

QMUA Summer 2025 newsletter

Summer seems to be unsure of whether it will be sunny or rainy! Those gardeners amongst us will be pleased we have had some rain but a bit more warmth would be welcome. Since the Spring newsletter we have had our **March dinner at ENTCS** hosted by the Hospitality students. This year's theme was Bridgerton, and as always the students excelled in the menu development and décor. A great group of people



attended including several other students from earlier years, parents and a wide range of Association members.

As in other years Sir Paul and the development office generously serious business of eating started. As this is now the only student catered event each year we would encourage you to support it by attending. The date is usually towards the end of March.



As reported earlier, the **front chimney stack** at Madras Lodge required rebuilt due to water ingress and damage. We finally received planning permission at the end of June and work will commence in August. The properties continue to be popular for bookings and several new guests have been to stay. Comments from them regarding how wonderful and relaxing it is, and how much they enjoyed their stays is very encouraging for those involved in the maintenance and on going management of the Lodge. We would encourage those of you who stay to remember how quiet the environment is and that sounds travels quite far on balmy summer evenings so to be aware of respecting the neighbours locally. Finally the new recycling store has improved our recycling rates which is most pleasing, and thank you to those dealing with this.



The AGM on 6th June was a positive event with committee members changing roles, Carol Brennan becoming Social co-ordinator, and Gemma Blackledge – Foughali being membership secretary.

Disappointingly we only had 7 people attend the AGM, please do try to come as this is how we can keep the Association current and progressing. Next years event will be Friday 5th June at QMU. Parking is available and there are several buses, and of course, the train.

Our hosting of the Great 150 lunch event on 27th September is going well, if you haven't yet booked or encouraged you friends to join us please do. We will shortly be moving to a waiting list as numbers increase. Contact claire_seaman@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

Finally, as president, I represented the QMUA at graduation on the 7th and 8th July. This memorable event in the 150th year of QMU saw the inauguration of the new Chancellor: Patrick Grant. Best known as a judge on the Great British Sewing Bee, Patrick has also set up a social enterprise <https://communityclothing.co.uk> to maintain and develop textile and clothing manufacturing in the UK, whilst offering employment in areas of limited employment opportunities. Four Honorary Doctorates were also awarded – Carol Rogers, Forensic scientist, Ashley Jensen (Actor), Shona McCarthy (Former Executive Director of Edinburgh Fringe festival), and Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne, founder of Genius foods.

All gave inspiring and motivating speeches to the 2025 graduates.

<https://www.qmu.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2025/202577-british-sewing-bee-judge-installed-as-chancellor-and-forensic-scientist-honoured-at-qmu-graduation-ceremony>

<https://www.qmu.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2025/202578-honorary-degrees-for-actress-food-entrepreneur-and-cultural-leader-at-qmu-graduation>

Just as I was about to distribute this newsletter, I was informed the University of Edinburgh Graduate Association is holding an Extraordinary general meeting with the proposal to wind up their Association due to lack of support and finances. This is very sad news and we should be aware of the challenges we have to remain a viable Association.

On behalf of the QMUA committee I hope you all have an enjoyable summer, and look forward to catching up at our coffee and visit events from September 2025.

Best wishes

Lindesay

www.qmugraduateassociation.com