



Message from the Chair

The great joy of being a Kitchener Scholar is the opportunity to connect with others in so many walks of life. This year I've talked to doctors, dancers, biochemists, off-shore engineers and fashion buyers, among many other career choices – all so different, all united in the Kitchener Scholarship family. As our careers and lives become ever more global, the opportunity to meet people from such a breadth of disciplines is both necessary and life-enhancing.



The KSA continues to connect and support Scholars – through our key events and a hugely successful Careers Panel in London in October. In an informal setting, Scholars with a wide range of academic backgrounds and careers were able to hear from - among others – Nicola Huet, VP Ecommerce at Ralph Lauren; private equity investor Paul Skipworth and Kathryn Pritchard, a civil service mandarin-in-the-making. You can read moderator Charles Bryant's report of the event below.

The Careers Panel was one of several special occasions for the KSA in 2019: our Annual Dinner in March has to have been the best yet. We welcomed over 100 Scholars and guests to the visually stupendous surroundings of the Painter-Stainers Livery Hall in the City of London. Although our lives as Scholars are extremely varied, we all share a military connection, so we were particularly honoured to have Sir James Everard, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, at the dinner to tell us a little about his role and the future for NATO. I urge you to read his uplifting speech in this newsletter.

We will be returning to the Painters and Stainers Hall for our annual dinner on 13 March 2020 and look forward to seeing you there – it really is quite a spectacular venue. Further details will follow shortly.

As the Association works to connect scholars, we are ramping up our social media presence. Make sure you're following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get all the latest updates.

Do please join us in both the virtual, and the real, world of the Kitchener Scholars' Association in the year to come.

With best wishes for the festive season and a Happy New Year

Susan Saunders



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



<https://twitter.com/KitScholars>



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

The Annual Dinner

The KSA held its 87th Annual Dinner on the evening of Friday 15 March 2019 at the Painter-Stainers Hall. This offered an opportunity for a rather different kind of event in one of the City of London's most prestigious Livery Halls. No less than 116 scholars and their guests attended this stellar occasion, which allowed the community to don their chosen finery in this most sumptuous of rooms.



The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers is the fifth oldest of the 110 Livery Companies of the City of London. An organisation of painters of metals and wood is known to have existed as early as 1283. A similar company of stainers, who generally worked on staining cloth for decorative wall hangings, existed as early as 1400. The two bodies merged in 1502; the new organisation was incorporated under a Royal Charter in 1581. Today, the Company is less a trade association of painters and more a charitable company, with the promotion of education in the fine and decorative arts and crafts as its main theme. The walls of the Hall are festooned with beautiful paintings by eminent artists, including

portraits of Charles I and Charles II.

Lady Emma Kitchener LVO presented certificates to the new scholars (and a few older ones who had never previously had the pleasure of receiving their certificates from the KSA President!!). She warmly welcomed the guests and emphasised the community ethos of the KSA inviting all to



attend events both formal and informal.



At the dinner KSA Chair Susan Saunders added her own welcome and thanks as she responded to the toast; she stressed the vision to create a more active networking forum for existing and former Kitchener Scholars to be expanded in the years ahead.

We were privileged to have among us General James Everard, KCB, CBE a senior British Army officer who serves as NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, D-SACEUR, as our guest speaker. Following a welcoming introduction by undergraduate and committee member Ms Holly Collins, General Everard gave a formidable speech on the security challenges facing Europe (reproduced here in this Newsletter), which was received with great interest and applause. James is the father of current Kitchener Scholar Samuel Everard. As the toasts rounded out the dinner guests continued to mix and chat as well as take photographs in the historic portals of the Hall. All KSA members are encouraged to come to this regular event, which will take place on 13 March in 2020.

Speech by General James Everard at the Annual Dinner 2019

War heroes were the rock-stars of the British Empire. These Admirals and Generals (known as the sword-bearers) were feted by royalty, showered with honours, applauded in public. And there was no bigger hero than Field Marshal Lord Kitchener (quote) “towering above all others in character as in inches, by far the most popular man in the country to the end, and a firm rock which stood out amidst the raging tempest”.

A contemporary of Kitchener, Field Marshal Birdwood, even observed in his book ‘In My Time’ that (quote) “had Kitchener been Ambassador to Turkey during 1914...the pronounced quality of his persistency, might have enabled him to keep Turkey as England’s friend.....” His premature death in 1916 was a national tragedy, but when we look at the decisive effect of individual human character on history, Lord Kitchener, with all his abilities and contradictions, remains worthy of our admiration and study. More so now, given the challenges to the international order and as we look beyond BREXIT to give true meaning to Global Britain, a vision that talks to (quote) “reinvesting in our relationships, championing the rules-based International order and demonstrating that the UK is open, outward looking and confident on the world stage”.



So, in 12 minutes I would like to talk about the crisis in European security, on the challenges we face, on NATO and the importance your contribution – your leadership – for the UK.

In 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union we celebrated the universal triumph of liberal democracy. We imagined an enduring liberal international order in which (to quote George HW Bush) ‘the nations of the world, East and West, North and South can proposer and live in harmony’.

But this prediction has been rocked by the first big shocks and after-shocks of the 21st Century.

First, 2001/ 9-11 / the conflicts in Afghanistan & Iraq showed us that our values were not as universal as we assumed them to be.

Second, 2007, the Financial Crash. Liberalism was meant to ensure personal progress for the many, not the very, very few, and yet we have created a world where the gap between rich and poor has widened. Such visible inequality has

resulted in popular rage, declining trust in Governments and the related growth in both left and right-wing populism.

Third, 2014 and Russia annexed the Crimea and intervened in Ukraine. In doing so Russia chose empire over integration, leading to the return of Great Power competition.

Fourth, 2015, the Arab Spring showed that development and progress are always uneven and generate expectations that often cannot be met, giving birth to new instabilities, anger and resentment.

Fifth, the start of the European Migrant Crisis not only emerging from the ‘arc of instability’ on Europe’s southern flank, but from across Asia, and Africa. For every job that falls vacant in the developing world, eight people will compete for it. Here lies social instability, civil unrest, the seeds of revolution and the challenge of global displacement. And a percentage are coming our way.

Next, the so-called Death of Europe. In the UK there is a democratic debate going on – furious, bitter and divisive – over the fundamental conflict of national identity and supranational organisations in a rapidly changing world. This same debate is happening across Europe.

Seventh, 2017, and the so-called US retreat from its role of the world’s policeman and in its commitment to Europe. I think our fears here are misplaced, but I recognise that America First is a poor bumper sticker for the leader of the Free world.

Finally (a ½ a shock, because New Media is not new) we now live in a world where the monopoly enjoyed by Nation states over information as an element of power has all-but disappeared – certainly in functioning liberal democracies. Governments are permanently wrong-footed by the emerging narrative.

This geo-political ill-tasting soup is the painful backdrop for our leaders as they work to combat the two biggest threats to our security: Russia (a State competitor) and Terrorism (a non-State cancer).

You can argue that Russia has adopted a largely defensive strategy of strategic barriers, exclusive zones of influence and social control in order to prevent interference. But today we face a more dangerous Russia. A Russia with a Defence budget that needs to be judged not on \$ volume, but on Purchasing Power Parity – so, not \$67 billion, but something over \$200 billion. This is a Russia that is seeking great power status and is working to destabilise the Euro-Atlantic area on a strategic scale. The Russian aim? From order, through disorder to a new order more to their liking. At the same time, we see International Terror Groups working hard to try to sustain their campaigns in the West, and secure advanced conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Their aim? From order, through disorder to a new order and eventual Western capitulation. The only difference between these two strategic challengers is the timeline, with the former seeking results in the present – and the latter over centuries.

So, what is NATO doing? First, keeping us together. NATO is a port in stormy waters. All Nations feel stronger and are stronger as part of the Alliance. NATO is active in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Aegean and Black Seas, Afghanistan (still some 16K troops today), Kosovo (still some 6K troops today), and elsewhere at smaller scale, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Ukraine. The Wales, Warsaw and Brussels Summits delivered an increased commitment to defence spending from the nations, and tangible deterrence activity in the Baltic Region, competing collectively and controlling our security space, countering hybrid activities, and denying the short war aims of our adversaries and building. 500,000 NATO troops exercised on NATO's Eastern Flank in 2018. NATO is also striving to give real meaning to Projecting Stability and the Fight Against Terrorism, demonstrating resolve, undercutting the message of hate and violence promoted by extremists in order to undercut terrorism.

So, what of the UK? The UK remains powerful. The UK has an unparalleled network. We are a Nuclear Power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the leading European member of NATO, we sit at the heart of the 53-strong Commonwealth of Nations, we have an extensive and impressive diplomatic and intelligence footprint, and our five-eyes intelligence sharing partnership with the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand is the envy of those who sit outside it. But for a Nation with so much going for it, once so confident, we can look divided and distracted. Our friends and enemies perceive a loss of National self-confidence. Changing this perception is important, a big challenge for all of us who love the UK and worry that for too many people 'today is the tomorrow they all worried about yesterday'. After all, if you forget that Britain is indeed Great, you can quickly become hesitant about our place in the world, and hesitation of any kind is (as Oscar Wilde told us) 'a sign of mental decay and physical weakness'.

Yes, you may believe that the UK is in a mess of its own creation, and BREXIT will continue to inflict wounds on both sides of the Channel for years to come. Or you can believe that great historical shifts do not only produce losers, they also create a fresh cast of champions, new fortunes and ideas. In both scenarios the key to navigating these troubled waters will be exceptional leadership. So, what can we learn (good and bad) from the sword-bearers?

First, the importance of moral honesty and factuality as the bedrock of debate, with the iron will to persuade others to overcome their fear of truth. Lord Kitchener told the Cabinet (quote) that "Armies cannot be called together as with a magician's wand" and it was his perseverance / persistence that ensured we overcame our complacency, so often the curse of Governments and the killer of our men.

Next, recognition that personal example is important, information is liberating, and knowledge is power. And with this comes a willingness to confess your ignorance and a desire to learn. All these leaders read widely. Remember (quote) "Clio, the muse of history offers us the gift of historical awareness. But one has to read books to get to know her and benefit from her gifts". And last, they could all be bold and had the power of rapid decision. To steal from Clausewitz) "boldness can lend wings to intellect and insight and the stronger the wings, then, the greater the heights, the wider the view, and the better the results".

Let me end. To those younger Scholars embarking on life in private or public service please understand that your contribution, your leadership, makes a difference. And you do not have to do it alone. There is an old adage that 'we are known by the company we keep', and the KSA seems like good company to me: A Force for good. Doers, not doubters. Women and men, who, when it comes to overcoming difficulties, find ways to say YES, and not excuses to say NO. I cannot say you are all friends, but I would suggest you are all Allies. And there is great good and great power in Alliances.

TOAST: My Lords, Ladies, and Gentleman, I now invite the guests to raise a glass with a toast to 'The Kitchener Scholars' Association'.

Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral

The annual memorial Evensong Service was held at St Paul's Cathedral at 3.15pm, on Sunday 2 June 2019.

Over two dozen individuals made up the KSA contingent at the service, consisting of members of the Kitchener family, their guests, Kitchener Scholars together with some of their relatives and friends as well as the Secretaries of the Association and the Fund, all sitting in reserved seating directly beneath the world-famous dome of St Paul's cathedral. The Canon in Residence at St Paul's - the Reverend Jonathan Brewster - led the service and opened it by welcoming the participation of the Kitchener Scholars' Association in the proceedings.



As ever those in attendance were surrounded by the amazing architecture and artwork in the cathedral as well as treated to some beautiful singing by the choir together with reliably wonderful organ music. 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 President laid a wreath of poppies at the foot of the recumbent marble effigy of her forebear the first Lord Kitchener located there once Rev Brewster had invited those in attendance to engage in a few moments of silent remembrance and reflection.

The book containing the names of all Kitchener Scholars known to have been lost in the Second World War, which the KSA has also recently paid to have digitised, was also on display in the chapel.

The President then treated those present to afternoon tea in the crypt of St Paul's (which had been reserved for our sole use) afterwards, with tea and coffee accompanied by: a trio of salmon, egg and gammon sandwiches; scones with cream and jam (a Devonian or Cornish-style approach to their consumption both being deemed permissible); and, topped off by some delicious Victoria sponge cake. Once everyone had settled themselves into The Tea-room at St Paul's, the President

took the opportunity to say a few words, ensuring everyone felt most welcome having expressed her view that all those in attendance were very much seen as "members of the family". On behalf of the Committee and the Association more widely: "thank you Emma", as ever, for your generous hospitality.

Attendance at this annual event really is thoroughly recommended for those who have not yet been - be you be a new Scholar or longer in the tooth, whilst those who have participated previously will already know just how good it is.

The Committee looks forward to seeing you again in 2020 at St Paul's and to welcoming new faces in this very special and, indeed, unique setting when it comes to the element in All Souls' Chapel, which is not ordinarily accessible.



Careers Panel in London

The annual Careers Panel organised by the association took place on 17 October in London. The event was well attended and considered a great success by both the audience and panellists alike. Attendees had travelled the length and breadth of the country to be there – from Portsmouth, Plymouth, Inverness, Edinburgh and deepest Norfolk.

It took place in Vincent Square at the Westminster Kingsway College in a spacious room which allowed the opportunity for intense discussions and subsequent networking among the 30 or so participants over an informal supper. The college has a hospitality focus and numerous top celebrity chefs were trained there.

The KSA Careers Panel programme provides a brilliant opportunity for all scholars – at all stages of their career - to hear from members of our community in various walks of life and from different generations regarding their



professional experience. It is also intended for those contemplating a mid-life career change. Those present received many insights on building a successful career journey, whilst sharing thoughts and listening to the concerns and questions of others.

On 17 October we had a wonderful, high-profile and diverse panel:

Nicola Huet is VP Ecommerce at Ralph Lauren EMEA and has extensive experience in digital and e-commerce for the retail sector with other roles in Sweaty Betty Sportswear and Selfridges as well as in consultancy. She attended INSEAD business school. Nicola was able to talk about her career progression in the e-commerce space and how she has combined consultancy and full-time positions in a very productive way.

Paul Skipworth is an international businessman with experience of major consumer brands at LVMH such as Moët Hennessey and Glenmorangie, among other responsibilities. From there, he progressed towards his long-term goal in acting as a private equity investor. Paul knows consumer brands inside out and was also able to talk about the value of an MBA degree with his INSEAD background. These thoughts also applied to other forms of post-graduate learning, which can propel one into new opportunities.

Kathryn Pritchard is a civil servant with experience in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and now working as Private Secretary to a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government where she is involved with various cross-departmental initiatives on gender balance. Having graduated with an Oxford degree in PPE in 2016, she undertook a travel scholarship to undertake a project on 'Technology and Civic Governance in the USA'. She is an Army Reservist with a central London unit. Kathryn certainly exemplified the value of persistence in achieving career goals, having initially been frustrated in entering the fast-stream recruitment process, but later adapting and finding the right way to progress for her. Also, additional challenges such as being a reservist or a KSA Committee member are all relevant for career development.

Jon Townsley is a lawyer with extensive experience as a barrister and of ethics and compliance issues, including investigations. For various organisations, this has involved designing and implementing global compliance

programmes, and managing significant issues arising across many legal jurisdictions. He is currently with a major international schools' provider and has previous experience in publishing and government, and at the Bar. John was able to pinpoint the growing risk exposures resulting from a much more 'regulated' world and the contrast between working as a self-employed individual and as an employee.

Susan Saunders is our KSA Chair, who has built a successful freelance career in TV, media and writing; she is a practised portfolio career developer and hands-on leader of teams and projects. Susan was able to respond along with other panellists to a very important issue raised from the floor by Jess Quigley on the ethics of working life and how to retain a moral compass in a world exposed to many viewpoints and perspectives. Susan explained the value of some TV programmes dealing with social issues such as debt despite their perceived sensationalism, and Paul touched on socially responsible drinking.

Charles Bryant acted as the panel moderator and was an international banker now managing a European trade association in the field of digital supply chains and B2B e-commerce. Charles helps a network industry to realise common goals and standards. He emphasised the importance of a strong work ethic and being adaptable to the evolving world of work, where cooperation can be as important as competition.

There was a lot of correlation between aspirations of attendees and those speaking on the panel – an aspiring fashion buyer really happy to meet Nicola, potential civil servants and FCO staff wanted to hear from Kathryn and all those who long to work in investment were keen to speak to Paul.

From the audience, many questions were raised. One interesting perspective was the observation that in fields such as Engineering and those disciplines falling into the STEM categories, the demand for skills is unabated and there is evidence of more women seeking opportunities in these areas. For example, companies like Rolls Royce provide varied and placement-based training for engineers and potential management leaders who may come from varying university disciplines and sub-disciplines.

Panellists covered many areas such as:

- ⇒ The very different path that they all have taken to date, there is no 'formula',
- ⇒ The role of networking; make sure this has purpose and the network is maintained,
- ⇒ Formal things like CVs and interviews; keep to the basic rules here,
- ⇒ How to re-invent yourself every so often; changing direction and 'creating your own luck', what might be called the 'career pivot',
- ⇒ Learning to manage a career even in corporate or professional positions from a 'portfolio' point of view, very well illustrated by this year's panellist experiences,
- ⇒ Avoiding sliding into 'non-graduate' roles, other than in temporary situations, although this can be a good route if managed well,
- ⇒ Mentoring and sources of advice, KSA can help here,
- ⇒ Dealing with the inevitable challenges along the road, all the panellists talked about abrupt change occasioned by mergers, redundancy, re-organisations, personal circumstances...,
- ⇒ Being positive about life-balance: fulfilment, happiness, money, family, location etc.

We will continue to hold these Career Panel events, so watch out for next year...



Remembrance Sunday Commemoration



The annual commemoration service was held in front of the monument to Lord Kitchener situated next to the western wall on Horse Guards Parade on 10 November 2019. This followed the firing of the salute in full view (and earshot!) of our group at the beginning and the end of the two minutes silence. The short service was very well-attended with over 70 scholars and friends participating. The KSA's President – The Lady Emma Kitchener LVO – laid a wreath at the foot of the monument. The service (see the order of service shown here) contained the now well-established tradition of ten recent scholars calling out the names of 108 Kitchener Scholars who fell during the Second World War.



Many attended the moving march-past of veterans of the armed forces and others organised by the British Legion along Horse Guards Road. We were joined among the watching well-wishers by a few eminent politicians as is customary. 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.



Facing the West - Cycling the Silk Road by Ollie Weighill

We pull up to the crumbling remains of the caravanserai in an ever-expanding gloom, the shadows from the mountains engulfing us on every side. The landscape is brutal, primeval even. Exhausted but elated, there's a sense of relief that we'll at least have some form of shelter for our first night's sleep above 4,000m. The isolation feels unworldly. 'It's like we're the only people on Earth' I mutter, as we start to unpack our tent amongst the ruins. A dog barks. Before we know it, we're sipping tea and exchanging pleasantries with a Tajik adolescent and his mother, both parties equally captivated by each other's presence. The next day, fuelled on the same tea, we reach the highest point of our trip, Akbaital Pass, at 4,655m.

The trip in question involved cycling unsupported across Asia, retracing parts of the Northern Silk Road, from Beijing to Istanbul. Starting in China, and passing through Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, our route took us just under 12,000km and encompassed every climate and terrain. For five months we were



confronted by mountains, steppe and desert, old towns and new towns, and a ceaseless, unending hospitality that never failed to amaze. Of the many fascinations of the Silk Road, the unexplained acts of kindness we received, the episode above being one of many, were an ever-present feature.



Openly hosting strangers comes from a time when the Silk Road was the main trading route connecting East and West. Deriving its name from the lucrative trade in silk carried out along its length, it was not just silk that was exchanged. Other goods, technologies and ideas passed along a network of trading routes, bringing wealth and opulence to the cities that acted as resting places for weary merchants. But from the 15th century onwards, with the growing preference of sea trade, the Silk Road, and its cities with it, fell into decline.

That said, the past decade has seen the Silk Road reinvigorated and reimagined. Lax visa requirements in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan means tourism is booming. Fuelled by the cheap debt of China's Belt and Road initiative, extensive construction and infrastructure makes travel – other than by bicycle – easier than ever. Indeed, the numerous Chinese road builders we encountered proved both a blessing and a curse, on occasion easing our passage – with newly built, butter-smooth, tarmac roads – but also forcing lengthy off-road diversions to avoid the hovering clouds of dust and dirt.

There were other challenges that faced us during our trip. Spending six days battling ferocious headwinds in the Gobi Desert quickly laid bare our vulnerability to the elements. We would cower in tunnels, usually the preserve of wildlife, underneath the road at hourly intervals for respite from the onslaught, our misfortune only exceeded by the suffering of the camels and cattle who had no shelter, and no way out. Similarly, our entire trip



hinged on keeping our bodies and bicycles in working order, to propel us to our destination. A broken bone, or broken bicycle, would have spelt the end.

Other aspects were far easier than imagined. Offline maps meant navigation was rarely, if ever, an issue. Perhaps one of the biggest changes of the past decade, smartphones were ubiquitous. For all the criticism they receive, Google and Facebook meant we could communicate quickly and accurately with locals we encountered, swapping photos and cultural references; intrigued by our differences and bound by our similarities. Border guards, initially a concern, were unnervingly friendly, performing their duties in a jovial and professional manner. Even the Russian guards, manning the border town of Tashanta, couldn't suppress a smile when they found two ragged Englishmen desperate to enter their country.



Explaining the motivation behind our decision to attempt this challenge is not easy and there was no sole underlying factor that led us to cycling the Silk Road. We both wanted to push our physical and mental boundaries, outside of the ordinary, and were keen to explore a part of the world that we knew very little about. Cycling through a country forces you under its very fabric, experiencing every crease and fold, every undulation; the bicycle acts as the means by which to explore an environment routinely unseen, untouched and undiscovered. We would eat what the locals eat, drink what they'd drink (almost invariably some form of chai) and sleep where they'd sleep. In the towns and villages that we passed through, there were no false pretences, no saturation of tourism, just locals going about their everyday business, always amazed to see us turn up on their doorstep.

Most importantly, we saw it as an opportunity to raise money and awareness for a cause we felt strongly about. The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, enables people to recognise the signs of depression, stay healthy mentally and access appropriate treatment, where required. As two Durham graduates, we felt a connection with the Trust, as Charlie himself had studied there, before he committed suicide. Whilst mental health has started to get the attention it deserves, in part due to the coverage given to it by the Royals, there is still work to be done to reduce the stigma around the topic.

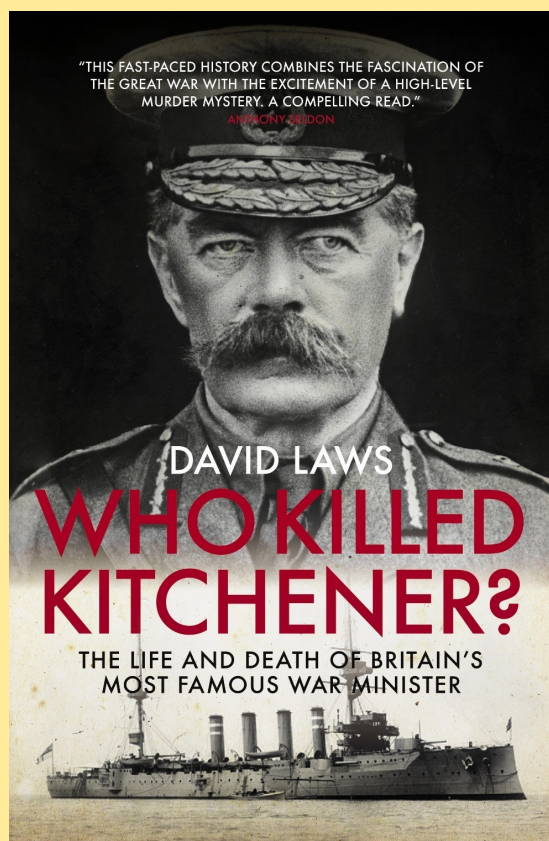
For us, cycling naturally tied into this discourse, reaffirming some simple, but important, steps we can take to improve our mental health. Regularly exercising, setting small achievable goals and immersion in nature – whilst easy when cycling – should, where possible, be incorporated into our daily lives. Similarly, it's worth stepping back and being appreciative of our small, almost prosaic, everyday experiences. A hot cup of instant coffee never failed to improve our moods in the face of particularly hostile conditions. The gratitude felt, by us and our hosts, when we helped fetch water from the local well following a night's shelter on the Mongolia steppe, will remain with us for a long time to come.



The Silk Road answered all our questions about it and more. The five-month journey felt like an age, and yet passed in a flash. The vast landscapes we witnessed were both humbling and empowering. But most of all, as we cycled across the Bosphorus Bridge – our gateway back into Europe – we felt incredibly fortunate to have undertaken such a journey, with the experiences it provided.

Ollie Weighill (Kitchener Scholar 2013) read History at Durham University-2013-16. Since then he has completed his legal education, travelled and starts at a law firm next year.

'Who killed Kitchener?' by David Laws



In 2019, David Laws' new book on Lord Kitchener was published in both hardback and as an ebook. It is a thoroughly readable account, which Scholars may find of great interest.

David Laws writes: Lord Kitchener is still famous today – but largely as the face of that famous World War One *recruiting* poster, “Your Country Needs YOU.”

What is less known is that in his day Kitchener was one of the most famous and respected men in Britain – a military hero of the late Victorian and early twentieth century era. He avenged the death of General Gordon in the Sudan. He forced the Boers into defeat in the South Africa war of 1899-1902. At the beginning of the First World War, Kitchener's stock was so high that Prime Minister Asquith asked him to join the Cabinet, as Secretary of State for War. He immediately realised that – contrary to the widely held view that the war would be over “by Christmas” – the conflict was likely to last many years. And he planned accordingly – starting the process of recruiting millions of civilians into military service. These “New Armies” would later help Britain to win the war.

What is also less known is that Kitchener became the first British Cabinet Minister to die on military service. In June 1916, he was sent on a secret military mission to Russia, to help keep Britain's

key allies in the war. At the time, Kitchener was unpopular with many of his Cabinet colleagues, who wanted rid of him. He had also made enemies among Boer farmers, Irish nationalists, Bolshevik Russians and, of course, the Germans.

Kitchener was to be carried to Russia on board the armoured cruiser, HMS Hampshire. But within hours of Hampshire leaving Britain's naval base at Scapa Flow, in the middle of a Force Nine gale, the ship had been blown up and it sank within just 30 minutes, within full view of men and women on shore.

Of the 749 men on board, only twelve would survive. Kitchener and all of his delegation were lost – and Kitchener's body was never recovered.

Within days of Kitchener's death, the conspiracy stories emerged and multiplied. Had the secrecy of his mission been betrayed? Had his ship been torpedoed by a German submarine, or destroyed by an Irish nationalist bomb? On Orkney, from where the mission started, there were stories of soldiers preventing attempts to rescue the survivors. Questions were raised in the House of Commons, and meanwhile the government refused to publish details of the Navy Inquiry into Kitchener's death.

After one hundred years of conspiracies, David Laws' book separates fact from fiction, and – using files only recently declassified by the government – he tells the definitive story of Kitchener's death.

David Laws was the Liberal Democrat MP for Yeovil from 2001 to 2015. He helped negotiate the historic Lib Dem–Conservative coalition in 2010 and briefly served as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, before becoming Minister of State for Schools in the Department for Education and Minister of State for the Cabinet Office.



Annual General Meetings of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund (LKNMF) and the Kitchener Scholars' Association (KSA)

The Annual General Meeting of LKNMF was held this year on 14 November 2019 in the Alderman's Court Room at the City of London Guildhall. 17 Council members attended the meeting with Lady Emma Kitchener presiding. The President was delighted to report that the Fund continues to meet its aims and objectives and was able again to offer a range of Scholarships to the offspring of serving and retired forces personnel. The process of interviewing and offering these scholarships is down to the hard work of volunteers from the Council, Trustees and ex-Scholars and some 57 were interviewed this year from which 20 were selected for scholarships; currently there are 90 students studying at 35 universities.

The trustees were able to report that with reasonable income from investments and a substantial legacy from an ex-Scholar the Fund is on a stable footing for the foreseeable future and hope that from 2020 it will be able to consider an increase in the value of Scholarships. It is also considering, potentially, to fund a higher level of academic recognition such as an MA or MBA. The application criteria and process are currently being considered by the Scholarship committee.

The Council thanked Ms Susan Saunders, the KSA Chair and the Secretary Lt Col David Hamilton, for their hard work in the last 12 months in improving the administration of the KSA's membership roll. There was also enthusiastic support for the various events organised by the KSA including the annual service at St Pauls, the Careers Panel, the excellent annual Dinner held earlier in the year, and the Remembrance Sunday Horse Guards service. The Council made clear it is happy to see an ever-closer engagement between the LKNMF and the KSA. Consideration being given to identifying ways in which the Council could further support the activities of the Kitchener Scholars' Association within the Charity Commission and HMRC guidelines. The President, Lady Emma Kitchener closed the meeting by thanking all those involved in making the Fund and the Association work in such a professional manner. In particular she emphasised the difference that the Scholarship can make, now and in the future, and how scholars are embraced into the Kitchener family.

The Annual General Meeting of the KSA took place on 24 September 2019 also at the Guildhall in the City of London. This venue remains available to the LKNMF and KSA for meetings under a right conferred by the Corporation of the City of London reflecting the esteem with which Lord Kitchener is held.

During the Chair's report Susan Saunders referred to the success of the events conducted over the past 12 months, the improving finances of the association, and the benefits accruing from the efforts of Lt Col David Hamilton in overhauling the administration, in particular his painstaking work of going through the database and clarifying the exact numbers of Scholars, improving the collection of subscriptions, updating contact details and member participation, all under the new GDPR requirements. Much of the work of the Committee concerns the meticulous planning of the events, both formal and informal, that make up the Kitchener year. Susan reported that discussions were also taking place with the LKNMF to strengthen cooperation and the ties that bind both organisations together.

The Committee has been engaged in a proposal for the re-drafting of the Rules of the KSA for formal adoption in due course. Aside from the details of the governance rules, it is proposed to include an up-to-date listing of the objects of the association:

- ⇒ To act as a networking forum for all generations of Kitchener Scholars.
- ⇒ To hold meetings for the study and discussion of vocational, educational and cultural subjects.
- ⇒ To promote mutual assistance, common interests and good fellowship in the association.
- ⇒ To perpetuate the memory of the First Earl Kitchener of Khartoum by all appropriate means.
- ⇒ To hold a Memorial Service in St. Paul's Cathedral annually on or near the 5 June, the anniversary of the death of the First Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.

It is hoped that members can associate themselves with these objects and support the committee in bringing them to reality.

Donation request for Medical Brigade to Syrian Refugee Camps in Greece: by Isabel Boden

I am a Kitchener Scholar and currently a second year medical student at Edinburgh University and in July 2020 I will be volunteering in a Syrian refugee camp on the outskirts of Athens with the 'Global Medical Brigades' charity.

This international charity provides essential healthcare and medicines to under resourced and vulnerable communities who would otherwise have limited or no access to healthcare.

I decided to take part in this Medical Brigade as I have been deeply shocked and saddened by the tragedy of the Syrian Civil War. So many Syrian families have had to endure such hardship during years of this brutal campaign together with the loss of their loved ones and their entire livelihood, leaving many in need of urgent access to healthcare. I wanted to help in some way and volunteering with this charity will enable me to do so.



In 2018, Global Brigades formed an official partnership with KEEENO (the Greek Health Department). The partnership's aim is to improve access to sustainable healthcare within these refugee camps and previous Brigades have received hugely positive feedback from both the asylum seekers and the government.

My volunteering role within the refugee camp will involve working in triage, taking patient histories and undertaking basic medical observations. I will also help in the pharmacy as well as acting as a liaison between the refugees and nurses/ doctors along with the valuable opportunity to shadow the doctors working within the camp. Furthermore, with training I will be providing health education workshops and art therapy workshops for children.

In order to take part in this Medical Brigade, the charity asks for each volunteer to raise £950 to assist with purchasing medicines and equipment and towards funding qualified medical staff. Therefore, along with other fundraising initiatives, I have set up a 'Go Fund Me' page to help raise the funds required.

I would be very grateful for any donations to enable me to reach my goal and volunteer for this extremely worthwhile cause supporting the Global Medical Brigade charity in providing access to healthcare for over 50,000 refugees in Greece.

Thank you, Isabel Boden

Link to access my Go Fund Me Campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/4ewtak-medical-brigade-to-syrian-refugee-camps-in-greece>



For more information on this charity, please visit: <https://www.medicalbrigades.org/> or <https://www.globalbrigades.org/>

For more information on the specific programme in Greece please visit: <https://www.medicalbrigades.org/medical-brigades/greece/>

Kitchener Scholars 2019

| First Name | Last Name | Subject | University |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allen | Sean | Politics and International Relations | Queen Mary University London |
| Blythe | Pollyanna | Pharmacy | Exeter University |
| Branston | Oliver | Experimental Psychology | Oxford University |
| Capel | Abigail | Law | Cambridge University |
| Curtis | Emma | Modern Languages | Aberystwyth University |
| Deverell | Guy | Event Management | Leeds Beckett University |
| Emmins | George | Maths and Economics | Nottingham University |
| Evans | Abigail | Paramedic Science | Murray Edwards College Cambridge |
| Harris | Giselle | English Language and Literature | Magdalen College Oxford |
| Holford | Charlotte | Medicine | Sheffield University |
| Lavender | Erin Rose | Neuroscience | Exeter University |
| Linnell | Albert | Physiotherapy | York St John University |
| MacLintock | Ande | Medicine | Southampton University |
| McDonagh | Cameron | Software Engineering | Nottingham University |
| Saunders | Daniel | Software engineering | Nottingham University |
| Shephard | Georgina | Pharmacy | Cardiff University |
| Taylor | Archibald | Design Engineering | Imperial College London |
| Thornley | Anna | Law | Southampton University |
| Veitch | James | Engineering | Nottingham University |
| Ward | Rosie | Sport and Exercise | Oxford Brookes University |

Your KSA Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Chair | Susan Saunders susancrookemail@yahoo.co.uk |
| Joint Vice - Chairs | Tracey Campbell & Jim Watson |
| Secretary | Lt Col David Hamilton secretary@kitchenerscholars.org |
| Treasurer | John Ryder treasurer@kitchenerscholars.org |
| Newsletter Editor | Charles Bryant newsletter@kitchenerscholars.org |
| Website | Sara Thornton sara@webholism.com |
| Social Media | Holly Collins & Ruairidh Cumming |
| Committee members | Neal Clifton Kathryn Pritchard Jim Rothwell |

Merchandise

Why not show your support for the KSA with a hoodie, our fabulous tie, cufflinks, AND new badge? Full details of sizes, prices and how to order our wonderful range of merchandise can be found on the KSA website.

www.kitchenerscholars.org



Seasonal greeting to all and best wishes
for a Merry Christmas and successful New Year