

THE

Almanac

JANUARY 2023



www.uega.co.uk

University of Edinburgh Journal Supplementary Newsletter



From the President

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope that the holiday season passed without undue problems.

Congratulations are due to our Principal Professor Peter Mathieson, who has been awarded the honour of Knight Bachelor in the recent New Year's Honours list. It is good to see the University being represented in this way.

Since the last edition of *The Almanac*, the editor of the *Journal* has decided to retire. Peter Freshwater has served the University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association well for over eleven years as Honorary Editor, and will be sorely missed. We wish him and his family well in his well-earned retirement. As will be reported at the AGM, Prof Stephen G Hillier has agreed to take on the role of Interim Editor while we move towards the *Journal's* centenary in 2025.

The AGM is the first event of the year, and will take place on 9th February at 12 noon. Full details can be found in this edition of *The Almanac* on page 3. In April, we will hold the Annual Reception and Dinner (24th April). We were unable to secure a booking for the Playfair Library during March or April, and so it is being held in the St Trinnean's Room in Pollock Halls. On 23rd May, there is a guided tour of the murals at the Song School at St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place at 10.30 am. This is a follow

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Interim Editor

Prof Stephen G Hillier OBE

Production Editor

Mr John R Sutherland MA (Hons) MSc

ISSN: Forthcoming



up to the excellent talk given to the UEGA by Dr Elizabeth Cumming on the subject of Phoebe Anna Traquair in October 2022. It is hoped that there will be a good turn out for these events.

If a subscriber has a good idea for any future talk or visit that you think would be attractive to the wider membership, please feel free to get in touch with the UEGA by email at gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk, or by dropping a letter in to our offices at:

President, UEGA
1fR, 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN

David Gilmour
President



New Subscribers

We are delighted to welcome the undernoted new subscribers 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.

- **Murray McDonald**

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



Events - Spring 2023

UEGA AGM 2023

Subscribers are invited to the University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association's Annual General Meeting 2023, due to be held in the

**Raeburn Room, Old College, South Bridge,
Edinburgh EH8 9YL**

on **Thursday, 9th February 2023 at 12 noon.**

There is no cost for attending the meeting only, but we do ask that subscribers order a free ticket on our website or inform us of their intention to attend.

After the meeting, an individually packaged, sustainable lunch will be served. Subscribers who wish to stay for lunch can select from the following menu 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.

We encourage subscribers to order tickets for all Events on our website at:

www.uega.co.uk/events

Doing so helps a great deal with both organisation of events and costs. You can also order tickets by writing to:

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

AGM 2023 Agenda

The minutes from the last UEGA AGM can be consulted on **pages 5-7** of this issue of *The Almanac*.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising
2. Finance, Presentation of Accounts by the Honorary Treasurer
3. Editorial Committee Report
4. President's Report
5. Relations with the Development & Alumni Department
6. Election of Honorary Office Bearers (President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary)
7. Appointment of Accounts Examiner
8. Executive Committee Elections
9. AOCB

Subscribers should note that all nominations, duly proposed and seconded and with the consent of the nominee, should be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary, in writing, by 31 January 2023.



THE

Almanac

Annual Reception & Dinner

Our Annual Reception & Dinner is to be held in the **St Trinnean's Room, St Leonard's Hall, Pollock Halls of Residence, 18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AY** on **Monday, 24th April 2023** at **6.30 pm**.

Our Guest Speaker will be the **Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joseph J Morrow CBE, KC, LL.D, DL, FRSE**. Dr Morrow will deliver an illustrated talk entitled 'Scotland's Farewell to Queen Elizabeth'.

The meal will have three courses, including:

Starter

Sourdough bread & Edinburgh butter (v)

New season asparagus & boiled free-range egg, confit tomato emulsion & baby herb salad (v)

Main

Best end of lamb, layered potato & vegetables, garden pea purée (gf)

Dessert

Lemon posset, poached Edinburgh Gin rhubarb & shortbread (v)

Fairtrade tea & coffee with Scottish tablet will be served after the meal.

Vegetarian options are available. **Please let us know of any dietary requirements when ordering tickets.**

Red and white wine will be served and a selection of non-alcoholic beverages will be available.

Dress code is semi formal or smart casual.

Tickets are priced at **£50**, and can be ordered from our website's events page at:

www.uega.co.uk/events

Visit to St Mary's Song School

Subscribers of UEGA are warmly invited to tour the murals in St Mary's Song School in Edinburgh. The historic music school has been used by the choirsters of St Mary's Cathedral in Palmerston Place since 1885.

The school was designed by John Oldrid Scott, son of the Cathedral's architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott. The interior contains colourful murals painted by Phoebe Anna Traquair.

More information on the school and its activities can be found on their website at:

www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk

The tour, intended as a follow up to the excellent talk given by Dr Elizabeth Cumming to UEGA in October 2022, is due to take place on **23rd May 2023** at **10.30 am**, and will be guided by the President of UEGA, Mr David Gilmour.

Tickets are priced at **£10**, which includes a £5 donation to St Mary's Song School. Subscribers should meet outside the St Mary's Cathedral just prior to the tour.

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.



AGM 2022 Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 12 Noon on Thursday 10 February 2022.

Present: Mr David Gilmour, President in the Chair; Mr Peter Freshwater, *Journal* Editor; Ms Ann Henderson; Prof Stephen Hillier, Vice President; Mr David Lamb, Hon. Secretary; Dr Michael Langdon; Mr Finlay Marshall, Hon Treasurer; Mrs Joan Meikle, Assistant Secretary; Lady Lucinda Mackay; Mr Hamish McKenzie; Ms Elizabeth Owens and Mr Ritchie Walker.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how good it was to be meeting in person again at the AGM for 2022, having met on-line via Zoom last year due to restrictions on meetings imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic. At that time we had enormously appreciated the attendance of Mr Alan Pearson from Canada for whom the time of the meeting had been a very early 6 am.

Apologies had been received from Mr John Sutherland, *Journal* Assistant Editor; Dr Essie Tough, and Mr Malcolm Wylie.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising: had been printed on Pages 3-6 of the first issue of *The Almanac*. These were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the President. Several comments were made that it was difficult to print the Minutes from the PDF of *The Almanac* and Mr Freshwater said that he would make enquiries about this.

Matters Arising: (1) The President said that as staff from Development & Alumni (D&A) continued to work from home no meetings had been held during the past year. Although these meetings were presently on hold it was planned that they should resume in the near future with a view to altering the name of the Association to one which more clearly reflects its role and purpose and to continue to publish and to develop the *Journal* as a more scholarly asset to the University. The intention was to restart meetings with D & A and to present specific proposals to the AGM in 2023 for implementation in 2024 and 2025.

(2) The suggestion that talks about the history of the University could be made available as lecture type events had been proceeded with but did not go ahead as the Office of Lifelong Learning cancelled the course which was due to be presented by Professor Ian Campbell, Mr

Peter Freshwater and the late Dr Ian Wotherspoon.

2. Finance: Presentation of Accounts by Hon. Treasurer, Mr Finlay Marshall.

Mr Marshall began his report by referring to his report to the AGM in 2020 at which changes to the subscriptions were presented and approved. The changes were in two parts **a)** being an increase in the annual subscription, i.e. membership, from £35 to £40 and **b)** being the benefits associated with membership. No longer could we afford to provide paper copies of *The Journal* without an explicit additional payment. This was set at £15 a year and applied to all members.

The changes were implemented from 1 October 2020 and the effect of the changes in subscription were immediate. Annual Subscriptions increased from £11,145 to £13,674. Of the larger amount, £2,900 related to payment for paper copies of the *Journal*. Without the additional subscription, income from annual subscriptions would have fallen to £10,775. At the renewal date, 1 October 2020, there were 261 paying members, down from 319 in the previous year. 17 Life and 10-year Members contributed £255 for paper copies

He said it remained a regret that the total subscription income still did not cover the total salary costs.

The other change noted at b) above was the *Journal* being made available electronically to members not wishing to receive it in paper form. The Winter 2020 edition of the *Journal* was, however, sent to all members in paper form. This was due to that edition being No 4 of Volume 49 and therefore being the final edition of that volume. It was considered appropriate to send this issue to all members in paper form to complete the volume. Accordingly the costs shown in the Revenue Account did not reflect the whole of the savings expected as a result of the change. A saving of £3,750 rather than £2,000 would be hoped for in the future, provided the unit cost remain the same.

Wages and salaries had also been affected by recent events. Advantage was taken of the grants available under the Government's Covid Job Retention Scheme, without which the amount would have been £1,000 more. Wages and Salaries shows an increase due to the introduction of flexible furloughing, which was much better suited to our operational needs than the extremes of furlough or full time employment. Except for the run-up to the annual subscription renewal we easily accommodated a degree of flexible furloughing, as, from March 2020, our planned events had been suspended. The entry of £44



(Annual functions) in the Revenue Account represented the amount refunded to members as a result of these suspensions.

Looking forward and all things being equal, a decrease in *Journal* printing costs and an increase in wages and salaries could be anticipated with, on balance, the decrease in printing costs outweighing the increase in wages and salaries.

We would still, however, continue to be heavily dependent on members' donations and to the University, not only for the Grant it gives, as shown in the Accounts, but also for other subsidies it provides. He was delighted to acknowledge both sources and was very grateful for all donations.

The President thanked Mr Marshall for his clear presentation of the Accounts and invited questions.

Mr Walker asked how many members had requested a paper copy of the *Journal*. Mr Marshall gave this figure as approximately 200.

Ms Henderson noted that donations were less this year than last year and asked what prompted members to make donations. Mr Marshall said that members were loyal and generous and we were most grateful for a most generous legacy in 2020.

3. Editorial Committee Report: The President invited Mr Freshwater to present his Report. Mr Freshwater reported that the Editorial Committee had met in January and September 2021 and would meet again in February 2022. The committee had welcomed Dr Essie Tough and had been sorry to lose Professor Ian Campbell and Dr Ian Wotherspoon by resignation (the latter having since died).

Dr Joyce Richardson had sadly also died. He was most grateful to Professor Stephen Hillier for taking over as Convener for the immediate future and the committee was reflecting on possible new appointments. All meetings in 2021 had been conducted by Zoom.

The Summer 2021 and Winter 2021 issues of the University of Edinburgh *Journal* were published and distributed to members in printed and PDF digital formats as requested and subscribed. The *Journal* had now adopted a new design and appearance as benefits a publication which would soon be embarking on its second century of publication and he was most grateful to the Assistant Editor, Mr John Sutherland, for his professional expertise on the new design. He was grateful to the members and subscribers who agreed to accept the *Journal* in PDF format as this had enabled the costs

of printing to be halved (£2,363.30 for the Summer issue and £2,405.32 for the Winter issue) and distribution of the printed version. The Editorial Team and the proof-readers as well as the authors all worked from home, often frustrated by the limitations on access to archival and other sources of information but managed still to produce two publications of quality. To them and the printer, Cambrian Printers Ltd of Aberystwyth, he was most grateful.

More of the back issues of the *Journal*, in volumes 26 to 30 covering the years to 1982 had been digitally scanned and would shortly be added to the archive on the Association's website in a format which would be easier to search and would allow our website to be viewed on mobile devices and gain greater recognition on search engine listings.

Autumn 2021 saw the publication on the website of the first issue of the Association's new newsletter, *The Almanac*, which replaces and expands the former pages of the *Journal* devoted to Association and University news and notes. Issue number 2, Spring 2022, appeared at the end of January. *The Almanac* is published in PDF format with printouts sent to members who request them and would appear in Spring and Autumn, thus alternating with the *Journal* so that members would receive quarterly communications from the Association instead of only twice a year. Again he expressed his gratitude to John Sutherland for the care and expertise he had brought to the design of *The Almanac*.

The Association's website at www.uega.co.uk and Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/uegradassoc> have continued to be kept as up to date as possible. Members were urged to visit and LIKE both of these as often as they could as this would increase their visibility by the internet search engines as well as keeping members in greater touch with the Association and University. Overall, he encouraged members to use these on-line resources to keep up to date with events information and to purchase tickets on-line.

The President thanked Mr Freshwater for his report and invited questions.

Dr Langdon referred to *The Almanac* and offered congratulations to those who had put it together.

4. President's Report: The President reported that due to the Covid epidemic his report would be brief. It had been suggested that the first-Saturday-of-the-month Coffee Mornings could be restarted and this would be discussed at the next Executive Committee



meeting in March. No social events had been held due to the restrictions imposed on daily life by the Scottish Government.

The only event which he was able to attend in his role as President was the Service of Remembrance held in the Old Quad on Sunday 14 November at which it had been a privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the Association. The usual format had been adjusted so that it was all held out of doors to comply with Covid regulations and had been a moving occasion. He was impressed that the service was attended by about 100 members of the public who had come in to Old College to watch the proceedings. He said that the Annual Reception and Dinner would go ahead on 23 March 2022 in the Playfair Library. The University Rector, Debora Kayembe, would be our after-dinner speaker having kindly transferred from the St Andrew's Night Dinner in November which had had to be cancelled.

In order to follow the current Covid rules as much as possible, dinner would be served to guests at their tables, and not as a buffet, which was the customary arrangement. The twice postponed outing to Abbotsford House near Melrose had been arranged for Friday 24 June 2022. The outing was a follow-up to the talk about Sir Walter Scott given at a Members' Lunch in 2019. Tickets for both events were available on application to the Assistant Secretary and on-line. Ms Owens encouraged members to attend the visit as she was sure it would be a most interesting outing.

5. Election of Hon. Office-bearers: President, Vice President, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer: The Executive Committee had agreed that those holding office-bearer's positions should continue in post for another year due to the limitations placed on activities during the past year. Accordingly, the President would remain for a third year, Professor Stephen Hillier would remain as Vice President, Mr Finlay Marshall would continue as Honorary Treasurer and Mr David Lamb would continue as Honorary Secretary. This was agreed.

6. Appointment of Hon. Accounts Examiner: Mr Eric Brown had held this position since 2015 and it was recommended that he continue in this role. This was approved unanimously and with much appreciation.

7. Executive Committee Elections: The President reported two resignations of Committee members. First, Professor Ian Campbell wished to step down from the

Executive Committee and from the Editorial Committee. He had written to thank him for his time serving on both committees. Secondly, Mrs Jenny Scott had indicated her wish to resign from this committee due to ill health. As already referred to, he had to report the death of Dr Joyce Richardson who was our Honorary Secretary from 2007 to 2017 and was serving on this committee at the time of her death. She would be a great loss to the Association.

On the positive side, the President was pleased to announce that Ms Ann Henderson had been nominated for election to the Executive Committee, proposed by himself and seconded by Ritchie Walker. Ann is a lifelong campaigner in the labour movement for equality, fairness and social justice. She was Rector of the University from 2018 to 2021 and spoke about her time working in the rail industry in Glasgow at our Annual Dinner in 2019. This election was approved unanimously.

8. AOCB: There was none.

9. Date of next Meeting: The President announced that this would take place at 12 noon on Thursday 9 February 2023 in the Raeburn Room, unless alternative arrangements were required.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair from Mr David Lamb.





Notices

Catriona Maisels MBChB DPH

23rd July 1924–25th May 2022, aged 97

Catriona M Maisels (*née* Dempster) was born in Greenock and educated at St Columba's School in Kilmacolm. In 1949, she graduated in Medicine at the University and after the usual house jobs she joined Professor Richard Scott at the University General Practice Teaching Unit as a Lecturer. After a couple of years there she embarked on the course in Public Health and obtained the DPH, taking up a post as Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the City of Oxford. In 1956, she married David Maisels and went to South Africa where she ran the polio service in Johannesburg. When they returned to the UK in 1958, she took a break for preschool children and then worked in Public Health in Liverpool until retirement. In her spare time, she was a skilled dressage rider and a keen collector and researcher of British ceramics, with many contributions to the literature. In recent years, she bravely endured ill health, retaining her great sense of humour and died suddenly in a nursing home.

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*.

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

The Editor
1fR, 18 Buccleuch Place,
Edinburgh EH8 9LN
gradassoc@ed.ac.uk

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

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 Alistair Geator, Brussels
- Mr David Gilmour, Edinburgh
- Dr Ralph Gillis, USA
- Mrs Fay P Lee, Canada
- Dr Francis Toolis, Dumfries