



Hello and welcome to the final e-newsletter for 2022.

Things have been moving on apace recently in the Association, with the coffee get-togethers recommencing in autumn. A particular highlight was the get-together at Dovecot Studio's where we had coffee then a visit to the marvellous exhibition there

Knitwear in fashion. This explored knitwear as a fashion item from the early 1900's up to today. Many of us could recall some of the knitwear on display and also were amazed at the skill of the Fair Isle knitters. Similarly it was interesting to see some of the fashions for other areas of Europe on display along with designer garments from Chanel and



Schiaparelli.



Some of us even admitted to having one or two similar garments in

our youth from the 1960's.

The most current knitwear was available to purchase in the shop and the knitters among us were intrigued by the patterns such as the laced back in this garment below.



It was agreed that linking the coffee get-togethers with an activity was very successful so our next one is January 10<sup>th</sup> 11.00am at the National Museum of Scotland - meeting in the Atrium coffee area, followed if wished by a visit to the Bernat Klein design exhibition. A Serbian-born textile designer, Klein settled in the Scottish Borders after the Second World War, setting up a textile business in Galashiels which would go on to supply his innovative fabrics to some of Europe's top fashion houses. We will have an on-line Zoom get-together in February. Watch out for the details

in the regular e-mails from Claire the membership secretary.



**Madras lodge update :** as many of you will know there have been on-going issues with drains at Madras lodge for over 4 years. We are very happy to be able to report that after extensive work, about 2 metres of tree root were removed from the shared sewer pipes in the grounds of Seaforth – the house next door – and the pipes resealed to prevent further ingress of roots. This has now removed all drainage smells in the house bathroom, however, as the drains date from 1890's we do need to be careful about what is washed down the sinks and toilets, so signage has been put up to remind us all of the appropriate materials. Namely, only toilet paper and water!

As many of you who attended the AGM will know, we are embarking on a slightly Covid delayed refurbishment of both properties which requires the properties to be closed to bookings for 3 months, January to March. During this period heating systems in both properties will be replaced and some upgrading of the electrical systems will be undertaken as these are now non-compliant with current legislation. We have taken advice from heating engineers as to the most cost effective and controllable systems to use and these will be installed. Following this work, we will be upgrading and decorating the properties one room at a time. We hope to be able to improve the insulation and make the properties more sustainable in their use of resources.

This work will require us to do some relocating of furniture with non-fire regulation compliant pieces being replaced, there will also be rationalisation of crockery etc.

If anyone wishes to assist either by joining working parties, or by offering support in other ways we will be sending out regular e-mail updates as to progress. We would hope to have an open house event later in the Spring to offer you all the chance to see the work undertaken so far. As always we rely on the goodwill of volunteers who work on the committees and we would be happy to discuss how the committees work with anyone who might be interested in joining us to support the continuing success of the Association and Madras Lodge.

We will shortly be posting on the website a short history of Madras lodge since its construction between 1890 and 1906. We have gained some very interesting insights into the building which you might be interested to learn about.

**Links with QMU-** Sir Paul Grice (Principal) is extremely interested in the Association and its work, and is keen to have a better working relationship with us. To this end I, and Julie (Convenor Madras lodge) are meeting with him in January to discuss ways in which we can work together to ensure the on-going viability of the association and Madras Lodge. I have regular meetings with Thomas Kelly who heads the Alumni department at QMU, and we hope to work together in the future to hold joint events.

**Social events:** we held our Christmas lunch on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, at ENTCS. This was cooked



and served by a small group of Year 1 Hospitality students as part of their assessed work. It was well attended by members, and we will have our spring dinner in March, again the theme is chosen by the students and then cooked and served by them. We feel it is very important to support the students by giving them the opportunity to undertake these activities in a 'real' situation so please do come along and support them if you can. These are most enjoyable events with a chance to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Claire

(membership secretary) will send out the invitation and details nearer the time. If you think hear of people in the association not receiving e-mails from Claire please do contact encourage them to contact her. [claire\\_seaman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:claire_seaman@hotmail.co.uk)

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all an enjoyable festive season, and hope you will join us for some of the events in 2023. With all best wishes

Lindesay ( President)