

THE MERCHISTONIAN

2014

CLUB MAGAZINE



CHAMPIONS
Golf Club leads us to fourth
Halford Hewitt victory





COULTERS
PROPERTY SALES & LETTINGS

0131 603 7333
coultersproperty.co.uk

28 DAYS

The average number of days it takes Coulters to sell a home.

Average ESPC agent's selling time is 40 days*
Get in touch to find out how we can help sell your home.

We are offering an end of year 10% discount to Marchionians, so if you are thinking of selling your home now, or at the turn of the year, give us a call.

32 North West Circus Place
Edinburgh, EH3 6TP

Mon – Wed: 9am – 7pm
Thurs: 9am – 8pm
Fri: 9am – 5pm
Sat – Sun: 10am – 5pm



Mark Coulters, Managing Director
0131 603 7333
mark@coultersproperty.co.uk
coultersproperty.co.uk

*Source: ESPC

Profiles

- 9 Merchistonian elected to the Royal Company of Archers
- 28 Church, sex and poverty
- 50 Tarning towards Scotland for television
- 52 Decent exposure
- 76 London calling
- 78 Goodness gracious Gilson Gray!

Features

- 6 Getting into gear for charity
- 10 10 leadership 'lessons'
- 14 Clouds open in Cape Town
- 17 Merchistonian of the Year
- 18 A brief history of The Merchistonian Club
- 31 Sailing the Salish Sea
- 34 Steely determination and an iron will
- 40 Champions through the ages
- 42 Halford Hewitt history
- 58 Horsing around Down Under
- 60 A lot on his palate
- 61 A moment in time on the subcontinent
- 62 Lights, camera, action!
- 90 Merchistonian events and reunions

Notices

- 24 Headmaster's Headlines
- 46 Stories, Snapshots and Snippets
- 64 Births
- 65 Graduations
- 66 Obituaries
- 82 Sports Reports
- 88 Club Officials

Welcome

Welcome to the 2014 Club Magazine. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, both to the magazine and the continued success of the Club. The following pages provide just a snapshot of the year's activity. With constant goings-on, to keep up-to-date it's best to sign up to our weekly e-newsletter (if you don't receive it, just send your updated contact address to update@merchiston.co.uk).

We have a few changes in the Merchistonian office, with Amy doing a great job covering Jo Tennant's maternity leave – for those interested, Jo had a little girl and both are doing well. Over the summer Carol, with whom I know many of you are familiar, has moved on and – just to create confusion – Jo Khan has stepped into her shoes!

There have been many exciting and interesting events throughout 2014, and with the 150th anniversary of the Club in 2015, it is set to be a good year. Keep an eye out for new developments at the School, too. 2015 promises to mark a new chapter in Merchiston's history.

David Rider
Development Director
The Merchistonian Club

t. 0131 312 2262/2237
e.merchistonians@merchiston.co.uk
www.merchistonians.co.uk

[f /merchistonians](https://www.facebook.com/merchistonians)
[t /merchistonian](https://twitter.com/merchistonian)
[in in/merchistonianclub](https://www.linkedin.com/company/merchistonianclub)



The Merchistonian Office – Jo Khan, Amy McGoldrick, David Rider

Design and Production platinumgraphics.co.uk

Dates for your diary

2015

January

- 30 January: Edinburgh Business Breakfast, Tigerlily

February

- 15 February: 6 Nations – Scotland vs. Wales
- 27 February: Edinburgh Business Breakfast; Alistair Macleod (53-57), Indigo Yard
- 28 February: 6 Nations – Scotland vs. Italy

March

- 3 March: The Merchistonian Club AGM
- 13 March: Pre-Calcutta Cup London Dinner
- 14 March: 6 Nations – England vs. Scotland
- 21 March: 6 Nations – Scotland vs. Ireland
- 27 March: Edinburgh Business Breakfast, Waldorf Caledonian
- 28 March: MRFC vs. Accies Match with pre-match lunch

April

- Golf Club Spring Meeting (see website for dates nearer the event)
- 24 April: Edinburgh Business Breakfast

May

- 29 May: Edinburgh Business Breakfast

June

- 26 June: Edinburgh Business Breakfast

Undoubtedly, you can expect more Merchistonian events throughout the year and around the world; please check the Area Reps' notes at the back of the magazine for further information. To make sure you are kept updated, informed and invited to the above events, please ensure that the Club has your most up-to-date email address by sending Amy an email to update@merchiston.co.uk with your name and years in the subject.

Secretary's Note

Dear Merchistonians

This year has been a veritable smörgåsbord of events and sports; I thank you for so warmly inviting me into the Club and letting me find my feet so easily. From 6 Nations events to the revived Merchistonians vs. Academicals FP match at Raeburn Place; Business Breakfasts; the Halford Hewitt; reunions; tours; dinners and functions, it has been a whirlwind of excitement. The Merchistonian Club is a participative and close-knit community which is only getting stronger.

Over the course of the year, I've had the privilege of seeing 85 upstanding young men leave their Merchiston home for the last time and move on to universities, gap years and, for some, straight into the world of work.

I've marvelled at the passion Merchistonians have for their sport, their School and their friendships. The Club allows former pupils to be connected across the globe and for you to draw upon it as a resource. I'm grateful to have worked with the Club, providing introductions, job opportunities, networking events and career mentoring, as well as a social calendar of annual dinners, class reunions and informal drinks gatherings in so many different countries.

It's been a real pleasure to write the weekly e-newsletters and to read your replies on a Monday morning. Your memories, stories, anecdotes and photographs have never failed to make me smile. It is always lovely to hear from you all, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone, drop the office a line or come up to us in person! If you only receive this magazine, you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn – or just send an email to update@merchiston.co.uk and we'll get you up to speed.

I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed putting it all together. Merchistonians have left the Castle gates and achieved success and happiness through so many different avenues; from discovering the gorillas of Uganda, producing a movie in the United States to even sailing around the world, I hope you feel proud when you read these stories.

Amy McGoldrick
Club Secretary

President's Report



Fellow Merchistonians

This has been another very busy and successful year for The Merchistonian Club and I am, again, indebted to the energy, hard work and dedication of the Development Team, comprising of David Rider, Amy McGoldrick and Joanna Khan for their support throughout the year and for producing another excellent Merchistonian Club Magazine.

The Club's Committee, Sports Secretaries and Area Representatives have continued to strive to provide you with a number of varied opportunities to participate in Club activities, ranging from sports events to Annual Dinners and Business Network meetings. All of these gatherings involve a great deal of planning and co-ordination, so I extend a huge thank you to all those who get involved and who help in their organisation.

It is important to remember that your participative support for these activities and events allow the Club to grow and to extend what can be offered and scheduled from year-to-year. The success of the Annual Dinner in Edinburgh, the London and Edinburgh Business Network meetings and the pre-Calcutta Cup London Dinner have allowed us to plan, with some confidence, more events for our forthcoming 150th Anniversary in 2015. Please look out for further details on the website and within your Secretary's weekly e-mails.

In March, we have another MRFC vs. Edinburgh Academicals FP match to look forward to. The previous match at Raeburn Place was very well supported and was followed by a gala dinner in the President's Suites at Murrayfield Stadium.

The Golf Club will do well to surpass their tremendous achievements of 2014. I am, of course, not just referring to the President winning the Silver Medal at the Spring Meeting, but rather the team's fantastic win at Deal, bringing back the Halford Hewitt Cup for the fourth time in our history. This has been a considerable achievement by a Scottish school and has certainly helped to raise the profile of the School south of the border. Look out for a call to arms to sign up for a fundraising golf meeting early next season to help support the team's preparations for their defence of the trophy.

Of this year's many highlights, a couple have stood out for me. As President at the Annual Dinner in Edinburgh, I had the privilege to congratulate Sandy Corstorphine as Merchistonian of the Year – a most deserving recipient.

Also in November, I was delighted to be accompanied at the annual Remembrance Service by my father (AW 41-46, brother of HS 36-41, son of W 09-14), laying the wreath on behalf of all Merchistonians at the foot of the WWI plaque that bears the name of my Great Uncle (HS 13-17).

I look forward to the forthcoming year and again hope to be able to report on what I hope will have been an eventful anniversary for the Club.

Ready Ay Ready

W Andrew McDonald
President

Getting into gear for charity

Join Ying Jin (10-14) and Cameron Scott (12-14) on their 2,400km journey for cancer research over 24 days.

Putting words down on a page will never truly capture the spirit of an undertaking such as this, but I hope that the following will help give you a flavour of what our trip was all about.

The idea for it all came about some time ago, on a rather cold, dark winter evening during our second last term at Merchiston. Yet it was not until all our bags had been packed, our bikes prepped and we were sitting on the train to London that it actually felt real.

The first two days passed without much incident, but we were beginning to realise just how tough an undertaking this would actually be. We arrived by ferry in France on Tuesday 8 July and were greeted by fairly wet and miserable weather. Luckily for us, the weather for the rest of the trip was absolutely stunning, getting only better and better the further south we went – hence the ridiculous tan we developed! Once off the ferry though, it took us a moment to get our bearings. This was really it! Cameron took a little longer than me, as he immediately went the wrong way around the roundabout and narrowly avoided a crash...

Over the next couple of days, we travelled across the Brittany region of France and soon got to grips with French roads (not to mention the crazy driving style). We met up with fellow Merchistonian Antoine Magré (10-14) and he took us out of the harbour on his sailing boat for the day. It was such an incredible experience! The whole region of Brittany boasts some truly spectacular views, which included Cap Fréhel. We were also given a taste of what being underprepared felt like, as we nearly didn't find a place to sleep on our second night. Cameron also had some problems; a puncture a day certainly did not help us towards our goal. When we reached La Rochelle he soon made the decision to switch his tyres.

Just before we entered La Rochelle, however, something fairly uncanny happened. We somehow bumped into four other British cyclists that day, the most memorable of whom we dubbed 'eco-warrior,' due to his long dreadlocks and his tendency towards environmental sustainability lectures whilst cycling. Thankfully, we managed to ditch him





the next morning; we snuck away early and left him sleeping innocently in his hammock.

The trip certainly pushed our mental and physical capabilities to the limit. We battled through not only the fatigue of cycling but also the challenges the weather provided: scorching heat, windburn and even thunderstorms (which proved a real test for our tents!). We lost the GPS to a thunderstorm overnight about a third of the way into the trip, thus having to proceed on our journey without electronic guidance. This unfortunately meant following many canal and cycle paths; the long straight roads were more testing due to the fact that they drove me absolutely nuts. So unbearably boring! It also meant asking locals for directions, where we soon came to terms with how little French we knew. We weren't sure whether to start with a question in French or English. We decided that French would seem respectful, but even if we asked the question perfectly, we couldn't understand a single word of the response! Asking them in English risked an even more awkward, lop-sided conversation with me using ridiculous hand gestures and the French local wishing he'd never bumped into us in the first place.

After passing through many big cities such as Toulouse and Marseille, by the time Nice was on

the horizon we, including our equipment, were thoroughly worn out. Cameron's knee was giving up a bit towards the end and I was having a few troubles with my wrist. Not to mention our pannier racks and a few tent poles had snapped! However, the thought that people were sponsoring us to complete the trip, and that the charity would benefit, urged us to keep going no matter what. So we battled on through the tough times – relying on a heck of a lot of duct tape – and actually managed to complete the trip ahead of schedule.

Overall, it was an incredible experience. We learned much about the importance of teamwork, perseverance and thinking quickly on the spot in order to deal with whatever was thrown at us. In the end, we had overcome some considerable obstacles; we could both truly say that we were very much Ready Ay Ready. Throughout our trip, many people saw us in our conspicuous Cancer Research tops and approached us to hear our story. Often they heart-warmingly donated to the cause, which we were very grateful for. Thus far, we have raised a total of £1,000 for Cancer Research; an incredible sum of money that can assist with new treatments to make the community a better place to live.



Merchistonian elected to the Royal Company of Archers

Jonny Gray (77-79) has been elected to be part of the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland. The Club asked him to explain more about this great honour and how he meets these obligations from his home in Los Angeles.

The Royal Company of Archers is a ceremonial unit that serves as the Sovereign's Bodyguard in Scotland, a role it has performed since 1822 under the reign of King George IV, when the company provided a personal bodyguard to the King on his visit to Scotland. It is currently known as the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland, and is located at Archers' Hall in the Meadows, Edinburgh. Apart from its role as the Sovereign's bodyguard, the Royal Company of Archers still functions as a private archery club – the purpose for which it was originally formed in 1676. In return for being endowed with *"perpetual access to all public butts, plains and pasturages legally allotted for shooting arrows"*, the Royal Company is required to present to the Sovereign three barbed arrows on request. As a royally-established body, the company has a long history of unique prizes, powerful supporters, and ceremonial powers.

I was very honoured to be elected as a member of the company in 2012, having been under consideration for some time. I am very conscious that I am following in some august footsteps, as previous members include Sir Walter Scott and Sir Henry Raeburn. Nowadays Clan Chiefs, the Aristocracy, 'the Great and the Good' and some first rate archers make up our bodyguard. There is also a reasonable number of ex-military types such as myself (I commanded the Argyll and Sutherland



Highlanders before leaving the Army in 2004 to pursue a second career in business).

In July 2013, I performed my first duties in my newly tailored and rather costly uniform. This was to be 'on parade' with the majority of the company at the annual Garden Party at Holyroodhouse. This year, I was on parade at St Giles' Cathedral for the induction by The Queen of two new Knights of the Thistle. In addition to these and other ceremonial duties during 'Royal Week' in July, membership of the company is, like any private club, a social activity with several enjoyable functions during that week. All in all, it is well worth the annual journey back from California and it keeps me and my family connected with Scotland in a very real and unique manner.

10 leadership 'lessons' from an around the world yacht race



Dr Malcolm McGregor (76-82) runs a network of consulting specialists and coaches around the globe with his wife, Julie. Malcolm is sharing his story of achieving leadership and ambition through the dreams of our youth.

I'm passionate about leadership development. So much so, that I have made it the core of my business (www.broadreachltd.co.uk) for the past 15 years. I've been inspired through working with so many amazing people that I'm now totally convinced that human potential is limitless! That said, I've also seen many people who, for whatever reason, never get near their

potential. This raises the question: what is it that stops them? I may not have found a definitive answer, but my research (which began with participation in a yacht race) suggests there are certain key 'leadership lessons' which can provoke the necessary thinking to drive change and fuel greater impact and fulfilment in life.

A Yacht Race

'One day, I'll sail around the world'. It was 1975. I was leaning into a gale at the time with my father, watching yachts struggle round the Mull of Kintyre. My statement surprised him, and I immediately thought I'd said too much! Years passed. Father didn't forget. Sometimes at parties he'd announce, '*Malcolm's going to sail around the world!*' Always the same reactions: an awkward silence, a fleeting glance, muffled laughter and whispers. '*I'll believe that when I see it.*'

I was 'Ready Ay Ready' with my excuses:

'I'm at School... I've got my exams... I'm still a bit too young...' (1977-1982)

'I'm a poor student... I've got no money... I need to get a job first...' (1982-1986)

'I've got debts to pay off... My boss won't let me...' (1986-1990)

'I've got a mortgage... I'm busy...' (1990-1995)

Enter Julie, my wonderful wife. She had questions I couldn't evade: '*What do you want out of life? If not now, then when? If not you, then who?*' These led me to the following actions:

1. Turning my life upside down
2. Giving up my lucrative job
3. Saying goodbye (with a tear in my eye) to the BMW and maturing share options
4. Renting out my house

5. Shouting '*ahoy there*', boarding a yacht and battling force 9 gales on the way to America.

Living the Dream

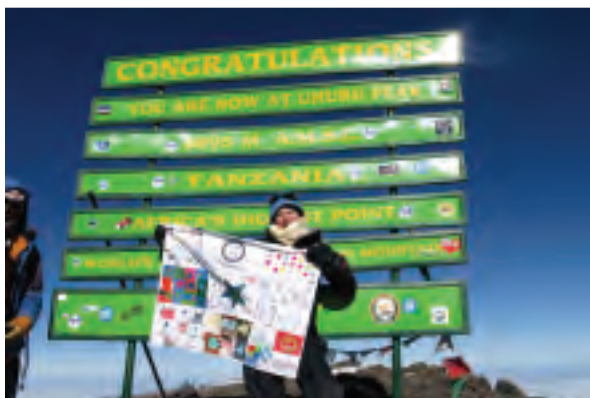
Eight 60ft yachts raced each other through Madeira, Florida, Panama, the Galapagos, Hawaii, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Seychelles, Durban, Salvador and the Azores. We moved from bobbing in the doldrums praying for wind, to terror-inducing storms praying for calm. We encountered great whales blowing 100ft spume whilst dolphins cut bow waves, sparking psychedelic phosphorescent trails. My favourite moments were mid-ocean midnight debates, considering the existential nature of life induced by hypnotic stars illuminating the infinite cosmos.

Lessons Learned

Being stuck with 16 people on a 60ft yacht for up to 6 weeks away from land, with 4,000m of water below, created an unique human microcosm and emphasised certain 'truths'. These further developed with careful reflection, a PhD and subsequent life experiences that come with ageing. The list that follows is to provoke thinking and to change the way people lead themselves.

1. **Carpe Diem.** Human beings only have a finite time on earth, so seize the day and make the most of every moment.





2. **Manners maketh man.** It is a pre-requisite and absolutely essential for a team to function well.
3. **Open and honest.** Think carefully and then say what's on your mind, or it will escalate.
4. **Stay busy.** *'An empty mind is a devil's playground.'* (Old English proverb)
5. **Be curious.** Listen and value others' opinions. *'Seek to understand before being understood.'* (S. Covey)
6. **Reflect often.** *'An experience without reflection is the learning that is lost.'* (C. Handy)
7. **Assess your balance.** What do you want from work and what do you want from the rest of your life?
8. **Find the courage to do what you fear.** This is critical to feel good about yourself and to grow confidence, which Jack Welch once described as 'the critical leadership skill'.
9. **Take responsibility.** What's everyone waiting

for? Some things have to be done in life. Only you know what they are and only you can make them happen.

10. **Get comfortable with being uncomfortable.** Sir Robin Knox-Johnson, the first man to sail single-handed and non-stop around the world, told us when we had completed the circumnavigation: *'Do not let this be the only thing that defines you!'* He's right, of course; there are so many other, 'scary' challenges. Our personal quest to 'grow' will only stop when you want it to, so over the past few years we have pushed ourselves on. We've sailed through the **Southern Ocean** in 2007; cycled across **India** in 2008; summited **Kilimanjaro** in 2012; cycled from **Land's End to John O'Groats** in 2013 and, this year, we trekked to **Everest Base Camp** at 5,500m. Where will your next trip take you?

A.A.A. Coaches

Book your school and group trips to Alton Towers with
AAA Coaches now!



They are running special trips to the attraction
so get in touch with them.

AAA Coaches:

01506 883 000

www.aaacoaches.co.uk





Clouds open in Cape Town

Despite the rain, the School's 1XV tour to South Africa was not a wash-out. RJ Hall (Robin) (60-64) tells us more.

The Merchiston 1XV and Development Squad tour to Cape Town and South Africa seemed to be a great excuse for a Merchistonian get-together. Unfortunately, this never quite came to fruition, as most of our members in Cape Town weren't available and the weather on the day – which fell during our winter – was absolutely dreadful. Yet on Monday 4 August,

I managed to get to Stellenbosch, which lies just outside Cape Town. We were playing at the Paul Roos Gymnasium. I got there just in time to see the Junior team put up a spirited effort, although they unfortunately lost.

The weather was truly abysmal and reminded me of wet and windy days in Colinton. However, despite the precipitation, the temperature here



was still a good 10°C warmer – possibly giving Merchiston a bit of an advantage. Wearing my golf shoes and waterproof overtrousers, a top and clutching my umbrella, I watched Merchiston beat Paul Roos with a resounding score of 19–12. This was much to the delight of both myself and the boys’ parents, many of whom had come over from Scotland to watch them play. Beating such a rugby-mad School as Paul Roos is no mean feat, I can assure you. They are one of South Africa’s top rugby schools; of all the schools



in the country, they have produced the most Springbok players. A big 'well done' must go to our team, and I wish them all the best for this season.

It was such a great pleasure to meet parents and staff, both during and after the game at a

drinks and supper reception. My only regret is that there weren't more Merchistonians present to witness our victory!

Merchiston's 1XV and Development Squad maintained an unbeaten record throughout the Tour.



Merchistonian of the Year

The Merchistonian Club was proud to announce the third recipient of the Merchistonian of the Year Award to A E Corstorphine (Sandy) (59-64) during the Annual Dinner at The New Club.

Following a strong nomination and unanimous Committee agreement, the award was given for Sandy's services to the School and, particularly in the last year, to Merchistonian Golf.

As Captain of the School and part of both the Cricket XI and Rugby XV, Sandy was a vital and vibrant part of Merchiston. He was also a School Governor from 1991–2011, during which time he served on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Development Convenor, spearheading School fundraising. This saw

him successfully Chair the Sixth Form House Appeal, the construction of which has transformed the School.

Both of Sandy's sons, R E (Rory) (88-95) and S A (Shane) (89-97) attended Merchiston. The award was presented by W A McDonald (Andrew) (79-85).

If you would like to submit a nomination for 2015's Merchistonian of the Year, please contact the Club Secretary through merchistonians@merchiston.co.uk



A brief history of The Merchistonian Club

Brian Thompson has carried out some original research to present this club's history, despite the lack of surviving minutes.

The Merchistonian Club was founded in 1865, but the inaugural meeting is not recorded; the second annual meeting is chronicled in the September 1866 edition of the Merchistonian magazine. It was agreed unanimously *'that the Merchistonian Club should consist of all old pupils of Merchiston Castle School who paid an entrance fee of one guinea. That the fees, so to be received, be funded, and the interest applied in defraying the necessary expenses of the Club and in purchasing a prize or prizes to be given to the School annually, the subject or subjects to be fixed by the Committee of the Club.'*

The first Secretary of the Club was Hugh Gibson, second son of the late Headmaster, who was the first known School Captain (1863-65); he remained Secretary until his death in 1881.

At this juncture, it should be pointed out that there are gaps in the publication of the School magazine. The Merchiston Castle Academy

Magazine was published irregularly between 1837 and 1848. After an interval of ten years or so, The Merchiston Chronicle made its appearance for just over two years, but it was

not until 1865 that the first edition of the Merchistonian appeared – and even then it did not appear for seven years between 1870 and 1877. As the Minutes of Club meetings before 1945 have disappeared, it is difficult to be



accurate about the Club's early years.

The November 1860 edition of the Merchiston Chronicle describes the first football match between Merchistonians and Academicals. The Merchistonian XX contained eight members of the Club (actually six Old Boys and Two Masters) and twelve *'present Scholars'*. The Academical Football Club had been constituted formally in January 1858, but no evidence can be found for the formation of the Merchistonian Football Club. The Academicals confirm that their only regular opponents prior to 1867 were the

Merchistonians, *'originally a boys' and Old Boys' organisation and presumably the second oldest football club in Scotland.*' The Centenary of the Merchistonian Football Club was celebrated in 1960, with a keenly contested match against a very strong School XV. Certainly, a member of the Merchistonian Club Committee, B. Hall Blyth, was one of the five Scots who challenged England to a match, *'twenty-a-side – Rugby rules'* and which, in 1871, led to the first International between Scotland and England. In 1873, the Merchistonian Club was one of the six original members of the Scottish Football Union (later to become the Scottish Rugby Union).

By July 1868, membership of the Club had reached forty nine, and it was at the Annual Meeting in this year that the Merchistonian Club Prize was instituted. This prize, awarded annually until 1934, was originally *'for the boy who obtained the highest number of marks in a special examination – Latin and English to be indispensable, and the choice of any two of the following subjects; Greek, Mathematics, French, German or Science.'* In 1879, a pavilion was erected in the new Field, paid for by former pupils, and was formally handed over to the School at the Annual Meeting of the Club.

1883 was a big year, both for the School and the Club. In that year, the Merchistonian Cricket

Club was formed and it flourished until 1889, when it ceased to exist through lack of support. The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the School was marked by the Annual Dinner of the Club being held in the School when the Headmaster, Mr Rogerson, was the principal guest. The toast list was lengthy, some seventeen speeches being delivered, and three songs were sung, including one written specially for the occasion – *'Old Merchistonians'*.

In 1884, the Merchistonian Football Club changed its constitution. A committee was set up to enrol members, on payment of a subscription of five shillings, and negotiations were started with several strong English clubs with a view to arranging fixtures.

At the 1889 Annual Dinner, a strong feeling was expressed that *'every boy on leaving Merchiston should join the Club and in this way keep himself in touch with his old school and with his old companions'*. It is interesting to note that it was almost a hundred years later before this ideal was achieved. This year also saw the first Glasgow Dinner and the pious hope was expressed that this would become an annual event. However, this hope was not fulfilled, for no Glasgow Dinner was held between 1894 and 1909. 1892 saw the inaugural Golf Competition, held at Muirfield. It is not the purpose of this





short article to list the achievements of the Merchistonian Golf Club, but one cannot miss the opportunity of recording their burgeoning success over more than a hundred years of their existence. After first entering the Halford Hewitt competition in 1954, their four successes in 1970, 1976, 1987 and now 2014 must be the envy of Old Boys' Clubs many times their size.

It was at the Annual Dinner in 1892 that the first appeal was made to members to provide information so that a Register could be compiled. However, the first edition did not appear until 1906, for great difficulty was experienced with the early years of the School's existence, as records were incomplete.

Once the Annual Golf Meeting had become established, it was customary to hold the Annual Dinner on the same day, usually at a hotel in Edinburgh. The dinner was preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Club, for which half an hour was set aside! The dinner and toasts were followed by *'mirth and song'*.

The 1898 business meeting of the Club was occupied by the need to mark the end of the Headmastership of Dr Rogerson. It was unanimously agreed that a scholarship should be instituted and, in the two following years,

a sum of two thousand pounds was raised.

By 1900, the Club had 192 members, *'an increase of 25 from last year'*. At the 1903 meeting, the idea of distinctive Club colours was raised and in the following year it was decided that a combination of the School cricket and football colours was appropriate. In 1905, a group of Merchistonians dined together in London on the eve of the England vs. Scotland rugby match. *'It was resolved unanimously to endeavour to hold an Old Merchistonian Dinner in London annually.'* By now the Merchistonian Football Tour to the South was an annual event, and clubs such as Harlequins, Bristol, Coventry and Bedford were played. Despite the demise of the Merchistonian Cricket Club, fairly frequent Border tours took place; opponents included Selkirk, Peebles County, St Boswells and Gala. In 1913, the Football Tour lapsed because of the difficulty of putting a suitable team on the field, but the Merchistonians, for the first time, entered a team for the Public Schools' Veterans' Trophy at Bisley.

The war years 1914 - 1918 saw a cessation of Club activity but by 1917, discussion was taking place about a suitable memorial to those Merchistonians and Masters who had been

killed. A Memorial Hall was suggested and those who had contributed to a Chapel Fund before the war were asked if their contributions could be transferred to the Memorial Hall Fund. By 1919, a sum of over eight thousand pounds had been raised. The Club also undertook to help with the education of sons of Merchistonians who had fallen in the war. In 1921, the Club paid a relatively small sum for the right to use the newly-granted School Coat of Arms. Two years later, the Club colours were altered; dissatisfaction had been expressed, in 1912, that the Club colours resembled too closely the colours of the other Clubs in Scotland. A red line was now substituted for the white line in the old colours giving, presumably, the colours as we know them today.

In the mid-twenties, the meetings of the Club were largely taken up with the immediate move to Colinton. Considerable opposition to the move existed, but the Directors insisted that there was no alternative to moving once the Dean of Guild had refused to sanction the erection of the Memorial Hall in the West Gardens of the Castle. In 1926, a new constitution for the Club was adopted. This defined more clearly those eligible to join the Club, either as Life Members or as Ordinary Members. It also established four sub-committees (East, West, North and South), whereas previously only East and West sub-committees had existed.

After a lapse of forty years, a Northern Dinner was held in Elgin in 1927. *'Nine genuine Merchistonians dined and one mongrel (a former master!)*'. Whilst the new school was being built, the Club made an annual donation to the Colinton Scheme; they also handed over a substantial sum of money to assist in the building of a pavilion. Despite the demise of the Merchistonian Cricket Club, the Club cricketers were active throughout the decade, with

opponents including Edinburgh Academicals, Grange and Manderston.

The 1930 Annual Dinner of the Club took place in the West Garden of the Castle, when over one hundred and fifty members were present.

'Opportunity was taken by everyone to visit every part of the School grounds and buildings and the evening finished with the singing of Ready Ay Ready and Auld Lang Syne.' After a long gap, the Merchistonians again shot at Bisley for the Veterans' Trophy. The Club celebrated the School's Centenary in 1933 with another very well attended Dinner, held this time in an Edinburgh hotel. Many congratulatory messages

were received and the evening concluded, as was usual, with merriment and song.

By 1934, the Club numbered well over 850 members; this year also saw the resumption of the Merchistonian Football Tours, after an interval of 22 years. These tours continued up to the outbreak of war in

1939; Fireflies Cricket Tours to Yorkshire were well-established and, although not strictly Merchistonian tours, the bulk of the players were in fact from Merchiston.

Just as in the Great War, all social activities were suspended between 1939 and 1945. A committee was formed in 1943 to raise funds for a war memorial; the primary purpose of the fund was to allow the education at Merchiston of sons of Merchistonians who had been killed. By 1952, over ten thousand pounds had been raised for this purpose.

Rugby tours to the South restarted in 1946, despite the great organisational difficulties involved; the first post-war Fireflies tour also took place in the same year. By 1950, the rugby tour had been replaced by playing local matches against Edinburgh University, Lismore and Panmure, but by 1955 the games against clubs in the South had resumed and these continued until 1966. In a very rare reversal of the Southern Tour fixtures, the Old Merchant





Taylor's were entertained (and beaten) at Colinton in 1967.

During the 70's, the social life of the Club continued much as before; there was the usual round of Dinners and Cocktail Parties, whilst the two wins in the Halford Hewitt were the pinnacles on the sporting front.

With the advent of the School's 150th Anniversary Celebrations, the Club underwent a fundamental shake up. A change in its constitution saw the abolition of the Ordinary Member status as an option for new members. Each boy in the School has a small sum added to his School account so that by the time he leaves, he is a fully paid up Life Member of the Club and, on his leaving, he is given a Merchistonian tie. The Club funded a Bursary, to be given to the son of a Merchistonian and held for one year. The Merchistonian Club 150th Anniversary Prize was instituted; this was to be given either to a current pupil or to someone who had recently left, and it was to recognise outstanding achievement or courage in a wide

field. The School started a Sevens competition and the winners receive a magnificent cup, provided by the Merchistonian Club.

The contests between the School teams and teams from the Club now cover eleven different sports, although it must be admitted that the Club struggles to find a team in one or two areas. The competition is for the Merchiston Cup. The Club now has official Representatives in various parts of the world so that young Merchistonians are assured of a friendly welcome in many different countries. Lastly, the Club has a small office in the School so that close liaison between School and Club is assured. A salaried Secretary is employed and it was through this arrangement that the latest edition of the School Register was produced.

I hope that this short account of the Club, incomplete though it is partly due to the fact that in some periods very little was recorded, will be of interest to anyone who bothers to read it. It has certainly been fascinating to research.

Savills. Top of every class.



If you really want to make it happen,
our property team at Savills can help.
The market is full of opportunity and our
positive and proactive approach gets results.
Talk to Savills or visit savills.co.uk

PROUD TO SUPPORT MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL

Evelyn Channing
Director
Edinburgh Rural Agency
0131 247 3704
echanning@savills.com

savills.co.uk

Peter Lyell
Director
Edinburgh Town
0131 247 3712
plyell@savills.com

Jamie Macnab
Director
Edinburgh Country Houses
0131 247 3711
jmacnab@savills.com





Headmaster's Headlines

Dear Merchistonians

Every academic year we begin anew; we have to learn again within the classroom; we have to move forwards in the classroom; we begin our coaching on the games fields and courts; we begin earnest rehearsals of music and drama; we begin new friendships. In other words, there is a new-ness, a never-the-sameness, to the beginning of another academic year. On the other hand, now that we are in November we can see that repetition does have a role in all our lives. Repeating an action over and over again can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of our own lives. Repetition can bring shape and structure to our passing years; far from being boring or tedious, repetition affords an opportunity for focused attention and reflection.

A recent campaign launched by NSPCC to raise awareness of the importance that '*pearls of wisdom*' can have in shaping a child's life shows that parents are the biggest source of childhood wisdom (85%), with grandparents (49%) and teachers also cited as sources of sage words. This is why I am so insistent on trying to give the youngsters at Merchiston *Thoughts of the Year*, because as a boarding school, we have increased responsibility to

provide guidance to those in our care.

Merchiston has bucked the national trend with regards to our results this year. 65% of pupils in the School sat one or more public examinations, and five of our boys have accepted offers from Oxford and Cambridge Colleges. Our GCSE pass rate A*-C is 96%; the School's combined A*, A and B grade pass rate was a very pleasing 82%. Moreover, despite the national dip in A level grades, Merchiston has an extremely robust set of results; our pass rate this year is 100%. Again, the combined A* - B pass rate was 82%; there were also some extremely impressive Scottish examination results, the highlights of which included Cameron and Matthew achieving the only As for non-native speakers in the whole of Scotland at Advanced Higher Mandarin!

I was very pleased to receive two awards from Best Schools UK: Top Scottish Boarding School 2013 for A levels, and Top 15 UK Independent Boys' Boarding Schools for 2013. I am only too aware of the 'word of mouth' granted by so many of you, as former pupils and perhaps even as parents, which helps us so hugely. It is so important when '*spreading the message*' to other people and in explaining just what a difference Merchiston can make.

Yet let us not forget in all this, the concept of



Enlightenment and Enrichment. The School endeavours to provide a huge range of activities (visiting speakers; language seminars; visits outside Merchiston to hear eminent speakers and presentations; external competitions) in order to stretch each and every boy's mind.

At Merchiston, we use the phrase *The Enlightened Curriculum* to mean any type of event both within and outwith the School, which is 'educating the minds' of the boys; such events are not about jumping through hoops and passing public examinations. A few of the events in this vein include: the Engineering Education Scheme Workshop; a History trip to The University of Edinburgh Library and History seminars with a senior lecturer of History at the University of Stirling; Geography fieldtrips to Morecambe and Cumbria, to Leith and to Arthur's Seat; a Classics Conference in London; a Classical Civilisation trip to the British Museum; a Classical Reading competition and a Classics trip to Aristophanes' *Wasps* at King's College, London; a trip to Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* at the Usher Hall; a French workshop at Stewart's Melville; a Chemistry trip to The University of Edinburgh and a Biology DNA workshop.

Indeed, the merest glance at our calendar for this past year shows just how busy the boys

have been in their studies, their sporting and cultural activities, the numerous Art trips to performances in Edinburgh, international rugby matches at Murrayfield, the myriad House trips and activities, the numerous outdoor pursuit activities and the social events held with our sister schools.

Almost every Friday evening sees both 'home' and 'away' social gatherings and events which are greatly valued by the boys. The pupils have also generously supported a number of charities through their weekly Sunday collections, in addition to which a number of pupil-organised initiatives have taken place to raise money for charity. Over the summer, we had a History trip to Eastern Europe, the annual ski trip – this year to Austria – and a number of boys took part in and helped with the cricket and multi-sports activity camps.

In sport, our Cricket XI won all but three of its matches after the pre-season games; our Captain of Cricket, who regularly scored over 50 with the bat, has been selected for the Scotland U19 Team. At the HMC North of England Championships at Gateshead Arena, Newcastle, the boys achieved 10 gold medals and 18 podium finishes in total. The boys also performed at the Edinburgh Schools' Championships, winning some 37 medals. At

the Scottish Schools' Games, one of our pupils won the discus competition and another took the bronze in javelin, whilst another won the silver medal in the triple jump and has been selected to represent Scotland in a home international competition.

The Merchiston Sevens was an enormous success this year; we hosted the largest tournament in history, with 45 teams - 540 players – competing in 80 matches on 9 pitches. Hugh achieved his first School Boy International Cap, becoming the 66th pupil to achieve this accolade. One of our golfers has also gained his first Scottish School Boy Cap in the European Quads, Spain. The senior fives team has won the Edinburgh Schools' Championships for the eighth time in nine years and in tennis, Ewan was selected to represent the British U16 Boys' team to play against the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon.

Our Duke of Edinburgh programme saw all the boys be successful in their ventures; it's an exciting time for them as we start to deliver the first Mountain Biking expeditions next year and the young men take on the trails around Aviemore. Meanwhile, Lower Sixth pupils have had courses in Driving Safety, Business Dynamics and First Aid, and have been involved in the Water of Leith clean-up project.

Inevitably in the cycle of a School, members of staff retire. Over the summer, Mrs Anne Rickard retired as Director of Admissions after an incredible 30 years' association with Merchiston - a Housemaster's wife for 7 years, Deputy Head's wife for 12 years and as Director of Admissions for the past 13 1/2 years. Recruitment patterns in all independent boarding schools have changed immeasurably over this time and Anne has effectively managed the pressures of these changes with real skill, so much so that the Admissions Department at Merchiston has been the envy of many a competitor school. She developed this important role, working tirelessly to achieve a 'full school' whilst maintaining a balance of

boarding and day pupils; international numbers across a variety of countries; with pupils who can access the curriculum and who bring talents across many different spheres. Anne has always been wholly convinced of the merits of a Merchiston education and she has shown real empathy for parents seeking the very best for their sons.

Secondly, Philip Rossiter transferred from 21 years of outstanding service as a Housemaster to become Registrar. This job is tailor-made for someone like Philip who, over his 29 years at Merchiston, has developed a considerable knowledge of the School which can be married with excellent administration skills, acquired as a Housemaster, Director of Music and Head of Middle Years. I have heard first hand, from parents all over the world, many, many plaudits with regard to the quality of Philip's housemastering. Philip's understanding of real pastoral care is quite remarkable. He understands how boys '*work and think*' and he always manages to see the positive. We are delighted that Philip is residing on campus and retaining a pastoral commitment as a Resident Tutor in Rogerson and that he will continue to provide an additional source of advice and support for Housemasters and parents in the Middle Years.

Lastly, Nigel Mortimer's first teaching post was at Merchiston from 1989-1991, after graduating from Oxford and before taking his Doctorate. After teaching English at Bradfield, Berkshire, he then returned to Merchiston in January 1998 as Head of English. Nigel is a truly gifted schoolmaster who has the ability to get the very best from his pupils, whatever their ability. As a member of the Academic Management Team, and Custodian of the Spawforth Library, he has played an important role in the leadership of learning and teaching and he has shared many aspects of good working practice: '*Listen more than talk*' is something I have learnt from him. As a member of the School Leadership Team, Nigel has contributed a considerable amount to our



development and improvement; offering sound advice and real insight and expertise. Nigel has moved to Eton College to take up a position within their large English Department of some 20 members of staff. However, I am sure it will not be too long before Nigel once again takes on a leadership role, as Eton discovers the real gem and genius of a teacher it has employed.

A letter such as this can only provide a 'snapshot' of life at School and I do hope that you gain some insight into the vast amount of activity which occurs on a daily, weekly and termly basis. I continue to be absolutely convinced that what glues everything together is the quality of our pastoral care. Every boy feels a sense of belonging, security and stability at Merchiston. This comes from his gurus, mentors and trusted advisors (in other words, all those people who help to nurture each and every boy both within and outwith the classroom) knowing him inside and out. It also comes from that haven, the House, led by the Housemaster with his team of Assistant Housemasters and Tutors, Housemother, Prefects and other responsible adults. That is why the very best of British boarding schools are extraordinary places. As the Head, I will ensure that we continue the concepts of reflection, leading to a relentlessly supportive

environment of improvement.

Everything that we do helps to epitomise the importance that we should attach to spending some time every year reflecting on the foundations of Merchiston and giving thanks to those whose vision has opened up the exceptional opportunities that modern Merchiston can give to its present pupils. Of course, the present School is all about the boys, the staff, the parents and you. We see this in action on so many occasions and that is why we believe in the importance of *'telling the Merchiston story'*, which as you well know consists of so many marvellous, memorable moments.

Do keep up with our news here at Merchiston by following @Merchistonian on Twitter, or subscribing to the weekly e-newsletters. It would be a pleasure to have you back at Merchiston any time; enjoy a tour with our senior students and enjoy a delicious School lunch, worth a visit in itself.

Barbara joins me in sending you all our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Hunter
Headmaster

Church, sex and poverty

In 2012, John Armes (69-74) was made Bishop of Edinburgh. He tells The Merchistonian Club what his calling means to him and how his faith relates to the challenges of the present-day.

I think that Merchiston switched me on academically. When I arrived in 1969 my father had recently died and in many ways my teenage years were spent coming to terms with that. I was given a bursary to study at the School, which was a great help – we couldn't have afforded it otherwise. Because of that opportunity I got to Cambridge – and university was a wonderfully liberating part of my life.

I left Merchiston with the intention of becoming a lawyer – people had told me I was good at arguing. Perhaps what they really meant was that I was argumentative. I studied law for a year but by then I knew it wasn't right for me, so I changed to theology. I found faith exciting and had decided to explore the possibility of ordination. It still seems extraordinary to me that the church was willing to take a risk on me when I was only 23 – the same age as my son now.

Since then I've been fortunate to do some very interesting jobs. For example, I was Chaplain to Agriculture and Rural Life in Cumbria and then Chaplain at Manchester University (where I also did a PhD). I've never had a career plan, as such – I've never found it easy to know what the next job will be. I tend

to go where the energy is. That's what attracted me to St John's on Princes Street in 1998; everything about it excited me and my family loved it too. It was very hard to leave St John's in 2012 when I became Bishop of Edinburgh.

As Bishop, I know I'm in a very privileged position. I'm at the heart of what we call the Diocese, which is a community of churches, stretching from the Forth to the English Border. I have the task of pastoral oversight and leadership in company with some excellent clergy and lay people. It isn't always easy and I make many mistakes; but it's a great challenge and it gets me up in the morning. I certainly don't feel I've 'arrived'; I'm still on a journey, trying to discern what God's calling means.

I love going to different churches each week. I'll turn up in places like Colinton or Hawick, North Berwick or Pilton and meet wonderful people serving God there. And as I travel around I reflect that although the Church and the world around it has changed enormously since I went to Merchiston we live at a fascinating time so far as faith is concerned.

We've had a couple of generations where the Church has been declining and people have been questioning, or have even felt





embarrassed, about their faith. I think we're coming through that now. There are a lot of people who have grown up knowing nothing of faith yet who, in their twenties, discover that there's something quite significant that they've been missing. They bring freshness and liveliness to the Church.

During the last forty years or so the Church has struggled to come to terms with social change. Indeed, one way of describing this struggle is to say that we have spent the last 40 years arguing about sex. When I was ordained in 1979, for example, it wasn't possible for someone who'd been divorced to be remarried in the Church. Thankfully, that is now no longer the case – but it's come after a period of debate and argument. Similarly, the ordination of women is something we've had

for twenty years now (in my bit of the church). However, in the 80's and early 90's, it was a very contentious issue. Most people, I suspect, including a lot of those who originally objected, would now think nothing of it. The ordination of women has been a great blessing, I think.

The big issue for us now is same-sex relationships. Again, it's creating all sorts of anguish and heartache and people are very firm in their views. Both sides are strongly represented in the Church and my hope is that we will navigate our way through this as well. The world has changed, the Church has partly shaped this change and partly been shaped by it. I'm sure that Merchiston too has had a journey to make on this particular issue and I would imagine that it is far more enlightened now than it was in the seventies.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief that God became human in Jesus. Therefore, our full humanity is important to God – including sexual relationships. I admit, however, that I do wish sometimes that we could move on and put our energy into what I see as much more important issues like poverty, trade justice and how we are spoiling the planet.

Poverty troubles me, and especially the growing gap between rich and poor, even in the UK. This was something that energized the 'Yes' campaign in the recent referendum and I feel our politicians must address it urgently. It's one of the subjects on which the Christian faith ought to have plenty to say. Jesus had a particular affinity for the weak and people on the margins – people like lepers and tax collectors, women and children. Somehow he attracted those disadvantaged groups to him. Christians are called to be good news to the poor – not just the spiritually poor but the materially poor too.

What next for me? I expect to be here until I retire. In Scotland, bishops are elected by the clergy and people. It was an honour to feel that the Edinburgh Diocese wanted me to be their bishop and I'm committed to being with them whether the journey is easy or hard.

Sailing the Salish Sea

David (51-55), Chris (55-59) and Doug Reid (58-62) began the MCS yachting club 10 years ago. Here, they describe their latest adventure.

The original event started ten years ago, when David Reid (51-55), Chris Reid (55-59) and Doug Reid (58-62) inaugurated the MCS Yachting Club (Western Canada Division). Since its inception, the Club has sailed annually on these hallowed, if rather chilly, waters of West Canada.

For the last three years, we have been assisted and guided by Charles Grant (57-62) of Edinburgh and Nethy Bridge, who has waxed wise on matters of golf rather than exposing his limited knowledge of matters nautical. However, as he is the only member of the crew to become a prefect whilst at Merchiston, he has assumed the right to dispense Blue Papers when things have not been done to his standards. Alas, with a rebellious crew, *'Scandinavia with 50 names'* never became a reality!

The *Sandpiper*, our 34ft sailboat, was well-stocked with dietary provisions based on the

spend most of the day under sail. We headed for the island of North Pender and one of the most beautiful ports in this part of the world, Port Browning.

It is interesting to note that 4 Merchistonians from the 50's era were able to enjoy an entire evening on the boat, watching the wonders of bird life in this area. Stories were told and events remembered from over 50 years ago.

Day 3 brought winds from the south, and as we were heading north we were able to take full advantage of this until late afternoon, when the skies opened and the winds dropped. At that very moment, we rounded a point and were met by over 500 sailboats racing toward us. Needless to say, as gentlemen, we sailed aside and watched them pass whilst we toasted their good sailing with a very fine French wine. We then sailed on to our next and final destination,

*'We must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all we ask is a tall ship and a GPS to steer her by;
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sails shaking,
And a light mist on the sea's face, and a sunny dawn breaking.'*

culinary experiences of the 50's Merchistonian diet, thus necessitating the need for ample supplies of liquid medicine from the distilleries of Scotland and the vineyards of several countries.

The crew mustered, gear stowed and after the final briefings by the skipper, off we sailed to our first destination port – Maple Bay on Vancouver Island. The winds did not favour us that afternoon, so we motored through the strait using the engine. This gave us the opportunity to enjoy the scenery, which included the ever-present bald eagles, ospreys and other wildlife. On reaching our destination, we were able to enjoy the cuisine-extraordinaire to be found in the marina pub, rather than home-made curry. As the crew had been travelling for most of the day, the Prefect called for '2 minutes' and an early lights out.

Day 2 found us with wonderful sailing winds and glorious sunshine and we were able to

the beautiful village of Chemainus.

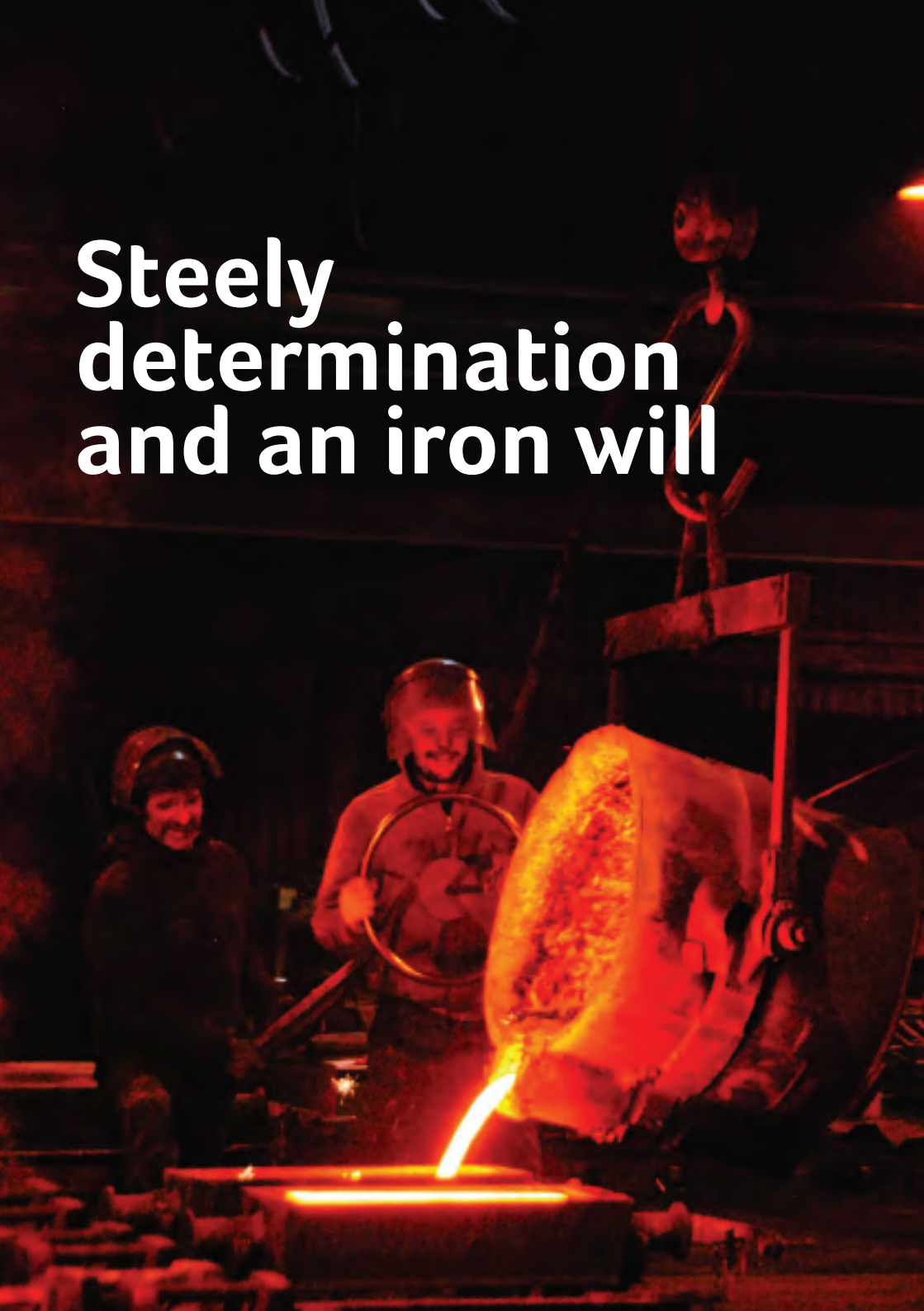
Cruising in the Gulf Islands on a sailboat is a memorable experience. The Islands are beautiful, nature is at its best and good companionship – along with the crossword – all make for a relaxing whilst stimulating experience. Although we have been doing this for ten years, every year brings new enjoyment, so we will definitely be doing it again next year.

On a domestic note, may I mention that sausages with marmalade are always served for Sunday breakfast – and we do have teaspoons on board.

If any Merchistonians, of any age, would be interested in raising a crew of 4 for a Merchistonian 11 event cruising on the west coast of Canada next summer, they are more than welcome. Please contact Chris Reid at chrisreid@careerwiseonline.com – no sailing experience necessary!



**Steely
determination
and an iron will**





Gavin C Ballantine (95-02) explains what a potato, the Queen, a letterbox and a train have in common.

Gavin C Ballantine (95-02) of Ballantine Castings is a generous host to our visit to the Foundry in mid-winter, when there is still snow lying on the ground. It is a scene which would sit well in a Dickensian novel, with the industrial Victorian buildings wearing a coat of soot dusted with snow; a monochromatic scene, where the only clue that we are within a hundred years of now are the overhead power lines. Gavin using his mobile phone to broker the latest commission brings us right up to date.

Ballantine Castings was founded earlier this

year, in order to revive the Ballantine Bo'ness Iron Company which had been run by the Ballantine family for 150 years. It's a fascinating company. Ballantine Castings has been handed over by Ian (61-65) to Gavin, now the 8th generation to take the reins. No matter where you are in the world you probably aren't too far from one of their castings; from palaces to post boxes, trains to ploughs, all call upon this illustrious yet hard-working company for its casting services.

Gavin left Merchiston adamant that there





was no way he was going into the family business and headed for the University of Leeds to study English Literature. However, the university years brought about a change of heart and after finishing his studies, his father persuaded him to take over the reins and to continue the long line of Ballantines at the helm. It is a tough business to be in and no one would have blamed him if he had stepped away, as there used to be hundreds of iron foundries in number on the banks of the Forth at the start of the twentieth century. Now, much of the production has moved to third world countries. This undercuts British castings where, even with the cost of shipment, lower wage structures and fewer regulatory controls mean the end product is still cheaper.

The decline in demand for foundry work has

been gradual but unrelenting since the end of the Second World War and there are now just three foundries in the UK who are able to take on the heritage contracts, of which Ballantine's is one. The start-up business has acquired the lands and assets of the old company and plans to drive its initial growth once again through projects in the UK, before looking abroad to Scandinavia and the Middle East.

The commercial picture is a very different one from the boom of the Industrial Revolution, when a series of technological breakthroughs enabled cast iron to be produced far more cheaply. The need for reliable metal components to build the machines combined with the opening of the Forth-Clyde Canal meant they had easy means to deliver industrial growth.

You probably encounter one of their



products on a daily basis. Posted a letter? Ballantine's make all of the UK's red post boxes. Caught a train recently? They make all of the switches and crossings for railways in Europe. Succumbed to a chocolate bar? They made the mould that shaped it. Potatoes are harvested with their castings. The cast iron parapets at Waverley train station and the old cast iron bollards in Edinburgh: all their own work. The 1km railings that surround Aberdeen's Duthie Park have all been supplied and fitted by Ballantine's, as have the 4km railings and gates in Dundee's Baxter Park. Westminster Bridge has Ballantine's fascia spans.

It's not just the everyday items. Ballantine's count royalty and the super-rich amongst their client list; the Queen and the Sultan of Brunei have given them repeat commissions. All of the Royal Palaces in Scandinavia are lit by their lighting columns, all metalwork at the Bayan Palace in Kuwait and piers in Bermuda are their products – to name but a few.

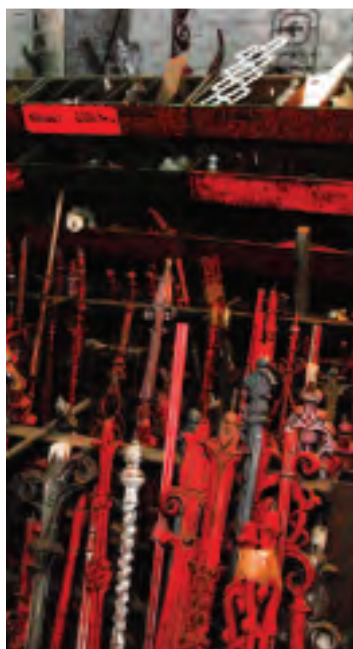
Whilst most of the work that the foundry

undertakes is third party castings, they have a passion for carrying out cast iron conservation and new builds throughout the world.

Away from the business, Ian Ballantine is active with the Merchistonian Golf Club, and in 2013 Gavin did a rickshaw rally in India for the charity Water Aid. This year, he took part in The Artemis Great Kindrochit Quadrathlon with fellow Merchistonian Stephen Sheppard (97-02).

Heritage contracts represent the prestige end of their business; where Ballantine Castings can't out-compete their cheaper competitors on the price of everyday items, they can guarantee the quality and craftsmanship that is needed to deliver bespoke products to exacting customers. A commission to reroof Westminster Palace, that they're in the middle of tendering for, will keep the firm safe, Gavin says, for ten years. With that comment, you realise how tough the business is – fighting for work and swimming against the tide. If you succeed, the rewards are enormous, as is the pride – saving your family's heritage – but the fall can be great as well.







Champions through the ages

Colin Briggs (59-63) details his experience as part of the Merchistonian Golf Club and the Halford Hewitt highs and lows after nearly fifty years.

It all began for me in 1965, when I was kindly invited to stay for a few days by my great Merchistonian friend Mike Thom (59-64) with his parents in Deal. Mike was a brilliant cricketer and a capable golfer, but when we headed along to the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, we understood that there was a competition being played – the Halford Hewitt.

I had heard about it before and now I wondered how I might make the team, as at that time I was playing reasonably well. So it was, in the spring of 1969, I received a phone call from W S Turnbull (32-34) asking me if I would be prepared to travel to Deal as an 11th man. This started a lifetime of incredible pleasure, drama, friendships, glorious golf, great lunches at Royal St. George's and the possibility of playing on two wonderful golf courses.

He had heard about me through Alastair P McGregor (16-19), the father of my great friend Alan J R McGregor (59-64). Alan and I had gone through Merchiston together and later we studied in Farnborough. Of course I said yes,

travelled down to Deal and made the team. I was partnered with Michael Grint (48-52), who taught me how to play golf foursomes.

The team was strong, having already played in the final in 1965; in 1969 we reached the last eight before, finally, in 1970 we had our first victory. We got to the semi-final in 1975 before again securing victory in 1976. There were great golfers in those teams: Morison Zuill (50-55), Stewart Zuill (53-58), W B M Laird (48-52), Robert Webster (58-63), John E Jackson (51-55), Gordon Russell (56-60) and Alan Sym (51-55). These results came almost naturally and we relished them.

Our win in 1976 was followed by years of reasonable performances, but with no great success. However, out of the blue, we scored a stunning win in 1987. The members of this team were the first to admit that they were not a group of great golfers, but they did a brilliant job (I hasten to add that I was not there that year due to work commitments, which clearly brought good luck!).

Since 1987, the years had passed by with some great golf, poor golf and one or two moments of near glory, including a lost final in 2000. In 2007, I personally played my last game and decided to retire before hearing the words, *'Colin, we don't need you anymore!'* I was really happy to think that I would leave a place in the team to a youngster that could have the wonderful pleasure that the Halford Hewitt offers. In the world of sport, there is nothing to compare with Foursomes team golf and representing your old School.

That was it until I received a call from my brother, Stuart (60-65), telling me that the new Captain of the team was Sandy Corstorphine (59-64). This man was the very first boy I met outside Chalmers West in 1959! We were lifetime friends, our parents were great friends and with Stuart saying he would remain the 'organiser' only for the next two years, his suggestion that I come over for the week was too strong to refuse. The idea was to come as a supporter and to help the team and I liked the sound of that; surely there was something that I could contribute?

This long preamble leads me to the real moment of that magical week in April this year, and the fact that we had waited 27 long, long years for the victory. When it came, obviously

there was an incredible feeling of joy and satisfaction, which I myself felt as much as the team. Even though I didn't play, I felt such emotion; much stronger than I remember when we won in the 70's. Perhaps 20 or more years of living in passionate Italy has removed any Scottish cool in my body and soul!

The standard of golf has really improved over the years – no longer are there teams that one knew were 'walkovers' – now everybody has to be thinking and playing well. Just a visit to the practice grounds is enough to understand the level of play today. Everyone in the Merchiston team contributed so much to the win and now there are a whole new group of young players ready to jump into the frame. This is the future! Sandy as Captain, Stuart who has dedicated so much time and effort to the team and Morison, a stalwart as always, have created a group who triumphed. Wonderful!

Personally, I was so happy for John McKean, who was for me a tremendous partner for 37 matches from 1992 – 2005, but had never been in a winning side. He has been one of the all-time greats of Merchistonian golf and he really deserved this victory.

I returned home by car in a trance, having seen that name on the winner's board: MERCHISTON.



Halford Hewitt history

Sandy Corstorphine (59-64), Merchistonian Golf Captain talks of Merchiston's history with the Tournament and why it's important to strive to go even further.

The Hewitt, as it is known, was started in 1924 and is fiercely contested every April by 64 schools throughout the UK. Merchiston entered in 1954 and have gone on to win it in 1970, 1976, 1987 and again this year in 2014. For many, it is the one chance to play high class foursome golf in front of an appreciative audience for a prestigious trophy. It is played over two courses (Royal St. George's and Royal Cinque Ports, Deal), with the final being played at the latter. Many Merchistonians have featured in the annals of the Hewitt; it might interest you to know of the following, who have played in over 50 matches:

- J Colin Briggs (59-63)
- Chris M L Cowan (79-85)
- Alexander (Sandy) C N Ferguson (47-51)
- Michael C Grint (48-52)
- W B (Barrie) M Laird (48-52)
- John H McKean (75-81)
- Gordon T Russell (56-60)
- Martin A Stein (84-89)
- Alan M B Sym (51-55)
- Harry J Thomson (72-78)
- A Morison Zuill (50-55)
- J A Stewart Zuill (53-58)

Other interesting statistics include:

- Colin Briggs and John McKean are the 8th most successful pairing throughout the 64 schools, having played 37 matches together over 10 years – and won 29 of them.

- Colin Briggs has been the most successful Merchistonian golfer, having played 107 matches and winning 78 of them (he always puts it down to good partners!).
- Morison and Stewart Zuill have played 54 matches together between 1961 and 1984. Both of these are Centurions, having played 118 matches and 106 matches respectively. Since 1924, there are less than 50 Centurions.

Team selection is always a difficult task, and is done by Stuart L Briggs (60-65) and Morison Zuill after looking at people's competitive trials results and current performance. Happily, they clearly got it spot on this year with our pairings, not to mention with Logan M Mair (80-86) in reserve:

1. Martin Stein and Jamie A McIntosh (02-09)
2. Chris Cowan and Dougie J L Cowan (84-91)
3. Harry J Thomson and Michael J Rolland (98-03)
4. John McKean and Robbie W Bremner (85-91)
5. Chris D Smith (96-02) and Ross M Crummey (06-09)

Following a lot of rain in Kent, many water-filled bunkers were designated ground under repair and the greens, after a slow start, sped up as the week progressed. The weather was good with a slight breeze throughout the week, and the draw looked tough - knowing we could face both last year's finalists Eton and Tonbridge to reach the finals.



Round One

Canford was a very tough start, with Stein and McIntosh going out first, losing 2 and 1 to a couple who played 1 under par for the round (although I would add that this pair continued to win all their matches thereafter). The first round was eventually won by 3 ½ to 1 ½, with all 5 games going to the 17th and 18th.

Round Two

Wellington was another tough round, with the back 2 pairs having lost; the score was 2 all with the Cowan brothers having to go down to the 21st to eventually win. This was a pivotal moment, as first Chris produced a brave chip before Dougie had to slot a 10' putt on the 20th to keep us in the game. Going home at this stage would have been demoralising and a huge disappointment to the team, as they had not performed to their full potential.

Round Three

Eton faced a backlash from our disappointing performance in the previous round, with Stein and McIntosh, Thomson and Rolland both winning by 6 & 5 and the Cowans having to make a birdie to win the match 3 ½ to 1 ½. This was a great moment; Morison was seen raising both arms to the sky.

Quarter Final

A tactical change of order versus Tonbridge, with McKean and Bremner leading to establish a vital win. Thomson and Rolland lost a tough match with the youngsters, Smith and Crummey coming in with a win as the fifth pair, leaving Stein and McIntosh to decide the match. Stein then rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the 19th to put us in the semis with a 3 & 2 win.

Semi-Final

Against Dulwich, there was a sound team performance with only the Cowans going down after their fierce fights in the previous rounds. Both McKean and Bremner and Smith and

Crummey produced strong wins to see us through to our 6th final.

Final

This was Bradfield's third final, having lost their previous two, but the team felt a victory was possible if we played our best golf. We were having to compete against a side anxious to win. For the first 9 holes we were ahead in 4 matches. Stein and McIntosh won 4 & 3 and the Cowans, having been 3 down with 8 to play, won on the 17th after a superb 3 wood to the green by Chris. Thomson hit a wonderful 7 iron to the 17th green as well to enable us to win the first 3 matches, making us the winners. At this stage, both remaining pairs were ahead; Smith and Crummey won and McKean and Bremner were 1 up, denying Merchiston a clean sweep.

It was over! Quick showers were followed by presentations, and "Merchiston" was already up in gold lettering on the Honours Board – a proud moment. The Edinburgh Academy won the Plate, so a Scottish double was achieved. Celebrations began!

To celebrate this year's success, a Victory Dinner was held at the School for the team and their partners. It was instigated by Alan Mickel (48-52), who was the non-playing Captain of the last winning team in 1987 and kindly hosted by the Headmaster, Andrew Hunter.

Each year, the standard of golf gets higher as the handicaps become lower. The costs of participating steadily increase, which we need to address, as it is vital that we continue to send down the strongest possible team; it enhances the considerable reputation that the School has built up south of the border over the years. This year, we were able to subsidise costs through kind donations from The Merchistonian Club and generous Merchistonians, but we have much talent coming through the School's Golf Academy. If this is to be harnessed, we need to recognise that future students may be unable to fund their own costs. We are therefore committed to creating a Halford Hewitt Fund to



assist future teams and are seeking donations and, hopefully, those who have been involved with the Halford Hewitt, including players present and past, will give this serious consideration.

In the Spring of 2015 we will be holding a fundraising Shotgun Tournament at Kings Acre

Golf Club, which I also hope will be well supported.

I would just like to add that I was incredibly fortunate and proud to be present at this year's victory. It was a strong team, all five pairs were capable of winning matches and played with skill, commitment and grit. They were great ambassadors for both the Club and the School.

Stories, Snapshots and Snippets

Global updates from Merchistonians across the years

John Jenkins (47-52)

We were delighted to welcome back to Merchiston John and his wife, Susan. The couple took the opportunity to visit the School whilst on a visit to the UK from their home in California. This was John's first return to his old School since leaving the Castle gates 52 years ago.

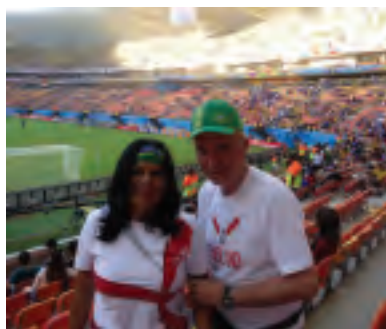
David Gibson (51-55), Hamish Ross (75-79) and Colin Cameron (75-79)

Both the School and the Club were overjoyed to welcome back to Colinton David Gibson, who left the School in 1955. In his first visit for many a year, David joined the boys and parents for the Whole of School Service led by the Senior Prefects on Sunday 9 February.

On the same day, and following a visit to Murrayfield the day before, Hamish and Colin decided to take a trip down memory lane and toured around the School, finishing in the impressive Laidlaw House.

Ian G H Dun (63-68)

Ian Dun lives in Brazil with his wife and family. This provided the perfect opportunity for him, his wife and daughter to attend the England vs. Italy World Cup on 15 June. Unfortunately, as was evidently the start of a pattern, England lost 2-1. Nevertheless, it was a day to remember.



A Ewan Macdonald (54-60), Neal R Macdonald (57-62) and Peter A C Macdonald (57-62)

The Macdonald brothers reunited on Lord Howe Island this June in order to celebrate them reaching 70 years of age. The pact stated that when twins Neal and Peter reached 70, they would all gather together. Lord Howe Island is 500 miles off Sydney and is renowned for its natural beauty.



Graeme Murray (69–73)

Graeme Murray went to the Alps in August to complete an unfinished job. In 2013, he made the decision to climb Gran Paradiso, the highest mountain in Italy, and Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe. With him, he took the good luck charms his father had carried when he was serving in the Fleet Air Arm during the Second World War. Unfortunately, he was beaten by Mt Blanc's weather. With a new year comes a new challenge, so this year he resolved to climb Dufourspitze on Monte Rosa (4,634km) the highest point on the highest mountain in Switzerland and the second highest peak in Western Europe. Graeme used this as an acclimatiser before reattempting Mont Blanc. Unfortunately, Graeme's health and fitness caused a second halt as he climbed the latter. Nevertheless, his tremendous effort raised a wonderful £1,875 for Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland.



John Jeffrey (72–77)

The Moredun Foundation, the governing body of Moredun Research Institute, was delighted to award an Honorary Fellowship to John Jeffrey at its AGM on 4 September.

John, a Scottish farmer, Scottish former international rugby union player and Chairman of the International Rugby Board, was Chairman of the Moredun Research Institute Board from 2004 to 2011 following his father and grandfather who also served on the board of the Moredun Foundation. John was educated at St Mary's School in Melrose and Merchiston Castle School before going on to do a degree in Agriculture at Newcastle University. John continues to run the mixed family farm near Kelso, rearing beef cattle and sheep flocks along with pedigree livestock. John has a long history with Moredun and he greatly values the research work being conducted at Moredun to help develop solutions to prevent and control diseases of livestock. John was Regional Chairman for the South of Scotland Moredun Foundation Board, joining the main board in 1996. He then moved on to become chairman of the Moredun Research Institute, a position he held for 7 years.

John is well known to many through his highly successful international rugby union career where he won 40 caps for Scotland and

was a member of the British Lions tour to Australia in 1989. He has been a member of the International Rugby Board Council since 2010 and has recently taken up a position as Chair of the Council.

John said, *'It is a great honour for me to receive this Fellowship and it has been an enormous privilege to serve on the boards of the Moredun Research Institute and the Moredun Foundation. I have particularly enjoyed getting to know the scientists and developing a better understanding of the very valuable work they do in developing vaccines and diagnostic tests to combat livestock disease. I am very interested in hearing about Moredun's progress going forward'.*

G Roger T Baird (73–78)

Well-deserved congratulations go to Roger Baird for completing a 925km, seven-day 'Ride of the Lions', raising money for the Walking Wounded. The group consisted of British & Irish Lions, Wallabies and general rugby/cycling enthusiasts. It's the "spirit of rugby" on a bike! Roger's efforts raised £6,005 for the Walking Wounded – a phenomenal effort.

Richard Bent (76-81)

Richard works at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. About a year ago, he was asked to become a trustee for the Teapot Trust, which is the only Scottish Art Therapy charity. They are dedicated to providing professional art therapy in a medical environment to children coping with chronic illness. The Teapot Trust is based in East Lothian, but now operates across most of Scotland. Interestingly, Queen Margaret University is the only university in Scotland which trains art therapists!

Richard put together ten teams, running together for the Edinburgh Marathon. So far, they have managed to raise a fantastic £4.5k.

Wallace W L Chan (85-87)



On a visit to the UK with his family, Wallace took some time out to take a trip down memory lane to show his parents where they had sent him some 29 years ago. His parents had never made the trip before. Wallace made the visit with them, his wife and son Justin, who was fascinated to see where his Dad went to school.

Dominic Dunnnett (98-05)

At the age of just 27, Dominic Dunnnett has been awarded "Up and Coming Lawyer of the Year" at the Law Awards of Scotland 2014. Since qualifying in August 2013, Dominic has developed MGM Commercial's expansion into the Renewable Energy field. Over the last twelve months, he has formed key relationships with renewable energy institutions, both in Edinburgh and also the UK. With responsibilities well above his age and stage in career, he is a well-deserved recipient of the award. Dom said: *'I am honoured to have even been considered amongst so much talented competition. I hope to continue to build and develop on the same trajectory throughout the duration of my legal career and very much look forward to doing so.'*

Nicholas Quin (95-00)

Now based in The Cayman Islands, Nick worked hard to get a group of Merchistonians together for a drinks event. However, it was grand success, with stories, jokes, toasts and a rousing rendition of 'Ready Ay Ready'.



Pictured all together are (L-R): Harry Clark (05-10), Sandy Reid (00-05), Euan Kelly (00-05), Harris Grant (00-05), Doug Abram (00-05), Andrew Wood (03-05), Kyle Cowper (97-05), Tom Goodman (97-05), Dom Dunnnett (98-05), William Quin (00-05), Nicholas Quin (95-00), Craig Aldis (03-05), Thomas Quin (98-03) and Alistair Bird (00-05).

Christopher Whalen (99-01)

Christopher Whalen toured Brazil in February with the samba drummers of Carnival Transatlântico. Shortly after leaving Oxford University in 2010, Christopher joined Sol Samba, fulfilling a long-held ambition to play in a samba band. This ambition started when he saw the London School of Samba at the Edinburgh Fringe when he was wee lad. It was through his contacts at Sol Samba that the opportunity arose to rehearse with another band called Nova Guarda, based in Birmingham. Since 2011, Christopher has been rehearsing once a month with other drummers from all over the Midlands. They played in Rio de Janeiro and were officially registered to play in a spectacular street parade in Lapa the weekend before the Carnival started, successfully raising the money for this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity.

Rickie Cheung (01-08)



Rickie has recently graduated from the University of Edinburgh in Architectural Design and has already hit the ground running. Due to his thesis, Rickie was awarded the Royal Scottish Academy's John Kinross Scholarship to further explore his ideas in the city of Florence. Rickie has also been nominated for the RIBA President Silver Award and the 3D Reid Student Prize 2014, the results of which are announced this month. If you're interested in taking a look at Rickie's work, visit www.rickiecheung.com.

Cameron Nicholls (06-14)

Cameron Nicholls is part of a group of sixteen school leavers who have started a year-long innovative and challenging placement with Scottish Power. This leading energy company has its Year in Industry programme run by nationwide charity Engineering Development Trust, as part of a drive to secure a sustainable workforce for Scotland.

The shortage of engineers within the Scottish manufacturing and energy sector remains high. As a member of the selected group of 'best engineers of the future', Cameron will have a dedicated mentor, a strong schedule, and partake in a management course to gain a Diploma in First Line Management through the Chartered Management Institute.

Ben McNeill (09-11)

Ben won the Scottish Youth Cup with Jed Thistle, beating Ayr 11-7 in the final. The last time Jed Thistle won the U18s Cup was in the 1997-1998 season, when our long-standing Head of Design and Technology Freddie Main was Captain. This was an absolutely fantastic achievement for everybody involved.



Andrew O'Riordan (09-13), Alex Webb (10-11), Jonathan Gibson (08-13) and Gavin Parker (11-13)

Four Merchistonians took part in the British Universities Rugby Trophy final, with two on each team – Exeter vs. Dundee. Exeter were victorious, winning 29-22.

Turning towards Scotland for television

David Strachan (65-70) gives his insight into his life, which intertwines television and theology.



I always knew I wanted to be a Minister. I was brought up in a home where church was a part of our lives, although I did have one grandparent who was a convinced atheist. Faith has always been somewhere near many key decisions, although over the years my understanding of my faith has changed a lot. I don't know who said the phrase: *'As I get older I believe less, but I believe it more strongly,'* but that's true. Some of the early detail now seems to be less important than the core.

I'd expected to do a first degree in music somewhere South of the Border, but my grades weren't good enough so I combined music with theology at the University of Aberdeen. Going to university was easier as an ex-boarder than it was for day boys and I relished the opportunities. I engaged quickly in student politics, which eventually led me to be Student President and in University TV, which led to part-time jobs on screen at Grampian TV in my post-grad years.

After eight years in parishes, I found this TV side still had a hold. I was balancing parish with

regular TV presenting on STV and Grampian, as well as being on church, local radio and BBC advisory committees. I figured that to make a change - and change was needed as religion was treated in a pretty token sort of way - I had to be at the meeting point of ideas, politics and money. This meant I left and took a TV job with Aberdeen Cable, which led to the setting up of Tern TV. Originally this was just three people doing small, local work, but now 26 years later - and although numbers do fluctuate - we are currently 70 strong and making products for most UK and some US broadcasters.

I'm proud to still be here, leading the charge for change. When we started, no one outside the BBC made programmes for them; now we are a regular supplier. Nobody made programmes from Aberdeen for network and now we do so regularly. I've been exceptionally lucky to have worked with and learned from talented programme makers and together we've made programmes which have said important things. I get a buzz every time we start a Songs of Praise



hymns recording; I've done 40 programmes from Amsterdam to Stornoway and Kirkwall. A lot of work goes into the preparation: commissioning the musical arrangements, gathering choirs, congregation and musicians, coordinating the technical and the expert team needed for a big event. But I hope the best is yet to come in the shape of a Science and Religion project which is about to happen. Merchiston's former School Chaplain George Martin advised me to pursue science as a first degree, as he said there needs to be understanding between the two. I didn't – but maybe I'm following his lead now.

Covering the General Assembly is a small job for Tern, but it has been exciting to introduce new technology to change the style of the coverage. The Head of the BBC Parliamentary Channel, who took our programmes as well as BBC Scotland, said he'd been moved by the emotion of the debates and was glad we'd allowed time for key speakers, rather than reducing it all into short sound bites. The Assembly, anchored as it is in grass roots as it seeks collectively to

interpret the will of God, always throws up surprises and puts a human face on what could otherwise be obscure theology.

Television has changed hugely. When I started, it was studio or film – and film was hugely expensive. Now we can all make movies, although not everyone progresses to tell stories well. TV is being democratised; no longer do you have to watch what schedulers want you to watch. You can pick and choose. Some TV is going downhill, becoming trashy and trivial, but there are great things out there which continue to give deep insight into life.

Over the last two decades, Scotland has struggled to ensure UK or national TV is more than just London. In the 90's, 93% of TV was made inside the M25. I'm proud to have played a part in arguing for change. Now it is down to 50%. Scotland has been since the Enlightenment (rooted in the Reformation) a world leader in thinking, a prophetic voice, willing to change the status quo. We can, if given the chance, make television that does all that.





Decent exposure

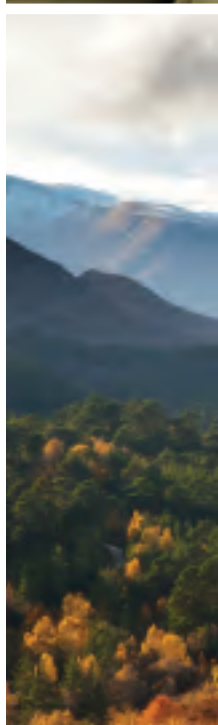
Rupert Shanks (93-00) is put under the lens and explains his love of the camera.



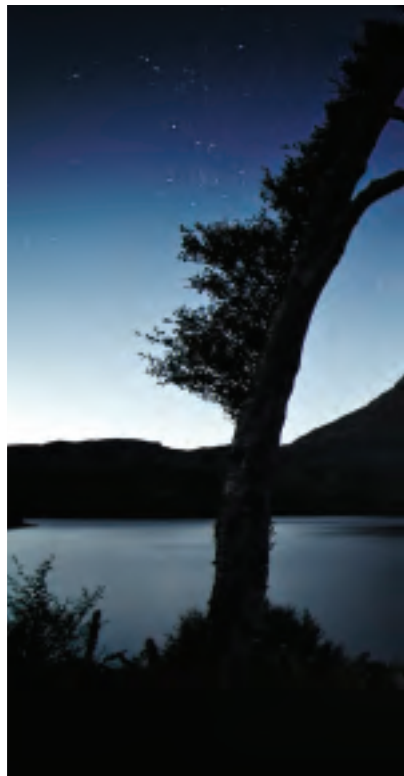
Upon leaving Merchiston, I felt an immense sense of excitement, along with an undercurrent of apprehension. It wasn't clear to me what I should do for the rest of my days, but I remember having a sense that I would find the way and, one day, wake up as an 'adult' in the career that I was meant for. Following on from my GCSEs and A Levels, my mindset was about heading off to university and then going out into the big, bad world.

I can clearly remember an experience from when I was 10 years old on a family holiday. My dad had stupidly left me in charge of the video camera. He and my uncle had been fishing and caught a bucket-load of fish, which were lying on the grass. I proceeded to document the scene and in that instant, as the sun flashed back at me from the fish eyes to my lens, I was spellbound by the power of storytelling through imagery. Perhaps you're thinking: what a morbid wee boy! But there was something so visceral about that scene in terms of nature and our place within it that the power of photography really struck a chord with me.

I studied Sociology with Spanish at university; not directly related to photography, but it is part of an interest in the way we live, which has been a driving force of mine. I worked in digital marketing in London for 5 years before I made the gradual leap into photography and filmmaking. I had been shooting more and more in my spare time and was excited by the idea of working in photography. Yet I wondered whether the imposition of earning money from what I love would turn into drudgery. So I decided to take some time away from London and went travelling and working abroad for a year, where I managed to organise a series of work placements involving photography. This led me to build up a portfolio, which in turn led to more work when I returned







to the UK. I now mainly work in travel and lifestyle photography and film. I still work in digital marketing part-time, but I've now taken on a range of photography and filmmaking contracts for clients such as the Guardian, Visit Scotland, Condé Nast Traveller and Microsoft, which feels like I've made some sort of leap!

The Ugandan project I'm working on now was an idea first borne out of a trip to visit a doctor friend of mine who had gone out there to work for 9 months. As I learned more and more about the local area and the stories of the people there, I thought it would be an amazing opportunity to turn it into a film project. The scope of our project grew as our team increased to 4 and we secured commitment from the Guardian to distribute our film. The Guardian also offered us part-funding for the project and paid for a lot of equipment hire, but we still needed a substantial

amount to really fulfil our potential. We turned to Kickstarter, which is a crowd-funding website for creative projects. We were amazed by the support of people who have helped us and become supporters of our project.

So this April, we set off to Uganda for just over 2 weeks. Our objective was to learn about some of the impact of mountain gorilla tourism in South West Uganda. As the national parks were created in the 90's to protect the gorillas, an ancient indigenous tribe of Pygmy people, the Batwa, were evicted without compensation from the forest, their home. They have suffered extreme poverty and marginalisation as profits from the parks have boomed. We planned to meet a variety of groups in the area, such as local tour operators, government workers managing the parks and displaced tribe members. It was an incredible experience; Uganda is such a striking



place with a very diverse population. The issues we encountered were complex, but we met with some fascinating people and were really moved by the candour and honesty that was shared with us. I remember one interview in particular, with a young member of a Batwa tribe, who was one of only a few Batwa members out of many thousands who had been able to go to college. The stories he told us about the struggles he had faced and his determination to find an education were so inspiring and humbling. Without getting too preachy, I think it is easy to forget how lucky we are going to schools as a matter of course rather than as a real privilege. We are now in the editing process and are really excited about the film we're making.

I'm also now interested in producing a film to capture the Scottish winter from a backcountry skier's perspective. There is a growing culture of

people who are venturing into some of Scotland's most dramatic mountains to hike up gullies and ski where most people fear to tread at all. I think it's a fascinating insight into how people are enjoying the outdoors nowadays, as well as the landscapes which not many people see throughout the year.

For anyone interested in working in photography, I would recommend testing the waters before jumping into it. There are many areas you can work in, so try and find something you do that sets you apart. Don't underestimate the importance of learning the business side; read as much as you can from experienced photographers and if you're able to assist them, it's a great opportunity to learn. Keep on shooting! Drive everyone mad around you until they don't even notice you snapping away anymore.

Horsing around Down Under

David Aitchison (98-05) trained to become a pilot and moved across the globe before realising what his true passion has been all along.

I have always loved horses. Some of my friends may remember that I had a horse whilst I was at Merchiston called Arthur; I used to cycle to him on Tuesday afternoons as he was agisted near the Pentland Hills. I have always found horses to be such impressive animals and I seem to connect with them.

Merchiston was my home right from the start, at Pringle. It wasn't easy in the early years as I was suffering from the usual homesickness which I would have thought most would experience. As I progressed through the years however, it just got better and better. Merchiston always helped me to prepare for the road that lay ahead, and served as an anchor within my memories that I could always go back to when things got a little tough.

'Ready Aye Ready, Over Land and Sea...' these words have helped me tremendously in my travels around the world and now in my new home of Australia. I have tried to live up to these words and believe I have done so. It's to people such as Mr and Mrs Horrocks, Mr David Turner, Dr Nigel Lawson and the Headmaster and his wife who have had such a positive effect on my life. I still think of them today with great fondness and gratitude.

Thankfully, I didn't get a clean break from Merchiston: I stayed on a few summers to help out with Merchiston Enterprises. When this eventually came to an end, I moved to Aberdeen and started a History degree. Now, I love Aberdeen – indeed, my Father is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and we have family links to the Granite City – but it just wasn't exciting enough for me. So I pulled out and headed South to start flight training.

After getting commercially qualified, I wanted to fly somewhere that doesn't always have a cloud base so close to the ground. Australia was my choice, so I headed Down Under in 2009. Upon arriving, I settled in and flew myself all around the country in several different types of aircraft and I have been here

ever since. Being busy flying and doing contract work for Rio Tinto meant I didn't get much of a chance to spend time with horses, but I got my chance again in late 2010 while working in the gas fields in Queensland. I bought a beautiful horse which I could ride in a small, neighbouring outback town. Most of my evenings were spent riding. As it happens, I was on the lookout for a few different business opportunities, and this one looked very suitable.

After attending horse shows and





competitions, I met my now business partner Jayden Brown. Jayden is one of the Southern Hemisphere's most accomplished dressage riders and I saw a chance to do business. After meeting with Jayden, I decided to form a company that would train, sell and compete elite dressage horses for the Australian international market. Our company is sponsored by Australia's largest saddlery, the nation's best feed producer and the famous Bates Saddles. Horses will always be a part of my life here in Australia – for one thing, it is a very lucrative industry if done properly.

My horse Lacoste really stands out amongst his competitors for his sheer strength and size; he is a beast and as such, not many people can ride him! For my other horse, Furst Frederick,

what stands him above the rest is his good looks and rather quirky personality. Not to mention he's now worth over \$300,000, so that makes him quite special, too.

I have now formed another company that imports equestrian products into Australia and New Zealand. With the little free time I have, I like to venture to less well-known equestrian strongholds. I visit the Islands of Vanuatu frequently, where I now have plans to open the first every saddlery outlet for its large French and British expat community. I also sponsor the local dressage and jumping clubs on the island with coaching and equipment. It doesn't get much better than riding a horse down a South Pacific beach, sipping on a coconut. Needless to say, I don't miss Aberdeen.

A lot on his palate

Douglas Morton (58-63) has been involved with wine for 20 years. Here, he gives his experiences, observations and advice.

I don't give blood; I give an assemblage of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. At least, that's one of my sayings. I've worked with wines long enough to see changes in our attitudes. Back in 1990, the UK off-trade of table wine had amassed to around 30 million cases, 99% of which were from the Old World, such as France, Germany, Italy and Spain. In 2010, the off-trade had soared to 100 million cases, but the Old World's numbers had stayed the same. Wine has started to explode, it's become a 'beverage', and the arrival of the New World wines has seen everything change.

As UK Consultant for *'Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux'*, I think I've had one of the best jobs in the wine business over the last 20 years, but that doesn't exist anymore. When I began with Bass Ltd in 1974, Mateus was everywhere. Nowadays, this is not the case. Of course, wine consumption was going up, so it didn't really seem to matter what you were doing. You were growing and expanding through distribution and people's experimentations, but now the marketplace is completely different.

Chateaux Margeaux recently spoke to some journalists. 2013 had been a terrible year for weather and there were concerns on how tough this vintage was going to be. Yet these days, it's never going to be a complete disaster, because winemaking techniques have come on considerably. Early in my career, if you tasted a cask sample it was absolutely undrinkable. There would be stems, stalks, pips – terrible stuff. Nowadays, when you crush the grapes, you get rid of all that. It used to take 3 weeks to do a harvest; now, it's 4-5 days. There has been a lot of change, people who began drinking in

1990 have developed their palates. We don't like what we liked in those days. Now, tastes have changed.

The irony is that before I went to the University of Oxford, I didn't drink at all. Whilst there, I hardly drank, and when I did it was cider. I went for an interview for Guinness Overseas, who asked if I liked Guinness. I told them, 'no'. The interviewer said, 'well of course, you will'. I got the job and was posted to West Africa, where I was convinced Guinness should be cornering the market in draught lager. I beat this drum consistently and, eventually, I was told to dispense the draught lager in St. Helena, in the middle of the Atlantic. It was a perfect test market, because if it went wrong, it wouldn't impact any other market in the world! It took a 3-day boat ride to get there, a day and a half to train the staff of the one hotel on the island, followed by a 3-week delay in leaving as there was no ship to come.

I was also Relief Managing Director in Liberia for six months, before I was asked to go to Cameroon for 2 years. By this time, I was 28, unmarried. The illiteracy rate in Cameroon was 85%. Television advertising was non-existent; as a well-trained marketing man, I knew if I went out there, I would be truly stuck.

I don't wish to provide guidance to anyone else; the only message I have is that you have to be lucky and to always walk through that door. I have always done this, not knowing what was on the other side. I'm fortunate enough that it has worked out for me. Unfortunately, the life I've led is no longer available.



A moment in time on the subcontinent

Rod Ramsay (55-60) tells the story of the moment 50 years ago when everything could have gone drastically wrong... The setting: Chittagong, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), 1965.

I was acting Shipping Manager for Shaw Wallace, a large Scottish trading company throughout the subcontinent, whose Head Office was in Leadenhall Street. They had substantial interests in tea estates, coal mines, fertiliser plants, general trading – and, of course, shipping.

One day, a Pakistani gentleman named Siddiqui entered my office, garbed as a Naval Officer. I knew this from our meetings of all the shipping fraternity, which were held regularly.

“What’s with the fancy dress, Siddiqui?” I asked. Siddiqui ignored me.

“This is a serious matter, Rod. I am in the Navy Reserve and have been appointed as Lt. Commander – as well you know, we are at war with India. Our beloved Muslim brothers in Indonesia have made a gift to assist us in the conflict. This involves two Motor Torpedo Boats. They’re on an Indonesian merchant vessel at the anchorage, but as you know, we have no heavy-lift equipment here with which we can discharge them. Now, you are Agent for Hansa Line of Bremen, and their “Barenfels” (Norwegian cargo ships) are presently anchored in the estuary waiting to come up for a berth – and that ship is equipped with a 250-ton capacity Stulken derrick. The Pakistan Government asks for your assistance in offloading these MTBs.”

This came as a surprise. *“Now wait a minute Siddiqui, we are here to manage the loading and discharging of cargo, and we have a busy time schedule all over the Far East and Europe.”*

“When is your vessel due for berthing, Rod?”

“In about two days.”

“... Well, be prepared for it to take a month,” replied Siddiqui.

Clearly this was a serious matter. *“Okay, okay, have a seat. I will have to raise this with Hansa, Head Office in Bremen.”* I duly telexed the Chairman, who was a chap named Helms (this was before the days of faxes and e-mails) and he did not like it, but we had no choice. Armed with a message from Helms, Siddiqui and I proceeded down the river Karnafuli in a Pak naval craft – about seven miles – to the “Barenfels”. The Captain did not like this development one little bit either but he, too, had little choice. So, the enormous crane was rigged up and the Indonesian vessel came alongside. An MTB was lifted with the “Barenfels” heeling over the weight. The Indonesian vessel departed and the MTB was lowered into the sea. Then the whole process was repeated on the other side of the ship with the second MTB.

The entire exercise took about six hours, before Siddiqui and I went to the Captain’s cabin to thank him. It was then that Siddiqui, whilst effusive in his gratitude for the assistance against the “filthy Indian aggressor” revealed that both MTBs were fully loaded with torpedoes, as well as ammunition for their cannons. The Captain turned several shades of white.

We received first class service from the Port of Chittagong, and the Pakistan Navy, from then on.





Lights, camera, action!

Jonny Paterson (98-06) is rising to success after moving to LA and onto the big screen. He credits Merchiston with the life lessons he's learned and gives an idea about what life is like on the other side of the pond.

I loved my time at Merchiston. I credit it a great deal with shaping me into the professional I am today. I started in First Form, which was the youngest year group in the School at the time. I wasn't the most athletic; I was very much the 'drama' kid in my cohort, acting all the way through my time there and directing on a couple of occasions. I suppose it's no surprise that I've landed in the entertainment industry within a decade of leaving the School.

I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left School, though. I knew what I was good at as a student – English and History – so I went to the University of Leeds to study them as joint honours. Throughout my time there, I struggled with a lack of clarity in what I thought I should do. It wasn't until my parents started reminding me of my love for drama and the world of storytelling that I realised what was in front of me the whole time.

I will always credit Mr. Damian Sandys with

helping me discover my love for the arts. He put me in all the plays at School helped me learn the trade from a young age. Dr. Nigel Mortimer and Mr. Paul Williams were my two English teachers, and their passion for literature and Shakespeare was infectious. My ending up in the world of film was both a natural progression from all the above, as well as a result of the entertainment business degree that I gained after graduating from Leeds in 2010. It is show business, after all – the ultimate collaboration of creativity, enterprise and commerce. I fell in love with it.

I started at Carnegie Mellon University in America, where I gained a Masters in Entertainment Industry Management. I moved to LA as part of that programme, managing to get myself some really good internships at ICM (a talent agency) and Lionsgate (a production company), before getting a job on the desk of Paula Wagner, Tom Cruise's old producing partner. I learnt a lot from each experience –



as much about what I didn't want to be doing as what I did want to do – and after my time with Paula, I knew I wanted to be a producer.

I've considered LA home for the past few years. It's the kind of place that can be very lonely for people when they first arrive as they might not know anyone, and the pace that people live at here can be quite intimidating. I was lucky that I had a few good mates from my time at Carnegie Mellon who moved here at the same time, so I had a close-knit group to grow into the city with together. As for the pace, I thrive on that. It's an invigorating place to live in your mid-20's and the opportunities are boundless. It's not for the faint of heart, but for those with ambition and a good work ethic, it's brilliant.

I worked on a film called *1982*, which was a small film that a good friend of mine, Tommy Oliver, wrote, directed and produced in Philadelphia in 2012. I learned a lot on that set and the film has gone on to win a bunch of prestigious awards and has done wonders for Tommy's career. That was an important moment in my development. The film I'm working on just now, *Halfway*, is the one that I most identify with at the moment. It'll be my first feature film as the lead producer, and the writer/director, Ben Caird, is my best friend out

in LA. I actually met our lead actor, Quinton Aaron (*The Blindside*) on the set of Tommy's movie as he had a small role in it, and now he's also my producing partner for my film. They say networking is everything in this industry, so I suppose that's a pretty good anecdote to support that view.

Halfway went into production last month. I've got a project which I hope to shoot in Ireland next year with Colm Meaney, Colin Morgan and Sarah Bolger attached to star in it. I have also written a TV show called *Sweats*, which is *The Office* meets *New Girl* set in the world of a high-end Beverly Hills gym, where we follow the lives of the personal trainers who work there.

I have big professional aspirations. By the time I'm 30, I'd like to have 3 films made and the goal from there is to start producing films on a very regular basis, and to have them grow gradually in size and scope. On a personal level I'd like to be happy and have no regrets; so far so good!

It's difficult, there's no doubt about that. But to anyone wanting to get into this industry, I'd say you have to think very hard about what it is you want to do and not what you should do. If it so happens that the answer is to work in film, TV, theatre or any other form of entertainment, you should call me... **#networking**

Births

Neil T Johnstone (83-88)



Neil and his wife Hayley would like to announce the arrival of their new son, Calum Matthew Johnstone on 21 July 2014 at Wellington Hospital, New Zealand. Calum weighed in at 6lbs 14oz and his big sister Cara is delighted at the arrival of her new playmate!

Fergus E H Dick (87-93)



Fergus and Heather would like to announce the birth of their son Fraser Elliott Alexander Dick, born on 8 March 2014 at Edinburgh

Royal Infirmary Hospital. Weighing in at a whopping 11lbs 4oz, he is a much-loved little brother to his big sister Elodie.

Daniel P Barry (94-99)

Daniel and Anna Barry are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Archibald John Angus Barry (Archie), born on the 5 January 2014 weighing 10 lbs. A baby brother for Clare, 6, Sophie, 5, George, 3 and Lizzie, 1.

Andrew C Buchan (97- 02)

Andrew and Katherine would like to announce the birth of Elizabeth Sarah Buchan on 5 June 2014.

Congratulations

The Reverend Professor N W Drummond (Norman) (65-70)

In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, the former Queen's Chaplain and Founder of Chairman of Columba 1400 was awarded a CBE. This was for public and voluntary service, particularly to young people.

Major General R T I Munro (Ranald) (73-78)

Ranald is in The Parachute Regiment Army Reserve and has been awarded an OBE, also from the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Professor Aziz Sheikh

Father of Aadam (05- 13) and Zakariya Sheikh (08-18), has received an OBE for services to Medicine.

Mark Mallalieu

Father of Richard Mallalieu (03-05), has received a CBE for services to International Development.

Graduations

Cameron John Boyd Johnston (01-06)

BA in Planning and Property Development from Oxford Brookes University with a 2:1.

Patrick Henry Costello (01-09)

Joint honours from the University of Glasgow, where he studied History and Russian Language.

Hamish Alexander Pollock Fraser (02-07)

1:1 from the University of Bristol in Civil Engineering.

Duncan Robert Nicholls (02-10)

BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from Lancaster University with a 2:1.

Hector Anthony Lachlan Pollock Fraser (02-11)

2:1 in Ancient History from the University of Bristol.

Simon Ben March (05-09)

MSc in Construction Management from Northumbria University.

Nicholas David Milne Watt (05-09)

BSc (Hons) in Geography from Abertay University.

Marinus Sloan Maris (05-10)

2:1 in Politics from the University of York. Marinus has now commenced work with CEB, an international consultancy company based in the City of London. He has also been awarded Graduate of the Year.

Gavin John Deas (05-11)

BSc (Hons) in Medicine from the University of Cambridge with a 2:1.

Mark William Jackson (06-10)

MA in Economics from the University of Glasgow.

Roy Wu (08-10)

1:1 in Mathematics from the University of Oxford.

Sam Robert O'Riordan (08-11)

BSc in Criminology & Sociology from Northumbria University.

Marriages

Nick Bevens (76-80)

Nick married Shenzhi Su, of Wohan, at Lothian Chambers on 25 January 2014. The best man was Craig Swan (76-81) and the Master of Ceremonies was Stuart Riddell (76-81).

Thomas S Handley (03-08)



Tom married Kristen Sondej on 12 October 2013.

Mark D McFarlane (90-97)

Mark married Kate Geraghty on 29 November 2013.

Obituaries

Ronald K Will (30-35)



Ronnie Will was one of the most distinguished lawyers of his generation. His early days were spent in Dumfriesshire, his father being a Writer to the Signet in Dumfries. He was educated at Merchiston Castle School which, incidentally, he was later to serve for twenty years as a Governor. Before he could embark upon a career, war broke out and he joined up, being commissioned in the King's Own Scottish Borderers with whom he saw action at Dunkirk. Having passed Staff College he became a Major in a deception unit called 'R Force', for which he was mentioned in despatches and ended the war at Headquarters in Berlin.

So it was that in 1945 he began his legal career. Attending the University of Edinburgh, he qualified as a solicitor in record time in 1947, proving himself a student of such distinction that he was invited to undertake teaching for the university and for the Law Society. The high standing with which he was regarded in the profession was marked in 1975, when he was appointed Deputy Keeper of Her Majesty's

Signet, whose office he held until 1983 when he retired from practice.

These days, in the larger legal practices, partners really have to specialise in some particular aspect of the law, but one of his colleagues has testified that Ronnie was capable of covering the broad spectrum of legal work, from acting for major insurance companies and banks to being the family lawyer for clients who included farmers, estate owners and many leading Scottish families.

In 1953, Ronnie married Joyce Stevenson (of the family of the lighthouse builders and R.L.S) and 61 years of happy, married life began. They had two sons (one of whom was to become the fifth generation of practising solicitors). A man of many interests, he knew and loved the hills of Scotland, was a keen gardener and enjoyed fishing and shooting. Yet, notwithstanding all these interests and his professional activities and directorships, for him family was all. Although in his latter years deafness and mobility problems were a real handicap, he took the greatest interest in his family and five grandchildren. In his late eighties, his life was transformed by the gift of an iPad. Even at this advanced age, he mastered all its intricacies and with great enthusiasm began what was to prove to be an enormous collection of photographs and a tidal wave of e-mails to and from his grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He had only one problem with his iPad, which was remembering passwords. This he solved ingeniously, with one password for all of his activities; namely, 'amnesia'.

This great and charming man, who contributed so much to the law, indeed to Scotland, was thoughtful enough to leave what he called 'Funeral Contemplations'. These included this passage: *'My only message is one of*

profound gratitude - especially to my family - for such a long and lucky innings from a rather dodgy start in the days of Dunkirk to a preposterous old age'. (Abridged)

Dr Walter 'Wattie' Yellowlees (31-36)



A doctor who helped lead the campaign to prevent the addition of fluoride to drinking water, and who was an early advocate of healthy eating, has died at the age of 97.

Walter Yellowlees, known as Wattie, was a pioneer in the now popular "five-a-day" approach to nutrition.

One of three brothers, he was born in Stirling in 1917, arriving in the world just weeks after his namesake uncle, Walter Primrose, was killed in action in the First World War. Mr Yellowlees was educated at Merchiston Castle School, where he was School Captain. He graduated from Edinburgh University in Medicine in 1941.

His first professional appointment was as a house surgeon at Stirling Royal Infirmary. But the war was to change his life and he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1942. On June 7, 1944, with the 5th Battalion of the Cameron

Highlanders, he landed in Normandy. A week later, at the battle of Sainte Honorine, he was awarded the Military Cross for his outstanding bravery, tending the wounded under heavy fire. Private George Sands also received the Military Cross for his actions that day.

He said: *"I think he [Mr Yellowlees] was probably the bravest man I ever met. At least when you carry a weapon you have the feeling that you can protect yourself, even if it is a somewhat misguided thought. All that Wattie had to hide behind was a small Red Cross on his medical satchel."* Wattie's own Military Cross certificate records that he was the last man to leave the battlefield.

After the war he decided to go into general practice and remained as a family doctor for 33 years until his retirement in 1981. He was great believer in preventative medicine, encouraging his patients to exercise and take up eating habits now enshrined in the five-a-day

campaign. In advocating the prevention of illness through exercise and sound nutrition, he devoted his energy to promoting to his patients the value of eating fruit and vegetables, reducing their sugar intake, choosing wholemeal bread instead of white, and butter instead of margarine.

He married Sonia Doggart in 1950 and together they had three children — Robin, Mike and Jane. Sonia died in 2003. Among Mr Yellowlees' other achievements were the establishment of the Robert McCarrison Society and the Royal College of General Practitioners. He is survived by his children and five grandchildren — Catherine, Michael, Jamie, Kate and Kirsty. His funeral was held in Aberlady. (Abridged)

Robert B Legget (32-35)

There are two thoughts which I have about my father; one is the word '*Murrayfield*' and the other is that he was - in his own words - '*very lucky*'.

Why Murrayfield? Well, he was brought up with his sister, Christine, at 1 Abinger Gardens and, from 1932, at 10 Succouth Avenue in Murrayfield. His wife-to-be, Wilma, lived at 45 Murrayfield Gardens, now the manse. He married in Murrayfield in 1948; he also brought up his four children from 1960 at Succouth in Murrayfield. He avidly supported the Scottish Rugby team, with regular attendance from 1926 to 1984, at Murrayfield. His daughters Jane, Sheila and Catherine were initially educated at St. George's, Murrayfield, with Sheila and Catherine marrying here in Murrayfield, too. He played golf, worshipped and died here in Murrayfield.

This quintessential Murrayfield Man would often say that he was extremely lucky in his life. I will try and explain why, through describing his education, his professional life, his activities and friendships, the War and, lastly, his wife and family.

Not many people enjoyed their time at School as much as Robert did. He went to Merchiston Castle School from Warriston, Moffat in 1932 and was there until 1935. It helped him develop

his musical talent as a pianist and organist, a talent which skipped a generation but has been fulfilled through his granddaughter, Katie. He did well academically, specialising in ancient classical and modern languages. All three of his daughters studied languages at university. He was considered to be Oxbridge material and was particularly pleased when Jane did a post-grad in Anthropology at Oxford back in 1977 and Katie attended as an undergraduate in 2004.

He also enjoyed playing cricket at School as wicket-keeper, being known as 'Fingers' Legget. He was very pleased when three of his grandsons: Michael, Charles and Peter followed his footsteps, both to the School and on to the cricket pitch.

Robert's third piece of luck was the great variety of friends he made from his many interests and activities. He was a keen skier before, during and after the War and he was Treasurer of the Scottish Ski Club from 1975-78. He was particularly proud of Catherine when she was selected for the British team for the 1976 Winter Olympics and when she won the British Ladies on two occasions. Catherine's three children Hamish, Heather and Susie have all inherited Father's ability in winter sports.

Father was an elder and secretary at St. George's West Church when Ewen Murdo McDonald was in his pomp. He reverted to Murrayfield where he received a warm welcome. He made many friends in the farming community through the wool merchandising business, the Royal Highland Show, etc., and was so pleased when Sheila married Richard, a farmer. Father enjoyed looking after their farm when they were away. John, his grandson, is now a farmer too.

Father was lucky to survive the War. He joined up on the day it was declared - 3 September 1939 - and was with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, part of the Jocks. Based in Dunbar, he trained in the Lammermuirs and then moved to Dulnain Bridge, where he had responsibility for running ski training camps on his beloved Cairngorm.

The Jocks participated in the amphibious landing of the Causeway at Walcheren on the

Scheldt, 1 November 1944. Father was a Company Commander in a landing craft. He once told me, after we'd watched Saving Private Ryan on TV, that he lost 50% of his men in the first ten minutes. Just before the crossing of the Rhine on 15 March 1945, he was caught with two colleagues on open ground. Taking cover in a tank track, his ankle was hit by shrapnel. The other two were killed instantly, one of them a Merchristonian. He would often say, with real feeling: "Beware the Ides of March." That was the end of his War and he had many recollections, which were reinforced when he returned to Holland 50 years later in 1994, when he met Queen Beatrix.

His greatest luck, of course, was his family who loved him dearly and he loved them back. He took great joy in what his children did, followed their progress in detail; the same with his eight grandchildren. A very good friend of mine described him as a kind, polite gentleman who had a smile for everybody. We all respected him.

Father's long relationship with Mother was the making of him. He first saw my mother as a small boy; he had climbed a tree when a small, dark-haired girl in a blue school uniform ran past. He remembered that moment so well and could recount it in detail. I calculate that he was in love with Mother for 90% of his life; they were married for over 65 years and were a tremendous team. Father's calm approach contrasted with Mother's inexhaustible activity and sociability. They kept each other going. Mother was a superb carer in the last few years when his health deteriorated and, only in recent months, with the support of the good people of Lyndoch Care. Some would say that his luck ran out on 8 October but I am sure he would, very respectfully of course, beg to differ.

We are now all part of the legacy of the Lucky Legget of Murrayfield. (Abridged)

Eulogy by son Rob Legget.

Bonar G Hardie (39-43)

Born in Glasgow, Bonar moved out with his parents to Milton during the War years (near

Dumbuck, overlooking the Clyde) and then on to Helensburgh. He was educated at Kelvinside before moving on to Merchiston. After School, Bonar joined the Navy and was trained to become an Aircraft Engineer Officer.

After marrying Sheina Stevenson on 26 June 1951, they had three children: Graeme, Anne and Catherine. They commenced married life living in Glasgow, but moved to Loch Lomond in 1965, where they lived in Auchendennan. They eventually moved out to Killearn in 1993.

Bonar represented Great Britain at the age of 23 in the 1948 Olympics, sailing 'Johan' in the Mixed 6 Metres event and attained 5th place.

During his active life, he greatly enjoyed sailing, shooting, stalking and fishing, spending many hours fly fishing for salmon on many great Scottish rivers, but the River Spey in particular. (Abridged)

C Douglas N Nicol (40-44)

Died peacefully at home on 25 March 2014. Beloved husband of Margaret, father to Fiona, Jeremy, Hugh and Cate and loving grandfather.

Gordon J Killin (43-47)

Died peacefully at Mearns Kirk Hospital on 14 June 2012. Gordon, husband of Margaret, father of Gillian and David (71-74) and grandfather to Holly and Jamie.

John G E Clark (43-48)

John Clark sadly passed away on Saturday 16 August 2014 from Parkinson's Disease. A learned man, he went on to study Music at Oxford University and he will be sorely missed.

George Roberts (45-48)

Died peacefully, at Adamson Hospital, after a long illness bravely borne. George, aged 82, of Cupar and formerly Hillcarnie, was the beloved husband of Grace, much-loved Dad of Gwen and Stewart, caring father-in-law to Andrew and Elaine, loving grandpa to Kirsty, Craig, Isla and Samantha, and a dear brother-in-law and uncle.

W Alastair MacDougall (47-50)

Our darling Dad passed away on 17 August 2012 after a long and brave struggle with cancer. He would have been 80 years old on Christmas Day that year. Dad loved his Merchiston days and talked about them all the time. He played rugby for the School and was a keen marksman. I believe he shot for both Merchiston and for Scotland at Bisley. He continued to be a keen marksman, fisher and stalker throughout his life.

He lived a very full life, leaving School in Edinburgh to do his National Service, which he served in Egypt. On his return, he went to work alongside his father and mother in the MacDougall's Hotel in Church Street, Inverness. He was a more than competent chef and did his training at Gleneagles Hotel amongst others. Dad married my Mum, Mairi, in 1957 and they went on to have twin girls (myself and my sister Anne) followed by a third daughter, Alyson, a year or two later. The astonishing turnout at his funeral in Inverness was both moving and a testament to his standing in society. We miss his boundless knowledge - he would have been the man to have on any quiz team - and his amazing kindness and humour. *Written by his daughter, Maureen MacDougall, May 2014.*

Dr Ian G Chisholm (48-53)

Died very peacefully after a long illness on 31 October 2014, aged 79 in Deal Hospital. Much loved husband of Beryl and father to Simon and David and grandfather to Rory, Catherine, Ella and James.

David Rainy Brown (49-54)

There was a large turnout of the Borders' farming, horse-racing and dog-breeding fraternity at the funeral in Kelso of David Rainy-Brown. Mr Rainy-Brown - known as Rainy - was an acknowledged expert on the Aberdeen Angus breed of cattle, an international judge and breeder of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

and an enthusiast and knowledgeable supporter of the Berwickshire Hunt, as well as mentor to generations of Border farmers on the nutrition of livestock.

As an adopted Borderer, he absorbed himself in Border life and culture after settling in Kelso in 1962 and, in conjunction with the late Tom Brewis of Eastfield of Lempitlaw, Kelso, was instrumental in the formation in 1968 of the Border Aberdeen Angus Club - the first regional Aberdeen Angus club to be formed - which he served with distinction as secretary for 40 years and later became chairman. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Aberdeen Angus breed and was a kenspeckle figure at the Perth (now Stirling) bull sales which, until his recent illness, he never missed. His advice on breeding matters and pedigrees was much sought after by breeders throughout the country who valued his deep knowledge of the breed.

Although born in Hertfordshire, where his father managed a subsidiary of the family's pharmaceutical business, J F Macfarlane, Rainy spent part of his childhood during the Second World War on his grandfather's farm on Speyside which sparked his interest in the Aberdeen Angus breed.

He won a scholarship to Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh where he excelled in athletics, being a mile runner of some distinction. After two years of National Service in the Royal Artillery, he won a place at Christ's College, Cambridge - his father's old college - where he gained an Honours Degree in Natural Sciences. Following a short spell with ICI, he joined the animal feed business of John Hogarth, Kelso Mills, where he was to remain until retiring in the mid-1990s.

He was a stalwart of the Borders point-to-point scene as one-time chairman of the Berwickshire Hunt Supporters Club and treasurer of the point-to-point at Friarshaugh. He attended meetings far and wide and became an acknowledged form guide expert for the local courses.

Although unmarried, he was at heart a family man and took his responsibilities as the eldest of five brothers very seriously, including a keen interest in the activities of his nieces and nephews.

Rainy was predeceased by two of his brothers, Edward, who was chief executive of NFU Scotland at the time of his death ten years ago, and James, who died only recently after a distinguished career as a teacher at Merchiston, and is survived by John and Nicol. Rainy considered himself lucky to have found his niche in the Borders but, in a fitting eulogy at his funeral, his long-term friend, Robert Dick, of Otterburn Farm, Kelso, put it another way: *"How lucky we all were that Rainy settled in the Borders."* (Abridged)

James F Stirling (50-54)

James, husband of Patricia, died on 5 November 2013, aged 76. He was in hospital recovering well after suffering a stroke, but had a sudden heart attack. He resided in Cambuslang, Glasgow.

Peter J A Duncan (53-58)

Peter resided in Dollar and died peacefully at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on 6 November 2013 after a long illness. Husband of Margaret, father to Keith and Eric and son of Reverend J H Duncan (22-25) and a good friend to many.

William A Macgregor (53-58)

At Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, on Saturday 12 September 2014 William A. Macgregor CBE passed away. Beloved husband of Lindsay (née Henry) and much-loved father of James, Scott and Jill, father-in-law of Wilma, Pippa and Matt, dearest Grandpa to his six grandchildren. Private family funeral at his own request. William's working life was with the Department of Agriculture (now DEFRA) and he was based in Orkney, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and then back to Edinburgh, but he chose to live in St. Andrews latterly. Willie still played rugby long after he should have stopped and enjoyed golf and cycling. *Written by his wife, Lindsay Macgregor.*

Alastair G Pullar (54-59)

Cruelly, after a short illness at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on Friday 5 September 2014, Alastair Gordon aged 73 years. Adored husband of Rhoda, beloved Dad, Grandad, brother, cousin, uncle, friend and teacher. He will be sorely missed.

Colin D MacLean (56-59)

Colin D MacLean sadly passed away this 26 April 2014 at the age of 70. Colin farmed at Easter Ardross, Ross-shire, before moving to the Borders in 1987 to farm at Hutton Hill Barns, Berwickshire. He bravely fought a tumour and died with dignity.

W Peter C Milne (57-61)

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, on 4 June 1943 was William Peter Cameron Milne, known as Peter or, to me, Dad. He was the youngest son of William Alexander Pyper and May Mclean Milne.

In 1947, at the age of four, he attended Belmont Preparatory School before joining Merchiston Castle School in 1957. Dad had already discovered at Belmont what became a lifelong passion for rugby and, speaking as a third generation Merchistonian, I know he could not have been in a better place for that. Dad played and watched sport at every opportunity available, and his love of sport never faded throughout the years.

In 1962 he pursued another of his passions, farming, and studied Agriculture at Glasgow College before his muddling years, during which he played rugby for Wigtownshire and the West of Scotland. He then took off on his travels to farm the land in New Zealand, until he returned home in 1970 to join the Iceman of Glasgow - his father - in the family business: Milne Cold Stores. Soon after his return home, he met and fell head over heels in love with Sheila, my mother, and they became husband and wife the following year in 1971. Andrew, the eldest of four children, was born in 1972, followed in quick succession by Jamie, Katie and myself.

I have too many fond memories of Dad growing up to tell them all, but the ones that stick out for me are the fun times we shared as a family in Menorca over the years; playing golf with him at Prestwick and messing around at West Rugby Club after a Saturday game. Dad never missed an opportunity to watch my brothers, sister and I play sport. Come rain or shine, no matter the distance, he would be there to support us with a smile on his face and a pipe in his hand.

Dad didn't care too much for rules and, no sooner had three-wheeled Honda's been banned from production and public use, had he raced down to the fairground to buy two of them for us to hare about the farm on. To Mum's delight, after the bikes came a used postman's van. Freshly painted by my brother Andrew, he raced off down our private country road. However, on this day, proud to show off his handiwork, Andrew decided to venture a little further than the farm's boundaries and wound up with a few slightly disgruntled neighbours calling the authorities, having seen a beaten-up old postie's van with a dubious paint job flying up and down the country lanes. It wasn't long before the police constable turned up; he'd had no trouble identifying the culprit from the trail of blue paint covering the roads and hedges, leading him directly to our front door. Dad greeted him with a warm smile and a firm handshake. Before long, he'd charmed him into the house for a beer or two and my brother's antics were all but forgotten.

It was a bitterly cold Scottish morning in the carpark of Murrayfield Stadium - England vs. Scotland with the Triple Crown at stake, 17 March 1990 - where I remember him best. Dad handed me his hipflask and said, "Get this down you, laddie, it'll warm you up and put hairs on your chest." I was 12 years old. I'm sure I don't need to tell you the final score of that game but needless to say, it was a good day for us both.

Dad spent much of his later years devoting his time to charitable causes. He spent three years delivering humanitarian aid, negotiating

borders and dodging bullets for the United Nations and Médecins Sans Frontières during the Bosnian War. Always wearing his kilt and willing to drink the local home-brewed plum brandy, slivovitz, much to the amusement of the locals and handing out Scottish thistle badges along the way.

He raised funds for the Sue Ryder Foundation for a number of years after that and spent many years volunteering on the Marchmont Estate, keeping the residents entertained with his stories.

Dad quietly passed his latter years in the Borders and was an enthusiastic and energetic member of the Church of Scotland. He was happy in his wee cottage on Margaret and Davie's farm and was lucky to have them as friends and neighbours, letting him join in on the farm when the harvest came round.

He was full of life, immensely likeable with a fantastic sense of humour. He was a proud Scotsman and would wear his kilt at every opportunity; a great storyteller and a generous, kind-hearted man. He would always be first to the bar to get a round in and last to leave at the end of the night - or, more often than not, the wee hours of the morning. Dad would give his last penny to help a friend and never missed a birthday. Unlike my father, I am not a great storyteller, so I've taken inspiration from his eldest grandchild, Tabitha Milne, to finish off today. I will read you Tabitha's note of thanks to her grandfather, which I think says it all.

"Dear Papa,

Thank you very much for the birthday cards and everything you've done, like the family tree thing, I still have it. Also thank you for the book, The Wilderness Family, I am looking forward to reading it. Also the necklace you got me from South Africa I've still got it from when I was 7. Thank you for being a great grandfather. I love you so much, even though your car smelt of pipes and smoke (no offence!). Thank you and I love you, sleep well and peacefully. Lots of love,
Tabitha"

From the eulogy of his son, Richard Peter Milne (88-95). (Abridged)

James Sharp (61-65)

Born and brought up on the family farm of Longcroft, Lauder, James, or Jim as he was more generally known, excelled in a number of fields. He was a first class stockman. He was an effective, albeit quietly spoken, farming politician and in his early days especially, he was a top-class sportsman.

His father Willie had a great reputation for producing top quality Blackface sheep at Longcroft, and Jim was from an early age interested and involved in this aspect of farming. The long-serving farm shepherd, Jimmy Lothian, who was a great influence on the young man, soon recognised Jim's abilities as a "kenner" of sheep. For those who only see flocks of sheep, a "kenner" is someone who sees the pluses and minuses of individual sheep, a gift and skill given to only a few.

But before he could get home to work on the farm, Jim had to go through his education. His first school was at Cleekim Inn at the bottom of the road leading up to Longcroft. He then went on to St Mary's in Melrose before heading off to Merchiston in Edinburgh. It was there that his sporting prowess emerged. While academically he did very well, his reputation was built on the playing fields. He excelled at rugby, captaining the 1XV before going on to play for Scottish Schoolboys in their annual fixture against the English schools in 1965/66. His range of sporting interests and ability extended beyond the rugby pitch. He also excelled at swimming and golf, representing the School in both sports. His interest in swimming was to resurface later in life when he and his wife went on a number of holidays where they went deep sea diving together.

A degree was very easily within his reach but for Jim it would have meant an extra year before he could return home to farm and that was not an option he considered. His father's failing health meant Jim was quickly thrust into managing the business and he quickly earned huge respect within the farming industry as a wise head on young shoulders.

He had inherited a farm with a reputation for producing top quality cattle and sheep, and he built on that with Longcroft Blackies selling at top prices at all the breed sales.

His return home allowed him to resume his interest in rugby, where he played in the back row for Melrose. In total, he played for 11 seasons in 208 games, although, as his friend Ron Wilson remarked in his eulogy, Jim only finished 206 games as he was sent off twice - once playing against Trinity Accies for an unknown misdemeanour and then against Newcastle Northern at the Greenyards for felling their scrum-half who had been niggling him throughout the game.

One sport in which he did not have a natural ability was ice-skating, but on one occasion his attempts to keep upright on the ice at Kelso rink were helped by a young lady, Obie Burgon. This unpromising start had a very happy ending as they married in 1969 and moved into Newbigging Walls which had just been bought.

His abilities were soon recognised in farming politics and he moved swiftly up the National Farmers Union of Scotland hierarchy. After chairing the local branch and area, in 1984 he was elected as convener of the Livestock Committee, one of the most influential committees of the Union. He also earned a reputation as a valuer, where his advice and judgements were much sought-after.

With his partner in life, Obie, he had a daughter, Jacqui and son, Liam. Both offspring pursued professional work away from the farm, Jacqui doing Business Studies before marrying a farmer and Liam as a vet. But much to their grandparents' delight and pride, their four grandchildren all showed in the sheep classes and took part in the Young Handlers competitions at the Border Union Show and Peebles Show last year.

William Edward Mitchell-Smith (67-70)

Died 8 June 2012 after a long illness.

Squadron Leader John Dunlop (teacher 68-92)

Growing up in London during the Second World War, it was perhaps not surprising that John Dunlop developed a keen sense of history. His education at University College School precisely spanned the war years 1939-1945 when the capital was bombarded by the Luftwaffe, leaving more than a million homes damaged and 80,000 Londoners dead.

Unlike many other youngsters, who were evacuated to safer areas, he remained in the city throughout the conflict, experiencing the harrowing era first-hand. Perhaps because of this, and his passion for history, he decided on a career in the RAF. After rising to the rank of Squadron Leader as an education officer, he returned to civvy street and a post at the prestigious Edinburgh boys' school Merchiston Castle, where he became the respected Head of History and Economics, school librarian, archivist and cricket coach.

The eldest son of Hugh Dunlop, a consultant physician at London's Charing Cross Hospital, he was born in Croydon and developed a talent for cricket at University College School, where he took his best ever bowling figures - 9 for 27. He went up to Oxford to read history and, after graduating, worked in the long-established booksellers Trustlove & Hanson for a couple of years.

Then, determined to join the RAF, he signed up in 1952 as an education officer. The following year, he married St Bart's Hospital nursing sister Marjorie Mirams, whom he had met when he arrived early at her house to escort her sister to a party. The pair hit it off as he waited for her sister and the couple married at Hammersmith in July 1953. Their son Hugh arrived in 1954. The itinerant nature of his air force service saw the family posted to at least seven RAF stations across the UK, including Kinloss in Moray, Driffield in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Cosford in Shropshire and Hednesford in Staffordshire. In 1961-1962, he also spent a

solo posting on Christmas Island which, a few years earlier, had been the base for British nuclear weapons testing. On retiring from the RAF in 1968, he immediately found a new post as assistant master at Merchiston Castle School in Colinton. The move gave the family a permanent base, a home in nearby Elliot Park, and he enjoyed a settled working life for the next 24 years.

In retirement, he cared patiently for his wife when her health deteriorated and was widowed, after 52 years of marriage, in 2005. A man of quiet faith and loyal friendship, always dedicated to what he believed was right, he retained a belief that life was to be lived to the full, to Christian principles and with an appreciation of the good things he had been given. He is survived by his son Hugh and grandchildren Julia and James.

John H Tennent (71-76)

Born in Edinburgh, died in Cape Town, South Africa, suddenly on 5 June 2014. Beloved husband of Ruth, loving and proud father of James and Kathryn, brother of Robin Tennent.

Scott G Watson (74-78)

Died on Friday 30 May at the age of 53.

Chris A K Johnston (teacher 74-99)

Merchistonians will learn with sadness of the recent death of Chris Johnston. Appointed to Merchiston as the Director of Art in 1974, Chris ran the Art, Design & Technology department for 25 years. He saw a new Art & Design Centre inaugurated in 1975, the original 'Art Room' having been upstairs in Gibson House. Chris brought to the job experiences gleaned from an earlier career at Rolls Royce – although it was cars of a different marque (both a Mini and a Metro) in varying stages of dismemberment or repair that some will recall occupying space in the teaching area! With his 'wild man' demeanour and polite, roguish charm, Chris was a committed member of the Common Room, working long hours to make the teaching facilities available

to his pupils outside the standard timetable. He saw the initiation and integration of early 'CAD' software into the teaching of Design, developing a small suite of Acorn 'Archimedes' computers in the department. He also ran a REME section as a Lieutenant in the CCF for ten years.

Chris lived close to the School and was often met in the evening exercising his black labradors in the Dell and around Back Field, enjoying a 'ciggie' and doubtless returning home to a well-

earned malt whisky and the family he doted on.
Written by Dr Tim Lawson, August 2013.

Where available, the extended obituaries are published on the Merchistonian Club website (www.merchistonians.co.uk). Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included within the obituaries is accurate and we are grateful to the Merchistonian community for sending in newspaper clippings and published articles for this section.

MERCHISTON STORY IN THE MAKING



Listen to some of our pupils talk about their
Merchiston journey www.merchiston.co.uk
A Boarding and Day School for Boys aged 7-18

**Tours and Taster Visits available all year: opportunities for you,
and your son or grandson to experience the modern Merchiston.**

Applications for means-tested financial assistance welcome

Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road,
Edinburgh, EH13 0PU, Scotland Tel. 0131 312 2200.
Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity, number SC016580

www.merchiston.co.uk

MERCHISTON
EDINBURGH | Boys first



London calling

Merchistonian John Moar (41-45) describes just missing WW2 as a teenager and life thereafter in the Big Smoke.

My sisters and I were all sent off to boarding school so that we weren't with our father, as he wasn't well enough and needed the peace and quiet. My father had volunteered for the City of London Royal Fusiliers; one of the first sixty to do so. A month later, there were 200 men who had signed up. He was at the Battle of the Somme when he was gassed – he was seriously ill after he that and was discharged in 1919.

My brother was four years older than me, so he went into the London Scottish Army, which was then the 51st Highland. My twin sisters both worked at a domestic school in Scotland and myself, having left MacLaren High in Calandar, was told by my mother that she thought I should go to Merchiston Castle School. How she got me in, I don't know. We were a poor family and I know they looked upon me as being a poor little soul. Yet I can remember walking up that long drive up to the front of the School with my mother. We went up and saw the Headmaster, CH Evans.

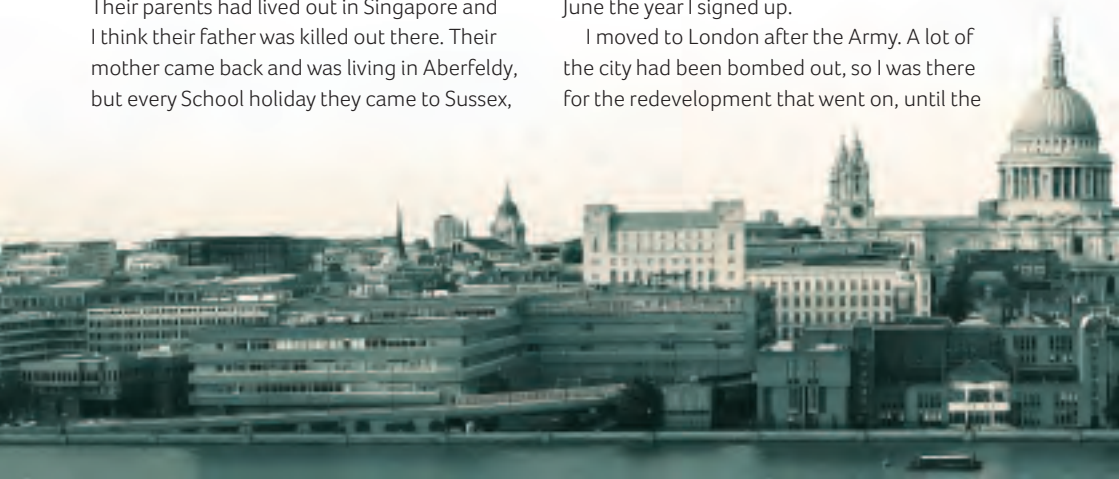
Evans was a lovely chap. He shook hands with both of us and introduced us to two boys who I already knew well – Hugh and Ian Leslie. Their parents had lived out in Singapore and I think their father was killed out there. Their mother came back and was living in Aberfeldy, but every School holiday they came to Sussex,

to our poultry farm, and spent their holidays with us. It was a lovely introduction to Merchiston.

I think I was one of the first day boys; there were only 3 or 4 of us who were in 1941. I was actually regarded as one of the 'smart' ones, as my mother pressed creases into my uniform trousers and shined my shoes. Little did they know! I think I was a complete dud at School otherwise; useless! But just being at Merchiston gave me confidence.

I left Merchiston in February 1945. I was still at School, about to leave, when I received a letter from the Ministry telling me I had been called up for the War and that I needed to make my way to Fort George on 15th of that month. Just ten days after I had turned 18! I went into the Army thinking I knew it all, but I came out alright and it made a man out of me. I was put into the Royal Engineers and they sent me out to Italy, where I had a marvellous couple of years putting up Bainbridge Panels over rivers and building Nissen huts for the RAF. We lived a lovely life! We even had a bed. I didn't see active service; the War was over in Europe in June the year I signed up.

I moved to London after the Army. A lot of the city had been bombed out, so I was there for the redevelopment that went on, until the



30th building when I moved to Land Securities. I was there for 20-odd years; I ended up retiring early because I'd lived too long with smoke. I worked with a chap who smoked 100 cigarettes a day – when I left he was still smoking about 50 French Gauloises. Every morning, from about 8am until 10.30am, myself and the other Directors would go through all of that day's post. Every letter. That way, we'd know exactly what was going on in the company. Within a couple of hours of course, this chap had gone through about 15 cigarettes whilst I was sitting next to him. The smoke did more damage to my lungs than to him, as he at least had a filter! Before I retired I went for a medical check-up; the doctor asked if I was a heavy smoker. I told him I'd never smoked in my life! I retired early after that and I don't regret it.

I think I was born at the right time, I got a job at the right time and I'll probably snuff it at the right time, too. It seems very difficult for youngsters now. Reading the papers every day, I've come to the conclusion that for youngsters who are looking for a job, you have to have a good CV. Everything's about a good CV. The real answer is not to put an enormous one in, but to make it succinct and put in a covering letter. Make sure you know something about the company and that you've done your homework. That will stand you in good stead. I know it's a hell of a job to even get a deposit for a house these days, so people end up relying on their parents and grandparents. Once you've got that, you're alright; you have your job, you have your own house. Then you can look forward to the big moment of paying the mortgage off. Your own certificate!

Family is the most important thing. I didn't really know my father; he was ill or abroad – usually in a hospital somewhere – and then we were sent off to boarding school to keep away from him. I missed out on a lot and I'm sad about that. At the moment, I'm in the middle of writing my family history. I think everybody should do it! Mine's in quite some detail, but I think it's important for our sons, daughters and grandchildren that we do it. They always want to know when it's too late. My brother never told us anything that happened during the War and he was a sniper for quite a lot of the time. He went through all of those battles and came out alive. Yet he died soon after the War, in Rhodesia in a car accident. You think to yourself, *'it's not fair'*. But we've all got stories like that.

I know my limitations, so I never thought I would make a career out of it. But it's thanks to Merchiston and the training you automatically get, where you learn basic skills like knowing how to be polite, to look properly dressed and to speak and write properly. It's all stood me in good stead. Mr Evans actually wrote me a little letter when I left – I still have it. *'I knew John would be called up very soon, but I didn't realise it would be as quick as that. I wish him every success. It's just a pity he wasn't very good at maths...'* Little did he know!





Goodness gracious, Gilson Gray!

Matt Gray (79-85) has founded a new, full-service law firm and in the process has taken on Oli Green (99-07) and Ricky Cowan (81-88). We got them to talk about their experiences, both of Merchiston and the new business.

Matthew, Managing Director of Property Services

I didn't set out with the view that I would try and employ as many Merchistonians as possible! However, I do appreciate the qualities

learnt at the School which translate into the world of business and are incredibly invaluable to Gilson Gray.

Having worked within a number of property, financial and legal businesses over the years,

Glen Gilson and I decided it was time to bring our wealth of entrepreneurial experience and expertise together with the creation of our new business. We're a full-service law firm with offices now in Edinburgh and Glasgow; we sought to bring together some like-minded individuals to bring in a fresh approach.

I have continued links with Merchiston as Vice President to The Merchistonian Club, as well as being a keen rugby supporter and a father to a current pupil. My son Toby is in Pringle House at the start of his journey through the School after three years in the Pringle Centre. He is enjoying all aspects of life at Merchiston; he's actively involved in choir, rugby, cricket and even prep! Fortunately, unlike his father, he did not receive four sides of blue paper on his first day.

I am in constant touch with Merchistonians, giving me access to a superb range of outstanding individuals. Each of the Merchistonians currently at Gilson Gray bring a specific skill set into the business although, most importantly, they combine a drive for success with a blend of hard work, respect, determination and pride in all that we do. I believe that these are just some of the values inherited from attending the School, along with the ability to operate positively within a team environment.

I was recently appointed as the Regional Executive for the National Association of Estate Agents for Scotland, working on the UK Board which oversees the roll-out of legislation and the improvement in the quality of residential selling across the country.

As Gilson Gray continues to grow, we are keen to embrace the ever-evolving commercial, economic and legal landscape. This means growing through developing our own people, mergers and acquisitions, whilst also positioning the firm to capitalise on the roll-out of alternative business structures. As a business, we are looking for clients to feel that they can approach any aspect of our company and experience a unique level of high-quality

advice. It is important to us that they feel we are their trusted advisors, leading them across the stepping stones of life.

In my spare time, I have a passion for sport and travel, although I'm certainly a 'hands-on' operator, specialising in honest valuation advice whilst creating robust strategies for each individual property I visit. I'm delighted to have recently recruited our first trainees, following their summer work placements with us. As we move forward, I am very keen on attracting talent and I wish to work with ambitious individuals who have passion for people.

We're delighted to speak to any Merchistonian who might wish to learn more about our business and enjoy some holiday work experience. As part of our business strategy, we are happy to attract experienced professionals to any aspect of Gilson Gray, whether it be legal, property or financial; we'd be glad to receive either direct contact or CVs. Email info@gilsongray.co.uk





Oli, Executive Assistant

I was invited to join the firm through Matthew as we worked together on the early stages of the Merchistonian Rugby Football Club revival. I'm the Rugby Secretary, as well as a current member of the Merchistonian Club Committee. When the opportunity arose at Gilson Gray, I jumped at the chance to join a new firm; with the experience which Matthew and Glen had already recruited, I knew it would be a sensible and worthwhile decision.

After leaving Merchiston, sometimes it can be difficult if you don't want to go to university, or if you're not ready. However, I'd had responsibility at School through the Pipe Band and CCF, which helped prepare me for the responsibilities of a working life outside of School. It meant I could be confident when reinstating one of the oldest rugby fixtures in the world: MRFC vs. Edinburgh Academicals.

At the moment, I'm responsible for the data collation and co-ordination of our property and firm management systems, whilst also building up our social media profile. I'm currently still the rookie here, but I hope that my role within the company grows as the firm expands. Who knows what I could be doing in five years' time!

Ricky, Business Development Director

I was very fortunate to meet Matthew and Glen at the start of this exciting venture. Listening to their enthusiasm as they talked about changing the nature of the legal fraternity and how business development was key to their success, I was really interested to come on board. I was confident I could assist them with strategically aligning the firm with the business and personal contacts which I have made over the years.

My job is to forge relationships with both private and commercial clients, acting to introduce Gilson Gray's capabilities across the length and breadth of Scotland.

School was so long ago; I don't think I can remember that far back! But I remember doing a work placement for a surveyor in Edinburgh, which gave me some grounding. I feel that this sort of joint approach with business and School leavers is something which should be common practice going forward. Happily, I still have ties with the School through the Golf Club with my two brothers, Chris (79-85) and Dougie (84-91), who helped to win the Halford Hewitt this year.

In years to come, I hope to still be part of one of Scotland's great legal, property and finance success stories and be able to tell people that I played my part – however small – in making a difference.

Proud to be official sponsors of Merchiston Rugby



We both left the meeting highly impressed with the business and plans for the future. We deal with a lot of legal companies in one shape or form and to be frank, you guys are a bit of fresh air to the sector.

Gilson Gray is a full service law firm with offices in Edinburgh and Glasgow. We offer specialist legal, property and financial* services.

- Corporate law
- Employment law
- Commercial property
- Real estate law
- Renewable energy law
- Banking law
- Financial services
- Tax planning
- Debt recovery
- Commercial litigation
- International arbitration
- Private litigation
- Insolvency
- Solicitor Advocacy
- Investment protection
- Private client law
- Residential conveyancing
- Wills & Executries
- Estate agency and letting
- Family law
- Pension planning
- Mortgages

29 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BW T 0131 516 5354
160 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2HQ T 0141 530 2021

E info@gilsongray.co.uk gilsongray.co.uk

*Gilson Gray conduct financial services business through the vehicle Gilson Gray Financial Management LLP, a partner practice of St James's Place Wealth Management plc, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Sport

Curling Report

A call to arms to any Merchistonians feeling out in the cold.

The Merchistonian Curling Club came second in the Wanderers Curling League last season, with wins against Aberdeen Grammar School FP, Glasgow Accies and Old Glenalmond and losses to the Strathallians and Kelvinside Accies. The Strathallians, who were undefeated, were the runaway winners.

I am on the hunt for more Merchistonian curlers. We play all our matches at Braehead, near Paisley. If this interests anyone, please contact me on 0141 638 1753 or ajcampbell82@hotmail.com.

Alastair Campbell (62-67)

Curling Secretary



Fishing Report

The Fishing Club hopes you take the bait for 2015.

This year's outings will take place throughout the season at Black Loch, Dunwan Dam, Loch Rusky and Glencourse Reservoir (check the website for the confirmed outing dates).

Our annual visit to Oykel Bridge will be from 11-14 June 2015 and The Latimer Cup will again be fished for at the Lake of Menteith on Saturday 15 August 2015.

Open to enthusiastic anglers of all ages and experience. Please contact me with your details to be kept up-to-date with arrangements for



each outing.

Kind regards

W A McDonald (Andrew) (79-85)

Golf Report

The grass has never been greener for the Merchistonian Golf Club.

I am very pleased to report that the 2014 season has been a very active and successful one for the Merchistonian Golf Club. Alongside the well-documented success at the Halford Hewitt (of which the Captain has done a full report), there was also the success of our representative team in the Stenhouse Quaich held at Elie. Unfortunately, we were not able to repeat our success of winning the Scottish Wayfarers Over 50's this year, but a strong performance in the event saw us reach the semi-finals.

We have enjoyed a full schedule of social matches this year, including: East v. West at Prestwick, Lorettonians, OG/Fettesians, Sedburgh and the School boys. This is in addition to the match held at Prestwick between Lorretto, Sedburgh and Merchiston on the 50th anniversary of matches being first played amongst our Clubs. Full reports on all of these matches are contained on the Merchistonian website and I do encourage you all to make contact with the respective match managers so that you can experience the fun that is had on these days.

The Club itself has hosted two outings in Spring and Autumn. The Spring Meeting was held at Gullane No.3 in fine conditions. We had 23 attendees and our congratulations go to Merchistonian Club President Andrew McDonald (79-85) for winning the silver medal and to David Morrison (83-89) for winning the gold. The Autumn Meeting was again held at Elie, and with a return to our more settled date of mid-September, we had 46 Merchistonians

and guests playing on the day and 59 attending the dinner in the evening. Michael Rolland (98-03) won the gold medal with a gross score of 70 (level par), with the silver medal being won by Robert Forman (89-94) with a net 68. Special mention must go to the Captain, who very ungraciously decided to shoot a fine score and march off with various trophies and medals! A big thank you must also go to the staff at the Golf House Club, Elie, for looking after us so well with the arrangements on the day both for golf and catering.

As ever, the fixture list for 2015 will be published in January and I hope that as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to sign up to represent the School and the Club. The ability to play some of the finest golf courses in Scotland with like-minded individuals and at a reasonable price is something which many of you will hopefully take up.

Membership of the Club is always at the forefront of the Committee's thoughts and if you have any suggestions as to how the Merchistonian community as a whole could be energised to participate in the Golf Club, then please do not hesitate to contact me through the details on the Club Officials page. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible throughout the 2015 golfing season.

Kind regards

Robert Forman (89-94)



Shooting Report

Simon Collins (00-06) writes how the Shooting Club have been firing on all cylinders this year.

Having left Merchiston 10 years ago, it was now time for my less-than-athletic stomach to make a return. It was time for the annual Current Boys vs. Merchistonians shooting competition. The day started at Cluny Clays, where we introduced ourselves to the current boys. Some of the Merchistonians hadn't seen each other for 26 years, so it was excellent for them to catch up again, as well as see some new faces (mine included). Armed and at the ready with 50 cartridges each, we disembarked to the various targets with our war paint on. Both sides did extremely well - however, the current boys managed to pull one over us, winning by a solitary clay.

Score - School: 218; Merchistonians: 217.

The Top Guns were George Crawford (11-16) with 35ex50 for the School and Richard Macmillan (81-87) with 40ex50 for the Merchistonians. Many thanks to Matt King (Merchiston staff) for organising.

Following the conclusion of the clays, it was time to head back to Merchiston to have lunch in the Dining Hall. I almost forgot I was somewhat older (and apparently wiser) and that I could no longer arm myself with the white bread rolls and attempt to hit people on the head with them. Our excellent lunch was over, so a few of us went for a wander and reminisced over our past time at Merchiston before heading to the range for the rifle shooting. Some had a Pringle tour later in the afternoon.

When the shooting started, we split up and had two School boys shooting alongside two Merchistonians, which was fun and helped provide some niggling. What followed was some of the best shooting that the School had ever produced against the Merchistonians and, needless to say, a resounding victory was theirs.



Score - School 1467; Merchistonians: 1324.

Top Shots were Cameron Rogers (10-15) with 193ex200 for the School and Iain Brechin (79-84) with 188ex200 for the Merchistonians. Our Captain, Richard Macmillan, has asked me to congratulate Alan Ewing (Merchiston staff) on the result and give high praise for the way in which his skill and professionalism has definitely helped to make the School team a formidable opposition.

Our time with the School was concluded, but an evening of curry and lemonade was waiting to allow a proper catch-up with old friends. I think it's only right to congratulate Nicholas Newbould (01-09) on his sterling efforts to keep everyone entertained in the evening. I am a firm believer that what happens on tour stays on tour... Massive thanks to all who were involved in making the day happen. There is even talk of starting an annual Merchistonian Day, at least with the shotguns anyway. All those interested in shooting can contact Richard Macmillan on richard@forbeslawson.co.uk for more information.

Merchistonians who attended:
Richard Macmillan (Captain)

**Iain Brechin, Richard Dodds (82-86),
Jason Dodd (89-92), Simon Collins,
George Russell (05-07), Calum Miller (81-88),
Michael Whiteford (83-87), Nicholas Newbould.**



Rugby Report

Read about the stellar first year for MRFC.

2014 saw the revival of the Merchistonian Rugby Football Club and the renewal of one of the sport's oldest rivalries. This was a fixture taking place between a Merchistonian XV and an Edinburgh XV at Raeburn Place, the historic home of Scottish rugby.

The game itself was very well attended, passionately supported and extremely hard-fought, with the Accies coming through as the eventual winners 31-29 in what was a high-quality game, fitting of the occasion.

The following revival dinner held at Murrayfield Stadium was a raucous and resounding success. Through ticket sales, raffles and charitable donations, the event not only provided great entertainment and a chance for old friends to catch up, but helped to raise money for both Clubs and our associated charity, Hearts and Balls.

For the Edinburgh-based, there has been weekly touch rugby throughout the summer months held every Tuesday evening, in conjunction with Moray House Rugby Club. This has witnessed a fantastic turnout, even on the damper days!

Looking to the future, there is a strong feeling amongst the Committee that a single, annual fixture is best. It presents a great opportunity to bring Merchistonians together,

but is also realistic, given the limited availability of players who are often assigned to other Clubs or are only able to dedicate a small amount of their time to playing. We are looking to host next year's match on 28 March 2015, between the end of the XV season and before the 7s festivities begin.

We hope to build our presence in the minor 7s tournaments in the coming year, as this is an area where we feel there has been much enthusiasm. For those wishing to buy kit to show your support, this is now available through our partnership with PSL sports. All profits will go towards the running of the Club and the purchasing of new playing strips.

Anyone wishing to contact the Club, or follow its progress, can do so by contacting us via email at rugby@merchistonians.co.uk, on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MerchistonianRFC or through Twitter @MerchiRFC.

In addition, to any Merchistonians wishing to play for the Club, please send us an email and we will keep you up-to-date with information on fixture days, tournaments and social events.

Ready Ay Ready
A T D Yates (Alex) (00-07)
MRFC Treasurer

Merchistonian Blazer and Waistcoat

By popular demand, a further bolt of Merchistonian cloth has been procured for stylish, distinctive, bespoke blazers and waistcoats.

We have negotiated through a local tailor the supply of made-to-measure blazers and waistcoats, as pictured below, for:

£350 for a blazer

£150 for a waistcoat

Both prices include VAT.

To place an order, please contact the Merchistonian by phone or email on

0131 312 2237 or **merchistonians@merchiston.co.uk**



If unable to attend a personal measuring, the tailors can talk you through supplying your own measurements and, once made up, we can post the item(s) out to you. Alternatively if you would like to purchase the material and have your blazer or waistcoat made up by your preferred tailor, a length of cloth will cost £75p/metre, including postage.



Merchistonian Merchandise

If you would like to order any merchandise please telephone **0131 312 2237** or email **merchistonians@merchiston.co.uk**



Scarf | £20



Merchistonian tie | £20



Tankard | £25



Bow tie | £26



Pre-tied bow tie | £26



Socks | £20



Jumper – round neck | £45



Laing silver cufflinks | £50



Cufflinks – chain | £20

Other merchandise are also available from the school shop. Telephone 0131 312 2253

Merchistonian Club Officials 2014-15

Club Committee

These Club Officials are here to help you with your queries.

President

W A McDonald (Andrew) (79-85)

0131 561 9114 (business)
07940 560 286 (mobile)
andrewmcdonald67@blueyonder.co.uk

Vice-President

M S Gray (Matthew) (79-85)

0131 477 9595 (home)
matthewsgray@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer

G M Thain (Gavin) (79-85)

0131 337 2899 (home)
gavin.thain@andersonstrathern.co.uk

Immediate Past-President / Social Convenor

C J Gray (Chris) (75-81)

0131 476 1525 (home)
0131 603 7540 (business)
cgray@ngparchitects.co.uk

Secretary

Amy McGoldrick

0131 312 2262 (business)
merchistonians@merchiston.co.uk

Chairman of Governors

J M Gourlay (Malcolm) (56-61)

0131 446 0236 (home)
malcolmgourlay@hotmail.co.uk

Committee Members

I A Wright (Iain) (60-65)

0131 444 2424 (home)
i.wright237@btinternet.com

G R T Baird (Roger) (73-78)

0131 229 4931 (home)
rogerbaird@wnlindsay.com

S P Abram (Steve) (70-75)

01360 771002 (home)
0141 221 3075 (business)
s.p.abram@henryabram.co.uk

J G B MacLean (Jamie) (71-76)

01738 582450 (home)
07739 431975 (mobile)
jgbmac58@gmail.com

UK Representatives

Whether you're just passing through an area, or relocating - do get in touch with our Area Representatives. They can give pointers, reminisce and often meet for a beer. Every year, all the Merchistonians in an area will get together and it's the Area Reps who will be your point of contact. Give them a bell and make the most out of your Club.

Fife

C B Fotheringham (Charles) (70-75)

01334 653388 (home)
cbf@sol.co.uk

Glasgow & West of Scotland

J D Glen (John) (83-90)

07747426352 (mobile)
jdglenn0211@live.co.uk

London

M Ferndale (Michael) (86-92)

07855 850175 (mobile)
michaelferndale@aol.co.uk

B T McKerchar (Brendan) (96-01)

07734 112932 (mobile)
b_mckerchar@hotmail.com

R J Mitchell (Robbie) (85-90)

07788 426798 (mobile)
robmitchell_11@hotmail.com

R Ramyar (Richard)

07890 821 619 (mobile)
richard@ramyar.co.uk

South West of Scotland

D A J Fulton (David) (67-72)

01556 502626 (work)
01556 502208 (home)
07753566520 (mobile)
david@galloway-golf.co.uk

R M Weir (Roy) (75-78)

01848 331650 (home)
07885 673367 (mobile)
royweir@hotmail.co.uk

Tayside

I G Wilson (Ian) (72-77)

01307 830377 (home)
07887 916932 (mobile)
i.wilson@ghrl.co.uk

West of England

Dr J C Mackenzie (Campbell) (47-51)

07979 545507 (mobile)
campbell.mackenzie@sky.com

Overseas Representatives

Australia

South Australia

R A Young (Robert) (75-80)

+61 883 790531 (home)

+ 61 418847558 (mobile)

ryoung@ydr.net.au

New South Wales

G E McCorquodale (Grant) (78-84)

+61 2 9969 3305 (home)

+61 404 843 637 (mobile)

mccorquodale.grant@gmail.com

Victoria

R J C Windle (Robert) (98-03)

bobwindle22@hotmail.com

Canada

Ontario

G L Desson (60-64) (Graham)

gdesson@gmail.com

Alberta

Dr C H Reid (Christopher) (55-59)

chrisreid@careerwiseonline.com

Caribbean

Cayman and Bahamas

N W L Quin (Nick) (95-00)

+1 345 916 0775 (mobile)

nickquin@yahoo.com

China

Hong Kong

E W McLeod (Euan) (84-91)

+852 91353841 (mobile)

euanmcleod@hotmail.com.hk

Italy

S E M Roberts (Scott) (69-71)

+39 335 8268917 (mobile)

scott.roberts@medica.it

Japan

S Abe (Soichi) (01-02)

+81 42364 9074 (home)

soichi.abe@gmail.com

New Zealand

R M Salvesen (Rob) (99-02)

+64 33039 173 (home)

r.salvesen@hotmail.com

South Africa

R S Hall (Robin) (60-64)

+27 21 685 7240 (home)

+27 21 689 2938 (work)

roberthalloptom@absamail.co.za

USA

New York

G B Henderson (Graeme) (75-82)

+1 973 520 8551 (work)

+1 973 967 0489 (mobile)

Graeme.Henderson@cachematrix.com

Chicago

P S Hurst (Peter) (60-64)

+1 312 926 3264 (work)

p-hurst@northwestern.edu

Southern California

J N Usherwood (Jack) (46-50)

+1 310 514 9404 (home)

juwood1@netzero.net

Sports Secretaries

These are the Merchistonians who are passionate about their nominated sport. Each one co-ordinates fixtures every year – get in touch with them to find out what they are planning.

Cricket

A R Evans (Alistair) (90-97)

07791 090069 (mobile)

alastairevans@me.com

Curling

A J Campbell (Alastair) (62-67)

0141 638 1753 (home)

ajcampbell82@hotmail.com

Fishing

W A McDonald (Andrew) (79-85)

07940 560286 (mobile)

andrewmcdonald67@blueyonder.co.uk

Fives

A R Donaldson (Andrew) (95-00)

07866 562606 (mobile)

andrewd@donaldson-timber.co.uk

Golf

R A Forman (Robert) (89-94)

07891 399 457 (mobile)

robert.forman@brodies.com

Rugby

O J Green (Oli) (99-07)

07752 301312 (mobile)

oligreen@gmail.com

Shooting

R D Macmillan (Richard) (81-87)

07889 178715 (mobile)

richard@forbeslawson.co.uk

Skiing

M S Murphy (Stuart) (98-02)

0131 225 4668 (work)

07968 564112 (mobile)

stuart@snowtraxx.co.uk

Tennis

J A Robb (John) (67-72)

07821 725771 (mobile)

john.robb@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

There are still a number of areas and sports which do not have a Merchistonian representative. If you would like to become more involved in the Merchistonian Club, then please contact the office on 0131 312 2237 or by emailing merchistonians@merchiston.co.uk



Merchistonian events and reunions

Annual Dinner 2013 | Halford Hewitt Victory Dinner
Merchistonians vs. Merchiston Staff Cricket Match | Aberdeen Meeting
1994 Reunion | 2003 Reunion | MRFC vs. Edinburgh Accies Rugby Revival





DELICATESSEN

ESTD. 2014

The very best of Local & Continental produce
Experienced, Passionate & Knowledgeable staff

Small Artisanal Producers- Many of
your Farmers Market Favourites

Our own Fresh & Enticing salads and lunches
A Cookbook library for you to browse and borrow.
Come in for a Nibble! Delicious tasters everyday.

181 DELICATESSEN

181 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, EH10 4DG
181delicatessen@gmail.com

 @181Delicatessen  181delicatessen  0131 229 4554

"We all eat and it would be
a sad waste of opportunity to eat badly"
Anna Thomas



Eastern Western Motor Group

Established 1927

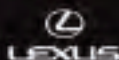
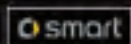
Uncover the car of your dreams with Eastern Western Motor Group.



Scotland's largest selection of luxury marques.



Mercedes-Benz



www.easternwestern.co.uk