

THE

Almanac

AUTUMN 2022



www.uega.co.uk

University of Edinburgh Journal Supplementary Newsletter



From the President

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of *The Almanac*.

The Edinburgh festivals are all under way as I write, with the University making its own contribution by way of providing venues for the International Book Festival and Fringe events. It is good to see events of all types taking place once more.

During the next four months, we have two events taking place. On 11 October, we have Dr Elizabeth Cumming giving an illustrated talk about the life and work of Phoebe Anna Traquair. This will be in the Playfair Library Hall, with the talk due to commence at 12.15 pm. For those who wish to stay for lunch, our caterers no longer supply soup and sandwich options, and so the decision was taken to go with lunch boxes. The cost is estimated to be £17. There will be a Christmas Lunch on 1 December, which will be held in the Nelson Suite at Pollock Halls. Full details of all events can be found on page 4, and on our website: www.uega.co.uk/events

In 2023, there will be a guided tour of the murals in the Song School of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. This is a follow up to the talk by Dr Cumming. The murals are well worth a visit, and I would recommend this to anyone who can attend. The date is in the process of

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ISSN: Forthcoming



being finalised, but will be in May. We will update subscribers on the details of this event in the Spring 2023 issue of *The Almanac*.

Although Covid-19 is still around, it is obviously much less of a story now, so we do not see so much of the University's professors, in their capacity as public health experts. This is probably a good thing!

Finally, it is with deep sadness that I have to report that our Assistant Secretary, Mrs Joan Meikle, passed away on 15 August. Joan had been our Assistant Secretary for 17 years, and her contributions to UEGA will be sorely missed.

David R Gilmour
President

From the Editor

The Summer 2022 issue of the Journal was published and distributed on time in June, and is being appreciated. If you haven't received your copy, or a note of access to a digital copy, do please let us know, by email to gradassoc@ed.ac.uk or in writing to:

**The Honorary Secretary, UEGA,
1fR, 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN
gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk
+44 (0) 131 650 4292**

Memories of University Days, and of Student Clubs and Societies

One article which has been particularly enjoyed is David Boyd's memories of life at the University in the 1940s, during and after World War 2. I would welcome more accounts from readers of their University lives and times, as these articles provide information for future researchers on aspects of the University which seldom find their way into the history books. Of particular interest are accounts of the activities of student clubs and societies, since they seldom leave any archival records behind them, but memberships of clubs and societies have always meant a great deal to students and alumni, and often influenced their lives after graduation. The next issue of the Journal will include a group of four unique short articles by Elizabeth Owens' on her time as a mature student at the University in the 1990s. It also includes Part 2 of Dr John Martin's fascinating article on student clubs and societies from the earliest days to 1790+, which can be complemented by all accounts and memories by former members. In writing for the Journal, you are writing for posterity as much as for today.

Obituaries and Appreciations

Another much appreciated aspect of the Journal is the collection of obituaries of alumni and former members of University

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.

If you would like to update your *Journal* format, or inform us of a change of postal or email address, please contact:

**The Honorary Secretary,
UEGA,
1fR 18 Buccleuch Place,
Edinburgh EH8 9LN
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gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk**



staff which fills the last few pages. Again, I welcome all notifications and information on the deaths of alumni and of members of University staff, non-teaching as well as teaching. Most of us are now living much longer than our forebears, often outliving many of our relatives and ending up in care homes where our University connections are no longer remembered. The General Council includes a list of the year's deceased GC members in the Annex to the Billet for the February half-yearly meeting, but these are not obituaries or appreciations, and do not include biographical information, or the names of non-graduate alumni or members of staff. Occasional obituaries of staff appear on College and School websites, but these are neither complete nor systematic. The University of Edinburgh Journal is the only organ that attempts an inclusive collection of obituaries across the University, and this is increasingly difficult to maintain. Do please send us biographical details of any University friends and relatives whom you know to have died. A Journal obituary for them is a small memorial. Your help in this is always greatly appreciated. Appreciations of notable alumni are also welcome as short articles.

The next issue of the *Journal*, Winter 2022

This is expected to appear in December. It will include the second parts of two substantial articles, by Dr John Martin on Student Clubs and Societies, and by the late Dr Ian Wotherspoon on Scottish People in Scotland's Empire; Elizabeth Owens' accounts of her memories of her time as a student; articles by Roddy Gow on the Edinburgh Asia Institute; by Alexandra Elvidge on her living in Tanzania and the relationship between Tanzania and China; and a poem by Donald Meek on his memories of the University Staff Club; and a selection of book reviews and obituaries. Other articles are also in the pipeline.

This will be the last issue for which I will be Editor; I have taken the decision to retire in December.

Peter B Freshwater
Editor



New Subscribers

We are delighted to welcome the undernoted new members and invite them to send us news of themselves or other graduates from time to time. Members are also encouraged to invite friends and colleagues to join UEGA.

- **Judith Syson, Staff**



Events

October Talk & Lunch

Subscribers' Talk & Lunch to be held in the **Playfair Library Hall, Old College, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL** on **Tuesday 11 October 2022** at **12.15 pm**.

Our Guest Speaker will be Dr Elizabeth Cumming whose illustrated talk is entitled 'Phoebe Anna Traquair – Her Life and Work'.

Subscribers who wish to stay for lunch can order an individually packaged, sustainable lunch from the following options at a cost of **£17**:

Menu Option 1

Roasted beef & vegetable noodle salad (gf)
Charred tenderstem broccoli & savoury granola (vg)(gf)
Beetroot hummus (vg)(gf)
Apple & elderflower cake (v)(gf)
Fresh fruit slices (vg)(gf)

Menu Option 2

Beetroot & ginger falafel with sweet potato & jackfruit salad (vg)(gf)
Charred tenderstem broccoli & savoury granola (vg)(gf)
Red pepper hummus (vg)(gf)
Dark chocolate brownie (vg)(gf)
Fresh fruit slices (vg)(gf)

Menu Option 3

Steamed Scottish salmon & beetroot salad (gf)
Charred tenderstem broccoli & savoury granola (vg)(gf)
Red pepper hummus (vg)(gf)
Cranberry & pecan flapjack (vg)(gf)
Fresh fruit slices (vg)(gf)

Fairtrade Tea & Coffee will be served after lunch. Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

If you would like to stay for lunch, please visit our website at www.uega.co.uk/events to purchase tickets no later than **26 September 2022**.

Christmas Lunch

Subscribers' Lunch due to be held in the **Nelson Suite, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh EH16 5AY** on **Thursday 1 December 2022** at **12.30 pm**.

We warmly welcome readers to enjoy a traditional Christmas Lunch with UEGA Committee members and other alumni. The lunch includes two- or three-course options, from the following menu:

Starter: Butternut squash soup with chestnuts and wild mushrooms (vg)

Main: Baked turkey supreme filled with festive stuffing and wrapped in bacon, with sprouts, chestnuts and carrots, creamed parsnip puree, fondant potato and tarragon gravy

Dessert: Traditional Christmas pudding and brandy sauce with red currants (v)

Red & White wine served with lunch

Fairtrade Tea & Coffee with Mince Pies will be served after lunch. Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

The cost for two courses (starter and main course) is **£32**, and for three courses (starter, main course, and dessert) is **£44**. Please visit our website at www.uega.co.uk/events to purchase tickets no later than **18 November 2022**.

You can also order tickets by writing to the following address. However, we would like to encourage our subscribers to use our website as much as possible to purchase tickets for these and forthcoming events. Doing so helps a great deal with both organisation of events and costs.

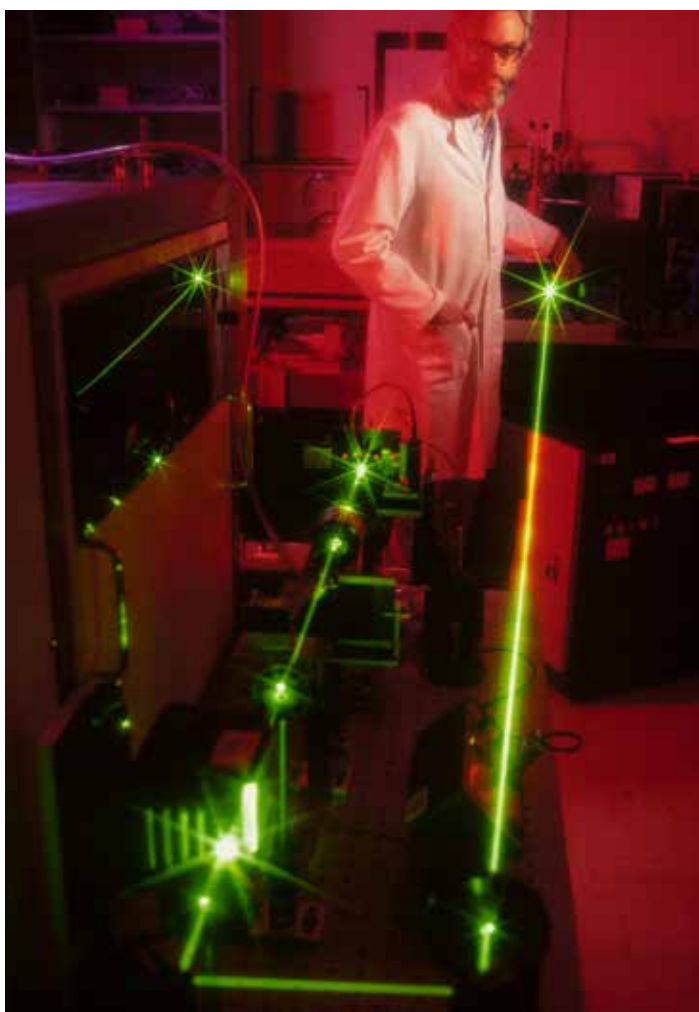
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Notices

David J Lockwood (DSc 1978), Canada

Dr Lockwood's research-work-related photograph entitled 'Raman spectroscopy of solids' received Honorable Mention in the category 'At a Glance' of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics 100th Anniversary (IUPAP100) Photo Contest and was exhibited at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, on 8 July 2022 for the opening ceremony of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development. His entry was chosen for the cover of the UNESCO booklet that was distributed at the UNESCO exhibit. A copy is given below. The 12 winning entries were also presented on 13 July 2022 during the IUPAP100 Symposium hosted by the ICTP in Trieste, Italy.



The James Tait Black Prizes for 2022

The oldest literary prizes in the world are awarded by the University of Edinburgh on the recommendation of the Professor of English Literature and a team of postgraduate students who read their way through the short lists of titles. The prizes are now announced in August at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, and presented by the writer and broadcaster Sally Magnusson, herself an Edinburgh graduate. This year's prize for biography was won by Amit Chaudhuri for his book *Finding the Raga: an Improvisation on Indian Music*, published by Faber, and for fiction by Keith Ridgway for his book *A Shock*, published by Picador. The prize for drama, which was added in 2012, will be announced separately in September.

60th Anniversary of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, the Centre for Research Collections (CRC) in the University Library has curated a digital exhibition showcasing the diverse and unique nature of the Friends' acquisitions for the Library since 1962. Six themed sections—decoration, natural world, innovation/invention, student life, creation/progress, and entertainment—have been carefully curated and organised to highlight visually striking—and at times quirky—items and collections, including a sixteenth century horological workbook, nineteenth century student lecture notes with margin doodles, and 1940s neighbourhood development plans with an Orwellian twist.

The exhibition aims to provide a shop window into the Friends' activities and acquisitions; each material was chosen carefully in the hopes that all viewers will be able to see themselves in the collection. Alongside academic content like Lyell's notebooks is leisure material such as Lady Nina Balfour's Scottish cookbook and crosswords from *Picture Post*, both of which viewers will be able to download and engage with themselves.



Other notable exhibition items include the compelling and symbolic binding of William Morris' Kelmscott Press copy of *Gawayn and the Green Knight* and a bound compilation of riot ephemera from the 1838 Riots at the University, containing illustrations, poems, transcripts of student trials, and more.

The exhibition also utilises the Edinburgh community, featuring audio recordings from both CRC staff providing expert insight and current students lending their voices to those centuries prior. It is our hope that the exhibition is broad reaching, connecting not only with the University, but that of Edinburgh as a whole.

The exhibition will debut mid-November on the University of Edinburgh online exhibitions platform, <https://exhibitions.ed.ac.uk/>, and will have an opening reception with an original score in St Cecilia's Hall. Members of the Friends will be kept informed of the exhibition and of other anniversary celebration events through their newsletter *The Piper*, their website at www.friendsofeul.wordpress.com, and email. The Friends always welcome new members to help them continue their work in support of the University Library.

The Editor of the *Journal* looks forward to publishing an article from Lydia Wiernik Partenio, the Friends' Curatorial Intern, on the exhibition in the Winter 2022 issue.



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:

The Honorary Editor
University of Edinburgh Journal
& *The Almanac*
1fR, 18 Buccleuch Place,
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Birthday Honours List

Order of the Bath

Companions

Mr Edward Humpherson CB

MA 1993

Director General for Regulation, UK Statistics Authority. For Public Service.

Knights Bachelor

Knighthoods

Sir Ian Rankin OBE DL FRSL FRSE

MA 1982 Hon DLetters 2003

For services to Literature and Charity.

Prof Sir Aziz Sheikh OBE FRSE

Staff

Chair, Primary Care Research & Development at the University. For services to COVID-19 research.

Order of the British Empire

Dame Commanders

Prof Dame Louise Richardson DBE

Dr hc 2017

Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University. For services to Higher Education.

Commanders

Miss Melissa Case CBE

MA (Hons) 2000

Lately Director, Family & Criminal Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice, and Chair, The Laura Case Trust. For Public and Voluntary Service.

Prof Fiona Steele CBE

BSc 1992

Professor of Statistics, London School of Economics. For services to Statistics in the Social Sciences.

Officers

Dr Liam Fleming OBE

PhD 1983

Co-Leader of Intl Advice, Joint Nature Conservation Committee. For services to the Environment.

Mr Ian D Kernohan OBE

BA 1980

Manager, Review Secretariat, Scottish Government. For Public Service.

Prof David Kluth OBE

Staff

For services to Medical Education during the COVID-19 response.

Prof Mary Renfrew OBE

BSc 1975

Professor Emeritus of Mother and Infant Health, University of Dundee. For services to Midwifery.

Dr Peter Young OBE

MBChB 1990

Consultant Anaesthesia and Critical Care, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust. For services to Innovation and the Prevention of Never Events in the NHS.

Members

Miss Camilla Born MBE

BSc (Hons) 2012

Policy Adviser to the COP26 President, Cabinet Office. For Public Service.

Prof Harry Campbell MBE

BSc 1977 MBChB 1980

Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and Public Health at the University. For services to International Child Health and Global Public Health.

Mrs Pamela Greig MBE

PGD 2009

Headteacher, Pinewood School, West Lothian. For services to Children and Adults with Additional Support Needs.

Miss Claire Lavelle MBE

PGD 2009

Founder, Hive of Wellbeing. For services to the Wellbeing of Students, Teachers, and Staff in Education.

Dr Moira McKenna MBE

BSc 1988 MBChB 1990

Chief Commissioner, Girlguiding Scotland. For services to Young People.



Dr Ruth McQuillan MBE

MSc 2005 PhD 2009 PGC 2018

Senior Lecturer, Usher Institute at the University. For services to Science during COVID-19.

Mrs Daisy Narayanan MBE

MSc 2005

Lately Director of Urbanism, Sustrans. For service to Inclusive Urban Planning.

Dr Rupert Suckling MBE

MBChB 1992

Director of Public Health, Doncaster Council. For services to Public Health during COVID-19.

Dr Richard Tipper MBE FRSA

BSc 1987

Lead Author, Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. For services to Science and the Environment.

Medalists

Mrs Michelle Christian BEM

Staff

Director of Property and Residential Services at the University. For services to Education.

Mr Frank Matsaert BEM

MA 1989

Chief Executive Officer, TradeMark East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya.

Mrs Elizabeth McGowan BEM

MA 1968

For services to the Game of Bridge in Scotland.

Coffee Mornings

Several readers of *The Almanac* and the *University of Edinburgh Journal* meet on the first Saturday of each month in the National Museum of Scotland's Balcony Café for coffee and a cake from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. Please feel free to go along to this informal event to meet and socialise with fellow UEGA subscribers.

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

Donations

The undernoted members have responded to our appeals for voluntary contributions and we wish to thank them most warmly for their generosity. Several anonymous contributions have also been received.

- Mr David Gilmour, West Calder
- Mr Andrew J Hunter, Rhinebeck, USA
- Mr David L Lamb, Edinburgh
- Dr S Michael Langdon, Edinburgh
- Lady Lucinda L Mackay, Edinburgh
- Mr Jack McLaren, Edinburgh
- Dr John Severn, Roseville, Australia