

Chair's Report. James Gillespie's Trust. June 2019

The Trust met on 18th June. At this meeting we were pleased to note that finally contractors have confirmed work will be undertaken to reinstall the electricity supply to the Alison Laidlaw memorial garden. This will then allow work to be done to tidy the garden up, and re-open this quiet space on the school campus. The garden became neglected during the rebuild of the school.

Alison Laidlaw was a former pupil and teacher at James Gillespie's who lived locally and maintained her connection with the school until her death in 2007. The Garden was designed by a member of the school community, and representatives of Alison's family attended the Garden opening in 2008, part funding it along with the Trust, in Miss Laidlaw's memory. We hope that current students and staff will be able to enjoy the garden in the future.

Arrangements were finalised for the reception at the Edinburgh City Chambers, for parents of the current S6 cohort, on Thursday 27th June. The Trust was keen to find a way of recognising that James Gillespie's has been part of the lives of so many families over the years, and the end of term will be the end of an era for parents too.

A review of the JGHS Trust Small grants scheme is underway, leading to a simpler application process, details of which can be found on our website. Recipients of the grants are asked to provide some feedback too, so we will be putting those reports onto the Trust website and Facebook page.

As Chair, I was pleased to attend and speak at the S1 Assembly for Founder's Day; and to attend a Reception at the National Museum of Scotland for the Swire Chinese Language Centre, in which James Gillespie's has an interest. Through discussions on the history of slavery connections in Edinburgh, I hope to develop some joint work with the Edinburgh University project 'UncoverEd' and our school.

Future meeting dates for the Trust have been confirmed, as have closing dates for Small Grant applications, and this can be found on our website.

www.jamesgillespietrust.com The Trust is also on Twitter @GillespieTrust Facebook, and Instagram.

Ann Henderson Chair 24.06.19