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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KITCHENER SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

CENTENARY EDITION

Message from the Chair

Looking back on the year gone by as we enter 2022, it's hard not to share the excitement of our Centenary year straightaway. I am truly staggered that we reach our 100th year with the Association in even better form than ever. The fact that the KSA has survived an extraordinary century of change, and still exists to bring Scholars together for social, professional, and commemorative events on a regular basis is indeed cause for celebration.

Inside, you'll find details of the events we have coming up in 2022 to mark our Centenary, kicking off with an extra special annual dinner in the stunning (and appropriate) surroundings of the Imperial War Museum. Vice-Chair Kathryn Pritchard and her team have put together a fabulous event.... If you don't yet have a ticket, please hurry, there are very few left. The event is open to all Scholars and their guests. We particularly welcome two cohorts of new Scholars – as both the 2020 and 2021 intake will be presented with their certificates at the dinner. More cause for celebration indeed.

2021 was another challenging year but altogether more positive for the Association than 2020. With the UK in deep lockdown in March 2021, there was little hope of an annual dinner. But we were able to bring scholars under thirty together via Zoom for a Careers Conversation to discuss the impact of Covid on those at the start of their professional lives. The event was set up and run by younger members of the committee and I am grateful to Vice-Chair Kathryn and Committee members Holly Collins and Jack Routledge for making it happen. Listening in, I was so impressed by the resilience and adaptability of our Scholars in challenging times.

Our annual St Paul's Cathedral service of commemoration for the life of the first Lord Kitchener was able to go ahead – although just six of us could attend in a very socially-distanced way. Our October Careers Panel also took place on Zoom and brought together an outstanding range of speakers, particularly from the world of engineering.

Remembrance Sunday in November was the first time that Scholars had been able to gather en masse for 21 months, and it was so good to be together. There was a palpable sense of relief that we could all meet in person and share the experience of commemoration (as well as an exceptionally good curry!).

To reflect the immortal sentiments of Lord Kitchener:- 'Your association needs you'. If you have feedback, or suggestions for action by the Association or wish to support us in any way then please do get in touch - there are many opportunities to help and reach-out to our community.

I am also very grateful to Charles Bryant for both organising the Careers Panel and producing this Newsletter, ably supported by Jack Rutledge. We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming year as we celebrate the first 100 years of the KSA and look ahead to the next 100.

Best wishes: Susan Saunders



Centenary Events – let's celebrate together

As many of you will hopefully already be aware, 2022 is a big year for the KSA - one in which we celebrate our Centenary, and all that 100 years of Kitchener Scholars have achieved! The Committee has a set of events in the works, which we hope will have something for everyone, ranging from the Centenary black-tie dinner to an academic panel and online events. More information about the Academic Panel to be held in October 2022 will be announced in the weeks ahead.

We really look forward to seeing you at an event - online or in-person - and help strengthen the KSA Community even further in this special year. If you would like to get involved or have any other ideas for our Centenary celebrations, then please do get in touch via the Secretary.

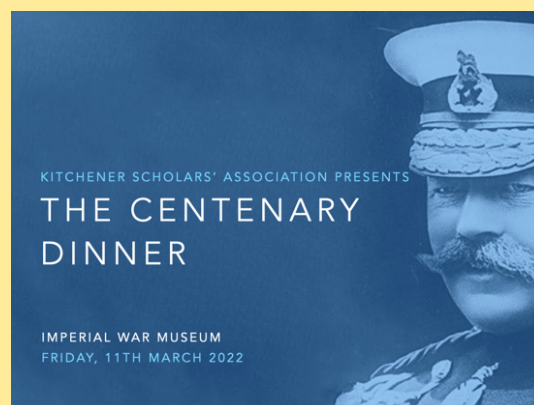
Dinner and Annual Awards Ceremony

Our celebrations will begin with a bang as we come together on **Friday 11 March** for a fabulous black-tie dinner at the Imperial War Museum. The KSA Centenary Dinner will take place in the spectacular Imperial War Museum atrium, with a drinks reception up on the terrace followed by a three-course dinner, some fantastic A-list speakers and - for the first time - live music to entertain us following dinner.

Keep your eyes peeled for band and speaker announcements coming soon!

As ever the dinner will also be an opportunity for new scholars to be presented with their formal Kitchener Scholar Certificate, with a bumper cohort from both 2020 and 2021 thanks to last year's Covid disruption. Scholars in these groups are entitled to claim a free ticket to the dinner, through generous funding from the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund, and we strongly encourage all new scholars to take-up this opportunity!

Thanks to all of you who have already filled out the form and sent through the payment. We will be in touch with confirmation of your tickets and more information in the coming weeks.



Video Time Capsule

Another way we hope to celebrate 100 years of the KSA in 2022 is through the production of a 'Video Time Capsule'. This will be a video montage of memories from current and former scholars, which will be treasured for years to come.

How do I take part? At this stage we are asking for **any pictures or video** you might have relating to your time as a Kitchener Scholar - from your time at university, or at KSA events. If you don't have anything to hand, then why not film a short clip saying what being a member of the KSA means to you? Or what it's been like as a Kitchener Scholar at university during a global pandemic?

Your submissions will then be compiled along with photos and documents from the KSA archive and upcoming events to create a commemorative video for the KSA Centenary. If you have any content you would like to include, **please send it to: secretary@kitchenerscholars.org**

NB: If any Association members are budding producers and would be able to lend us a hand in pulling this together then please also get in contact at the above address!

Kathryn Pritchard

Susan Saunders looks back at the interesting history of the Kitchener Scholars' Association

Kitchener Scholarships were first awarded at the end of the First World War and grateful recipients founded the KSA in late December 1921. The first annual dinner was held in December 1922. The event was presided over by Sir Hedley Le Bas, an advertising executive, who had coined the phrase 'Your Country Needs You' and who had organised the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund in 1916. We can only imagine how the Association and its annual dinners provided fellowship for those who had returned from the trenches. Certainly, photos from early dinners show rows of well-dressed young men looking like they are having fun!

During the 1920s and 1930s over 100 scholarships were awarded each year, the vast majority to students at Oxford and Cambridge. By the late 1920s the Association had over 700 members. There were more than enough scholars to support Oxford v Cambridge KSA rugby and cricket matches, for which cups were awarded (I wonder what happened to those!) There was also a separate annual dinner for Scholars at Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool universities.

The Association had its own annual magazine in the 1920s and 1930s (a forerunner to this Newsletter) which attracted contributions by the likes of G K Chesterton. Each edition listed the jobs taken up by scholars after graduation and it appears Kitchener Scholars travelled to all corners of the globe – being appointed to jobs such as 'Assistant Conservator of Forests in British Honduras', 'Prospector to the Anglo-Continental Mining Co, Nigeria' and 'Research Department, Bell Telephone Co, USA'.



The second annual dinner of the KSA held in December 1923 at the Connaught Rooms in London WC1. The event was presided over by General the Right Honorable Sir John Maxwell

The coming of World War II interrupted events and over 100 scholars, many of whom had not yet graduated, lost their lives. The Roll of Honour created by Scholars at the end of the War commemorates those who died. This is held in the archives of St Paul's Cathedral but has been digitised and can be found:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_4pjl5oYMGr1omIzg2k1h8yFzNVWsl-U6XbbY1-d6IU/edit?fbclid=IwAR3JAzpb14sxO7eTku7Cgd8sK00N7JpHpo6pLfHXhdXXBwGHjBEvmvBtWhg#gid=0

Those Scholars who returned from war enjoyed a thriving social life: the Royal Overseas League was the centre of KSA activities, and the Association maintained an office at the Honourable Artillery Company in the City. Of course, networking was of its day. Immediately after the war, lists of Scholars were printed out and hand-delivered to the desks of Whitehall mandarins in the hope of finding jobs for those who had recently been demobbed.

From the 1960s to 1980s, Lindsay Phillips was the redoubtable Chair of the Association, keeping it firing along with great enthusiasm, despite falling numbers of Scholars. In 1985 scholarships were awarded to women for the first time, and I'm very proud to have been part of that initial cohort. In 1986 Lindsay led an expedition to Orkney to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the death of the first Lord Kitchener, an event that was repeated in 2016 for the centenary. What will the next 100 years bring?

Last Year's Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral

The annual memorial Evensong Service was held at St Paul's Cathedral on the afternoon of 6 June 2021. As reported in the last Newsletter, last years' dedication to Lord Kitchener was kindly conducted by the Cathedral on a virtual basis, since the Evensong was not accessible in the normal way. Six individuals made up the 2021 KSA contingent at the service, seated in reserved seating directly beneath the world-famous dome of St Paul's cathedral. At the conclusion of Evensong, those making up the party were invited to make their way to the All Souls' Chapel near the entrance to St Paul's under the North-West tower of the cathedral. The Precentor, The Reverend Canon James Milne conducted a short ceremony of remembrance and reflection. The KSA Chair laid a wreath of poppies at the foot of the recumbent marble effigy of the first Lord Kitchener.



Following the service, the party repaired to a nearby café for tea in the sunshine. Your attendance at this annual event is thoroughly recommended for those who have not yet been. The KSA Committee looks forward to seeing you again in 2022 at St Paul's and to welcoming new faces in this very special and, indeed, unique setting. This is the only annual event specifically required under the rules of the association.

Remembrance Sunday at Horse Guards Parade

It was very gratifying to see a large turnout for the annual commemoration service at Horse Guards Parade on Remembrance Sunday 14 November 2021. The 2020 service was not possible as the whole Remembrance Sunday activities at the Cenotaph did not take place. The commemoration service was presided over by KSA Chair, Susan Saunders, who laid the wreath in front of the monument to Lord Kitchener situated next to the western wall on Horse Guards Parade just behind 10 Downing Street. This followed the firing of the salute in full view (and earshot!) of our group at the beginning and the end of the two-minute silence. The service included the now well-established tradition of ten recent scholars calling out the names in the Roll of Honour of the 105 Kitchener Scholars who fell in the Second World War.

Many attended the moving march-past of veterans of the armed forces and others organised by the Royal British Legion along Horse Guards Road. The watching well-wishers were joined by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, who took the salute. Following the service and march-past, Lady Emma and her husband – The Lord Fellows of West Stafford –generously hosted a very convivial curry lunch in The Great India Tandoori restaurant on Lower Sloane Street. This event is not only atmospheric and memorable, but a great networking opportunity to converse with members of the Kitchener community.



Careers Panel 2021 by Charles Bryant and Grace Girling

This year the KSA Careers Panel took place on Thursday, 21st October 2020 via Zoom. Our Careers' Panels have proved increasingly popular, giving Scholars an 'access all areas' pass to a range of role models to hear their insights and candid advice. The online format is informal and conversational and allows the individual participant to ask granular questions and help shape their forward path, whether still at university, taking the first steps on the ladder, or looking for a career change. The challenges of managing work in a Covid world were also highlighted.

Featuring Scholars in a variety of fields at various stages of their career, this proved an opportunity to hear from those with early-stage experience, as well as from some very accomplished achievers from within the KSA community. Those taking part were:

Pippa Giles: currently working on Afghanistan policy at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, previous experience in the Cabinet Office and as a volunteer in international refugee charities. Pippa studied languages at Exeter and has a master's in applied security and strategy. In her spare time, she is a mentor with Girl Security.

Alice Johnson: studied History at York St John and then completed a master's in medieval studies at the University of York. Alice is now working at the Yorkshire Museum Trust and shared her views on the path she has taken in this important sector curating the nation's heritage.

Simon Piggott: former engineer, investment banker and consultant, and latterly as Chief Operating Officer at large independent day and boarding schools. Simon is a Council Member at the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund, and currently studying for a master's in the history and philosophy of science at UCL.

Andy Carroll: is an independent consultant in the retail side of the automotive industry, which he entered in 1991 directly after his MBA at INSEAD. He read engineering at Cambridge. He spent ten years with General Motors with management roles in France Switzerland and Germany and since then has run a range of businesses in the UK including OneSwoop (the first online retailer of new cars in the UK), GM Daewoo and Chevrolet.

Robbie Burns: is an experienced leader who has been at the heart of the modernization of UK's rail infrastructure over the last two decades, involving multi-billion-pound programs, and leadership of large multi-disciplinary teams, including directing regions, rebuilding Reading Station, Crossrail, and modernizing the GWR. Prior to joining Network Rail, Robbie served in the British Army for 26 years. He fought in three wars and completed eight operational tours of duty, including his final appointment (in the rank of Brigadier) as Chief of Staff of the 42,000 strong NATO Kosovo Force. He holds a BSc in civil engineering and now has a portfolio and consulting life.

Nick Baveystock: has been Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers since 2011, having served as a Royal Engineer in the British Army for over 25 years, operating in Kosovo, Bosnia, and in Iraq. He has wide experience of delivering large engineering programmes; notably nearly 10 years in managing international post-conflict reconstruction and development. His final appointment in the rank of Brigadier was in leading the Royal School of Military Engineering public-private partnership. He holds several Board and advisory roles and is particularly involved in the professional development of people working in the built environment.

Charles Bryant: is a well-travelled international banker with assignments in Europe, Asia-Pacific and the USA. Ten years ago, set up and managed an EU trade association in Brussels for some 80 Fintechs active in electronic invoicing and supply chain automation. Charles read PPE at Oxford and more recently completed a master's in history at Birkbeck, London. He acted as event moderator.

Once again, this year's Careers Panel delivered its promise to provide guidance and inspiration. In an evolving job market, combined with the many uncertainties associated with the current political and economic landscape and the urgent climate crisis, the main takeaways from this year's panel are that the ability to pivot and adapt to new environments is crucial, these skills can be developed using transferable skills gained through previous experiences. Adaptability and resilience can be reflected in many ways; from overcoming the struggle of online learning, an often impersonal form of communication, to leaving a job of several years duration to enter a completely different sector.

For a recent graduate or a current student, listening to both Pippa and Alice's journeys as young professionals was encouraging, showing that determination in a chosen field will often lead towards a career path of choice. For those considering whether to continue onto further education, as recent postgraduates, Alice, and Pippa both cited the value of their master's degrees. A postgraduate degree not only heightens knowledge on a particular subject, but it also builds confidence which is important when later applying for jobs.

Furthermore, listening to the Simon, Nick, Andy, and Robbie's accounts across the spectrum highlighted the fluid nature of a career journey. These panellists exhibited great flexibility, working across many sectors, roles, and countries. The importance of satisfaction was featured throughout the event. This is a current topic of interest across many platforms, as delayed gratification is becoming less desirable to those entering the workforce, resulting in the pursuit of fulfilling roles. As Simon wisely noted, the jobs of today are not like the jobs of tomorrow, following your passions is important for obtaining a successful, yet rewarding, career journey. This is reflected in the numerous new job opportunities arising from the reaction to the climate crisis, the changes to work patterns resulting from the pandemic, as well as the ongoing digitalisation of the global economy.

Additionally, all panellists featured the importance of networking; it does not have to be an extrovert's skill in terms of 'working the room' or collecting business cards as is often portrayed! The most important aspect of networking is being consistent, by both building and sustaining relationships. Understanding that others want to help you reach your goals is encouraging, when considering reaching out for support and guidance.

Video Link of careers Panel: <https://youtu.be/7MNoA0UITC8>

PLEASE NOTE THAT CAREER PANELLISTS AND INDEED SPEAKERS AT OTHER KSA EVENTS ARE OFTEN VERY HAPPY TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR ADVICE. DATA PROTECTION PREVENTS US FROM PUBLISHING CONTACT DETAILS BUT FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE KSA SECRETARY IF YOU WISH TO PURSUE AN INTRODUCTION. RESPONSES ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED.

Careers Conversation for the 'New Normal' by Holly Collins and Kathryn Pritchard

On Monday, 22nd March 2021, a group of enthusiasts put together an online 'conversation' to discuss with the KSA community the challenges of career planning in a coronavirus world. The group included Kathryn Pritchard (KSA Vice-Chair), Holly Collins, Jack Rutledge, Grace Girling and Matt. They shared their experiences over the last year on issues such as 'pivoting' careers and ambitions, making non-graduate jobs work, the best use of LinkedIn, mentors and networks, and post-graduation gap years, as well as postgraduate degrees. Picking up personal views, tips and hints was a key part of the conversation.

For those Scholars entering the workplace, or contemplating entering it in the next couple of years, the participants agreed that the world looks a very uncertain place. Many are rapidly adapting their work goals, researching new fields, wondering what happened to their fledgling career, or just contemplating where to start looking for a job post-lockdown. This was a super-informal event, in a Zoom meeting format, with a nice easy-to-follow structure and lots of interactive communications. It proved a great complement to the more formal annual Careers panel and will surely be repeated, as it really proved its worth for those taking part.

A Tribute to Kitchener Scholar: Captain Herbert Buck MC, by Angus Morton

During the first Covid-19 lockdown, I produced a spreadsheet detailing where the Scholars on the **KSA Roll of Honour** are commemorated, who they served with and when they fell. In researching the Scholars who gave their all during the Second World War, I came across a few who had particularly interesting stories from their lives and service. Over the next few years, I intend to delve deeper into their achievements and write a series of articles to provide a greater insight into their lives. **This is the first such article.**

One of the most decorated Scholars on the Roll of Honour is **Captain Herbert Cecil Buck MC**. Not only was Buck awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry in North Africa but also was the founder of the Special Interrogation Group. Buck was born in Lahore, India (now Pakistan) on 12th December 1916 to Lt. Col. Cecil Henry Buck, of the Indian Army, and Eleanor May Buck. The young H. C. Buck was educated at Chelmsford Hall, Eastbourne, and Eastbourne College before matriculating into St Peter's Hall (now St Peter's College), Oxford in 1936. At Oxford he studied for a BA in Modern Greats and was awarded a Kitchener Scholarship of £50, a significant sum of money at the time. Whilst at Oxford, Buck was involved in fencing, wrestling, rowing, and jiu-jitsu, he also spoke German fluently. Having achieved a 3rd class degree, Buck took a university commission into 1st Battalion, the Worcestershire Regiment before transferring to 3rd Battalion, the 1st Punjab Regiment, Indian Army.



H. C. Buck whilst at St. Peter's Hall, Oxford

On 2nd February 1942, Buck was captured south of Derna, Libya, and imprisoned in a camp near the town of Barce. Buck's first escape plan from Barce was thwarted when he was transferred to the prisoner of war (POW) camp in Benghazi. In Benghazi, he once again developed an escape plan. Waking on the 5th February, the day he had planned to escape, Buck found that all prisoners were to be moved on to Tripoli. Buck faked an illness to avoid his plan being once again crushed by his captors. That evening, Captain Buck and Lieutenant John McKee, of the Royal Scots, climbed through the window of a shed overlooking the enemy sentry positions and fence, they timed the sentry changes and were able to dodge the guards in their escape. But the escape from Benghazi POW camp was just the tip of the iceberg, Buck now found himself hundreds of miles behind the German front line with no way to contact the Allied forces to the east.

Buck and McKee moved over the Barce plain by foot and arrived at a wooded area to the west of the town of Taknis on 11th February (approximately 100km from Benghazi) where they waited to hijack a vehicle on the main road. After some time, a Ford 15 cwt*. truck approached. They decided that this was their best chance of escaping to the Allied front line. Buck approached the truck wearing a leather jerkin and a cap he had fashioned to resemble that belonging to an Afrika Korps officer. He stopped and questioned the driver on where he was going in German then pulled out a spanner, holding it like a revolver and fooling the driver to believe he was armed. Buck and McKee tied the driver up behind a bush and escaped in his vehicle. Immediately the fugitives drove to Lamluda where they knew there was a fuel station. When they arrived in Lamluda, Buck and McKee were identified and lost their truck after escaping a rain of pistol fire.

From the 12th February to 20th February, they walked from Lalmuda to Umm Ar Rizam (approximately 85km), during this time they came across a Flight Sergeant from the RAF, two officers from the Norfolk Yeomanry and five soldiers from the Welch Regiment. The town of Umm Ar Rizam had a German camp nearby and the band of escapees carried out extensive reconnaissance of the troops stationed there. Once again, using his German language expertise and faux German cap, Buck was able to acquire a German lorry by fooling the driver. Once again, they set off towards the Allied front line. The group reached the front on 21st February 1942 near Acroma (a total of 340km from Benghazi, where Buck had originally escaped).

During the nineteen days between capture and returning to the British front, Buck not only saved himself by dodging and fooling the Germans, but also led and saved the lives of the nine other men who were attempting escape from the Germans. Buck's demonstration of leadership, wit and courage was recognised by his comrades and superiors; he was subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

Soon after his successful evasion of the Germans in Libya, Captain Buck realised that similar feats could be achieved with relative ease for any fluent German speaker with an anti-Axis sentiment. Buck recalled an exchange he had had in 1941 whilst driving from Tel Aviv to Haifa: during the journey Buck stopped to pick up a pair of Jewish hitchhikers who had made mention to him of a German speaking branch of the Palmach. After his escape from the Germans, Buck proposed the formation of a new sub-unit to the British High Command in Cairo. The unit would be almost exclusively made up of German speaking Jews and would be known as the Special Interrogation Group (SIG). The role of the SIG was primarily to go behind enemy lines and carry out the routine checks that soldiers of the Afrika Korps would usually be carrying out, providing intelligence to the British and causing a nuisance to the Germans.

In March 1942, Military Intelligence approved the formation of Captain Buck's SIG. Buck was appointed commanding officer and he immediately got to work recruiting and training soldiers. Many soldiers were recruited from 51 Commando, French Foreign Legion, Free Czech forces, Free French forces, and Jewish paramilitaries. Training and preparation took place at Geneifa in the Suez Canal zone and was unlike any training the recruits had faced previously. SIG recruits were only allowed to speak German and wear Afrika Korps uniforms, they learned the drills and slang of the Afrika Korps, issued photos of their "German" sweethearts (British women who were working in Cairo, posing in front of German-looking backdrops), SIG troops were not even allowed to interact with other regiments and units of the Allied forces. Buck recruited two non-Jewish Germans of the Afrika Korps, Walter Essner and Herbert Brueckner, who had been captured five months earlier. Essner and Brueckner's job was to provide authentic details in all aspects of the life of an Afrika Korps soldier.

By May 1942 the soldiers of the SIG were ready for their undercover operations behind German lines. They went about gathering intelligence by setting up roadblocks and questioning everyone who passed by. Some even dined in cafes and restaurants and casually chatted with locals to gain more information about activities in the area. By June 1942 the SIG had established a reputation for themselves as one of the most daring units in North Africa. This drew the attention of Major David Stirling, founder of the SAS. Stirling met with Buck and a plan was formulated for the SIG to join with the SAS to raid two German airfields at Derna, the very town where Buck had been captured some four months before, and two at Martuba.



Captain Buck sat on an armoured vehicle in North Africa

8th June, members of SIG, along with Essner and Brueckner and fifteen French SAS members, left their base at Siwa Oasis in three German vehicles. They posed as German guards escorting French prisoners as they crossed the German front. Reaching Martuba on 13th June, Buck's men observed Messerschmidt 110s and Stukas, they decided to carry out no further reconnaissance for fear of arousing suspicion. That evening a plan was devised to split the group, Buck would lead the attack on Martuba along with Essner, three soldiers from the SIG and five from the SAS. Buck's raid was successful, destroying twenty enemy planes, but on return to the rendezvous point he learned that the other group's raid had been a disaster. Brueckner had betrayed the group at Derna. Buck and the remaining team made their way back to Siwa and waited one week for survivors of the betrayal to make their way back. Few returned.

In September 1942, Buck was given one last chance to prove the SIG's value in combat. A land and sea attack on Tobruk had been drawn up. Operation Agreement would involve the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, RAF, SAS, SBS, Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) and a six-man team from the SIG. Commandos from the LRDG and the team of SIG operators until they neared Tobruk, they were tasked with bluffing their way into the city and attacking the coastal guns to the east of the harbour. The team reached a small villa which acted as their HQ at 2230hrs on 13th September, just as the RAF started their bombing raid. The villa was occupied by Italian soldiers who were defeated with ease.

At 0200hrs on 14th September, the signal was sent to start the amphibious assault on Tobruk, meanwhile the SIG moved to capture the coastal guns and prevent a counterattack. The positions were acquired, and the SIG were able to hold off many attacks by the Italians whilst destroying the armaments. However, despite the SIG's best efforts, the assault on Tobruk had failed and all SIG soldiers were ordered to destroy their German uniforms and papers, to wear their British uniforms and to try to escape by any means necessary. During his attempt at escape, Buck was captured once again. Of the six SIG soldiers involved in Operation Agreement, only one escaped back to the British front. The SIG's commander had been captured and the sub-unit was subsequently disbanded. Buck spent the remainder of the war in Germany as a POW.

When Buck returned to Britain, he married his childhood sweetheart, Celia Elise Wardle, on 6th November 1945. However, despite all his daring feats of evading, impersonating, and harassing the enemy behind their own lines, Buck died on 22nd November 1945 in a plane crash in Somerset. Buck was due to fly to Bombay via Berlin when the former USAAF Liberator aircraft in which he was travelling crashed. Twenty-seven men lost their lives in the crash. Captain Herbert Cecil Buck was cremated at Reading Crematorium, and he is commemorated on Panel 1 there. There is also a memorial to all the victims of the aeroplane crash at its site, under an ash tree on Hare Lane near Castle Neroche, Somerset.

Throughout his life Buck demonstrated all characteristics needed to be a Kitchener Scholar, his academic ability through his studies at Oxford and ability to speak German, his wit and determination through the actions that led to his awarding of the Military Cross and his ingenuity through the formation of the Special Interrogation Group.

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(Editor: heartfelt thanks to Angus for this moving and inspiring story)

1. So what happened next by Victoria Provis

After a varied and challenging career spanning corporate communications, management consultancy and executive search (punctuated by a year as a Kitchener Scholar at INSEAD), I retired in my late 50s. As well as taking on a commercial non-executive directorship role, I was keen to give something back, and applied to join the Board of the National Museum of Wales, based in my home city of Cardiff. Within months, I found myself not only a Trustee with responsibility for a complex institution with seven museums around Wales, but also Chair of the Development Board charged with fundraising for a £30m project to transform the much-loved Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans, near Cardiff, into the National Museum of History. The 100-acre site already featured more than 40 buildings brought from around Wales (including farmhouses, a school, chapel, church and general stores, as well as my personal favourite – a row of ironworkers' cottages) which had been carefully reconstructed in a parkland setting. However, we wanted it to reflect the history of Wales from its earliest days, and to feature our archaeology and social history collections.



The most ambitious cultural project ever undertaken in Wales, significant funding had already been secured from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and the Welsh Government, both of which had recognised the importance of culture in supporting the economy (strongly dependent on tourism) and their Health and Wellbeing agendas. Nevertheless, there remained a steep hill to climb, and over the next six years we mobilised support from trusts, foundations, corporates and the general public, as well as enlisting the help of Welsh celebrities to publicise the project.

As a member of the project oversight board, I soon realised that we must be more than a little mad, aiming to construct two new buildings as well as remodelling the main building (a typical concrete construction dating from the 1960s) into a welcoming orientation space housing two new galleries. Realising that in the 21st century most of us had lost the ability to make things, the first new building was Gweithdy (Welsh for Workshop) in which courses on traditional crafts such as blacksmithing, woodturning and pottery would be taught. The second was the reconstruction of the 13th century great hall of the Princes of Gwynedd, and the team on this element of the project included apprentice stonemasons and thatchers, as well as a group of local youngsters who had been excluded from school. The behaviour of the latter group improved dramatically as they found a focus for their lives!

I brought no prior experience of major projects, but over the six years to 2018, I learnt so much. From seeing the disruption that the discovery of a single great crested newt could cause (partial closure of the site for six weeks), to debating how to cut costs without sacrificing quality, it was fascinating, and I was constantly impressed by the vision and commitment of the project team. We also managed to keep the museum open throughout the project, enabling visitors to see how it was progressing and to keep the local community engaged and excited.

We completed the project on time and on budget (well, not far off!) and the response from visitors was fantastic. The icing on the cake? We won the prestigious Art Fund Museum of the Year award in 2019 – I wasn't the only one to shed a tear when the announcement was made.

My time as a Trustee is now over but I am applying what I learned to my latest role – as a Board member of the Arts Council of Wales. As vice chair of





the capital committee, my principal role should be examining and approving applications to the National Lottery for funding for varied cultural projects such as the construction or expansion of arts centres. However, during the pandemic, our focus has been on saving our precious theatre companies, orchestras, and venues through grants from the Government's generous Cultural Recovery Fund. The process of allocating funds has been agonising at times, as inevitably there is not enough money to save everyone, but I feel lucky to have such a stimulating and rewarding role, where we can really make a difference.

For sure there is life after retirement!

2. My experience of studying abroad by Grace Girling

Almost two years ago, my Erasmus exchange at Lund University was interrupted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a panic, I packed as much as possible in one suitcase and booked the earliest flight back to Edinburgh, just a week later the UK was in lockdown.

Since then, I have completed my degree at the University of Edinburgh and been through the motions of deciding what steps to take post-graduation. In mid-October, I found myself in a similar position to that of just over two years before, alone at an airport, about to depart for a new chapter of my academic career, this time after a lengthy application and enrolment process, prolonged by requirements imposed by Brexit. So far, I have learnt that planning ahead now means by months instead of weeks, especially as the organisation of this stage of studies is my own individual responsibility, unlike with my previous exchange. My destination was Straubing, Germany, where I am now currently studying MSc Bioeconomy at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Although demotivated by the initial bureaucratic procedure, my previous experience in Sweden assured me that it is worthwhile to study abroad. Not only is the experience extremely valuable, but this specific degree and university are instrumental my future career in climate policy development.



Both Lund and Straubing are small cities, with the student communities being very close-knit, ensuring a friendly face will always be around. However, Lund's student organisations are well established, with them being around since the 17th century, whereas TUM's Campus Straubing was only established in 2017 and so the typical student unions have not yet been formed, often leaving us to our own devices in terms of social integration. Luckily, as the course is very small, I feel close to my cohorts.

I am extremely lucky to be able to study at these world-ranking universities, gaining important skills from the different teaching styles present at both, especially communication and self-confidence, with a great emphasis being placed on presenting research from myself and academic literature.

Unfortunately, the ongoing pandemic has added further obstacles in planning. The air of uncertainty has not faded, although there have been times of optimism. The course started with in-person classes, which seemed like a phenomenon, however, as the covid situation worsened in the region teaching was forced back online. Remote working comes with benefits, for example being able to study from the UK whilst I work on obtaining the right residency documents. In a déjà vu moment, I found myself anxiously refreshing the news for any updates about COVID-19 restrictions in both the UK and Germany and decided to return early. Studying at a university in the EU may have been made less accessible due to Brexit, however it has not dampened the experience of meeting many inspiring individuals and learning from experts in their respective fields with sustainable economic development in mind.

3. Making a Difference by Alice Johnson

A saying I use a lot is “I’m from Doncaster, don’t feel sympathy for me!”: not to sound too prideful, but I consider myself to be an extremely hardworking individual. My mum is ex-military, and my dad was a Warrant Officer who had served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. However, as much as I am very proud of where I come from, there was a frequent absence of opportunities in my school.

Despite all this, my application for a Kitchener Scholarship came at a time when I was unsure that I even wanted to go to university. In 2015 my dad died of a very sudden heart attack when I was seventeen, which left my family and I obviously bereft, but also financially unsure as to how I would fund myself. This became more apparent when I finally plucked up the courage to apply, and at the same time get an unconditional offer to York St John University to study History in 2017. The scholarship fund made my first year a little easier while I was saving money from my waitressing job at the York Racecourse. This is a job I currently still have, because despite not being my desired career, it has taught me so many important skills that I have transferred into my current job as a Visitor Experience Team Member with York Museums Trust - don’t downplay your university jobs, they really are important for your own personal growth!

The moment that really stood out for me was the day of my actual interview. As much as it was completely nerve-racking, I felt so proud of myself that I was able to talk confidently and enthusiastically about how I wanted to help make history more accessible to both children and adults. It was such a confidence boost that the Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund recognised that I wanted not only to make a difference in my preferred career, as either a lecturer or working in a museum, but they also saw the hardworking work ethic in which I take great pride. Lady Kitchener once paid me the greatest compliment, calling me a “radiator and not a drain” and that my dad would have been extremely proud of me.

Since being accepted into the KSA community, I have graduated York St John with a First-Class degree after finishing the final part of my third year in lockdown. From there I have successfully completed my MA in medieval studies at the University of York, which was constantly disrupted by Covid lockdowns, online learning and a lack of access to archives; and I will be graduating with a merit come January!

My research interests, experience in hospitality and visitor experience and my rooted belief that “if you’re going to do a job then do it to the best of your abilities” is something that I believe should be shared with other Scholars. We are all chosen because we have the passion to want to make a difference, and I don’t know about you, but this is just the start for me! (See Alice in one of her 'signature' poses at the Annual Dinner!!)

EDITOR: THANKS TO VICTORIA, GRACE AND ALICE. FOR ALL, PLEASE SEND IN OR OFFER TO TELL YOUR STORIES OF INTEREST TO OUR KSA COMMUNITY. YOU COULD BE HERE!



Report from the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund (LKNMF)

As uncertainty around social contact continued into 2021, the LKNMF Executive Committee again put in place sensible precautions to comply with Covid restrictions. A total of 112 applications were received for the 2021 Scholarships from which fifty-four candidates were called forward for a remote interview based on the quality of written applications. Following interview, 26 scholarships were awarded including five funded from the growing number of generous sponsors and donors, including MidKent College and BAE Systems as well as contributing individuals. The 2021 Scholars represent a wide range of chosen degree courses and 16 universities (see listing in this newsletter).

The financial climate during the last 18 months has required the Committee to carefully to manage the investments of the fund and to balance short-term budgeting with the 5-year rolling plan, thus allowing it to be able to continue to deliver Scholarships within the available funding. Following the closure of the scholarship scheme for the INSEAD MBA programme some years ago, there remains an aspiration to re-introduce a postgraduate award in some form. The Scholarship Committee is working on the terms and conditions for such a project, which could be considered in the 2023/24 budget timeframe.

Mutually supportive work with the KSA continues. Now that the new KSA Secretary has settled into his role, the cooperation and communication between the LKNMF and KSA remains at the same high level traditionally experienced. The Executive Committee of the LKNMF has also taken action to provide tangible financial assistance to the KSA to further strengthen links with Scholars of all generations and to allow the Association to achieve its planned aims and objectives.

The LKNMF website continues to be the main mechanism for spreading the message among Scholars and a wider audience to allow them to pass on information about the aims of the Fund through their contacts and social interactions. To reach a diverse audience a budget has been allocated for marketing the Scholarship application process. An objective here is to go beyond serving Forces personnel to reach individuals who do not have a current connection with the services, have lost contact, or retired.

Members of the LKNMF Executive Committee are delighted and very satisfied that despite the general conditions of the last 20 months the Fund has continued to smoothly deliver its Scholarship programme. Many of its members are looking forward to meeting new and old Scholars at the centenary dinner in March 2022.

Mervyn Bassett - Secretary

Subscription reminder - please check you are paying the right amount.

The annual subscription to the **KSA** for **ALL** members is just £20, payable on 1st October. It would be appreciated if you could check your standing order to the Association and renew/update where necessary.

There is a standing order form on the website - and the account details for online banking are:

ACCOUNT NAME: Kitchener Scholars' Association

BANK: NatWest

SORT CODE: 60-03-25

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 03808742

Thank you!

Annual General Meeting of the Kitchener Scholars' Association

The AGM of the Association was held on Wednesday 19th January at the Guildhall in the City of London. In her remarks, the Chair, Susan Saunders, welcomed the attendees and reported that 2021 had been a successful year despite the Covid restrictions.

The events that we were able to hold are well-reported elsewhere in this Newsletter - Evensong at St. Paul's with a wreath-laying in the Kitchener chapel, the online Careers' Panel held in October and the commemoration ceremony at the Kitchener Statue on Horse Guards Parade on Remembrance Sunday.

The Chair reminded everyone that 2022 is particularly significant as it is our Centenary Year with various special events planned in particular the Centenary Dinner to be held at the Imperial War Museum in March and other events later in the year.

The Treasurer reported that the finances of the KSA are in good health given the reduced level of activity during the pandemic. But he added that too many individuals within the KSA membership are still not paying the correct subscription amount which is £20 annually for all members of the Association. Follow-up action is planned. Details of the KSA account can be found in the Newsletter and members are asked to adjust/update their Standing Order, as necessary.

The Officers and Committee Members, listed in the summary at the end of the Newsletter, were duly elected or re-elected. New Committee members, who had volunteered to join the Committee at various times during the past year received a particular welcome at the AGM, namely Grace Girling, Beccy Page, Jack Rutledge, and Alastair Stokes.

Neal Clifton- KSA Secretary

Your LinkedIn Group needs you !!

As an early adopter, the KSA first established its presence on LinkedIn in October 2008. These days, the Association has around 100 members in its LinkedIn Group, which represents around a quarter of the total number of KSs paying their subscriptions. The Group is overseen by two Committee members - Holly and Ruairidh - who authenticate the names of those seeking to join it against the central records held by the KSA and therefore can give you the assurance that this is designed as a secure community only open to KSs. They are also responsible for the Association's other social media assets across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter that we use to alert members to KSA events and the like, in addition to email and mailchimp. They welcome interaction on these media too!

Whilst the KSA Committee appreciates that not all Scholars are on the platform, it is very keen to encourage those who are to join our very own LinkedIn Group. It is pretty much the only way, for example, to understand the current professional make-up of our membership and their sectors, allowing us to gauge whether there might be merit in arranging a one-off networking event for those in the legal world, for example, who appear to be well-represented there. Equally, it has been known for the Committee to find panellists for the Association's popular careers events from amongst those on the LinkedIn Group. The greater the volume of KSs on it, the greater likelihood of "lost" Scholars stumbling back across the Association and re-joining us too. You may also have ideas for topics or matters of interest, however weighty or day-to-day, that might stimulate a debate or information flow of value to our community.

Clearly, KSs should also be encouraged to reach out bilaterally to other members and seek to connect directly with potentially useful contacts - it is certainly something that many KSs get into the habit of doing. Finally (and particularly), KSs in the early stages of their professional lives should be encouraged to include reference to the Scholarship on their CVs - this (ahem, 1991) Scholar still does! Your LinkedIn profile obviously represents the online equivalent of that document, whilst the authentication exercise carried out by Holly and Ruairidh provides additional confirmation to a potential recruiter that you are indeed a Scholar - invaluable! So why not check out and this great KSA resource for yourself and "join up" today here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/974787/>

Jim Rothwell

Kitchener Scholars 2021

Surname	First Name	Subject	Institution
Balls	Elizabeth	French and Spanish	Durham University
Barclay	Struan	German and Russian	University of St. Andrews
Carlile	Phoebe	Medicine	St. George's London
Clark	Isabelle	French and Contemporary Chinese Studies	University of Nottingham
Cornwell	Seb	History	Trinity College, Cambridge
Daniel	Georgina	English Literature	Durham University
Dowling-Membrado	Fionnuala	History	University of Manchester
Hall	Phoebe	History	Trinity College, Cambridge
Hatton	John	History	Durham University
Hing	Eleanor	Law	Cardiff University
Hoan	Phoebe	International Development with French	University of Sussex
Holford	Amelia	Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	University of Bristol
Illingworth	Oliver	Mechanical Engineering	University of Manchester
Jones	Charlie	International Relations	University of Durham
Jordan	Jessica	Law with Spanish and Spanish Law	University of Nottingham
Khan	Nadiyah	Medicine	University of St. Andrews
Kyd	Harry	Biochemistry	Queen's College, Oxford
Lancaster	Olivia	Law with Hispanic Law	University of Leeds
Mentzel	Hetty	English Literature	University of Durham
Mentzel	Pippa	Linguistics	Churchill College, Cambridge
Murdoch	Fiona	Chemistry	University of Sussex
Nottingham	Jonty	History	Peterhouse College, Cambridge
Orr	Isabella	Geography	University of Durham
Orr	Sophia	Environmental Geoscience	University of Durham
Palmer	Madeleine	Biochemistry	St. Anne's College, Oxford
Rea	Luke	Music	University of Southampton
Smith	Frank	Classical Archaeology and Ancient History	University of Edinburgh
Thapa	Avaya	Mathematics	University of Exeter

Your KSA Committee

Chair	Susan Saunders
Joint Vice-Chairs	Charles Bryant and Kathryn Pritchard
Secretary	Neal Clifton
Assistant Secretary	David Hamilton
Treasurer	John Ryder
Newsletter Editor	Charles Bryant
Website	Sara Thornton
Social Media	Holly Collins and Ruairidh Cumming
Committee Members	Grace Girling, Beccy Page, Jim Rothwell, Jack Rutledge, Alastair Stokes and Jim Watson

Merchandise

The merchandise shop on the website has a delightful selection of distinctive items for sale all bearing the Kitchener Scholars' Association logo. Orders can be placed through the website and will be despatched promptly!

www.kitchenerscholars.org

KSA Social Media



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kitchenerscholars/>



<https://twitter.com/KitScholars>



<https://www.instagram.com/kitchenerscholarsassociation/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/kitchener-scholars-association/>