

THE

Almanac

SPRING 2022



www.uega.co.uk

University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association Newsletter



From the President

A Happy New Year to All

At this time we seem to be coming through the latest wave of Covid, and we can only hope that things will continue to improve. We were disappointed in having to cancel our St Andrew's Night Dinner. We had tried to make it as Covid safe as we could, in particular by having the meal served at table rather than the usual buffet. This had resulted in an increase in the price as we needed more staff to serve. Perhaps it was a mixture of the higher price and a fear of being out in the midst of the pandemic that meant numbers were too low to go ahead.

We have agreed with our speaker, the Rector of the University, Debora Kayembe, who was to have addressed us at the Dinner, that she should be the speaker at the Annual Reception in March. Again, when this was organised we did not know what restrictions would be in place and so we decided to go ahead with a meal that would be served to the table. Members who are able to travel to the event are strongly encouraged to come along and hear what Debora has to say. Details of booking tickets have appeared in the Winter 2021 issue of the *Journal* and can also be found on page 4 of this *Almanac*.

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We are also planning a visit to Abbotsford on June 24. This has been postponed twice and is a follow-on to a talk given to the Graduates' Association back in 2019. Again, you are very welcome to join us on this visit. This too has appeared in the *Journal* and is on page 4 of this *Almanac*.

It is hoped to restart our regular meetings again at some point during this calendar year. Please keep a lookout for any further information in due course in the *Almanac*, future issues of the *Journal*, or on the Association's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/uegradassoc, or website: www.uega.co.uk/events

David R Gilmour
President



From the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of *The Almanac*, the new newsletter of the Graduates' Association. It is still new in being published as a separate newsletter. It is, however, a continuation and development of the pages devoted to Association matters and to University and Alumni Notes which hitherto appeared at the beginning of each issue of the *Journal*. It gives news and information about what the Association gives and does for its members, including information about people, events and meetings, including the papers for the Annual General Meeting in the spring.

Like many other bulletins, *The Almanac* is published online, which means that it can reach the Association's members, wherever they are in the world, quickly, easily, and cheaply as part of their subscriptions. Any members who do not use email but who want to receive a printout of each issue, may do so by writing to or telephoning:

**The Honorary Secretary, UEGA,
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gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk
+44 (0) 131 650 4292
(Monday–Friday, 9.30 am–12.30 pm)**

The Almanac will be published twice a year, in the Autumn and the Spring, between the issues of the *Journal*. Members are welcome and encouraged to write to and for *The Almanac*, with short items of news about themselves or other members, or as Letters to the Editor. *The Almanac* is mounted on the Association's website, and members are notified by email of each new issue.

It is intended to be not simply another general bulletin for Edinburgh University alumni, but to complement *Edit* (published by Communications and Marketing), *The Billet* and Annex to *The Billet* (published by the General Council), and *Enlighten.Ed* (published monthly by Development & Alumni). Each of these



can be accessed online through the University's website, www.ed.ac.uk. *The Almanac* is by and for the members of the UEGA.

The *University of Edinburgh Journal* and *The Almanac* are yours as members of the Graduates' Association. Do please make the most of that ownership

Peter B Freshwater
Editor

From the Treasurer

The Officers are greatly heartened by the number of members who have renewed their membership, either to receive a PDF version of the *Journal*, or the printed *Journal* itself. Your continued support given to the Graduates' Association is greatly appreciated, given the conditions of the past two years, when it would have been all too easy just to batten down the hatches and withdraw from all aspects of what had been considered normal living. It is pleasing to see that the restrictions that prevented our normal programme of events being possible have now been lifted, and it is to be hoped that once again our Events, the first of which, after the Annual General Meeting, is the Annual Reception and Dinner, will be well supported. Unfortunately, a reversion to normality does not have the same immediate impact as switching on a light bulb. It might be some time yet before the resumption of normal service is associated with normal support. We would, therefore, urge you to support the Dinner and the University Rector, Debora Kayembe, our Guest Speaker that evening.

T Finlay Marshall
Honorary Treasurer

From the Secretary

It is good to begin our return to the new 'normal', after a time of limbo of virtually two years, with events arranged by the Association, for the coming months. We therefore look forward with pleasure to these events.

The 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held at 12.00 noon on Thursday 10 February in the Raeburn Room, Old College. All members of the Graduates' Association are welcome to attend. The agenda, and the minutes of the 2021 AGM, are set out in full in *The Almanac* No 1, Autumn 2021, which can be found on the Association website at www.uega.co.uk. After the meeting, a light lunch will be available for those who have purchased tickets in advance.

On 23 March, we will return to the Playfair Library Hall, for the Annual Reception and Dinner, at which the Rector of the University, Debora Kayembe, will speak. This is always a very enjoyable event, and members are encouraged to join us and to bring along guests.

On 24 June, we visit Abbotsford House, for a summer outing, which will include guided tours of the Regency Garden and the House itself. The visitor centre has an outstanding interpretation of Sir Walter Scott's life and work.

Details for all of these events have appeared in the Winter 2021 *Journal* and are also given on page 4 of this *Almanac*. For more information, members can also visit our website at: www.uega.co.uk/events

David Lamb
Honorary Secretary





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Events

AGM 2022

Subscribers are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association, to be held in the **Raeburn Room, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL** on **Thursday, 10 February 2022** at **12.00 noon**.

A light sandwich lunch will be served following the meeting, priced at **£16.50**. Please order your lunch in advance by contacting the Assistant Secretary at:

gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk
+44 (0) 131 650 4292

The minute for the last AGM can be found on pages 4-7 of *Almanac*, No 1, Autumn 2021. Subscribers can view past issues on our website, and full details for all forthcoming events, at **www.uega.co.uk**

David A Lamb
Honorary Secretary

Visit to Abbotsford

Meet at the Visitor Centre, Abbotsford House, Melrose, on **Friday 24 June** at **2.00 pm** for a guided tour of the Regency Garden and the home of Sir Walter Scott.

Members can walk through the nearby woods or along the Tweed, and refreshments and food are available at the Ochiltree Café.

For directions, timetables, and general information, please visit:

www.scottsassbotsford.com

Tickets are priced at **£20**.

Annual Reception

Due to be held in the **Playfair Library Hall, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL** on **Wednesday 23 March 2022** from **6.30 pm**.

The Drinks Reception will begin at **6.30 pm** and, in order to provide as much protection for our guests as possible, a served-to-table dinner will take place from **7.00 pm**.

The menu will include:

Starter: Scottish salmon 3 ways, baby leaf salad, and dill vinaigrette (GF) (WF)

Main: Ballotine of chicken with pearl barley, bacon & brie fondant potatoes, thyme jus, and baby spring vegetables

Dessert: Chocolate ganache & orange tartlet, lemon curd, and mint cream (V)

Tea & filter coffee with shortbread will be served after dinner. **Please let us know of any dietary requirements.**

Our after-dinner guest speaker will be the current University Rector, **Debra Kayembe**, a human rights lawyer and political activist.

Dress code: lounge suits. Tickets are priced at **£50**.

Coffee Mornings

Our Executive Committee has been discussing the possibility of resuming our Monthly Coffee Mornings at the National Museum of Scotland's Balcony Café. We will bring you more information on this as soon as we can.



Notices

Annual General Meeting 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the Graduates' Association will be held person-to-person at **12.00 noon on Thursday 19 February** in the **Raeburn Room, Old College, South Bridge**. All members are welcome to attend. The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting can be found in *The Almanac*, No 1 (Autumn 2021) on the Association website at: www.uega.co.uk

A light box lunch is available for members who purchase tickets in advance from the UEGA office or on our website. Details of other forthcoming UEGA events can be found on page 4 of this *Almanac*.

Journal Correction and Apology

In the Winter 2021 issue of the *Journal*, on page 152, we mistakenly describe Dr Ann Matheson, who reviewed *Scotland's Northwest Frontier* by Alister Farquhar Matheson, as a former Rector of the University. In fact, she is a graduate and a former Secretary to the General Council of the University. The Editor offers Dr Matheson his sincere apologies for this error.

Death of Dr Ian Wotherspoon

We have been saddened to learn of the sudden death on 22 December of Dr Ian Wotherspoon, a long-standing and very active member of the Association, who served on the Executive and Editorial Committees. A former District Officer on the staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who served for many years overseas, he will be remembered for his interest in the history of Scots in the British Empire and Commonwealth, and in the courses which he taught in the University's Open Learning programme, especially the course which he led on the history of the University. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family. A full obituary, and an article by him, will be included in the Summer 2022 issue of the *Journal*.

The Friends of Edinburgh University Library 60th Anniversary

In November 2022, the Friends of Edinburgh University Library celebrate the 60th anniversary of their founding. Since 1962, they have successfully engaged with, promoted, and collected exciting additional books and manuscripts for the Library's research and teaching collections. Details of the anniversary programme will appear on their website at www.friendsofeul.wordpress.com and in their illustrated newsletter *The Piper*. They would be delighted to welcome new members from among the University's alumni as well as from all those who have used the Library's collections for their personal and professional research, to help them continue their work of engaging, promoting and collecting.

Subscription

As a reminder, we have asked all subscribers to the *University of Edinburgh Journal* to contact us with a subscription preference (either Print or PDF) to ensure that they receive the *Journal* in their preferred format.

We were forced to send PDF copies of the Winter 2021 issue of the *Journal* to several members from whom we had not heard. If you would like to receive a paper copy, or would prefer to receive a PDF copy in the future, please write to or telephone:

Assistant Secretary,
UEGA,
1fR 18 Buccleuch Place,
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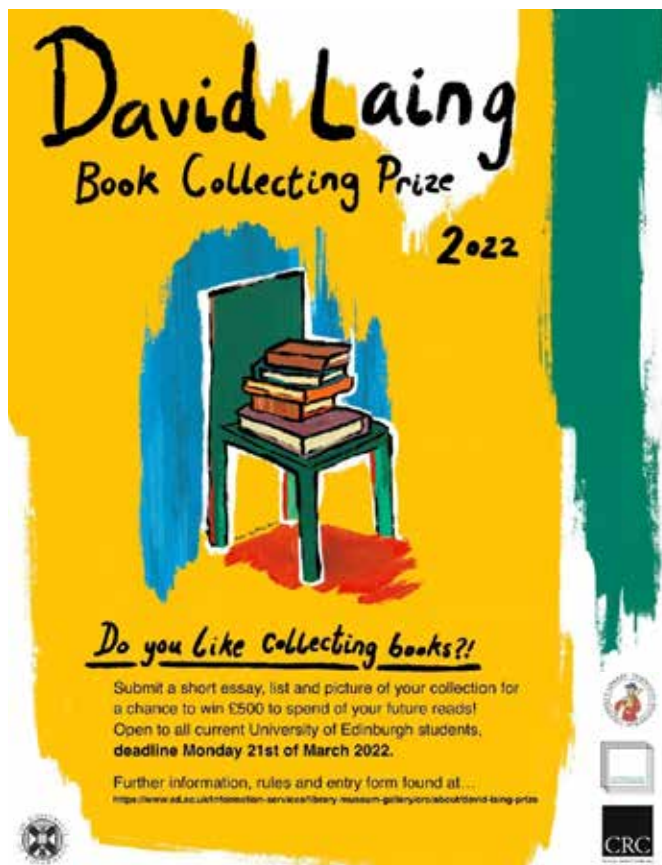


The Friends of St Cecilia’s Hall & Museum and The Friends of Edinburgh University Visual Arts

Two other Friends’ organisations are active in support of their University Collections and welcome new members to help them. Their websites are www.stceciliasfriends.org.uk and www.feuva.ed.ac.uk

The David Laing Book Collecting Prize

The Centre for Research Collections and the Friends of the University Library are again seeking competitors from among the University’s current students for the David Laing Book Collecting Prize, and ask any alumni who know students with an interest in book collecting to enter the competition. Sponsored by Dr William Zachs, the prize competition commemorates the bequest to the University in 1878 of the David Laing Collections of books and manuscripts, the finest and most extensive collection of its kind ever made to the University.



Letters to the Editor

The Editor welcomes letters from our subscribers, alumni, or anyone with an opinion or commentary on the University of Edinburgh and its heritage. Where possible, we will consider any letter for publication in a future issue of *The Almanac*. Please include permission to reproduce your letter with any communication.

The Editor, *The Almanac*
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gradassoc@ed.ac.uk

Our Administration office received this letter in reference to the Summer 2021 issue of the *University of Edinburgh Journal* last year as part of renewal of a subscription.

Both the Editorial Team and our authors are always pleased to hear that the material we publish is appreciated by our readership.

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Please pass my congratulations and thanks to the Editor and Committee for another excellent *Journal*.

I have not yet read it all but particularly appreciated being updated on the position under the Turing Scheme & Internationalism (the university has certainly expanded/extended since my final honours history year of 16 in 1958-9!).





New Year Honours List

Order of the Companions of Honour

Sir Paul Nurse CH

Hon DSc M 1999

For services to Science and Medicine in the UK and abroad.

Order of the Bath Companions

Ms Elizabeth J Ditchburn CB

MSc 1993

Director General, Economy, Scottish Government. For services to the Scottish economy.

Knights Bachelor Knighthoods

Sir Peter Riddell OBE

Hon DLetters 2007

Lately Commissioner for Public Appointments. For public service.

Order of the British Empire Commanders

Miss Linda Brown CBE

MA 1985 MSc 1994

Chief Executive Officer, Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. For services to Justice and the Victims of Crime.

Mr Martin Fairbairn CBE

BCom 1984

Lately Chief Operating Officer, Scottish Funding Council. For services to Education.

Dr John Mitchell CBE

MPhil 1998

Principal Medical Officer, Scottish Government. For services to Improving Mental Health in Scotland.

Ms Moira Stuart CBE

Drhc 2006

Presenter and Broadcaster. For services to Media.

Officers

Professor John Forsythe OBE

Staff

Medical Director, Organ Donation and Transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant. For services to Transplant Surgery and COVID-19.

Mr Julian Gibbs OBE

MA 1983

Lately Head of Extradition, Home Office. For services to International Legal and Judicial Co-operation.

Miss Victoria Hornby OBE

MA 1990

Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Innovations. For services to the Charitable Sector during COVID-19.

Mr Neil Scotland OBE

MA 1993

Senior Forestry Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. For services to the Environment.

Mr William Scott OBE

BSc 1974

Lately Member, Scottish Parliament, Ayr. For Political and Public Service.

Dr Zoe Shipton OBE

PhD 2000

Professor of Geological Engineering, University of Strathclyde. For services to Geoscience and Climate Change Mitigation.

Members

Mr Thomas Pember-Finn MBE

MSc 2010

Second Secretary Human Rights, British Embassy Beijing, China. For services to British foreign policy.

Medalists

Mrs Sandra Kinnear BEM

Staff

Health, Safety, Sustainability Adviser, University of Edinburgh. For services to the Environment and to Charity.



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Coming in the *Journal*

The Winter 2021 issue (Volume 50, Number 2) of the *Journal* was published and distributed to members and subscribers shortly after the Christmas and New Year holiday, about a month later than usual, for which we do apologise. With Covid restrictions still in force, many of the processes involved in preparing and proofing articles, and in having the *Journal* printed and posted, took rather longer than expected. We hope that your enjoyment of it was worth the wait.

The Summer 2022 issue is now in preparation. Two new articles have already been received in draft: a study by Dr John N T Martin of ‘Student societies in Edinburgh University from 1720 to 1970+’, and an account by (sadly, the late) Dr Ian Wotherspoon of ‘Scotland’s people in Scotland’s Empire’, based on a talk that he gave to the New Club, Edinburgh, in 2017 which we are publishing by kind permission of Ian’s family. We hope to include the Rector’s address to the Annual Reception in March, articles on The Edinburgh Asia Institute, former Afro-Caribbean slaves who studied at the University, the Fermi Paradox and the Kardashev Scale, on setting up a film production studio for social change, and more. Several reviews, including one of Alistair Kerr’s *Tales for Twilight*, will also be included in the Summer 2022 issue. We were, unfortunately, unable to publish some of these with the Winter 2021 issue due to space restrictions.

Two keynote articles from past volumes of the *Journal* have been suggested for possible reprint: an account by Alvin R Riggs of ‘The Colonial American Medical Student at Edinburgh’ from the Autumn 1961 issue, and one by Principal (later Sir) Edward Appleton on ‘University Development’ from the Autumn 1956 issue which details the University’s postwar development plans, which largely came to fruition during the following 15 years and are still with us. These articles help to demonstrate the tremendous archival value to the University’s heritage of the *UEJ*.

The *Journal* continues its publication in the Summer and the Winter and is made up of substantial

articles, reviews, and obituaries for members of the University community. Members are encouraged to consider writing for the *Journal*, particularly on matters of direct interest and content on aspects of the University’s past, present and future. If you have an idea that you would like to write about but are not sure how to go about it, or if there is a topic connected with the University that you would like to read about in the *Journal*, do please contact the Editor, by email to gradassoc@ed.ac.uk or in writing to *Journal* Office at the Graduates’ Association. Articles published in the *Journal* become part of the University’s heritage.

Contributions

The Editor warmly invites subscribers, alumni, and current students of the University of Edinburgh to contribute the *University of Edinburgh Journal* and *The Almanac*.

The Editor welcomes short notes, news items, and Letters to the Editor for future issues of *The Almanac*.

For the *Journal*, the Editor would welcome short and long articles (both serious and creative), reviews of books or other media, obituaries, and creative writing.

For more information on making a submission, our House Style, and copy deadlines, please contact our Editorial Team at:

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