



MELVILLE COLLEGE TRUST

NOVEMBER 2023

Newsletter.

50 years since the merger – the last Melville College 1st XV



Back row: R.Fleming, A.W.Kerr, D.S.M.Walker, M.A.A.Maguire, P.R.Duncan, M.J.Simpson, C.A.Shearer, A.S.M.Gilmour, R.Hutchinson, R.C.C.Stewart

Front row: L.J.Reilly, N.B.Scott, J.Calder, R.J.C.Weir (Captain), P.G.R.Christie, R.M.Pearce, J.H.Calder

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Introduction and Welcome



Welcome to the Autumn 23 Melville College Trust Newsletter. Following last years very enjoyable Melville FP Reunion at which we opened the new Dougie Morgan Room , we followed it up with a recent lunch in September to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Schools merging. It was an enjoyable but poignant day , rounded off by the School Choir singing our hymn “Summer Suns Are Glowing”.

The main role of the Trust is to manage its investments and provide supportive revenues

to the School. Last year we provided 23 pupils with full bursaries , who otherwise could not have got into the School. We also provide grants to the school for one off costs which enhance the pupil experience. These ranged from drum kit to a new children’s garden to cricket mats. We know from feedback from the School that these purchases are well received and popular.

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:

- **School Clubs and Projects supported by the Melville College Trust**
- **Melville College 50th Anniversary Lunch**
- **Dougie Morgan Room Update**
- **Photos and Memories from the Melville College archives**
- **How to Donate and Gift Aid**

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.

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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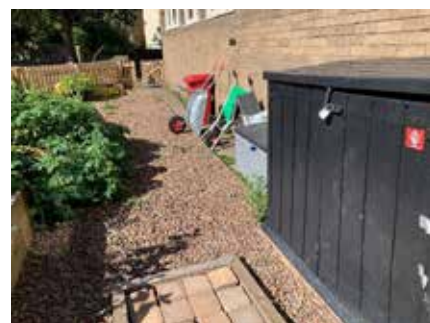
School Projects Supported by the Trust in 2022-23

Queensferry Road Garden Project

The Queensferry road garden project has been one of the most successful grounds projects for some time at the Junior School. The gardening club were keen to develop a garden which could be used to grow flowers and vegetables and could be a lovely natural space for those wanting to sit quietly.

The grant paid for the ground to be levelled, planters built, a fence erected to protect the garden, gravel laid round the planters as well as a hose and tap to be fitted. The Primary 6 and Primary 7 gardeners have grown a wide variety of flowers including a dramatic show of gladioli and nasturtiums and have successfully grown beans, potatoes and carrots.

The garden has given staff the opportunity to share an enthusiasm for gardening, helped children further their understanding of how food is grown whilst at the same time having improved the vista of the Rutherford playground for all of our junior children.





Mountain Bikes

The award helps with the teaching of Physical Education, CCF and Outdoor learning. The two new bikes have been a welcome addition to a very old fleet. The pupils who have had the experience of the new bikes has been positive as the bike set up and components are of good, strong quality. The bikes were also used in the summer term by pupils completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition. On the expedition the bikes were comfortable and versatile for the pupils needs.

Virtual Reality Pastoral Support

Due to the generous support of the Melville College Trust, ESMS has been able to buy an additional four virtual reality headsets used to provide pastoral support to our students. We now have a total of twelve headsets strategically available across the Junior School, The Mary Erskine School and Stewart's Melville College.

Last session these devices provided invaluable support to children who required help with regulating their emotions and lowering levels of anxiety. By reducing the amount of time out of class, through the use of bespoke VR playlists available via scannable QR codes, children were able to remain in their learning environments for longer, cope better with increasing environmental stimuli and return to tasks with better engagement. This resource has been one of the greatest contributors to increasing empathy and raising the awareness of neurodiversity at ESMS.



3D Printer

The purchase and implementation of the Anker Make M5 Fast 3D Printer at ESMS Junior School, made possible by the Melville Trust grant, has already begun to yield significant benefits for our students. The printer has begun to be successfully integrated into our Digital Learning curriculum. Before the summer holidays, we witnessed tangible examples of its impact, with students in Minecraft club and Primary 7 creating 3D models of their builds and house designs, respectively. These projects have allowed children to grasp complex concepts by bringing abstract ideas to life. Moreover, the Primary 6 Digital Leaders gained valuable insights into the design-to-production process by creating Lion and Ship keyrings, witnessing the transformation of a concept into reality in under 20 minutes.

This investment has already begun to fulfil its promise of providing our students with a hands-on approach to learning and a deeper understanding of digital technology, setting the stage for even more remarkable educational experiences across various subjects in the future.





Cricket Mat

A grant was received to purchase a flexi wicket for cricket at The Mary Erskine School. This was used by pupils from Primary 5 to Senior 6 to allow greater exposure to hardball cricket on the MES site. The mat arrived part way through the cricket season so was only able to be used for practice, but the intention is that it will allow hardball matches to be played at MES next season. That said, the mat allowed many more pupils access to a competitive wicket and true cricket experience. This will certainly help to continue the development of cricket at MES and strengthen the pathway from softball cricket to hardball cricket and high-level performance.

Digital Piano for Wallace Dunlop Hall

The digital piano purchased by the Music Department with funds from the Melville College Trust is now permanently housed in the Wallace Dunlop Hall on the Queensferry Road site. It is used on an almost daily basis to accompany Junior School Year Group Assemblies and a wide variety of rehearsals including Junior, Middle and Senior School Musicals.

It is also used to accompany other instrumental rehearsals that take place in the Wallace Dunlop Hall such as Wind Band, Concert Band and Junior School Band. When ESM Orchestra rehearses, its ability to create a digital harpsichord sound enables it to be used as a continuo instrument in baroque string music, giving more advanced keyboard pupils the opportunity to learn this skill.

It also gives the Drama department the potential to include the piano in drama lessons and rehearsals that take place in the Wallace Dunlop Hall. Its relatively small size in comparison to an acoustic upright or grand piano also means that it can be neatly stored without taking up too much space in a hall that is used for many different purposes.

The Wallace Dunlop Hall is also used for outside lets for groups such as the Scottish Chamber Choir and the room would not be suitable for such lets if there was not a good quality instrument available.

Chinese Calligraphy and Far East Culture Club

The grant awarded enabled our club to purchase two electric skillet pans, food thermometer and a Consori Air Fryer. These were particularly useful, especially when the club who not only teach Chinese Calligraphy but also aim to explore cultures & festivals through the diversity of cuisines from Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea etc.

With the electric skillets, digital food thermometer, and air fryer, we were able to try out different Asian recipes. This included vegetarian & meat dumpling, quick stir-fried noodles, prawn crackers, New Year pudding (Nian Gao), fruit pudding, crispy won ton, rice cakes, bean curd, buns and more to come. Without the skillets and air fryer, all this would have been impossible to achieve. We have enjoyed a fantastic turn out, with pupils and the support of staff, especially during Chinese New Year.



ESMS Pipe Band

The Melville College Trust grant purchased four drum harnesses for the Pipe Band.

On Saturday 24th of June, ESMS Senior Pipe Band competed at the European Pipe Band Championships in Aberdeen. The band competed in the Novice B event along with 16 other bands. The band came 1st overall and 1st for drumming, this was a big achievement for the pupils involved and the school.

The Dougie Morgan Room

Since the formal opening of the Dougie Morgan Room reported in our last Newsletter, the Melville College Trust has installed a display of Dougie's memorabilia in the entrance hall of the Clubhouse at Inverleith



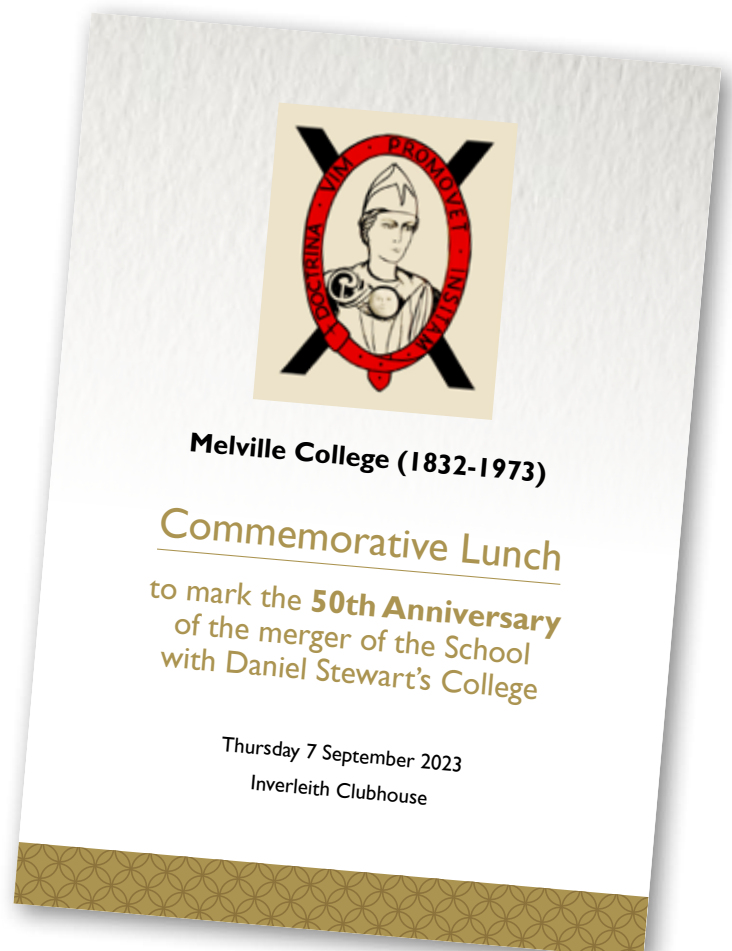
50th Anniversary Lunch

A Commemorative Lunch to mark the merger of the Melville College with Stewart's College was held at Inverleith on 7th September 1973.

Stephen Paterson, Chair of the Melville College Trust, welcomed all attendees. The formal part of day started with the School Choir singing our school song "Summer Suns Are Glowing".

We had speeches from ESMS Principal, Anthony Simpson, ESMS School Captain, Sam Hall and Head of Stewart's Melville College, Frances McCrudden.

There was an excellent display of Melville College memorabilia, thanks to Jon Cooper, Heritage Officer and Dave Clarke, School Historian.





Melville Memorabilia



Mike Wheeler, Pauline Richards, Ian Young, Ken Richards, Neil and Catherine Ross, Hugh Cowan, Jane Percy, Heather Mowat and Bill Percy

Ken Russell, Jennifer and Angus Mitchell, Johnny Hood, Barry Meadows, Craig Loudoun, Alan Small, Tom McNeill, Ann Russell



Donald Wood, Alan Veitch and Colin Rodger



Alan Henderson, Ian Knox, John Norman, Frank Smith, Addison Graham, Richard Bamford

Continuing with the 50th anniversary theme,
here's the last Melville College Cricket 1st XI from 1972-73.



Back row: J.H.D.Norman, J.E.Forrest, K.M.Ireson, P.G.R.Christie, M.MacKenzie, R.Hughes, B.J.Jordan

Front row: W.G.A.Parkhouse, N.B.Scott, R.M.Pearce, R.J.L.Weir (Captain), S.H.Scott, L.J.Reilly, G.Waterston

Now the last Melville College Prefects from 1972-73.



Back row: F.J.Smith, J.M.Carlile, I.T.Knox

Front row: J.M.Brown, J.H.D.Norman, G.R.B.Sherriff, M.J.Simpson, R.J.L.Weir

Some very well-known Melville College Staff retire at the end of the 1972-1973 school year



The Scotsman reports news of the Schools merger on 22nd March 1972



Melville College FP - Rugby, Cricket and Golf – when did these clubs last play before the merger?

After a bit of research here are the likely answers.

The **Rugby Club** played their last 1st XV match against Allan Glen's FP at Ferryfield on 31st March 1973. The match finished 13-13.

There was a social rugby tour to play Oban Lorne in mid-April 1973, 2 teams played but results are long forgotten.

RESULTS	
First round—	Kelso 14, Selkirk 4; Langholm 10, Hawick 6; Heriot's FP 16, Edinburgh Wanderers 10; Watsonians 18, Jedforest 8; Hong Kong 16, Royal HSFP 12 (after extra time); Boroughmuir FP 22, Stewart's FP 6; Gala 16, Melrose 10; Melville FP 12, Glasgow Academicals 4.
Second round—	Kelso 10, Langholm 3; Watsonians 13, Heriot's FP 10; Boroughmuir FP 17, Hong Kong 3; Gala 24, Melville FP 0.
Semi-final—	Kelso 10, Watsonians 0; Gala 18, Boroughmuir FP 0.
Final—	Gala 26, Kelso 4.

Seven-a-side tournaments were played in April, and the last tournament Melville FP played was at Jedforest on Saturday 28th April, losing to the eventual winners Gala in the 2nd round.

The Musselburgh tournament was held the same day (the club may have participated), but results are not available.

Morgan outstanding
Melville College FP retained Edinburgh Borderers Sevens Trophy at Wardie last night when they defeated Stewart's FP by four goals and three tries to one try. Douglas Morgan contributed 44 points to Melville's 86 points in the tournament and his three tries in the final bore the hallmark of a top-class scrum-half.
His best try came from a scrum when he broke on the blind side to send Stewart's off on the wrong foot. Melville's other scorers in the final were College, Brewster, Doran and Blackwood. Blamire scored Stewart's only try.
Results:—
First round—Broughton FP 18, Heriot's FP 6; Stewart's FP 18, Edinburgh Academicals 6; Melville College FP 24, Edinburgh Borderers 4; Trinity Academicals 22, Watsonians 6.
Semi-final—Stewart's FP 22, Broughton FP 8; Melville College FP 26, Trinity Academicals 4.
Final—Melville College FP 36, Stewart's FP 4.

The Edinburgh Borderers tournament was held midweek on Wednesday 25th April which Melville College FP won!

The final result no doubt raised a few smiles!

The **Cricket Club** merged with Stewart's College FP CC prior to the start of the 1973 season, resulting in the new combined club before the Schools merged.

However, to continue with a long-standing tradition, the FP cricket club played the School on the day of the School Sports, which then was the 23rd June 1973 at Ferryfield. A win for the Former Pupils, exact scores not known.

The **Golf Club** claim the last ever sporting appearance playing in the Queen Elizabeth Tournament at the Royal Burgess on Saturday 22nd September 1973. Unfortunately, the team lost 2 matches to 1 against Royal High School FP in the 1st round.

The Club were represented by Jimmy Cook, Mike MacDonald, Mike Wheeler, Kenny Graham, Colin McCulloch and one other – does anyone know who this was?

It was great to see the first three golfers at the recent 50th anniversary lunch.



**Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Winners – 1961
(Thanks to Graeme Wallace & Bobby Clark)**

The first Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award winners from Melville College in 1961.

Len Hilton, Earl Mitchell (Head Boy and rugby international), Graeme Wallace, Bobby Clark (rugby international)

School Sports of 1953 – 70 years ago! - (Thanks to David Wallace)



Front row l to r: Robert Young, John Crombie, Laurie Brown or Brian Plucknett?, not identified, Alasdair Walls, Peter MacNaughtan, Mac Baldwin, Nigel Robertson.

Second row l to r: Mike Wheeler, Derek Griggs, David Graham, Douglas Scott, Ronnie Fordyce, Russell McCaig, Ian Young, David Wallace, Gordon Stewart, James Ness.

At the rear: Bill Percy (tall at the back) and the teacher Mrs Low.

Credit for the photo is James Wallace (Dad of David), who was a teacher at the school.

Melville Class of 1963 - Reunion October 2023

The benefits of a good mathematical education will enable readers to work out that this year was the 60th anniversary of us leaving school.

That being the case, we decided to change the tried and tested format of many years by having a more formal lunch with wives and partners being included and made very welcome.

With the great assistance of Michael Walls, who is a member, The New Club was the venue for the lunch. We had the use of a private room with views out to the Castle. Quite a special setting.

We congregated and had some time before lunch to circulate and catch up with each other. The lunch was first class and there was further time afterwards for chatting.

We had 13 of the “boys” present, including 9 from the Primary A intake of 1950. By any assessment that's a great achievement. Our wives and partners have been very supportive over the years and contribute hugely to our gatherings and 10 took part making the total attendance 23.

Ian Young did a great job taking photographs and circulating a selection via Whatsapp.

Those in the photograph from the left are: Brian Smellie, Graeme Hume, Mike Wheeler (at the back), Nigel Robertson, Michael Walls, David Graham, Bill Percy, Ted Bowen, Ian Gibb, Ken Richards, Peter MacNaughtan, Ronnie Fordyce and Ian Young.

Thanks to Mike Wheeler

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



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



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