

**Madras Archive Group meeting**  
**23 May 2023**

**Progress with sorting stuff from the removal.**

Erika, Dorothy, Maia and I have been starting to sort stuff out into broad headings, working our way through some of the piles of material donated at the change of buildings. Work has been hampered by Covid, by limited access to school, and lack of space in our room/cupboard.

Thanks to the Preservation Trust, I managed last week to transfer some of the larger objects and all of the art works/portraits/ framed scenes, certificates etc up to their store at Cameron. As a result, we had a productive morning on Thursday exploring several large boxes and either rejecting or roughly sorting the materials held therein.

**Problem for future consideration:**

It is probable that we can cope with the paper/magazine/book material on the racks in the room (although I think there could be a better configuration if we could persuade school to take away the filing cabinets to make more room for rack storage - I will pursue this avenue)

What is going to be more difficult is the storage of "objects" eg. Abacus, globe, trophies, clothing, shields etc. In South St we had our Archive room for documents - which is roughly the same size as we have now, but we also had use of the large store at the back of the staffroom for the larger objects. Don't know what the answer to that is. We can only use the Preservation Trust space until late autumn. I explored commercial storage but it was quite expensive.

One of the problems with access has been the need for PVG certificates for any use of the building while pupils were in - but Dorothy, Arlen and I have them and Erika is applying for one. This should help with progress.

**Future-proofing**

We discussed how best to be able to ensure that the work of our group would continue into the future. Longterm the desirability of integrating and linking the website and the data recorded on part of the University system - along with a recognised "official" path for enquires and the addition of new data is going to become necessary - at the moment it works because Arlen provides all these services and has the necessary links with school and some of the staff who have been involved in the past. It seems to be necessary to try to interest one or two of the present younger staff to help maintain good links when people like Olav retire. I am going to ask if I could have a short session with staff during the In-service days in August, to see if I can find some people.

**Success**

Arlen is going to circulate news of two former pupils who have just received Baftas - which is quite something. I also had news another former pupil - Noreen Masood - whom I had the pleasure of teaching in AH English when they let me back into the classroom occasionally. She went to Oxford, is now lecturing in English at Bristol, was on Melvyn Bragg's "In Our Time" programme a few weeks ago and has had a book published.

The other success is the doorstep - a small victory, but necessary!

We are hoping to get into school in August to get at the cupboard when we will have space in the Library when there are no pupils in. It depends on janitorial presence, but I will let you all know as soon as I can find out the possibilities- and I think we should probably have another meeting in the autumn when we can all get together.