



MELVILLE COLLEGE TRUST

AUGUST 2024

Newsletter.

60 years ago - The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Winners 1964



Back row - A de Soldenoff, MJS Graham, AM Mitchell, ICS Gumley, AB Strong, SJ Tupper, LG Morrison

Front row - DW Morgan, R Galbraith, JC Loudon, Rev A MacQueen, AG Lind, JM Galbraith, AJ Cavers

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Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 2024 Newsletter which is tinged with some sadness with the article on Miss Christie who sadly passed away earlier this year. A teacher who helped form us all.

There is also an article on modernising the constitution of the Melville College Trust, which is due to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation later this year. Suffice to say the historic Statutory Instrument based

governance structure was somewhat outdated.

Hopefully you can attend the re-union lunch in November at which recently restored film footage of School events in the 50's & 60's. will be shown. Having viewed some of the film, it will bring back nostalgic memories.

Best wishes

Stephen L L Paterson
Chair, Melville College Trust

If you are receiving our Newsletter for the 1st time, we hope you enjoy the various updates and our look back into the Melville College archives. If you missed any of the earlier editions they are on our website – there is a link to these at the end of the Newsletter. This edition is again issued in both email and printed format.

Thanks to everyone who got in touch following our last issue. Any archive material is always welcome, so please keep sending us anything you have.

We have a lot of information and features to share with you, including:

- **Melville College Re-Union Lunch**
- **Melville College Archive Footage**
- **International Rugby Caps**
- **Margot Christie**
- **Melville College Trust Update**
- **How to Donate and Gift Aid**
- **Photos and Memories from the Melville College archives**

Melville College Re-Union Lunch 2024

Following last year's successful lunch, we are going again with another one. This year the lunch will be held on Friday 1st November 2024, starting at 1.00pm at Inverleith Clubhouse, Ferry Road. The bar will be open before and after the lunch, allowing plenty time for everyone to gather and reminisce.

The cost will be £25 per head and partners are also very welcome to attend if they wish.

For those wishing to attend, please can they complete the booking form on this link <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DSZO>

During the afternoon there will be a film show of the newly restored Melville College Videos from the 1950s / 1960s and 1970s. There will also be an Archives display.

Melville College Archive Footage

The Stewart's Melville College Archive is home to an intriguing collection of items linked to the history of our schools and we have recently been carrying out a full inventory check. As such, we have called upon a small but dedicated team of FP volunteers to help the process along. Their personal interest in the collection and their expert knowledge makes the process a lot easier to complete.

Laurie Brown has a particular interest in helping the archive as he has a passion for old film and photographs. Just before Christmas 2023 he came upon a box of 8mm Cine film which claimed to cover several Melville College events dating to around 1960's. This included school trips, athletic meets and perhaps most intriguing of all, some pre-merger rugby games between Melville College, the Royal High School, Heriots, Ayr and notably, Daniel Stewart's.



Above - Rugby on the main pitch at Ferryfield

Left - Laurie Brown with the cine projector and old films

Laurie was able to bring in an old cine projector and showed us how to wind the film onto the sprockets. It was with some trepidation that we turned the power on. Had the reels been in anyway deformed or the film creased or warped, the projector would have jammed, and the film would melt before our eyes. Fortunately, with Laurie's expertise we managed to assess a couple of reels before our nerve gave out, concluding that they were all in good enough condition to send off for digitisation.

A local company were chosen to digitise the films and Development Office raised the funds to pay for the conversion. A few weeks later the films were returned intact with 12 of the 13 films digitised. Since then, the digitised footage has been shared among individuals who have expressed a direct connection with the footage.

One FP in Inverness reconnecting with the school for the first time since his graduation came along to a FP drop in and was amazed to see his victory in the Mile Cup in 1962 caught on film. Seeing your young self on film and in colour 62 years ago is quite an experience especially when you were not expecting it!

The film reels have now been returned to the archive store. The digitised copy is now readily available for viewing thanks to the work of the volunteer archivist team.

Come along to the Lunch on 1st November and see the archive footage!

The search is now on for more Hidden Archive Footage...

The team are wondering how many more films are out there in the homes of FP's and whether we could get copies into the collection.

The intention would be to borrow any surviving footage, arrange for it to be digitised and then return the originals to the owners. We would then add the digitised version to the archive collection and hopefully create an online library.

So, if you do have old cine film, video or digital film footage of your school days and wouldn't mind sharing them with us then please do drop me an email at archives@esms.org.uk.

Simon and Julian Scott Awarded International Rugby Caps

Simon and Julian Scott were awarded international caps retrospectively at Scottish Gas Murrayfield on 9 February 2024. There were 17 other retrospective caps awarded that day. The MC was Chris Paterson and the cap presentation was conducted by SRU President (and ex-SMFPRFC President), Colin Rigby. Gregor Townsend also paid tribute to the capped players and a photograph was taken on the Murrayfield pitch with the Scotland team (who played France the following day at Murrayfield - we won't mention the TMO decision!!).



Julian and Colin Rigby, SRU President



Simon and Colin Rigby, SRU President



Julian is 3rd from the right, middle row and Simon is far right of the front row

The caps were in respect of a match at Tarbes in France in 1986 against a France XV, which was made up of current and future internationals. It was at the end of a tour by Scotland to Spain and France and wasn't given a full Test status because 2 or 3 of the full French team were missing due to a Cup game. However, the replacements brought in were all future internationals! Scotland had a near full strength team too and so it was as near as possible to a full Test match. The score was 16-16 and Julian was Man of the Match. Simon was marking Serge Blanco! >>

>> There was a celebratory lunch at Inverleith for both of them on 11 November 2023. It was attended by over 100 people and tributes were given by Fin and Jim Calder, Alex Brewster and Dougie Wyllie. Their photos are now displayed with the other caps from Daniel Stewart's, Melville College and Stew/Mel on the wall in the upstairs lounge at Inverleith.

Here is a link about Simon being awarded his cap – this is from Sporting Memories (of whom Simon is a Trustee).

<https://www.sportingmemories.uk/news/views/our-trustee-simon-scott-awarded-scottish-rugby-international-cap-nearly-40-years-on---part/>



A golden era of Stewart's Melville Rugby Internationalists

Douglas Wyllie, Jim Calder, Simon Scott, Julian Scott, Alex Brewster, Finlay Calder

Margot Christie

Many former pupils of Melville College and Daniel Stewart's College were saddened to hear of the death of Margot Christie a popular and highly respected primary teacher at both Schools at the age of 98.

Although Margot was born in Australia, from the age of five she and her family came to live in Edinburgh, firstly to Portobello then to Great Stuart Street where she lived for 86 years. Margot was a pupil of Edinburgh Ladies' College in nearby Queen Street – later the Mary Erskine School – while her brother Arthur attended Melville College.

Margot joined Melville College in late 1950 and retired in 1986 from the combined school after 36 years of service. >>



Margaret McKelvey (formerly Pratt), Sally Ray and Margot Christie at the Ferryfield Gates after they were relocated to Inverleith

>> Many reading this Newsletter will have been taught by Margot around Primary 5 and if not taught in the classroom will remember her as their first rugby coach at Ferryfield as one of lady coaches along with others such as Margaret Pratt and Catherine Clay. These ladies were certainly years if not decades ahead of their time coaching boys rugby!

Another of her sporting moments was the annual staff versus boys tennis match which Margot organised at the Dean Tennis Club. She was a good tennis player twice winning the Ladies' Doubles championship at the Dean Club

Margot had a fantastic ability to remember pupils, not just names but many things about them and their family members long after they had left School. Margot was a regular at the FP and Staff Lunches at Inverleith providing a regular opportunity to keep in touch with her former pupils. Those of us who worked in the offices of the West End would often meet Margot Christie on her regular walkabouts and there was always time for a catch-up chat.

The Melville College Trust were delighted Margot was able to unveil the plaque on Melville Street marking the location of the Melville College in April 2019.

Plaque opening in Melville Street in April 2019



Margot with Alan Veitch (then Chair MCT)



Margot with her cousin George Lawson

How to Donate and Gift Aid

The Melville College Trust has now formally registered to use the Government Gift Aid Scheme. As a Charity all donations we receive can now be enhanced by a further 25%.

The defibrillator and the digitising of the 'red book' are both good examples of how donations to the Trust can be made in support of specific projects or pieces of work. Of course we are also delighted to receive non-specific or general donations to support the work of the Trust. We are all volunteers and we keep any costs to a minimum, so that all donations and legacies go directly towards the work that the Trust carries out.

Donors just need to complete the appropriate Gift Aid form when making a contribution. Do get in touch with us for further assistance.

You can make a one-off donation, a regular monthly or annual donation (via Standing Order) and can opt to choose to support defined or capital projects, bursaries, clubs and societies or simply let the Trust allocate as required.

Full details are available on our website:

<https://melvillecollegetrust.uk/>

including Gift Aid forms for single or multiple donations.

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Melville College Trust Update

A significant milestone has recently been completed regarding the Trust's operation.

Review of the Trust's constitution

Over three years ago, a governance sub-committee was formed with a task to review and update the Trust's constitution. Reporting to the Chairman's Committee, this recommended that the Trust should update its constitution by using re-organisation provisions held by OSCR, the Scottish Charities Regulator. These re-organisation provisions are newly available to educational endowment charities wishing to transfer their assets to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('SCIO'). This has the advantage of modernising the constitution without having to go down an expensive Court of Session process to amend the current one, being a Statutory Instrument dated from 1976. Throughout this process, the Trust has taken legal advice from Lindsays LLP.

The Trust held an EGM in February 2024 and passed a resolution to apply to OSCR for approval of a charity re-organisation scheme in respect of the Trust. As a SCIO, this new vehicle will take forward the grant giving of the Trust.

The Chairman's Committee considers that the new constitution will reflect the current operation of the Trust, update its investment powers, remove obsolete provisions from the Statutory Instrument and help the Governors to future-proof its operation.

Key outcomes, in more detail

The following list highlights what will and will not change under the new constitution:

1. Melville College Trust to remain as an independent corporate vehicle for the receipt of charitable donations to be applied in support of the School, its projects and its pupils.
2. No change in the existing name and the endowment funds.
3. Deletion of the historical provision to make grants in cases of financial hardship to individuals who may be former employees or pupils of the School.
4. Ratification of wider investment powers, following a total return (capital and income) investment objective, to promote the Trust's charitable purposes.
5. Definition of membership to reflect current practice of a two-tier structure (comprising members and a Board of Governors (trustees)) and retain provision for the Chair of the Merchant Company Education Board or their nominee, and one additional nominee of such Chair, to be ex-officio members. Extend from the President of the SMC FP Club to also include the President of the MES Guild, or their nominees, as ex-officio members.
6. Members are not required to be former pupils, but the Chair of the Trust is required to be a former pupil and at all times a majority of Governors must be former pupils.
7. Clarification that only the elected Governors are the SCIO's trustees.
8. Introduce a maximum number of 30 members and a maximum number of 12 elected governors.

We are delighted that OSCR approval of the re-organisation was granted in July 2024. Steps will now be taken to transfer the assets and liabilities of the Trust to a newly formed SCIO, named Melville College Trust (charity number SCO53233). This transfer should be completed in the next few months. No action will require to be taken by supporters as the SCIO will be registered with OSCR as the Trust's successor charity.

Once again thanks for the various archive material received since our last Newsletter - do keep sending us the archives.



SSC Camp at Dalguise - 10th-15th April 1961

Standing: Ian Esslemont, Robert Liston, Tom McNeil, Pete Bain, Angus Mitchell, Craig Loudoun, Derek Gardiner, ?????, Tom Stewart, Roy Stewart, ?????, Stuart Wearmouth, ?????, Ian Kydd, John Edmond, John Stewart, ?????, ??????, Alex de Soldenhoff

Kneeling: Jake Young

Front Row: Neill Doran, Mike Graham, Chris Simpson, Donald Muirhead, Richard Scott, Dougie Morgan, Bobby Clark

Can anyone help with the unknown names?

**Competition time,
not that there's
any prizes!**

Taken at Ferryfield probably in 1972.
Can anyone name the year group and provide the names?



Keep up to Date

Website: Our website has lots of information about the Trust <https://melvillecollegetrust.uk/>

Newsletters: Missed any of our previous issues, then go to our website and catch up <https://melvillecollegetrust.uk/newsletters/>

X: Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) get the news as it happens - we follow all the various FP Clubs and School Twitter accounts, so plenty news of the ESMS family just a few clicks away - https://twitter.com/melville_trust



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