



FP CLUB

NEWSLETTER

The **NEW** Quarterly FP Club Newsletter | October 2023 | **Issue 4**

A Word from the President

The Annual Prize Giving and Speech Day is one of the main events of the School Year and once again it was a privilege to be invited to attend.

The Prize Giving was a most impressive event and hearing of the outstanding successes of pupils and the exemplary staff team was extremely uplifting and shows the very high standards which are universally synonymous with DSMC.

The amazing speech by Owen Martin-Jones was as good as any I have heard at the many speech days I have heard over the years and not just at DSMC.

The rendition of "Summer Suns are Glowing" was very emotive and brought back memories of my own school days at Melville College which I attended from 1953 to 1965. At the recent lunch held by the Melville College Trust to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the merger of the two schools in September 1973 we were honoured by the performance of a group of DSMC boys singing "Summer Suns are Glowing" with many of the Melville FP's present joining in and no doubt reflecting on their own memories of those bygone days in Melville Street!

With those Summer Suns now becoming less each day as we move into Autumn and the Winter months, the end of the Cricket season and the start of another competitive Rugby season in the league below where we hope there is a better chance to achieve improved results on the field.

As I compose my last report as Club President we are moving apace with Commemorative events to mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of



John Clark OBE (MC 1965) Chairman of the John Clark Motor Group and Chairman of the Race Against Dementia Charity with Founder Sir Jackie Stewart.

the two schools and at the time of publication the Melville College Lunch has already taken place on Thursday 7th September at Inverleith attended by 65 people from Melville FP's many with partners and a contingent from school led by Principal Anthony Simpson who made an excellent speech as did the Head of School Frances McCrudden. A grand and fitting occasion enjoyed by all.

The end of month lunch on Friday 25th August was well attended with 30 sitting down to lunch. It is encouraging to see continued support of Club events and particularly in this case with the ongoing holiday season and the alternative attraction of the Edinburgh Festival! We have our next end of month lunch on Friday 29th September and I look forward to welcoming as many members, partners and friends joining

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us for lunch then but again - please remember to inform the Development Office of your intention to attend.

On a personal note, I have managed to squeeze in one or two trips within the UK including one to Bristol and Bath. I was very impressed with Bristol as a City with its magnificent buildings, gracious Georgian terraces, delightful squares with tree lined streets not to mention the many fine parks. Other amazing attractions included the Clifton Suspension Bridge, SS Great Britain and the last Concorde to fly commercially carefully maintained in its own dedicated hangar. Although I have known several people who have flown in Concorde, the tight space and in particular the awesome array of switches in the cockpit. My thoughts were of that catastrophic accident in Paris and of all those who perished but also of the bravery of early pilots like Captain Brian Trubshaw who took this incredible machine on its first trial flights. An

awesome experience flying this beautiful aircraft at over twice the speed of sound!

As we leave our summer and head into the next phase of the Club year I hope all the members will take note and endeavour to support the ongoing changes we need to progress and to thrive.

Thank you for entrusting me as President of the Club. It has been a great honour and privilege to lead the Club through the challenges of the post Covid era in dealing with faltering attendances at events which thankfully are gradually returning to near normal. All this was immediately following the handover of day-to-day Club management from a committee run Club to being administered by ESMS Development Office and changes which had to be embraced from previous times. I am indebted to the exemplary support of my Council members and to staff members at school without whom the role of

President would not be possible.

I look forward to welcoming as many members as possible to the AGM @ 6.00 pm on Thursday 2nd November in the clubhouse at Inverleith which will mark my final duty as President. I am particularly looking forward to hearing from Ken Pritchard about his trip to Iceland where he took part in a Coast to Coast Challenge to raise funds for Neuroendocrine Cancer.

As in the final words of our school hymn "Go thou still before us to the endless day".



Alan Morrison and Ken Russell in St Andrews

Parent Club News and Events

| Title | Date | Location | Booking required | How to book |
|--|-----------------|---|------------------|---|
| FP Club Monthly Lunch | 27 October | Inverleith | No | Please contact smcfclub@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance |
| FP Club AGM | 2 November | Inverleith | No | Please contact smcfclub@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance |
| 50th Anniversary Celebrations – Tours | 4 November – AM | Stewart's Melville College | Yes | https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CMKN |
| 50th Anniversary Celebrations – Dinner | 4 November – PM | Stewart's Melville College | Yes | https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CMKO |
| Remembrance | 10 November | Stewart's Melville College | Yes | Please contact development@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance |
| FP Club Monthly Lunch | 24 November | Inverleith | No | Please contact smcfclub@esms.org.uk to advise of your attendance |
| FP Club Christmas Lunch | 15 December | Inverleith | Yes | https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CRLM |
| London Club Dinner | 15 March 2024 | Caledonian Club, Halkin Street, Belgravia | Yes | tomscrimgeour@aol.com |

SPORTS CLUBS UPDATE



Gordnian RFC V Stewart's Melville RFC - Credit to Jim McNair

Rugby Club

At the end of the day, it's fair to say that we were out of our depth in National 1 last season. It's therefore something of a relief to find ourselves back in National 2, facing teams who we've seen a lot of in the last few years. While it feels strange to be in a league with no teams from Glasgow in it, we've got several epic bus trips to look forward to plus shorter trips to see our old friends in Falkirk, Kirkcaldy, Lasswade, Peebles and Stirling. Our friends in Berwick are even older than that – it's been an age since our players faced the Scremerston Slope!

The committee beavered away over the summer to address some of the issues we came up against last season. Most importantly, we have converted the outbuilding at the south end of the grandstand at Inverleith into a gym, allowing our players to work on their

strength and conditioning after this was rather exposed in National 1.

We've also been working to strengthen our coaching team, with club legend Andy Kelly coming in as Head Coach and Andrew Whitelaw joining us from Napier University. Dave Hampton has also stepped up to join the 1st XV coaching team, his new job with Heriot-Watt providing us with another link into University rugby. Alex Hagart completes the 1st XV coaching team, as before. The 2nd XV will be coached by Andrew Whitelaw, Adrian Graves and Nick Winton this season while Jamie Hodgson of Edinburgh Rugby will still be helping us with our lineout drills.

We've also been focussing on player retention and recruitment, with two players having joined us from the Woodlands club in New Zealand. We've not lost too many players to retirement or approaches from other clubs and appear to have decent depth across

the squad. A number of our senior players have also returned to action after long term injuries.

We are three games into the season at the time of writing. Our first game, away to Berwick RFC, ended in an entertaining 22-22 draw. We then welcomed Peebles to Inverleith for a game that coincided with the 50th anniversary of the first ever Stewart's Melville FP RFC game following the merger of the schools in 1973. We were, sadly, unable to mark the anniversary with a win, losing 27-42 to a strong Peebles side that is likely to be challenging for promotion at the end of the season. Our third game, against Gordonians up in Aberdeen, ended in a 37-20 defeat to another strong side.

We will hopefully claim our first win of the season when basement boys Kirkcaldy RFC visit Inverleith on 23rd September!

Contributed by Bill McNie, President



Celebrating 50 Years:

‘The Originals’ - Stewart’s Melville FP RFC

On September 8th, 2023, history will come alive as we mark the 50th anniversary of a remarkable milestone – the very first game played by Stewart’s Melville FP RFC and is now time to honour ‘The Originals’ – the trailblazing team that laid the foundation for our storied rugby journey.

On September 8th, 1973, Stewart’s Melville FP RFC faced Highland RFC at the hallowed turf of Inverleith.

The match was to lay the foundation stone to the camaraderie and passion that defines our club to this day.

For the Statos’ amongst you the players who took to the field for that inaugural game are etched in our history:

Backs:

- 15. Ian Morrison (Stewart’s FP)
- 14. Lindsay Duguid (Stewart’s FP)
- 13. Ian Forsyth (Stewart’s FP)

- 12. Bill Doran (Melville FP)
- 11. Ali Craik (Melville FP)
- 10. Alan Blackwood (Melville FP)
- 9. Dougie Morgan (Melville FP)

Forwards:

- 1. Alistair Aitken (Melville FP)
- 2. Dick College (Melville FP)
- 3. Dougal Spaven (Stewart’s FP)
- 4. Ker Tyler (Stewart’s FP)
- 5. Gav Calder (Melville FP)
- 6. Alan Forsyth (Stewart’s FP)
- 7. Alex Brewster (Melville FP)
- 8. Colin Peter (Melville FP)

While the inaugural game ended in a narrow 15-12 loss, the indomitable spirit and determination of the team were evident. The late Dougie Morgan, a true legend of the game, stood out by kicking four penalties for the newly formed club.

The club kit for that memorable day consisted of a black jersey, white shorts, and black stockings, a nod to the classic rugby colours that have stood the test of time.

A heartfelt thank you to Ian Forsyth, who graced that field and kindly shared these cherished memories. Ian’s illustrious career saw him play 376 times for Club, 37 appearances for Edinburgh, culminating in 6 games for Scotland. Ian achieved these remarkable milestones from leaving school in 1964 through to retiring from the game in 1982. He never lost his love of the game and can still be seen on match days prowling the touchlines between Inverleith and Arboretum!

Among the other ‘Originals’ were future Scotland Captain and Lions Test player Dougie Morgan, along with the esteemed Alex Brewster, who would also go on to Captain Scotland. Their legacy continues to inspire generations of players who follow in their footsteps.

We pay tribute on the September 8th, 2023, to ‘The Originals’ and the 50-year legacy that continues to thrive at Stewart’s Melville FP RFC. It’s not just a celebration of a game; it’s a celebration of the unwavering passion, dedication, and community that make our club truly extraordinary.

Finlay and Jim Calder



Hockey Club

As the summer comes to an end so does another busy close season for the Hockey club. Over the summer the club has been busy with preseason preparations for the upcoming season as well as celebrating individual successes for a number of club members.



This upcoming season the club has reintroduced development teams. This means each weekend both the mens and ladies sections will have 4 teams playing competitive hockey covering all levels of national and district hockey. Last season saw the mens 1s successfully retain their place in the premiership, as well as reaching the Scottish Cup final for the first time in club history. The men's

first team have been rebranded as ESM Lions to instil a new club culture and encourage development of players throughout the club. The ladies section have brought in a new first team coach who will hopefully be able to build on the encouraging performance last season with the ladies about to embark on a push for promotion back to the top division.



Over the summer the club have also had a number of individual triumphs with numerous players being selected to represent Scotland at various Master tournaments. Martin Constable and coach Stephen McCurry were selected for the over 50s, Ross Young was selected for O45s, Graham Batchelor the M40s and Richard Wright the M35s with all taking part in the European championships and Home nations tournaments. From the ladies section Annie McSherry and Claire Grant represented Scotland at the home nations O35s. While at the European Championships we had four ladies Jordana Emerson, Amy Atkinson, Lyndsay Wright and Suzanne Laing all returning home with a bronze medal! A special mention should also go to club member Tara You who was part of

the contingent of umpires at the event. Hockey cannot be played without people willing to umpire and having a club member umpiring at such a high level will undoubtedly benefit the club over the coming season.

A large part of the growing success of the hockey club is the development of young players within our youth section. Over the summer the club ran two weeks of successful camps with over 100 children taking part. These camps cannot run without the support of our coaches and volunteers organising behind the scenes and their help is always appreciated. The strength of our youth section has grown and can be seen throughout the club with young players playing in all of our teams every weekend including various starting in our first teams. Over the summer there was also individual success with Ed May, Jack Adams and Hamish Kinloch representing Scotland U18s over the summer.




Golf Club

The summer months are the busiest golfing months with many matches being played for the club. The Spring Outing was played at Gullane #2 in March with Donald Lowe winning the Handicap with 39 pts and James Armstrong winning the Scratch with a gross score of 76, just pipping Drew McIntosh with a better final 6.

In May, the 1897 Trophy Outing at Craigielaw was well attended. Nick Kordowski won the Trophy with an excellent 41pts around a challenging course. Adam Preedy had the best scratch score with 75!

The Summer Outing at Muirfield was played in favourable conditions and the Club were delighted to welcome some guests. The winner of the Handicap with 35pts was Nick Kordowski (for the 2nd year running). Congratulations go to Malcolm MacColl going one better this year with a scratch score of 82, just beating Grant Pollock with a better inward 9.

The second match vs Watsonians was played in early June at the Royal Burgess and was well competed with full teams. The 5 foursome matches were very close and for another year running, a putt or two on the last holes swayed it one way or the other. 



Golf Club Elie Outing

▶ Result was 2.5 each, so they have retained the honours for another year.

The more established Gilbert Archer trophy between Stew Mel & Mary Erskine vs Watsonians was held at Ratho and ended in a 4-1 defeat, despite the matches being close. Thanks go to Ian McKerrow for organising and reporting back.

The Summer Singles and Foursomes competitions are in full flow and details of these will be published in the next newsletter.

In August, the Grand Match vs Heriots was held at Royal Burgess. Our 10 man team made up the four ball, better ball matches in a bid to get back the Volvo Trophy that we lost out on over the last 2 years. We won the match 3-2 and this was another highlight on the calendar for all those that played.

The Edinburgh Cup was played at Prestonfield in late August. This is a match vs Heriots, Watsonians and Edinburgh Accies. Another tightly contested event though it was a 3rd place finish for us.



Golf Club Team v Pupils

The FP's achieved a rare victory over the schoolboys in September. The Club gave a valiant performance in the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Tournament, also in September. Sadly we were defeated 3-0 by Glasgow High (with two games going up the 18th) in the semi-finals. The highlight of the weekend was a 2-1 second

round victory over Loretto with all three games going to extra holes.

There are lots of matches still to come at the end of the season and a further update will be provided in the next edition. If you would like more information about the Golf Club, please contact Euan on secretary@stewmelgolf.com.

BRANCH CLUBS

London Club

As attendance had dwindled to a very small number of monthly regulars the decision was made, after 30 years, to cease the monthly gatherings at The Clachan and the final one was held in June. The committee will be looking to find other possible dates and locations for future get togethers, but in the meantime please note the ESMS Development London events planned for early October. Angela Alexander, the ESMS Director of Development, is visiting London in early October as part of the Schools ongoing work to engage with the wide ESMS Former Pupil community and has extended an invitation to all FPs to join her at two events: Thursday 5th October, Drinks at The Alchemist, 63-66 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4JS from 6pm and Friday 6th October, Light Lunch at Browns, 82-84 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4AG from 12pm.

Our AGM will take place on Friday 17th November at The Caledonian Club. Please let Tom Scrimgeour know if you can attend by emailing tomsgrimgeour@aol.com.

The 2024 Dinner will be held in the Johnnie Walker Room of the Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR on Friday 15th March 2024 at 6.45 pm for 7.30 pm and full details will be circulated in January. Please put the date into your diaries now.

Glasgow Club

A handful of members attended the Glasgow beer festival at the Briggait in June and quaffed a few ales. The Secretary is presently dealing with arranging the first informal lunch (apart from pre rugby games) since 2019. Further information will be circulated to Glasgow-based FPs in due course.

Borders Club

Borders Club members are taking a table at the 50th Anniversary Dinner in November, coordinated by John Wright.

NEWS FROM STEWART'S MELVILLE COLLEGE



A Word from the Head

We had a huge focus last year on raising attainment and I am delighted to report that, particularly at Higher level, student results significantly improved last session. Our Higher pass rate is the 2nd highest it has been in 20 years. I would like to publicly thank the enormous work, which has included significant amounts of student mentoring and out of class support, that was undertaken by both the academic teams and pastoral teams to enable this to happen. The post exams service was as busy as ever and many staff have been working long days since the end of July, particularly the Deputy Head (Academic) and Higher Education Co-ordinators supporting students and parents. The number of students gaining entry to their first choice of university was 20% above the national average – SMC students continue to go from strength to strength with their academic results and post school destinations.

A number of trips went out over the summer holidays: The annual Malawi trip; a cricket tour; a rugby tour to Canada; OE trips (cycling, canoeing and walking) and three CCF/RAF camps. All went well and the boys had lots of fun. I am grateful to colleagues who planned, organised and went on these expeditions.

The new term has started well and many have signed up to the huge amount of extra curricular activities that take place at the clubs and societies fair last week. Additionally, the students are very much enjoying wearing their new (optional) quarter zip tops. It is evident they really do love them as they are often even sporting them, with blazers, on very warm days! The children are clearly to be back and are also delighted with the food the new caterers are providing – our SMC community marches well when well fed.



As well as having new caterers, and a piece of uniform, the student Sixth Form leadership team has been expanded. The new School Captain, Sam Hall, and his team of 5 deputies, are wearing red blazers and are now ably assisted by six School Officers, who have a patch denoting their 'rank' underneath the pocket of their blazer. This initiative will hopefully aid in the smooth running of the school by harnessing these students' leadership abilities.

Obviously, 2023 is the year of the 50th anniversary of the merger of Melville College and Daniel Stewart's, so the boys will receive an assembly (complete with current pupils dressed in uniforms of old) from the Heritage Officer, Jon Cooper, next week, so they can learn about the date's significance too. I look forward to seeing many of you at the events to celebrate this event in the coming weeks.

Frances McCrudden, Head of Stewart's Melville College



D&D Club

Dungeons and Dragons Club is the school's latest way of letting students express themselves through an amazing hobby. This most recent, student-run, club allows students from all years to role-play epic fantasy adventures set in worlds, such as Tolkien's, whilst having great fun with all their friends.

The club runs for two hours after school every Thursday with excellent attendance and keen players who create a wonderful community within our school. The players split into groups of around five, and each group selects a Dungeon Master. The role of the Dungeon Master is to guide the adventurers through fantastic realms and make sure everybody is included. Frequently, the club hosts competitions with prizes offered to the best role-players. Separate classes are also offered within the club such as map-making, character-creating, and DM training. However, this club has only just begun; we are looking forward to any suggestions to improve the club in the future.

D&D is an excellent opportunity for students at SMC. It improves many skills that can be transferred into school life and beyond. Role-playing encourages acting; map-making and character drawing improves artwork; puzzle solving improves cognitive ability. Improving imagination, thought-process, teamwork and so much more is offered in just this one club.

To put it simply, Dungeons and Dragons at SMC is a gateway into freedom and fun for everyone to enjoy. Whether you are an orc-slayer, role-player or storyteller, D&D can be enjoyed by all pupils.

By Alexander (S3)



Update from School Captain

It's been fantastic to return to school for another session at Stewart's Melville, which for us Sixth Formers will be our last.

My name is Sam Hall, and I am School Captain of Stewart's Melville for this year, a responsibility that I'm very excited about!

The nervousness of exam morning still feels like yesterday, with myself and many of my peers receiving their results on the morning of 8th August. I'm glad to say the school have once again produced excellent results, which is testament to the hard work from students and staff alike.

Last year, not only were there many academic successes, but Stewart's

Melville also thrived in extra-curricular activities, and I'm sure this year will be no different. Many of us are looking forward to representing the school in a variety of sports including rugby, hockey, and football. The Combined Cadet Force has already set the standard for the year, winning the National Military Skills Competition in September, the first time since 1987!



Stewart's Melville's drama and musical provision continues to be outstanding, with many choral and orchestral events planned such as the annual St Mary's Cathedral Concert and an ESMS performance at the Usher Hall. The senior musical this year is "Sister Act", continuing the nun-theme from last year's excellent "The Sound of Music", and ESMS Pipe Band is aiming to win the European Championships for the second year in a row!



► 2023 also commemorates fifty years since the Melville College and Daniel Stewart's merger, and there have been many different events happening around the school to mark it. School Heritage Officer Dr John Cooper delivered a fascinating presentation during assembly on the history of the two schools, explaining our rich heritage and what's changed since the merger. I was also fortunate enough to attend the Melville College former pupil lunch at Inverleith in September, where I enjoyed speaking to FPs about their time at Melville College and performing "Summer Suns" with the school choir.

As School Captain, I'm part of a fantastic leadership team of five vice-captains and six school officers. I'd now like to introduce the vice captains for the 2023/2024 session:

Iain McGregor

My name's Iain and I'm chairing the media committee and helping to run the junior school buddying this year. I'm looking forward to the independent study that is going to come from S6, along with the responsibility's that I will get from being a vice-captain.

Hamish Limb

So far this year, I've been working with Noor from Mary Erskine where we have been put in charge as students of the Wellbeing society for Sixth Form as well as having future plans to work with younger years in the Mental Health Ambassador setup. At Stewart's Melville, we have plans to organise wellbeing activities consisting of calm walks, drawing and a place to have a group chat with new people.

Struan Daly

I'm Struan and I'm going to be vice-captain of sport and the chair of the sixth form charities committee. So far, myself, my Mary Erskine counterpart Trixie, and the rest of the charities committee have come up with a short list of charities that we believe many of the people in sixth form would resonate with. We are waiting for the response from our peers to choose which charities we will represent this year in charity events. Additionally, this year I have been selected to play for the 1st XV rugby team. So far, our team is looking strong, even after a tough defeat to Merchiston in round two of the conference. However, I am really excited about the season Infront of us, I believe we can go far.

Hamish Kinloch

Hi, I'm Hamish and this year I'm in charge of events as well as drama coordination. This year I am most looking forward to working with everybody to create an amazing winter ball as well as celebrating all the other cultural, religious and significant

events throughout the year. In addition, I'm massively excited to be the vice-captain for the 1st XI Hockey, and will be competing in the schools cup and defending the east cup title. It should be a great year ahead!

Andrew Urmson

I have had a steady start to the year, working alongside my MES counterpart Nimisha to start up both our commitments. For the yearbook committee I was pleased to see several keen artists and editors eager to get the yearbook started with two important brainstorming sessions after school on Mondays, I was amazed to see all the creative, interesting and strange ideas people had come up with.

We are all very much looking forward to what will hopefully be a fun and successful year at Stewart's Melville, and we wish everyone the best!



Update from Development Office

The new academic year has started and our campuses are abuzz again with the sounds and laughter that the children bring at break time and the bustle of another busy School year. We are excited to start this special year, where we will be marking the 50th Anniversary of the merger of Daniel Stewart's and Melville College Celebrations and our ESMS Community events too. If you have not booked your ticket yet, you can find details for how to book your space for our celebratory dinner and School tours on Saturday 4 November in the list of upcoming events.

We have a busy calendar of events for the year ahead and we look forward

to welcoming back many more Former Pupils, Former Staff and friend of the Schools over the coming months. Later in the year we will have our annual Remembrance event on Friday 10 November at Stewart's Melville College – all are welcome, so please keep the date in your diary.

Angela will be hosting two gatherings in London next week – a casual catch up over drinks at the Alchemist in Covent Garden (Thursday 5) and a relaxed lunch at Browns in Covent Garden (Friday 6). These gatherings are always popular with our London based community and we are looking forward to seeing former pupils and

other ESMS Community members.

We enjoyed organising a lunch to commemorate Melville College early in September and welcomed over 60 former pupils to Inverleith to share memories of their time at school prior to the merger. It was particularly poignant when some current pupils sang 'Summer Sons are Glowing', and many of the former pupils in the room spontaneously joined in, singing from memory their old school hymn.

If you would like to know more about any of our events or initiatives and how you can get involved, please get in touch anytime on development@esms.org.uk or by phone on 0131 311 1131.

The 'Here', the 'Now' and the Power of the Past

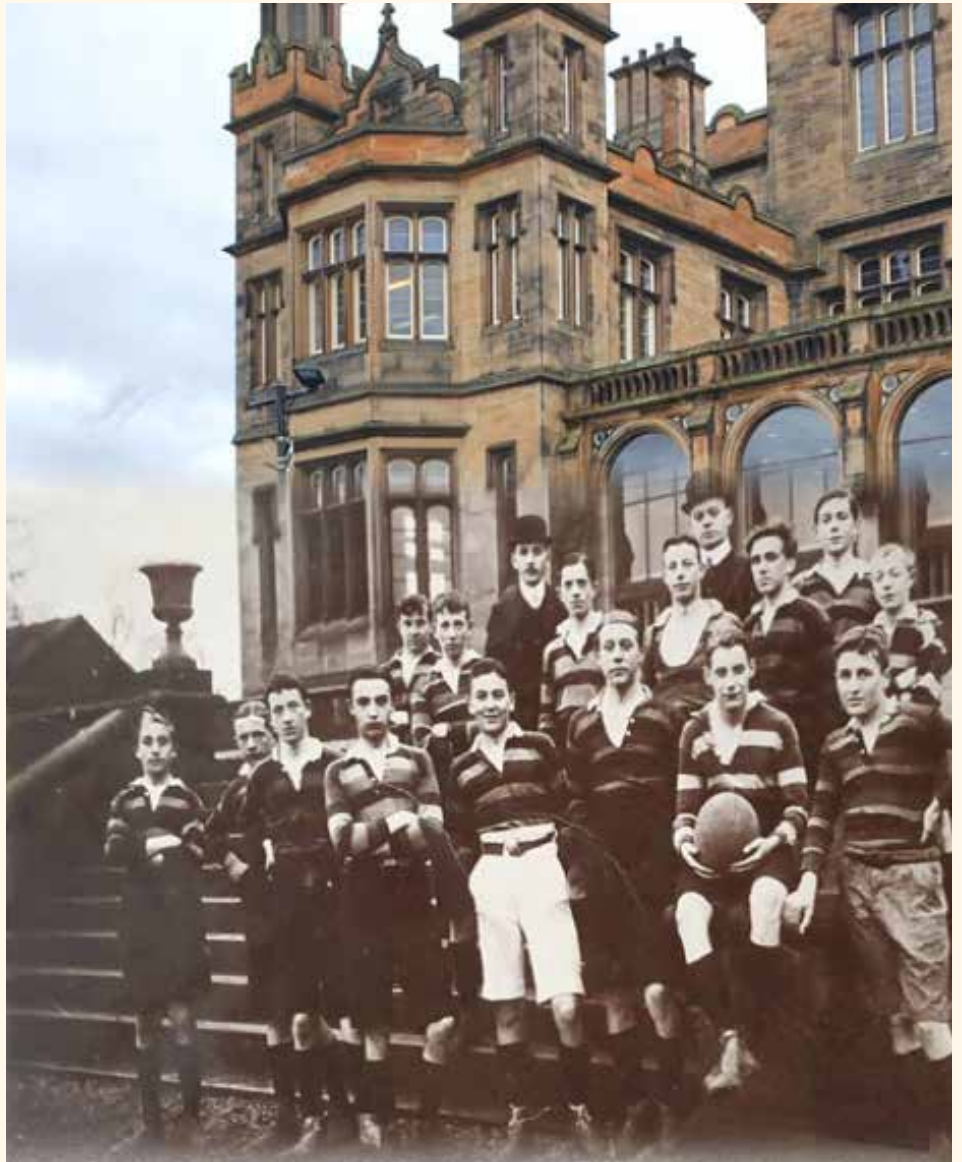
Our Heritage Officer, Jon Cooper, considers how our shared heritage influences our school community today.

I was looking through the Archive the other day and found an essay about the creation of the Daniel Stewart's School in 1855. I am not sure when this was written or by whom, but the opening paragraph talks about the heritage of a school and where it comes from:

'The story of a school may make dull reading, for things move quickly and happen secretly, a tradition comes slowly but the accumulation of minor incidents over the years makes a school's history and heritage. But someday they will mean more, for school is not a building, not playing fields, not an organisation, but a long series of boys, the present boys, their predecessors, and those still to come'.

Fair enough, but what makes for me an 'exciting' read is the combination of people, place, duration and emotion. If you can link all four then it becomes a potent mix, enough to send shivers down the spine and to stand the hairs up on the back of your neck. I don't believe in ghosts per se, but sometimes things happen which allow this 'heritage' to seep through into the present and we can sense it. It triggers the imagination, conjuring up all kinds of feelings and possibly the odd 'ghostly presence' or two.


So how does that work? Well, if you think about the battlefield of Pinkie Cleugh, fought in 1547, and consider the number of people involved in the conflict - historians estimate that 30,000 men fought that day with 11,000 dead - then multiply it by the duration of the battle, in this case around 6 hours. Finally, factor in the degree of trauma that's spread across the landscape from the fields south of Inveresk to the outskirts of Edinburgh, then this battlefield would arguably register high on any 'heritage' scale. The biggest and bloodiest battle on



Scotland's soil leaves a sense of history that attracts crowds each year onto the 'hallowed' ground to lay wreaths and remember the dead. As for ghosts, try walking the battlefield on a foggy September morning... you might feel you are not alone!

Take a sporting venue like Murrayfield, Hampden, Celtic Park or Ibrox. There have been hordes of fans, across many years, and undoubtedly plenty of emotion. So, lots of heritage and tradition which many sport pundits would say inspires the home team and intimidates the visitors, leading some commentators to describe the ground as a 'spiritual home' which ultimately contributes to the team's success.

But what about our schools? Well certainly, as our source suggests, there has been a 'long series' of boys and girls passing through our doors. Likewise, if you have teenage children, you may be aware of the trauma and emotion experienced there. The first day fears, the exam jitters, the celebrations of success and the emotional roller-coaster of school friendships. All these emotions, day in day out for decades, and all contained within these walls.

It is the job of the Heritage Officer then to provide the means to allow you to reach out and touch this history. To offer a portal to the past that inspires the present. We do have obvious 

► heritage objects around the school - the pictures, exhibits, memorials, awards panels - places, where memory is captured and put on display. However, may I suggest we have a bigger doorway we can pass through. We also have the very buildings themselves, where every nook and cranny, every corridor and classroom, every attic and cellar oozes with heritage. Look at the staircases we walk up every day. The steps are stained with the footprints of the pupils who came before us, imprinted onto the stonework. The bannisters are worn smooth by all those pupils heading to classes. The very fabric of the buildings has been impregnated with the sounds, touch and dare I say, the smell of thousands of former pupils passing by. I suggest that it is this inherent 'stored history' that makes a difference to the everyday. It is this sense of tradition

and heritage that inspires our pupils to sing the school song a little louder than other schools, why they wear the uniform with a sense of pride beyond the school gates, play harder in the last five minutes of a match and work harder to achieve the everyday tasks to the best of their ability. It's the sense that 'ghosts' look on expectantly that inspires them to go that extra mile. It's a part of what makes these schools unique.

But what happens if your school has lost its building? For example, the closure of the Melville College in 1973 has effectively displaced the school and its heritage. Every effort has been made to recover as much of the school memorabilia as possible into the SMC Archive, but it can never make up for the loss of its 'spiritual home'. The challenge in the coming years is to provide a museum space for the

orphaned Melville FP community that acknowledges this loss and makes the Melville narrative as accessible and as memorable as possible. This is where modern technology may be able to help. Recreating the old college through virtual reality and 3d modelling may provide a stage on which to display the archive. A virtual tour will never totally replace the real thing, but it can only help provide context for the rest of the collection.

Finally, I hope that our exhibitions, visits and seminars can inspire our current students to go out there and create some new 'heritage' and to do something great today, something worthy of note, something extraordinary that leaves a positive mark on our school and our community. Knowing they follow in footsteps of renown FP's can only help them in their quest to create their own bit of history.

Update from Dave Clarke, School Historian

It's 11am and I am hovering impatiently near the staff room door, awaiting the arrival of the post. Up goes the familiar, weary cry of "Oh for Heaven's sake, what have you bought this week?!"

As School Historian, it's somehow just not enough to work with the tens of thousands of objects and records already in our archives, and thus I keep a close eye on about as many auction houses, poised to 'bid big' for items relating to our schools.

A few weeks back, a real treasure arrived- James Kerr Ballantyne's FP rugby cap, a gorgeous confection of silver braid and scarlet velvet, with a bust of Minerva picked out in bullion thread. It's a glimpse into the vanished past of Melville College, and an object I'd thought long since extinct, an echo existing only in photographs.

James (born in St. Boswells in 1878) joined the school in 1892, and immediately distinguished himself in rugby, cricket, and athletics, setting two school records in 1895. An accountant's clerk, he swiftly joined the 15th Royal Scots on the outbreak of war and was later commissioned into the 7th King's Own Scottish Borderers. It seems that he went through the grinding battle for High Wood on the Somme in September 1916 and was also gassed.

Happily, he survived to enjoy a prosperous career as a general merchant, captained St Boswell's XI for a decade, penned a definitive history of the club, was president of the Scottish Cricket Union in 1923 and went on to be Honorary Vice President of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association.

He died in 1969 at the ripe old age of 92. That his cap has survived twelve decades is incredible enough- and how it came up for sale is unknown; however, what is certain is that James Ballantyne has now come home, and his lifetime of service to school, club and country will not be forgotten by those who follow him.



Melville College Trust Update

I was delighted to represent the Trust at a special Melville College commemorative lunch at Inverleith on 7th September to celebrate the coming together of our two great schools 50 years ago in 1973. It was a very enjoyable occasion and we saw for ourselves the quality of the pupils of our current combined schools from a witty and erudite speech from the current head boy Sam Hall.

We also received recently an update on special grants awarded to the School by the Trust to aid extra curricular activity in particular. These Grants covered:

Junior School gardening project
Mountain Bikes for outdoor learning

VR units for pastoral support
Cricket Mat
Digital Piano
Drum Harnesses for the Pipe Band
The Drum Harnesses clearly helped as the Pipe Band were first overall

at a recent European Pipe Band Championship

If you would like to know more about the Melville College Trust please contact the Secretary David Dunsire at daviddunsire@outlook.com



REUNIONS

In addition to supporting individual year group reunions throughout the year, the ESMS Development Office are working on developing a new large event next summer to coincide with the Guild Summer Reunion. You will hear more about this as we progress towards June 2024 but they are aiming to host tours of Stewart's Melville College in the morning followed by a lunch. This will be particularly aimed at leavers whose leaving year ends in a 4, however all will be welcome. Specific year group dinners (combined with MES where appropriate) will be organised in the evening of the same day. Further details will be made available in due course.



Class of 1959 Reunion

The Daniel Stewart's College class of 1959 gathered together at the Scottish Malt Whisky Society Rooms on 24 September to talk about their time at school and life since school. In the photo are Colin Furnival, David Booth, Johnny Tulloch, Jim Menzies, John Wright and Lawrence Palmer. Two of the group travelled from overseas, Australia and Canada, for the gathering. Six others were unable to join for various reasons.

Interview with Moray Kerr, 2014 SMC Leaver

My name is Moray Kerr, and I am former pupil of Stewart's Melville College and have embarked on a career in the property industry. After meeting my business partner, Declan Lamb at the gym, we soon discovered that we shared similar interests and aspirations about property, as a result we have purchased a franchise called The Good Estate Agent.



My journey into entrepreneurship and property began during my time as a pupil at Stewart's Melville College. Known for its rich academic and sporting traditions, the school played a significant role in shaping my character and instilling a strong work

ethic. Additionally, my connection to the college was further strengthened by my father (John Kerr), who was an esteemed member of the Stewart's Melville Rugby Club. His enthusiasm and organisational skills merited him a place on the first ever Stewart's Melville RFC Rugby Tour to Canada in 1980, in an era where he was in the company of Calder's, Mackenzie's, Brewsters, Blackwood, Littlefair, Scott, Morgan and other legends. In February 2019 my father sadly passed away and left behind a legacy of passion for the game and a deep connection to the local community.



Recognising the need for a trustworthy and client-focused estate agency, we decided to bring The Good Estate

Agent up to Edinburgh. Our mission is to support landlords and homeowners who are either looking to sell or let out their property. By offering personalized and transparent services, we aim to establish long-term relationships built on trust and professionalism. The Good Estate Agent strives to exceed expectations, making the entire process smoother and more rewarding for our clients.



We understand that trust and loyalty are vital components of our business. Drawing from my personal connection to Stewart's Melville College, we are actively seeking homeowners and landlords within the college community who are looking to sell or let out their property.


Technology: Reflections and Futures

Frank Smith attended Melville College, Edinburgh, from 1961 to 1973. He studied Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1977. He worked in the Home Office in London until he retired in 2015.

Frank worked initially as a technical specialist in computing; then switched

to the 'fast stream' working on Government policy and legislation. He has been Private Secretary to the Immigration Minister and has served on front-line operations for UK Border Force. He has also represented the UK in several international groups and committees. After retiring he continued to chair the EU working group on use of mobile solutions for police and borders (ENLETS Mobile), till 2020. He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society, a Chartered Information Systems Practitioner, and has an MBA from

Imperial College Business School. He has also written guides to biometrics as well as borders and passport security for the Secure Identity Alliance. Frank recently spent some time writing down his thoughts about changes in technology over the last half century which we will share with you here.

"This note offers some reflections from my ringside seat and participation in the development of computing over the half century from my time in Melville College (1961-73) until 

► today (2023), after my retirement from full-time work.

Computing has driven the biggest changes during my working life, with consequences for everyone. Will you experience such profound change? You may well do!

I remember being shown Edinburgh University's first computer on a visit in 1968. It was taller than me, had 4K of memory, and as far as I could make out aged 13, its main use was to play an interactive game. Some things haven't changed. Interest awakened. Then in 6th form at Melville in 1973 (I completed school in the final year before Melville College joined with Daniel Stewarts) maths teacher the late Paul Caton arranged for us to write our first computer programs, run at Heriot-Watt University. It captured my interest and curiosity even more. No surprise that I went on to study Computer Science at Edinburgh.

The electronic computer was invented secretly during World War II for code breaking at Bletchley Park (1943). After the war large computers appeared in business for repetitive tasks such as payroll and production control. The first small home computers showed up as something of an intriguing curiosity with the Commodore PET (1977), Sinclair ZX-81 and Spectrum (1981/2) and Amstrad CPC (1984). Personal computing recognisable today arrived with the Apple II (1977), IBM's desktop PC (1981) with Microsoft MS-DOS operating system, Apple MAC (1984) and Microsoft Windows (1985). The arrival of PCs on the work desk, with word processing and email (within the organisation), around the early 1990s, quickly replaced the office typing pool. During the 1990s the internet enabled external email, between organisations, and websites. Amazon sold their first book online in 1995.

Mobile computing began tentatively with a range of devices, though even in the early 1970s a laptop-like device, the Dynabook, was shown in prototype by Alan Kay at Xerox. I was taught to use an elegant mechanical slide rule in Melville College 5th form in 1971, overtaken by the electronic calculator

the following year. An embryonic Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) was released in 1984. Laptops followed and developed leading to the modern smartphone with the Apple iPhone in 2007 a particular turning point. Smartphones have now overtaken PCs for access to the internet. Mobile communications have developed over the same time: 2G networks delivered the explosion of SMS text messaging in 1991; computer data was added in 2000; 3G arrived soon after and the first 4G service was offered in 2009. This rapid increase in speed has been followed by repeated major increases in the volume and range of mobile data transmitted each year. Social media, online music and video, online gaming, app stores, e-commerce appeared, expanded and became 'must haves'. Change followed rapid change, year after year.

Today we are firmly in the era of universal high performance personal mobile computing. This remarkable change has come about after sustained and radical innovation across multiple technologies throughout my working career.

Moore's Law—In 1965 Gordon Moore, co-founder and former CEO of chip manufacturer Intel projected that the number of transistors on an electronic chip would roughly double every couple of years, known as Moore's Law. The progression in the half century since I saw the 4Kbyte computer taking up 2 or 3 filing cabinets in 1968 to the 128 Gbyte iPhone XR I bought in 2018 and carry in my shirt pocket, represents a 32 million-fold increase in the number of transistors (equivalent) on board, remarkably close to Moore's Law.

Data communications—Faster and better 5G communications are being actively developed and will become widespread through the 2020s. Ericsson reports there are already over 6 Bn individual subscribers to mobile services globally in Q2 2023, over 75% of the world's population, including 1.3 Bn 5G connections. Mobile data traffic grew by 33% over the previous 12 months. Connection of smart devices (Internet of Things (IoT)) is reported as 13 Bn by the end of 2022,

projected to treble by the end of 2028. 6G is already more than a glimmer in engineers' minds.

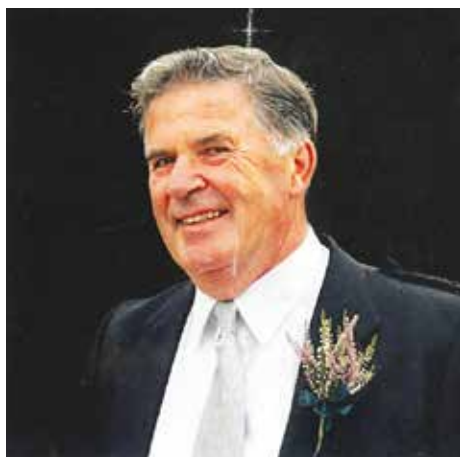
New technologies are emerging—artificial intelligence, machine learning and natural language processing are developing strongly. Quantum computing offering massive leap in number processing are being researched. Big data processing is happening on a new scale impossible not many years ago. Biometrics and identity can be processed and communicated as never before. The paperless office said to be just around the corner in the 1980s is finally arriving. Video conferencing is reducing the need to travel and to meet face to face in offices. New battery technologies and electrical distribution are paving the way for intelligent all-electric cars with autonomous capabilities to replace polluting fossil-fuel cars.

Many challenges lie ahead—these technology changes and automation will bring many advantages, but also risks such as cyber attacks; organised crime such as fraud, theft and drugs; impersonation and other identity deception, particularly online; technology including social media attacking democracy, with 'troll farms' spreading false news and conspiracies to people more ready to believe that rather than the truth? It is essential to defend the new generation of systems robustly against these attacks for example by advanced security systems, liveness detection, strong algorithms to verify identity safely—with all of these robustly tested and certified as fit for purpose. Privacy and confidentiality must be protected.

There are many other challenges to consider as well as those involving technology. The UN projects world population may rise to over 11 billion by 2100, 50% more crowded than today, by the time your grown-up children will retire. Global warming, extremes of temperature, fires, rain and flooding? Antibiotic-resistant killer bugs and diseases? A new global pandemics post-COVID? Political and economic challenges? Organised crime and terrorism? Local or global conflict?

OBITUARIES

William (Bill) Dowie Johnston, MC 1956



Bill was born on 11 November 1939 and attended Melville College from January 1946 to March 1956.

At school Bill played as Hooker in the 1st XV and was awarded his stockings in Season 1954/55 and his colours in 1955/56.

On leaving school he joined the renowned Marine Engineer Company Brown Brothers as an Apprentice Draughtsman helping to design ships stabilizers and aeroplane steam catapults. He qualified after his apprenticeship CEng MIMarE and decided to join the Merchant Navy with the Ben Line, eventually gaining his chief engineers ticket.

Thinking a spell on dry land might stabilise his marine meandering, he took up a position with the Distillers Company in Glasgow as Chief Engineer.

The call of the sea however was great and Bill joined a company specialising in surveying and underwriting damaged ships, again as Chief Engineer. To his great delight and enjoyment this job entailed travelling around the Middle East and Europe, mainly Holland, Dubai and Portugal.

Eventually Bill set up his own marine consultancy company in Athens, where he and his wife Jean settled down to enjoy the pleasant life of golf and parties with a little work thrown in.

Retiring and returning to Edinburgh in 2000 Bill and Jean caught up with old friends after so long away and he was

a regular attendee at Stewart's Melville lunches at Inverleith.

Sadly in the last year or so Bill's mobility was affected and he retired from golf and started playing bridge quite enthusiastically.

Bill Johnston has left behind many friends from all over the world and this was apparent at his Funeral Service at Warriston on 30 March.

Supplied by friend Michael Wynn Macdonald, MC 1956

John Michael Boyd, DSMC 1973



July 1955 – August 2023

Michael started school at Daniel Stewart's College in Sept 71 and left from Daniel Stewart's and Melville College in July 73. He made an immediate impact on the school, joining the Editorial Committee for the Collegian and getting involved with school plays, producing the American Dream and playing parts in Arms and the Man. He had an interest in creative writing, hiking and amateur film making. After school he studied English Literature at the University of Edinburgh.

After graduating, he won a British Council fellowship to study as a trainee with the Director Anatoly Efros at the Moscow Drama Theatre. He then joined a regional theatre young directors scheme which saw him move to Coventry where his performances in

Risky City and She Would If She Could won him further acclaim. He moved on to the Crucible in Sheffield in the early 1980s and then in the mid 80s bac to Scotland as the Artistic Director of the Tron in Glasgow where he stayed for 10 years.

In 1996 he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company as an Associate Director and took over as Artistic Director in 2002. He was responsible for some radical change within the RSC which was struggling at the time, taking it back to Peter Hall's founding principles to create an ensemble of actors working together over 2 to 3 years, with long rehearsal periods that allowed for a deeper understanding of the text and a rigorous programme of daily voice and movement classes to strengthen the ensembles' individual and collective artistry.

During his tenure at the RSC, the Theatre itself was reimagined, creating a more intimate auditorium with a thrust stage. It brought every seat closer to the stage and altered the relationship between audience and actor. He commissioned Matilda the Musical, which was a much-needed income stream for the Company.

He was knighted in 2012 and make a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2016. He is survived by his partner, Caroline and his children Rachael, Gabriella and Daniel, a grandson, Taliesin and his elder sister, Susan.

Supplied by a friend with kind permission from the RSC for the photo and fact-checking.

David Bowland, DSC 1970

We were notified of the death of David Bowland the day prior to publication. David worked as a quantity surveyor and property developer. David was passionate about Ferraris and has had various classics restored to high detail and quality over the years. He was well known in the Ferrari world.



THE CLUBHOUSE AT INVERLEITH

is the perfect venue for a celebration, wake or even a business away day. It is fully licenced, has caterers on site and has stunning views across Edinburgh as well as the Inverleith playing fields. Costs for hire start at £100. The hire charge is waived for year group reunions. To for more information or to enquire about a reservation, please contact Ruth Jones on events@esms.org.uk.

