



# FP CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

The **NEW** Quarterly FP Club Newsletter | December 2022 | **Issue 1**

## A Word from the President

Being elected to the Presidency of our prestigious club is both a privilege and an honour and throughout the duration I will do everything in my power to ensure that the interests of the Club are paramount.

One of my favourite photos as President was taken at the former entrance to Melville College following my laying of the FP Club wreath on Remembrance Day, 2021. Described as an eminent Edinburgh school which I was fortunate to attend from 1953 to 1965 and have been a member of the respective Former Pupils' Clubs (Melville FP then Stewart's Melville College FP) since leaving school in 1965. I played rugby at various levels for both FP clubs for almost 20 years and have continued to be an active member until the present day as well as recently completing 45 years as a member of the Royal Company of Merchants of Edinburgh.

Reflecting on the past 12 months has compared to steering a yacht first of all through the Doldrums waiting for the wind to pick up as the Club like so many organisations had fallen victim to the Covid pandemic with all activities brought to a standstill. I am extremely fortunate in having such a great team of Council Members and guidance from Past Presidents, Charles Wilson and Bert Barclay in addition to excellent support from Suzi Squires at ESMS Development Office without which my role would be well-nigh impossible! The return to social activity has been slow



**Ken Russell at the Kirking of the Master, Merchant's Hall.**

but with positive signs for increasing activities over the coming months.

My responsibilities as President have included chairing two AGM's and several virtual Council Meetings with the decision that those will continue remotely saving time and travel for all involved. Only the AGM's will be held in person. The highlight event of my term in office to date has been the 6th Form Leavers' Garden Party in June where I delivered an inspirational speech to the leavers group from both Stewart's Melville and Mary Erskine. It was a most satisfying duty and the respect shown to me by the pupils was most impressive. Prizegiving was another very impressive occasion not least the amazing achievements by so many talented individuals. Meetings with the Master of the Merchant

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Company, Melville College Trust and the new Chairman of the Governing Council, Alasdair Seale have been other highlights.

Last but by no means least was the excellent evening at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo hosted by our Principal Antony Simpson and Bursar Barry McMaster. A splendid evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

My mission as President is to grow our club membership over the next 12 months and I look forward to participating in the events scheduled in 2023 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the merger of Daniel Stewart's College and Melville College in 1973.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Former Pupils for their continuing support and to wish everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year in 2023.



**Ken Russell at Melville College.**

## Parent Club News and Events





# Upcoming Events

Title	Date	Location	Booking required	How to book
London Club Pub Night	04/01/23	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
FP Club Monthly Lunch	27/01/23	Inverleith	Yes, by Friday 20th	Contact smcfpclub@esms.org.uk for more details
London Club Pub Night	01/02/23	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
FP Club Monthly Lunch	24/02/23	Inverleith	Yes, by Friday 17th	Contact smcfpclub@esms.org.uk for more details
London Club Pub Night	01/03/23	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
London Club Annual Dinner	17/03/23	Caledonian Club, Halkin Street, SW1X 7DR	Yes, by Wednesday 8th March	Contact tomscringeour@aol.com for more details
FP Club Monthly Lunch	31/03/23	Inverleith	Yes, by Friday 24th March	Contact smcfpclub@esms.org.uk for more details
London Club Pub Night	05/04/23	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
London Club Pub Night	03/05/23	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
London Club Pub Night	07/06/23	The Clachan, Kingly Street, W1B 5QH	No	
London Scottish Schools Golfing Society Anniesland Trophy	27/06/23	Denham Golf Club, UB9 5DE	Yes	Contact fred@torrangray.co.uk for more details

An updated list of events for the summer will be published in March.

## SPORTS CLUBS UPDATE

### Rugby Club

For the first time in several years, the 1st XV are playing in National League 1 this season - the highest tier of amateur rugby in Scotland.

In their first game, the 1st XV welcomed GHK RFC to Inverleith. GHK cruised through National 2 last season whereas we rather staggered over the finishing line to earn promotion. Despite that, the 1st XV defeated the men from Glasgow 27-21 with the new President


of the SRU, our very own Colin Rigby, watching proudly from the stand.

The 1st XV have, sadly, lost all 8 of their games since then. A number of these were against teams likely to be fighting for promotion at the end of the season (Ayr, Kelso, Gala) but the rest were against teams that (like us) are likely to be fighting to avoid relegation at the end of the season.

The 1st XV have managed to pick up 3 losing bonus points in defeat but still sit bottom of the table. With three teams

due to be relegated this season due to league reconstruction, it's not a good time to be the new boys in the Division!

The 2nd XV have, like the 1st XV, suffered from injuries and player availability and currently sit third bottom in their league. They shouldn't have to worry about relegation as they will lose less players to the 1st XV as players continue to return from injury.

The social scene remains strong at the club with Vice President Jason Conlin organising a very well received 

► Family Fun Day for the GHK game. Jason is also organising Community Days this season, bringing together our sponsors, ESMS 6th Year pupils and Special Needs children from the Edinburgh area. The first Community Day will take place at Royal High and Mary Erskine's on Sunday 20th November. A Burns Supper is also planned.

Everyone at the club was delighted to hear that former player Callum Hunter-Hill (SMC 2014) has been called into the Scotland squad for the Autumn International against Argentina.

## Cricket Club

The Club had a busy summer of cricket in 2022. The 1st XI won more Eastern Premier League matches than ever before. The 2nd XI were crowned ESCA Division 2 champions, finishing strongly to pip Edinburgh Accies on the final day. The 3rd XI finished in 5th place again despite winning more games than last summer and provided playing opportunities to a great number of talented youngsters. The 4th XI had an excellent campaign and gained promotion out of League 7 which was a fantastic transition from a bottom placed finish in 2021.

The Women's team reached the Scottish Cup Final after a superb performance upset favourites Carlton in the Semi Final. The section continues to grow from strength to strength, competing in the Scottish Women's Premier League and the inaugural Women's Challenger League.

The junior section also had a great year. The breadth of the programme continues to expand driven by the tireless efforts of David Gibson. From the 'All Stars' cricket through to the Under 18 Colts, nearly 300 children participated in the Club's junior cricket offering across the summer with the Under 12 and Under 14 sections often fielding three separate teams on the same evening! The quality of the young players progressing through the junior structure and participating regularly in the Saturday teams continues to improve as the results testify.

## Hockey Club

It has been a busy year for the Club and hockey has been enthusiastically embraced by all, helped in no small part by the new water-based pitch which has meant that the L1s could compete in Premiership hockey at home for the first time (previously they had to play at Peffermill).

Congratulations to the Men's 1 team who have continued to make Club history by building on their promotion out of National 3 pre-Covid to secure promotion to the Premiership for next season. Coach Andrew Brogdon credits the hard work and dedication into creating pathways from the youth section into adult hockey, especially on the men's side. There are many who have contributed to this but the Club is particularly grateful to Ally Dodge who stepped down from his Youth Hockey involvement this season.

The youth section continues to go from strength to strength in terms of playing numbers and participation across all age groups. There has also been particularly strong representation in both district and national youth squads from the Club. The youth section also continue to run incredibly successful hockey camps over the summer and Easter and the vision of widening hockey participation through partnership with local primary schools through stick donations and sharing both facilities and knowledge continues to develop and will hopefully soon become even more accessible.

At the other end of the age scale, many players across the men's and women's sections have been selected to represent Scotland at masters level. The Club has many people to thank for last season from all the coaches and Captains to the club members who sit on the committees, umpires, supporters and parents. The Club is looking forward to the upcoming season and seeing the teams flourish in their 35th year of hockey.



**Back row: A Veitch (scorer), B Wilkinson, N Tandel, J Newman, S Pillay, A Appleton, S Khanusiya. Front row: V Shah, C Shorten, S Parker (captain), P Ritchie, K Steel.**

The Club Dinner and Awards Night will take place on 25 November. Over the winter, Club members and supporters

can keep up to date with plans by looking out for the Cricket Club's 'News from Inverleith' in the winter months.

## Golf Club

Thankfully, we were able to leave Covid restrictions behind as we entered the 2022 golf season and were able to undertake the majority of our usual fixtures, with 4 well attended outings to Scotsraig, Craighelaw, Muirfield and Goswick. The Rabbits (handicap 19 and over) held their annual competition over Craigmillar Park. We also participated in the Gilbert Archer Trophy, teaming up with Mary Erskine's golfers against Watsonians; the Edinburgh Cup and the Edinburgh Cup Under 35's (against Watsonians, Heriots FP and Edinburgh Academicals). I am pleased to report that the Under35's team managed a win in their event.

Following on from a very successful Grand Match against Heriot's FP, we instigated a similar 10 a-side match against Watsonians, both events taking place at the Royal Burgess with golf followed by an excellent meal.

Sadly, I have to report that our Sivewright Quaich team fell at the early stages and we were unable to raise a team for the Dispatch Trophy, primarily due to a change of date for this event which resulted in a clash with a number of golf club championships meaning many of our low handicap golfers were unavailable for the team.

The summer season concluded with an excellent weekend trip to Dumfries where a group of 14 revellers faced some very mixed weather over the 63-hole event. However, spirits were not dampened and great weekend of golf, food, the odd drink and splendid camaraderie was enjoyed by all. Special mention must go to Chris Anderson for his hole-in-one at Dumfries and County on the Sunday afternoon.

As we enter winter, the golf club remains active with the winter greensomes pairs knockout running until March.

### Results for the season are as follows:-

Spring Outing (Scotsraig)	Scratch – David Aitken; Handicap – James Mason
1887 Salver (Craighelaw)	Donald Lowe
Summer Outing (Muirfield)	Scratch – Adam Preedy; Handicap – Nick Kordowski
Autumn Outing (Goswick)	Scratch – Tommy Bryson; Handicap – Donald Lowe
Rabbits Trophy (Craigmillar Park)	David Mitchell
Weekend Retreat	Charlie Allan
Summer Singles	Ian Morrison
Summer Foursomes	Rory Thomson & Phil Hendry
Gilbert Archer	Tied 3 – 3
Watsonians	Lost 3 – 2
Heriots FP	Lost 3 – 2

**The FP Golf Club is always on the lookout for new members. Anyone seeking information should contact Euan Parker email: [secretary@stewmelgolf.com](mailto:secretary@stewmelgolf.com)**



**Champion Charlie Allan receiving the Weekend Retreat winner's trophy and flag from Captain Crombie.**

## Curling Club

After the previous two seasons being disrupted by the covid pandemic it was fantastic to be able to complete a whole season of curling.

### Club League Curling

Three rinks played throughout the season for the Andrew Williamson trophy. There were some very close games, with the winners not being known until after the final game of the season. The winning rink was skipped by Ralph Garden, ably assisted by Alastair Galloway and David Lawson. George Bee's rink was second with David Brown's rink 3rd.

### King George IV Knockout Trophy

We lost a very tight game in the semi-final to 37 Club after good wins against SIAE and Coates in the earlier rounds.

### Midlothian Province Bonspiel


We had 2 rinks in this day long competition and neither played to form and as a result we were never in any danger of troubling the engraver!

### F.P. League

Watsonians won the league this season and we came 2nd. We only lost two games, one against Edinburgh Accies and one against Watsonians. We did retain the Wilson Heatlie trophy which we play for against Heriots.

### Match v Schools

Mary Erskine are currently not curling and so we only played against a boys rink, skipped by Forbes Gumley. We managed to win the match to retain the shield. Forbes was disappointed not to beat his Mother's rink.

Vicky Gumley and George Bee continued with the coaching of the Stewarts Melville boys. 



### ► Individual Achievements

Vicky Gumley again played in the Scottish Senior Championships, but unfortunately their rink were defeated in the final. Chris Morris again played in the Scottish Junior Championship.

We are in even greater need of curlers of all abilities and if anyone knows a curler looking to join a club, please get them to contact our President

George Bee on 0131 336 4533 or [gbee@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gbee@blueyonder.co.uk). Like most clubs we hope to benefit from the general upsurge of interest in curling following the fantastic success of Team GB Women and Mens curlers at the winter Olympics.

The 2022-23 Season is underway with again three rinks playing league curling.

Vicky Gumley has just returned from a very successful 3.5 week curling tour of USA by 20 Scottish Women, where they comfortably won the trophy.

Secretary Dave McKay and President George Bee will be heading to Canada in January 2023 as part of a 60 strong Scottish Mens team to compete for the magnificent Strathcona Cup over 3.5 weeks.

## BRANCH CLUBS

### London Club Update



The London Club continues to thrive with the Annual Dinner having been a huge success in March this year. 60 former pupils and their guests attended a convivial evening hosted by President George McNeil and featuring fellow former pupil Martin Baxter, SMC 1986, as the guest speaker. Martin is a renowned expert in algorithms, models and data and currently leads Electoral Calculus, a quantitative consultancy which used mathematical methods to be the most accurate predictor of the General Election in 2019.

The monthly Pub Nights at the Clachan in Kingly Street have resumed following the COVID hiatus and are well attended. These take place on the first Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm with those attending often moving upstairs to the restaurant around 7.30pm for a light supper. Upcoming dates will be Wednesday 7 December, Wednesday 4 January, Wednesday 1 February and Wednesday 1 March.

The London Scottish Schools Golfing Society's Anniesland Trophy took place at Denham Golf Club on 14 June. The Club fielded a team from Stewart's Melville and they enjoyed themselves despite not featuring on the Prize List. The date for this next year is Tuesday 27 June and Fred Gray is always interesting in hearing from players interested in participating [fred@torrangray.co.uk](mailto:fred@torrangray.co.uk).

The next Annual Dinner will take place on Friday 17 March 2023 at the Caledonian Club in Halkin Street with doors opening at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. The speaker this year will be Alasdair Seale, DSMC 1976, current Chair of Governors at ESMS. Anthony Simpson, ESMS Principal, and School Captain Thomas Russell will also be speaking. For further details, please contact Tom Scrimgeour, Club Secretary, on [tomsgrimgeour@aol.com](mailto:tomsgrimgeour@aol.com).

## Glasgow Club Update

The Branch like all others had its activities severely curtailed by our friend Covid. However subsequent to the removal of restrictions, the Branch has been able to participate in one of its main activity - attending Beer Festivals with visits this year to the Glasgow one held at The Briggait in June and more recently the October event in Troon.

The Branch also took a table at the pre match lunch for last season's Premier 2 Match at Old Anniesland where GHK ran out the owners and also proved exceptional excellent hosts in their clubhouse. Peter Wright provided some pearls of wisdom including reminiscing about "encounters" in the 1980s/1990s with Stewart's Melville teams.

It is hoped that the presently not so Annual Dinner will be held at some point in the not too distant future but again will be a lunch time affair and details will be made available once known. Regrettably given the nature of the above events – involving much quaffing - but perhaps not surprisingly there are no photos available or at least fit for publication.

## Borders Club Update

After a rather long hiatus in events for various reasons, the Borders Club are working with the ESMS Development Office to put on an informal lunch in Melrose in the summer term to which all ESMS contacts in the area will be welcome. Further details will be announced in the next bulletin in March.

# NEWS FROM STEWART'S MELVILLE COLLEGE

## A Word from the Head

It has been a great start to the school year at SMC. Assemblies have returned and the whole school are enjoying gathering together again on a Monday morning. Boys have made a purposeful start to the year and the atmosphere around school is very positive. In the short term we have been in back in school we have had many remarkable achievements. We are delighted that we have been awarded the LGBT Youth Scotland Gold Charter as a mark of how well we support our LGBT community at SMC. Additionally, we have won the Scottish Rugby Conference for the third year in succession – an achievement that marks us out as the number one rugby school in Scotland. House Music and House Rock have seen the houses compete again in a musical arena. House Rock included a performance with an S4 boy playing rock guitar behind his back! A sight that may not have been seen before on the stage in the Tom Fleming Centre. We have also been treated to some musical highlights in two Award Holder Concerts and a most wonderful Chamber Concert with the choir giving a beautiful rendition of 'Tis the Gift to be Simple'.

**Frances McCrudden, Interim Head of Stewart's Melville College**




**Frances McCrudden and Ken Russell at the Sixth Form Leavers event in June.**



## Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a myriad of extra-curricular activities available for pupils to choose from at Stewart's Melville College. Each edition there will be a feature on one of the Clubs available. This term a report was received from the War Games Club.

Every Thursday about 20 pupils meet up after school with Mr Scott in the Product Design Department to play wargames and have fun. It is a loud, busy and 



► energetic couple of hours and we really look forward to it each week.

We really like that there are lots of different games we can play – there is something for everyone. Mr Scott has done loads of work painting the models and scenery, so the games always look really good.

Since I love History, I am really enjoying 'The Great War', a WW1 game where my opponent and I control battalions of infantry, machine guns and land ships as they attack across no man's land. It's a cool game using cards to determine how many troops you can move and attack with and with loads of 'special cards' that allow you to do some sneaky stuff to foil your opponent's plans. We've played games set in WW2 and ancient times too.

Last year we ran a tournament in a game called Warcry, a fantasy game with warbands of warriors fighting for supremacy. It was good fun to have a trophy to play for and everyone joined in.

Warhammer 40k (futuristic space marines) and Dungeons and Dragons is popular too, allowing the players imagination to run riot.

The best thing about wargames club is probably being able to mix with boys in other year groups. It is competitive but friendly and everyone mixes really well.

**Frasier Bennett and Jack Jogee (S3)**



## Update from School Captain

Former Principal Patrick Tobin from 1989-2000 said in his final prize giving 'I am extremely proud that the schools have made such progress', when speaking of ICT and technology. Today every classroom includes an interactive whiteboard, and every Pupil(S1-S6) has a laptop that connects to the school's 'firefly' network.

The competitive nature of Stewarts Melville still runs strong:

In rugby, the school have retained their 'Whole of school Conference' title for the third year running, displaying the depth and competitiveness running throughout each year group. In the Cup, both 1st XV and U16 have scraped into the semi-finals, where they will be taking on Edinburgh Academy and Strathallan.

Hockey has also been doing well at SMC we won the East Districts Cup however were faced against tough opponents in the first round of the Scottish cup. Whom we lost to, yet in a later match claimed victory against the blue of Edinburgh Academy.

Another recent change has been the departure of Mr Clark who retired after 20 years of service.

The schools Music and Drama events have been incredible, most recently we have had some amazing performances coming from the inter-house challenges, House music & House rock. The theatrical pupils of the school will also be performing 'The Sound of Music' in this year's musical.

**Thomas Russell, School Captain**

## Update from Development Office

The Development Office has had a quiet year after the retirement of Bryan Lewis at Easter and the absence of Suzi for several months following an operation. We were delighted however to be able to invite former pupils and other friends of the schools to attend the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony which is part of the Remembrance commemorations that take place in mid-November. Nearly 200 guests joined to commemorate the schools' fallen and we hope to be

able to invite guests again in 2023.

We have also held some of the first events since Covid restrictions were eased, hosting a lunch for retired staff of all three schools with nearly 50 in attendance! This was a very successful lunch held at Inverleith and there is much interest in the next lunch, which is likely to be in April or May next year.

We have supported the Class of 1982 with their reunion and are already

making plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the merger of Daniel Stewart's College with Melville College which will take place from August 2023-June 2024. Discussions will shortly be underway with the FP Club and the Melville College Trust about a range of events throughout the year.

Our regular communications have now resumed and we have been enjoying learning about different career paths from her interviews with former pupils young and old and sharing these ►



➡ with the wider community. You can read these any many more development initiatives on our blog at [www.esmscommunity.org](http://www.esmscommunity.org).

We have been working on a new version of ESMS Connect, the website that links current pupils and recent leavers with more established former pupils and parents for careers development purposes, whether that's mentoring in a particular field, assisting with work experience placements or just ad-hoc advice and support. We hope to relaunch this website with the new features early in 2023.



**Melville College Wreath Laying: Rosie Harrison, Brodie Gibson-Gordon, Stephen Paterson, Anthony Simpson, Alasdair Seale**

## Current Internationalists

While our Rugby Club have so far struggled to impose themselves in National League One following promotion at the end of last season it is a cause for satisfaction within the Stew Mel community that four former pupils have been called into Gregor Townsend's Scotland squad for this season's Autumn Internationals at some point.

Callum Hunter-Hill (SMC 2014) was a recent call up as a second row forward to the Scotland squad for the last of the Autumn internationals and it comes as no surprise to those who have followed his progress from a Scottish Schools Cup winning 1st XV. Thereafter he started his senior rugby career at Inverleith with Stewart's Melville before being directed to Stirling County. Following this in his professional career he had periods with Glasgow Warriors, London Scottish and Edinburgh Rugby and one appearance for Newcastle before he joined Saracens for season 2019-20. There he has played now in excess of fifty games in the English Premiership and is on a long-term contract.

George Turner (SMC 2010) plays for Glasgow Warriors and has been a regular choice in Scotland squads since November 2017. He played in his 29th international at hooker v Fiji and scored an eighth international try before retiring from the field with an injury. A notable achievement was his scoring of three tries v Canada in a 2018 Summer international. His introduction

to senior rugby was at Inverleith with Stewart's Melville

Jamie Hodgson (SMC 2016) who plays for Edinburgh Rugby has five international appearances to date having made his debut v Tonga in October 2021. He was called into the squad as cover for the second-row positions in the first of this season's Autumn internationals. His introduction to senior rugby was at Inverleith with Stewart's Melville.

Ross Thompson (SMC 2017) plays for Glasgow Warriors and also made an international debut for Scotland in the October 2021 match v Tonga being successful with two conversion kicks. To date he has three international appearances and came into this season's squad after Adam Hastings suffered injury. He captained the school 1st XV in his last year at school and in his senior career has played for Glasgow Hawks and Ayrshire Bulls before signing up with the Warriors.



**George Turner, Ross Thompson and Jamie Hodgson.**

## Melville College Trust Update

I am very pleased that we had the first Melville College Reunion since Covid struck over 2 years ago. It was a great success and a very convivial affair, at which we also celebrated the life of Dougie Morgan. The main room at the Inverleith clubhouse has been named the Dougie Morgan Room, with the simple inscription – Dougie Morgan, Melville College FP, Scotland, British Lion. With the agreement of Doreen Morgan and the School we are now looking at putting one of Dougie's Jerseys on the wall at the Clubhouse.



**Morgan family at the Melville College Reunion.**

The Trust continued to finance Bursaries at the School and supported 22 in the School year 21/22. We also provided the funding for a number of small projects including Lathes for the Wood Turning Club and 2 VR Spec Computers for the CCF (RAF section). The Trust also paid for the restoration of the Headstone of Thomas McNaughton who was Headmaster of the Edinburgh Institution from 1897 – 1902.

# Reunions

## Class of 1982 Reunion School Tour and Inverleith Gatherings.



Despite several groups discussing possible plans for reunions, only one managed to get everyone together in 2022, the DSMC Class of 1982!

The organising committee of Derek Nash, Mike Harrower, Mike Beveridge, Stuart Fraser, Colin Edwards and Gavin Pritchard organised a range of activities over the weekend of 23-24 September, including a golf match on Friday afternoon which was won by Kevin Lockhead and a pool competition which was won by

Alex Gunn. Saturday saw a tour of the school take place, hosted by Gavin Park and recently retired Bryan Lewis who had been invited by the Committee. There was then a dinner at Inverleith in the evening where guests were treated to a display from the Archives which brought back lots of fond memories of school. Guests travelled from as far away as Toronto in Canada to catch up with old friends. The Committee managed to make contact with 80 of their year group

and maintain a WhatsApp group for ongoing communications. They intend to play the golf match yearly and to organise further gatherings for their 45th and 50th reunions.

If you would like assistance in organising a year group reunion for your year, please contact Suzi Squires on [development@esms.org.uk](mailto:development@esms.org.uk) in the first instance. The Office can provide a range of support from sending out information to coordinating various aspects of the reunion itself.

## Former Pupils in Business - Alan Morrison



In a new feature aiming to focus on younger alumni working in business, Ken Russell spoke to Alan S Morrison, DSMC 1982, Public Relations Practitioner at ASM Media & PR about his career journey so far.

**What were your favourite subjects when you were at school?**

English, History and Economics.

**When you left school, did you have a career path in mind?**

Yes – I was a news junkie, so interested in pursuing a career in journalism and the careers assessment at school showed I had sufficient ability and interest to make that a feasible option. So I aimed to get an Arts degree at Glasgow University in order to get the first degree required to apply for entry to the postgraduate journalism





diploma course at Cardiff University. I succeeded in both – graduating with an MA Honours in English and Philosophy in 1986 and postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Studies in 1987.

**Did you find it tough getting your first role after graduating or was the pathway quite straightforward?**

It took me a year to get my first permanent job in journalism because I'd specialised in broadcast journalism, principally radio, at Cardiff and starter jobs in that in Scotland were scarce. So I worked in an off-licence and then a bookshop in Glasgow (where my girlfriend lived) before finally getting my start as a Reporter at The Sunday Post, based in its Edinburgh office. In retrospect, I shouldn't have restricted my job search to Scotland, but young love is a powerful career distraction!

**What helped to guide you to your role today?**

The free composition essays Mr Robertson set my class in 3rd Year English were pivotal in helping me discover my talent for writing. I enjoyed writing and his praise for my work gave me the confidence to think seriously about a career as a writer. The careers assessment showed it was realistic.

Journalism is the classic route in Public Relations and, as I said, I was a news junkie from my teens – reading newspapers every day, watching Newsnight and listening to BBC Radio Scotland – so the idea of working in news appealed greatly.

I was bitten by the broadcast bug when my mum, an advocate, was a guest on BBC Radio Scotland's teenagers show The Sunday Club and I came along to see what it was like.

Six bright, precocious teens would interview guests live in the studio and some would record interviews

and features through the week. I got chatting with the Producer and ended up appearing in 18 programmes including recording features and interviewing Spandau Ballet, Clare Grogan and John Peel. I also managed to get yearmates Neil Lucas, Nicholas Holroyd and Douglas Armstrong on the show.

After 23 years in newspapers – reporting, running and launching papers in England and finally as a Sub-Editor back at The Sunday Post – my role disappeared in a restructure in 2011. I could see print journalism was unlikely to be a career till retirement, so transitioned into Public Relations – first in an agency in Manchester and then running my own company based in Forfar, which also offers PR and event photography and copywriting.

**What do you do day-to-day?**

I'm mostly doing Public Relations for SME and charity clients based in Angus, Dundee and Fife. No two days are the same, but regular activities include keeping abreast of the news to spot newsjack opportunities, monthly calls with clients to discuss projects for news and feature articles as well as other communications, doing research, planning, writing copy, taking photos, liaising with media, compiling media coverage and evaluation reports, writing blogs, networking, sifting email newsletters for media job moves relevant to clients and social media changes worth sharing on my social. I also try to do some CPD every week – to keep my skills up to date and maximise client outcomes.

**What do you like most about your job?**

I love being paid to help people – something I naturally enjoy. Public Relations is about helping organisations achieve their goals through building and maintaining good relationships with stakeholders and it's really satisfying to see the positive effect on people's lives of having helped a client to help them.

**What has been the most challenging part of your career so far?**

Changing career from journalism to Public Relations in 2011. Although there's a big overlap in the skills, the mindset and ways of working are very different. Most of all, changing how I saw myself was very hard as being a journalist was a core part of my identity.

**Which professional achievements are you most proud of?**

In journalism, I wrote a story for The Sunday Post about an Edinburgh charity helping three orphanages in post-revolution Romania improve living conditions. It made the front page and led to three HGVs full of beds and other kit plus 57 volunteer nurses, plumbers and electricians going to help them. Never underestimate the power of information to make positive change!

More recently, I led the turnaround project at St Andrews Business Club which saw it more than double membership and event attendance over two years to a new club record thanks to a great team effort. Being club President at the end of its most successful year was a very proud moment.

**What's your fondest memory from your schooldays?**

Carbisdale was a turning point in my life – where I first discovered I could achieve things I wouldn't have believed were possible for me if only I fully committed to them. After that it felt worthwhile setting goals, because for the first time I believed I could achieve them. Even at the time I realised it was where my mindset moved from child to young man.

**What are your hobbies?**

Photography for me started as a hobby and became a passion I got paid for doing professionally. It's still something I enjoy doing for my own pleasure and creative expression.

**Have any school values or habits stayed with you?**

Doing things properly and being 'Never Unprepared' are core values I thank DSMC for instilling in me.



# SMC ARCHIVES

I took over tenure as Archivist in March this year. Upon the retirement of my predecessors David McLeish and Dorothy Sharp, the schools merged their Archivists roles into one ESMS position. I split time as equally as I can between the archive in the attics of Old College and that in Ravelston House.

Some of the biggest steps forward in these past nine months have been in the complete digitisation of the Daniel Stewart's magazine and The Collegian until the year 2000. These are fully available on the public Archives website here: <https://archives.esms.org.uk/> The Melville College Chronicle will follow as we continue to work with our external digitisation partner: SDS Schools Records Management.

A lot of foundation work has also been undertaken to support a full reorganisation of the archive. Latterly, this will include a digital catalogue which will revolutionise the way we use the archive; it will make the entire collection "searchable" to members of staff and will function

as a database for information on the material that we hold. This step into the 21st century will set the archive up for expanded use throughout the schools and our wider communities but also for future Archivists too.

The project will require moving and cataloguing every object that we hold, so we anticipate significant distribution for the entirety of the project. We are still happy to answer enquiries and support FP events to the best of our abilities during this time but please expect delays. We also kindly ask that there is a refrain from sending material for the archive to the school until this project is complete. All available storage space will be used and we do not want any neglected or lost material during that time.

A recent addition to the archive has been the campaign medal belonging to Daniel Stewart's 1913-4 Dux: Donald Morton Brown. In his final year of school, Donald won six subject prizes and was awarded two bursaries to support his attendance of the University of Edinburgh to read in the Arts, a program he would not finish before leaving for war. Donald was a valued and successful member of the Stewart's community and we are thankful for the opportunity to remember him specifically this year. You can read more about him in the Issue 1 of the 1914 edition of The Collegian which is available in our archives online.

While preparing an Archives display at this



year's Remembrance event, we also came across Donald's original service photograph. On the 11th, we displayed the photo, alongside the medal and Donald's Dux and Roll of Honour entries. Adding more personal insight into the names on the war memorial is a great way to see the potential in the archives. Moving forward, we hope to commemorate some Mary Erskine FPs who served the country during wartime, alongside the fallen from Daniel Stewart's and Melville Colleges.

If you do happen to have anything you wish to donate to the archive or would like any form of archival support in your own research, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email so that we can discuss ways to work together. [archivesmc@esms.org.uk](mailto:archivesmc@esms.org.uk).

Many thanks to Fiona Still and her late father for their thoughtful caretaking of D. M. Brown's medal before its entrance into our collection.

**Lucy Crabb, SMC Archivist**







*Photo courtesy of Loch Ness Marathon twitter.*

# Valencia next for Dougie after brilliant win in Loch Ness Marathon

In December, former pupil Dougie Selman will travel to Spain for the upcoming Valencia Marathon in fine fettle, after he recently won the Loch Ness Marathon closer to home. Now 34 and working in Edinburgh as Legal Counsel, Selman has been a keen athlete since he was a student at Stewart's Melville College, competing at a high level over the years.

At the 20th Loch Ness Marathon, last month, Selman paced his race very well to finish the men's race first, ahead of well-known Kenyan athlete Isaiah Kosgei and Shaun Cumming (Highland Hill Runners). In the highlands, he ran a time of 2hr 23min 53secs and said: "It was really enjoyable. Breaking the tape at the finish line is not something you get to do often as an athlete, in a marathon, so I just tried to enjoy the moment.

"It was quite late in the race when I went ahead, but I was still feeling pretty

good at that point. I was running in quite a controlled manner and going into those last couple of miles your legs have taken quite a pounding, but I knew I had enough in the tank to get the job done. The Loch Ness Marathon is always a big event with a lot of competitors there and a lot of families so that, combined with a great setting and a pleasing result, made it a very good day."

For Selman, his sights are now firmly set on the Valencia Marathon, and training for the next challenge has already started. Being married to Jenny Sleman, a member of the Team Scotland athletics squad at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, means it's a family passion and there's plenty of support at home.

But where did it all begin? For Selman, his passion for running came later in his school years, having tried lots of different sports and activities at Junior

School. "When I entered my last few years at Stewart's Melville College, I started to take my athletics a bit more seriously. "At that point I was more of an 800 metre runner rather than a marathon runner, but athletics took up a lot of my time at school and I loved it - and still do!"

SMC Head of PE and Sport Bryn Lockie said: "I remember him well as a pupil and an excellent athlete. He always struck me as a dedicated performer, who even with his numerous athletics commitments outside school, was always happy to represent the school in fixtures, at sports days and in Scottish School events.

"He was an excellent role model for our younger pupils both in school and on the track. We are delighted to see another one of our former pupils doing so well in their chosen sport."

**By Gary Heatly**

# OBITUARIES

## **Robert Gillespie Swan, 1945-2021 (Melville College 1949-1963)**



Robert was born in Edinburgh and attended Melville College from Primary one to sixth year. Robert's father, his three uncles from the Gillespie family and his brother William were all former pupils. Robert enjoyed sport at school and had a very good eye for a ball, playing both hockey and rugby. However, golf was his real forte. He won the gent's senior championship at Liberton Golf Club a total of seven times. He also played in the Scottish Boy's Championship, the British Youth's Championship and he also was triallist for the Scottish Boy's Tam. He was a Melville College team member in the Dispatch Trophy.

Robert left school and despite having the qualifications necessary to attend university, he decided to pursue a career in banking following in his grandfather's footsteps.

He joined Clydesdale Bank as a clerk and, by passing banking examinations, he progressed and attained membership of the Institute of Bankers. During this time, he took the post of Accountant at the Mid Calder branch. His continued progress saw him become Manager at Nicholson Square branch Edinburgh in 1977 and a final move as Manager to St Andrews in 1984.

He was greatly respected during his working life and will be greatly missed by all who knew him through his involvement in local activities: St Andrews Rotary Club, The Boys Brigade, The Ladies Putting Club, and the New Club and his membership of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Robert was married to Nina for fifty one

years and she survives him along with their twin sons Andrew and Brian and grandchildren Veronica, Douglas and Lily.

## **Alistair Campbell Skene, 1934-2020 (Daniel Stewarts 1952)**



Alistair Skene who died aged 86 was a highly regarded and popular figure who made his mark in various walks of life, in business, sport, as a piper, in a wide range of community activities and as a much loved family man. He may have been short of stature but his big heartedness, positivity and engaging nature earned him the affection and respect of all with whom he came into contact. An individual who was genuinely interested in people and always ready to help, he made a much appreciated contribution in all he did.

Alistair Campbell Skene was born in Kuala Lumpur, the only child of Alexander and Gladys. When back on leave in Aberdeen in 1939, war broke out with Alistair and his mother remaining here as his father returned to Malaya. In 1941 the ship on which his father was coming back was bombed near Ireland and although he was rescued, he later died of hypothermia.

In 1946, on moving to live in the Blackhall area of Edinburgh, Alistair began attending Daniel Stewart's

College. There he developed his lifelong love of rugby and piping, representing the school at both. After school, Alistair went to study printing at college in Leeds, paving the way for his future career.

In 1956 he was called up for National Service with the Royal Scots Fusiliers and found himself back in Malaya, this time on active service dealing with the communist insurgency.

On his return to Edinburgh he joined McLagan and Cumming Printers, and played rugby for Stewart's F.P.'s as a scrum half. In 1963 Alistair joined McCorquodale's in Wolverton, Bucks., where he met future wife Sheila.

In 1966 he and Sheila were married and would go on to enjoy 54 years of happy marriage during which they had three sons, Andrew, Hamish and Iain. He set up his own printing company, Skeneprint, in Aberdeen in 1973.

Although he lived in Aberdeen, Daniel Stewart's was very much part of his life, being heavily involved with the Aberdeen branch, serving as both secretary and President and organised the annual dinner for many years. He served as President of the parent club in Edinburgh from 1992-93.

He was also involved with Rotary Club, serving a term as President of the Aberdeen St.Nicholas branch and also Aberdeenshire Rugby Club, again serving a term as President.

After retiring from business aged 61, he had no difficulty keeping active, pursuing interests in beekeeping, hillwalking, fly fishing and as volunteer guide at the Gordon Highlanders' Museum.

In 2008 he and Sheila moved to Ballater with Alistair immersing himself in local activities including Probus and bowling as well as the Pipe Band. A full life well lived, Alistair is survived by his wife, sons, daughter in law Rini, and three grandchildren, Alexander, Kyla and Findlay.



**Samuel James (Jim) Hall, 1930-2022  
(Daniel Stewart's College 1948)**

Jim Hall, OBE, WS passed away peacefully on 7 March 2022, at Erskine Hospital.

Jim was the much loved husband of Olive (his wife of over 64 years), father of Anne, Douglas and Alastair, a grandfather and great-grandfather.

He was born on 29 May 1930 and attended Daniel Stewart's College (as it then was), between 1936 – 1948. In fact, the College was in his family's blood. His father (Sam) attended before the First World War, his younger brother (Ian) attended – as did his 2 sons (Douglas and Alastair) and also one of his grandsons (Hamish). He was president of the Stewarts' Melville College FP Club for a number of years. He was a very proud FP!

After school, he attended Edinburgh University, graduating as a lawyer. Between 1952-1954 he undertook National Service, reaching the rank of Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps.

Immediately following his National Service (and whilst continuing as a commissioned Officer in the Territorial Army for about nine years), Jim commenced his career as a lawyer - eventually becoming the senior partner at Robson, McLean and Paterson WS. His greatest career achievement was his appointment as Solicitor to Her Majesty's Admiralty Board in Scotland. A post he held for many years and for which he was justly proud to be awarded the OBE by the Princess Royal in 1997.

Jim enjoyed a very active retirement. He and Olive played lots of golf at Bruntsfield (where he was the longest-serving member) and also at Olive's club, Ravelston. They enjoyed annual golfing trips, including to the US - where they made many new friends and spent time with relatives. They travelled extensively throughout Australia/New Zealand (where they have wonderful grandchildren/great-grandchildren), North America, Europe and Asia. He was also an elder at Palmerston Place Church. He enjoyed watching rugby – often accompanied by his 2 sons at Stewarts' Melville games in the 1970s.

However, first and foremost, Jim was a family man. He was a wonderful husband to Olive (whom he adored) and a much loved father to his children (whom he loved and sought to support and mentor). His family and all of his many friends and associates will remember Jim fondly, as a determined gentle man - with a very warm and cheeky smile, to the end.

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**Duncan Fairlie (Class of 1978)**



Duncan Fairlie died on 27 April 2022. He was married with two children and lived in Williamsburg Virginia.

Duncan went from school to St Andrews University where he gained a 1st class honours BSc in Mathematics (1982). Following University he worked at the UK Meteorological Office, and then in 1987 work for NASA in Virginia, USA, where he remained as a research scientist until his retirement in 2021. In 2009 he was also awarded a PhD in Earth and Planetary Science by Harvard University. Besides his mathematical achievements, fellow pupils might also remember him being useful on the golf course!

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**Allan Hare  
(Melville College 1956-1964)**

It is with sadness that I write to advise of my brother Allan's death at the age of 74. He died at the City Hospital, Nottingham on 21 April 2022, after a fight with cancer.



Allan Hare (Melville College 1956 -1964) was born at the Welsh Mission Hospital in Shillong, Assam, India. With our parents working overseas Allan, like myself, was a boarder at Buckingham Terrace, under the watchful eyes of Jimmy and Jane Ray, acting "in loco parentis". Allan was, by his own admission not particularly academic but he was, nevertheless, a good all rounder at the sports on offer at the time. He had a ready sense of humour and was popular with his contemporaries at school.

On leaving school in 1964, Allan completed his education at the naval officer training school, HMS Conway, Anglesey, Wales. He was greatly disappointed that he was unable to pursue a career in the merchant navy due to a minor eyesight deficiency.

Not to be denied an "active" career, Allan joined the army in 1966 and spent 22 years serving with the Intelligence Corps; a corps within the British Army responsible for gathering, analysing and disseminating military intelligence and also for counterintelligence and security.

The Intelligence Corps played a major role in counterintelligence during the Cold War and a number of his postings were to the then West Germany and to Berlin. As well as the Russia focussed work, the Corps was heavily involved in Northern Ireland and, in 1979, he was mentioned in despatches by the Ministry of Defence for his services in Northern Ireland during the "Troubles".

British interests in Bahrain, Cyprus and Belize (formerly British Honduras) involved security arrangements which saw Allan also posted to these locations. Much of his work was classified and, understandably, he wasn't at liberty to talk much about his activities. There is,



however, an interesting reference to him in the book "Sharing The Secret: The History of the Intelligence Corps 1940-2010" which gives an indication to the nature of his work.

Belize achieved independence in 1981 but British forces remained for "an appropriate period" in support of the Belize Defence Force. Guatemalan Special Forces (the Kaibiles) continued to hassle Belize. On 31 July 1982 Warrant Officer 2 Allan Hare was on tour in Belize as the Force Security Warrant Officer and was covering for the Field Intelligence NCO (West) when it was reported that some Guatemalans had infiltrated into Belize. Hare, and his small team, intercepted the vehicle, arrested the occupants (including a lieutenant colonel commanding the Kaibiles). The vehicle revealed documents that the Kaibiles were massing on the border. As a result Belize lodged a protest at the United Nations.

On leaving the army Allan joined the Royal Kent Constabulary. During this time he received the Kent Chief Constable's commendation for bravery for dragging an unconscious man out of a burning house before the fire brigade arrived.

While living in Australia, my regular visits to the UK have allowed me to see Allan most years. Unfortunately travel restrictions due to Covid prevented me from visiting these last two and a

half years. Allan's rapid deterioration in health denied me the opportunity to see him once again.

His first wife, Elizabeth, predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter, Catherine, son, Christopher, three grandchildren and his second wife, Tanya.

***Contributed by his brother, John Hare.***

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#### **Adrian Weatherhead, 2022 (DSC 1958-1962)**



Adrian Weatherhead was an outstanding athlete who in a long, distinguished career enjoyed much success in a variety of disciplines and a reputation as one of the country's most determined, single-minded competitors.

Best known as a middle distance track runner who ran four sub-four minute miles (plus some equivalent "metric miles" at 1500m), he earned seven Great Britain international vests and six Scottish ones. His top level repertoire extended from the half mile/800m to 5,000m and even included a season as a steeplechaser when he won the Scottish Championship. His range of abilities and longevity were vouched



through his appearance every year in several events in the Scottish ranking lists from 1965 to 1981.

Despite not training for cross country and seldom competing in it, he was runner-up three times in the prestigious Scottish National Championship, against huge fields of participants, and represented Scotland seven times, including at two World Championships. In the latter stages of his career he turned to road racing, competing with distinction seven times between 1983 and 1990 in the famous Edinburgh to Glasgow Relay, his final appearance made at the age of 46.

Adrian was the first to recognise that while a decent schoolboy athlete he was not exceptional, nor did he have huge natural talent. However, through determination and years of application, he succeeded in attaining international status and becoming a sub-four minute miler. When young he had been told by a sports master that his future as an athlete would be limited, a prognosis he delighted in confounding.

Although utterly committed to his running, Adrian was no blinkered automaton but a well-rounded, infectiously likeable gent with an outgoing, engaging and spontaneous manner. As well as the highs of success he relished the camaraderie of fellow runners.

Adrian Peter Loveday Weatherhead was born to parents Gordon and Dorothy in St Albans, Hertfordshire, where he was initially brought up along with young brother Jeremy. He attended St Albans School and sang in the local cathedral choir. In 1957 after the family moved to Edinburgh because of his father's work as a Director of the Federated Employers' Insurance Company, Adrian attended Daniel Stewart's College, now Stewart's Melville College. There he particularly enjoyed rugby as a wing forward, one early report describing him as "an outstanding forward for taking every chance". He took up running to be fit for rugby and by his final year was in the 1st XV, vice-captain of the athletics team and runner-up in the annual Sports Championship. The family home bordered Campbell Park in Colinton where Adrian would train regularly, his father having removed part of the garden hedge to facilitate direct access for him to the park.



The family had homes in Balerno, Howedenhall and Mortonhall before moving to Colinton.

After leaving school he concentrated on athletics as he studied chemistry at Heriot-Watt University. By then a member of Edinburgh's Octavians Athletic Club and inspired by the feats of top world milers Peter Snell and Jim Ryun, Adrian began to progress, first appearing in the 1965 Scottish ranking lists in the 880yds (800m). Assisted by Octavians coach George Sinclair and Heriot-Watt coach Bill Walker with input from the training schedules of John Anderson, Adrian trained religiously every day, often twice daily, with the emphasis on high quality track speed work combined with stamina building through winter mileage. He also joined Polytechnic Harriers in London to access top level competition.

His dedication began producing results and in 1971 on 19 June in Leicester he achieved his first sub-four minute mile with a time of 3mins 58.5secs, bringing a letter of congratulations from Sir Roger Bannister. Later that year he won bronze in the AAA's [British] 5,000m championship. Numerous championship successes followed, including Scottish indoors and outdoors gold medals at 1500m and 5,000m, silvers and bronze in the AAA's indoors 1500m and 3,000m, gold in the English Inter Counties 5,000m and at the Spanish Games in Madrid over 1500m, as well as British and Scottish international vests.

Pride of place among his many achievements was his fastest mile of 3m 57.59secs at Crystal Palace in 1975, two seconds behind world record holder Filbert Bayi but ahead of future Olympic champion Steve Ovett and top Scot Frank Clement. Beating world class miler André de Hertoghe at Meadowbank in an international against Belgium thanks to a blistering final lap was another highlight. In 1977, at 33, he ran his last sub-four minute mile, one of the oldest athletes to achieve the feat.

In the early 1970s Adrian joined Edinburgh Athletic Club, with whom he shared the National Cross Country team title five times, and on the roads won team gold in the Scottish Six Stage Relay. When he debuted in

the Edinburgh-Glasgow Relay aged 39 he won his stage by a whopping 33secs and remained extremely competitive until retiring at 46.

After graduating from Heriot-Watt Adrian worked for BP before joining Ethicon then moving into local government with Lothian Regional Council in the education department. On 24 July 1972 in Edinburgh he married Jean Gibson, whom he had met socially, and they set up home in Colinton, where they remained. They enjoyed a long, happy marriage, celebrating their golden wedding recently.

Following early retirement in 1996 he pursued a number of interests including astronomy, small bore target shooting and guitar. He was also a popular guest at Octavians reunion lunches where his company was much enjoyed by all. Adrian died suddenly near Faro while on holiday in Portugal. He is survived by his wife, brother Jeremy and his wife Eunice and was an Uncle to Mark, Emma and David.

**G Jack Davidson**

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**Ronald McKay, 1928-2022**  
**Daniel Stewart's College 1934-1947)**



Ronald McKay, who has died aged 93, was a pupil at Daniel Stewart's for his entire school career. Much of his senior education took place during the war, when many of the masters were brought out of retirement to replace the younger men who were off fighting. Even the pupils were required to do their bit for the war effort by fire-watching on the school roof at night. After school he did National Service and was always grateful to

have served in the ranks where he met a cross section of society, a valuable experience for a sheltered middle class boy. He then went to Edinburgh University to study medicine, subsequently becoming a consultant radiologist, first in the West Midlands and then in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. He also worked in Fiji for two and a half years, an adventurous move which led to a very happy time for him and his wife Margaret and their young family. It gave him a taste for travel which he and Margaret continued to enjoy well into old age. He never lost his well developed sense of humour and of the ridiculous and his family and friends have fond memories of his fits of infectious laughter.

The saddest time in his life was just weeks before his own death when his eldest son Martin died of cancer. He is survived by his wife and three remaining children, Peter, Vivien and Richard.

**Contributed by Peter McKay**

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**Martin McKay, Stewart's Melville College 1973-1976**



Martin McKay has died in Kent, aged 60.

Born in Edinburgh but raised in the West Midlands, Fiji and Inverness, Martin joined Stewarts/Melville as a boarder in 1975, following the footsteps of his father Ronald.

After settling into Dean Park House, Martin soon started to make an impact on school, being taught in P7 by Mr Davidson, who would later be described

as the most influential teacher he ever had. Despite the head of boarding Ian Templeton's exasperation, Martin made something of a trademark of his ability to be constantly late, with a slightly disorganised appearance. This outwardly laissez faire presentation belied Martin's sharp and inquisitive mind and he excelled in most subjects, especially art.

However, it was the 'outdoor week' in second year, based at St Fillans that Martin always remembered from his Stewarts days – the week involved climbing Ben Vorlich and Stùc a' Chroin which sparked a lifelong passion for the outdoors. He completed the Scottish Munros in 2005 and also loved climbing in England, Italy, Poland as well as in Jordan - his Mont Blanc climb was a triumph. However, he was

always drawn back to Scotland's peaks, particularly in the Highlands.

Martin left DSMC after just 3 years, completing his education at Inverness Royal Academy. His love of and ability in art led him to complete a BSc in architecture in Aberdeen, with his first job in London. In his mid-30's, he bravely returned to education to complete an MSc in Urban Planning followed by his Masters at Edinburgh College of Art.

As a conservation architect, Martin was instrumental in saving many historic buildings throughout the southeast of England, including much of the historic WW2 warehousing in and around Chatham Dockyard. He had an absolute passion for older buildings, including his own former pilot's house overlooking

the Thames at Gravesend which he transformed. He was instrumental in saving many of his adopted town's historic features and was a founding member of Urban Gravesham, a campaigning body set up to save north Kent's architectural past.

He had a lifelong passion for the outdoors and, as well as walking and climbing, he loved sailing his boat on the Medway and Thames.

He is truly missed by his family and many great friends from both north and south of the border. At his funeral, he was described as a passionate, driven yet compassionate and thoroughly decent man.

This is how he will be remembered.

***Contributed by Peter McKay***