



QE(K)A

2024

ENVOY



Published by Queen Elizabeth (Kensington) Association

EDITORIAL

Welcome to ENVOY 2024 and a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to it. Since last year we have received many items of precious memorabilia from Prof. Neville Marsh who has been nurturing them since completing his book on the History of QEC. Hopefully these will provide inspiration for many articles in future Envoys and for our web site. We kick off with a fascinating article by Neville on three of his favourite items, including the College flag. We also hear about how our College is linked (somewhat tenuously) with Fairytale castles and the development of smallpox inoculation.



I hope you all enjoy! Please keep in touch. We would love to hear from anyone about their own memories of the College - or any other subject that you are interested in - whether just a couple of lines or a full article.

Lyn Embling (née Rigby), Physics, 1972-1978

**DEADLINE FOR ENVOY 2025:
30 June 2025**

CONTENTS

Chairman's Report - Paul Ogden	3
QE(K)A Reunion and AGM 2024	4
Guest Speaker for 2024 Reunion: Baroness Kay Swinburne	5
QE(K)A Reunion and AGM 7 October 2023	6
My Journey in Fetal Medicine, talk by Prof Kypros Nicolaidis <i>Reported by Dr Claire Thomas</i>	8
Gems from the Archives – by Prof Neville Marsh	13
QEC Biochemistry (1970-73) 50 Year Reunion - by David Tyrrell	26
From QEC to Fairytale Castles - by Lyn Embling	30
Lady Mary Montague - by Lyn Embling	42
Obituaries	50
KCLA Report - by Paul Ogden	59
QE(K)A Data Privacy Policy	59
Contacts	60

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Paul Ogden,
Chemistry 1984-87*



Sadly I missed the 2023 reunion owing to an early seasonal ‘flu’ infection. But from the feedback that I’ve received it sounds like it was another very successful one.

It goes without saying that our reunion always relies upon the hard work of the executive, but this year I must say a special thank you to Prof. Seamus Higson who stood in at very short notice to chair the AGM and MC the lecture.



*Prof Seamus Higson standing in for the
Chairman and thanking Prof Nicolaides.*

Photo by Gary Thomas

Away from the reunion many thanks also go to Lyn Embling who continues to produce the fantastic Envoy magazine. This year she has also become our *de facto* archivist having received many fascinating QEC memorabilia items from Professor Neville Marsh in Australia. We look forward to seeing some of these at future reunions.

See Neville Marsh’s article on ‘Gems of the Archives’ (page 13) to read about just a few of the treasures he has sent - including the QEC Flag shown on the front cover

QE(K)A
ANNUAL REUNION AND AGM

Saturday 5th October, 2024

King's College London, Strand Campus



Our Guest Speaker,

**BARONESS
KAY SWINBURNE**

QEC/KCL Biochemistry &

Microbiology graduate

will be speaking on

FROM RURAL ROOTS TO THE REALM:

A JOURNEY THROUGH SCIENCE, FINANCE AND POLITICS

10.30 Tea/Coffee (Old Committee Room)

11.30 Reunion Lecture (Council Room)

12.30 AGM (Council Room)

13.00 Buffet Lunch (River Room)

15.00 Close

Please book before Friday 6th September 2024. Bookings may be made on-line or by post. Please send payment of £38 per person and provide your name (including maiden name if applicable), course, and years at College.

By Post — send a cheque payable to 'QUEEN ELIZABETH KINGS COLLEGE, to Barbara McLennan, QE(K)A Treasurer, Gable End, 6 Clifford Grove, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 2JT.

On-line — please pay 'QUEEN ELIZABETH KINGS COLLEGE', sort code 30-94-42, account number 25959963 and e-mail relevant information to barbarajmcl@hotmail.com and qeka.mem.sec@gmail.com when payment has been made.

Our Guest Speaker for the

2024 Reunion:

**BARONESS
KAY SWINBURNE**



Kay Swinburne (née Jones) was born in Aberystwyth (1967) and was raised in Llandysul in the County of Ceredigion. She is a native Welsh speaker.

Kay is a graduate of King's College London where she attained a Joint Honours degree in Biochemistry & Microbiology followed by a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. She also has an MBA from the University of Surrey. She has had a successful career in financial services prior and post being elected to the European Parliament in 2009 as an MEP for Wales and recently served as a HMG Minister.

Whilst a Member of European Parliament (2009-2019), she was a leading EU legislator serving as Vice Chair of the Economics and Monetary Affairs Committee, shaping EU and global financial services legislation. Her background in Investment Banking and managing a Biotech hedge fund, stood her in good stead as a legislator of financial services, post the financial crisis of 2008.

On leaving elected office in 2019, Kay became Vice Chair of KPMG UK's Financial Services practice and Chair of the EMA Risk & Regulatory Insight Centre. She is an active voice in the financial markets and has led special projects on financial regulation – including Fintech, UK competitiveness and capital market infrastructure as well as ESG issues.

Kay, is the former Chair of the International Regulatory Strategy Group, (one of the most influential regulatory and strategy cross-sectional groups in Europe), and a founding member of the UK Capital Markets Industry Taskforce, (an industry-led group that aims to support wider regulatory reform and the international position of the UK capital markets), and was also a member of the Financial Conduct Authority's Secondary Markets Advisory Committee (which helps develop reforms that improve market competition, increase consumer protection and enhance the integrity of markets), and chaired the Kalifa Review's Policy and Regulatory chapter into UK Fintech competitiveness.

Baroness Swinburne entered the House of Lords as a Peer and Government Whip (Baroness in Waiting) in June 2023 and recently as Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

QE(K)A Reunion and AGM

7th October 2023, King's College, Strand



*Catching up with
old friends over coffee*





Enjoying a calorific lunch



Photos by our Web Master Gary Thomas — except when he was caught in action:

For more photos of the reunion, see our web site www.qeca.org.uk



QE(K)A reunion, 7th October 2023

MY JOURNEY IN FETAL MEDICINE

PROF. KYPROS NICOLAIDES

Professor of Fetal Medicine at King's

Reported by Dr Claire Thomas

*Director of Infection Prevention and Control,
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital*

We were very lucky to have Professor Kypros Nicolaides FRCOG, to give the Annual lecture, at the AGM and yearly Reunion of the QEC alumni, in 2023. He is Professor of Fetal medicine at Kings College Hospital, London, appointed 1992.

Amongst many honours, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, USA, in 2020, for his work 'Improving the care of pregnant women worldwide, with pioneering rigorous and creative approaches, making seminal contributions to prenatal diagnosis, and every major obstetrical disorder'.



<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/>

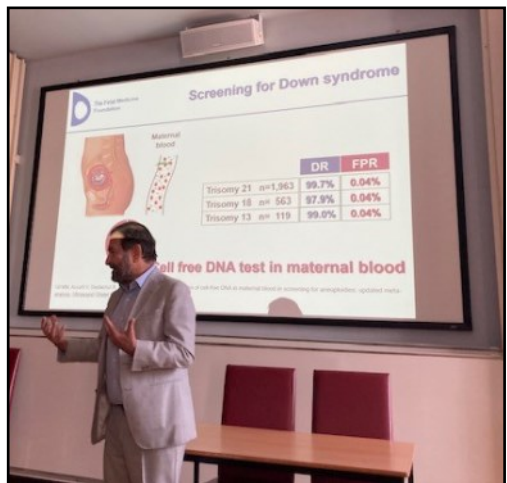
He studied Biochemistry and Physiology at QEC, (now Kings College), and Medicine at Kings College, graduating in 1978. His interest in fetal medicine led to him studying under Professor Rodeck, and developing research papers on fetoscopic techniques. He gained his MRCOG in obstetrics and gynaecology.

He is director of the Harris Birthright Research Centre for Fetal Medicine, appointed in 1986, and has authored over 1500 peer reviewed papers, and over 30 books .

He is Founder and Chairman of the Fetal Medicine Foundation Charity, set up in 1995 to promote research and training in fetal medicine worldwide. More than £45,000,000 have been donated to finance the training of doctors from all over the world and to carry out major multicentre studies.

Professor Nicolaides described how he became interested in fetal medicine, and worked closely with Professor Stuart Campbell, looking initially at Rhesus factor in antenatal medicine, and then at the early detection of Downs syndrome, with scanning in utero.

He described that usually the diagnosis of Downs was made by an invasive procedure, amniocentesis, which carries a risk to both baby and the mother. By using ultrasound, he was able to demonstrate that one could accurately predict the likelihood of Downs within twelve weeks, using nuchal translucency; published after 100,000 scans, in 1992; BMJ; Nicolaides et al, Fetal Nuchal Translucency.



From his and his team's work, in the Fetal Medicine Department, the Triple test was introduced across the UK, with an ultrasound scan at twelve weeks, to detect early fetal abnormalities.

He also described how ultrasound could detect the early signs of spina bifida, published in the Lancet.



Professor Nicolaides also set out by explaining his initial interest in pre-eclampsia, which complicates over 4% of all pregnancies worldwide, and leads to high morbidity/mortality in both mothers and newborns. He described a risk score, and studying the uterine artery, to help predict pre-eclampsia, as a future marker of cardiac disease.

He discussed pre-term birth, and research efforts within his team, to look at ways of predicting this, and for interventions, to extend the pregnancy, using twenty week scans, measuring the cervix also.

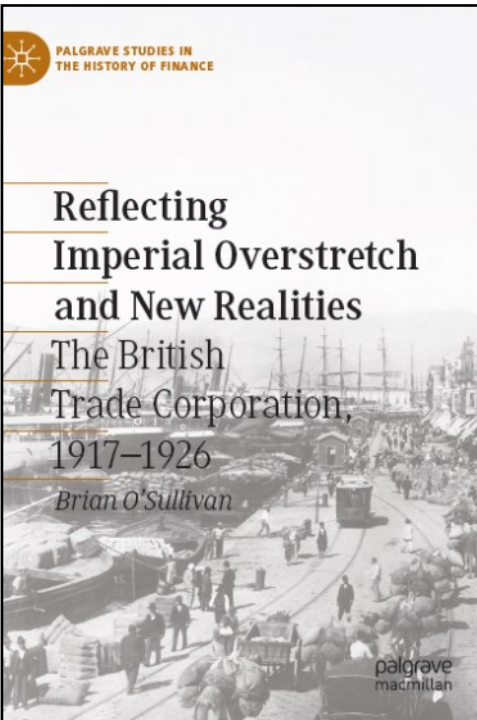
Gestational diabetes is an increasing risk for both mothers and babies, and he discussed work he had done, looking at earlier detection, with ultrasound looking for pancreatic changes/dysplasia in the fetus. He discussed that this is a risk factor for development of diabetes in the future, in the mother.

He expanded his interest into genetic screening in utero, for diseases, where an in utero intervention could occur.

Professor Nicolaides's impressive and thought-provoking talk generated many questions that he was kind enough to answer before having to rush off to another appointment. Our thanks to him for giving up his precious time to come and talk to us.

Our QE(K)A Chair, Paul Ogden, missed the Annual Reunion due to illness so was unable to present Prof Nicolaides with the traditional QEC Shield at the end of his fascinating talk.

Paul later visited Prof Nicolaides at his impressive facilities at the Fetal Medicine Research Institute in Camberwell and presented him with his QEC Shield.



MERCHANT

MISADVENTURER?

Those who attended the QE(K)A reunion in 2022 will remember the fascinating talk that Dr Brian O'Sullivan gave on The British Trade Corporation and its impact on British trade, finance and foreign policy after World War One. Brian has now reported this intriguing story in his second book, 'Reflecting Imperial overstretch and New Realities—The British Trade Corporation 1917-1926'.

Published by Palgrave Studies on the History of Finance —MacMillan
ISBN 978-3-031-58302-5

QEC MEMORABILIA



COFFEE MUG

£5.00 + P&P

BADGES

£4.00 + P&P

CUFFLINKS

£8.00 + P&P



Enquiries to Paul Ogden

Email: pjogden@btinternet.com

£5.00 + P&P

Cheques to be made payable to:

“QUEEN ELIZABETH KINGS COLLEGE”

We regret QEC scarves and shields are no longer available.

GEMS FROM THE

★ ARCHIVES ★

★ by Neville Marsh ★

Neville Marsh has delved into his collection of memorabilia and chosen three items which he hopes will be of interest to members. He has chosen items not covered extensively in his book The History of Queen Elizabeth College and which should, therefore, bring fresh insight into the workings of the QEC and its forebears.

1 Letter from Ernest Starling, RAMC, to Ronald Burrows, Principal of King's College London, dated 18 December 1915, concerning an application to the Home Office for an animal licence .

For many, Ernest Starling was the founder of modern physiology. Among his many contributions to science are his Law of the Heart, known to all students of the cardiovascular system, and his role in coining the term “hormone.” Working at University College London, he was very much part of the local physiology “scene” and would have known Edward Mellanby, a Demonstrator at St Thomas’ Hospital. When Mellanby applied to King’s College for Women for the position of Lecturer in Physiology, he may have sought the help of Starling who wrote that “it is extremely important that our Lecturers should carry on their research at the College”. Mellanby wanted to begin his work on searching for fat-soluble substances which might prevent the disease of rickets.

Dec 18. 15

Royal Army Medical College

(University of London)

Grosvenor Road,

London, S.W.

Dear Burrows,

I think it is extremely important that our lecturer should carry on their research work at the College - & should make it a condition of the appointment. This of course implies that we give them necessary opportunity for doing so - & this in the case of Physiology means keeping some animals.

For this purpose it will be necessary to apply to the H.O. for a licence. & I should suggest that a licence be applied for - not for the whole College - but for the "research room attached to the Physiological Dept". There will be no difficulty in getting the licence.

I have looked at the room suggested by Mellanby, & I think his proposed arrangements would be very suitable.

Yours very truly
E. W. Starling

For this work, he required the use of dogs as experimental animals which in turn required a Licence from the Home Office under the *Cruelty of Animals Act* (1876). Starling came to Kensington and "looked at the room suggested by Mellanby" which he thought would be "very suitable" (for the dogs). Starling believed that there would be "no difficulty in getting the licence" and the rest is history. Mellanby arrived and began his seminal work on rickets which would lead to

Transcript of Starling's Letter:

Dear Burrows

I think it is extremely important that our lecturers should carry on their research work at the College - I should make it a condition of the appointment. This of course implies that we give them means & opportunity for doing so - & this in the case of Physiology means keeping some animals.

For this purpose it will be necessary to apply for the H.O. for a licence. & I should suggest that a licence be applied for - not for the whole College - but for the "research rooms attached to the physiological Dept". There will be no difficulty in getting the licence.

I have looked at the room suggested by Mellanby, & I think his proposed arrangements would be? very suitable.

Yours very truly

Ernest A Starling

the discovery of Vitamin D.

A Home Office licence for animal experimentation was retained by the College up until its closure in 1985 allowing both staff and students to work on anaesthetised and, in some cases, unanaesthetised animals.

Edward Mellanby with Miss Winifred Clifford and Miss Gladys Hartwell, all from the Department of Physiology, seen seated in the Quadrangle, October 1919

©Neville Marsh



See also article in Envoy 2022 on 'King's College for Women—The Early Days II'



2 Queen Elizabeth College Flag, Manufactured by John Edginton & Sons, 1953

Discussions within King's College of Household & Social Science regarding a new name for the institution began before the end of World War 2, in late 1944. After much discussion and negotiation, the name of Queen Elizabeth College was chosen and the then Queen was *graciously pleased to accede* to the College Council's request for the new name. By the time the Letters Patent were prepared by the authorities for signature, King George VI had died and Queen Elizabeth had become the Queen Mother. It thus fell to the new Queen Elizabeth II as monarch, to sign the Letters Patent on 12 January 1953. The College was assured that there would be no difficulty in proceeding with the agreed name since a college named after the new Queen would have been Queen Elizabeth II College.

Once the name of the college had been agreed, there was an important symbolic task to undertake, to have the College coat of arms, which had been granted in 1930, emblazoned on a flag.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

4th December 1946.

Dear Madam,

In further reply to your letter of the 22nd November.

I have now Her Majesty's command to inform you that she will be graciously pleased to accede to the request of the Council of the King's College of Household and Social Science, made with the approval of the Senate of the University of London, that the name of the College may be changed to that of "Queen Elizabeth College."

Yours faithfully,

Treasurer to The Queen.

Miss H. Dent, M.A.,
King's College of Household and Social Science,
Campden Hill Road,
W.8.

Letter from Sir Arthur Horace Penn, GVCQ, Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, dated 4 December 1946, to Miss Henriette Dent, Acting Principal, approving the name of the College

The long-established firm of John Edgington & Sons was commissioned to produce the flag. The company had been founded in 1805 and was famous for making the flags for Horatio Nelson's flagship. They also made tents, ropes, sails, even hangmen's ropes! The company decided on a flag with the dimensions of 3600 mm in length (the fly) and a height of 1800 mm (the hoist). The main part of the flag (the



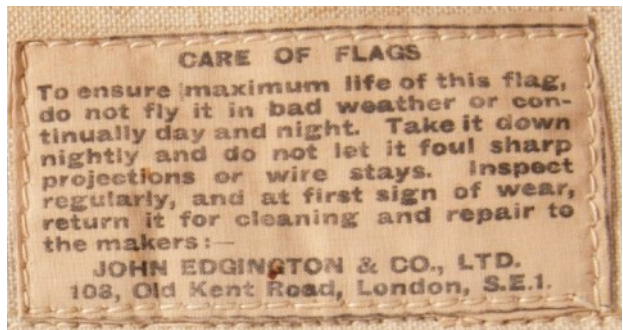
© Paul Popper, Popperfoto/Getty images

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/64/ad/01/64ad01deee7bf214a682e12535442be8.jpg>

Above: Preparations for the Coronation at Edgingtons, showing the use of an oil paint palette for colouring the flags.

©Mirror Online

Right: Care instructions given on flag label



field) was made of a wool bunting material and assembled in pieces. The red cross was dyed, which was the usual practice at Edgintons and the four blazing hearths were hand painted in oil paint on separate panels and sewn to the red cross. The intricate artwork on the obverse side (the front) was reproduced on the reverse side (back). A sailcloth sleeve was then sown on the hoist side of the flag to take a rope for raising the flag.

The QEC flag was not extensively used and indeed no one can remember seeing it flying! The flagpole was in the south-east corner of the building and was reached by means of a staircase on 4th West Floor. It was certainly flown when the Queen Mother visited the College and on her birthday, 4 August. The flagpole was removed during the refurbishment of the buildings into apartments.



Neville Marsh standing in front of the flag, defiantly displayed in the Refectory on the last day of the College's existence, Thursday 1 June 1985. He is leaning against the high table originally used by staff for dining on the raised area at the east end of the hall.

©N.Marsh

3

Letter from Miss Helene Reynard, Warden of KCHSS to Miss Dorothy Talbot, College Secretary, on the outbreak of World War 2, dated 1 September 1939

Helene Reynard was born in Vienna on 24 August 1875. Her parents, Marcus Reinherz and Mina Schapira, had married on 20 December 1868 in the Jewish community of Leopoldstadt in Vienna. Mina was aged just 19 and Marcus 10 years older. Four children were born in Vienna to Marcus and Mina: Ella, Leonie, Helene and Otto, between 1869 and 1877. The Reinherz family left Vienna in the 1880s and settled in Yorkshire where Marcus ran a successful woollen mill. In 1888, the family became naturalised British citizens and in 1914, one month after the outbreak of World War I, changed their name to Reynard, presumably as a result of anti-German sentiment.

Helene was educated the local Bradford Girls' Grammar School before spending four years at Girton College in Cambridge. Although she ob-

WE, MARCUS REYNARD, Wool Merchant, heretofore called and known by the name of Marcus Reinherz, OTTO REYNARD, Technical Chemist, B.A.(Cantab.), heretofore called and known by the name of Otto Reinherz, HÉLÈNE REYNARD, Spinster, heretofore called and known by the name of Hélène Reinherz, all of No. 3, Selborne-villas, in the city of Bradford; ELLA GABRIELLE REYNARD, Spinster, heretofore called and known by the name of Ella Gabrielle Reinherz, and LEONIE SOPHIA REYNARD, Spinster, heretofore called and known by the name of Leonie Sophia Reinherz, both of No. 10, Scarsdale-villas, Kensington, in the county of London, do hereby respectively give public notice, that on the fourth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, we respectively, formally and absolutely renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of our surname of "Reinherz," and then assumed and adopted and determined thenceforth and on all occasions to use and subscribe the name of "Reynard" instead of the name of "Reinherz." And we respectively give further notice, that by several deed polls, all dated the fourth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, duly executed and attested and enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court on the fifth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, we respectively, formally and absolutely renounced and abandoned the surname of "Reinherz," and declared that we had assumed and adopted and intended thenceforth on all occasions whatsoever to use and subscribe the name of "Reynard" instead of the name of "Reinherz," and so as to be at all times thereafter called, known and described by the respective names of Marcus Reynard, Otto Reynard, Hélène Reynard, Ella Gabrielle Reynard and Leonie Sophia Reynard exclusively.—Dated this nineteenth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

MARCUS REYNARD.
OTTO REYNARD.
HÉLÈNE REYNARD.
ELLA GABRIELLE REYNARD.
LEONIE SOPHIA REYNARD.

090

The London Gazette entry from 22 September 1914

© The National Archives

tained second-class honours, she was not awarded a Cambridge degree because she was not a man. After leaving Cambridge, she worked in London as a secretary until in 1904 when she returned to Girton to become the junior bursar. Only then, did she receive an MA from Trinity College, Dublin which did not discriminate against women. She left Girton in 1914 to assist in her father's business, the Bradford Wool Extracting Company Ltd, of which she became a joint director.



*Photograph of Helene Reinherz in 1905
(Girton College archive reference:
GCPH10/24/4)*

Helene Reynard returned to academic life in 1925 when she was offered the Wardenship of King's College for Women with a mandate to create an independent college, which she achieved in 1928. Ten years later with the rumblings of war, Helene worked with the College Council to find a suitable location away from London and the threat of bombing. A home was found at University College Cardiff and Helene lived in digs at Warwick House, the residential accommodation for the college, sharing rooms with Alexander Mills Kennedy, Professor of Medicine, Welsh National School of Medicine.



*Helene Reynard as Warden of Kings
College of Household & Social Science*

In August 1939, Helene found time to take a holiday in Eastbourne and on 1st September wrote to Dorothy Talbot, the College secretary, about returning to Cardiff and among other things, finding accommodation in the Angel Hotel, a long-established hotel in Castle Street and a short walk to the University College.

In the letter, Helene writes, “I never believed that we should come to it, but if we had to ... it does leave us time for everything.” Importantly, she then refers to “the news on the wireless at 11 this morning” referring to the invasion of Poland by Germany.

As dawn had broken on that day, German forces launched a surprise attack on Poland. The attack was sounded with the predawn shelling, by the German battleship *Schleswig-Holstein*, of Polish fortifications at the Baltic port of Danzig (modern Dansk). Sixty-two divisions, with more than 1,300 airplanes in support, then commenced a coordinated assault across the German–Polish border. The sun had risen at 6.00 am on 1 September in Warsaw, three hours ahead of Britain but by the time the invasion had been picked up by news agencies, it was announced to radio listeners in England at 11.00 am.

Helene goes on in her letter to say that her brother (Otto) had been with her “for the past ten days”, had packed up and just started (to leave) “for fear of being bottled up here when he should be at Newcastle.” Otto was a research chemist and was living in a boarding house at 72 Osborne Road, Newcastle. Like so many folk in the country, fear of war sent people scurrying back to their homes.

She concludes the letter by saying that she had thought of “going up to London by a morning train” and then by the first available train in the afternoon to Cardiff which would “probably be easier than a cross country journey.”

Helene was an active supporter of Women's suffrage and was recognised for her abilities in the field of economics by no less than John Maynard Keynes. She wrote *Business Methods and Secretarial Work*

**Park Gates Hotel
Eastbourne**

Telegraph TAU Eastbourne
Telephone Eastbourne 2100

April 1, 1939

Dear Miss Talbot

I was so glad to hear from you this morning, & to know that you & the records had got safely down.

I hope you got home on Tuesday & have written to "the Angel" for a room. Perhaps the Park notes have been more convenient, but perhaps I have not had time for a reply yet. I never believe that we should come to it. But if we had it, much better not have a small house - it does leave us time for everything. Now we had the news on the wireless at 11 this morning - my brother who has been with

**Helene Reynard's
letter to
Dorothy Talbot**

me for the last ten days - packed up & has just started - for fear of being bottled up here when he should be at Newcastle. However I am not alone, for Dorothy who was coming, but to pack for me, had the message & telephone & ask if she should come packing - answer in the evening.

I thought of going to London & a morning here on Tuesday & coming on to the first available train in the afternoon - it will probably be easier than a Cross Country journey.

All good luck in the meantime,

Yours affectionately

Helene Reynard.

for Girls and Women which is still widely used and available in book shops.

Helene Reynard's letter, written on the brink of World War 2, is imbued with the portents of conflict, the fear of being "bottled up," the need to be prepared and to move away from danger, indeed, the College's stay in Cardiff was cut short by the fear of bombing in the Welsh capital. The College eventually moved to Leicester for the duration of hostilities. Helene led the College for the duration of the war but only survived two years afterwards and died on 27 December 1947. Neither Helene nor any of her siblings married.

Transcript of Helene Reynard's Letter, Sept 1. 1939:

Dear Miss Talbot

I was so glad to hear from you this morning, to know that you and the records had got safely down.

I hope to get down on Tuesday & have written to the "Angel" for a room.

Perhaps the Park would have been more convenient - but anyhow I have not had

time for a reply yet. I never believed that we should come to it - but if we had to, much better now than a month hence - it does leave us time for everything. When we had the news on the wireless at 11 this morning - my brother who has been with me for the past ten days - packed up & has just started - for fear of being bottled up here when he should be at Newcastle.

However I am not alone

for Dorothy who was coming later to pack for me had the resource to telephone and ask if she should come yesterday - answer in the evening.

I thought of going up to London by a morning train on Tuesday & coming on by first available train in the afternoon - it will probably be easier than a cross country journey.

All good luck in the meantime

Yours affectionately

Helen Reynard



The entire college assembled outside Cardiff University College in 1940. Helen Reynard is in the second row, centre (in a white dress) and four along on her left is Dorothy Talbot.

The evacuation of KCHSS to Cardiff was the second time that the College had its home on lands previously owned by the Marquesses of Bute. University College Cardiff was built in Cathays Park which was formerly part of the grounds of Cardiff Castle, acquired in 1766 by the first Marquess of Bute. His son, the 2nd Marquess had his London home on Campden Hill in Kensington, Bute House, which later became the site of King's College for Women, aka KCHSS/QEC. The 3rd Marquess sold land in Cathays park to Cardiff Council in 1898 to build a new Town Hall and new buildings for Cardiff University. See also article on page 30.



QEC Biochemistry (1970-73) Fifty Year Reunion

David Tyrrell, QEC Biochemistry

Back in 2018 three ex-QEC biochemistry students, Kaila Srail, Tom Sayers and David Tyrrell met in London for a get together curry lunch. Such meetings had occurred sporadically since the mid-1970s as careers and locations diverged over the years. During lunch Kaila noted that we were coming up to the 50th anniversary of beginning our university studies and suggested we organise a reunion in 2020. We began to put together a list of those we were still in touch with and a list of exam results from the first and second years enabled us to identify all those on our single honours Biochemistry course. Of the 26 names on the list, we only had direct contact with one other individual but knew the approximate whereabouts of about 8 others although no contact details.

This began a detective hunt to try to identify the whereabouts and contact details for as many of the 26 as possible. Some were relatively easy to find by following the trail of scientific publications and university appointments. One or two were directly identified by simple internet and social media searches. Females were more difficult to trace if they had married and changed surname. However, searching marriages in their home region in the appropriate time frame did lead to finding one individual and another was identified via an alumni group at their secondary school who were able to put us in touch. In the latter case an internet search had found her maiden name on a school web site listing students and the universities they left to go to in 1970! Another was reached after a scientific publication in 2002 led to a research institution that was able to put us in touch, even though the person had retired a few years previously. In total, we managed to find email ad-

dresses for 19 of the 26. We had partial leads for 3 others that never came to fruition. Of those found, 9 were in the UK, 4 in Australia, 2 in the US, 1 in Canada, 1 in France, 1 in Ireland and 1 in Dubai. Almost all had continued in academic or industrial careers in science.

All 19 contacted were in favour of a reunion and plans were put into operation for this to take place in September 2020. Angela Caudell (Felder) volunteered to identify a venue and came up with a suitable hotel in easy reach of Heathrow and Gatwick. In January 2020 rooms were reserved and bookings and travel arrangements made and we were hopeful of around 16 attendees. Then came Covid! By March 2020 the prospects of a face-to-face meeting began to look bleak and in early May we took the inevitable decision to postpone for at least a year.

In June 2020 Nick Light organised a virtual meeting for the group by Zoom at which we had 16 participants from across the world. We all gave potted histories of our lives since graduation, and discussed prospects for Covid vaccines finding that more than one of our number was involved in the research area. Finally, we agreed that the face-to-face reunion should be put on hold. For the next 18 months



The 2020 Zoom Meeting

various sub-groups met virtually or occasionally in person until it was agreed that we should try again for a reunion in 2023 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of our graduation.

Unfortunately, our chosen venue had been closed during Covid and had been sold. We therefore set about identifying an alternative. After visiting several possible venues in early 2023 we settled on the Talbot Inn in Ripley and made arrangements for Friday 22nd September. Kaila had even suggested that one of our lecturers might be able to attend and gave us the news that Prof Robinson was still alive. At this point we hoped that a dozen or so would be able to attend but traveling distances, event clashes, illness etc whittled the group down to 8. Unfortunately, Bryan Winchester, who had planned to see us in the afternoon, had to drop out at the 11th hour. Kaila Srail, Tom Sayers, David Tyrrell, Paul Malthouse, Angela Caudell, Caroline Edgington (Eslick), Mick Hope and Angie Hope (North – Nutrition QEC 1970-3) met at the Talbot mid-afternoon. After reminiscing in the bar and participating in a video call with Stuart Smith, whose mobility issues pre-



Talbot Inn: L-R Paul Malthouse, Tom Sayers, David Tyrrell, Caroline Edgington, Angela Caudell, Angie and Mick Hope

cluded him from being present, we moved to the restaurant for dinner and then back to the bar until midnight when the discussion became more scientific as Mick had been heavily involved in the formulation of the mRNA Covid vaccines. We all had breakfast together before departing our separate ways in the morning.

I think it fair to say that all enjoyed the chance to meet again after so long and all had differing but happy memories of QEC. Would we do it again? Probably - it would be nice to see others although there is a question over our longevity to survive to a 60th anniversary!



Talbot Inn Dinner: Clockwise – David Tyrrell, Angela Caudell, Paul Malthouse, Angie Hope, Mick Hope, Kaila Srαι, Caroline Edgington. Tom Sayers

From QEC to Fairytale Castles



By Lyn Embling

Life at QEC may have been a bit of a fairytale for some, and some Sleepy Beauties may even have met their Prince Charming there, but there is in fact a real, if somewhat tenuous, link between QEC and fantastical fairytale castles:

Queen Elizabeth College, was originally built as King's College for Women in the southern part of the six acre estate of Blundell House. The house was named after its last owner, the Lancashire landowner Blundell Charles Weld but had previously, been known as Bute House

after the second Marquess of Bute who used it as his London residence from 1830 until 1842.

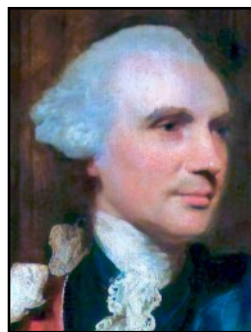


Bute House from the garden (above) and from the road (right) (Kensington - Picturesque and Historical - W. J. Loftie (1888))

So who were the Marquesses of Bute?

The Bute Family descended from Robert the Bruce, the King of Scotland who, according to legend, won Scotland's independence after being inspired by a spider to try, try, and try again. His grandson, King Robert II, granted the islands of Bute, Arran and Cumbrae to his natural son, John Stewart (1360–1449) along with the hereditary office of Sheriff of Bute. In subsequent centuries, the family changed the spelling of their name to Stuart, in allegiance with Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, were awarded a Baronetcy and then later raised to the peerage of Scotland with an Earldom. The third Earl of Bute was John Stuart who was the British Prime Minister from 1762-63.

John Stuart's wife, Mary, was the daughter of the infamous Lady Mary Wortley Montague who wrote extensively of her experiences in Turkey and introduced smallpox inoculation to the UK. (See article on page 42) Their son, also John, became the first Marquess of Bute.



*Prime Minister
John Stuart,
3rd Earl of Bute*

From Riches to Riches

The first Marquess of Bute (1744—1814) followed his father into politics, serving as Tory MP for Bossiney in Cornwall. He married Charlotte Jane Windsor who was heiress to great estates in South Wales and he was subsequently raised to the peerage as Baron Cardiff. His marriage also brought him the titles of Viscount Mountjoy (in the Isle of Wight) and Earl of Windsor, and he was created Marquess of Bute. His combined lands throughout England, Scotland and Wales were rich in agriculture and coal and by 1799 his family were estimated to be the second-wealthiest small family unit in Britain.

His wife, Charlotte died in early 1800, but within nine months, he was married to another heiress, Frances Coutts, daughter of Thomas Coutts, founder of the banking house Coutts & Co. She also brought considerable wealth to the Bute family.

While working in London he lived in South Kensington in a house that became known as Bute House. This was later demolished and Bute Street was laid out along the length of its grounds.

His eldest son and heir, also John Stuart, brought yet more wealth to the Bute family through his marriage to Lady Elizabeth McDouall-Crichton, sole heir to the Crichton estates in Scotland. Sadly, he died when he was only 26 years of age after being injured in a fall from his horse. The titles passed instead to his son, John Crichton-Stuart, upon the first Marquess's death.

"The Creator of Modern Cardiff"

The Second Marquess of Bute (1793-1848) inherited vast wealth as well as his titles upon the death of his grandfather when he was about twenty one years of age. He travelled around Europe taking a keen interest in land economics, and was determined to develop his own estates to get the maximum return from them. He owned coal mines in County Durham and commissioned a survey to investigate potential coal deposits beneath his lands in Glamorganshire, South Wales, resulting in the development of highly lucrative coal mines and iron industries. He bought land around Cardiff, extended the city, and built the Cardiff docks which enabled the coal and iron to be exported abroad as well as being sold in the UK, thereby magnifying the value of his lands in South Wales even further. Bute was generous with his wealth, however, supporting the community by giving to charities, funding local schools and building churches.

On the personal front, Bute's travels abroad resulted in an eye condition that left him partly blind, unable to tolerate bright lights, and finding it difficult to read or write. He was a member of the House of

Lords but was not keen on London, even though his London residence was Bute House, a mansion on Campden Hill in Kensington that was later to become the site for KCW/KCHSS/QEC. He preferred to live on his estate in Bute, spending a few weeks a year at Cardiff Castle, his seat in South Wales.



Photo by GregMontani via Pixabay

Modern Day Cardiff Castle

His first wife was yet another wealthy heiress, who inherited a third of the estates of her father, the Earl of Guildford. They had no children, but Bute remarried after her death and had a son, John Patrick Crichton-Stuart, who became the 3rd Marquess of Bute.

“The Richest Man in the World”

The Third Marquess of Bute (1847-1900) succeeded to his many titles when he was only six months old. He inherited a fortune built up from advantageous marriages, astute business and profitable mining industries. He was reported to be the richest man not only in Britain but in the world—and he was going to enjoy spending it!

He had a vast range of interests and was fascinated by religion and the occult. At age 21, he scandalised Scotland by converting to Catholicism - Benjamin Disraeli used him as the model for the hero of his best-selling novel 'Lothair'. His wife, Gwendolen Fitzalan-Howard, came from one of Britain's most illustrious Catholic families, and he became one of the leaders of the British Catholic community. Their wedding was at the Brompton Oratory in South Kensington, but they do not seem to have lived at the house on Campden Hill as this had been rented out since 1843, before the third Marquess was born.

Lord Bute had great interests in antiquarianism and architecture and proceeded to pour his fortunes into the purchase and preservation of important old buildings in Scotland, including Falkland Palace, Pluscarden Priory, St Andrews Cathedral and Rothesay Castle. In 1865 he met architect William Burges who had travelled extensively through Europe studying medieval architecture. They shared a passion for gothic architecture with its pointed arches and spires that pointed to heaven and symbolised the glory of God. With Bute's money and Burges's skill, they set about building magnificent Gothic revival restorations of two of Bute's properties in Wales: Cardiff Castle and the nearby Castell Coch.

When he died in 1900, Lord Bute's body was buried at his ancestral home on the Isle of Bute, but his heart was buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. His titles and remaining wealth passed to his son, John Crichton-Stuart, Fourth Marquess of Bute.

"A Gothic Feudal Extravaganza"

Cardiff Castle was originally built by the Normans on the site of a Roman fort and subsequently extended over several centuries. In the mid eighteenth century it came into the hands of the First Marquess of Bute who renovated it in the style of a Georgian mansion with grounds landscaped by Capability Brown. The Third Marquess of Bute set about remodelling it as a 'Gothic feudal extravaganza', with

interiors described as ‘three dimensional passports to fairy kingdoms and realms of gold’. He built a 150ft Clock Tower comprising a bachelor suite with a genuine Roman bath, and a seven storey Guest tower with octagonal turret— a crocodile at the top of the balustrade feasted its eyes on a plump carved baby beneath. After Lord Bute married, they added the Bute tower with bedrooms for the family and a roof garden. Two more towers were added, the Herbert Tower having an ornate ‘Arab Room’ inspired by the Arab Hall at Leighton House in Kensington



Cardiff Castle : The Moorish style ceiling of the Arab Hall

Leighton House, Kensington

was built for the orientalist artist Lord Frederick Leighton (1830-1896) in Holland Park Road.

The house incorporates elements from Moorish and Turkish design and is particularly famous for its highly ornate ‘Arab Hall’ . It inspired Burges’s designs for the interiors of Cardiff Castle.

The house is now a museum, open to the public.



Photo by Spudgun67 (licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](#) licence.)

and in keeping with the late Victorian obsession with Orientalism. The castle interiors were all sumptuously decorated with gildings, carvings and cartoons, depicting the seasons, myths, fables and religious iconography.

In 1898, the 3rd Marquess was persuaded to sell part of the castle grounds, Cathays Park, to Cardiff Council, to build a new Town Hall and new buildings for the University. University College was later to become home to KCHSS when the College was evacuated there at the start of World War II. (See article on Helen Reynard In Gems of the Archive on page 20.)

After the 3rd Marquess of Bute died, his son, the 4th Marquess (1881-1947), continued to restore the Castle Walls and the building of the Barbican Tower, and added a new entrance hall to the castle. During the 2nd World War, the outer walls were used as air-raid shelters, capable of holding nearly two thousand people. On the death of the 4th Marquess, his son (another John) became the 5th Marquess gave the castle to the people of Cardiff.

From Ruined Heap to Fairytale Castle

Castell Coch was a ruined heap when it came into the possession of the 3rd Marquess of Bute, but he rebuilt it into a castle fit for fairytales. William Burges had travelled around Europe and had been particu-



Castell Coch
Photo by H Embling

Château de Pierrefonds



Photos by H & L Embling

The Château de Pierrefonds in Oise, France, was originally built in the twelfth century but in 1617 it was besieged and destroyed. Napoleon III decided to rebuild the château as an Imperial residence, commissioning Viollet-le-Duc with the design. Although the interior decoration was never completed due to lack of funds, the château building is a highly romanticised, multiple turreted castle fitting of any fairytale. Today it is open to the public and has been used as a location for various films. It was used as the setting for Camelot in the enchanting BBC series on the *Adventures of Merlin*.

A fearsome griffin guards the top of the main staircase. Perhaps he knows what happened to our Greg!

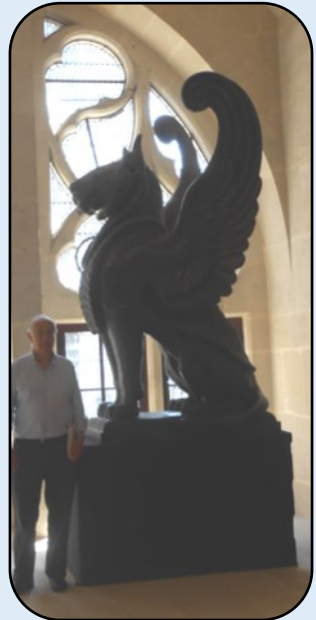




Photo by mike1550 via Pixabay

The fortified city of Carcassonne, Aude, France

larly impressed by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc's restorations of the fortified city of Carcassonne, famous as a stronghold of Occitan Cathars, and the magnificent Chateau de Pierrefonds, both in France. The romanticised turreted designs were used as a basis for the transformation of Castell Coch.

The interior decoration of Castell Coch is stunning, much with an oriental flavour that was becoming increasingly popular in Victorian England. In some rooms, the walls are covered with flowers, animals, butterflies and birds, showing Lord Bute's love of nature (though he disapproved of the monkeys cavorting on the ceiling above his wife's bed!) His diverse fascination with the occult is revealed through Christian saints, Greek goddesses, the Green Man, signs of the Zodiac and Aesop's Fables. An enthusiastic guide will tell you that the castle was designed based on Lord Bute's love for his wife, Gwendolen - tiles below her portrait depict roses and lilies, symbolising love and purity, and a winged psyche, beloved of Eros, carries a heart shaped shield bearing 'his and her' coats of arms.

Lord Bute planted a three acre vineyard on the slopes below Castle Coch and set up a winery in the gardens of Cardiff Castle. The wine was generally well received, despite a joke in *Punch* magazine that it

An Englishman's Home is His Castle

William Burges was so enamoured with Castell Coch and Cardiff Castle that he incorporated his ideas into his own home, Tower House in Melbury Road, not far from Lord Leighton's House in the Holland Park area of Kensington. The outside of the house was based on the gothic turrets of Castell Coch while the interior decoration used ideas from Cardiff Castle.



Tower House was later owned by Colonel T. H. Minshall whose son, Merlin Minshall, is said to have been the inspiration for Ian Fleming's James Bond.

Later still, it became the property of the poet John Betjeman, famous for his poem '*The Subaltern's Love Song*' about Miss Joan Hunter Dunn — who had been a student at KCHSS (the predecessor to QEC).

The actor Richard Harris bought the house in the late 1960's. His many roles included those of King Arthur in the film *Camelot* and Dumbledore in the first two Harry Potter films. Harris was convinced that the house was haunted by a small child who had been buried somewhere in the tower - he managed to quieten his spectral visitor by giving it toys! He sold the house in 1972, to the Led Zeppelin guitarist, Jimmy Page.

Photo by Julian Osley (licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license](#).)

would take four men to drink it—two to hold the victim down and one to pour it down his throat!

After the Third Marquess's death, Castell Coch passed to John Crichton Stuart, the 4th Marquess of Bute and then on to his son (another John) who placed the castle into the care of the State. The castle is now cared for by Cadw, the Welsh equivalent of the English Heritage.

Castell Coch has been used for scenes in various TV series Dr Who, Merlin, Tracy Beaker and The Worst Witch.

Other Fairytale Castles

Neuschwanstein Castle

Around the same time as the Third Marquess of Bute was looking at ideas for Castell Coch, King Ludwig II of Bavaria (also known as 'the Mad King' and 'the Fairytale King') was looking for ideas for the new palaces he wanted to build. He too visited Chateau de Pierrefonds, in 1867, and it provided one of the main inspirations for his fantastical Neuschwanstein Castle, famed for its soaring fairytale towers.



Photo by MagicTV via Pixabay

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

(1689-1762)



S. Hollver after J. B. Wandersforde,
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

*Lady Mary Wortley Montague
in Turkish Style Dress*

Famed for her letters on life in the Turkish harem, and her fight to introduce Smallpox inoculation to the UK, Lady Mary has been described as

'The most colourful Englishwoman of her time'

Early Days. At the age of six, sitting on her father's knee, Lady Mary was toasted beauty of the season by the gentlemen's Kit-Kat club. She was the eldest daughter of the first Duke of Kingston-upon-Hull and Lady Mary Feilding, the cousin of the novelist Henry Fielding. Despite being taught by a governess, Lady Mary thought her lessons were full of "*superstitious tales and false notions*" so resorted to teaching herself using books in the family library. By the age of fifteen, she had learned Latin (a language reserved for men) and had written two books of poems and a novel. When her father pressured her to marry a rich suitor she did not want, she eloped with Edward Wortley Montagu, telling him '*I shall come to you with only a night-gown and petticoat, and that is all you will get with me*'.

Ottoman Embassy. Montagu owned prosperous coal fields and was a Whig politician. In 1716, he was sent to Constantinople as Ambassa-

dor and Lady Mary took the unorthodox decision to accompany him, along with their young son. She was welcomed into the women's apartments, or harems, and was one of the first western women ever to be allowed into the Imperial Harem (the Seraglio). At that time very little was known about life in a harem as they had always been forbidden to men, but Lady Mary wrote extensive letters home, many to her friend, the poet, Alexander Pope, describing the lives, costumes and customs of the women she counted as her friends.

The Harem. Harems had been described as ugly places by men who had only ever seen them from the outside, but Lady Mary found that the interiors were beautifully decorated, with windows facing the gardens and set around courtyards with cooling fountains. They were furnished with Persian rugs and low level couches that she found far more comfortable than any chair back home. The gardens often had a kiosk where the women would spend their time playing music and doing embroidery.

Lady Mary was charmed by the civility, grace and beauty of the wom-



The Harem by Luigi Crosio—Scene on the terrace depicting Ottoman court musicians and dancer , from print dated 1896

en she met and enchanted by their music and dance - the soft airs of lute and guitar, *'the tunes so soft , the motions so languishing ... in so artful a manner that I am positive the coldest and most rigid prude upon earth could not have looked upon them without thinking of something not to be spoke of'*. The music and dance of the court were very different from those of the gypsies performing on the streets.

The Baths. The harems had 'bagnios' or baths for communal bathing; they had hot and cold baths, cold fountains and steam room. There were also public bagnios, where the women could gather to bathe, have coffee and sherbet and 'gossip'; Lady Mary visited for the cost of around 10 shillings. There were around 200 women including ladies and their slaves but there was *'no distinction of rank by their dress, all being in the state of nature, that is, in plain English, stark naked'*. They tried to persuade Lady Mary to join them in undress, but in the end she showed them her stays and they *'believed I was so locked up in that machine, that it was not in my own power to open it, which contrivance they attributed to my husband'*!

(If you would like your own private hammam (ie bagnio) you may be interested in moving into a luxury six bedroom apartment in Academy Gardens, Kensington (formerly QEC) - see estate agent's advert on sandersonslondon.co.uk.)



Orientalist depiction of the 'Moorish Bath'.

Tuck's Post Card, early 1900's

Turkish costume. Lady Mary often wore Turkish dress and it soon became fashionable with the ladies back in England. It comprised *‘a pair of drawers, very full, that reach to my toes’, ... ‘shoes of white kid leather embroidered with gold’,* an embroidered smock with *‘wide sleeves hanging halfway down the arm’,* a fitted waistcoat with very long sleeves and deep gold fringe, a long fitted robe with very long straight-falling sleeves’, and a *‘girdle of about four fingers broad which all that can afford have entirely of diamonds or other precious stones’.* On top of all this was a loose robe worn depending on the weather and a cap *‘embroidered with pearls or diamonds ... fixed on one side of the head ... with a gold tassel, and bound on with a circle of diamonds’.* On the other side of their head, the ladies had flowers, feathers or *‘a large bouquet of jewels made like natural flowers’.* Their hair fell in full length braids behind. On visiting the widowed Sultana, Lady Mary described her costume as being even more elaborate than most, with several strings of jewels, the whole costume being worth at least £100,000 sterling!

None of this finery would ever be seen outside the harem as the women would then be completely covered by a *‘ferace’* that *‘laps all around them’* and two muslin veils, *‘one that covers her face, all but her eyes and another that hides the whole dress of her head, and hangs halfway down her back’.* Far from being oppressive, Lady Mary considered that *‘this perpetual masquerade gives them entire liberty of following their inclinations without danger of discovery.’* and she herself enjoyed the anonymity it afforded her.

Freedom. Despite being confined to living in the harem, Lady Mary felt that in many ways the women enjoyed more freedom than their Western equivalents. By law, a man was allowed up to four wives but seldom took that many. A wife’s role in life was considered to be the production and rearing of children; a married woman who was childless was frowned upon in the same way as an unmarried mother in the West. Fortunately, Lady Mary gave birth to her daughter, Mary, while she was in Constantinople which put her in a position of great regard. Women had their own money which they kept if they divorced. They

were treated with respect and no-one was allowed to violate the privileges of the harem. They had their own slaves which *'the husband has no permission so much as to look upon'*.

Slaves. One of Lady Mary's friends asked her to buy her a slave. She responded that *'those that were on sale at the slave markets were either taken in war or stolen by the Tartars from Russia, Circassia or Georgia'* and were *'miserable, awkward, poor wretches'*. She said the *'fine slaves that wait upon the great ladies'* of the harem were mainly Circassians *'all bought at the age of eight or nine and educated with great care to accomplish them in singing, dancing, embroidery etc.'* A young slave girl could cost over £100 sterling (over £25,000 today). She said the Turks treated their slaves well and although they were not paid, they were given clothes that were much better than any ordinary servant. She considered slavery in the harem was no worse than any servitude in other parts of the world.

The Language of Flowers. The ladies of the harem had symbolic meanings for flowers and various other objects which they used to send complex messages - sometimes an interpreter was needed to decipher them. *'There is no colour, no flower, no weed, no fruit, herb, pebble or feather that has not a verse belonging to it.'* This intrigued her friends back in England who were soon sending their own messages using the 'Language of Flowers'. Some flowers already had significance from folklore - rosemary for remembrance and vervain for enchantment, but the Turkish system was even more expressive. Flowers are still used to send messages today but they are much simpler : *'Get well'*, *'I love you'* or simply *'I found these reduced in Tesco'*!


I wonder if the King's College for Women included the Language of Flowers in their Bridal Course!

Smallpox inoculation. Lady Mary and her younger brother both had smallpox when they were young; she survived but her brother died. She discovered that the Turkish women practised engrafting (or variolation), a form of inoculation that protected them from the disease, by taking a small sample of pus from a mild smallpox blister and introducing it to a scratch on the arm or leg thereby promoting immunity to



A Turkish Love Letter

A pearl	Fairest of the young.
A clove	You are as slender as this clove; You are an unblown Rose; I have long lov'd you, and you have not known it.
A jonquil	Have pity on my passion.
Paper	I faint every hour.
Pear	Give me some hope.
Soap	I am sick with love.
Coal	May I die, and all my years be yours!
A rose	May you be pleased, and all your sorrows mine!
A Straw	Suffer me to be your slave.
Cloth	Your price is not to be found.
Cinnamon	But my fortune is yours.
A match	I burn, I burn, my flame consumes me.
Gold thread	Don't turn away your face
Hair	Crown of my head.
Grape	My eyes.
Gold wire	I die - come quickly
Pepper	Send me an answer.



Designed using assets from Freepik.com

the disease. She was keen to protect her children and persuaded the Embassy surgeon to engraft her four year old son—the first English person to be inoculated.

She tried to encourage the use of inoculation on her return to England in 1718 but it was viewed as an unscientific folk remedy and met with much resistance. By April 1721, a smallpox epidemic was raging in England and Lady Mary feared for her daughter. She persuaded the doctor who had inoculated her son to inoculate her three year old daughter too, publicising the event. She canvassed friends among artists, writers, the clergy, parliament and even the Royal Family, and managed to persuade Princess Caroline of Ansbach (wife of the future King George II) to have the procedure tested. In August 1721 it was successfully tested on seven prisoners who were awaiting execution at Newgate prison (they were later released) and Princess Caroline subse-

Smallpox Parties

The smallpox, so fatal and so general amongst us, is here entirely harmless by the invention of engrafting, which is the term they give it. There is a set of old women who make it their business to perform the operation. Every autumn in the month of September when the great heat is abated, people send one another to know if any of their family has a mind to have the smallpox. They make parties for this purpose and when they are met (commonly fifteen or sixteen together) the old woman comes with a nutshell full of the matter of the best sort of smallpox, and asks what veins you please to have opened. She immediately rips open that you have offered her with a large needle (which gives you no more pain than a common scratch) and puts into the vein as much venom as can lie on the head of her needle, and after binds up the little wound with a hollow bit of shell, and in this manner opens four or five veins...The children or young patients play together all the rest of the day, and are in perfect health until the eighth. Then the fever begins to seize them and they keep to their beds for two days, very seldom three. They have very rarely above twenty or thirty [spots?] in their faces, which never mark, and in eight days time they are as well as before their illness. ... Every year thousands undergo this operation. ... There is no example of anyone who has died in it, and you may well believe I am well satisfied of the safety of the experiment, since I intend to try it on my dear little son. I am patriot enough to tale pains to bring this useful invention into fashion in England.

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu
The Turkish Embassy Letters

quently had her own daughters inoculated. The treatment gradually began to be accepted, though controversy continued as there was a risk of introducing the infection to someone who was previously well.

A much safer procedure was developed by Edward Jenner in 1796, some 75 years later, that used cowpox (*Variolae vaccinae* - the origin of the term 'vaccination') instead of smallpox. Meanwhile, Lady Mary's persistent campaign may well have saved thousands of lives.

Later Life. After their return from Constantinople, Lady Mary focussed on bringing up her children and writing her memoirs.

Lady Mary's daughter married John Stuart, the 3rd Earl of Bute. Lady Mary had opposed the marriage saying that Lord Bute was too poor. He went on to become Prime Minister of England and their great-great-grandson, the 3rd Marquess of Bute, was said to be richest man in world. (See article on page 30.)

In middle age, Lady Mary fell in love with a young Italian, Francesco Algarotti, and followed him to Venice, persuading her husband that she needed a change of air for her health. Their relationship was short lived but she remained abroad, travelling around Italy and then settling in Avignon in France. She did not return to England until 1762 and died shortly afterwards. Her letters were published after her death.

Lady Mary is remembered mainly for her writing, particularly for her Turkish Embassy letters, and for her introduction of the smallpox inoculation to Britain. Her writings on the position of women in society render her an early feminist. Her descriptions of the harems, the women, baths, slaves and dancers were later to fire the imaginations of great orientalist artists such as Ingres, Lewis and Gerome.

Main sources:

The Turkish Embassy Letters, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Virago Press 1994

[Lady Mary Wortley Montagu - Wikipedia](#)

[Lady Mary Wortley Montagu fights smallpox | National Trust](#)

Harem—The World Behind the Veil. Alev Lytle Croutier. Abbeville Press, 1989, ISBN 1-55859-159-1

Obituaries

Professor Peter Brian Gahan

QEC/King's Biology 1974-1998

23 August 1933—26 May 2023

Peter Brian Gahan, Cell biologist and Emeritus Professor of Biology, died suddenly at his home in Montpellier, France.



Peter was born in the London suburb of Sidcup and was educated at the Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School for Boys. After his national service in the army, he went to work at the MRC Biophysics Unit at King's College (where Maurice Wilkins won the Nobel Prize for his work on DNA) with Joseph Chayen who shortly afterwards moved to the Royal College of Surgeons in London taking Peter with him. It was here that Peter acquired his taste for research and was co-author of six publications. In 1957 Peter enrolled at University College London to read Botany and, after graduating in 1960, returned to the Royal College of Surgeons to study for a PhD on the histochemistry of proliferating cells which was awarded in 1964. In the meantime, in 1962, he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Botany at King's College London. This was an exciting period for the biological sciences at King's; the heads of Botany and Zoology, Thomas Bennet-Clark and James Danielli respectively were both Fellows of the Royal Society and Lewis Wolpert and Eric Barnard in Zoology would later become Fellows. In 1966, Peter left King's to become Head of Biology at Thames Polytechnic (later the University of Woolwich) a position he held until 1970 when he emigrated to Canada to take up a post as Professor of Cell Science and head of electron microscopy at the Memorial University of Newfoundland.

In 1974, Peter returned to the UK as Professor of Botany at Queen

Elizabeth College (QEC). At that time other colleges within the University of London had departments of Botany (or Plant Sciences) and Zoology with very little interaction between them whereas QEC from the start had a single department of Biology. In 1979 he was appointed Head of the Department a position for which he was an ideal candidate because of his expertise in the field of cell biology that spanned both animal and plant sciences. In 1980, following a University Grants Commission (UGC) report, there began a review of science teaching and research provision in London. The next few years were to become very challenging. From 1982 -1985, Peter served as Dean of Science which put him in the front line during the ensuing discussions concerning the future of the biological sciences in London. In the early 1980s QEC had put out unsuccessful feelers for a merger with Imperial College and then began negotiations with KCL which, in the meantime, had been in informal discussions with Bedford College. In the event, in 1985, QEC did merge with KCL and biologists from the two colleges, together with some from Chelsea College, formed a new Department of Biology. This caused numerous logistic problems the most significant of which was that the proposed student numbers could not justify the number of staff in the new department and this necessitated the invidious classification of staff as either research active or research inactive. The problem was how to encourage research inactive staff to retire, or to take up other posts in the College, while retaining research active staff some of whom, fed up with all that was going on, were actively looking for posts elsewhere. It is to his credit that Peter handled these negotiations with great skill and helped to ensure that the department would be located on the Kensington site. All this, however, was not without some personal cost; the merger resulted not only in too many staff but also in too many heads of departments and Peter had to relinquish his headship and became an Assistant Principal. In 1998, Peter formally retired but continued to work in the School of Cancer and Pharmaceutical Studies at the KCL Guys site until 2014 when he went to live in Montpellier in France. Altogether his connection with KCL intermittently spanned over 60 years.

Peters' research was unusual and very forward-looking in that he worked with both plant and animal cells specifically the molecules that act as both intracellular and extracellular messengers. He made major contributions to our understanding of plant cell differentiation and co-authored a book on the subject (*Vascular Differentiation and Plant Growth Regulators* with L.W. Roberts and R. Aloni 1988), demonstrated the presence of lysosome-like structures and phospholipids in plant cell and chromatin and messenger DNA in higher plants. His major research contribution was in the field of Extracellular Genetic Materials (EGMs) particularly circulating Nucleic Acids in Plasma (CNAPS) in animal cells, especially liver cells. CNAPS are molecules released from dying cells that enter other cells and manipulate their functions including transformation from normal to cancer cells, their role in immunological responses and, from a clinical viewpoint, their potential use in the diagnosis of cancers and other disease states including neurological disorders. In this context, he was particularly interested in virtosomes, DNA/RNA-lipoprotein complexes, a term that he coined in a paper with Maurice Stroum, University of Geneva who had described disease-specific circulating nucleic acids in the 1960s. Peter was publishing scientific papers well into his ninetieth year and one just before he died.

One of Peter's most valuable assets was his ability to work with other scientists on an international scale. He was an Invited Professor at the University of Geneva and was involved in collaborative studies with colleagues at the University of Geneva, University Medical Centre, Hamburg and L'Ecole de Médecine in Montpellier and other institutions.

Peter was also involved in the broader fields of biology; he was an active Fellow and Vice-President (1990-1992) of the Institute of Biology (now the Royal Society of Biology a society with a membership of over 18,000) and a Council Member of both the Royal Microscopical Society and the Society of Experimental Biology. He was an accomplished violinist, a knowledgeable opera lover, fluent in French and Italian and a keen cricketer of which the author of this article had

firsthand knowledge having played with him once on the same side and twice as an opponent.

Peter will be sadly missed by his second wife, Danielle Carmignac (herself a distinguished cell biologist) and his son Jonathan and by his many friends and former scientific and academic colleagues. As a footnote, after they retired about a dozen of Peter's closest colleagues from QEC, KCL, Chelsea and Queen Mary College, used to meet every month at the Churchill public house in Kensington where they indulged in lively discussions about biological discoveries, national and world affairs and the inevitable academic gossip. Peter was always a lively, well-informed, but sometimes controversial, discussant. With the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic the group continued to meet on ZOOM but with steadily decreasing numbers what in the event turned out to be their last meeting took place only a month before Peter died.



Tribute by Professor Frank Cox

Prof Peter Gahan took over from the Principal, Dr Robert Barnes, as President of the QEC Association in 1986, remaining in the role until around 2000.

Members may remember a talk he gave to QE(K)A in May 1987 on 'Towards an Elixir of Life'



Dr Robert Barnes (front row, centre) and Prof Peter Gahan: (back row, left) Both seen on a photo of the QEC Council before its last meeting on 4 July 1985.

Ruth Elizabeth Walmsley (nee Astin), MBE

BSc (Household Science) 1956

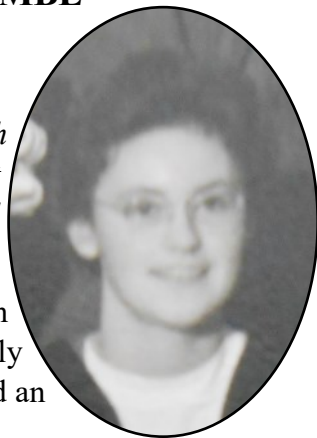
22nd June 1935 – 10th March 2023

We were sorry to hear of the death of Ruth Walmsley who frequently joined her friends at our QE(K)A events. Her son, Richard Walmsley, has written in tribute to her:

Ruth Elizabeth Astin was born in Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire. Her father ran a family clothing business, Astin Brothers, and Ruth had an elder sister, Beryl.

Ruth enjoyed school and was head girl at Hebden Bridge Grammer School and captain of the school hockey team. Outside of school Ruth was a Girl Guide and attended Sunday school at the Salem Methodist Church in Hebden Bridge. This marked the start of her Christian faith which remained important to her throughout her life.

In October 1953, at the age of eighteen, Ruth moved to London where she attended London University, Queen Elizabeth College. She at-



*QEC Students Union Executive Committee, 1954-55.
Ruth Astin is the 3rd from right on the front row.*

tained a BSc in Household Science in 1956 and was presented with her degree by the late Queen Mother.

Ruth's first job was in London, at the Ministry of Agriculture Fish and Food. Her second job, which she started in 1959, was as an Assistant Lecturer at QEC where she stayed for four years. While living in London, Ruth attended Notting Hill Methodist Church.

In October 1954 Ruth met her future husband, John Walmsley, at a dance at QEC. They were married on Easter Monday 7th April 1958 in Hebden Bridge and were happily married for sixty two years until John passed away in July 2020 at the age of eighty nine.

For the first few years of married life Ruth and John lived in Barons Court and moved to Thames Ditton in 1963, two weeks before her daughter, Alison was born. In 1965 their son, Richard was born. They lived in Thames Ditton for thirty nine years before moving a few miles down the road to Surbiton in 2002. During this whole time, Ruth and John were active members of Surbiton Hill Methodist Church.

Ruth stopped working in paid employment when her daughter was born but she continued to mark A-Level home economics exam papers each summer.

In June 2002 Ruth was awarded an MBE 'For Services to the community of Surbiton'. The award was for her outstanding commitment to both Surbiton Blind Club and the Girl Guide Association. Ruth was with Surbiton Blind Club for thirty six years, twenty seven of which she was the chairperson only retiring in 2017 at the age of eighty two. As well as organising the fortnightly Club meetings, Ruth helped on holidays for some of the elderly Club members in Eastbourne and those members with no close family, would be invited for Christmas lunch with Ruth's family. Ruth also volunteered with the Girl Guide Association for over thirty years serving in many different roles concluding her guiding service with the role of District Commissioner.

Ruth also received other awards for her community work including a joint Mayor's award with John in March 2001, a Surbiton Rotary Club

Award in 2005 and a second Mayor's Award in 2013.

Ruth enjoyed travelling and once both Ruth and John's parents had died and John had retired, Ruth and John made the most of their free time clocking up nineteen SAGA holidays including trips to Australia and New Zealand and they also visited their son who was living overseas in Zambia and Dubai. Ruth was also a keen tennis fan, both playing and watching on television.



Ruth and John celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary

The last five years of Ruth's life was challenging. John developed Parkinson's making him largely immobile for the last year and a half of his life. Ruth cared for John with the help of carers, until three months before he died, when it was decided that John's needs required full time, live in care. Sadly after John died, Ruth's health rapidly deteriorated due to osteoporosis and Ruth was also cared for at her home by a live in carer. Both Ruth's children lived close by and, in spite of the challenges she faced, Ruth always enjoyed short outings and spending time with her children and three grandchildren.

Ruth was a committed Christian and this was evident from how she lived her life, her selflessness and kindness to others and her loyalty and her commitment to good causes. Ruth's was a life well lived.



Ruth, a few weeks before her death

By Richard Walmsley (Ruth's son)

Professor Donovan P. Kelly, FLS FRSB DSc

QEC Microbiology Department

20 May 1940 to 7th June 2024

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Donovan (Don) Kelly who joined QEC in 1963 as a lecturer in the Microbiology Department. Although he left in 1965 to work in Canberra for three years, he returned to QEC and remained there until 1974 when, at age thirty three, he was appointed as Professor of Environmental Sciences at Warwick University. At the time, he was the youngest Professor in the UK, having jumped from lecturer to professor overnight, and earned a short piece on the back page of *The Times* with a photograph to report the 'youngest prof!!' He remained at Warwick University until he retired, retaining the title Emeritus Professor until he died.



While at QEC, Don met his future wife, Ann Wood who was an undergraduate from 1970, and became a PhD student in his laboratory in 1973. Ann moved with him to Warwick University (1975), they married in 1986, and Ann subsequently returned to the Kensington Campus of King's (1991), closing the circle. Don and Ann collaborated scientifically for decades, writing many joint scientific papers and publishing beyond retirement. They split their lives between Leamington Spa and London, where they enjoyed meeting up with their friends and colleagues at our QE(K)A events and Microbiology ('Beermats') reunions, with Ann spending several years as Chair of QE(K)A.

Don died just a few weeks after his 84th birthday and is survived by his wife, Dr Ann P Wood, his two daughters from his first marriage, and his grandson. Our deepest sympathies to them all.

We hope to have a fuller tribute to Don in next year's Envoy.

Mrs I C Coles née Rutishauser,

BSc Nutrition 1959

After graduating from QEC, Mrs Coles went to work as a junior scientific officer at Glaxo Ltd before going to work as a nutritionist at the University of Uganda. She later moved to Melbourne to work at the medical department of the Shell Company of Australia. She had still been living in Australia when we learned of her death in 2023.

Mrs Anthea Molyneaux Dean, née A.M.Todd

BSc (H&SS) 1950.

Died 5 October 2022, aged 96 years



After graduating from QEC, Miss Todd became the Assistant Editor of ‘Food and Nutrition’ published by the Ministry of Food. She moved to Stafford in 1952 when she married her husband, Walter and spent much of her life supporting the local communities and charities, even serving as Mayoress. Her interests included golf, bridge and gardening. She had a daughter and son and became a grandmother and great grandmother. She is remembered by family and friends for her charm, kindness, positive outlook and genuine interest in everyone she met.

<https://funeral-notice.co.uk/notice/dean/5074057>

Other QEC deaths, recorded in King’s obituary listings:

www.kcl.ac.uk/news/obituaries-2023

Dr Glesni MacLeod (née Jones), Household Science, 1964; PhD, 1967

Andre Silva, Mathematics, 1980)

Maureen Hunton (née Anderson), Nutrition & Dietetics, 1956

If anyone would like to add a tribute to any friend or colleague from KCHSS/QEC, please contact the Editor, Lyn Embling, email bizyblings@hotmail.com

KCLA Report

2023 - 24

by Paul Ogden

KCLA's usual array of events, to which all QEC graduates are invited, have fully returned.

Their 2024-25 events are still to be confirmed but there will be two headline events: the KCLA Annual Address in November and the Annual Dinner in March.

Finally, a little bit of King's trivia: Taylor Swift played her first UK gigs at King's in 2008. Remarkably she referenced that concert during her recent run of shows at Wembley Stadium.

QE(K)A's Relationship to KCLA

QE(K)A is a branch of the King's College London Alumni Association (KCLA) which is the independent body representing all alumni and former staff of King's and the colleges with which it has merged. All QEC graduates are automatically members of KCLA. Our association has a seat on the KCLA council and we endeavour to always have representation at their meetings and events.

QE(K)A Data Privacy Policy

Information on the QE(K)A data protection policy was provided in Envoy 2018 and 2019 and is also available on the QE(K)A web site: www.qeca.org.uk.

CONTACTS:



Chairman: Paul Ogden
Email: pjogden@btinternet.com

Secretary: Dr Claire Thomas

Treasurer: Barbara McLennan, née McDermott
Tel: 01784 247384; Mobile: 07811 389011
Email: barbarajmcl@hotmail.com

Membership Secretaries:
Dr Sally Henderson, née Taylor
Tel: 01424 775130
Julia Duval, née Littlewood
Tel: 07768 387514
Email: qeka.mem.sec@gmail.com

Editor Envoy: Lyn Embling (née Rigby)
2 Ayling Hill, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 3LL.
Tel : 01252 333977,
Email: bizzyblings@hotmail.com

Web Master: Gary Thomas
Email: webmaster@qeca.org.uk

QE(K)A Branch website: www.qeca.org.uk

We also have a growing presence on facebook under

QEC and Kensington Campus KCL Alumni

DEADLINE FOR ENVOY 2025:

30 June 2025