

QMUA Winter 2025 Newsletter

Dates for the diary – a quick reminder of our get together dates for early 2026.

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| 6 January 2026
10 am | Coffee at the Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD
Possible viewing of the collection and/or exhibition |
| 3 February 2026 | Lunch: Leonardo Hotel Edinburgh Murrayfield (previously The Fox Covert Hotel at Clermiston QMU Clerwood campus (what's left of it) visit. Meet with colleagues to visit our institution's second location, Clerwood Terrace and hear fond memories from members. Please let Carol know if you intend to join us as she needs to book lunch space – cbrennan@qmu.ac.uk Deadline 12 th January. |
| 3 March 2026 | 7.00pm Student-led dinner at Edinburgh New Town Cookery School details to follow |
| 5 May 2026 | Coffee: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Meet at the East Gate coffee shop. There will be an informal tour of the garden and the opportunity for lunch at the West Gate café. |
| 5 June 2026 | 2.00pm Annual General Meeting at Queen Margaret University Board Room. Following the meeting, there will be an opportunity for a tour of the QMU campus. |

Time has been marching on, and it does not feel like that long ago that the summer newsletter came out. However, this maybe because we have been rather busy as an Association.

Madras lodge and its chimney stack – we are very pleased to say that finally the chimney stack has been rebuilt and reharled and painted. Midlothian Roofing did a marvellous job, with the stonemason fitting in the work around bookings so guests were not disturbed too much. We plan to have the rest of the external paintwork done in 2026, commencing with the guttering – which is in a rather poor state. This will

be done in stages as it is a large job. Bookings remain steady for the properties so please do book early if you wish special dates – this link takes you to the appropriate site

[https://booking-directly.com/widgets/sT0SeiALIfgPhqYBHJMg8wWrWArdd8BgoR8CPw59ywgX5hTlzbetJiRgmadfp/properties/unit-selection?search_stay_dates={%22checkInDate%22:%222025-12-11%22,%22checkOutDate%22:%222025-12-13%22}&search_occupancies={%22numberOfAdults%22:4,%22children%22:\[\]}}](https://booking-directly.com/widgets/sT0SeiALIfgPhqYBHJMg8wWrWArdd8BgoR8CPw59ywgX5hTlzbetJiRgmadfp/properties/unit-selection?search_stay_dates={%22checkInDate%22:%222025-12-11%22,%22checkOutDate%22:%222025-12-13%22}&search_occupancies={%22numberOfAdults%22:4,%22children%22:[]}})

The great 150 lunch event:

This event went extremely well with people from as far away as Australia

joining us. All 4 iterations of QMU were represented (ECDS, QMC, QMUC and QMU.) and Cely Young decorated and made cakes to meet all tastes.

If we judge the event by noise levels it was highly successful and we had to usher stragglers out at the end of the afternoon! We had the video's of the



opening of the campus at Corstorphine running along with films of students in action at ECDS.

A tour at the new campus was given on the Sunday – which was extremely interesting, allowing us to see the new public artwork, the award winning outdoor learning hub and the amazing totally restyled learning resource centre (otherwise known as the library).

The coffee get-togethers have been well attended with coffee at Palmerston followed by a walk around the Atholl Crescent site ably lead by several former students from there. The reminiscences of experiences were fascinating, and it would appear students haven't changed in terms of nefarious behaviours! The following month we had



an excellent visit to Newhailes House, with a special guided tour for our group. We were delighted that several members who don't normally join us were there, and several purchases of Christmas

cards and other items were bought from the NTS shop.



Finally we ended this year with the annual Christmas lunch at the Royal Scots club on 2nd December. Excellent food, lovely décor and our thanks to Thomas and the development office for funding the drinks receptions at our events this year.

As part of the role of President I attended several services at St Giles, joined by some members including Katrina Balmer(current Boxmaster of Incorporated trades of Edinburgh <https://edinburghtrades.co.uk>) Joe Goldblatt and Claire Seaman. As an institution QMU has a strong presence at these events which is extremely encouraging. I also attended the annual Universities Remembrance service at Old College, where the weather reflected that of the first world war – cold and raining.



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Please do come to the AGM, and perhaps offer your support as part of the committee or similar. It was sad to hear that Edinburgh University Graduates association has in fact disbanded due to lack of support so we do need to keep our numbers up. If you know of people who might like to join the QMUA here is the link to our website www.qmugraduateassociation.com

All the best for 2026 and we hope to see you at some point during the year at an event.

Lindesay