

London Daniel Stewart's & Melville College Club – Report for 2018

The London Club continues to provide a home from home for former pupils who have been relocated south from Scotland, as it has done, in various guises, for over one hundred years. The principal social event of the year is the Annual Dinner, which was held on Friday 23rd March this year, at the Caledonian Club when 57 members and guests gathered to hear the School Principal, David Gray regale us with his wide-ranging reflections on Education ahead of his retirement from Queensferry Road & Ravelston before taking up a new role in the Lebanon in 2019.

The President for the past two years has been Dr Alastair Cormack, a Stewart's FP who is based in New York State and he will be succeeded at the AGM in November by Derek Serafini an FP of Stewart's Melville who lives in Worcester. So, for two successive two-year terms the Club has been led by members living outside London and the South East and indeed we also have members resident in Singapore, France and Spain.

Throughout the year there is a regular and informal Club gathering. During 2018 this has taken place on **the first Tuesday of each month**, at **The Clachan**, an aptly named pub in Kingly Street, close to Oxford Circus in the centre of the city. This occasion provides a forum for local members to remain in touch with their friends and colleagues, and an opportunity for newcomers to the area to meet for a drink and a chat with colleagues with the common heritage of their school days at Stewart's Melville, Daniel Stewart's, or Melville College. Please note that with effect from **February 2019 these gatherings are likely to revert to the First Wednesday of each month** but venue etc shall remain the same.

The pattern of these evenings is to meet from 6.15/30 pm at a reserved table at the rear of the pub, often on the raised mezzanine section and around 7.45 / 8.00 pm we move on for a light meal usually to the upstairs restaurant of the pub.

Any FP's visiting the South-East would be most welcome at The Clachan on any first Tuesday until January (or Wednesday thereafter) and similarly an invitation is extended to all Club members to make a Spring trip south to attend the Club Annual Dinner at The Caledonian Club, Halkin Street (near Hyde park Corner) on **Friday 29th March 2019** which by coincidence is also likely to be 'Brexit Day'! . Please contact the Secretary - Tom Scrimgeour for further details by email on TomScrimgeour@aol.com or by phoning on 01206 574797 or 07767 392423.