



MELVILLE COLLEGE TRUST

FEBRUARY 2025

Newsletter.



Primary 2 Summer of 1961

Back row – Grahame Murphy, Colin Forbes, Alan Veitch, Graeme McLaren, Steven Mair, Russell Duncan, Mark Allan, Miss McKechnie

2nd row – Peter Brown, Colin Hunter, James Stewart, Billy Rodger

3rd row – Michael Malkiewicz, Ken Richardson, Ken MacKinlay, Christopher Russell, Stewart Gibb, Colin Morgan, Bill Gillespie

Front row – Donald Walker, Keith Rae, Malcolm Fife

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Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to the Winter edition of the 2025 Melville College Trust Newsletter.

I was delighted to be present when the Melville College War Memorial was repositioned to the front entrance of the School. Whilst you look left at the Memorial as you enter the School and not right as we all used to do – it is a fitting and prominent location.

We also had a very successful reunion lunch in November where we saw some old colour videos of pupils and staff at the School. The Sports Days in

particular were very evocative – red blazers, white shorts and sandals.

As we all know the School is not without its financial challenges at present, The Trust remain in close contact with the School Management as to how the Trust can help and assist. The School merger with Mary Erskine is a major restructuring about which the Trust is being kept fully informed.

Best wishes for 2025

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:

- **Edinburgh Institution / Melville College War Memorial**
- **Annual Remembrance Service**
- **Melville College Re-Union Lunch**
- **Melville College Trust Update**
- **School Projects**
- **School Merger**
- **Melville Class of 1963 Re-Union**
- **Melville College Archives**
- **How to Donate and Gift Aid**
- **New Website and Facebook**

Edinburgh Institution & Melville College War Memorial

The project to move our War Memorial from the School Library to a more prominent location was completed during the Summer.

The Memorial is now hung in the main Entrance Hall at Queensferry Road, (replicating the similar position it occupied at Melville Street).

At the official opening Stephen Paterson thanked the Principal Anthony Simpson, Frances McCrudden, Head of SMC, for their support in authorising the move and Mark Fulton for organising the cleaning and relocation of the Memorial. In his remarks Stephen said the Melville College Trust are delighted with its relocation and truly perpetuates the memory of Melville Former Pupils who died in the two World Wars. >>

>> Jon Cooper, the School Heritage Officer, gave a talk on the history of war memorials and more particular the background to the construction and placement of the Melville War Memorial in Melville College in Melville Street.

Thanks to Jon for allowing us to share some of this history in our Newsletter.

“The First World War changed everything regarding memorials, simply the number of dead dictated how soldiers were buried and remembered.

The impact of war affected so many that memorialization was driven down to some of the lowest denominations of society, schools, factories, villages streets if you had enough casualties to warrant a memorial.

The issues around Memorialization were compounded by the fact that after 1915 the War Office policy was not to bring bodies home. Graves and monuments to the missing were erected on the battlefield and with limited travel for the working classes there was little chance of families visiting those graves.

Therefore, institutions and societies took it upon themselves to create memorials at a local level.

Schools faced quite a number of problems when choosing a means by which to commemorate the fallen students -

- there was debate as to whether school memorial should promote victory or sacrifice. War or Peace, Life or Death
- should they be inclusive of all students no matter their race religion nationality and sex. And even commemorate those students who had fought for the other side.
- There was then the issue of whether rank and class should be reflected in the memorial. Whereas Commonwealth War Graves Commission had by then declared that rank did not matter, then schools felt obliged to follow
- where money was to come from where already benefactors have been asking for memorials to be put up for individuals, raising large amounts meant that all the school community would be called upon to donate.
- whether the money should be dedicated to a memorial or to a programme which promised a better future

In 1919 Edinburgh Institution as it was then decided on a combination. They would raise money not only to create a memorial plaque listing the names of the fallen but also to fund the creation of a boarding house. The plaque was unveiled, and the Boarding House opened in 1922.

What is unusual about this memorial is that location was deemed to be very important. Not only was the plaque to be mounted in the festival of the college through which every student would undoubtedly pass at some point during the day but they also introduced a rule that every student was to be bareheaded as they passed the plaque and remove their caps should they be wearing them.

Closer examination of the names will see the names are in alphabetical order until the final 12. This was because these men were found to have been killed after the construction of the plaque. The plaque had to be recast and the names added. Then of course came World War 2 and even more names had to be added it to the list.

The war memorial is probably the most photographed piece of architecture in the school !! Remembrance services is perhaps the most photographed event.

Memorials such as this are a measure of the community that created them as much as the memorialization of the war itself. Our heritage matters. Our community is built around it. The relocation is an open invitation for all Melville to come here to share their story.”



Anthony Simpson (Principal), Jamie Henshaw (School Captain), Jon Cooper (Heritage Officer), Stephen Paterson and Ken Richards (Melville College Trust) and Frances McCrudden (Head of SMC)

Annual Remembrance Service

The fine Autumn weather prevailed at the School Annual Remembrance Service on the 11th November. A number of Former Pupils attended the service as well as School Pupils and Staff.

As part of the Annual Remembrance Service, a wreath was placed beside the recently moved Edinburgh Institution / Melville College War Memorial in memory of former pupils who lost their lives during the conflicts.



Melville College Re-union Lunch 2024



Following last year's successful lunch, we did it again on Friday 1st November 2024, with approximately 90 attending the event in the Inverleith Clubhouse.

Stephen Paterson, Chair of the Melville College Trust and Anthony Simpson, ESMS Principal welcomed everyone to the event and after a fine lunch further speeches followed from Jamie Henshaw, SMC Captain and Frances McCrudden, Head of SMC. Thanks were given for the continuing support of the Melville College Trust in providing bursary support for 27 pupils and the various projects which are detailed later in the Newsletter.

During the afternoon we were all able to view the newly restored Melville College Videos from the 1950s and 1960s and reminiscing by looking through the Archives display. Thanks to Jon



Cooper, the School Heritage Officer for arranging all of this.

The Melville College Videos are now available on YouTube, on this link - <https://www.youtube.com/@esmsdevelopmentoffice7992> then select "Melville College Cinefilm footage".

Loads of content in the videos - a bit of frame freeze is recommended when viewing. If anyone can help with more details, do let us know.

In running order these events can be spotted -
King Olaf's visit – 17/10/1962

Staff v Boys Football – Dec 1962

Signal Competition - ?

Cadet Force at Ferryfield - ?

Visit to Garth – 1964

Rugby v Heriots at Ferryfield – 1960

Rugby v Heriots at Ferryfield – 1962?

Rugby v Stewarts at Inverleith – 1962?

Rugby v Ayr at Ferryfield, pitch 5 - ?

Hockey v Watsons at Colinton – 1961

Hockey team photograph at Ferryfield - ?

Hockey v ?? at Ferryfield - ?

Sports Day & cricket v FPs – 1961 or 1964

Melville CCF - ?

Senior Sports Day - ?

Junior School Sports - ?

Junior School Sports including cricket – 1963

Sports Day - ?



Stephen Paterson with Jamie Henshaw, SMC Captain at the Re-Union Lunch

The next Melville College Re-Union Lunch will be held on Friday 7th November 2025, the day before Scotland play New Zealand at Murrayfield. More details to follow in due course.

Melville College Trust Update

Headline achievement:

Governance

- The move towards a modern SCIO constitution was completed in 2024, which facilitates an improved Governance structure and greater flexibility .

Strategy

- We are reviewing our existing 5 year Strategic Plan a new 5 year plan was approved at the AGM starting in 2024.
- A strong relationship with the Mary Erskine's Guild continues to be developed and we are also looking to strengthen our relationship with the Merchant Company. The appointment of Grant Macrae, former Trust Chair, as Master will be very helpful in that regard. >>



- We are in close communications with the new School management as it faces significant and well-known external challenge. In particular in helping to enhance the School resources and infrastructure.
- We are continuing to reduce the age and improve the gender balance of the Trustees.

Marketing/Communications

- We continue to send out regular Newsletters to our database of FP contacts which are well received.
- We are reviewing and upgrading our website <https://melvillecollegetrust.uk/>

Investment

- With active management by our fund managers, we have managed the volatile market pressures. Our agreed strategy to maintain a Total Return policy from our investments continues to underpin our investment performance in challenging times.

Bursaries and Grants

- During the School Year (2023/2024), the Trust provided £250,000 in bursaries to ESMS, which has enabled 27 pupils to enjoy the excellent facilities and education available. The School continues to perform an assessment of all bursary recipients on an annual basis to ensure they are achieving satisfactory results during the School year.
- In addition to the bursaries, the Trust donated £10,000 to a diverse number of small School projects which benefit the pupils. We also provided the funding to properly protect and present various war medals won by FP's of the School.

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Trust in December our 2 working committees were confirmed as follows –

Chair Committee

Stephen Paterson (Chair)
Tommy Bryson
Christine Collingwood
Victor Coltherd
Claire Cunningham
Jill Johnston
Malcolm MacColl
Steven Newlands
Andy Scott

Investment Committee

Tommy Bryson (Chair)
Victor Coltherd
David Dunsire
Jill Johnson
Nick Kordowski
Susan Murray

School Projects Supported by the Trust in 2023-24

Archives Medal Cabinet

The ESMS Archives are now the proud owners of a new medal chest thanks to funding by the Melville College Trust.

Presently we have 38 war medals and over 60 sports and achievement medals in the archive at SMC representing from both Melville College and Daniel Stewart College. The MCT funded the purchase of a bespoke medal cabinet with lockable drawers that not only allows us to house our existing collection but also leaves room for >>



>> further acquisitions as and when we acquire them. Both the chest and the trays are used for displaying the collection in exhibitions and at FP events.

The medal collection continues to play an important role in the education of our students, acting as the primary source for lessons on 20th Century history. Likewise, the medals are often taken abroad on the school trips where the man and the medals are reunited sometimes for the first time. Such events leave a powerful impression on all those who attend.

Here are some of medals and their stories belonging to Melville College pupils which are now held in the Cabinet.



Garnet (Garry) Fairbairn



Alastair Leslie

Their stories are available here: <https://archives.esms.org.uk/Authenticated/Browse.aspx> then select "Roll of Honour WWII" and enter either Fairbairn or Leslie in Surname Search box.

SMC Sports Hall Accessible Toilet Conversion

The Trust provided a grant for the conversion of the bathroom in the SMC lunch-hall to an accessible toilet facility.

As well as providing an accessible bathroom in this building for current pupils, staff and visitors, this has also been of huge value when running our ESMS Community Inclusive Sport Initiative Events.

New Bikes

In session 2023/24 the Melville College Trust award purchased four new bikes and helmets for the teaching of Physical Education, CCF, DofE and Outdoor learning. Cycling has become very popular and these bikes will be used by many students across the schools.

Wargames Club

The SMC Wargames Club received funding support to purchase gaming resources which added to, or expanded, the range of games that the pupils in the club can use on a weekly basis.





Flights to Malawi

In October 2023 a visit was undertaken to our partner school in Ekwendeni, Northern Malawi which greatly enhanced our already strong connection. Our Malawi Club enjoys regular contact with their friends, sharing songs, stories and artwork, and at Christmas time we took part in what we believe is the first ever live Zoom meeting between two schools from our respective countries.



With assistance from the Melville College Trust, a further visit is planned in April or October of 2025, to assess the impact of our continued partnership, including that of our recent fundraising efforts (for installation of electrical lighting, and provision of refurbished laptops via The Turing Trust).

ESMS Orienteering Club Equipment Grant

The ESMS Orienteering Club is now in its 5th year received a further award from the Melville College Trust.

The most recent award was to buy some new compasses and 'dibbers'. The dibbers are electronic timing chips which participants carry round the course on their finger, and which register at each checkpoint. This proves that participants have visited the correct checkpoints in the correct order!



School Merger

Many of you will have already seen or heard the significant news announced in October 2024, that the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools will unite as one fully co-educational school in August 2026.

The new School, which includes ESMS Nursery and Junior School, The Mary Erskine School and Stewart's Melville College will be called Erskine Stewart Melville from the 2026/27 academic year.

This decision is driven by three objectives: to enhance the educational opportunities we offer our students, to establish a more inclusive community that reflects the modern world and to create a more financially efficient structure that is fit for the future. Our priority is and always will be our students and the fantastic experiences they gain through an education at our School.

To ensure a seamless transition for students and staff, we will introduce the new school in 18 months time. From August 2026, Erskine Stewart Melville Nursery and Junior School will find its home at our Ravelston site, and Erskine Stewart Melville Senior School will be located on our Queensferry Road site.

Anthony Simpson, Principal of Erskine Stewart Melville, says:

"This is an exciting new chapter for the School. As we look to the future, this new simplified structure will enable us to broaden the curriculum and create a more inclusive environment that reflects the modern world. Our current schools are fantastic, inspiring excellent exam results every year and offering an extensive range of co-curricular activities. As we move to a fully co-educational model, our primary focus will remain unchanged – to provide a world class education that will give our students the skills and mindset they need to thrive."

The diamond structure has served our students well since it was introduced 25 years ago but we have never been a school that stood still and now it is time to look to the future. The new model will significantly enhance the education we offer our students, with a broader curriculum, an enhanced wellbeing programme and even more opportunities for personal development.

The new School name, Erskine Stewart Melville, honours the original founders of the School and its new logo borrows heraldry from each of the schools.

The School launched a new website in January and regular updates on the merger are available at <https://info.esms.org.uk/announcements/>

Melville College 1963 Year Group Re-union

The Melville 1963 year group had its annual reunion on 10th October 2024, taking the form of lunch at Howies in Waterloo Place. We had 22 attending, 14 guys and 8 ladies.

There was time before the meal and again after to mingle and catch up and reflect fondly on those who are no longer with us. Our bond as a year group is still strong as is evidenced by members travelling from the Home Counties, Carlisle, Inverness and Aberdeen to attend.

Next year is another milestone being 75 years since the Primary A intake and therefore us all entering our ninth decade.



Michael Walls, Ian Gibb, Brian Smellie, Graeme Hume, Nigel Robertson, Ken Richards, Mac Baldwin, Bill Percy, Mike Wheeler, David Graham, Peter MacNaughtan, Lindsay Trotter and Laurie Brown. Douglas Scott also was there but missed the photo shoot.

Grant Macrea

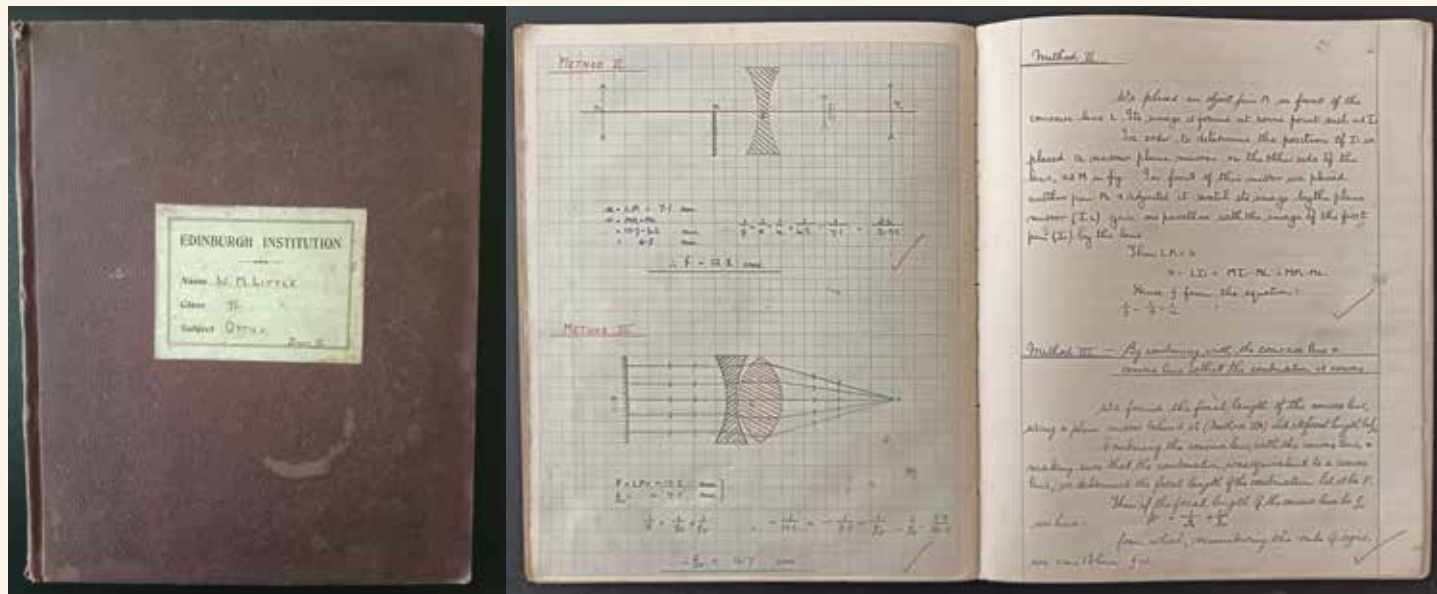
Master of the Royal Company of Merchants

Photograph by kind permission of Steven Parry Donald Photography, Edinburgh

Congratulations go to Grant Macrea on his appointment as Master of the Royal Company of Merchants in November 2024. Grant is a former Governor and Chair of the Melville College Trust. He is only the second Melville College FP to be appointed Master, the other being Gilbert Archer.



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



Thanks to Graham Little for sending us his father's exercise book for Optics – W M Little from 1925. What is very noticeable from looking through the book is the attention to detail and neatness of handwritten, plus he clearly knew his optics as there are 'red ticks' throughout the book!

The book is now the School Archives.

COMPETITION RESULTS – In our last Newsletter we were looking to identify the names in this photo.



Thanks to replies from Andrew Butler, Ian Ross, Juian Scott and John Heaphy, the combined efforts has provided a consensus for our line-up at Ferryfield in 1972 (majority from primary 5) as follows –

- (a) Keith Fergie, (b) ?? (c) Ian Edwards, (d) Jeremy Pilkington, (e) Gavin Weir, (f) Greig Ramsay,
- (g) Matthew Olgilvie, (h) ??, (i) Graham Wood, (j) David Thomson, (k) Andrew Butler,
- (l) Geoff Wilson, (m) David Reid, (n) Andrew Stevenson, (o) Nicky McHugh, (p) Nicholas Orchard,
- (q) Willie Main, (r) Murdo MacKenzie, (s) Simon Frame, (t) Simon Mclean, (u) John Heaphy, (v) ??

Now for something slightly different, but with a Melville College theme.



This is the match programme for the Scotland v Ireland Hockey International played at Clydesdale Cricket Club on 27th March 1965.

Playing for Scotland is Dennis Hay and one of the umpires is Gilbert Parkhouse. Many of you will remember them working together as part of the School PE Staff before the School merger.



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.

giftaid it

Exciting Updates - New Website & Facebook Page

We're pleased to share some exciting news! The **Melville College Trust** website has been **updated** to better showcase the Trust's history, projects, and ongoing work. The refreshed site includes:

- A clearer **Trust History**, detailing our legacy and evolution.
- A dedicated **School Projects** section, highlighting how the Trust continues to support ESMS and the wider community.
- New and expanded **photo galleries**, celebrating the past decades.
- Improved **navigation** and **content** for easier access to key information.

Launch of Our Facebook Page

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of the **Melville College Trust Facebook page**, where we'll be sharing news, updates, and historical content. Follow us to stay connected and be part of the conversation!

We Need Your Help!

To continue building the **MCT archives**, we'd love to receive any **photos, documents, or memorabilia** you may have from your time at Melville College. Whether it's class pictures, sports teams, or past events, your contributions will help us preserve and share our rich history.

Looking specifically for photos of the last Primary classes of Melville College in 1973, before the School merger.

As a guide, if born in 1967 you would have started Primary 1 in September 1972, finishing in July 1973, if born in 1968, you would have started Primary 2 in September 1972, finishing in July 1973 etc etc.

Primary class photos were usually taken, so there must be some out there. Get searching and let us know what you find – send us an email - melvillecollegetrust@gmail.com

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/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/melvillecollegetrust>

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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