

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Note of meeting held on Thursday 28th January, 2016, in Room M1, from 3.45 – 5.00 pm

1. **Present:** Arlen Pardoe, Liz Higgins, Anne Morris, Jamie Macleod, Edmund Robertson, David Watkinson, Frances Humphries, Jim Bennett, Colin Mackay, Katie Stewart, Lewis Garippa, Caitlin Mills, Elaine Methven, Donald MacGregor (Chair), Lindsay Matheson. **Apologies:** Claire Stadnick, Anna Kirby, Ben Levy, Mattia Serrano Ferraro, Ted Brocklebank, Ann Bridges.
2. The note of the meeting of 5th November 2015 was accepted as accurate.
3. Matters arising were requested by the Chair to be raised under “Miscellanea” as an experiment in organising our agenda so that the formal reports are taken before the particular points of interest.
4. The S6 members (KS, LG and CM) described a recent successful and interesting visit, led by Maia Sheridan, to the University Reading Room (in North Street) of the Special Collections. Previously the group had been shown round the Preservation Trust Museum in North Street by Sam Bannerman.
5. S6 members will make approaches to some pupils in S4 and S5 with a view to catching their interest at an earlier stage. One S4 boy has already shown interest in becoming involved.
6. The K3 group reported their recent “spring clean” of the cupboard, involving taking out all boxes and re-ordering them more logically, a commendable piece of work.
7. CM reported on developments in the Oral Archive. He and TB will concentrate on the older candidates while the S6 helpers will focus on younger ones. LH enquired about a common script being used but it was felt that the key feature of each interview was to note identifying aspects such as name and date so that there was a clear context for those listening to the recordings in the future.
8. AP reported on website work, in particular the compilation of a number of former pupil biographies, for which a link will shortly be created. It was agreed that the biographies should also include those of former members of staff. To AP’s query about how to judge “notability” ER suggested that adequacy of relevant information was a suitable criterion. AP will welcome other contributions to this growing database.
9. FH and AM reported that the Scrapbooks were fully up to date.
10. LH reported the continued delay in setting up the Excel database (for catalogue work) on the K3 computer, owing to the absence through ill-health of the Senior Technician. After mid-term AP and EH will offer training to the S6 helpers on this database.
11. LM received helpful advice from members on ways of responding to a request on behalf of a former pupil from the early 1970s to support her application for Canadian citizenship.

12. AM led some discussion about the phasing of the Madras College extensions in the 1950s as the roll expanded.
13. EH noted the deaths of two former janitors, Ernie Bryson and Duncan Gourlay.
14. AM suggested that John Hardie Wilson, founder of the Bell-Pettigrew Museum, would be a suitable candidate for inclusion in the Biographies.
15. JM noted that the biography of the current rector was not yet on the website. The S6 pupils had heard Mr McClure describe his own career at a recent assembly and will seek him out for the script, or interview him.
16. EM and JB suggested several eminent FPs in sporting achievement that might be included in the Biographies.
17. DMcG drew the meeting to a close at 4.55 pm with thanks to members for their contributions. The next meeting will be scheduled for 21st April.

LM, 31st January, 2016