



MELVILLE COLLEGE TRUST

DECEMBER 2021

Newsletter.



Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. 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. We have still some work to complete on our distribution lists, so thank you for your patience.

Thanks to everyone who got in touch following our last issue. Another good response of archive material has come forward. As always do keep sending us anything you have. Please do get in touch with us. >>

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

- **How to Donate and Gift Aid**
- **Melville College Trust Update**
- **School Projects Supported**
- **Robert Cunningham Portrait**
- **Interview with Our Chair**
- **Remembrance Service**
- **Melville College Re-union**
- **Stewart's Melville FP Club President and Vice-President**
- **Photos from the Melville College archives**

The Melville College Trust is an Independent Trust set up in its current format in 1976 and registered as a Charity under OSCR (The Scottish Charity Regulator). Its origins lie in a number of related schemes which were set up after the two World Wars to establish and maintain a war memorial, provide bursary support for families of those FPs of the Edinburgh Institution and Melville College killed or badly injured in the wars and to provide funds to purchase land for playing fields and a house for school boarders. Over the years, additional generous funding has come from legacies left by Former Pupils.

The main purpose of the Melville College Trust is to promote the advancement of education through the provision of school bursaries and grants to perpetuate the memory of those Former Pupils who lost their lives during the two World Wars.

Alan Veitch,

Chair Melville College Trust

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%.

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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.

Melville Trust Update

Another financial year of the Trust ended on the 31st July and our Annual General Meeting is due in late November. Some of the highlights from the Annual Report are as follows -

- During the School Year (2020/2021), the Trust provided £230,000 in bursaries to the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools, which has enabled 26 pupils to enjoy the excellent facilities and education available. The bursary provision covered 14 pupils at Stewart's Melville and 12 at Mary Erskine.
- In addition to the bursaries, the Trust has donated £10,000 to a diverse number of School projects and further details are highlighted below.
- A review of our Cyber Security exposure was completed
- Substantial work is progressing to make us GDPR compliant. This was deemed necessary as we were faced with either becoming our own Data Controller, with considerable effort both in set-up and on-going monitoring, or opting to work with the School Development Office as a Data Processor. We have opted to be a Data Processor. One of the key benefits is being able to increase the distribution of our Newsletter to an additional 200 Melville College alumni.
- Our Newsletter is now designed and issued by an external mailing house resulting in a more professional look.

School Projects Supported by the Trust in 2020-21



In Erskine Stewart's Melville Junior School the Primary 7 House Challenge Scoreboard was purchased and this now graces the entrance to Primary 7.



The MES Photography Club received an award to purchase new photographic equipment.



Mary Erskine School Music Department purchased a Marimba which is a significant new asset for music at MES and is used by many pupils for solo and ensemble playing

In Erskine Stewart's Melville Senior School, there was a grant given to purchase various items of equipment for Orienteering, one of the few extra-curricular activities the School has been able to offer during the pandemic.

2 other awards were made during the past year:

- Two Netball posts and court markings were supplied for Primary 5, 6 & 7 Netball Clubs
- A grant was given to the Erskine Stewart's Melville Junior School to purchase a quantity of playground equipment

Robert Cunningham Portrait

Recently there was the unveiling of the portrait (copy) of Robert Cunningham (founder of Edinburgh Institution) in Merchant's Hall by Captain Christopher Hall, the Great Great Nephew of Robert Cunningham. The original portrait and that of his wife Elizabeth, hang in the Dean, were gifted to the School by Captain Hall.

Gilbert Archer, Old Master of the Merchant Company, very kindly donated the costs of installing the portrait in the Merchant's Hall.



Captain Christopher Hall unveils the portrait in Merchant's Hall



Linda Moule (School Principal), Captain Christopher Hall and Alan Veitch (Chair Melville College Trust)



Photos from the Merchants Hall ceremony by kind permission of Steven Donald Photography, Edinburgh

Interview with our Chair Alan Veitch

By the time this Newsletter is issued our Annual General Meeting will have been held. Ken Richardson, fellow class mate of Alan, catches up with our Chair.

Alan Veitch (MC 1959-1972) steps down at the end of November as Chair of the Board of Trustees, having served 10 years as a Trustee. In his time as Chair, Alan has strengthened the governance of the Trust by bringing in new blood and expertise. "We've managed to bring in younger people with a wide range of skills, so that the Trust is well served for the future" says Alan, who has also transformed communication with FPs through his excellent newsletters, lively development of the Trust website and introduction of a Twitter account. Working with the school archivists, first Ian McKerrow and now David McLeish, he has also dug out a lot of interesting information and photographs to add to the richness of his communication.

Alan has always been passionate about sports - cricket and hockey in particular. He played cricket for 35 years for Stewarts Melville FPs, his first season in 1972 as a member of Melville College FP Cricket Club. After playing he retired to the scoreboard and is now an internationally recognised cricket scorer (see photo below), he is also a renowned archivist for the Cricket Club. Alan played hockey for 30 years for Inverleith Hockey Club - his other great passion. Stepping down from playing hockey and cricket has given him more time to develop his golf - he's been a member at Prestonfield for over 40 years.

Alan remembers being approached "out of the blue" over 10 years ago by Andy Scott to become a Trustee. Andy's slightly vague introduction left him wondering "what am I doing here" after his first meeting. He only found out afterwards that it was an Investment Committee meeting and not the broader Chairman's Committee meeting! Ken Richards, the then Chair, was quick to step in and clear things up for Alan and since >>



>> then he has never looked back and has been an active and thoughtful contributor to the management and running of the Trust.

Alan introduced and championed better communication with FPs and his style of newsletter is highly engaging and informative and is greatly appreciated by FPs, judging by the many favourable comments he has received. Alan is also proud to have led the development of a clear strategy for the Trust, looking at both the longer term as well as the next few years. He has also been involved in improving links with the (Mary Erskine) Guild, in addition to the School and FP Club. Alan believes that a strong independent Trust has a key role to play both today and in the future and there is no doubt that he has made a major contribution in this regard.

Alan's last formal duty, and one in which he took great pride, was to lay a wreath at the Melville College war memorial in the school (see photo opposite) on Remembrance Day earlier this month. "It reinforced for me one of the original objectives of the trust - to remember those who have given their lives in order that we and our successors can live our's fully."

Thanks and best wishes Alan on behalf of both the trustees and the broader FP community!

Ken Richardson,
Trustee Melville College Trust



School Remembrance Service

Whilst there were still some restrictions in place regarding external attendees, it was great to see the Annual School Remembrance being held again on the morning of 11th November at the Stewart's Melville College on Queensferry Road.

After the main ceremony (above), Alan Veitch was then able to lay a wreath at the Edinburgh Institution / Melville College War Memorial on behalf of the Melville College Trust.

Melville College FPs will remember the War Memorial on display at the School entrance in Melville Street. Today the War Memorial is located in the Stewart's Melville College School Library.



The excellent on-line School archives, has a link to the Roll of Honour for WW1 and WW2:

<https://archives.esms.org.uk/Authenticated/Browse.aspx>

Melville College FP Reunion 2022

We have mentioned in previous Newsletters that the Trust had been hoping to organise an informal reunion for all Melville College FPs. We have obviously been unable to proceed this year but hopefully we can get something organised in the Summer of 2022.

Stewart's Melville FP Club President and Vice- President



Congratulations to both Ken Russell and Chris Anderson who are now the Stewart's Melville FP Club President and Vice-President respectively. Ken attended Melville College from 1954 to 1965 and Chris from 1968 to 1974.

From the Melville College

Archives

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

Primary A 1949

(Thanks to Derek Sutherland)



Back Row - ??, Stan Gerard, Findlay Hunter, Jim Cockerham, Allan Smith, Ken Sharp,

Middle Row - David Bowie, Michael Mort, Neil Ross, Derek Sutherland, Trevor Simpson, Douglas Bennett, David McGrath, Douglas Aikman,

Front Row - Robert Swan, ??, ??, Michael Shakspeare, Donald Dickie, John Dunbar.

Boarding House

(Thanks to John Hare)

News from John Hare who was a border at Melville College from 1955-1965 (head boy of the boarding house and a school prefect in his final year -1964 to 1965). John has lived in Australia for the past 50 years but returns to Scotland when he can. >>

>> Post Melville College, John went to Sheffield University where he graduated in History and Politics recalling that Jimmy "Tash" Ray was very much his mentor in the subject of history. The photo of John is taken in the "prefect's dormitory" in the Boarding House where it would seem little was spent on home comforts!



Primary 1 1963

(Thanks to Julian Voge)



Back row - Alan Buchanan, ??, Michael Lynch, David Robertson, Ian Love, John Shand, Sandy Macnair, Garry Chrystal, Lance Sloan

Middle row - Adrian Benson, Michael Kellard, Derek Preston, Iain Ross, Malcolm Mackinnon, Sandy Tudhope, ??, James Shepherd

Front row - Adam Smith, Simon Campbell, Derek Taylor, Julian Voge, Duncan Cooper, Duncan Barbour, Eric Oberlander, Kenneth Soper

School Sports

Carrying on the theme of our last Newsletter on School Sports Day, a look back at the very earlier years.

The first two School Sports Days were held in 1867 and 1868 in the grounds of the Orphan Institution, Belford Road (Old Queensferry Road).

Here is a report of first Sports (Games) meeting from the newspaper -

"EDINBURGH INSTITUTION GAMES - Following the example of the managers of other scholastic establishments, those connected with the Edinburgh Institution have this year inaugurated a meeting of the pupils for athletic sports, which it is at present anticipated will be held annually. On Saturday (18th May 1867) the first gathering took place at the grounds of the Orphan Asylum, Old Queensferry Road.

Unfortunately, the weather was very unfavourable, and during the greater part of the afternoon a bitter blast from the north-east prevailed, which was accompanied with drizzle rain. Notwithstanding the character of the weather, the games were persevered with, through >>>

ATHLETICS.

EDINBURGH INSTITUTION ATHLETIC SPORTS.—The annual athletic sports in connection with the Edinburgh Institution took place on Saturday in the new ground at Warriston Park. Thanks to the auspicious weather, the attendance was large, all the slopes being crowded with ladies and gentlemen, and the sports were carried through very successfully. The numerous items on the programme were keenly contested; more particularly in the pedestrian events, where a fine struggle took place in the half-mile handicap, resulting in the success of J. O. Kelly. The following were the winners in the principal competitions:—Throwing the Cricket Ball (open to school)—1, H. E. Margrave; 2, J. G. O. Eadie—distance, 85 yards. Flat Race, 100 yards (open to boys under 15)—1, J. K. Speedie; 2, A. Hally (time, 12 sec.) Flat Race, 100 yards (open to school)—1, W. Stewart; 2, R. P. Maitland. Flat Race, quarter mile (open to boys under 15)—1, A. Hally; 2, A. Hally (time, 64 sec.) Flat Race, quarter-mile (open to school)—1, W. Stewart; 2, J. Whitehead (time, 59 sec.) Flat Race, 100 yards (open to former pupils)—1, J. G. Ross; 2, W. K. Morton and W. S. Brown—equal. Handicap, 220 yards (open)—1, J. Smith; 2, J. K. Speedie; 3, D. M'Caun (time, 26 sec.) 300 Yards Handicap (open to former pupils)—1, W. S. Brown; 2, J. Hamilton. Flat Race, one mile (open to school)—1, W. Stewart; 2, H. E. Margrave (time, 5 min. 9 sec.) High Jump (open to boys under 5 ft.)—R. Thorburn (height, 4 ft. 2 in.) Long Leap (open to school)—R. P. Maitland (length, 12 ft. 5 in.) Half-Mile Race (open to former pupils)—1, G. Simpson; 2, G. E. Paterson (time, 2 min. 5 sec.) 150 Yards Handicap (open to Messrs Roland's pupils)—1, A. Hally; 2, R. Roberts (time, 18 sec.) High Jump (open to school)—J. Smith (height, 4 ft. 10 in.) Quarter-Mile Handicap (open to members of football club)—1, W. S. Brown; 2, A. Roberts; 3, G. E. Paterson (time, 56 sec.) 150 Yards Flat Race (open to boys under 14)—1, W. Eadie; 2, A. Ronald. 100 Yards Burdle Race (open to school)—R. P. Maitland. Half-Mile Handicap (open to gentlemen amateurs)—1, J. O. Kelly, E.U.A.C.; 2, S. S. Clark; E.U.A.C. (time, 2 min. 6 sec.) Three-Quarters of a Mile Steeplechase (open to school)—1, W. Stewart; 2, J. Smith. Drop Kick—1, A. G. Ross; 2, J. M'G. Reid. The band of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons was in attendance during the day.

>> the pleasure of both spectators and competitors was greatly marred by it.

Many of the games were well contested, the meeting was altogether very successful. The band of the 14th Hussars, which was at the ground, played a programme of select music during the afternoon. At the conclusion of the sports, Colonel Anderson presented the prizes to the successful competitors. Baillie Russell thereafter proposed three cheers for the managers of the Hospital, and for Colonel Anderson, which were heartily given, and the proceedings terminated."

In 1869 a lease was obtained at Warriston Park on Inverleith Row and the School Sports were subsequently moved



SPORTS GROUP AT WARRISTON IN 1878

there. The ground had a natural amphitheatre and can be still seen today from Eildon Street.

Above is a photo from Warriston in 1878 where clearly a high standard of dress was the order of the day! The Institution Sports

results were regularly published in the newspapers, a practice that was still going well into the 1930s. Interesting to note at the time many of the events were open to former pupils and one race was open to local amateur runners.



Alan Veitch,
Chair Melville College Trust

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/>

Twitter: Follow us on 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

Contact Us

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