

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting of 23rd August, 2018, 3.45 – 5.00 pm in South Street Room M1

1. **Present:** Jim Bennett (JB), Ann Bridges (AB), Ted Brocklebank (TB), Liz Higgins (LH), Caitlin McKee (CMcK), Lindsay Matheson (LM), Arlen Pardoe (AP), Lucy Rickman (LR), Edmund Robertson, Maia Sheridan (MS), David Watkinson (DW). **Apologies:** Frances Humphries, Anne Morris, Dorothy Orem.
2. AB and members welcomed Lucy and Caitlin (S6 pupils) to the group and introduced themselves. A revised email list will be circulated to all members. Please notify LM of any changes of contact details.
3. The rector dropped in to the meeting and was asked about the two main spending issues we have in hand, the “High Jump” statue and the archive display cabinets for the new school. He will check that it is now possible for funding that we obtain from a third party to be lodged in the School Fund and accessible by ourselves. TB explained that the Kinburn Trust may be able to give a substantial grant for the purchase of display cabinets. JB suggested that the Pilgrim Foundation may also be a potential source of support for the cost of restoring the “High Jump” to its original condition. ER, who chairs the MC Endowment Trust, also made the point that funds held for any time awaiting use might usefully be invested in the Trust until they were required. Mr McClure also outlined some of the staffing and financial challenges that currently face the school. LM congratulated the rector on the very good set of examination results that had been achieved last session despite all the operational difficulties experienced by the staff. Mr McClure left the meeting after wishing us well for the session in our work.
4. The note of our last meeting on 21st June did not need any corrections.
5. TB suggested that the recording kit for the oral archive may still be with Veronica Whyman in the Preservation Trust Museum. LM will check as he has also to contact the custodian of the museum, Nicola, concerning the Madras Archive stall at the Autumn Fair on 8th September.
6. Archive group members interested in helping with the stall will meet at 1.00 pm on Thursday 6th September in K3 to look out suitable items. Help will probably be needed on Friday 7th to set up the stall, and on Saturday 8th September to assist on the day. Details to follow. AB in charge. Some discussion took place about possible papers, pictures and artefacts to be included for public display. AP has a general collage of archive items used at previous exhibitions that can be projected on a large screen.
7. For the benefit of the S6 members MS outlined her work at St Andrews University in charge of its very extensive archive.
8. AP was asked by TB what criteria were used for the “FP Biographies” section in the archive, responding that while it had developed *ad hoc* any future contributions would be welcome from members. TB made two suggestions for inclusion: a) MSP Jenny Gilruth; b) the author of “The Polish Detective” (name to follow).
9. TB informed members that Bell Baxter is setting up its own archive and may be asking for our advice at some point. FP Harry Smith, author of “Golf isn’t the only game, youknow” is one of the guiding spirits.
10. AP had responded to a request for a copy of the 1966 school magazine, the last of the old (and very expensive) format, and had managed to produce a facsimile.

11. LM had tried to find information for DO about any surviving relatives of Thomas Drysdale, RAF pilot killed over Germany in 1941. Kiel Exchange pupils visit the war grave at Kiel to pay respect to this former pupil. Joyce Hutton, former pupil with an astounding memory for personal details, had been helpful but could not recall any living relatives living locally. Thomas's father and mother ran a small butcher's shop in Woodburn Terrace, but he was an only son. Joyce did recall that during war rationing the Drysdales kept back a small supply of liver for one lady who had pernicious anaemia for which no prescription medication was currently available. Joyce later married this lady's son!
12. LM will ask Ken Paterson (FP and author of the "Madras Roll of Honour") whether he still has the expanded personal accounts about each of the fallen that we saw in the proof copy of his wonderful work.
13. The date of the next meeting was provisionally set for Thursday 25th October.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm

LM (secy)