



## Message from the Chair

For an association that exists to bring people together to network, support each other and share, 2020 was a challenging year. But I am proud to say that the KSA rose to the occasion and continued to connect Scholars in many different ways. We also took steps to further improve our administrative and financial footings to support future success. This was against a background of the pressures that the pandemic has placed on the whole of our community. You will see in this newsletter many examples of the inspirational work and dedication of Kitchener Scholars.



Our calendar of social and ceremonial events was severely curtailed in 2020, but we have taken many of our key events online; you can revisit them below. There will not be an annual dinner in March 2021, and we'll have to wait and see if we are able to meet at St Paul's in June. I and our committee of volunteers are fully committed to sustaining the value of the Association in terms of activities, and networking opportunities especially as the prospect of 'opening up' becomes more achievable. Do remember that 2022 is the Centenary year of the Association and we are working towards an exciting programme of events. If you have feedback, ideas or suggestions for action by the Association or wish to support us in any way then please do reach out to us - there are many opportunities to help and reach-out to our community.

KSA and LKNMF will be working more closely together in the months ahead and we have already taken the opportunity to create a new KSA Business Plan with the Fund's generous support that will allow us to connect more closely, offer a wider range of events and eventually become a fund-raising alumni organisation. In addition, our increasingly close working with the LKNMF has prompted the KSA, like many other organisations, to examine issues of diversity and inclusion. Please see the article below by Kathryn Pritchard.

There has been a changing of the guard in our secretariat. It was with the greatest sadness that the committee accepted the resignation of Lt Col David Hamilton as our Secretary, on health grounds. I asked our President, Lady Emma Kitchener, for a few words about David Hamilton and she told me:

*'Without a trace of hyperbole, David Hamilton has been the most exceptionally dedicated, kind, thoughtful and generally marvellous Secretary any organisation could ever wish to have. You cannot know him and not love him. We are deeply indebted to him for all his wise words, decisions and*

*forward thinking. How lucky we are as a Fund and an Association to have been allowed to benefit from the genius of this incredible man’.*

David will, luckily for us, remain active to provide support and continuity. I am also extremely grateful to committee member Neal Clifton who has been appointed as the new KSA Secretary.

I am also, as always, very grateful to Charles Bryant for producing this newsletter, ably supported by Jack Rutledge. I look forward to working with the committee and to seeing as many of you as possible at our events as the world starts, we hope, to open up again.

With best wishes for 2021!

Susan Saunders



Zooming in on the KSA AGM!

## **Angus Morton's work on the 1939-45 Roll of Honour**

Please read about Kitchener Scholar Angus Morton's brilliant work on the 1939-1945 Roll of Honour with detail about where each of the 100+ fallen Scholars served, and where they are commemorated. It is very moving....

*Angus says: 'Over the past few months I have collated a huge amount of information about the lives of those Scholars who fell during the Second World War. I have transferred all this information onto a Google Spreadsheet which you are all invited to view. I hope that you will all be able to use this as a tool to understand the lives of previous Scholars and reflect on the differences and similarities between their lives and our own. Should anyone find any more information regarding any of these Scholars, it would be great if you would contact me and I will add any information to the sheet.'*

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_4pji5oYMG1omlZg2k1h8yFzNVWsl-U6XbbY1-d6lU/edit?fbclid=IwAR3JAzpb14sxO7eTku7Cgd8sK00N7JpHpo6pLfHXhdXXBwGHjBEvmvBtWhg#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_4pji5oYMG1omlZg2k1h8yFzNVWsl-U6XbbY1-d6lU/edit?fbclid=IwAR3JAzpb14sxO7eTku7Cgd8sK00N7JpHpo6pLfHXhdXXBwGHjBEvmvBtWhg#gid=0)

## The Annual Dinner – 13 March 2020

Just ten days before the country ground to a halt, the KSA held its 88th Annual Dinner. The first of this decade, but our second at the Painter-Stainers Hall, a building dating back to 1375, scholars and their guests donned their finery in the most lavish of locations.

Lady Emma Kitchener LVO presented the new scholars with their certificates and warmly welcomed all those in the room, looked down upon by portraits dating from the late 17th century through to today's Royal Family. Our new, lively scholars represent a very wide range of subjects and universities. We congratulate them on this achievement and look forward to their future involvement with the KSA.

A notable mention to Jim Watson, a valued committee member who initially received his scholarship when flares and wide collars were in fashion, but was finally presented with his certificate that evening.

At the dinner, in the place of KSA Chair Susan Saunders who was struck down with (thankfully) a non-coronavirus related illness, Vice Chair Tracey Campbell welcomed, toasted and thanked all those who attended.

We were privileged to have amongst us retired Brigadier of the Royal Engineers, Robbie Burns OBE, as our guest speaker. Introduced by committee member and civil servant Kathryn Pritchard, Brigadier Burns is now a Regional Director for Network Rail, and treated us to an entertaining and humbling speech, which was well received.



The 88th Annual Dinner was, as always, a great success. It is not just for newer members - all those of the KSA community are warmly encouraged to attend future dinners and events. In what has been a strange year, the 2020 Dinner served to remind us of the wide and varied peoples amongst us, who, a matter of weeks later, assumed vital roles in combating COVID-19.

Pictures from the event are up on our website and Facebook page, the links to which can be found below.

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/kitchenerscholarsassociation/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=119726769725636&\\_tn\\_=-UC-R](https://www.facebook.com/pg/kitchenerscholarsassociation/photos/?tab=album&album_id=119726769725636&_tn_=-UC-R)

Until we meet again.

Holly Collins

## A very special Memorial Service from St Paul's Cathedral

Every year on or near the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, the anniversary of the death of Lord Kitchener, we hold a Memorial Service at Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. This year it could not take place in its usual format. We were very pleased that the Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's and a LKNMF Council member, instead recorded a short service for us in the All Souls (Kitchener) Chapel. The service has been uploaded to YouTube (link below) and Lady Emma Kitchener said, *"I think it's probably the most moving - for a thousand different reasons - piece of film I have ever seen"*. It's a wonderful service, filmed by Dr Ison on one of the first occasions he was allowed back into the Cathedral. Please do take a few minutes to watch (it's only five minutes long). It certainly enabled our community to keep the first Lord Kitchener and Kitchener Scholars everywhere in our thoughts and prayers at that poignant moment in the KSA calendar

Use this link: [KSA St Paul's Service 2020](#)

## Remembrance Commemoration in Chatham

Remembrance Sunday has always been marked by many Kitchener Scholars gathering at the statue of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum on Horse Guards for a service of commemoration to mark his tragic loss at sea in 1916. This year with the restriction imposed on travel and large gatherings, the difficult decision was taken to cancel this event in its usual form.

However, not to be thwarted, the Secretary of the LKNMF Lt Col (Retd) Mervyn Bassett and the new Secretary of the KSA, Neal Clifton, chose to represent the Fund and Association by laying a wreath in glorious sunshine at the Kitchener Statue outside Kitchener Barracks at Chatham on Remembrance Sunday.

It was, needless to say, a brief service, but sufficient to mark the occasion, with Neal reciting the fourth verse from the Poem "For the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon: *"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old....."*



The Kitchener statue was relocated to the UK many years ago. It was initially sculpted in 1912 and located in Khartoum. Lord Kitchener was involved in numerous military events in the Middle East, and, during his service there, he secured funding for a hospital and a university in Khartoum. The statue is now 'owned by the nation' having been gifted by the Sudanese Government after WWII. The official record from 1959 states: 'Recently the Government of the Sudan ... decided to present the statue to the British Government, following which, the Army Council allotted it to the Corps of Royal Engineers to be erected in Chatham. The surroundings were designed and executed by the Royal Engineers with the full and generous co-operation of the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Chatham. The Barracks are now part of a property development site but the Statue remains under the control of the MOD.

Lord Kitchener, as a Royal Engineer, would have spent time at the Brompton Barracks, Chatham. His initial interests and responsibilities were in field telegraphy and photography, but Survey was to be the main thread of his early life, especially in Palestine. From there his career developed towards posts of increasing rank in military command.



## Careers Panel on Zoom – 22 October 2020

The third careers panel in the present series took place in October as an open online webinar. It was well attended and judged a great success owing to the quality of the panel speakers and excellent participation by Scholars; this allowed a sharing of experiences and a focus on career choices and challenges in these difficult times. The Panel is always intended for current undergraduate Kitchener Scholars, recently graduated scholars, and any other scholars interested in re-evaluating their career path irrespective of their stage of life.

The panellists were:

- **Francesca Cumming:** a recent graduate with a Master's degree in engineering from the University of Birmingham, who has been in career launch mode. After some challenges in handling pandemic lock-down conditions in Switzerland, she realised that her intricately planned and extensive post-university gap year was not going to happen as planned. Instead of travelling across Japan and the Philippines, she returned home to lock-down and took the decision to take up a full-time role in chartered accountancy.
- **Paul (Pablo) Ettinger:** who was in the founding team at the coffee chain Caffè Nero and is currently involved in a range of tech and music businesses, in particular TALENTBANQ, a disruptive business in the music space. He has extensive entrepreneurial and consumer orientated experience.
- **Mike Lakin:** Managing Director with Envoi, a leading acquisition and divestment adviser for the international upstream oil and gas industry. A geology graduate from Cardiff University, Mike worked initially for independent international oil and gas companies, then Petresearch as a geologist specialising in the marketing of international third-party projects, until leaving to establish Envoi at the end of 1999.
- **Fay Margo:** Has an extensive background in financial journalism with the Financial Times Group and *The Economist*, in European private equity with Arbor Square Associates and since 2013 as founder and CEO at Brackendale, a boutique consultancy offering marketing and communication services to the European private equity industry. A graduate of the University of Leeds (BA and MA in modern languages) Fay speaks seven languages and is an accomplished public speaker.
- **Mark Oliver:** CEO at the Colt Group, which designs, manufactures, installs and maintains ventilation, smoke control, climate control and solar shading systems for the built environment in 15 country markets in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Mark is a Kitchener European Scholar with a background in the Army and many business roles, including as a Council Member of the the Confederation of British Industry.
- **Sisie So:** graduated from the University of Warwick in 2018 with BA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics, before recently completing the graduate scheme in investment banking at MUFG, the largest Japanese bank and one of the largest banks globally by assets. She has now started a permanent role as an analyst in the commodity finance division, offering corporate banking services for oil & gas majors, commodity traders and energy clients.
- **Charles Bryant:** acted as moderator; a former international banker, but now managing a European trade association.

**Susan Saunders:** the KSA Chair, provided the welcome, supported the fielding of audience questions and added insight in media, freelancing or writing fields.

From the audience: **Grace Girling**, a recent KS, kindly provided the following report:

“I appreciate the time everyone involved in organising and speaking on the panel gave to provide such valuable insights. Although it could not take place in person as in previous years, I believe it was just as successful as the one I was able to attend in 2018. If anything, it was more accessible for those who are unable to travel at certain times due to distance or workload.”

Personally, as a final year undergraduate who is balancing both university and exploring future opportunities, the chance to hear first-hand about varying experiences was refreshing. Listening to Francesca discuss how her plans unfortunately changed from an extended gap year to going down the path of chartered accountancy alleviated many of the stresses I have incurred recently. I say this as it helps me to realise that even if our original plans do not go as smoothly as one would hope, it is not necessarily detrimental - and it is important to explore other options. Additionally, hearing that both Francesca and Sisie’s application processes were longwinded and sometimes disheartening felt relatable. However, it provided me with hope to see that the effort does pay off.

From another point of view, listening to the varying background stories of the panellists with an abundance of experience was inspiring. Observing the motivation and hard work they possess, which has led them down many different career paths, provided me with great encouragement. As someone who is studying Business, it was interesting to see what Fay, Mark, Mike and Paul have all accomplished, establishing their own ventures or holding executive roles in their respective fields through their ambitious personalities.

Most importantly, it has changed my view of the professional world. As someone who is yet to step into a career, I have previously felt that I need to find a job where I see myself being for the next twenty years. However, the Careers Panel has allowed me to see that changing careers is not something to be afraid of. In particular, converting passions into a career is something I admire and aspire to do. Exploring interests and new opportunities to learn is exciting and what motivates me throughout my studies and other areas of life. In this sense, I would like this to continue into my career and throughout my professional life.

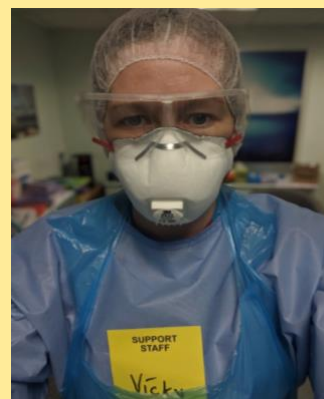
Overall, this event was extremely beneficial and something I will look forward to in future years as part of the Kitchener Scholars’ Association. I sincerely hope that more events such as these are organised. Although I am looking forward to meeting many of those who are part of the KSA in person, perhaps the virtual nature of webinars will allow for more frequent discussions and encourage many more members, both new and longstanding, to get involved from across the globe.”

# Stories of Kitchener Scholars in 2020

## 1. Coronavirus on the frontline

*Our first story is by Victoria Manson, a 2007 Kitchener Scholar who volunteered to serve in an Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU), right at the beginning of the outbreak of the pandemic. Her story is an inspiration to all of us.*

I am an outpatient physiotherapist and the team leader for Central Middlesex Hospital in Brent. I hadn't worked on a ward for about six years and hadn't worked on ITU for about nine years. When I saw what was happening and heard how my hospital had increased intensive care capacity to cope with the surge in patients needing critical care due to coronavirus, I knew it was my duty to help.



We decided to close the outpatient department as it was a non-essential service and we wanted patients to stay home to stay safe. One of my colleagues was pregnant so we sent her home, where she could work remotely and call all remaining patients. Together with the rest of my team we volunteered to be redeployed wherever we were needed. One colleague was delivering prescriptions, another worked in the morgue. Some joined the 'PRONING' teams, which were made up of seven people who would carefully turn patients onto their front in order to improve their breathing. Watching them work was impressive as they moved with military precision to reduce the risk of any lines or tubes being pulled out and, once done, ensuring that the patient wasn't going to get pressure sores from lying in this position for 16+ hours.

I volunteered to work as a nursing assistant on the ITU at Northwick Park Hospital. I was to move to a 12-hour shift pattern alternating days and nights. I was nervous when I got to the donning room as there were so many pieces of kit to put on: two pairs of gloves, a gown, an apron, wipe down shoes or boots, hair net, mask, goggles or visor. My role on the ward was to team up with an ITU trained nurse and help her with personal care, I also completed the observation chart every hour so she and the doctors could see the trends in heart rate, blood pressure and ventilator settings. They trained me to take blood and test it to monitor oxygen levels. I would also alert the nurse to any sudden changes in the patient's condition as well as tell her when intravenous infusions were running low. In addition, I kept the ward fully stocked with needles, syringes, giving sets etc. Due to the large numbers of patients, there was often only one ITU-trained nurse to every four patients. So the need for redeployment of nurses and allied health professionals was vital.

*(The next passage was written before the first lockdown managed to reduce the case-load before the second wave hit and is still very much with us).* Now the numbers of patients have thankfully fallen as the isolation measures have worked, there are far fewer admissions. There are enough nurses to cover the number of patients on ITU so I am being released back to my physiotherapy department. However, the fight is not yet over as I have been helping to plan the rehabilitation pathway for patients after discharge home. For every day on ITU a person loses 3% of their muscle mass and with some patients being on the ward for weeks this can impact their physical function for years to come. In addition, the inflammatory process that happens within the lungs can lead to fibrosis and long-term respiratory issues. With early intervention of exercise however these issues can significantly improve and speed up a person's recovery. Early intervention will also hopefully reduce the number of future visits to GPs, less need for medication and an earlier return to work. We have teamed up with clinical psychology and dieticians to ensure patients get the right treatment when they need it.

I am proud to have played my part in this fight against coronavirus. It has been a very difficult time watching patients be so unwell, seeing my colleagues get stressed and sick. I look forward to the day when I can reopen my department and treat a patient without a mask on.

## 2. New British Musical about the first female doctor

Our **second story** is by **Alice Johnstone** who has been involved as composer and project leader for the launch of a new musical. Alice won her Kitchener Scholarship in 2014 and graduated from the University of Bristol with a music degree in 2017.



I remember the first time I encountered Elizabeth Garrett Anderson: I was listening to endless episodes of **The Guilty Feminist** podcast at my family home in Devon whilst packing a suitcase to move to London in order to start the Teach First Programme. That was over a year ago. Since then, I have qualified as a music teacher. I have also made time to explore the intersection between my two primary passions: music and women's rights. This is how I came to compose 'Ladies First', a musical telling the as yet unsung story of the iconic trailblazer, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson.

With the events of 2020, there's never been a better time to reflect on the history and significance of the UK's healthcare workers. This year has also been an unprecedented time for the arts, with many theatrical productions put on hold and musicians suddenly without work. My hope is that this project will not only highlight the incredible work of healthcare professionals during times of national crisis, but also provide opportunities for people in the arts who have suffered financially in recent months.

Moreover, this project is a call to invest more in exploring the role that women have played and continue to play in the development of the UK's healthcare system. The market is ripe for this: there's a clear gap for telling the lesser-known stories of historically significant women. Elizabeth's tale is fascinating. Her achievements as a trailblazer are both wide-ranging and plentiful, she: became the first qualified female doctor in the UK; was the first woman to enter the British Medical Association (BMA); she was the first female mayor; and, with Sophia Jex Blake, she co-founded the first women's medical school - **The London School of Medicine for Women** - which exists today as part of University College London.

While Elizabeth's achievements are relatively well-known, the struggles she faced in both her personal and professional life are less so. Her resilience and refusal to retreat drew me to her story. The challenges she faced range from the relatable to the now unfathomable. After first convincing her parents to fund and support her career choice (something I am sure many of us can relate to!), she faced rejection and prejudice at every turn. Later, male students' objections at Middlesex Hospital forced her to leave her nursing post where she had been allowed to attend medical lectures. Elizabeth then rejected the proposal of Henry Fawcett, the early love of her life, as she thought she would not be taken seriously as a married woman when applying to medical schools.

This sequence of events all takes place in the first act of 'Ladies First', with the curtain falling as Elizabeth qualifies as a doctor. Yet by this point, we have only scratched the surface of her story. Elizabeth's



journey towards qualification as a doctor was by no means an easy feat and I empathise with her rather meandering career path. After graduating from the University of Bristol with a degree in Music, I moved to Spain to teach English, before returning to the UK to begin training as an accountant. After nearly a year on this programme, I realised that my calling was not in maths but in music.

This realisation happened during an incredibly difficult time for my family. My mum was undergoing cancer treatment. She is my absolute rock; I am in awe of her strength. Throughout her surgery and chemotherapy, she shone with the same determination I found in Elizabeth's story. As much as I was there for her during one of the toughest times in her life, Mum was there for me too: she gave me the idea to write the musical, is my harshest critic and an excellent sounding board - and made sure that I did not give up on my dream.

Researching Elizabeth's life was only one half of the project; composing the musical itself has been a huge undertaking. Whilst scoring Elizabeth's story, I was inspired by numerous brilliant composers, including Toby Marlow ('Six'), Andrew Lloyd Webber ('Evita') and Lin Manuel Miranda ('Hamilton'). Marlow's defiant portrayal of strong female characters drove me to create a musical that featured significant and interesting female leads. Miranda's incredible storytelling through fast and witty lyrics also inspired me to put as much history into this musical as possible - even taking the 1867 House of Commons Debate and turning it into a rap! Since beginning this project, I have managed to track down Elizabeth Garrett Anderson's descendants to tell them about 'Ladies First'. Through writing this musical, I truly feel as if I know Elizabeth and it is important to me that the project has her descendants' blessing.



Alongside a team of incredible and creative people, I am in the process of editing the musical and preparing to apply for funding. If you would like to learn more about the musical or to get involved with the project, please follow us on social media or get in touch using the links below. I anticipate that the final edit of 'Ladies First' will be completed by August 2021. At this time, I also plan to share demo recordings of select songs with publishers and production companies. Any support from the KSA community that can be offered to the project would be gratefully received.

In the long-term, I hope to develop a sequel to 'Ladies First', focusing on the life of Elizabeth's daughter, Louisa. Alongside fellow army surgeon Flora Murray, she was supported by Lord Kitchener to run military hospitals during WWI. As a Kitchener scholar, including Kitchener in a musical work would be amazing given the impact the scholarship has had on my life so far.

Finally, whilst penning this, it's hard to ignore the current climate in which we are operating. Covid-19 has touched the lives of all of us over the past year. However, it has not been a universal experience, particularly for the arts. It is more important than ever that we invest in the industry to ensure that it survives in the short-term. Helping it thrive long into the future means supporting emerging British creatives and grassroots arts projects. The arts have always offered a critical perspective on prevailing social issues; this is not an aspect of our national life that we can afford to lose.

[www.ladiesfirstthemusical.com](http://www.ladiesfirstthemusical.com) (Live from January 2021)

<https://twitter.com/musicalladies?lang=en>

[https://www.instagram.com/ladies\\_first\\_the\\_musical/](https://www.instagram.com/ladies_first_the_musical/)  
[ladiesfirstthemusical@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesfirstthemusical@gmail.com)

### 3. Erasmus exchange – a wonderful experience

*Our third story is by Grace Girling about her experiences in Sweden in the Erasmus programme:*

Last August I nervously got on a flight at Edinburgh Airport bound for Copenhagen. From there I got directed to the train that took me across the Oresund Bridge into the south of Sweden. Like any new experience, I was worried by the thought of being immersed in a completely different environment where I did not speak the main language and knew no one. However, the view from the train gave me a great feeling about what my Erasmus exchange had in store for me.

Much to my surprise, the weather in Lund was similar to that on the Mediterranean. Unfortunately, I packed relatively few suitable clothes in the one suitcase I was initially able to bring. Apart from this, the good weather added to the surreal experience presented by the orientation weeks where I, along with the other exchange students, got to take part in many Swedish traditions. These included Kubb, also known as Viking chess, as well as delayed midsummer celebrations. In true Scandinavian fashion I made my way around my new surroundings by cycling on an old bike, something I have tried to continue now I am back home. The good weather disappeared quickly and became, as I had expected, dark and cold. However, this did not stop me from enjoying my new surroundings.

Beginner classes in Swedish enabled me to learn some basics of the language, although I found daily activities made it much easier to pick up certain words and phrases. Eager to get involved in the lifestyle that Lund University students enjoy, I joined one of its biggest student unions, or nations as they are called. Västgöta Nation was full of friendly faces and, like the twelve other nations, hosted daily events from brunches to ping pong nights. This way of student life was quite different to what I have experienced in Edinburgh, but by volunteering to work at the events I met a range of interesting and kind people from both Sweden and abroad.

Along with other Erasmus students I met during my time there, I was lucky enough to take part in a variety of trips. These ranged from weekend trips in nearby cities to visiting the North Pole and swimming in the Arctic Sea, which is not something I initially had on my bucket list.

Aside from all of the social activities, I made certain not to forget I was predominantly there to study. Experiencing new learning and teaching styles is an invaluable experience and a large part of what makes the Erasmus exchange so special. The smaller class sizes and intimate teaching was something I found particularly helpful. Not only this, but I was introduced to a wider range of subject areas due to the different structure followed by Lund University. Lund's semester is split up into two teaching blocks, each one lasting around 4-8 weeks where I was required to take two courses in each block. This was quite different to Edinburgh's semester where I would be required to attend 3 different classes over the whole semester. Therefore, I was able to vary my studies, including Swedish language classes, project management and Sweden's economic history alongside my compulsory classes in areas such as international business, industrial organisation and macroeconomics. I found that the different structure allowed me to focus on continuous studying and assessment, which greatly facilitated my learning process. Engaging with the lecturers within and after class encouraged me to go into further depth when studying and applying what I was learning to real life scenarios. A particular highlight was being able to participate in a discussion with an economic analyst from the European Commission about her career path and the work in which she has been involved regarding antitrust, an interesting area for me.

One of my academic objectives is to improve my presentation skills and confidence when speaking to others. Lund University's Economics and Management School places great emphasis on presentations and group work, the right tools to work towards this objective. Many interesting innovations have emerged from Sweden and this allowed for interesting talks from guest speakers working at companies such as Sony Ericsson and Tetra Pak. Overall, I believe the opportunity to study in a new country and at a faculty with a very different system has hugely benefited my education and learning techniques. So far during my final year of university, I have felt an enhanced work ethic and confidence in my new abilities brought about by my experiences in Lund.



**Lund University's Main Library**

Finally, Sweden lived up to expectations as a forerunner in sustainability. As a vegetarian, it was intriguing to see the variety of different foods both in supermarkets and hospitality venues. Innovative vegan food producer, Oatly, was formed using research from Lund University and so extensive ranges of dairy-alternative products such as milk and ice cream to crème fraiche could be found. Sweden's approach to recycling and their depository scheme, known as pant, was also intriguing and something I hope to see introduced into UK soon.

Overall, my Erasmus exchange, although not too far from home, allowed me to be introduced to myriad new aspects of life and people. Unfortunately, as most aspects of life were, my experience was affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Seeing the events unfold both in the UK and Sweden, although the two countries both took very different approaches to handling the pandemic, led to my decision to come home and be with my family. Despite this, I am still grateful to have rich experiences to look back on and very much value the time I spent in Sweden. Unfortunately, the future of the UK's student exchanges internationally is not yet clear following Brexit; however, I strongly urge everyone to find the opportunity to study abroad as it is an amazing adventure.

### **Books about Lord Kitchener**

We list below a selection of books from a large library on his life and work and reflecting a man of his time in an imperial age and a great military leader. Recent controversy about chapters in our national history makes it important to understand the context in which people such as Lord Kitchener operated:

Life of Lord Kitchener (Three volumes in one) by George Arthur- *a contemporary account by his secretary*

The Kitchener Memorial Book- *illustrated and published in 1920*

Kitchener Portrait of an Imperialist by Philip Magnus- *available in Kindle*

Kitchener: Architect of Victory by George H Cassar- *among many books by a US professor of military history*

Kitchener by John Pollock- *a double volume with a Kindle edition*

## Developments at the LKNMF during 2020

2020 can best be described as a challenge for all involved in running organisations. Restriction of movement and the impossibility of face-to-face meetings has required quite a bit of innovation. The LKNMF continued to deliver its core aims and to do this was required to think 'out of the box' and adapt to achieve its goals. The Fund also felt very sympathetic towards existing Kitchener scholars and the new crop of applications. The frustrations of students in their final year, changes to exams and their results, delays in dates and the like must have made the current scholars and candidates wonder what the future might hold until the pandemic ceases and even then what permanent changes in working practices will occur.

If there were any winners under Covid-19, if I can use that phrase, it is the technology market. MS Teams, FaceTime and Zoom to name a few platforms came to the forefront and the Fund decided early on that we would need to accept and embrace this element of technology if we wanted to move forward.

All meetings were rearranged for remote access and at the AGM in November it was agreed by all that even with the restrictions imposed, this online approach had been a success. Remote access was also required for all interviews which this year necessitated arranging 13 panels. One advantage of this was that we could interview candidates in their home location - the USA, Philippines, Jordan, Portugal and - of course - UK were "visited" by the panels. Thanks go out to all those Council members who supported us and also to a handful of KSA committee members who also assisted in the interview process.

The President, Lady Emma Kitchener, was delighted to report that the Fund continues to meet its aims and objectives and was able again to offer scholarships to children of serving and retired forces personnel. 53 candidates were called forward for interviews with 21 of these ultimately offered a Kitchener Scholarship.

The Fund, through judicial adjustment of its finances, was able to weather the financial issues caused by Covid-19 and has the ability to operate successfully for the next 18 months within its reserves, thus allowing the markets time to recover. The trustees were also able to report that they have increased the scholarship to £1500.00 per KS and further hope that with financial recovery in the future, it is planned to review its commitments to fund a higher level of a post-graduate award. Some more work will be required on this over the next 18 months by the scholarship committee.

Following discussion of a 'Business Plan' with colleagues at the KSA, the Council has decided to provide enhanced financial support to the KSA within their five-year budget plan, thus allowing the KSA to establish itself financially as a self-sustaining organisation and to create a network of scholars that will add sustainability to the Kitchener community. The Council has also recognised the work of the secretariat on improving record-keeping and the database again to support long term sustainability. David Hamilton hands over a much-improved legacy in this area.

The President is delighted that even in these uncertain times both the LKNMF and the KSA committee are working hard to deliver on their objectives. She wishes to pass on her personal thanks to all those involved for their commitment and the sacrifices they have made, especially in these difficult times to ensure success.

Mervyn Bassett,  
LKNMF Secretary

## Forward planning for the KSA

In order to support discussions with the LKNMF, as mentioned in the previous article, the KSA committee decided at the beginning of 2020 to prepare a 'Business Plan' and consider those aspects of its activities that should be emphasised over the next three to five years. This would allow it to achieve greater network engagement with its members and re-connect with past Scholars. By working more closely with the LKNMF it could help both organisations build a network capable of generating a contribution towards sustainable funding for future scholarships.

The KSA is the alumni organisation for recipients of scholarships granted by the LKNMF. Scholars join the association for an annual fee at the time they receive their scholarship. Recipients of Kitchener Scholarships are known to the LKNMF, but have little direct connection between themselves, reading different subjects at different universities and colleges in different years. Members may, however, take advantage of a range of activities and networking opportunities, which may enrich their student experience.

The KSA has taken great strides in recent years to better engage Scholars in a community throughout their lives. This now forms a key tenet of the KSA committee's work. The association has recently updated and revised its rules, which are in the course of adoption. These include a new set of objects and these are set out below.

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

The 'Business Plan' was completed in February 2020 and envisages a number of ways in which the KSA can continue to build up its activities and growing subscription base but also benefit from an element of additional funding from LKNMF. So, the KSA will focus on increasing engagement with Kitchener Scholars, starting with their first interaction with the Association, when they receive their scholarship certificate and continuing from that point over their life-cycle. Attention needs to be focused on the 3 phases: 1. early phases of a scholar's Kitchener experience; university, graduation and early career; 2. the middle years often an intense phase in both a career and personal sense; and the later years, when pro-bono pursuits may spring to mind.

The KSA is also planning to complement the current portfolio of social and ceremonial events by organising events of a wider vocational, educational and cultural nature for the benefit of scholars of all generations.



# The Kitchener Scholars Association (KSA) Annual General Meeting – 21 January 2021

Chair Susan Saunders welcomed attendees and expressed her gratitude to the Committee and many members of the KSA community for their achievements in a challenging year. She expressed the hope that things might open up later in the year, but given the present uncertainty this year's dinner is cancelled, and although we have a date for the St Paul's Cathedral Commemoration Service, it is not certain to take place. An announcement will be made in due course.

2022 is the centenary of the Association's formation and Susan is working with committee and in liaison with the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund (LKNMF) to create a really interesting and memorable programme of activities, including a Gala Dinner, some more informal events, and potentially a lecture and/or cultural event.

Reporting on activities during the past 12 months Susan referred to her Chair's Message appearing in the newsletter to be published before the end of January 2021. She highlighted that the Committee had reviewed the subject of diversity and inclusion and is now supporting the LKNMF in promoting greater diversity among recipients of Kitchener Scholarships.

The Treasurer John Ryder presented the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2021, which were adopted. The financial position of the KSA reflected a small deficit for the year but an adequate level of liquidity, nevertheless a situation that would clearly benefit from the support of LKNMF described above and also action to encourage members to pay the full subscription of £20 p.a. The Chair commented that the situation of such subscription underpayments will be tackled in a sensitive but business-like way in the months ahead. She also stressed that the KSA recognises that such demands put an onus on the Association to deliver good value and well appreciated opportunities for members. The Treasurer added that the current year would be one of modest surplus given the lack of face-to-face events, but the centenary year will require careful planning and represent a major opportunity to celebrate success and the excellent future prospects for our community.

It was announced that the KSA Secretary, Lt Col David Hamilton MBE is standing down for health reasons; Susan paid tribute to the extraordinary dedication of David in managing the affairs of the Association since he relinquished the secretary role at the LKNMF and concentrated tirelessly on building a sound administrative base for the KSA. Susan reported that we would continue to benefit from the services of David, in which he will be providing support to the new Secretary Neal Clifton and LKNMF Secretary Mervyn Bassett; a highly valued 'triumvirate'.

Coming to the elections, the AGM re-elected Susan as Chair for a further year.

The two current joint Vice-Chairs, Tracey Campbell and Jim Watson, had announced their intention to stand down. Susan thanked both Tracey and Jim very much for their years of service in the office. Tracey will continue to be a point of liaison for Kitchener European Scholars, and Jim offered himself for election as a continuing committee member and was duly elected. Kathryn Pritchard and Charles Bryant were elected as the new joint vice-chairs - Kathryn will focus on current scholars and Charles on the newsletter and careers' panel. David Hamilton was elected to the Committee in order to continue to provide support and advice. The line-up of the officers and committee is listed in a section below.

Finally, the AGM unanimously passed a resolution to adopt a revised and updated set of Rules of the Association which had been shared, reviewed and completed over the past two years. Members may access these by going to the top of the Home Page of the KSA website and clicking on 'Rules of the KSA'.

## Diversity and Inclusion – please get involved asks Kathryn Pritchard, Vice-Chair

There is a great privilege inherent in receiving a Kitchener Scholarship. It provides not only valuable financial support but also brings an unrivalled network of interesting contacts in higher education and on into the working world.

We have recently offered to support the Trustees of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund in ensuring that a more diverse cohort within the military community becomes aware of the Kitchener Scholarships programme.

You can help. We know that many of you will have been having conversations about diversity and inclusion in your own workplaces and networks. If you have feedback, ideas or pragmatic suggestions for action we could perhaps be taking as an Association and that we could realistically try and deliver, then please do reach out to us. We could build on this to create a network of voluntary outreach officers.

Please contact us at [secretary@kitchenerscholars.org](mailto:secretary@kitchenerscholars.org)

## Introducing Neal Clifton – the new Secretary of the KSA

Following Lt Col David Hamilton's retirement from the role, Neal Clifton has taken over as Secretary of the KSA, though we (and especially Neal!) are delighted that David will continue as Assistant Secretary and maintain the database for the time being.

Neal was awarded his scholarship in 1976 reading French and Spanish at Durham University. After completing his PGCE at Oxford (having been unsuccessful in securing a place there as an undergraduate!) Neal taught languages in two grammar schools in Kent and for the last 12 years has worked in supply teaching with the full range from reception class to very tall teenagers. Neal is also an examiner for Cambridge International Examinations and a Senior Examiner for AQA GCSE French. He is a magistrate in North Kent and a Licensed Lay Minister in the Diocese of Rochester. He is married with three daughters, the eldest of whom is in her first year at Birmingham - so he has some understanding of what undergraduate life is like at the moment.

Neal has fairly recently returned to the KSA fold after years in the wilderness and joined the committee after light persuasion and much encouragement from Jim Rothwell, another of its members! Neal is very much looking forward to when we can have a full range of events again and is immensely grateful for the support from all the Committee and especially Lt Col Mervyn Bassett and Lt Col David Hamilton. Neal looks forward to working closely with Mervyn given the close and increasing cooperation between the two arms of the Kitchener community.



## Kitchener Scholars 2020

Surname	First Name	Subject	Institution
Blackwell	Abigail	Economics & Innovation	University of Bristol
Clements	James	Biochemistry	University of Bristol
Coates	Bailey	Law	London School of Economics
Coltart	Nathan	Chemistry	Wadham College, Oxford
Cottrill	Amy	English Literature & History	Lancaster University
Henwood	Georgina	Philosophy, Politics & Economics with Mandarin	Cardiff University
Jackson	Alexandra	International Relations	Durham University
Mackintosh	Charlie	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	New College, Oxford
Mentzel	Hetty	English Literature	Durham University
Musselwhite	Jack	Chemistry	Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Orr	Isabelle	Geography	Durham University
Orr	Sophia	Environmental Science & Geoscience	Durham University
O'Smotherly	Sophie-Marie	English	Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge
Richards	Scarlett	Sociology	Newcastle University
Skipworth	Hector	Earth Sciences	St Edmund Hall, Oxford
Smeaton	Benjamin	Medicine	St George's, University of London
Spence	Evelyn	Sports Business Management	Leeds Beckett University
Spring	Charlotte	Medicine (plus Intercalation)	Brighton & Sussex Medical School
Spring	Isabelle	Biology	University of Bristol
Tindal	Charles	Physics	Exeter College, Oxford
Ward	Liam	Medicine & Surgery	Newcastle University

### Your KSA Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Susan Saunders
<b>Joint Vice-Chairs</b>	Charles Bryant & Kathryn Pritchard
<b>Secretary</b>	Neal Clifton
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	David Hamilton
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Ryder
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Charles Bryant
<b>Website</b>	Sara Thornton
<b>Social Media</b>	Holly Collins & Ruairidh Cumming
<b>Committee Members</b>	Jim Rothwell & Jim Watson

### Merchandise

*The merchandise section of the website has recently been updated - here you will find a selection of 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](http://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/>