

SCUK Alumni Association – Newsletter August 2026

Welcome to the August newsletter of the Save the Children UK Alumni Association. Just three topics in this issue, but plenty to read and watch if you follow the links.

The next London social is a little more than that ...



So yes we have arranged the next social in a London (yes, I know, sorry) pub, **Wednesday 23rd September in Farringdon. The Conductor**. They have a function room that they have kindly given us for free that evening. The function room is self-contained, with private toilets, screen, audio, wifi and access to the outdoor area if we spill over.

The plan is to have a short meeting from **5 to 5:30 pm** and then a social where we hope the discussion will flow on from the agenda.

- Both Gareth Owen and Clare Mulley have agreed to give short talks on their various books, and I expect they will sign copies if you ask them nicely.
- I will talk for a few minutes about our AI research assistant Eglantyne, and your success (or otherwise) in writing dozens of PENS.
- Mike Aaronson will lead the final part of the meeting, continuing a discussion on the role and future of the Alumni Association. The sector has been undergoing intense change these last few years. How do we respond to that? If you cannot make the social but would like to contribute to the discussion, please go to our site www.scukalumni.org and use the Forum after logging-in. Or send me an email in reply to this newsletter with your views and I will post them for you.

You can find more about the venue here <https://www.theconductorbar.co.uk/>

Eglantyne's 150th anniversary

Clare Mulley continues to celebrate the life and work of Eglantyne Jebb.

She reminds us that 150 years ago on 25 August this year, a brilliant, determined, passionate, compassionate woman was born. In her lifetime, Eglantyne Jebb's work not only saved many thousands of young lives, but also permanently changed the way the world both considers and treats children, yet her name is hardly known.

Clare updates the story to 2024 when, to mark the centenary of the Declaration of Geneva, the City of Geneva paid tribute to Eglantyne by reintering her in their *Cimetière des Rois*.

Clare's full and fascinating account can be found [here](#)



The reinterment of Eglantyne Jebb in Geneva

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Our AI Research Assistant Eglantyne, PENs and you!

Our publicly available AI Research assistant *Eglantyne* is already we think an exciting tool. One alumna, Philippa Shala, used it to research the landmine casualty frequency in Myanmar and said *Eglantyne* “... came up with a really great answer using trustworthy sources. It does seem really accurate.”

Now, one of the clearest purposes of the Alumni Association is to help capture our institutional memory so that it can be widely shared. By memory, we mean alumni experiences. What you learned along the way. What you believe someone else will need to learn in the future.

The key question has always been ‘But how can we do that?’ How can we collect and preserve humanitarian knowledge in a way that people can access and trust?

One possible answer that has emerged over the last year is to embed that experience in *Eglantyne*.



If as an Alumni Association member you write your experiences down in a Practitioner Experience Note, a PEN, *Eglantyne* will prioritise that information when answering pertinent questions.

So please watch this video; it will show how you can share your experience with the next generation. It's only 10 minutes and *Eglantyne* will explain how she avoids quoting anything said on social media when answering questions, and always provides double-checked credible references to her answers to ensure she's as accurate as possible.

<https://www.scukalumni.org/eglantyne-and-pens/>

And spread the word to other alumni. Anyone can use our Research Assistant *Eglantyne*, but only Alumni can write PENs and get invited to socials!

Hope to see you Wednesday 23rd September in Farringdon at The Conductor. We will send out a reminder the week before, but put in in your diary now.

Best regards

Pete Smith

SCUK Alumni Association