

THE

Almanac

AUTUMN 2021



www.uega.co.uk

University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association Newsletter



From the President

May I take this opportunity to welcome you to this first issue of UEGA's new and regular newsletter, *The Almanac*. This is a new venture for us, during a spell of innovation.

Over the past eighteen months, we have been holding our Executive Committee meetings by using the Zoom video calling platform. This was also how we held our Annual General Meeting in February 2021. It was very pleasing that we were joined by Alan Pearson, one of our members living in Toronto, Canada. Perhaps other members living outwith the Edinburgh and Lothians areas might consider this, as our next Annual General Meeting is also expected to take place with the Zoom facility.

It has been good to see the University of Edinburgh well represented on television during the pandemic — in particular Professors Linda Bauld, Devi Sridhar, and Rowland Kao.

David R Gilmour
President

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THE

Almanac

From the Editor

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

Like the 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 existing subscriptions. Any members who do not use email but who want to receive a printout of each issue, may do so by writing to The Assistant Secretary, UEGA, 1fR 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN or by telephoning +44 (0) 131 650 4292 (Monday – Friday 9.00 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, to: gradassoc@ed.ac.uk *The Almanac* will be mounted on the Association's website, and members will be notified by email of each new issue.

The Journal will, as now, continue its publication in the Summer and the Winter and will be 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 The Editor, *University of Edinburgh Journal*, 1fR 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN.

The Journal and *The Almanac* are yours as members of UEGA. Do please make the most of that ownership.

Peter B Freshwater
Editor

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.

With the Summer 2021 issue of the *Journal*, we were forced to send PDF copies 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 the Assistant Secretary in our Administration Office at: UEGA, 1fR 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN. Or by email at:

gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk



Events

Like many organisations, UEGA suspended all of its regular events during the course of COVID-19 lockdown measures. Now that many of these restrictions have been lifted, we are looking forward to resuming our events, beginning with our biennial St Andrew's Night Dinner.

The St Andrew's Night Dinner will be held in the St Leonard's Hall, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh, on **Saturday 27 November** from **6.30 pm** to **10 pm**. Meet for drinks and canapés in the St Leonard's Foyer at **6.30 pm** and then enjoy dinner from **7 pm** in the St Trinnean's Room.

In order to try to maintain some form of social distancing, the event will include a served meal rather than the usual buffet. Menu:

Starter: Citrus cured Scottish salmon with avocado purée, pink grapefruit & asparagus salad (GF) (DF) (WF)

Main Course: Roast loin of Scottish lamb, potato terrine & aubergine caviar, radicchio lettuce & autumn vegetables (GF) (DF) (WF)

Dessert: Blacketyside berry & mint bavares, shortbread biscuits & vanilla sauce (V)

Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Appropriate Scottish musical entertainment will be provided during the evening. Our after-dinner speaker will be the University Rector, Debora Kayembe.

Dress code: Black Tie or Highland Dress.

Tickets are priced at £65, which includes wine at the reception and with the meal.

To order tickets, or for more information, please contact our Administration Office at:

gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk

AGM 2022

Invitation

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

Subscribers can also view full details for all events, and order tickets, online at **www.uega.co.uk/events**

Mr David A Lamb SSC,
Honorary Secretary

Agenda of AGM 2022

1. **Minutes** (Pages 4-7 of *Almanac*, No 1, Autumn 2021) and matters arising
2. **Finance:** Presentation of Accounts by Hon Treasurer
3. **Editorial Committee Report**
4. **President's Report**
5. **Election of Hon Office-bearers:** President, Vice-President, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer
6. **Appointment of Hon Accounts Examiner**
7. **Executive Committee Elections:** all nominations, duly proposed and seconded and with the consent of the nominee, should be in the hands of the Hon Secretary, in writing, by 1 February 2022.
8. **AOCB**



AGM 2021 - Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 12 Noon on Thursday 11 February 2021.

Present: Mr David Gilmour, President in the Chair; Prof Stephen Hillier, Vice President; Mrs Oonagh Gray, Immediate Past President; Mr David Lamb, Hon. Secretary; Mr Finlay Marshall, Hon Treasurer; Mr Peter Freshwater, *Journal* Editor; Mr John Sutherland, *Journal* Assistant Editor; Mrs Joan Meikle, Assistant Secretary; Prof Ian Campbell, Lady Lucinda Mackay, Mr Alan Pearson, Mrs Christine Reid, Dr Essie Tough and Mr Ritchie Walker.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first ever to be held via Zoom. He gave a special welcome to Mr Alan Pearson who could attend from Ontario, Canada, due to the meeting being held online. There were no apologies.

1. Minutes and matters arising: The President drew attention to an error in the minutes of the previous meeting and said that the correct title for one of those listed in Apologies should be **Dr** Michael Langdon. Having taken account of this alteration, the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. They would be signed by the President at a later date, once the restrictions on travel imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic, were lifted. This was agreed.

The President said that no meetings with Development & Alumni (D&A) had been held this year as all staff at D&A were working from home and face-to-face meetings were not permitted meantime. It was hoped that meetings would resume whenever it was possible, perhaps some time later in the year.

2. Finance: Mr Marshall began his report by stating that the Accounts to 30 September, 2020 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, had not yet been seen by the Hon Accounts Examiner and added that the Accounts as presented were for adoption subject to there not being any significant differences identified as a result of the Independent Examination.

He was pleased to report a far better outcome than he did at the AGM last year.

At that AGM, there were proposals presented and passed to increase the Annual Subscription and introduce

explicit charges for paper versions of the *Journal*. The effect of these changes had not yet emerged.

The principal reason for the improved financial state was the amount of Donations. He had commented before regarding the place Donations take in the financial state of the Association. He had never been associated with an Association whose members voluntarily support it to the extent identified by the Accounts. Thanks were due to all who had made donations, and special thanks to a few who made significant, indeed extremely generous, donations. Clearly those donors wished to see the Association, or at least the output of the Association, continue, as do we all.

The Executive Committee recognise the need not to be dependent on donations and took steps at last year's AGM to address matters. Next year's Accounts should begin to show to what extent this has been successful. While we introduced an explicit charge of printed versions of the *Journal* that change will come into effect only from the Summer edition this year.

All members, whether they had elected to receive the recent Winter edition of the *Journal* printed or on-line, received it in printed form, that edition being the final instalment of Volume 49. The change, according to subscription choice, would come into effect from the beginning of Volume 50. Next year's Accounts therefore would reflect the subscription change in full, but only half of the savings expected in the publication and distribution costs.

In this year's Accounts, Annual Subscriptions continued to show a reduction year on year, due to a reduced number of annual subscribers, 343 reducing to 327. The Committee recognises the need to increase the Association's paying membership, and indeed, to grow its membership generally.

Last year's Accounts, and indeed activities, were heavily influenced by the emergence of the coronavirus. Our principal event of the year, the Annual Reception & Dinner was the last function organised that took place. This had been preceded by our biennial St Andrew's Day Dinner, as well as a Christmas Lunch. In future years, it is the intention to hold these two functions in alternate years.

Usually, the Revenue from functions fluctuates, depending on whether the Association holds a St Andrew's Day Dinner or not. Last year, this event was held, and it would have been expected in the normal course of events that Revenue from functions last year would have shown a marked increase from the previous year. The restrictions brought in as a reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, curtailed our Events programme. The slight reduction,



from £5,903 to £5,260 rather disguises the extent of the reduced activity.

This reduced activity, coupled with the advice from Government to lockdown where possible made it comfortable for the Association to accommodate the furloughing of one of our staff members. This was a mutually agreed decision. Neither Mrs Meikle, our Assistant Secretary, nor the Executive Committee wished to impose conditions likely, or possibly likely, to endanger her health. While on furlough, her salary was maintained in full: the reduction in Wages & Salaries shown largely reflects the impact of the Grants received from HM Government.

Mr Marshall concluded his report by saying that the Accounts were very much as would have been expected of a stable-on going organisation and were effectively unchanged from last year.

The President thanked Mr Marshall for his report and invited questions and comments.

Mr Walker queried the sum of £4,500 in Current assets-debtors and was advised that this related to the Grant received from the University which did not come to hand until 1 October, the day after the end of the financial year and thus too late to include in its usual place in the accounts. Mr Walker observed that the University Grant had remained constant at £4,500 for some years and suggested that it was time to apply for an increased amount. Mr Lamb responded by saying that the negotiations with D&A had been the unforeseen consequence of the University's response to his letter in January 2019 requesting an increase in our Grant.

Professor Hillier added that the University had suffered significantly financially through a reduction in income due to the cessation of their events. Any application to the University for additional funding would need to be accompanied by the highlighting of resulting benefits to the University as a consequence. Professor Hillier said that the approaching Centenary of the Association in 2023 and of the *Journal* in 2024 could be the reason for a request for additional funding.

The President said that the Executive Committee would look at this again.

Mr Walker said that producing a calendar for the Centenary could be a promotional and fund-generating exercise.

The Accounts were proposed for adoption by Mr Finlay Marshall and seconded by Mr Peter Freshwater, subject to there being no material alterations imposed by the Accounts Examiner.

The President thanked Mr Marshall for his work with our finances this past year and especially for coping with the changing circumstances together with the need for obtaining grants from HMRC.

3. Editorial Committee Report: Mr Freshwater reported that the Editorial Committee had met twice during 2020, in March and October and met again in February 2021. He was sorry that Mr Jack McLaren had resigned from the Committee and thanked him most warmly for all his contributions to Committee business and support for the *Journal* over the last few years. The Committee now had two vacancies and would seek to fill them by invitation and co-option.

Two issues of the *University of Edinburgh Journal*, for Summer and Winter 2020, were published on time and within budget at a cost of £4,292.95 for Summer and £4,157.40 for Winter and were distributed to members and to other recipients. They had been well received. Both issues were prepared by the Editorial Team working from home and who have been unable to gain access to the Association office during COVID-19 lockdowns. He was grateful to the printer, Cambrian, in Aberystwyth for being able to print and distribute both issues with their reduced staff, and to our printing adviser Mr Steven Hansen-Just for helping us with this. As reported last year, we have reverted to the original practice of dating *Journal* issues according to seasons, Winter and Summer, to allow a degree of latitude in publication and distribution if needed, as it was in December. It was proposed that from 2022, publication of the *Journal* would be in the Spring and Autumn rather than in Summer and Winter, as this would fit more appropriately into the academic year. The Editorial Team was again grateful for assiduous proof reading by several members of the Editorial Committee.

The present cover design was retained for both issues, which have completed Volume 49. The Editorial Committee has agreed that the first issue of Volume 50, and the run up to the Centenary Volume in 2024/2025, provided a good opportunity for redesigning the layout of the *Journal* and the design of the cover, and was keeping possible developments under review. It has also agreed that the Association's administrative information be moved from the *Journal* to a separate Members' Newsletter, to be accessible on the Association website and sent out by email, with printout copies available to members who wish to receive them in that way. Many members have indicated that they wish to receive the *Journal* online in a PDF format rather than (or in some



cases, as well as) print, and this has enabled us to reduce the number of printed copies and the cost of postage. He encouraged any members who had not yet contacted us regarding their subscription preference to do so as soon as possible.

Mr John Sutherland, Assistant Editor, had scanned a further ten back volumes of the *Journal*, Volumes 19-25 for the years 1958 to 1972 and would shortly be adding them, along with Volumes 45-49, for the years 2011 to 2020 (which have already appeared in PDF format) to the Archive at <http://www.uega.co.uk/archive>. The Archive complements the Association's Facebook page at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/uegradassoc/>, which the Editor endeavours to keep supplied with news from other parts of the University. More members of the Association were again encouraged – indeed, urged – to visit and use both as often as they could, and themselves to add more and different contributions. The more frequent the usage, the higher the priority that the search engines would give these two online addresses.

As Editor, Mr Freshwater had great pleasure in recording gratitude to Mr John R Sutherland, Assistant Editor, Professor Ian Campbell, Convener, and all the members of the Editorial and Executive Committees for their support and commitment over the year. The President added his thanks to those of Mr Freshwater.

Mr Alan Pearson said that as the University was keen to build the Club network, the Ontario Club of which he was a member having been in existence for over 50 years, he suggested that the *Journal* should be distributed to Clubs around the world and would give the University the opportunity to engage with graduates. He suggested that this alone should be sufficient to justify an increase in the Grant payment. He said that EU graduates living in Toronto were favourably disposed towards Edinburgh and enjoy reminders of their time there. Receiving something tangible from the University would be a good connection.

Mr Walker referred again to the production of a calendar and suggested that the University might be willing to sell copies on our behalf which wouldn't be in competition with other University publications. The calendar too was a good link to the University and he thought that the University would be willing to support it.

Mr Freshwater replied that there were no immediate plans to produce a calendar which would take two years to get to completion. He was aware that there would be competition with other calendars although it would be the intention to aim to produce the University calendar.

Much experience had been gained from the production, sale and marketing of the previous calendar in 2018 and this would need to be developed further.

Mr Walker suggested that the two Committees should look into this again at their next meetings.

4. President's Report: Mr Gilmour said that this had been an unprecedented year for the Association. During this past year just the one event was held for members – the Annual Reception and Buffet Supper in March 2020. It was a very enjoyable event and the after-dinner speaker, Mr Lukas Svoboda, gave an excellent and well-illustrated talk about his concern for the diminishing population of big cats. Our Members' Lunch in April was cancelled, we did not visit the refurbished Law School premises as planned in May and the visit to Abbotsford House was postponed until June 2021. It seems as if we will not be allowed much social contact for the foreseeable future and he suggested that our visit should be postponed for yet another year – to June 2022. To date, and not very surprisingly, no tickets had been sold for this outing so it would be easy to arrange a postponement. This was agreed and Mrs Meikle would attend to the re-booking.

No other events or meetings had been planned and the regular Coffee Mornings, held on the first Saturday of the month, were not taking place meantime. Social events for members would be re-started as soon as possible.

The annual Service of Remembrance was not held in quite the usual manner in November and, due to the present circumstances, the President laid a wreath on behalf of the Association on the Thursday prior to Remembrance Sunday.

Again, no new membership campaign had been conducted due to the restrictions imposed by GDPR. As at 30 September 2020, our membership was now 956 members.

Professor Hillier expressed his concern at the reduction of nearly 100 members since last year. He said that we must do something to address this as the total membership is decreasing year on year.

Mrs Gray said that we were losing touch with our members during the pandemic and she hoped that lunchtime lectures could be set up via Zoom. The President said that this would be looked into.

Mr Freshwater said that lecture type events could be offered but would need to be looked into. They could be hosted from the office but having staff on furlough has added some complications.



Mr Walker thought that lectures could be made more widely available than just to members. Speakers who were willing to use Zoom could be easily found.

Mr Sutherland said that three talks about the history of the University could be used but that they would need to be pre-recorded.

The President agreed that this would be referred to the Executive Committee to be discussed further.

Mr Pearson suggested that D&A might be willing to publicise these talks to the overseas Clubs which could provide support for them. A small charge to watch them could be levied.

Mr Freshwater agreed to look at how the suggested lectures could be produced as there were a number of alternatives. He thought that they perhaps shouldn't be UK lunch time events and that recording and streaming would provide more flexible viewing opportunities.

Mr Sutherland questioned whether lectures would appeal to current students. He thought that a webinar might be possible.

Mrs Gray was keen to support anything that would keep members in touch and which might involve them. Many clubs were doing much more than we were to keep in touch with their members in these unusual times of Covid restrictions.

5. Election of Honorary Office-Bearers: President -

Mr Gilmour was willing to continue in office for the second year of his appointment; **Vice President** - Professor Stephen Hillier would continue for the second year of his elected term; **Honorary Secretary** - Mr David Lamb was willing to continue in post; **Honorary Treasurer** - Mr Finlay Marshall was willing to serve for one more year in this post and had indicated that he would not be willing to stand for re-election at the AGM in 2022, although Mr Marshall added that he might be persuaded to serve one more year if necessary.

The above were appointed without dissent.

6. Appointment of Honorary Accounts Examiner:

Mr Eric Brown holds this position and had indicated that he was willing to continue in this post. This was agreed unanimously.

7. Executive Committee Elections: There were no retirements from the Executive Committee this year, although two new committee members were elected at the AGM in 2016. Of those, Mr William Buchan resigned at the AGM in 2019 and Mr Gilmour now occupied the role of President. Notification of his resignation from the

Executive and Editorial Committee had been received from Mr Jack McLaren

Mr McLaren served two terms on the Executive Committee from 2011, which included a term as Vice President from 2014 to 2015 and again on the Executive Committee from 2018. The President thanked him most warmly for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Association on the Executive Committee and also as a helpful member of the Editorial Committee.

No nominations had been received from anyone willing to serve and the Executive Committee would use their powers to co-opt if a suitable volunteer was identified during the coming year.

8. Any Other Competent Business: Mr Walker said that there was a need for younger members to be part of the Editorial Committee. Mr Sutherland agreed that the membership of the two Committees was presently too similar and that there should be different people serving on each Committee. Prof Hillier suggested that overseas members could be invited to be committee members now that meetings were being held on Zoom. Mr Pearson thought that could be possible although he said that it was presently 6am in Ontario.

Mrs Gray said that the University's outgoing Rector, Ann Henderson, had offered to write an article for the *Journal* about her experiences as Rector. Mr Freshwater welcomed this offer with enthusiasm and said that he would write to the new Rector, Debora Kayembe, welcoming her to this role when she took office from 1 March 2021.

9. Date of Next Meeting: The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Thursday 10 February 2022. It was agreed that the meeting would be held in the Raeburn Room at 12 noon with a sandwich lunch to follow but that the meeting should also be available for members to attend via Zoom. The meeting closed at 12.55pm with thanks to the Chair.





From UEGA's Officers

To all members of the University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association and subscribers, welcome to the first issue of our new newsletter, *The Almanac*, which is being published independently of the *Journal* but which takes over from the *Journal's* notes pages, and thereby expands the news communication facility for UEGA.

During the extreme restrictions imposed on us all by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have managed to keep the *Journal* going by working from home, and we hope that you have enjoyed receiving it and reading it, especially in its new appearance. The Winter 2021 issue will be published and distributed in December as usual.

The Graduates' Association's office is now open again, on Monday to Friday mornings from 09.30 to 12.30 pm. Further details can be found on UEGA's website and Facebook page at the links below:

www.uega.co.uk

www.facebook.com/uegradassoc

Subscribers can also write to us at: **UEGA, 1fr, 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN**, telephone us at: **+44 (0) 131 650 4292** or email us at: **gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk**

We have considered, and even tried, to provide you with a series of events via Zoom, by which your Executive and Editorial Committees have met, but were unable to prepare any events of the quality that you would have expected. Now that many restrictions have been lifted from us, we are cautiously preparing a few personal events for you, and you will find, elsewhere in this *Almanac*, details of the St Andrew's Night Dinner on Saturday 27 November and, in the new year, the AGM on Thursday 10 February, and we hope that as many as possible will be able to attend. All being well, we plan to resume further events for you, and these will be announced in the Spring issue of *The Almanac* and on the website and Facebook page.

Thank you for continuing your membership and support for the Association. As we approach the centenaries of the Association in 2024 and of the *Journal* in 2025, we should be glad to hear from you as to how you would like to celebrate these historic milestones. Do please let us know. Your suggestions can be included in *The Almanac* for everyone to consider.

David Gilmour, President

Stephen Hillier, Vice-President

David Lamb, Hon Secretary

Finlay Marshall, Hon Treasurer

Peter Freshwater, Hon Editor

Joan Meikle, Assistant Secretary

John R Sutherland, Assistant Editor





Notices

Recent Deaths of Members

The last few months have been saddened by the deaths of three former Association officers of long standing. Our former Patron and former Chancellor of the University, **HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**, died on 9 April 2021, at Windsor Castle, aged 99. An appreciation of his Edinburgh University years, and a reprint of his inaugural address to the University, both appear in the Summer 2021 *Journal*. **Joyce Richardson**, who served for several years as Honorary Secretary of the Association, and for many more years as a member of the Executive and *Journal* Editorial Committees, died on 3 June 2021 in Edinburgh, aged 88. **Jean R Guild**, who served for many years as Assistant Editor and then Editor of the *Journal*, and a term as Vice-President of the Association, died on 4 June 2021 in Edinburgh, aged 93. Full obituaries for Joyce and Jean will appear in the Winter 2021 *Journal*.

Tom Cunningham & Sandy McCall Smith – Music on the Fringe

Following the success of their cantata *Ninian's Gift*, which opened the 2019 Wigtown Book Festival, two more of Tom's musical compositions with lyrics by Sandy were performed during the 2021 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. *Love Over Scotland – Haiku + Music* was included in a programme on Friday 21 August at 15.00 in the Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh. A world premiere of *Songs of Edinburgh* was performed on Sunday 22 August at 19.30 in a programme of other music at St Michael's Church, 1 Slateford Road, Edinburgh. Tom's and Sandy's entertaining account of their creative partnership can be found in the Summer 2021 issue of the *Journal*.

Kathleen Jamie is the New Scots Makar

The poet and essayist Kathleen Jamie, who is also a philosophy alumna of Edinburgh University, has been appointed Scots Makar

by the Scottish Government, in succession to Jackie Kay, Liz Lochhead, and Edwin Morgan. She is expected to hold the post for four years. Jamie published her first volume of poetry, *Black Spiders*, in 1982 while a 19-year old undergraduate, and won the Saltire Society's Book of the Year Prize five years ago with her collection *The Bonniest Companie*. The Graduates' Association sends her their warmest congratulations on her appointment.

Alistair Kerr's *Tales for Twilight*

Alistair Kerr, author, contributor to the *Journal*, and editor of *Dark Encounters; a Collection of Ghost Stories* (of William Croft Dickinson) (Polygon, 2017) writes that his next book, an editing job, will appear in October 2021, at Halloween. It is called *Tales for Twilight: Two Centuries of Scottish Ghost Stories*. The stories are, in some cases, the less-well known ghost stories of famous authors, such as Sir Walter Scott, R L Stevenson, Muriel Spark, and Ian Rankin, and in other cases the meritorious but forgotten stories of relatively unknown or anonymous authors. The stories were written between 1820 and 2020; hence the 'two centuries'. *Tales for Twilight* is to be published by Polygon, which began life as the Edinburgh University Students' Publications Board, and is now an imprint of the Edinburgh publishing house Birlinn Ltd.

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.

- **Rev Jack Kellet, MA 1958**
- **Mr Angus Sibley, MA 1963**



EU Glee Club Reunion

Former members of the Glee Club, which performed and entertained the University and others from 1958 to 1974, recently held their latest reunion on 2 September 2021 by Zoom, hosted by their founder-Conductor David Bruce and former Hon Secretaries Tom Cunningham and Peter Freshwater. Eighteen Glee

Clubbers, including members now living in New Zealand and Buenos Aires, excitedly chatted and reminisced with each other for a good hour, catching up with news, and often explaining how much their Glee-Clubbing experiences had meant to them and had influenced aspects of their post-university life. They hope to hold another Zoom reunion on another date. If you are a former Glee Clubber, do please contact us via the Glee Club website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/eugleeclub>

David Laing Book Collecting Prizewinners

A recent enquiry to discover the winners of the annual David Laing Book Collecting Prize, a note on which appeared in the Summer 2021 *Journal*, has enabled the compilation of a list of all the prizewinners and the subjects of their collections over the years. They are:

2015

Overall winner: Gary Vos, *George Buchanan*
 Runner up: Raphael Cormack, *Arabic theatre in the 19th and 20th centuries*
 Honourable mention: Christobel Barrowman, *Classical Reception*
 Allie Newman, *Antique miniature Books: for love of the wee*
 Valerie Goodman, *Works of and by Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin*

2016

Overall Winner: Raphael Cormack, who was allowed a different application in a different year, *A collection on the Arabic Renaissance (Nabda) of the 19th and 20th Centuries.*

2017

Overall winner: Anna Girling, *Mainstream Moderns: A collection of British and American books from and about the 1920s and 30s.*
 Honourable mention: Meg Johanneson, *The Novels of John Wyndham*

2018

Overall winner: Hannah Swan, *Vintage American Cookbooks*
 Runner up: Iona Fielding, *A European Odyssey*

2019

Overall winner: Karissa Adams, *Leonora Carrington*
 Runner up: Sergio Orozco-Echeverri, *Early Science*

2020

Overall winner: George Young, *Beagling*
 Honourable mention: Denise Dewar, *The Pocket Macmillan Series of Thomas Hardy.*



Birthday Honours List

Order of the Bath

Dame Commanders

Dame Elizabeth Anne Finlay Gardiner DCB QC

LLB 1987 Dip 1988

First Parliamentary Counsel, Office of the
Parliamentary Counsel

Knights Bachelor

Knighthoods

Prof Sir John Anderson Kay CBE FBA FRSE

MA 1969 DSocSc 2015

Economist

Sir Antonio Mota De Sousa Horta-Osório

Drhc 2011

Lately CEO, Lloyds Banking Group

Order of St Michael and St George

Companions

Mr George Alkibiades David CMG OBE

BCom 1959

Chairman, Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company

Order of the British Empire

Dame Commanders

Dr Anne Helen Richards DBE CVO

BSc 1985

For services to the Financial Services, to Women, to
Education, and to Science

Commanders

Paul Henry Cackette CBE

LLB 1982

Director, Outbreak Control Management

Dr Philippa Gregory CBE

PhD 1985

For services to Literature and Charity in the UK

Prof Evelyn Elizabeth Tefler CBE

PhD 1988

Professor, Reproductive Biology at the University

Officers

Alexander Murray Russell OBE

MA 1984

CEO, Bourne Education Trust

Mr Marc Lee Abraham OBE

BVMS 1995

Veterinary Surgeon

Prof Linda Caroline Bauld OBE

PhD 1998

Bruce and John Usher Professor of Public Health at
the University

Dr Mhairi Helen Stewart Collie OBE

MBChB 1991 MD 1999

Surgeon, Colorectal Surgery Unit, Edinburgh

Prof James Lionel Norman Wood OBE

Member of Roslin Institute Advisory Board

Head of Veterinary Medicine, Cambridge

Prof Christopher J A Granville Fairburn OBE

MPhil 1981

Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Oxford

Members

Prof Alexander Meikle Davidson MBE

BSc 1964 MBChB 1966

Trustee and Chairman, The Lady Haig Poppy Factory

Mr Arthur Ellis McKeown MBE

MA 1974

For services to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Dr David Harding MBE

BVMS 1983

For Public and Political Services in Northern Ireland

Dr Jeremy Henzell-Thomas MBE

MSc 1982

For services to the Civil Society and the Muslim
community in the UK

Prof Timothy James Lockley MBE

MA 1993

For services to the community in Harbury,
Warwickshire, particularly during COVID-19



THE

Almanac

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*
1fR 18 Buccleuch Place EH8 9LN
gradassoc@ed.ac.uk**

A letter to the Editor from graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Mr David R Anderson.

Dear Editor,

I agree entirely with your editorial in the Summer 2021 edition of the *University of Edinburgh Journal*. I am a law graduate of the University of some sixty years standing, as a student a holder of the Dalgetty bursary in Constitutional Law, and among other legal practice positions a retired part-time judge. As such, I was appalled to read of the experience of a sixty-year-old lecturer who was wrongly attacked online by students alleging racism, misogyny, and transphobia after he criticised a move to change the name of the David Hume Tower. He also raised concerns about a campus event called Resisting Whiteness, regarding an area exclusively for people of colour. He was accused of being a “rape apologist”, and students bizarrely claimed they did not feel safe in his classes. A two-month investigation exonerated him; yet his false accusers faced nothing. That is the aspect of the matter that damns the University authorities. I agree with the lecturer’s comment that “the message the university is sending out is that the students can do exactly what they like and we are too scared to challenge them. That’s a terrible way of educating students”. Quite.

In my student days, behaviour of this nature would certainly not have been tolerated; and, if established, would have been visited with serious consequences. What can we as graduated do about it now? Certainly we must make our views clear to the University authorities; but there is one practical way in which we might back that up. In the past, I have on occasion contributed reasonable sums of money to the University when approached with begging letters from senior management seeking funds for particular projects; and I have made some provision for the University in my will. The University is dear to my heart — after all, it gave me the means to earn my livelihood. But freedom of speech is also dear to me as a lawyer, and it can be a complex matter. The Development Trust is always looking for money, and normally I am happy to respond. I am sure that many of my fellow graduates will be in the same position. However, given the present situation, I for one may have second thoughts about financial donations in future if the University authorities persist in their lack of action on this matter. If we collectively made it clear to those at the top that they may be putting some element of financial support in jeopardy, that could have some effect. The one thing they seem to react to with some alacrity these days is to money — or possibly the lack of it. While one individual graduate donation withheld may not make much difference to the university finances, the sum total of all such donations world-wide must add up to quite a substantial sum and might leave a bit of a hole in the finances. If we were to club together in a “withholding funds” campaign and let the authorities know about it in advance, they might just pay some attention.

I am conscious of the counter argument against financial “sanctions”, namely that such measures would harm or at least do a disservice to the University. But is such harm any greater than the present damage caused by doing nothing? One would hope in any event that it would, if successful, be only temporary.

Yours sincerely,

David R Anderson MA (Hons) LLB LLM WS



A letter to the Editor, including a copy of a letter sent to the Principal, from graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Mr Roderick J Chisholm.

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest the editorial and article in the Winter 2020 issue of the *University of Edinburgh Journal* concerning the erasure of the name of David Hume from the building at the corner of George Square.

On reading about this action in the press, I wrote to Professor Peter Mathieson stating my disappointment and concern at this move.

A copy of my letter is enclosed for your interest. I received a polite and interesting reply from Professor Mathieson on 9 October 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Roderick James Chisholm

Dear Professor Mathieson,

I write as a graduate of the University of Edinburgh — BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering, 1965.

It is with some concern that I have read in the press that the name of David Hume is to be erased from the tower building at the edge of George Square. I can recall the construction of this dominant tower when I was one of the last residents of Cowan House, now the site of the new Library in George Square.

Several generations of students of all disciplines have come to know the name and works of David Hume and his great contribution to the Western Enlightenment. Remove his name from this building and he will slowly vanish from history — in five years time few people will remember him, in ten years, probably no-one.

It is my opinion that the name of the David Hume Tower should remain and the decision for its removal, perhaps not yet finalised, should be reversed.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Roderick James Chisholm

BSc (Hons) MSc (Eng) CEng FStructE FICE

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.

- Dr David Doyle, Edinburgh
- Miss Elizabeth B Guthrie, France
- Susan Haisman, London
- Mr Andrew Hunter, USA
- Mr David A Lamb, Edinburgh
- Mrs Fay Lee, Canada
- Lady Lucinda L Mackay, Edinburgh
- Mr Hamish McKenzie, Edinburgh
- Mr Jack McLaren, Edinburgh
- Mr Alistair M MacLean, Hertfordshire
- Robert Preece, Inverness
- Mrs Valerie Robertson, Edinburgh
- Dr John Severn, Australia
- Bridget Stevens, Edinburgh
- Alan Tidy, Worcester
- Dr Francis Toolis, Dumfries
- Dr Richard D Wagner, USA



Committee Profile

Lady Lucinda L Mackay

Lady Lucinda L Mackay was born in Berkshire in 1941 and brought up in South Ayrshire. She was educated at Châtelard School in Switzerland, and attended both the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art, where she studied under Prof David Talbot Rice and Sir William Gillies. She graduated MA (Hons) in 1965. In 1974, Lady Lucinda completed her postgraduate studies at London's Central School of Art and Design. She now lives and works in Edinburgh, where she takes portrait commissions and holds exhibitions of her work.



In 1964, Lady Lucinda began her career by taking third place in an art competition to commemorate the opening of the Forth Road Bridge. She went on to exhibit a collection of East London Drawings and Prints at the Museum of the Home, Shoreditch, in 1974. She was commissioned by William Lloyd Webber, composer, to sketch his music students at the London College of Music and, in 1990, she was invited by Mrs Patricia Maxwell Scott to paint Walter Scott's house at Abbotsford. In 1994, she won a drawings competition held by the National Museum of Scotland and, in 2003, the National Portrait Gallery bought her painting of Prof John Erickson. Lady Lucinda held an exhibition of her drawings in the New Club, Edinburgh, in April 2005 and, in September 2005, a double portrait of the Daiches brothers was unveiled at the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh's Parliament Square. The National Library of Scotland accepted a large amount of material

from Lady Lucinda for their archives in 2015. In 2017, she was commissioned to paint two portraits of Prof Sir Fraser Stoddart, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. In 2020, Lady Lucinda painted a portrait of Sir Ian Wilmut with Dolly the Sheep. Her other notable painted and drawn portraits include: Rev Martin Hollingworth, pianist, in 2020; Peter Shand, solicitor and pianist, in 2019; Prof Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, in 2013; and Prof Peter Higgs, Nobel Laureate in Physics.

In 2008, Lady Lucinda joined UEGA's Executive Committee and continued serving until 2016. In 2010 and 2014, she published articles in the *University of Edinburgh Journal*, and since 2013, she has served on the *Journal's* Editorial Committee. Her splendid drawing of the Old College is has been used as a central component of the *Journal's* style and appearance for many issues.

Coming in the Next Journal

We are delighted to include the following articles and reviews in the forthcoming Winter 2021 issue of the *University of Edinburgh Journal*.

Again Iona - Part 2
by Rev Jack Kellet

A Brief History of Sea Shanties
by J R Sutherland

Review of 'Building Knowledge'
by Prof Stephen G Hillier OBE

Review of *Northern Lights*, Volume 8

If you would like to contribute to a future issue of the *Journal*, please contact us at: gradassoc@ed.ac.uk