

# Q M YOU

MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF  
QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY  
Issue 83 | September 2016

**Mystical costumes light  
up ancient ceremony**

**World-class speech therapy  
helps children find their voice**

**Apex apprenticeships  
kickstart students' careers**



Queen Margaret University  
EDINBURGH

## Principal's Introduction

Once again, we are delighted to share with you some exciting news about our students, graduates, staff and university initiatives.

We are totally committed to enhancing the student experience and helping develop students who are job ready. In order to achieve this we have an incredible range of opportunities which help students develop their skills and confidence throughout their time at university. This includes scholarships, awards, internships, mentoring and community engagement opportunities. You can read about our Saltire Scholarship recipient (page 32), other award winners in our Development section (pages 24 - 25) and also find out how our podiatry students have used healthcare skills acquired at QMU to help refugees in the Calais migrant camps (page 19).

We encourage our students to support community projects and this summer our Costume Design and Construction students were commissioned to produce a suite of spectacular costumes for a local ancient ceremony which is staged every 21 years. Find out how our students, staff and graduates contributed to the Musselburgh Riding of the Marches (page 6), and view some of the beautiful costumes which took centre stage in the event finale (page 14 - 17).

We are always inspired by the work of graduates from our Institute for Global Health and Development. Many use the skills developed during their postgraduate courses to shape policies, improve healthcare systems and impact positively on the lives of communities both at home and internationally. We are delighted that Eunice Sinyemu, a Social Development and Health graduate and advocate for human rights, is sharing her career story with us. Eunice became a national voice for people with HIV around the time when Scotland began receiving a lot of Africans. Now based in Zambia, she has worked tirelessly for many years to improve healthcare for African's with HIV and AIDS in the UK and in Africa (page 23).

An untreated communication disorder at any stage in life can cause devastating and isolating effects on the well-being of an individual, affecting their family and social relationships, educational potential, career, and sense of self-worth. Our Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre is recognised internationally for the quality of its research which ultimately aims to improve the lives of adults and children with speech sound disorders. A wonderful example of the impact of our pioneering speech research is clearly demonstrated on page 20 and 21. Find out how our UltraPhonix project is using ultrasound technology to help youngsters find their voices.

Please continue to stay connected to QMU. If you are a graduate, you may consider sharing your career story with our Alumni Office or mentoring a student. Other ways for people to engage and support QMU are by funding a student scholarship or award, donating a tree to be planted at the University, providing an internship, supporting research or donating to the Student Fund. You can remember us in your will or you may just like to join one of our taste panels run by the Centre for Food Development and Innovation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Petra Wend, PhD, FRSA, FRSE  
Principal and Vice Chancellor  
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh



Mystical costume created by Costume Design and Construction students

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Improving results in National Student Survey - Nursing and Human Biology top in UK

**Q**MU RECENTLY HAD some impressive results in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2016.

Queen Margaret's score of 86% for overall student satisfaction was up 1% on last year. This new score exceeded QMU's benchmark and matches both the UK and Scottish university averages.

Human Biology and Nursing both rank top in Scotland for their subject areas and joint top in the UK. Our PR programmes also performed very well nationally, ranking first in Scotland. The areas of 'Acting for Stage and Screen', 'International Hospitality and Tourism Management', and 'Public Sociology', all scored 100% for overall satisfaction.

Our students were also happier this year with 'Academic Support', resulting in QMU being ranked in the top quartile in Scotland for this area. Other areas which improved included 'Assessment & Feedback' and 'Teaching on my course'.

The increase in scores year on year, in the majority of the NSS questions, demonstrates the University's focus on continuous improvement.

For more information on the NSS results visit:

[www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com) □

## New book by world-leading authority in events management

**P**ROFESSOR JOE GOLDBLATT, Director of the International Centre for the Study of Planned Events at QMU, has launched his new book 'The 21st Century Meeting and Event Technologies: Powerful Tools for Better Planning, Marketing, and Evaluation'.

This is the first book to specifically and comprehensively address the rapid changes and advances in technology in the planning, management, and marketing of meetings and events. Professor Goldblatt, the world-leading authority in events management, co-wrote the book with two of his former students to produce a text with multigenerational appeal.

The book covers the most important aspects of using technology for today's meetings and events.

<https://g.co/kgs/9zMXM> □

## 'Soar' stunning aerial footage of QMU

**A** STUNNING AERIAL FILM of the QMU campus at Musselburgh has been produced by the award winning filmmaker Walid Salhab and colleague Michael Grant from the University's Kinetic Film Project.

Filmed on a sunny day in April 2016, using a DJI Inspire 4K flying camera, Walid captures the scale of QMU's campus, which encompasses an impressive academic building, students union, sports facilities and student village. The film shows students enjoying the good weather in the landscaped grounds and relaxing on the decking. Walid even captures the swan on the SUDS pond and, if you look closely, you'll spot music therapy students dancing in the gardens.

Walid's film demonstrates the University's proximity to the stunning East Lothian coastline and the surrounding town of Musselburgh, as well as Arthur's Seat and the Pentland Hills.

WATCH 'Soar' here: <https://goo.gl/CYzpUL> □

## Lord Dunlop visits campus



**U**NDER-SECRETARY of State for Scotland, Lord Dunlop, visited the campus in July as part of QMU's programme of stake holder consultation on the innovation park which lies adjacent to the campus. As well as learning about the Edinburgh Innovation Park proposals, QMU Principal, Professor Wend, gave the minister an overview of the University's general work whilst also showcasing some of the innovative research taking place within the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre and the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation. □

## Cancer charity pioneer and education leader awarded honorary degrees

**A** CHARITY CHIEF who has led a cancer support revolution and a leading authority in Scottish educational management were awarded honorary degrees from QMU in July. Laura Lee is Chief Executive of Maggie's,

the charitable organisation that provides centres offering practical, emotional and social support for people living with cancer. Under Laura's leadership, Maggie's has transformed the way people with cancer are supported in the UK. She was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of her work in improving the lives of people with cancer by placing patients and their families at the centre of service delivery.

Keir Bloomer has dedicated his life to educational management and public service. He was Chief Executive of Clackmannanshire Council and President of the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland and, following his retirement, he served as Chair of Court at QMU. He was awarded an honorary degree for services to Scottish education and for his significant contribution to the strategic development of QMU.

Professor Brendan McCormack, Head of QMU's Division of Nursing, presented Laura's oration at the graduation ceremony. He said: "Laura has developed a new approach to providing care - she has helped healthcare professionals to flourish and to truly respond appropriately to the clinical, mental, practical and social needs of patients and their families. In that sense, she epitomises the underpinning values of the nursing programmes provided at QMU, as well as reflecting the aims of our Centre for Person-centred Practice Research, by ensuring that patients and families are at the centre of service delivery."

Professor Petra Wend, Principal of QMU, said: "During his time as Chair of QMU's Court, Keir oversaw many important developments within the University underpinning current and future successes, including the framing of our institutional strategy for 2015-2025 and re-defining our vision as that of a 'university of ideas and influence'.

Professor Wend concluded: "We are delighted to honour both these highly influential individuals - Laura Lee for her dedication to person centred care which has enabled Maggie's to transform healthcare services for people with cancer, and Keir Bloomer for his lifelong commitment to education, and for supporting QMU's vision to become recognised as a university of ideas and influence. Both Laura and Keir's achievements in their specialist areas reflect the relevance of the University's work and its aim of serving communities and improving quality of life."

Both Laura Lee and Keir Bloomer were presented with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University. They were joined by 850 students and their families at an impressive ceremony in Edinburgh's Usher Hall. □



## Children's University all aboard the zoo bus

**Y**OUNGSTERS FROM Queen Margaret Children's University came face to face with a range of fascinating wildlife in QMU's University Square in June.

The children, aged five to 14, who are part of QMU's widening access learning initiative, benefited from wildlife sessions on board 'The Wild About Scotland' zoo bus. The bespoke double decker bus, run by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), offered an entertaining programme of wildlife education which aims to inspire young people and encourages them to appreciate and respect wildlife and the environment.

Queen Margaret Children's University was delighted to host the zoo bus, and grateful for the opportunity to inspire children to connect with nature on their own doorstep. □



## Making a commitment to student carers

**D**URING NATIONAL CARERS Week, QMU made a pledge to young carers which will help support them during their studies at university and improve their lives chances.

In Scotland alone, it is estimated that there are at least 759,000 carers aged 16 and over and 29,000 young carers.

Irene Hynd, University Secretary at QMU, said: "Three out of five of us will become carers at some stage in our lives and 1 in 10 of us is already fulfilling some sort of caring role. Students with caring responsibilities can experience hurdles and barriers when juggling their caring role with academic work."

Irene continued: "QMU is committed to widening access for students and we are therefore pleased to partner with Carers Trust Scotland to develop a Student Carers' Support policy. This will help to ensure that students with caring responsibilities are given the support they need to reach their potential, no matter what their circumstances are."

Paul Traynor, from Carers Trust Scotland, said: "Young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of college or university than students who are not young adult carers. Carers who have the opportunity and ability to go to university should not be negatively impacted because of their caring responsibilities. Our 'Going Higher for Student Carers' campaign wants to see student carers being put at the forefront of the higher education agenda in Scotland."

"QMU's new Student Carers' Support policy has the potential to positively impact the lives of current and future student carers at QMU; ensuring they are supported to have a fairer chance to be successful in their higher education studies."

Public Health Minister, Aileen Campbell, joined Irene, Paul and some student carers at QMU to launch to new policy. □



L-R Irene Hynd QMU, Aileen Campbell; Public Health Minister, Paul Traynor, Carers Trust Scotland

## Musselburgh Riding of the Marches

**T**HE ANCIENT CEREMONY of Riding of the Marches has been held in Musselburgh for over 300 years. It now takes place every 21 years and this year's celebrations in July was a grand affair which blended history, music, performance, fun days, exhibitions and social and sporting events.

QMU was delighted to support the week-long festival by providing sponsorship as well as expertise from staff, students and graduates in the form of film and media, stage management and costume design. Richard Butt, QMU's Dean of Arts, Social Sciences and Management, created a promotional film in advance of the event and graduate film company, Raw Film Productions, captured the magic of the pageantry including the marking of the ancient boundaries of the Burgh, which took place on horse back. Members of our community outreach team were involved in the musical celebrations.

A spectacular display of fire, water, sound and light took place on the final weekend with our stage management specialist, Scottie Anderson, producing a visual feast with two Son et Lumiere shows involving fire on the River Esk. The talents of our Costume Design and Construction students were showcased beautifully on the banks of the river. A stunning collection of dramatic illuminated white costumes, commissioned specifically for the finale, took centre stage as part of the final parade which brought together music, song, dance, water and fireworks.

Feast your eyes on some of the amazing costumes, which were designed around the theme of 'Selene, goddess of the moon', and her court, on pages 14, 15, 16 and 17. □



## Partnership provides social enterprise boost to higher education

**Q**MU HAS JOINED forces with Edinburgh-based charity, Cyrenians, to combine their shared vision for social justice and put sustainable social enterprise at the centre of higher education.

The new partnership will provide QMU students with a range of opportunities to

experience working in the development and support of sustainable social enterprise. This will include research projects and academic studies within QMU's specialist areas of health and rehabilitation, food education, film-making and event management, as well as volunteering and fundraising opportunities.

QMU students will get the chance to support their academic studies by working

on live projects and services for Cyrenians, which has been working with the homeless and vulnerable for almost half a century.

Ewan Aitken, Cyrenians CEO added "This partnership speaks of our shared values in striving to create communities without borders and helping to improve people's lives locally, nationally and internationally. We share a desire to be ambitious and enterprising, holding social justice at the heart of all we do. In a shared vision of what we have and who we are, we are all transformed. This is an exciting journey to be setting out on together." □



Image courtesy of Robin Mitchell

## Stage Managers of the future to be educated in festival city

**SCOTLAND'S FESTIVAL CITY, with all its arts and cultural events, will be the location for a new postgraduate course which is set to attract the stage managers of the future.**

QMU and The Edinburgh Stage Management School have joined forces to offer a Masters of Arts (MA) in Stage Management\*, which is the only postgraduate course of its kind in Scotland.

Sarah Paulley, Lecturer in Scenography from QMU, explained: "The entertainment and live events industries are growing rapidly and the need for skilled Stage Managers has never been greater. Our rapidly changing domestic and international environment has resulted in a demand for high quality ambitious projects which have the capacity to engage and influence both local communities and global audiences. The work of stage managers has therefore become increasingly complex and technically challenging.

"Live entertainment in the form of all kinds of large scale events can be beamed into everyone's living rooms worldwide. In the same way, high quality plays or operas that once offered intimate entertainment to

small theatre audiences, can be streamed onto huge screens across capital cities: in our modern technological age, the capturing of live events online means demand for perfection in live presentation is constantly increasing. The role of the stage manager is central to achieving these demanding goals."

QMU's partnership with The Edinburgh Stage Management School ensures this course offers students a high level of engagement with the working industry. Key professional practitioners will deliver master classes and practical workshops and will mentor students as they undertake professional practice projects. At the same time, studying this expanding discipline at Master's level will ensure a high level of academic rigour.

The course will balance blocks of intensive workshops in key technical production skills with classes and seminars in the theory and practice of the equally vital art and science of communication and people management. Students will also have the opportunity to put knowledge into practice by stage managing real productions both within QMU and the wider industry.

George Tarbuck, Director of The Edinburgh Stage Management School, said: "In our sophisticated global marketplace, good stage managers are now highly sought after and career opportunities are excellent. Stage managers have to have outstanding organisational and people management skills. They sit at the centre of the planning and preproduction process and they are essentially the captain of the ship once the show starts.

"Graduates from the Edinburgh Stage Management School have gone on to work in theatres, performing arts organisations and festivals, corporate events and ceremonies. We have an 98% employment rate and our graduates are working worldwide."

Further information on the MA Stage Management at QMU can be found at: <http://goo.gl/JOU0wy> □

\*Course subject to validation

## University masters the art of child's play

**A NEW COURSE WILL help to educate the Play Therapists of the future ensuring that children, who have experienced trauma, can benefit from a high quality professional support service.**

The MSc Play Therapy, which aims to develop therapists who can work safely and therapeutically with children and families with complex needs, is a collaboration between QMU's Art Psychotherapy team and the charity With Kids.

Play is a really important part of child development and Play Therapy taps into ways in which children communicate. Children, who have been through trauma or had really awful experiences in their lives, can really benefit from Play Therapy as it offers a way of communicating and healing the distress they have been through without relying on verbal communication.

Play Therapy is a recognised profession and currently Play Therapists practice in a range of environments from the NHS to social services and from primary and secondary schools to charities. Play Therapy is successfully used to help people of all ages, not just children, deal with a wide range of emotional and physical conditions. In the UK, the majority of Play Therapists work in health and the voluntary care sectors with a sizable number working in schools and nurseries.

Gwen Galbraith is programme leader for the new Masters programme and also works with With Kids which has bases in Glasgow and Edinburgh. She explained: "There has been a lack of specialised training in this sector in Scotland for a number of years. We have consulted widely and interest has been high."

"Play Therapy is a really rewarding career. We have the privilege of working with children, young people and their families at really difficult points in their lives and are witness to the changes and developments that Play Therapy can bring about."

It is thought that the new course, which will take its first intake in September 2016, will appeal to professionals who are already working with children or young people, possibly people from a social work, health and education background. Gwen Galbraith said: "It will ideally suit people involved in education, social care, health and voluntary sectors. A first degree, such as occupational therapy, would be helpful but is not essential."

More details about the MSc Play Therapy can be found at: <http://goo.gl/QlmkKP> □



## New scholarship to address LGBT issues in tourism & events sector

**THE UNIVERSITY IS TO launch a new scholarship geared towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) studies in the tourism and events industry.**

With its specialisms in tourism and events, QMU has teamed-up with US-based TravelAdvocates to offer the scholarship to up to two students a year over the next three years.

The TravelAdvocates LGBT Studies Travel and Research Scholarship will help selected QMU students carry out their own independent research into the current LGBT issues affecting the tourism and events sector.

QMU's Professor Joe Goldblatt, said: "We're extremely grateful for the generous support that TravelAdvocates is providing our students. This is the first time in the 140 year history of QMU that a research scholarship in this important area of study has been established.

"This generous and pioneering support is initially committed for up to three years and will provide much needed financial support and other resources for current and future generations of QMU students."

TravelAdvocates is a global hotel site selection company founded in 2005 by Robert Miller in Hoboken, New Jersey. The company's team has more than 75 years of combined experience providing personalised hotel site selection and booking thousands of hotel room nights for groups each year. They are a trusted advocate for their clients, who come from the corporate, government, association, tour and travel, athletic and social markets.

Robert Miller, CMP, Esq, President of TravelAdvocates, said: "As an openly gay member of the global tourism industry, I think it is important to explore and identify the specific needs and interests of the LGBT segment as it relates to travel and events. It is a unique market that continues to grow, and TravelAdvocates is proud to support research in this important field."

Any undergraduate or postgraduate student at QMU can apply for the scholarship. A call for applications will be announced in September 2016 and the award will be made in November 2016. A committee chaired by the Queen Margaret Students' Union President with members from the teaching staff and other students will select the recipient(s).

Commenting on the new scholarship, Heidi Vistisen, President of the Queen Margaret Students' Union, said "I'm incredibly pleased and excited to see such a fantastic scholarship made available to QMU students, especially when we still in 2016 see discrimination against LGBT people to a very high extent.

"I'm honoured to be chairing the selection committee and I know that students at QMU will use this opportunity to influence the community and society they live and study in." □

# Is Scotland ready for **edible insects**?



**N**EW UNIVERSITY RESEARCH has shown that despite TV shows like 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here', which highlights the consumption of insects, Scotland is just not ready to embrace entomophagy.

Entomophagy is the consumption of edible insects. Two billion of the world's population currently eat insects as part of their daily diet. People in Asia Pacific, Australia and Africa are known to view certain dishes, which include insects, as delicacies, and in places such as Vietnam and Cambodia, children often eat grasshoppers and crickets as snacks during school hours.

Despite sweet insect lollipops being sold in top London stores and bags of barbecue flavoured crickets now available in Harvey Nichols in Edinburgh, it appears that the Scots are still hugely resistant to indulging in insect cuisine.

Maybe our fear of eating 'beasties' is down to the fact that, as a nation, we are just not that used to big creepy crawlies. The swarm of midgies is not going to be a meaty enough treat to sustain a strapping Scotsman. However, anything with longer legs than a daddy long legs is maybe just too much for the Scots to swallow. Even though we have got our heads around haggis, and all that it constitutes, our chefs, and even real foodies, are still not brave enough to go beyond their comfort zone.

Adam Roe, former Student Vice President at QMU, conducted the study of entomophagy for his final year dissertation. Adam, who is a graduate of QMU's International Hospitality and Tourism Management degree explored the perceptions of Edinburgh-based chefs with regards to using insects as part of their culinary offering.

Adam explained: "During my travels to Thailand, I was fascinated to see the incredible range of street food on offer in Bangkok.

The locals ate a wide range of insect based snacks such as water bugs, scorpions and grasshoppers. It was interesting to learn about their food culture and I was intrigued to see workers, dressed in business suits, picking up bags of deep fried insects to munch on their way home from work."

Adam was keen to explore the acceptance of insect consumption with chefs in Edinburgh. He said: "Earlier research has identified Western consumer perceptions as a current barrier, but I wanted to find out whether chefs had an appetite to include insect cuisine on their menus.

"I discovered that chefs in high end restaurants were nervous about the damage to their restaurant's reputation and didn't feel that there was a consumer demand for edible insects in Scotland. Ironically, Noma in Copenhagen, known to be one of the world's finest restaurants, serves live insects, such as ants, from time to time."

Adam continued: "Chefs also felt that they were not educated and experienced enough to safely prepare and serve insects. However, one French chef in particular, was more enthusiastic about embracing insect cuisine, and showed his willingness to offer an edible insect tasting experience."

Grasshoppers, which were deep fried and served with fish sauce and seasoning, became one of Adam's favourite insect dishes when he was touring Thailand. However, the same cannot be said for scorpion, which he disliked intensely. Adam said: "It has a creamy sour taste which was rather off putting,

but I persisted in trying different insects. When I returned to Scotland I continued to experiment with various ingredients and dishes. I've incorporated mealworms into chocolate brownies – that was a big hit – but my beef stew with mealworm flour didn't go down well with my dinner guests."

Adam concluded: "Although I may feel enthusiastic about entomophagy, my research shows that Scotland just isn't ready for bugs on plates. It's now over to TV shows, possibly with celebrity chefs to create a more favourable image of insects in gourmet cooking and trendy street food."

Bernie Quinn, Senior Lecturer in International Hospitality and Tourism Management at QMU, added: "Adam has conducted a fascinating insight into a food phenomena that there is currently little knowledge of in Scotland. His findings are perhaps just a little too cutting edge for our top chefs – unpalatable even!"

Adam Roe presented the findings of his study: 'An exploration of the perceptions of chefs regarding entomophagy in Michelin and Rosette awarded restaurants – case study of Edinburgh's finest chefs' at Council for Hospitality Management Education conference at the University of Ulster in May 2016. □



# 'iDependence': Crowdfunding to Create a Film About Internet Addiction



**A** GROUP OF YOUNG artists and scientists joined forces to tackle the escalating problem of Internet addiction by creating a powerful new film.

Lethally Harmless Productions (LHP), a non-profit collective of artists and scientists, launched a crowdfunding campaign to fund the completion of 'iDependence' – the first documentary film of its kind about Internet Addiction Disorder.

Operating out of QMU's Business Innovation Zone, Lethally Harmless Productions created a dramatic trailer which highlights the serious issue of Internet addiction. The film content draws on extensive research which the project team conducted throughout Europe over a two year period. The collective, founded by university graduates from Poland, Portugal and Greece, visited schools and cutting-edge research institutions to gain a thorough understanding of the effects of Internet addiction on children, adolescents and adults around the world.

The documentary aims to raise awareness of the personal and social implications of Internet addiction, which has shared similarities with alcoholism, drug and sex addiction. Michal Korzonek, who is a QMU film and media graduate, is Co-founder of Lethally Harmless Productions and Director of 'iDependence'. He stated: "iDependence' includes interviews with renowned academics, teachers and professionals from research institutions and schools from all around Europe. It exposes Internet addiction in detail and gives practical advice on how to diagnose and treat the disorder. Importantly, the film provides parents, teachers and anyone interested in internet use with the tools to help them use new technologies in a healthy and beneficial way."

According to the latest research, 13% of young Europeans are at risk of Internet addictive behaviours. In the USA, it's 10% of the population and in China and South Korea it is thought to be between 18 – 30%.

Silvia Bastos from Lethally Harmless Productions, explained: "How many times do you check your social media account during the day, just because your mobile phone is close by? How often do you get distracted by a bleep alert and lose focus on a face-to-face conversation with a friend or work colleague? This type of obsessive behaviour affects and impacts on our ability to live in the moment and concentrate on nurturing our relationships with people."

"Internet addiction stands out due to the negative impact it may inflict on millions in the future", warned Dr Fotios Spyropoulos from the Hellenic Association for the Study of the Internet Addiction Disorder (HASIAD). Dr Konstantinos Siomos, President of HASIAD pointed out: "As the amount of time people spend online increases, other activities such as interaction with friends are abandoned. Sleeping decreases dramatically, there is school failure and bad communication in the family."

However, 'iDependence' does not merely focus on reporting the misuse of the internet - it focuses on ways to reach its optimal use.

Internet addiction is a complex issue that affects society on a global scale, so there is no quick fix. By carrying out this extensive research, the project team hopes the film can help society adopt ways of 'using' the Internet, but not being 'used' by it.

"Technology is a very big part of the everyday lives of children and adolescents", said Dr Artemis Tsitsika, Head of the Adolescent Health Unit, University of Athens. "If you use

it for educational reasons or within schools it might be a protective factor against high risk behaviour on the Internet."

Lethally Harmless Productions aims to raise £10,101 during its crowdfunding campaign to cover the costs required to complete the film. Everything above the target sum will be used to distribute the documentary, which will be supported by training sessions and presentations to schools, institutions, workplaces, film festivals and conferences worldwide. It is hoped that this will help stimulate global debate on the healthy use of the Internet.

Professor Alan Gilloran, Deputy Principal of Queen Margaret University, said: "From our inception, QMU has responded to some of the most pressing issues that affect our society. I am proud that 'Lethally Harmless Productions' is ambitious in its determination to deal with a serious issue, such as Internet addiction, which affects societies on a global scale."

Dr Vasileios Vlaseros from Lethally Harmless Productions, is also Director of the Athens Behavioural and Experimental Economics and Social Sciences Laboratory of the University of Athens. He concluded: "Internet Addiction has not received the attention it demands mainly due to the unincorporated reluctance of mass media and social networking platforms to help raise such an issue. Breaking this vicious circle and contributing to the campaign in any way possible will help us help others with iDependence." □

## Students create powerful film to support Leuchie House Respite Centre

**A GROUP OF MEDIA and film students has used its creative talent to promote one of Scotland's most respected respite care facilities.**

The 2nd year students created a series of short promotional films which capture the spirit of Leuchie House national respite centre in North Berwick for people living with long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Huntington's, Parkinson's, cerebral palsy and the effects of stroke.

The project was part of a media module 'Working in the Media' in which groups of students work with small local businesses, social enterprises or charities to develop an agreed media product such as a short promotional film, marketing materials or a social media campaign.

The series of films captures interviews with people who have benefited from a much needed respite break at Leuchie House, which is located in an impressive country house just outside North Berwick.

The respite care centre, an independent charity, offers specialist nursing care facilities for people who are experiencing serious degenerative health conditions. Importantly, it provides a holiday, in a beautiful part of the country, for people who experience long term health issues as well as their carers.

Lorraine Hunter, Marketing and Communications Officer for Leuchie House, explained: "For many people with enduring medical conditions, a period away from home can be a lifeline, but the thought of being away from familiar surroundings for the first time when having specific health needs, can be daunting. "We wanted a series of video clips

featuring a range of Leuchie people – guests, carers, staff and volunteers - which would convey what we call 'the Leuchie effect,' the positive impact of a break at Leuchie, which lasts long after guests leave.

"The students were great to work with. They interpreted the brief extremely well and managed to put everyone they filmed at ease. The students were professional and very sensitive to the needs of our guests and their carers. They used their approachable and down to earth manner very skillfully to encourage people to engage in the filming process."

The team of four 2nd year film and media students who created the new short film were Louise Nicolson, Calum Beveridge, Mai Phnong Dang Thi and Rebeka Papp.

Louise explained: "Our course module 'Working in the Media' presented us with a wonderful opportunity to put the skills and knowledge that we are learning on our degree course into practice on a live project.

"We totally fell in love with Leuchie House. It's such a unique place and it was a real joy to work with the staff and the clients. Meeting and working with the guests was the best bit. It was great to see the positive effect that Leuchie House had on people."

Mai Phnong Dang Thi stated: "We wanted our film to capture the 'Leuchie effect' – basically how people benefited from their positive experience of Leuchie House. The facility really has something special and by encouraging the clients to open up and share their stories, it was clear to see how much they had been affected by their time at Leuchie. Despite the challenges that they faced,

guests were relaxed, positive and happy. It took them out of their normal lives and transported them to a safe beautiful place where they could re-energise and enjoy themselves."

Lorraine Hunter confirmed: "The video clips will be a very useful addition to the resources on our website, helping people understand what Leuchie House is all about and how a break here could make a real difference to them. As a charity, funding a professional video shoot would be outwith our budget, so we are extremely grateful to QMU for providing us with such a useful promotional tool. It's a great way to convey real life experiences of all kinds of aspects of life at Leuchie House."

Denny Collie, Lecturer in Creative Enterprise at QMU, said: "We are very proud of this student group and the way they conducted themselves throughout the project. They were incredibly professional, handled the project with the sensitivity it deserved, and showed a real passion for the project. This passion and care is clearly demonstrated in the final film.

"We are also pleased that our 'Working in the Media' module is proving to be such a hit with local charities, social enterprises and small businesses in East Lothian and Edinburgh. It is an excellent way for the University to engage with community groups and for our students to gain hands on practical experience in film and media and develop their communication and group work skills whilst building their work portfolio. It's a win win situation for all involved."

View the Leuchie people interviews at: <http://www.leuchiehouse.org.uk/respite-breaks/leuchie-people>



## First open-air production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

**P**ERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS celebrated Shakespeare's 400th anniversary by staging a new open-air production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in June.

More than forty students from across Queen Margaret's Performing Arts programmes worked with staff to create a truly magical evening of theatre.

As part of this exciting production, QMU worked in partnership with students from both the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Lighting and Sound School. Original music for the show was supervised by Yati Durant and composed by students of MSc Composition for Screen at the Reid School of Music, ECA, University of Edinburgh.

The public performances took place over a week in June with open air productions staged within the grounds of QMU and at the beautiful Dunbar's Close Gardens on Edinburgh's Royal Mile. □

## Costume Showcase creates new worlds

**C**OSTUME SHOWCASE is one of the highlights in the QMU calendar and this year's creative event did not disappoint.

The catwalk showpiece, held at The Pleasance in Edinburgh, transported the audience through a chain of imaginary worlds. Led by the BA (Hons) Costume Design and Construction student group, the event featured characters drawn

from a fairy tale past and a science fiction future. The audience was dazzled by the feast of visual fun which included ghostly apparitions brought to life using 21st century technology.

The show transported the audience across time and space. Characters from Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle' walked the runway alongside creations inspired by anime and mythology, by the arctic north and the exotic east, by politics and pantomime.

The audience was introduced to the

enchancing family of the 'Tailor Mice' and was amazed by the 'Experiments in Life Forms' created specifically for the National Museum of Scotland and Edinburgh's International Science Festival.

2016's finale pieces quite literally lit up the auditorium. A selection of exquisite Renaissance costumes with a modern twist – 'Selene, goddess of the moon', and her court – took centre stage. See photo feature on page 14-17. □

# River Knights

*illuminated costumes created  
for ancient local ceremony*

**T**HIS SUITE OF BEAUTIFUL costumes was commissioned for the Riding of the Marches, an ancient ceremony in Musselburgh which takes place once every 21 years.

Created by students on the BA (Hons) Costume Design and Construction degree, the designs were inspired by 'Selene and her Court' a carnival based on southern and northern renaissance fashions in Europe. The costumes blend synthetic material with modern portable lighting, ensuring an unusual visual spectacle for 'River Knights', the finale of The Riding of the Marches, which took place at dusk on the River Esk. □









## New research into the needs of carers of people with multiple sclerosis



**T**HE MS SOCIETY is funding a new study into the needs of families and carers of people with multiple sclerosis (MS) and the impact of MS on their lives.

The study is being carried out by QMU researchers who are specialists in person-centred practice, and is exploring new ways of supporting families and carers of people with MS. They hope to improve future services and general support for families.

The 9-month programme began in April 2016, with final results expected in early 2017. The work will provide evidence to directly influence the development of services by the MS Society, but will also inform and influence other agencies or organisations which provide support for MS carers.

While a significant amount of research has previously been carried out into the impact of MS on families and carers, fewer studies have looked at the different ways of providing support and what works best for different people. The MS Society has therefore commissioned this study to bring together this existing evidence, along with new insights, to help families and carers of people with MS access the support they need.

Morna Simpkins, Director for Scotland, MS Society said: "One of the biggest challenges is that MS is unpredictable - one day you can

be fine, the next you might lose your sight or be unable to move. With over 100,000 people living with MS, it's therefore vital we continue to fund innovative research to help anyone who is affected by MS access the support they need."

Dr Cathy Bulley, is leading the research project at QMU. She said: "This project brings together experts including people who are affected by MS, representatives of the MS Society and researchers. The ultimate aim is to help to improve the lives of families and carers of people living with MS. This project is an excellent example of the relevance of QMU's research work in that it aims to shape policy and service provision that will improve the lives of people affected by a major health condition."

Professor Brendan McCormack, Associate Director of QMU's Centre for Person-centred Practice Research said: "We will be using a number of contemporary methods to gather evidence including face-to-face and telephone interviews, as well as Facebook and online focus groups. This means that people all over the UK will have their voices heard."

The researcher has received a grant of just under £48,000 from the MS Society to fund the work. □

## Students provide specialist foot care at Calais migrant camps

**E**ARLIER IN THE year, two podiatry students from QMU travelled to Calais to provide much needed healthcare support for migrants in the refugee camp known as 'The Jungle'.

The students who are studying the BSc Podiatry degree volunteered to provide specialist foot care for many of the migrants who had travelled thousands of miles to reach the infamous camp in France. They then returned months later to assist refugees after The Jungle camp had been dispersed with smaller camps forming all over Calais.

Danielle Knox, aged 25 and Christine McSweeney aged 42, both from Stirling, were keen to put politics aside and just do something that would ease the suffering of the migrant population.

**"Because of the conditions, people were presenting with trench foot and fungal infections."**

Christine said: "When watching the crisis on TV we could see that there was a human trail of people who had walked thousands of miles across many countries. So, when we saw the promotion asking for volunteers on the Foot Care project, it was obvious that we could offer our help.

"The experience was a real eye opener. People were living in really awful conditions. It was freezing, wet and muddy and many people had nothing more substantial than flip flops on their feet. There was only cold running water and very limited sanitation.

"Because of the conditions, people were presenting with trench foot and fungal infections. Measles was rife and we suspected that some people had rickets. There were countless cases of people with broken bones - many claiming that their injuries were as a result of being beaten by police. Medical supplies were incredibly scarce and people were grateful for a few paracetamol."

Fortunately, the students did not feel

under threat at any time from anyone in the camp. Danielle Knox said: "We were slightly apprehensive about going to the camp but people could not have been nicer. All of the immigrants were incredibly grateful for the support that they were receiving. There were no gangs or fighting within the camp. People were just making things work the best they could and supporting each other."

Danielle continued: "It's a myth that there are mainly healthy young men at The Jungle. There are actually hundreds of children, many without any parents, and plenty of women there too. The aid workers were doing a really incredible job but the situation was still brutal. People were not starving but they were definitely hungry.

"Bringing some attention and care to people in need was gratefully received", said Danielle, "and it was a great way for us to put into practice everything that we had learned on our podiatry degree. We had the chance to help people with wounds and musculoskeletal problems. Obviously we were limited as to how we could effectively deal with broken bones as they were literally no medical supplies other than what we could carry. We were operating out of an old caravan with extremely basic facilities."

The students both said that they would defy anyone to go to the camp and not want to return and help. Christine said: "We know that, under the circumstances, we can only provide a quick fix - it's not a long term solution, but at least it shows some human compassion and may offer some temporary relief to people who have found themselves in the most awful situation."

The students were surprised to learn that most people were just like them. Danielle said: "People had had great jobs, they holidayed in the same places that we would, and yet their lives had been turned upside down and they were now displaced with no clear future ahead of them. We met a man who had been a surgeon and others who were professional workers. People had been stabbed by the Taliban and had to flee the country. It was heart breaking."

Although there appeared to be no aggression within the Jungle, the girls needed to be careful about their movements beyond the camp boundaries. They were surprised to learn of the threat from an extremist group which patrolled the area just outside the camp. Danielle explained: "We were told to be extra vigilant as aid workers were at risk. Aid workers were unpopular with the extremist group, because they were offering help, and several of the workers had been targeted."

The students travelled to France as part of the Foot Project, which was organised by Simon Miles, a podiatrist from London. They raised enough money for their own flights and accommodation, but they were also keen to source specialist podiatry supplies. They explained: "There were hardly any podiatry and medical supplies, so for our second visit we got people to donate shoes, socks, dressings, paracetamol and specialist podiatry materials. It is tragic that something like paracetamol is so cheap and yet this simple medical supply was so limited in the camp."

Christine said: "We were better prepared the second time and we were realistic in knowing that the break-up of the Calais camp would bring more challenges. The aid workers were mobile and were travelling around Calais and the surrounding area trying to help people who are setting up small camps with no facilities and no running water or medicines.

"It was challenging and emotionally draining but having been there and experienced the situation, we just couldn't sit back and do nothing."

Professor Petra Wend, QMU's Principal, said: "We are extremely proud of what Christine and Danielle have been doing. QMU is concerned with social justice and improving quality of life and we are pleased to see that these students used the skills they earned at QMU to make a difference to the lives of people who find themselves in the most difficult of situations." □

# World-class speech therapy project helps Lothian children find their voice



Zoe Roxburgh, speech researcher, uses ultrasound technology with Rosie

## **T**HE FIRST PROJECT of its kind is helping children in Edinburgh and the Lothians to overcome speech sound disorders at QMU.

Experts from the pioneering Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre (CASL) and the University of Strathclyde are working with Articulate Instruments Ltd to help 20 youngsters aged six to 15 find their voices with unique ultrasound technology and clinical treatment methods.

The £140,000 UltraPhonix project is evaluating the effectiveness of using ultrasound as a visual biofeedback tool to help treat a range of speech sound disorders that have been unresponsive to traditional speech therapy methods.

Speech sound disorders are very common in childhood, affecting at least 6.5% of primary school aged children - around two children in every classroom. Such disorders make children's speech difficult to understand, in turn affecting social skills and educational attainment.

Most children who have difficulty creating the correct speech sounds receive therapy which relies on listening skills. The child must listen to their own speech sounds and follow instructions provided by the clinician to try to modify them. However, with these more traditional methods, some children struggle to improve their speech, and the clinician might even be uncertain about what is really going on inside the mouth.

Since speech is made with the tongue, and the tongue is largely hidden from view, this means that observations of the speech disorder and feedback on how to improve it need to be indirect.

Ultrasound makes it possible for children to visualise their efforts to make new tongue shapes and sequences of tongue movements, getting direct and immediate feedback which also lets the clinician guide their progress on the basis of otherwise inaccessible information.

Unique software designed by the group provides example target shapes and sequences for the children to attempt to copy and allows the children's own efforts to be played back so that they can see and hear their progress.

Instrumentation is not often used in speech and language therapy practice due to start-up costs or incompatibilities with the clinical environment such as portability, complexity and time needed to operate and maintain the technology. These factors then contribute to a lack of rigorous evidence that demonstrates effectiveness. The UltraPhonix project is an important step towards breaking this cycle, and providing the evidence needed to support the use of ultrasound, by providing clinical treatment at QMU by a dedicated research team.

The 18-month month UltraPhonix project is due to be completed in November 2016.

Dr Joanne Cleland (University of Strathclyde), lead clinical researcher on the project, said: "The research is already showing positive results, with children learning to produce speech sounds they have previously found impossible within just a few sessions of ultrasound-based therapy.

"It is hoped the research will inform the future development of ultrasound technology and clinical treatment methods to help people overcome speech sound disorders across the World."

Professor Jim Scobbie, Director of the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre (CASL) at QMU, explained: "We're forging ahead as leaders in this field. We are the main group in Europe for the investigation and development of ultrasound as a speech and language therapy assessment and treatment tool. While ultrasound is also being investigated by colleagues in North America and Australia, this collaboration between QMU and the University of Strathclyde is the first in the world to treat such a wide range of persistent speech sound disorders.

"Recorded data from the project will then provide a unique resource for teaching and research, letting us investigate the children's gradually improving speech in great detail - thanks to QMU's unique high-speed ultrasound system."

The UltraPhonix project is being funded by the Scottish Government Chief Scientist Office (CSO). CSO supports and promotes high quality research aimed at improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of services offered by NHS Scotland.

For more information on the UltraPhonix project, visit: [www.qmu.ac.uk/casl/ultraphonix/default.htm](http://www.qmu.ac.uk/casl/ultraphonix/default.htm) or contact Professor Jim Scobbie Director of the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre (CASL) at QMU, E: [JScobbie@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:JScobbie@qmu.ac.uk), E: [ultraphonix@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:ultraphonix@qmu.ac.uk) or T: 0131 474 0000. □

### **CASE STUDY: Rosie Pink Smith (11), Linlithgow**

Rosie Pink Smith (11), who attends St Joseph's RC Primary, and formerly Donaldson's School in Linlithgow, is one of 20 local youngsters benefiting from the UltraPhonix project at QMU.

Rosie was diagnosed with Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia in 2010 and was referred to speech and language experts at QMU by NHS Lothian in July 2015.

Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia is a condition where children have difficulty in making and co-ordinating the precise movements needed to produce clear speech with their mouths. Children with Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia find it hard to produce individual speech sounds and to put sounds together in the right order in words. As a result, their speech is often hard to understand.

Rosie received 16 intensive speech and language therapy sessions (six assessment sessions and 10 hour long therapy sessions) at QMU over six months, as part of the UltraPhonix project.

There was a marked improvement in Rosie's ability to produce a variety speech sounds during this period, including the letters 'K' and 'G'. Rosie's speech assessments show that her production of the letters 'K' and 'G' has increased by over 50%. At her first baseline assessment, Rosie scored 1% (1/109) and her final maintenance session, she scored 55% (60/109).

Rosie's mother, Anna Pink, said: "We're really pleased with the significant progress Rosie has made with her speech since receiving help from QMU.

"The intensive series of speech and language therapy sessions and assessments allowed us to see a rapid change in the quality of Rosie's speech in a relatively short period.

"We hope that Rosie's positive experience with QMU will help other children with speech and language difficulties benefit from the expert support on offer at the University." □



## Daily cuppa gets superfood boost

**TEA LOVERS CAN now swap their regular brew for the UK's first sea buckthorn variety.**

Food and drink scientists from QMU have teamed up with eteaket, one of the UK's leading artisan tea companies, to produce the only fruity tea blend of its kind, which packs a healthy punch.

Sea buckthorn, which grows wild along Scotland's coastline, contains an array of unique vitamins, minerals and bio-active substances that are not found in standard tea.

Despite having been widely used as a healthy ingredient in juices and jams already, this is the first time that sea buckthorn berries have been used to make tea.

Experts from the Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation at QMU have helped eteaket to produce this punchy new flavour by blending dried cranberries and sea buckthorn berries with the mellow hibiscus flower.

With a strong research background in supporting the development of Scotland's food and drink businesses, eteaket identified QMU as the academic partner with the widest skills and knowledge for developing their new product.

Miriam Smith, Business Development Manager at QMU, said: "We're very proud to have supported eteaket in getting this unique sea buckthorn variety of tea to market."

"By working with businesses like eteaket, QMU's Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation is enhancing Scotland's position as a leader in food and drink innovation in Europe and supporting access

to the global market for healthy and functional food.

"Through practical innovation support and creative business solutions, QMU is helping Scotland's leading food and drink businesses with new and innovative product development and analysis; as well as the development of leading edge functional, health enhancing products and ingredients and formulation of existing products."

Erica Moore from eteaket, added: "We're constantly looking to innovate with our tea, always searching for the latest weird and wonderful ingredient, flavour combinations and brewing techniques."

"On the quest for a distinctive new ingredient for a tea blend, we joined the QMU Sea Buckthorn Common Interest group, which is sparking an interest in this native plant. We felt that sea buckthorn is greatly overlooked in terms of its health benefits, nutritional properties and unique flavour. Working alongside QMU and the group, we hope that the distinctive Scottish sea buckthorn can flourish here in Scotland."

eteaket is a member of the QMU Sea Buckthorn Common Interest group. The Group of nine companies was set up in 2014 to enable its members to become more informed about the nutritional properties of Scottish sea buckthorn. This unique partnership is now enabling producers to develop new products containing the sea buckthorn, maximise market opportunities, become more competitive and generate more sales, whilst raising the profile and understanding of the health benefits of the berry.

The collaboration came about as a result of initial research carried out on sea buckthorn berry by QMU's Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation, which has benefited Cuddybridge Apple Juice and iQ Chocolate. Both companies have launched products incorporating the Scottish super berry.

eteaket's new Sea Buckthorn Blend is now available at its Frederick Street Tea Room in Edinburgh, where it also features as one of its Cold Brews. [www.eteaket.co.uk/shop/sea-buckthorn](http://www.eteaket.co.uk/shop/sea-buckthorn) □



For more information about the Scottish Centre for Food Development & Innovation, QMU's Research & Knowledge Exchange Development Unit, and how it can benefit your business, contact QMU's Miriam Smith, Business Development Manager.

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## Promoting human rights in Scotland and Africa



**Eunice Sinyemu, advocate for human rights and graduate in Social Development and Health**

**EUNICE SINYEMU HAS had a varied and interesting career since graduating from QMU's Institute for Global Health and Development in 2004. Her impact has been felt in Scotland where she helped change the culture of healthcare in relation to services for the growing African population; in London when she headed up the policy unit for the African Health Policy Network; and in Zambia where she worked in human rights and promoted access to HIV, TB and Malaria healthcare.**

The QMU graduate became a national voice in HIV and AIDS around the time that Scotland began receiving a lot of Africans. Between 2001 and 2011 the African population in Scotland increased from 5,000 to 30,000, many of them asylum seekers from countries with high rates of HIV such as Zimbabwe where they were fleeing from the harsh regime of Mugabe. She initially worked with Waverley Care in Edinburgh and undertook her dissertation on the topic of Africans with HIV in Scotland. This equipped her well for the area that would feature most prominently throughout her career – her work in improving healthcare for Africans with HIV and AIDS.

After graduating, Eunice stayed on in Edinburgh to work with HIV Scotland. Her role helped break new ground during what was a changing cultural landscape in the NHS. She explained: "A significant percentage of African new arrivals and asylum seekers discovered, while living in Scotland, that they were actually HIV positive. This presented real challenges to health and social care services as there were significant cultural differences to overcome. Health professionals had very little experience of dealing with Africans, and at that time, there was literally no healthcare provision for Africans with HIV and AIDS in their home countries. People were trapped. They couldn't return to their home country, even if they were able to, because there were no services or treatment in place to help manage their illness and that meant a certain death sentence."

It took some time for the health service in Scotland to adjust to the differences in cultural attitudes to healthcare. Africans had little experience of preventative healthcare, usually only seeking medical assistance once they had become extremely ill. However, Eunice's role, as a first point of reference, enabled many people to access services for the first time and her work undoubtedly helped to save lives. During that difficult time, she, along with others in Scotland, became an advocate for the development of healthcare services for Africans and minority groups, working with agencies to develop appropriate health interventions and encouraging Africans to seek the right help. Her work assisted in changing the language that health professionals used in clinics

which improved communication between healthcare workers and Africans. In addition, she influenced policy changes within her own organisation at the time, HIV Scotland.

Over the years, Eunice experienced real challenges working in Scotland. She said: "At the time race relations was difficult because of attitudes towards minority groups. It was rare for Africans to secure good 9-5 jobs."

Ultimately, Eunice's work with Waverley Care and HIV Scotland contributed to a cultural shift and helped improve health outcomes for Africans. She said: "It is very satisfying to have witnessed the policy changes that took place in Scotland and across the UK. Africans began to be viewed more positively and attitudes toward minority groups improved. Hopefully, I also played a part in improving the employment prospects of Africans in Scotland because of the groundwork that I did with Waverley Care."

After five years with HIV Scotland, Eunice moved to London to take on the role as Deputy CEO with the African Health Policy Network where she concentrated mainly on delivering HIV and AIDS prevention programmes. After two years she returned to her home country of Zambia to care for her mother. She juggled the demands of family, which included bringing up 12 children (one of her own, three related to family and eight from the local community) with a job with the Volunteers Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign. She was Training and Capacity Strengthening Co-ordinator under the project AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa. This involved liaising with the Ministry of Health on human rights, HIV, TB and malaria issues.

As an experienced human rights advocate, Eunice's skills are highly sought after in African countries and in the UK. She recently began a new role with the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) which has its head office in London. Eunice will work from Zambia as its country manager where she will manage the health partnership scheme which looks after doctors and nurses and focuses on capacity strengthening for the healthcare workforce. She will oversee their country programmes including nutrition and biomedical engineering projects which will help develop healthcare workers.

When asked about the most rewarding part of her education and career development, Eunice singles out her time at QMU. She concluded: "My time spent at QMU was the highlight of my life. My Social Development and Health degree blended practical and academic work very successfully, which really built my skills and knowledge. The confidence that I gained at QMU has helped me secure a number of high flying jobs in the UK and in Africa. QMU helped shape my life and I have much to be thankful for." □

# Santander Universities helps QMU and its students contribute to society



## An impressive new package of support from Santander Universities is helping QMU in its mission to improve people's lives locally, nationally and internationally.

**THE PACKAGE, AMOUNTING to £195k over the next three years, will also help QMU improve the student experience and employability, as well as enhancing QMU's reputation as a university without borders. Santander Universities is one of QMU's largest donors with total funding since 2007 reaching £700,000. So far, the organisation's contribution has supported over 250 QMU staff and students, SMEs and charities.**



The new funding package is being used by QMU to attract international students, fund research projects, develop student internships and work opportunities, and support our work in the community.

Santander Universities community awards are directly in line with QMU's philosophy of social responsibility by recognising students for their volunteering efforts with charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations.

Professor Petra Wend, QMU Principal, said: "QMU is committed to improving the student experience and providing outstanding opportunities for employability. Santander's support of internships and work placements is having a significant impact on our students' employment prospects with many securing further employment with the SMEs which have participated in the internship programme."

This official agreement between QMU and Santander Universities was finalised at a reception held at the University in April. The event brought together a wide range of students, graduates, SMEs and charities which had directly benefited from Santander's support.

Fiona Maclean, Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, has been a recipient of a Santander award which has allowed her to share her research findings from her PhD at an international conference

in Japan. This helped her to extend QMU's international research reach and to connect with international leaders in the specialist field of occupational therapy.

Fiona has also strengthened the University's relationship with Alzheimer Scotland by developing a series of internships with the leading dementia organisation. This work has led to a strategic partnership between QMU and the organisation, and has had a significant impact on people 'living well' with dementia and their families. Importantly, our occupational therapy students' work with Alzheimer Scotland is helping to ensure that services designed and provided across all sectors of society are shaped by the views and needs of people living with dementia.

Professor Wend concluded: "The support from Santander Universities is not only allowing QMU to enhance the confidence, skills and knowledge of its students, it is enabling staff and graduates to be a positive force within society by helping to improve health outcomes, build businesses and contribute to communities. Ultimately, it is helping QMU develop its aim of being a university of ideas and influence."

Matt Hutnell, Director of Santander Universities, said: "Santander's purpose is to help people and businesses prosper. In this regard, our support to universities is of paramount importance, as these institutions play a key role in the development of knowledge and innovative ideas in the communities they are in. I have visited QMU several times and in every new visit I can see the great impact that our funding has had on both students and staff, which encourages us to continue working with this university investing in education and research." □



# Apex Hotels Apprenticeship Programme helps top students progress their careers and education

**TWO STUDENTS WHO were the first to go through the new Apex Hotels and QMU Scholarship Programme have now been offered jobs within Apex and £1,500 each to further their postgraduate education.**

The scholarship aims to create a new generation of hospitality leaders who can transform Scotland's hospitality industry so that it is a key player on the world stage.

Annie Fowden, aged 22 from Grassmarket, and Florencia Gago Bigñe aged 21 from Portobello, received a bursary and began their management apprenticeship with Apex Hotels in February this year. The new Programme supported both BA (Hons) Events Management students during their final year of study at QMU, and provided each with paid work experience with Apex Hotels. The opportunity allowed the students to gain hands on experience across all areas of the business. They also conducted a research project which aimed to find solutions to internal organisational problems.

The Apex Hotels team was so pleased with the performance of both of students during their stint with the group that it has offered both Annie and Florencia paid positions for the next year. In addition, Apex has set up the Norman Springford award, named after the hotel group's founder, which provides the students with £1,500 each. This allows both students to continue furthering their education by embarking on a postgraduate degree at QMU whilst also working for the company.

Commenting on her appointment to the apprenticeship programme, Annie Fowden, said: "I'm really excited to have been one of the first QMU students to join the scheme. It is allowing me to develop myself professionally and personally and learn new skills. I now plan to use this experience and my undergraduate degree to apply for the new Master in Public Administration at QMU."

Florencia Gago Bigñe, who is originally from Madrid in Spain, said: "When I heard about the opportunity to apply for this new apprenticeship scheme, I didn't think twice. It was the perfect start for my career, giving me a chance to get a deeper insight into the events and meetings industry."

"Hands on work experience is at the heart of the events industry. Taking part in this new programme during my final year at QMU has helped me get a clear picture of how the hospitality industry really works from the hotel perspective."

"I am now delighted to be enrolling in MBA Hospitality at QMU."

Norman Springford, Managing Director of Apex Hotels, said: "I am very pleased with the outcome of the inaugural Apex Hotels Queen Margaret University Scholarship programme. The two students who were offered positions at Apex Hotels have demonstrated excellent personal and professional skills that were developed at QMU and within Apex Hotels. This will help make them great assets for our team. We look forward to the Apex Hotels Scholarship programme continuing in the future to benefit many more students who seek fulfilling careers in the hospitality industry."

Professor Joe Goldblatt, Development Executive at QMU, said: "We're extremely grateful to Apex Hotels for its investment in student learning and for working with QMU to develop strong managers who can contribute significantly to Scotland's important hospitality and tourism industry. The combination of talented students who have both solid work experience with a leading hotel organisation, and excellent academic knowledge, will help to create future managers who can raise industry standards." □





# University urges Scots to open their ears to hearing loss

**I**N MAY, QMU LAUNCHED a new permanent display showcasing two centuries of hearing aid technology, including an early 20th century ear trumpet, spectacle aid and a 1970s conversation tube.

The unique display of 28 devices is not only a celebration of advancements in digital hearing aid technology, it is also helping audiologists at QMU demonstrate how pioneering research is having a positive impact on the lives of those with hearing difficulties and deafness.

There are over one million people in Scotland with some degree of hearing loss and an estimated two million people across the UK who use hearing aids. Every year in Scotland around 75 children are born deaf, around five of them with a severe to profound hearing loss. There are also an estimated 3,000 children and young people under 25 with severe to profound hearing loss in Scotland.

Experts from the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre at QMU were joined by other researchers and practitioners, including alumni, from across Scotland to help launch the 'Scottish Hearing Aid Collection' of over 100 devices. Experts also celebrated a decade of audiology research and education at QMU and discussed the positive impact this pioneering research is having on the lives of those with hearing difficulties and deafness.

The Collection offers students and practitioners in audiology and hearing aid dispensing, as well as the wider public, a unique insight into the two centuries of hearing aid technology. It includes examples of some of the earliest acoustic devices, non-electrical hearing aids.

The Scottish Hearing Aid Collection was donated by Dr Robin Barr-Hamilton, who helped set up the first Audiology programme at QMU. The Collection is also sponsored by the Oticon Foundation, the charitable foundation of hearing aid manufacturer Oticon.

Dr Robin Barr-Hamilton, said: "Most of the hearing aids in the collection were passed to me by old colleagues, from Glasgow, Manchester and elsewhere, who could not bear to throw anything away. We are grateful for that inability! My thanks go to Queen Margaret University, and to the sponsor, who have seen the historical value of, and educational potential in, the resource. My hope is that the collection will expand as the hearing aids made in recent years themselves become museum pieces."

QMU is continuing to offer a growing range of undergraduate, masters level and Phd programmes in audiology, including expanding its audiology research in person-centered care. Experts from the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre are also working with colleagues in the NHS to set up dedicated audiology clinics at QMU.



Christine DePlacido from QMU's Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre, said: "We're extremely grateful to Dr Barr-Hamilton and the Oticon Foundation for helping us mark our 10th anniversary by housing the Scottish Hearing Aid Collection at QMU.

"There are very few collections of hearing aids as comprehensive as this in the UK outside London. We feel it provides the University with an unrivalled opportunity to raise awareness about hearing loss and deafness, as well as providing audiology students and members of the public with a deeper understanding of the evolution of the modern hearing aids."

Gavin Lockhart from Oticon, added: "The Oticon Foundation recognised the merits in ensuring the Collection found a suitable home to tell its story. Where better to showcase this Collection than QMU - a source of lifeblood for the future of audiology?"

The hearing aid collection is now on public display on the 2nd floor at QMU. □



## Successful tourism initiative now on track at Waverley Station

**A** SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYER engagement project, which was piloted at Edinburgh International Airport, will now be rolled out to create paid work for students at one of Scotland's main railway stations.

The STARS project, which responded to airport management's requirement to improve the customer experience of international visitors, will now be adopted by Virgin Trains.

The initiative has provided outstanding career development opportunities for hospitality, events and PR students by helping them develop international customer relations skills whilst being positioned at the airport's international arrivals point.

Conceived by QMU's world-leading events industry academic and the University's Employability and Development Adviser, the partnership enhances the visitor experience at the airport, providing positive first impressions and strengthening Scotland's reputation as a welcoming nation.

The project has been particularly enhanced due to the talents of multilingual UK and international students who were able to converse with international visitors. In addition, the students, who worked as Ambassadors, have benefited from paid employment, which in some cases has led to international work opportunities at, for example, Walt Disney World.

Juan Garcia, Employability and Development Adviser at QMU, explained: "Edinburgh International Airport was so pleased with the pilot that it funded the extension of the project for a year. In that time, our STARS students interacted with more than 90,000 visitors to the airport which helped improve their customer experience. In addition to satisfying the needs of the employer, it provided improved levels of confidence amongst the STARS and provided outstanding paid work in their chosen area.

"We are delighted that the potential of this project has been recognised by the industry and that further work opportunities will now be available at Waverley Station, Edinburgh through funding from Virgin Trains." □



# Media students support youth village in Malawi



Sandra Ndale

**A FILM MADE BY two Scottish film students and a teenager living in an orphanage in Malawi was released in July to commemorate United Nations World Youth Skills Day.**

The United Nations called on young people to raise awareness of the importance of youth skills development as a way of alleviating youth unemployment. The student film is designed to give a profound insight into the need for skills training in Malawi, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, and to attract funders for a proposed youth village to teach skills to some of the poorest teenagers there.

The four minute student film highlights the hopes of teenagers and young adults living at the STEKA children's home in Blantyre, Malawi. Now too old for life in the home, they want to take the next step into a sustainable independent future.

QMU third year film students Emma Foster, aged 22, and Alice McKinney, aged 25, edited the film which was shot in Malawi by 19 year old by Sandra Ndale. Sandra has lived at the STEKA orphanage for nine years.

The QMU students explained: "Editing footage shot in Malawi by Sandra was completely different to anything we've done before. The peers she interviews have all had to battle incredibly difficult circumstances, including living alone on the streets as children. It was amazing to get such an insight into their lives and to see how resilient and optimistic they are."

They continued: "We were shocked to find out that only around 11% of the population in Malawi can complete primary school, and that only 1% have the opportunity to go to college or university."

But the STEKA teenagers are determined to help future generations of street children by passing on the skills they've learned as well as learning more themselves. The STEKA village would give them the chance they deserve to do that, and we're so glad to have had a small involvement with such a worthwhile organisation."

A STEKA youth skills village is the vision of grassroots Malawian activist Godknows Maseko, a survivor of human trafficking and former 'street kid' who has developed and run the successful STEKA home over the last 10 years. He explains that the STEKA Youth Village would consist of vocational skills centres to teach subjects such as IT, agriculture, electronics, design and tailoring, hairdressing, music and art. It would also include sports facilities to attract street children and improve wellbeing in the hope that they will remain living in the village and become involved in learning skills for work.

Sandra Ndale from STEKA says: "We'd love our film to help raise money to build skills centres where my peers can begin to realise their ambitions. If that happens, we hope that QMU students can be involved longer term too."

QMU Deputy Principal, Alan Gilloran, feels that a link with the STEKA children's home in Malawi and its plans to develop a village for vulnerable teenagers will be hugely beneficial for QMU students. He said: "We hope to be able to welcome young people from STEKA to study here at QMU on our public sociology degree in the near future, and for our students to be able to become involved. My own daughter volunteered abroad and it changed her life. Among other things it taught her how to be happy."

Professor Gilloran concluded: "I hope an involvement with STEKA will offer our students an opportunity to learn about themselves and about life in Malawi where there's a tremendous sense of community and teenagers develop real resilience." □



Pictures courtesy of David Aveyard Photography

View the student film about STEKA at: <https://goo.gl/oVuhrk>

To find out more about STEKA visit: <https://supportsteka.wordpress.com/the-steka-village/>

Each skills centre costs £7,000. The QMU Malawi Student Society has set up a page where people can donate to the STEKA Youth Skills Village: <http://goo.gl/vsYZcv>



# GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

By Elaine Acaster, Graduates' Association President

The Graduates' Association, which celebrated its centenary year 2014/15, welcomes new members at any time following graduation including new members from the Colleges which formed QMU as we know it today. Members of staff are also most welcome to join. Life Membership of £45 (or £35 in the year of graduation) gives the opportunity to join social networking events and also the opportunity to rent Madras Lodge, the Association's seaside house at Gullane (see page 32). Contact details for membership enquiries are given below.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was a huge honour to be confirmed as the new President at the Annual General Meeting of QMUGA in June, and I hope to be able to meet many members of the Association at our events in the coming year and also to welcome new members. At the AGM we recognised the leadership of our recent past-President Maureen Paterson during a five year period. Maureen renewed and strengthened links with the University and was instrumental in organising the centenary celebrations of QMUGA. She will remain on the committee and I have already benefited from her wisdom and experience. Fiona Byrne our Minutes Secretary also stood down at the AGM, and I hope she will join us at Association events in the future. Cecilia Young and Liz McIver were welcomed as committee members each bringing varied experience and ideas.

During the summer months, members of the Association enjoyed a number of QMU events culminating in a remarkably varied and exciting Film and Media Showcase the evening before graduation. I attended the enjoyable and moving graduation ceremonies at the Usher Hall on behalf of the Association, while Maureen Paterson presented the Atholl Crescent Prize for Personal Development to a very worthy winner Greg Clark. See details of the Atholl Crescent Prize winner pictured above.

I look forward to meeting you and I would be delighted if you would contact me at any time with questions and your ideas for future development of the Association. □



## MATURE STUDENT WINS ATHOLL CRESCENT AWARD FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Thirty-five year old Greg Clark from West Lothian was awarded a prestigious Atholl Crescent Award for Personal Development at the recent graduation ceremony.**

The Atholl Crescent Award is presented annually by QMU's Graduates' Association to a final year student who has made a significant contribution to the University and their personal development. The Award is named after the QMU's original location on Edinburgh's Atholl Crescent.

Greg, who graduated with a BA (Hons) PR & Marketing, was presented with his award by Maureen Paterson from the QMU's Graduates' Association.

Commenting on his award and QMU experience, Greg said: "I'm delighted and extremely proud to have won this award. It really is the perfect end to three great years at QMU."

"One of the things I loved about studying at QMU is that the lecturers get to know you. You're not just a face in a lecture theatre. I'd especially like to thank my lecturers, Ann Turner and Emma Wood, who have played a vital part in my success."

"The work placement and internship opportunities offered on the course are second to none. I was worried about being a mature student but I really think I found my calling in marketing and PR and there is no doubt QMU played a huge part in the development of my skills."

Before coming to QMU, Greg studied HNC Advertising, Marketing & PR at West Lothian College. Since graduating, he has returned to the College to work full time as its Marketing Officer. □

## GA Programme of autumn events:

<b>Event:</b> Forth Bridges Bus and Boat Tour	<b>Event:</b> Informal lunch and visit to The Secret Herb Garden	<b>Event:</b> Visit to Scottish Parliament
<b>Date:</b> 12th September	<b>Date:</b> 7th October	<b>Date:</b> November date tbc
<b>Details:</b> The boat tour provides a close-up view of the progress of the New Forth Crossing.	<b>Details:</b> <a href="http://www.secretherbgarden.co.uk">www.secretherbgarden.co.uk</a>	<b>Event:</b> Christmas Lunch at Edinburgh New Town Cookery School
<b>Time:</b> Leaving Waverley Bridge at 12.15pm returning at 3.45pm	<b>Time:</b> Meet at Secret Herb Garden, 32A Old Pentland Road, Lothianburn EH10 7EA, at 12noon	<b>Date:</b> December date tbc
<b>Cost:</b> £20 or £18 for usual concessions		Further information and bookings for these events - contact Dorothy Finlayson (contact details below).

## Q.M.U.G.A.

### CONTACTS

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Where  
are you  
now?



**QMU graduate wins  
UK's Outstanding Young  
Communicator Award**

**F**ORMER QMU STUDENT, Shaun Bell, has been presented with the prestigious Outstanding Young Communicator award at the acclaimed UK CIPR Excellence Awards in London, awarded by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

Shaun, 27, a senior account manager at Stripe Communications in Edinburgh, fought off fierce competition from young PR professionals from across the UK to claim the accolade.

The judges said: "Shaun is a breath of fresh air. We were impressed by his

career to date and his leadership role within the agency. As an outstanding member of the Stripe team, Shaun puts people first, shows great entrepreneurial spirits and has wowed his clients with incredible results."

In 2007, Shaun moved to Edinburgh to study Drama & Theatre Arts BA (Hons) with specialism in Arts Journalism at QMU. After graduating with a first-class honours degree in 2011, he joined Stripe's 'Star's and Stripes' graduate programme. He has since achieved four promotions and climbed the ranks to become a senior account manager. □

**Calum's career  
on track for  
future in luxury  
hospitality  
sector**

**C**ALUM MCEACHERN, who graduated from QMU in 2015 with a BA (Hons) International Hospitality and Tourism (first class) has been working as a steward on the prestigious Belmond Royal Scotsman.

The 23 year old from Kippen, was well known at QMU for taking every opportunity to develop his skills and build his CV whilst at university. In his final year, The Students' Union created a new award specifically for Calum - 'Most Engaged Student' - which recognised his

significant involvement with the University.

Calum is now really enjoying life working on the Royal Scotsman, a luxury classic train which provides exclusive trips across Scotland and England for the discerning traveller. He is part of a close knit team which has to meet exacting standards: ensuring that guests experience impeccable service, delectable seasonal cuisine and fine wines, whilst enjoying wonderful views of the British countryside.

Since joining the company, Calum has gone through a rigorous training programme, travelled to some of the UK's most beautiful destinations, and met guests from all over the globe. Unfortunately, work on this luxury train is seasonal, so the job comes to an end in October. However, with the experience he has gained over the summer, he is well equipped to work in other five star hospitality venues, but hopes to return to Belmond in the future to continue working for the luxury travel company. □

**Ciara joins Quality Meat Scotland**

**C**IARA ETHERSON, who graduated from QMU in 2010 with a BA (Hons) in Marketing and Public Relations, has taken up the position of Marketing Executive with Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).

Her new role will involve her in leading QMS's food service activity and managing the everyday running of The Scotch Beef Club, promoting beef club members throughout Scotland and The UK.

Ciara is originally from Portrush in Northern Ireland but has lived in Edinburgh City Centre since she came to University in 2006.

Since graduating, Ciara has worked in several marketing roles including IT Support and Consultancy firm Grant McGregor and Musselburgh-based ice cream manufacturer and retailer S Luca Limited. □



# Supporting transformational journeys



Volunteering with the Regal Youth Theatre



Kirsty and Laura volunteering in Sri Lanka

**A**T QMU, we are keen to do all that we can to help and support our students so that they can maximise their potential during their time here and take up opportunities that will be life changing. We actively encourage and enable participation in extra-curricular activities, including the arts and sports, as well as professional placements, internships and volunteering. There is no doubt that experiences such as these play a pivotal role in shaping what our students will go on to achieve after graduation and ensure that their CV stands out from the rest.

Thanks to the generous support of our alumni, staff and friends, the Student Development Fund and the Vice Chancellor's Fund have been created to ensure that all our students have the chance to take part in exciting opportunities that can help to achieve their goals and ensure that they enjoy their QMU experience to the fullest.

Second year student, Matt Swan, is one of a group of QMU Drama & Performance students who received support from the Student Development Fund this year. The group volunteers with the Regal Youth Company in Bathgate which aims to transform young people's lives by enabling them to develop their creativity, social skills and self-esteem.

This collective of young, aspiring actors, directors, writers, musicians, songwriters and artists work together in a protected and creative environment to present a variety of innovative productions. They also run weekly workshops in music and drama to provide young artists with a space where they are free to create, invent and perform work that is relevant to them. The members have the opportunity to bond socially and develop a sense of belonging, while also developing their art.

Matt explained "The Regal Youth Company ensures that the arts are accessible to young people of all backgrounds with varying levels of experience in music and drama. Our members constantly tell us how valuable our safe, non-judgemental space is to them, as it encourages them to discover a wealth of like-minded friends."

During the summer of 2015, Occupational Therapy students, Kirsty Daly and Laura Irwin, took part in a five week volunteer programme in Sri Lanka supported by the Vice Chancellor's Fund.

Kirsty and Laura explained that the purpose of the placement was to bring Occupational Therapy practices into the mental health community to aid with rehabilitation. However, in Sri Lanka, mental health is still seen as taboo. Adults diagnosed with mental health conditions, are often hidden away, segregated and residing in hospitals or residential homes without much chance of being integrated back into the community. This makes Occupational Therapy, as we know it, challenging because the main aim in the western world is to enable people to live independently in the community.

Laura commented on the impact this placement has had on her. "This opportunity has allowed me to develop in a variety of ways, both personally and professionally. It has developed my leadership skills, communication skills, assertiveness and creativity. As a result of this placement experience, I have since been commended on my ability to demonstrate sensitivity to equality and diversity, and to remain calm and act assertively within difficult and challenging situations. This experience has been a humbling, yet truly rewarding one. It has had a significant impact on me personally and has helped shaped me as a budding Occupational Therapist."

QMU's continued ability to facilitate these student experiences relies on the generous support of our alumni and friends. Students are able to apply for funding for projects at home, through the Student Development Fund, or overseas, through the Vice Chancellor's Fund.

As can be seen from Matt, Kirsty and Laura's experiences, opportunities such as these unlock potential and provide opportunities that genuinely transform lives.

If you would like to support our students please complete the donation form on this page and return it to us at QMU. If you would like more information about recognising QMU in your will then please contact Heather Edie on email: [hedie@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:hedie@qmu.ac.uk) or call T: 0131 474 0000. □



Calum pictured far right  
Picture courtesy of Susan Flood



# QMU student takes on internship challenge in Zambia

**A** QMU Events Management student has risen to the challenge of taking on a unique internship opportunity in Zambia, southern Africa, thanks to the Saltire Foundation.

Zoe Fraser, 20, from Aberdeen, is spending 12 weeks with business support agency, Challenges Worldwide, in the Zambian capital city of Lusaka.

Challenges Worldwide delivers business support to medium sized enterprises in developing countries and conducts market research through volunteering. The charity organisation supports entrepreneurs and enterprises, helping them to grow their businesses to generate income, sustainable economic growth and help alleviate poverty through empowerment.

Unlike a lot of other internships available through the Saltire Foundation, Challenges Worldwide is a charity and is part of the International Citizen Service.

As part of her role, Zoe is now helping local enterprise, Frontier

Development Associates, by carrying out business analysis, market research and making business improvement recommendations. Frontier Development Associates specialises in business development consulting, agribusiness project design and management, private equity and fund management.

Zoe was able to secure her internship with help from the Saltire Foundation's prestigious Saltire Scholar Programme, which opens the door of the world's leading organisations to some of Scotland's most talented students and provides them with an unparalleled chance to engage with global thought leaders and entrepreneurs.

After completing her internship, Zoe will undertake a Chartered Management Institute qualification in professional business consulting, which will be funded by the Saltire Foundation.

Zoe is also being supported by the ICS Entrepreneur programme, which connects UK volunteers with volunteers in developing countries, putting their skills and creativity into practice to support emerging businesses and encourage economic growth.

Commenting on her experience with Challenges Worldwide so far, Zoe said: "My involvement with the Saltire Foundation has benefited me massively and still I'm only half way through my internship.

"Securing a place with Challenges Worldwide and spending time living and working in Lusaka has been one of the most eye-opening and insightful experiences of my life. The opportunity to put business knowledge gained throughout my studies into a real life situation has been invaluable and I've learned an incredible amount already.

"This experience has challenged me in so many ways, through work and just everyday living in Zambia. I already feel as though I have a new outlook on life and work.

"For future QMU students this really is an opportunity not to miss. The Saltire Foundation is really prestigious and businesses around the world will recognise this on your CV. The internships available through Saltire are incredibly diverse and there really is something for everyone, so no matter what you study you can be sure to find something suitable." □



## A relaxing break at Madras Lodge, Gullane

A writer's retreat, a home-from-home when moving house, a family summer holiday or just a chance to refresh and relax over a get-away weekend with friends. These are just some of the reasons QMU Graduates' Association members and friends return again and again to enjoy the old-worldly charm of Madras Lodge, our holiday home in Gullane, East Lothian. Sea breezes and country walks still top the list of best things to do, closely followed by eating out in the local pubs and restaurants.

A few minutes' walk from the beach, easy access to the John Muir trail, East Lothian golf courses, bird watching or the expanding range

of visitor attractions and eateries all help make Madras Lodge the perfect base for a reunion weekend with friends or a family holiday.

Check your Graduates' Association membership status with the Membership Secretary, and contact the Madras Lodge Bookings secretary for an autumn or winter break. These run from September to April and costs are modest. The house sleeps five people, the loft four and two night breaks are from just £110 in the loft and £145 in the house with special low-season three night breaks from November. □



### Bookings for Madras Lodge

Bookings Secretary

Anne Vokes

T: 07817 328 035

E: mlbook@qmuga.org.uk

## DATES for your diary

### Event: QMU undergraduate open day

**Details:** an opportunity to find out about undergraduate courses, meet staff and students, and view the campus facilities.

**When:** Saturday 24 September

**Time:** 11am – 4pm

**Where:** QMU, EH21 6UU

**Further information:** [www.qmu.ac.uk](http://www.qmu.ac.uk)

**Organisers:** Marketing and Communications Office, QMU

### Event: QMU postgraduate open evening

**Details:** an opportunity to find out about postgraduate courses, meet staff, find out about financial support, and view the campus facilities.

**When:** Wednesday 23 November

**Time:** 5.30 – 7.30pm

**Where:** QMU, EH21 6UU

**Further information:** [www.qmu.ac.uk](http://www.qmu.ac.uk)

**Organisers:** Marketing and Communications Office, QMU