

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

NOTE OF THE MEETING OF 9TH SEPTEMBER 2010, 3.45 - 5.00pm in Room K1

1. Present: David Galloway, John Gilbert, Michael Greig, Elizabeth Higgins, Lindsay Matheson, Elaine Methven, Arlen Pardoe, Edmund Robertson, Amy Westray, Lyndsey Wilson.
2. Apologies: Irene Bennett, Patricia Esler, Lindsay Hodge, Anne Morris, Christine Noble, Maia Sheridan, Elizabeth Thompson.
3. LM welcomed three new members to the meeting: John Gilbert (former Depute Rector), Amy Westray and Lyndsey Wilson (S5 Higher History pupils). Two other pupils, Laura O'Donnell and Emma Sunter (S6) are also thought to be interested and will be invited to the next meeting.
4. DG enquired whether the people who had assisted with the research into Kilrymont Road Hall decorative panels had been given their copies of the prints made. LM will check this.
5. AP asked whether the A3 scanner had yet been purchased. LM will also check this matter.
6. EH reported that the work of the scanning of photographs was nearly complete. MG had done an immense amount of work throughout the summer. He was warmly thanked by all present. He hopes that this work will prove useful in the future as he is currently focussing on a career in archive work after his university History course.
7. LM read from a report (attached) on the work of the Trophies Group received from Christine Noble. The objective is to have the data, photographs and any background of the various trophies held centrally in a section of the archive. AP raised a possible security concern about making public the scale of the school's holdings of valuable trophies. LM will seek the view of Mr Jones about this.
8. DG tabled a proposed format of a letter to be sent from the Burgh School Group to those already identified and others in the future who may be able to assist in this project. The text was thought well-judged, giving as it did an indication of the aspects of life in the Burgh School that would be of particular interest to the group.
9. AP reported the completion of scanning "Abbey Times", a huge but worthwhile task. There was some discussion about methods we might develop for searching through the electronic files.
10. LM stated that we should try to start on the Oral History work this session and invited anyone interested to contact him.
11. LM noted that we had received several external requests but in most cases had made a "holding response". This remains a problem area of our work and will become more pressing once the new catalogue goes on-line. He circulated copies to members of a small booklet that had been produced of the war diary and school record of one of those named on the school war memorial, Lewis McCabe. This had come about following the approaches made to the archive by Ken Paterson, an FP who has been studying the memorials as a whole. His work is now well advanced and publication should not be delayed too long. Information about one or two individuals had been publicly requested in a recent issue of "St Andrews in Focus".
12. Terry Trewartha has moved from St Andrews and has intimated that he will withdraw from the group, although he will complete the School Sports section on which he was working. EM will liaise with him as necessary.
13. JG spoke about his interest in completing a file about the school's Glen Tilt Cottage, including the origins of our connection in 1963. Copies of the earliest correspondence known about this have been lodged in the archive.
14. Jim Bennett (recently-retired Depute Rector) will draw together the files relating to the school's various foreign exchanges. DG asked whether the school has a silver medal, one of those struck by the Kieler Gelehrenschule. LM will check this with Mr Jones. DG offered to lodge in the archive the medal he possesses if the school does not have its own.
15. ER has gleaned some information about members of staff from past eras of the school. His offer to start a file of staff information on which we could build in the future was warmly approved. DG mentioned details of some former members of staff that might be included. LM commented that Dr Thompson's history of the school referred to various individuals of note and inferred that there were many other about whom something was known. There was no comprehensive list of staff, however, for many stages of the school's existence, so much work remained to be done.
16. The subject of Confidentiality in record-keeping was deferred to a later meeting. LM will, however, raise this with Mr Jones in connection with the Retention Schedule.

17. The next plenary meeting was called for Thursday 2nd December at 3.45pm.

LM, for the group
10th September, 2010
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