



January 2024 e-newsletter

This is the first e-newsletter of 2024 for the QMU Association, and we would like to wish you all a good 2024. It will be 110 years since the inception of the association this year and we hope to have an open day event to celebrate this in the warmer months. It would be marvellous if as many of you as possible could attend so we can catch up with each other and meet old friends.

Since the summer newsletter we have enjoyed several coffee get-togethers, with attendances varying in number from 8 – 14. Elaine and Claire do a sterling job reminding us of the venues and also any interesting exhibitions and events that are occurring that we can visit as well. The most recent one was yesterday at the Portrait gallery in Queen Street with two new people joining us along with several of the usual group. The exhibition Making Space, photography in architecture and had photographs of some very different spaces, including old close's in Glasgow and an amazing interior of a space in San Francisco.

Our next meeting is at the Edinburgh City Art centre on February 12th at 11 am.

This year we were unable to have a Christmas Lunch cooked and served by the students at ENTCS due to changes in curriculum delivery, so instead a lunch was arranged at the Royal Scots Club in Abercromby Place. Numbers were slightly restricted as we were not sure how many people would wish to join us, and we ended up having to turn people away from this event although Elaine did have a waiting list!



Sir Paul and Thomas (Development office) very kindly funded a glass of fizz to start the event then we all had a two course lunch with much chat, and laughter. If it proves possible we can try to book a slightly bigger room next year and

hopefully have more of you attend.

There will be a Spring dinner at ENTCS as usual and we would encourage you all to consider attending as these are very well done by the students. The date for your diary is 26th March.

Madras lodge

The new heating and decorating of the properties has been very positively received by guests who stayed this last year, and we are closing the Lodge for a week commencing 18th March to undertake further maintenance and refurbishment. The treasurer is now able to see exactly the costs of running the



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NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND



property and this has given us a little cause for concern as we currently are just breaking even with the level of bookings last year, which was 144 days in total over the two properties. This does not give us any flexibility in terms of funding minor repairs or other expenditure and the committee is considering ways in which we can increase the use of the properties whilst staying within the terms of the conditions of Miss White's will. However, as we all in the association are part-owners of the property can we encourage you to consider booking a short stay (3 nights) or longer over the full year. Why not have a break here at Easter, or consider staying the week of the Gullane Food festival (early April) or perhaps plan a different Christmas and New Year in 2024 staying at the property.

Booking rates are very reasonable in relation to others in the area, for example a 2 bedroom cottage in Gullane costs £195 per night, the House is £110 sleeping 5.

<https://sites.google.com/site/madraslodge/home>

As always we are delighted to have members who wish to join the committee, we meet 4 times a year plus the AGM and would be pleased to hear from anyone who might wish to help us. Perhaps you have contact with friends who might also like to consider joining the Association, if so please give them the website address, qmugraduateassociation.com

The Association has a generic e-mail qmugradass@outlook.com if you wish to send us suggestions or comments.

Best wishes

Lindesay (on behalf of the committee)