

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday 20th February, 2014, 3.45 – 5.00pm, in South Street, Room K1

Note of the meeting

1. Present: Anne Morris (Chair), Frances Humphries, Edmund Robertson, Colin Mackay, David Watkinson, David Galloway, Lindsay Matheson, Jim Bennett, Maia Sheridan, Liz Higgins, Arlen Pardoe
2. Apologies: Lindsay Hodge, Lydia Upton, Ann Marshall, Elaine Methven, Donald Macgregor
3. The note of the meeting of November 21st 2013 was accepted as accurate.
4. Matters arising. AM asked for an Archive stall at the FP Girls' Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th March in the Town Hall. MS, AP, ER and LM will assist. LM will discuss a "School Archive Account" with the rector and report to the next meeting or, if matters become too complex, open our own separate account. DG and LM will work on a continuation of the school history since 1983. AP may produce a collection of WW1 perspectives from materials in the school magazines. The Burgh School pamphlet distributed to members was warmly commended. The Chair thanked the Burgh Group for its excellent efforts.
5. ER gave a very illuminating account of the history of the Madras College (Endowment) Trust from the school's foundation until the present-day. The Trust had been central to the governance of Madras College from 1833 until the appointment of the school's first rector in 1889. While its executive power was progressively reduced through various stages in the school's evolution the residue of the original Bell bequest, astutely managed by the Trustees, has remained a vital source of funds to enhance the experiences and opportunities of pupils at the school in a number of ways not provided by the statutory budget. The capital stands at approximately £300,000 enabling the provision of an annual grant to the school of £6000, several small bursaries for those progressing to Higher Education, funds for pupil travel for special projects, and support to the annual achievement awards. AM thanked ER for a most interesting presentation.*
6. A very successful visit of six members to the University Special Collections department at the North Haugh took place on 18th December, 2013. MS was warmly thanked for presenting so interesting a display of artefacts, stimulating much interest in future activity. AP and LM, for example, are working on the carefully-preserved original school deeds. LU has produced a report of the visit (attached). MS will willingly arrange another visit at some future point for other interested members.
7. CM reported on the acquisition of an audio-recorder for use by the Oral Archive sub-group. Funding is being given by the fund-raising section of the Parent Council, for which LM has written a letter of thanks. CM will ask for a further grant (say £200) to provide general support to the Archive.
8. The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 24th April.

* Subsequent to the meeting ER has produced three extracts of interest and the text of his address. These are attached to the note of this meeting

LM, 25th February, 2014