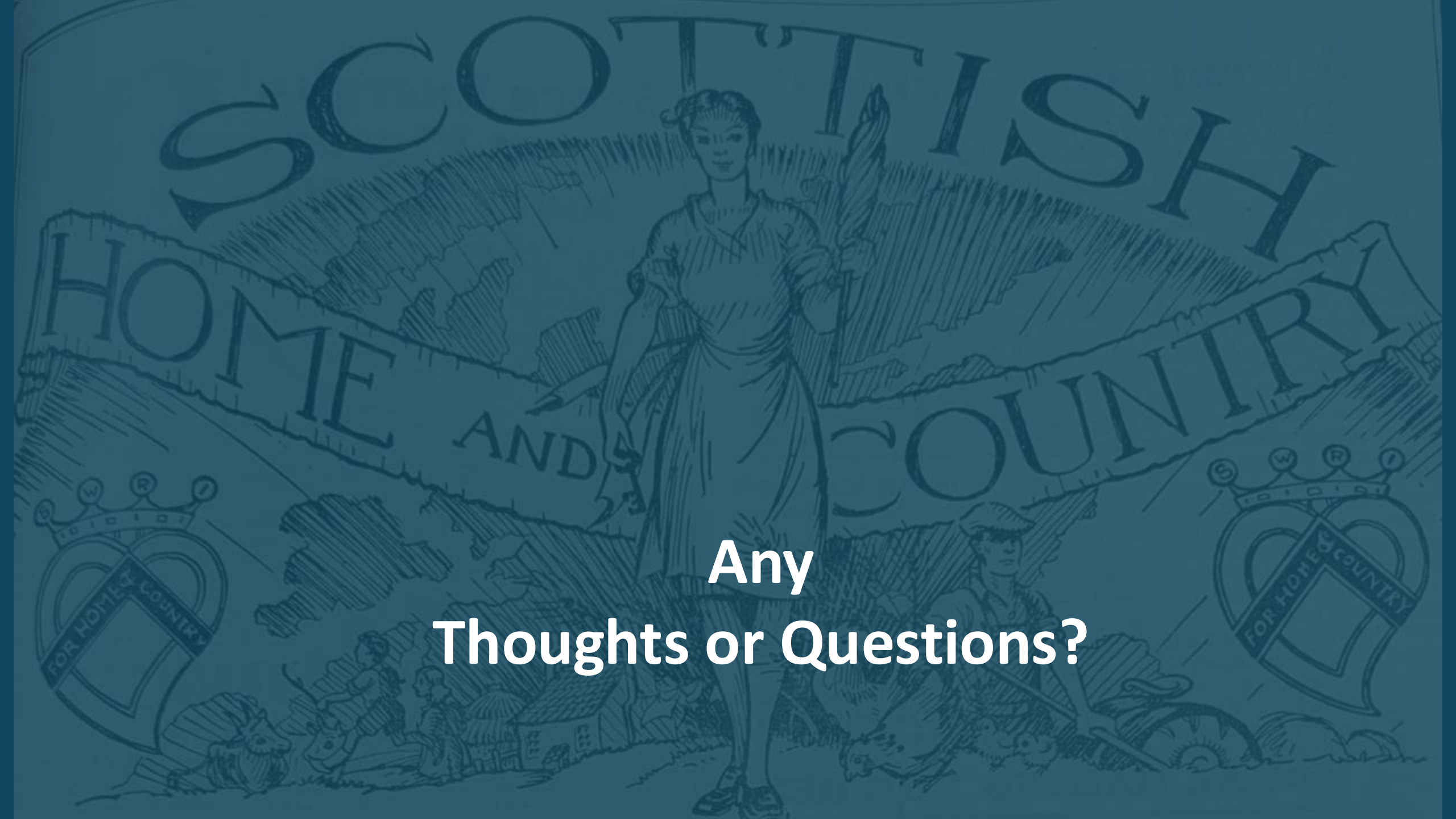
The van toured Scotland throughout the war.

“Miss Cynthia Harrison, C.D.H., and Miss Liliast Forrest are to present the new edition of the coloured films, “Gardens at War” for the first time in this area. Both will welcome questions but being women, they will probably have the last word”

Perthshire Advertiser 17 January 1942



Scottish Home & Country July 1941



**Any
Thoughts or Questions?**