

Mentoring programme starts

We believe that mentoring the next generation is always a rewarding way of giving back - and its importance has been just growing given the turbulent times we are living in and its adverse impact on youth.

For this reason, we have entered into a unique partnership with the Hungarian Youth Association (HYA), a similar umbrella-style, student-led organization that aims to provide a platform for Hungarian youth currently studying in the United Kingdom.

Our joint Mentorship Programme will pair Mentors from HABA with Mentees from HYA's community of current students and young professionals for a 6-month mentorship that primarily focuses on professional development, career advising and network building.

You are invited to apply for a Mentor role if you are a HABA Member with 5+ years of work experience. **Application deadline is extended to 19th April, Monday midnight** via the following registration link: <https://forms.gle/LM36A1EPQQXEKdY97>

If you are a HABA Member with less than 5 years of professional experience and prefer to be a Mentee (or both a Mentor and a Mentee) of our Mentorship Program, please provide your contact **details by the 19th April, Monday midnight** via following form: <https://forms.gle/mZiQrYrWbRvYBPL29>

Mentors and Mentees will be carefully paired by the Coordinators of the Mentorship Program based on past studies, field of expertise and area of interests. Mentor-Mentee pairs will be allocated by 25th May, following which mentorship shall begin.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please read our Mentor Guide or contact us at haba@haba.org.hu.

We hope that many of you will show interest in our new initiative!

Júlia Véglesi
Mentorship Program Coordinator



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Message from the HABA Board

Dear HABA Members & Friends,

First of all I hope that all of you and your families are safe and well. Secondly, would like to thank you for your support of HABA during these challenging times.

Last year, unfortunately, we could not host as many events as we planned, but I believe that we are fortunate that we could have two successful, physical events. The first one in early March, just before the breaking out of the pandemic – as a result of which we had to change the location last minute - a joint event organised with other Alumni associations featuring Daniel Palotai, Chief Economist of the National Bank, who since have become the most senior Hungarian delegate to the International Monetary Fund to date. The second one was our traditional Margaret Island Picnic in July, which – maybe not surprisingly – has attracted more participants than ever before.

We had to cancel the Boat Race Live Screening, as in fact the Boat race itself has been cancelled last year. Our traditional keynote event in the autumn - where we planned to say goodbye to our great supporter and outgoing Patron, H.M.A. Iain Lindsay and welcome Her

Majesty's new ambassador to Hungary, Mr. Paul Fox - also could not have been held. A physical letter with a collection of photographs of HABA events have been sent to Mr. Lindsay on behalf of the whole membership to thank him for his tireless and enthusiastic support of our organisation in the past four years. H.M.A Fox has kindly invited members from the HABA Board for an introductory meeting still in December. Our organisation's history, its recent developments and plans have been introduced to Mr. Fox, our new Patron, who welcomed these and assured HABA of his support. We are much looking forward to introducing him to you, either through an online or a physical event, preferably both.

As you have been informed, we have also had new initiatives, specifically, the mentoring program, where more experienced, senior members can provide highly valued advice and guidance to younger members of this or similar organisations, which might be especially important in these times; and this Newsletter itself, which plans to be published quarterly.

We are also planning two online events in the near future, the details of which can be also found in this Newsletter.

Furthermore, we kindly remind you – if you have not done so already – please not to forget to pay your membership fee for the year 2021 in order to ensure the smooth running of HABA. It is 3000 HUF for the calendar year, payable by wire transfer to the below bank account.

Erste Bank Zrt. 11600006-00000000-
83399211, IBAN: HU84 1160 0006
0000 0000 8339 9211

N.B. Please do indicate your name in the comment section of the transaction.

Also, if you are a taxpayer in Hungary, please consider donating your 1% tax donatable to civil societies to us:

Name: Brit Öregdiákok Magyarországi Egyesülete, Tax no: 18071566-1-41

On behalf of the Board of HABA, we are very much looking forward to seeing you all again, returning to our normal way of operating, however somewhat strengthened and enriched with the new initiatives. Stay safe !

Elemér Gidófalvy
President, HABA



In memoriam: HABA remembers William de Gelsey

In this issue we remember our highly valued HABA member, who passed away on the 26 February this year, aged 99.

William (Vilmos) was a highly valued member of HABA who closely followed our activities, always paid his membership dues very punctually. He even generously offered his financial assistance for certain projects within HABA. William was always generous with his time, took a personal interest in everyone he met, and was keen to share his deep insights gathered throughout his long and fascinating life. He will be greatly missed.



William de Gelsey was born in 1921 in Vienna to Marguerite and Henry de Gelsey.

He completed his master's degree in natural sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge, Initially working as a chemist, he later decided to shift his career path into the field of investment banking.

Mr. Gelsey lived in England for most of his life. From 1942 he worked for Imperial Chemical Industries, and in 1960 he became the managing director of Hill Samuel & Co., then vice president of the International Consortium of Orion Royal Bank.

He moved to Vienna in 1988, where he worked as a consultant for Creditanstalt (now UniCredit). Mr. Gelsey, became a member of the Board of Directors of the Gedeon Richter following its IPO, and then Chairman, later Honorary Chairman.

He later became the Chief Adviser of UniCredit Bank AG in London, and then the Chief Adviser of the Board of Directors of UniCredit Bank Hungary. He became the Senior Adviser to the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Hungary.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II. bestowed Mr. Gelsey with the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great as recognition of all the work he did for the Hungarian Catholic Church.

Mr. Gelsey was also the recipient of the Award for the Hungarian Economy in 2009.

In 2014, the Vilmos Gelsey Pedagogical Institute of the Diocese of Szeged-Csanád created the Báró Gelsey Vilmos award. (full article on [Hungary Today](#)) (Related article: [Baron William de Gelsey, 'one of the most trusted international investment bankers of his time' – obituary \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#))



In the Spotlight

HABA welcomes Mr. Paul Fox, the New Ambassador to Hungary

Mr. Fox has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Hungary in succession to Mr. Iain Lindsay OBE in September 2020.

Paul Fox was appointed the UK's Ambassador to Hungary in September 2020. Previously he was Minister Counsellor in Moscow and Her Majesty's Consul General to Dubai. The new Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Budapest, Paul Fox, presented his credentials to President János Áder on October 16th.

Still in December, HABA President Elemér Gidófalvy and Chevening Alumni Coordinator and Board Member, Zoltán Marosi were honoured to be invited by the new British Ambassador to Hungary, H.E. Paul Fox to an introductory meeting at his residence. Our New Patron, Ambassador Fox was accompanied by Foreign Policy Attaché Levente Nyitrai.

Starting from the over 25 year-history of HABA through our recent and upcoming

events, many topics were discussed.

We are very grateful for Embassy's continuous support, and look forward to continuing our close partnership, also including new initiatives in 2021.

The ambassador has introduced himself to the Hungarian people in a video, which you can see here if you click on the picture:



Mr. Fox spoke in Hungarian about his family, revealed that he is an avid football fan, his team is Tottenham Hotspur, and said he had already forgiven Hungarians for the infamous 1953 Hungary-England football match ending 6:3. "Nem baj" (It's okay), he summed up briefly in Hungarian. The new ambassador also shared that he is English and a Londoner, and promised Hungarians that he will try every tradition,

and will try the delicious Hungarian foods.

On a more serious note, he changed to English to talk about the areas in which he was counting on the continued close cooperation with the Hungarian government, business sector, civil society, and people. He named, for example, climate change, environment protection, trade, investment, academic and scientific cooperation, strengthening of shared democratic values, foreign policy, and cultural relations as his main focus points.

He was looking forward to the two countries' shared achievements and working with Hungarians. The UK Embassy would continue to work with the Hungarian authorities to make sure that the rights of all UK nationals in Hungary are observed.

(source [Hungary Today](#))

(Related article: [Diplomatically Speaking: British Ambassador Paul Fox - Building Bilateral Success Post-Brexit - BBJ](#))



HABA's selection of online and live events

MAY 2, 1:00 PM CEST
John O'Farrel hosts a showcase of exceptional talent
[The London Library Emerging Writers Showcase](#)
Starts at £6.49 Online

JUNE 14, 7:30 PM CEST
Legendary British Comedian John Cleese To Perform in Budapest
HUF 7,900-24,900 MoM Sport, Csörsz u.14-16.

Take your pick from streamed theatre shows in London:
[London Shows | What's On In London | West End Shows | LondonTheatre.co.uk](#)

Visit the British Museum from your home. Take virtual tours in the museum. [How to explore the British Museum from home - British Museum Blog](#)

HABA said Good Bye to Iain Lindsay OBE, the Patron of our Organisation

The Ambassador, Ian Lindsay bid farewell to Hungary and returned back to the UK. His four-year stay here is also the end to his 40-year career in the Foreign Office.

In January HABA sent a letter to Mr Lindsay, in which we thanked him for his strong support he had provided for our organisation throughout his posting to Hungary. The revitalisation of our society is closely linked to his ambassadorship.

We were grateful to him for not only hosting and participating at our more formal events, but also for being the driver of more informal meetups and casual fun activities. We much appreciated that we were welcome at his home, the Residence for our annual keynote event.

We wished him well in the new chapter of his life.



Thank you Mr. Ambassador, thank you Iain!

Miscellaneous

The Gemini Boat Race – 4th April 2021

Cambridge won both the 75th Women's Boat Race and the 166th Men's Gemini Boat Race on the River Great Ouse in Ely. Unfortunately, this year we could not watch the race together with our HABA members on a big screen as usual due to Covid-19. However, if you missed the event, you can read all about it on the Gemini Boat Race website:



[A double for Cambridge in a unique Gemini Boat Race - The Boat Race](#)

Upcoming Events

• 30 Years 3 Generations

In collaboration with the Hungarian Youth Association (HYA), Engage Academy and Hungarian Association of British Alumni (HABA)
Platform: Zoom (Link TBA)
Date and time: 29th April 18:00 CET
Language: Hungarian

• The World of Big Tech – the advent of a brave new world or a great step towards safer and more connected global communities?

A panel discussion and debate with HABA's own British alumni experts on the new challenges posed by large tech companies.
Platform: Zoom
Date and time: TBA
Language: Hungarian

• Annual Picnic

Date and time: July
Watch this space for the event, that we organize every year rain or shine.

