



*h*erein are recorded the names of all the **Kitchener Scholars** who are known to have lost their lives during the 1939-45 War; together with the dates between which they held their **LORD KITCHENER NATIONAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**.
 They served in the Armed Forces of the Crown or in Civil Defence and gave their lives in the cause of Freedom.

'THEIR NAME LIVETH
 FOR EVERMORE'



Thorough

Volume 26 January 2024



A message from the Chair

Welcome to another edition of Thorough, the annual newsletter of the Kitchener Scholars' Association!



Simon Piggott - Kitchener Scholars' Association Chair

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Chair of the KSA, having had the opportunity to meet so many Kitchener Scholars, both young and old, at the events which Committee Members have organised throughout the year. You can read reports of these events elsewhere in this Newsletter - I have been fortunate in attending all of them!

At the same time as becoming Chair of the KSA, I moved up from being on the Council of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund to being one of eight Trustees of the Fund and Chair of its Scholarship Committee. My Kitchener Scholarship was very important to me when I went to Business School back in 1986 and I view these voluntary roles as important ways to make my contribution back to these two wonderful organisations. It was terrific that this year the Fund had more applications for Kitchener Scholarships, 129 in total, than we have had for many, many years. The Fund was able to award 35 undergraduate scholarships and also our first postgraduate Kitchener Scholarships. You can read more in the report from the LKNMF by its secretary, Lt.Col. Mervyn Basset BEM on page 14.

One thing I was very keen to do when I became Chair was to survey our membership and many of you will have participated in the survey. A big thank you for all those of you who took part. The results are set out on pages 3 to 5. Broadly the results were positive. There are some weaknesses, ones which I think the Committee has suspected for some time. There is a sense among members that the KSA is quite London-centric (for the record, I live in the East Midlands), and it is an Alumni Association where Alumni don't know other Alumni well. Of course, we cannot move All Souls' Chapel in St Paul's or the statue of Kitchener of Khartoum (KoK) on Horse Guards Parade, but you can read about our Action Plan to address these issues, and indeed some initiatives have already started.

So I really hope that we will be able to ensure Kitchener Scholars get to know each other better. One of the best ways is to come to an event. You are a talented, diverse and fascinating group of people with an important common connection, namely that at least one of your parents served in HM Armed Forces.

In addition to reports about some of the events we have staged this year, on pages 11 to 13 you will find pieces by three very impressive scholars, two of whom were recipients of the inaugural postgraduate Kitchener Scholarship.

Former Vice Chair, Charles Bryant, who has a tremendous knowledge about KoK and all things to do with Victorian military history, is rejoining the fold as our Honorary Historian, a position which has been vacant for many years. He has written a very interesting piece starting on page 16 about KoK and his early survey work in the Middle East

I hope you have had a good start to the New Year and look forward to seeing a large number of you at our sold out Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony on 15th March at the Victory Services Club in London.

Best Wishes *Simon Piggott*

Survey Results

A big thank you to all of those who responded. We had some 600 scholars who, post GDPR rules, have opted in to be contacted by the KSA, and of these 145 took the time to at least start our survey - a few decided to skip a few questions. So all in all, we had a **25% response rate**. We had a good spread of ages of KSs, the oldest being a KS from 1956.

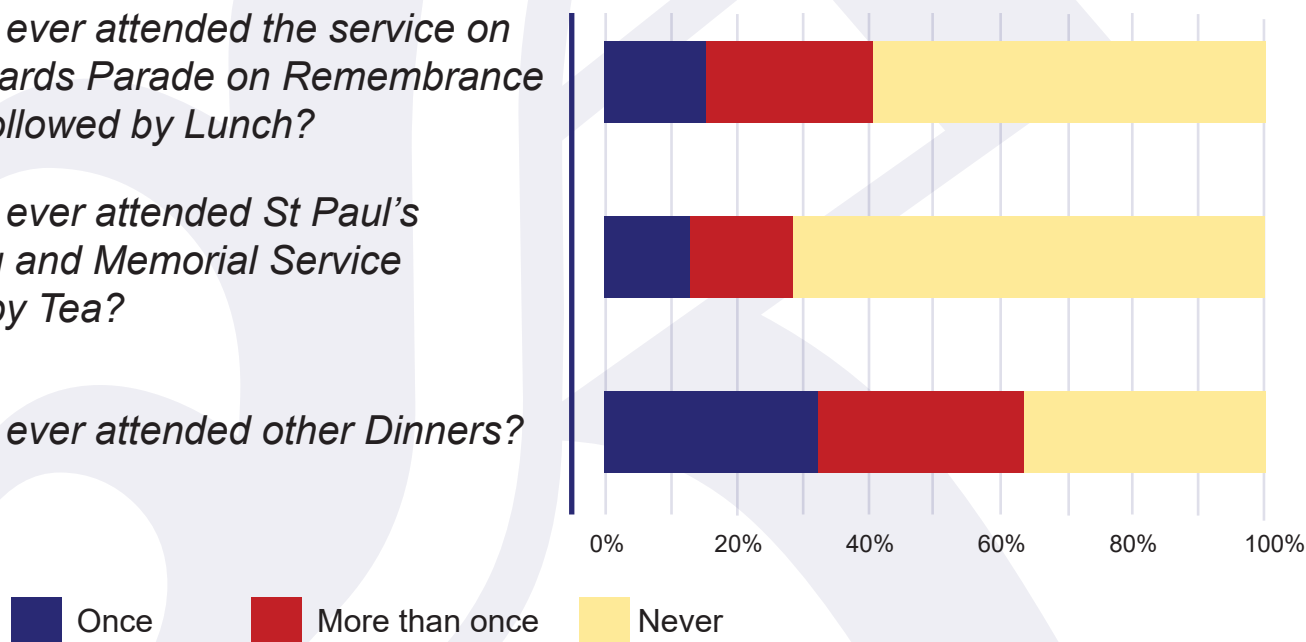
28% of respondents had attended the very special Centenary Dinner in 2022 in the Imperial War Museum for which we had over 200 KSs and Guests. In terms of the other core events, by which I mean the March Annual Dinner, the Evensong and Memorial Service in St Paul's followed by tea in June, and Remembrance Sunday followed by lunch, attendance looked like this:

Attendance at "Core" Events

Have you ever attended the service on Horse Guards Parade on Remembrance Sunday followed by Lunch?

Have you ever attended St Paul's Evensong and Memorial Service followed by Tea?

Have you ever attended other Dinners?



And in terms of the other events we lay on, such as Careers Panels, the 2022 Academic Panel about KoK, the 2023 visit to Bletchley Park, or just a Social Meet-Up, **40% of respondents had attended such an event**.

The reasons for not attending KSA events were various, but the most common were distance away from London, and family and work commitments. Indeed, one of the key criticisms, if that is not too strong a word, is that the KSA is very London-centric – although that of course is where Horse Guards Parade, St Paul's and All Souls Chapel are.

The feedback from those who had attended events was, almost without exception, very positive indeed. The visit to the large Hadron Collider at CERN back in 2013 hosted by Emma Sanders KS, CERN's Head of Exhibitions, was clearly memorable for those KSs who attended.

Respondents scored us highly when asked whether the KSA is fulfilling its Objects (Score 4.0, with 5 being Completely Fulfilling Objects, 1 being Not At All). You also scored us highly on and **whether you were satisfied with the communications provided via various channels (Score 4.1).**

Survey Results (cont'd)

Where the score dropped was the **sense of being connected to the KSA (Score 3.0)** and the **lowest score was how well connected KSs felt to other KSs within the Association (2.1)**. This confirmed what I think the Committee already knew: we are an Alumni Association where Alumni don't know each other very well!

With respect to **Subscriptions, 70% of respondents were paying the correct annual subscription of £20 per annum, for which we are grateful, and 95% were happy how that subscription money is used**. The remaining 30% were paying a lower amount or not paying a subscription. The Committee has debated this several times, and our approach is that we will continue to include KSs not paying the correct subscription in our mailings. After all, if someone is working overseas or a long way from where events are generally held, or at a time of life where it is impossible to come to events, they may view £20 per annum as unnecessary expenditure. However, we have instigated more stringent checks that those signing up to events with an element of subsidy are indeed paying the correct subscription. In other words, if you don't pay a subscription, you are still very welcome to come to St Paul's or Remembrance Sunday, but not the tea or lunch afterwards!

I was convinced that the membership would like a shorter but more frequent than once per year Newsletter but you were happy with the current arrangement. **So one reasonably lengthy Newsletter a year it will remain.**

Around two thirds of respondents had consulted **the KSA Website**. The view was that the website is fit for purpose with good information but is not very exciting and is a little bit dated. Having worked as a bursar for the last ten years of my career, I know how easy it is to spend £20,000 - £30,000 plus many months of a remunerated marketing team to refresh a very professional website, but the KSA clearly has limited funds and resources. The Committee's view is, given our resources, that the Website should be a fit for purpose website, rather than anything too fancy and flashy.

In terms of other comments, we had a variety of opinions. Some thought every event should have a connection to KoK and after-dinner speakers should always have a link to KoK, while others pleaded for more get-togethers with the objective of purely socialising and that there was less emphasis on KoK. (I had a boss once who taught me the mantra: *"You will never please all the people all of the time"*). Some thought we should be doing more in organising events around the country, others thought we were doing a terrific job as we are all volunteers (and every other Committee member apart from me is working full time, and our Secretary works part-time). I was wondering if I would get more retired respondents saying they would like to join the Committee but in fact all those who answered this call were pretty young.

Here are just a few verbatim comments:

For Events

"Absolutely loved the Imperial War Museum dinner, and always enjoy St Paul's and Remembrance [Sunday]. Enjoy every event I have attended."

"Bletchley Park was great. Also went to CERN a few years ago – fascinating."

"Loved the two dinners I attended, keen to attend again in future diary permitting."

"I really enjoyed attending the events and meeting new people. I met some of my best friends at these events."

"The first KSA events I attended were really welcoming, the individuals I met were very friendly and this led to my joining the committee. I now have lifelong friends from the KSA."

Survey Results (cont'd)

The Website

"Functional - but good look and feel, easy to navigate. I don't think the KSA needs a really extensive website."

"I think it is fairly easy to navigate and presents crucial information well."

General

"I think I'm missing out! I'm glad to have this reminder of the Association and the opportunities it provides me with."

"More frequent activities nationally, rather than being located on the whole in the South of the country."

So what are going to do about this? Well, the Committee has not had a chance to meet in person and we have only corresponded about the results, but already:

1. We have asked the thirty-three 2023 Scholars to opt in to a WhatsApp Group. This is up and running and witnessed an initial flurry of chat and introductions. I am sure it will be pretty lively after our cohort of 2023 scholars has had the opportunity of meeting each other at the Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony.
2. We have written to groups of Scholars at the same universities offering a £15 / head subsidy if they get together and send us a photo and a short report of their meet-up. The groups at the Universities of Warwick and Exeter were incredibly fast out of the blocks and held their get-together within a few days of the offer! St Andrews and Durham, where an impressive nine KSs gathered, followed in hot pursuit. And KSs at London universities and colleges, Oxford and Edinburgh/Glasgow are in contact with each other to try and organise something this term.
3. We have been trying to push social media channels, and I am delighted that the KSA LinkedIn Group, to which only bonafide KSs are admitted, is really taking off. We now have 212 members having started the year at 137. There are also Facebook and Instagram channels. KSs are encouraged to post their news and photos on these!
4. We will aim to hold our cultural / educational visits outside London. We are developing a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, just outside Cambridge, next Spring. I apologise if those of you in the North of England and Scotland still view this as 'down South'! If you would like to and be prepared to organise an event somewhere outside the South, broadly defined, please drop our secretary, Neal Clifton, a note outlining your proposal!
5. Whilst most of the Military Clubs are based in London, as well as other venues which have in the past been used for our Annual Dinners, we will look at hosting a future Annual Dinner outside London.

That concludes the summary. Once again, we would like to thank all of those who took the time to respond and I hope you feel that the feedback we received is leading to some action on the part of the Committee. We try our best!

Simon Piggott - KSA Chair

Dinner 2023

After the very special Centenary Dinner at the Imperial War Museum in 2022, we resumed with the more traditional dinner (without the dancing – sorry!) at the Army & Navy Club on Pall Mall. This club is a very historic setting with lots of oak panelling and oil paintings. 100 Kitchener Scholars and their guests enjoyed a drinks reception and wonderful dinner. The vast majority of the new intake of Kitchener Scholars were able to take advantage of their free dinner, courtesy of the LKNMF, and to receive their certificates from Lady Emma Kitchener. We had a fascinating after dinner speaker, Professor Lucy Noakes, a historian from the University of Essex who spoke on the theme: The reaction of the public to the death of the First Earl Kitchener of Khartoum. Photos and indeed Lucy's speech are available on the website www.kitchenerscholars.org. Our thanks to KSA Co Vice Chair, Ruaridh Cumming, for pulling this event together and Mervyn Bassett for his role as Master of Ceremonies on the night. We did have some Kitchener Scholars on the waiting list and we are very sorry we could not accommodate you. We have chosen a much larger venue for our 2024 dinner!

A selection of images from the evening:



Bletchley Park Visit



Committee Member Jim Watson organised a well-attended trip to Bletchley Park, the home of the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) since 1938 and more recently famous for its role in breaking the Enigma Code. Our tour guide, Terry Machon, was ex Royal Signals and his last job had been as Information Security Advisor to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. In his introductory briefing, Terry reminded us that cryptography and ciphers can be traced far back in history – the Babbington Plot being an interesting example where a code was broken which cost Mary, Queen of Scots, her head. It was in 1919 that the GC&CS was set up under the control of the Admiralty, whose First Sea Lord at the time was a certain Winston Churchill. We learned that the Enigma machine was invented by Arthur Scherbius at the end of World War I and initially marketed for commercial organisations. Terry then spent an hour with us walking around the large site giving insights on the history of Bletchley. He was keen to emphasise the decisive role that Polish mathematicians and French spymasters played in helping to crack the Enigma Code – something rather downplayed in the two films *Enigma* (2001) adapted from Robert Harris' 1995 highly fictionalised novel of the same name and more recently the somewhat more factual *The Imitation Game* (2014).

The photo bottom right is Alan Turing's office in Hut 8, where he famously chained his tea cup to the radiator so that colleagues could not walk off with it!



St Paul's Evensong

This event is always held on the Sunday closest to the 5th June, the date in 1916 when KoK drowned when HMS Hampshire, en route to Russia on a diplomatic mission, hit a German mine. The KSA organised a trip to Orkney in 2016 where there is a memorial at Marwick Head to the 723 crew members who lost their lives. Although the ship was less than a mile out to sea, only 12 survived as there was a storm, lifeboats were wrecked, and the closest point to land comprised sheer cliffs.

The KSA had funded a plaque at Marwick Head and we learned that the plaque, which was only 12 years old, had not survived Orkney storms. The KSA is funding a new plaque, hopefully in more robust materials and with better fixings, with wording very similar to the existing one.



Orcadians gather at Marwick Head monument, 5th June 2023

The Kitchener Memorial

THE TOWER WAS
ERECTED BY THE
PEOPLE OF ORKNEY
TO COMMEMORATE
FIELD MARSHAL
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL KITCHENER
K.G., P.C., K.P., G.C.B.,
O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G.,
G.C.I.E., ADC.

Herbert Kitchener was born in Baldingford, County Kerry, Ireland on 24 June 1852 and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1871, after which he quickly assumed the rank of the British Army.

It was his defeat of the Mahdi at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898 that secured control of the Sudan and his name - he himself enjoyed the title of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. Following the decisive victory he worked tirelessly to improve the medical, educational and legal systems of the Sudan and also those of Egypt.

Today, the British Empire is a controversial subject, but his contribution gave the Sudan the longest period of peace in centuries.

As Commander-in-Chief of British forces in South Africa he brought the Second Boer War to a conclusion in 1902 with a generous compromise peace by the Treaty of Vereeniging.

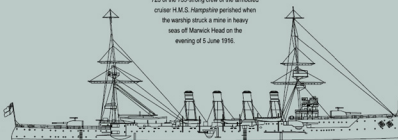
While Commander-in-Chief, India he successfully reformed the Indian Army and strengthened the defences of that great country.

Away from military matters, Kitchener placed huge store on the transformative value of education; he was elected Rector of the University of Edinburgh in 1914.

His greatest achievement and lasting legacy, however, was undoubtedly as Secretary of State for War; a position he took up on 5 August 1914 - the day after Britain had declared war on Germany.

As the key member of the Cabinet he had the honour of being the first to deliver the news of the outbreak of the First World War, not least as a result of his success in raising the largest volunteer army that Great Britain - and indeed its then Empire - had ever seen.

Tragically whilst setting out on an advisory mission to a British ally - Russia - Kitchener, his Staff, and 222 of the 21st crew crew of the armoured cruiser H.M.S. Hampshire perished when the warship struck a mine in heavy seas off Marwick Head on the evening of 5 June 1916.



H.M.S. Hampshire
Class: Despatch
Launched: 1892
Commissioned: 1893
Displacement: 5,000 tons
Length: 121 m
Beam: 20 m
Draft: 10 m

The KSA sponsored plaque at Marwick Head

At Evensong, prime seats are reserved for Kitchener Scholars, and we were lucky that the Dean of St. Paul's himself, the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, led the short service in All Souls' Chapel.

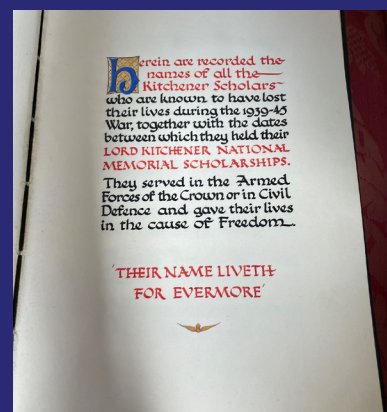
If you have never been to the Memorial Service, we really recommend it. It is always held on the Sunday in June closest to 5th June, the date when Earl Kitchener in 1916 lost his life with the sinking of HMS Hampshire. After Evensong, we gather by the Kitchener Memorial in All Souls' Chapel, which is normally closed behind wrought iron doors. It is not only an opportunity to pay respects to Earl Kitchener, without whom you would never won your scholarship in the first place, but to see the Roll of Honour listing the 126 Kitchener Scholars who lost their lives in World War II and also to hear the St Paul's choir and wonderful organ playing in the most spectacular setting of Wren's Cathedral.



Kitchener Scholars gathering at the Kitchener Memorial in All Souls' Chapel



Lady Kitchener holding the wreath



The Roll of Honour

Lady Emma Kitchener, her husband Julian and son Peregrine generously hosted tea in the nearby Café Rouge. Our thanks to the KSA Secretary, Neal Clifton, for making these arrangements.

Careers Panel 2023

KSA Committee Member **Fay Margo** KS 1997 drew together a terrific panel of Kitchener Scholars for our Careers Evening & Networking Event at the Guildhall. From left to right in the photo, Fay herself, who runs an award-winning consulting business, Brackendale Consulting, which provides media relations, investor marketing and graphic design services to private equity firms – in any of four languages!

Nicola Huet (KS 2000) Digital commerce, digital market and digital transformation leader

Alex Gordon Lennox (KS 2010) Serial entrepreneur

Dr. Megan Thomsett (KS 2010) Senior Policy Advisor, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Laura Hendry (KS 2013) Journalist and Producer of Radio 4's Today programme

Sophie Orr (KS 2011) Insurance underwriter

They were able to share their experiences, tips and advice to our younger Kitchener Scholars as well as older ones perhaps contemplating a career move.

Here's the briefest of summaries of their advice!

1. Demonstrate passion in what you want to do.
2. Don't worry if your career is non-linear. A number of panellists had made some big changes.
3. As Woody Alan is supposed to have said: 80% of life is about showing up. So networking is really important!
4. When going for an interview, for heaven's sake research the company or organisation as well as the background of the interviewer(s).
5. If you are at university and not quite sure what you want to do, talk to people who are working about their roles. Find out exactly what they do and see if that might be for you.



Fay Margo (Seated Left) and the Careers panel

Remembrance Sunday



A core event in the KSA calendar is Remembrance Sunday on Horse Guards Parade. A group of more than 90 Scholars and guests gathered – Lady Emma Kitchener thought it was the largest group she could remember for several decades. Transition from the initial meeting point in St James's Park through the police cordon to Horse Guards Parade was smoothly organized in person by the Royal Parks Manager – the Chair reminds me in days gone by, Kitchener Scholars sometimes had trouble getting across despite brandishing their Royal Parks 'Access Letter', but these days the Royal Parks and Police seem to know who we are! Modern day Health & Safety concerns dictated that the Royal Parks advised the wearing of ear plugs due to the sound of the field guns. Emma had apparently bought up the entire supply from Boots branches in Dorset to distribute!

We watched as the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery rode in with their two field guns to start and end the two minutes' silence. After the firing of the second gun, we gathered around the statue of Earl to begin our private wreath-laying service. The service is led by Lady Kitchener and concludes with the poignant reading of the Roll of Honour, the 126 names of Kitchener Scholars who lost their lives in World War II.



Selected scholars reading the Roll of Honour



The Lord Fellows of West Stafford, Julian Fellowes; Christopher de Mattos KS 1986, Trustee of the LKNMF and Chair of the LKNMF Finance Committee; Lady Emma Kitchener, KSA and LKNMF President.

It is worth saying a few words about the statue. It was designed by John Tweed and cast in a foundry at Thames Ditton. It stands in contrast to the equestrian statues of Field Marshall Roberts and Field Marshall Wolseley, which had been installed in the early 1920s, on the east side of Horse Guards Parade. The Kitchener statue was unveiled by the Prince of Wales, later to become Edward VIII, on 9th June, 1926. You can find a (silent) Pathé news clip of the unveiling [here](#). There is a not dissimilar standing statue, of General Gordon, perhaps looking more pensive, at Victoria Embankment Gardens.

Afterwards, the majority of us stood in prime position, close to the rostrum where a member of the Royal Family – on this occasion Princess Anne – took the salute to watch the veterans march down Horse Guards Road to the sound of military bands. This was also a good opportunity to mingle with other Kitchener Scholars, both young and old, and their guests. Again the majority of us, still chatting away, walked over to Chelsea and the Great India restaurant – there is also a tube option from St James's Park – before settling in to the restaurant, where Lady Emma Kitchener and her family generously hosted an extremely convivial curry lunch. Expert planning meant that every seat in the restaurant was filled!

Our Current Scholars

We asked three Scholars to write a short piece about the work or studies which they undertake and to reflect on their experiences.

Life as a Research Chemist working on Battery Technology - By John Cattermull KS

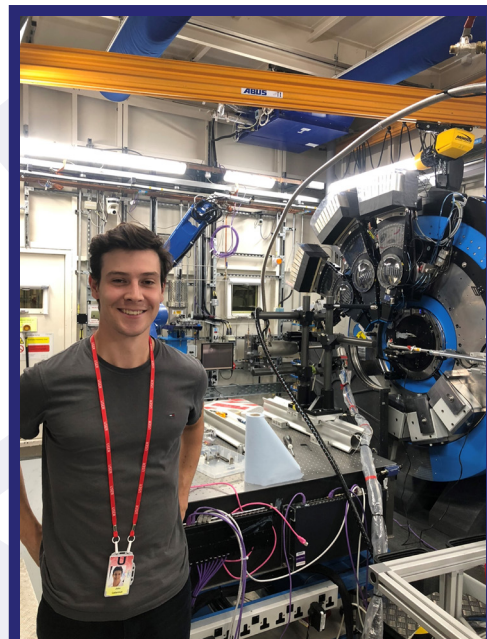
My first taste of scientific research came during the fourth year of my Chemistry undergraduate degree at the University of Oxford. Up to that point I had no real interest in further study, but I had a wonderful experience working with Professor Andrew Goodwin FRS, looking at a new solid-state synthesis of a material of interest as a cathode for potassium-ion batteries. This culminated in publishing our work in a Royal Society of Chemistry journal and personally receiving the thesis prize in Inorganic Chemistry.

The COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020 brought my research project to a rather abrupt close leaving me with a real sense of unfinished business along with a feeling of great uncertainty of what life after university might look like in this new post-pandemic world. These factors led me to take the leap and start a DPhil in Autumn 2020 in Materials Chemistry at Oxford working with my previous supervisor and Mauro Pasta, Professor in Electrochemistry – specialising in battery research. This was an exciting prospect as the electric vehicle industry seemed to be at an inflection point with more and more consumers turning to greener private transport modes.

I study the structure of a family of materials called Prussian Blue Analogues, which get their name from one such analogue, Prussian Blue, which is the famous pigment used historically in many paintings such as *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*. These materials, despite having 300 years history (making them oldest known molecule-based inorganic material) only recently have become the subject of great interest as cathode materials for sodium- and potassium-ion batteries. We are interested in the structural properties of these Prussian Blue Analogues because they directly impact the functionality of the material when applied as a cathode in a battery. My Research is largely experimental so I spend time in the lab synthesising my materials and characterising them using an array of highly specialist instruments. I also cast the material onto current collectors as electrodes to test their electrochemistry in a coin cell. Outside of the lab I spend time analysing my data, fitting them to structural models to better understand the structural properties of my materials.

Fast-forward 3 years and I can reflect on what has been an overwhelmingly positive experience filled with opportunities to present my research at conferences around the globe, perform experiments at world-leading facilities, such as the synchrotron at Diamond Light Source, and publish my work in highly regarded, peer-reviewed journals. I have so many amazing colleagues from my research groups to thank as well as my two supervisors who have provided me with countless opportunities to do great research as well as grow as a young scientist. I would encourage anyone considering the opportunity undertaking a PhD to be brave and take on the ride. Committing to three or four years of research can be daunting, not to mention the thesis at the end, but I have learned so much along the way and encountered so many brilliant opportunities I could never have imagined.

John was awarded a postgraduate Kitchener Scholarship of £5,000 in 2023.



**John Cattermull - Kitchener
Scholar 2016**

Life on the NHS Frontline - By Emily Palmer KS

Outside the KSA, I am now in my fifth year of working as a junior doctor. After starting as an FY1 in August 2019, COVID arrived in March 2020. I remember the first COVID chest x-ray and the early influx of unfamiliar patients, and the fear, uncertainty and lack of toilet roll that followed! Having worked on the 'not-for-escalation' COVID wards (where people stayed who could not get an intensive care bed), obstetrics (think labour ward + COVID complications with pregnant patients) and acute medicine (the first 72 hours of anyone's hospital stay) through these first waves, I learned a lot about human resilience, and the capacity of both staff and patients for genuine selflessness.

As the sharp end of these waves started to settle, I joined the COVID vaccine research team at St Thomas' Hospital, looking at finding our best protection for emerging waves of the virus variants (remember Delta, Omicron...?). Then, having fallen in love with coffee breaks sitting opposite the Houses of Parliament in London, I stayed on in A&E there for another year.

A&E was a real turning point for me because, having been offered a training post in London for internal medicine, I was surprised to find a different area I loved so much. As I experienced the new mix of acutely unwell patients, resuscitation, mental health crises, forensic and domestic violence, gang crime, the care of refugees and asylum seekers, or people needing nothing more than a cup of tea and a listening ear, I felt more motivated than ever for a lifelong career NHS.

And so I re-routed to a training post in Emergency Medicine, which entails a six year programme of anaesthetics, critical care, A&E, acute medicine, and major trauma. In truth, it is a pretty brutal application/ interview/ranking process for all specialties in medicine, and never let anyone tell you Medschool finals are the last of your exams – they go on forever while working! But I think I have found my tribe and happiest place to be in the busy front doors of the hospital.

However, not wishing to falsely paint the NHS as always full of happy people, I think it is important to recognise the prevalence of mental health difficulties within our line of work. After experiencing a lot of nightmares and difficulties unwinding after the pandemic, I started counselling, and thankfully became a lot better at unpacking some of the things we have to deal with every day. I am also now an ambassador for the mental health charity 'You Okay, Doc?', which is working to stamp out the stigma surrounding 'not feeling okay', and fundraising for psychology services & 24/7 help lines for nurses and doctors. In July, we raised more than £13,000 attempting the UK Three Peaks Challenge (narrowly missing the target after some horrendous weather, multiple mountain rescue call outs for other teams, and a broken leg of one of our own!)

Although I could not attend my Kitchener Scholar award ceremony until 2019, since then I have been to nearly every KSA event that I have been able to!

In summary, between work, training, charity shenanigans and trying to keep up with my family, I am usually pretty busy, but if any parts of the ramble above have been of interest or I can be of any help, please do get in touch! I'll also be spending a lot of time at Chelsea Hospital over the next few years in case you are nearby. In the meantime, I look forward to reading about what everyone else is up to in future Newsletters and on the KSA LinkedIn Group.



Emily Palmer - Kitchener Scholar 2014

The Army or Finance? - By Abigail Blackwell KS



Abigail pictured in Army fatigues

I received my undergraduate Kitchener Scholarship in 2020, and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Economics with Innovation from the University of Bristol last summer. I am now undertaking a Masters degree in Data Science, and am proud to be in the first cohort of recipients of the Kitchener Postgraduate Scholarship. Being one of only three British women in my cohort of 180 for my Masters degree makes me feel proud to be representing women in a technical field, and will hopefully inspire others to do the same. It motivates me to work harder so that I can break into a heavily male dominated field. Coding is a huge part of my course, and coming from a non-STEM Bachelors degree meant that I had to teach myself the basics alongside the demands of my course.

I am also an active member of Bristol UOTC, and most recently went on the unit ski trip to Tignes in December. Over the past two years in the unit, I have developed many personal skills, including resilience, communication and leadership. It was these skills that helped me secure an internship last summer at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Global Markets. Due to current job market conditions, I applied to over 40 internships in the financial sector, and was fortunate to reach the final stage in several.

Working in a bank over summer on the trading floor gave me a wonderful insight into the world of work, especially into a fast-paced work environment. The main project I completed in this time was a large scale data analysis project using Excel and Bloomberg into the impact of market moves and volatility on variation margin, based on the bank's portfolio. It was a great experience, helping to transfer the skills I learnt at university directly into the world of work. Despite this, I still struggle with a strong dilemma about whether the army or finance would be better suited as a future career path. Whilst both would aid me in my vision of being a trailblazing woman in both fields, I currently believe that finance would provide me with a more fulfilling career, helping to expand and develop upon the skills I am currently learning and applying through my Masters degree.



Abigail Blackwell (pictured right) - Kitchener Scholar 2020

Abigail was awarded a postgraduate Kitchener Scholarship in 2023.

LKMF Report

A report by Lt.Col. Mervyn Basset BEM, Secretary of The Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund, on the current status of the Fund.

Thanks to recent very generous legacies from Kitchener Scholars as well as increased commercial sponsorship of scholarships from Annington Homes, Blythe Sappers and BAe Systems, the Fund was in a strong position, despite equity market headwinds in 2023. Funds under management and cash amounted to £2.5 million as at 31st March 2023 (2022: £2.7m). Remember that as recently as 2006, funds under management only stood at around £600,000. I am delighted that the number of applicants increased very significantly to 129, which compares to the more typical 100 per year, reflecting the Fund's efforts to promote the Scholarship more widely amongst schools, through Forces channels and online. Our interview process has continued, post Covid, online which we find works very well for Panel members and candidates alike. 60 candidates were interviewed this year (2022: 56) and from these, 35 (2022: 30) were awarded Scholarships, with two candidates deferring their university entry until 2024. The value of the Scholarship was increased from £1,500 to £2,000.

For some years, the Fund has wanted to introduce a postgraduate award. This was successfully launched to the KSA Membership in 2023. We had ten, high quality applications and were able to award four postgraduate scholarships, two to scientists pursuing doctorates, and two to individuals joining Masters programmes.

The Scholarship Application Form was updated with more appropriate questions about how university education was being financed by the candidate, the type of secondary school attended, and a more general question of a social mobility nature. The Scholarship Policy was updated to give Interview Panels a little more leeway with respect to contextual factors. Note, however, in keeping with our Charter, the award remains a Scholarship for demonstrated excellence in academic studies, extra-curricular activities and strong performance at interview, and where successful candidates are expected to make a strong contribution in their chosen fields. It is not a Bursary.

As in recent years, the women were more successful than the men this year by more than 2:1. The proportion of successful candidates from the maintained (state) sector schooling rose to 46% - still of course below the proportion of the general student population at such schools.

To remind you, the Fund consists of eight Trustees, serviced by me as Secretary. A Finance Committee of three Trustees meets twice per year to monitor the finances and performance of our fund manager, Barclays. The Scholarship Committee does not meet formally but maintains regular contact with the Secretary. These two Committees report to the Executive Committee, chaired by Lady Emma Kitchener, which meets twice a year, before the AGM, to which the wider Fund Council are invited. As Secretary, I have about six weeks to read, grade and decide on those candidates to be interviewed. The Chair of the Scholarship Committee supports me in the decision-making. During this period, I will also request potential panel members to offer their services to interview candidates. Panels consist of three members and me – effectively the common denominator across all panels. There is a lot of work to organise the 13 panels we required to interview 60 candidates.



**Lt.Col. Mervyn Basset BEM (left) and Neal Clifton (right),
LKMF Secretary and KSA Secretary**

LKMF Report (cont'd)

The work of the Chair of the Scholarship Committee is not finished yet, as the final names are required to be prioritised and presented to the Executive Committee to agree the numbers of Scholarships to be awarded. There is very careful scrutiny of those just above and those, unfortunately, just below the cut-off line.

I would like to finish with a request. I would be delighted if KSA members would like to offer their services to sit on one of the Panels in July and August. You would not be on our own, there would always be two other experienced members to assist, and the Panel Chairs are experienced and helpful. Interview Panels are online, and we have panel members and candidates online from abroad. Indeed, Lady Emma Kitchener usually logs on from Greece at this time of year! Please do contact me at secretary@lknmf.com if you feel you can assist on a Panel in 2024 – generally it would require three hours on a morning to match your availability on a day in July or August. Also, please do contact me if you would like to consider leaving a legacy or making a donation to the Fund. The Fund's Report and Accounts are available on the Charity Commission website under Charity Number 313525 [here](#).

Mentoring Scheme

There were several comments in our Survey asking whether the KSA could facilitate a mentoring scheme. Committee Member and former Vice-Chair, Kathryn Pritchard, who combines a busy Civil Service career with time spent in the Reserves but still manages some very thoughtful work for the Committee (and of course was the driving force for the Centenary Dinner) has designed an admin-light (for the KSA), GDPR compliant mentoring scheme. We will launch a pilot in February. Essentially, all we ask is for prospective mentors and prospective mentees to fill in a form, agree that their email address will potentially be shared, and the KSA will put a mentor working in an appropriate sector in contact via email with a mentee or mentees interested in or working in that sector via email. Then it will be over to both parties to make of the connection what they will, be that a telephone conversation, a Zoom or a coffee in a coffee shop as well as determination of the frequency of interaction.



Watch out for more details next month!

Kitchener and the Survey of Western Palestine

1872- 1878

The tragic events in Palestine prompt reminders that Herbert Kitchener spent some years in that part of the world, an episode that very much launched his active army career as a young man and led on to the great achievements that are usually uppermost in our minds when we think of him. In Palestine he made a major contribution to the surveying of the country and the making of an iconic set of maps: not a military campaign but read on for the significance.

The following article, written by the Hon. Historian of the KSA Charles Bryant, details this time in Kitchener's life leading up to the decorated military career for which he is most known.

Kitchener spent most of his childhood in Ireland and subsequently in places such as Switzerland and Brittany because of his father's moves. He did not go to public school or Sandhurst; he was something of an outsider but a serious and distinctive looking man. He elected to join the Royal Engineers and was trained at the Woolwich Academy. After a few modest adventures, he ended up in an uncongenial role at Aldershot Camp, which he detested. Military opportunities at that time were infrequent so it came as a lucky break when through a friend, Claude Reignier Conder, he was encouraged to apply for an assignment with the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF); he was successful and in late 1874 travelled to Palestine.

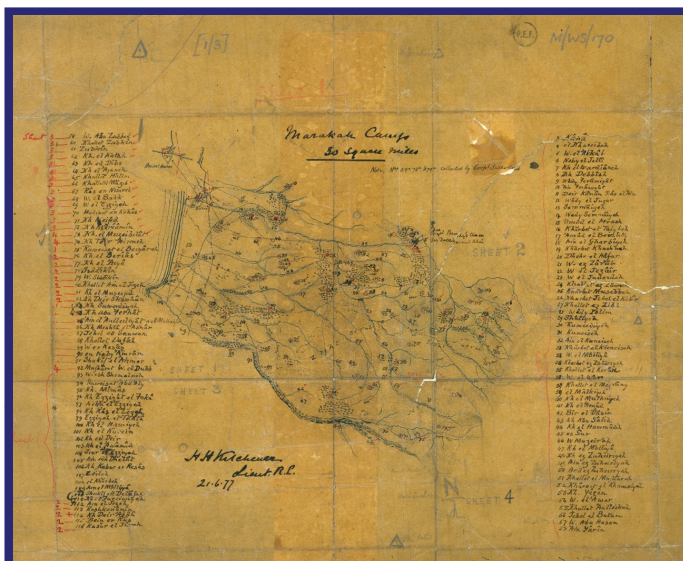
The PEF was co-founded in 1865 by George Grove, engineer, and celebrated musical scholar, and Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, Dean of Westminster. For many years, its secretary was Walter Besant, novelist, and historian, with whom Kitchener maintained a lively correspondence. The PEF was a 'learned society' that created an illustrious community to pursue research in the Holy Land which then formed a remote part of the Ottoman Empire. Conder was an eclectic friend, engineer, linguist, and artist, with whom Kitchener had together learned Hebrew; it should be recalled that in these early years Kitchener had become avidly religious, favouring the High Church trend of the time. The Holy Land was a big draw for much of English society in a profoundly religious age, not least for Herbert.

Conder's deputy, the explorer Charles F. Tyrwhitt-Drake, had died in Palestine while working on the Survey of Western Palestine, and so Kitchener stepped into his place where he flourished. He subsequently took over from Conder, who had done a lot of the arduous work and later fell out with Kitchener, whom he accused of taking excessive credit. However, this was always a rigorous challenge not only making maps using the highly technical triangulation technique with a theodolite, but also the meticulous recording of topography, geology, archaeology, human settlements, ethnography, natural history and more. The product was twenty-six map sheets conforming closely to the accuracy standards of the Ordnance Survey and the thirteen companion volumes of 'Memoirs'. The maps have since been used in solving border questions and were regarded as a distinctive achievement of the PEF.

The Kitchener family motto is 'Thorough', and this was spectacularly exemplified in his work rate and enthusiasm, which on several occasions led to illness. He also demonstrated courage and exceptional leadership for a young man. He saved Conder's life more than once including the Safed incident when the surveying party with its Ottoman guard detail was attacked by a mob resulting in a severe injury to Conder and an injury to Kitchener who organised a resistance that saved life and limb. The Ottoman authorities were open to the operation of foreigners in their territories and indeed had encouraged the work of the PEF. The Ottoman empire was very cosmopolitan and included an array of ethnicities, religions, and languages, most of which co-existed harmoniously in ways that the modern boundary-conscious world has often forgotten.



The imposing figure of Kitchener, who spoke Arabic, moved around ceaselessly on horseback and on foot in this hugely varied territory the size of Wales. Kitchener developed consummate skills in diplomacy and human relations at a granular level, which was to serve him well. He covered places from the northern Galilee to the Negev desert in the South: from 'Dan to Beersheba' and many places in between. On revisiting Safed after the trial of the ringleaders he refunded their fines.



Field Sheet 1877



The Western Palestine Survey team. Kitchener in right foreground

Photographs by kind permission of [The Palestine Exploration Fund](https://www.thepalestineexplorationfund.org/).

Why would the British Army allow their talented engineers to undertake special assignments with the PEF and in similar situations? Some of this is already answered above, especially the phenomenal training and development. There was also a sub-text because this was a major region of interest for the British Empire. The War Office knew that having maps equivalent in quality to the Ordnance Survey would eventually prove their worth in a military sense. The Ottoman Empire was declining, the Suez Canal was being built (80% of the ships were British), Disraeli came back to power in 1874 and saw the 'Eastern Question' as crucial given the vacuums that could be occupied by the expansive Russia and other powers such as France. Within a few years war broke out between Turkey and Russia and Britain occupied Egypt, on which Kitchener had already developed personal designs.

Kitchener realised that Palestine could be a stepping stone. He spent more than two years on field work and at least another two years collaborating with Conder in London on editing their magnum opus which was published by the PEF in stages between 1880 and 1882. He undertook another surveying assignment in Cyprus when it was acquired by Britain and had a spell in Turkey as a Military Consul. Indeed, he briefly returned to survey work for the PEF in 1883 in the Wadi Arabah valley in what is now Israel, and Jordan. Furthermore he walked across the Sinai desert. Finally in 1883, he was appointed to the newly re-formed Egyptian Army as a cavalry officer on active service. His experience in intelligence gathering, his horsemanship, linguistic skills, and growing leadership qualities were put to good use in both Egypt and Sudan in ever increasing roles of responsibility: the rest, as they say, is history.

Charles Bryant is Hon. Historian of the KSA and a former Vice-Chair. He would be interested to hear from any members who would like to join informal study sessions about Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. A programme of such activities and a walking 'seminar' is under discussion. Last year he moderated a Podcast available through the website or the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDKAoo6LtYM>

Please contact at: history@kitchenerscholars.org

AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Guildhall complex in London on 18th January 2024. Simon Piggott, who succeeded Susan Saunders as Chair at last year's AGM, had circulated his report in advance to members who had asked to attend, either in person or online, but nonetheless highlighted some aspects in his comments to the meeting. His key message was that the Association is thriving and indeed growing - the Annual Dinner, Evensong and wreath-laying at St. Paul's Cathedral and the visit to Bletchley Park were all very well supported and enjoyed by those who attended. Fay Margo had assembled an excellent team for the Careers Panel which was again much appreciated by those who came although numbers were low, and the Committee will consider how best to deliver this kind of event in the future.

It is very encouraging to see increased engagement from Scholars in a number of areas. Several gatherings have taken place at individual Universities, where Kitchener Scholars are offered a small subsidy for drinks and/or food to facilitate a convivial and lively evening! A WhatsApp group has been established for the new 2023 scholars and many connect on social media platforms, particularly LinkedIn where the KSA Group has over 200 members.

Simon also spoke about the recent membership survey which had seen a good response rate, providing useful information and guidance for the Committee in planning future events. (A full report on the survey is to be found elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Francesca Cumming, who recently qualified as an ACA chartered accountant, has now taken over fully as Treasurer, having worked "in tandem" during the year with John Ryder who stood down as Treasurer last year. In her report, she presented and explained the income and expenditure statement and cash position for the year ending 30th September 2023. The Association has increased its cash reserves to just over £10,000, approaching the position we were in before the subsidised Centenary Dinner. There had been a one-off cost in resolving website issues, which failed in April 2023 as the scripting version in which it was compiled was so old, which were carried out for us by our webmaster, Sara Thornton KS 2001, through her company Webholism.

The Treasurer drew attention to a shortfall in the number of subscriptions received - there is a reminder about KSA subscriptions elsewhere in this Newsletter!

Committee and Officers

During the course of the year three members of the Committee resigned because of work or personal reasons. Alastair Stokes (recently offered a position in Germany) had been a valued and hard-working member during his three years. Jim Rothwell and Jim Watson have both served on the Committee for many years. Jim Rothwell was hugely supportive of the KSA's activities and objectives and always offering helpful advice and ideas on discussion. Until recently, Jim Watson had served as Vice-Chair, and was instrumental in arranging the successful visit to Bletchley Park.

We are delighted that Charles Bryant, who stood down last year as Vice-Chair, has now rejoined the Committee and will serve in the role of Honorary Historian. Kathryn Pritchard, who was the key mover in the leviathan task of organising the Centenary Dinner, stood down as Vice-Chair but will remain on the Committee for the time being.

Kitchener Scholars 2023

Undergraduates

Name	Subject	Institution
Joshua Ayers	Mechanical Engineering	Sheffield
Amelia Blunden	Arabic & Middle Eastern Studies	Pembroke College, Oxford
Christopher Brooke	Classical Composition	Guildhall School of Music
Geena Capps	Medicine	Keble College, Oxford
Alice Clark	Accounting and Business	Reading
Imogen Cochran	Geography	Edinburgh
Anya Datson	Spanish	Lincoln College, Oxford
Tilly Dickinson	History and Politics	Warwick
Jacob Dunn	Aerospace Engineering	Sheffield
Elizabeth Dutton	Anthropology & Sociology	Durham
Elizabeth Dyer	Psychology	Exeter
Honor Farley	Music	Royal Northern College of Music
Libby Grant	Chemistry	Cardiff
Amalie Groom	Fashion Design & Development	University of the Arts London
William Hall	Politics and International Relations	Warwick
Emily Henson	History	New College, Oxford
Leah Hoston-Silva	Law	Nottingham
Iona Hutton	Anthropology & Sociology	Durham
Michael Leslie	History	Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Montgomery Lord	Law	Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge
Anya Morling-Grove	Astrophysics	Royal Holloway
Annabel Munro	History	Peterhouse, Cambridge
Emily Murphy	Veterinary Nursing	Harper Adams

Rosanna Palk	History & Philosophy	Warwick
Rosie Peet	Natural Sciences	Durham
Aidan Portch	Aerospace Engineering	Birmingham
Niamh Pudney	Immunology and Pharmacology	Strathclyde
Drishya Rai	History with a possibility of law conversion	Homerton College, Cambridge
Scarlett Ridge	Linguistics	Edinburgh
Harry Sidebottom	Chemistry	Kings College London
Annabel Smeaton	Production & Technical Arts, Stage and Screen	LAMDA
Arwen Thomas	Interdisciplinary Futures	Edinburgh
Elizabeth Walker	Physiotherapy	Nottingham

Deferred from 2022

Edward Mortimer	International Relations	Newcastle
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Deferred to 2024 (taking a Gap Year)

Thando Best	Economics	Bristol
Ryan Mupesa	Economics & Management	Loughborough

Postgraduates

John Cattermull	DPhil, Potassium-Ion Battery Technology	St Catherine's College, Oxford
Joshua Bex	PhD, High Energy Physics	St Catherine's College, Cambridge
Abigail Blackwell	MSc, Data Science	Bristol
Emma Gray	MLitt, Global Social & Political Thought	St Andrews

We look forward to welcoming the undergraduate Scholars to the KSA and presenting you all with your certificates at the Annual Dinner on 15th March!

Your LinkedIn Group Needs YOU

The number of members of the KSA LinkedIn Group, to which only bonafide Kitchener Scholars are admitted has surged during the year from 137 to 212. The Committee would like to encourage all members to post about what they are up to – it was lovely to hear from Olivia Banks KS 2018 on Remembrance Sunday with some photos of the memorials in Australia. If you haven't joined, why not join up now, and if you are already in the Group, **let's have some posts please!** We also have a Facebook page and an Instagram page, should these be your preferred social media channels.

Links to these three social media channels (LinkedIn would consider itself as more than a social media channel) can be found below.



www.instagram.com/kitchenerscholarsassociation/



www.facebook.com/groups/kitchenerscholars



www.linkedin.com/groups/974787/

Subscriptions

Please check you are paying the right amount

We noted in the Member Survey how your annual £20 subscription is used, namely, to fund the Secretariat (£1500), the website and webhosting, generously subsidising the under 30s (both KSs and Guests) at the annual dinner (£35 instead of full price £92.50), subsidising events we organise such as the Bletchley Park visit or a Careers Panel as well as a few other incidental costs.

We are not draconian about enforcing payment of the £20 subscription. A number of Kitchener Scholars pay lower amounts which, for example, prevailed in years gone by and we do recognise that some of you living a long way from London or overseas have little opportunity of taking advantages of the events we currently organise. You will still stay on the mailing list. However, we do ask that if you attend one of the Annual Dinners, any tea after St Paul's, lunch after Remembrance Sunday or a subsidised event, you are paying the correct subscription – and our Treasurer and Secretary are now more rigorously checking on this. We hope you agree that this approach strikes the right balance! **We encourage you to check you are paying the correct subscription of £20 by standing order.**

ACCOUNT NAME: Kitchener Scholars' Association

BANK: Natwest

SORT CODE: 60-03-25

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 03808742

Thank you! Francesa Cumming ACA KS 2015, KSA Treasurer

Your KSA Committee

Your KSA Committee for the coming year is as follows:

KSA Committee 2024

Chair

Simon Piggott
simon.piggott.t21@btinternet.com

Vice-Chair

Ruairidh Cumming

Secretary

Neal Clifton
secretary@kitchenerscholars.org

Treasurer

Francesca Cumming

Newsletter Editors

Archie Taylor, Simon Piggott

Hon. Historian

Charles Bryant

Social Media

Grace Girling

Other Committee

Fay Margo, Kathryn Pritchard, John
Ryder

Members

Sara Thornton at Webholism

Website

Merchandise!

The merchandise shop on the website has a selection of items for sale all bearing the Kitchener Scholars' Association logo.

www.kitchenerscholars.org/shop/

Upcoming Events

Please make a note in your diaries and save the dates for the following:

The Kitchener Scholars' Association Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony

Drinks reception from 6:30, Dinner 8:15pm, Carraiges 11pm, 15th March 2024

Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF.

THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT!

KSA Trip to Imperial War Museum, Duxford (outside Cambridge)

Further details including date and timing in due course but likely to be a Sunday in May

St Paul's Evensong and Memorial Service

Further details including timing in due course but likely to be 3pm, 2nd June 2024

Remembrance Sunday Services on Horse Guards Parade

From 11am, 10th November 2024

The Committee is also working on a number of other exciting events for you, so keep an eye on your inbox for emails from the KSA.