

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Note of the meeting of Thursday 25th August 2011

1. Present: Jim Bennett (JB); Max Chase (MC); Kevin Donnelly (KD); David Galloway (DG); Liz Higgins (EH); Frances Humphries (FH); Karis Macdonald (KM); Donald Macgregor (DM); Colin Mackay (CoM); Catherine Macrae (CaM); Lindsay Matheson (LM); Elaine Methven (EM); Anne Morris (AM); Christine Noble (CN); Arlen Pardoe (AP); Cameron Shepherd (CS); Tom Smout (TS). Apologies received from: David Cleland (DC); John Gilbert (JG); Ian Gilroy (IG); Lindsay Hodge (LH). Suggested abbreviations that we can use this session are shown.
2. Seven new members were welcomed: Colin Mackay, retired depute rector, and six members of the Advanced Higher History class - Max Chase, Kevin Donnelly, Karis Macdonald, Catherine Macrae, Cameron Shepherd and Tom Smout.
3. All members of the group then introduced themselves, most stating what their interests were in being involved. Several of the S6 group are also involved in the "Madras College Diary" which gives us a particular opportunity this session to communicate with the local community.
4. FH and AM reported on their recent take-over from school office staff of the regular task to continue the collection of local press material relating to Madras College - the "scrapbooks". The older scrapbooks and photo albums that the school does not wish to keep on display for visitors in the South Street reception area will be archived by EH after liaison with Mr Jones.
5. EH will also discuss electronic archiving of current school material with Magnus Latona of Computing and Business Studies. Following this discussion it will be easier to decide which items should be retained in hard copy (in the "drop-box") and which electronically. EH will bring proposals to the October meeting in this regard, also inviting Magnus Latona to attend.
6. LM reported that Lorn Macintyre and Peter Adamson's illustrated book about a year in the life of the school is nearing completion. This will in itself provide an invaluable resource for the archive. Several of the S6 members had been aware of, and involved in aspects of this recent work.
7. AP has set up a link on the archive website (www.madrascollegearchive.org.uk/parentmail.htm) with a selection of ParentMail items from earlier this summer. Members are encouraged to look at this so that we can decide at the October meeting how best to archive this source. This also relates to Item 5 above.
8. Group conveners were reminded that our plan is to include individual reports about the various aspects of our work in the annual report by the end of this year. Since we have not until now produced such a report this first one will cover the period from 2008 to 2011.
9. AP has renewed our subscription with JustHost to support the vital website operation. Some funding will be required to cover our general operational costs. Members who have contacts for possible local charities and organisations that might assist us will give the details to LM.
10. One major resource we possess that may be of interest to third parties is our

(incomplete) admissions registers going back to the 19th century. Over 10,000 names are registered, including some unique records such as the list of WW2 pupil evacuees from Edinburgh to St Andrews. AP will communicate with one or two of the organisations potentially interested in gaining access to these registers and report back to the next meeting.

11. Membership of groups will be revised and any new groups established. To assist in this process the current group information is attached. An amended list of contacts is also attached so that S6 members who wish to become involved in, or find out more about particular groups may do so without waiting until the October meeting.

12. DG will look over a paper he and Ian Gilroy had written taking forward the story of Madras College from 1985 to 1997. This will be lodged in the archive as a separate item, though clearly valuable in providing continuity to Dr Thomson's (1833-1983) history. LM will also consider how best to cover the years 1997 to 2007. AM felt that these more recent additions to the story of the school should feature the important educational decisions made locally, regionally and nationally.

13. CM has a particular interest in, and knowledge of the social life of the school, and will consider how to contribute material collected during his 37 years at Madras. He is also interested in how best the pupil members, and the wider pupil body, may gain access to and involvement with the archive, and will speak more about this at the next meeting.

14. Future meeting dates are: 27th October, 19th January and 22nd March, all at 3.45 in K1.

15. LM thanked all members for contributing to an excellent first meeting of the session.

LM, for the group
26th August, 2011