

THE JAMES GILLESPIE'S TRUST

www.jamesgillespiestrust.com



15 March 2021

To the alumni of James Gillespie's High School, wherever you are

Please note that this is the new dedicated email address for the alumni – alumni@jamesgillespiestrust.com - so could you add it to your contacts please? The old email address will continue to work for the foreseeable future but may be discontinued at a later date.

We are delighted that over sixty more alumni have decided to add their name to our database in the past twelve months, thus enabling us to share more events and invitations with former pupils. This is particularly useful when we are contacted by alumni who are trying to arrange a reunion. Whilst we never share anyone's contact details, we can facilitate the organisation of a proposed reunion by passing on relevant information to certain alumni when necessary (<https://www.jamesgillespiestrust.com/reunions/>). A warm welcome to you all!

Coronavirus

In June 2019 the Trust helped to fund an event for the parents of school leavers. Once the S6 students had left Greyfriars Kirk after their leaving assembly, the parents were welcomed into the City Chambers for an evening of eating, drinking & conversation. This was a lovely end to a rather emotive ceremony and we had very positive feedback about the event, which was facilitated by Councillor Melanie Main. We had planned to support the event on an annual basis but, of course, it didn't take place in 2020

However, we were able to support a number of families of S1 pupils to ensure that everyone who wanted to could participate in the annual S1 Residential weekend in September 2019 --- it's good to know that the Trust's funds are still making a difference in the school community.

Small Grants

In normal circumstances we invite requests for small grants (of up to £300) which are often made by school leavers to support an application to Project Trust to help fund their gap year volunteering abroad. Last year's volunteers had their year cut short and the future for these gap year projects is, at the moment, quite uncertain. However, the Trust has been able to support other projects, for example, the JGHS Pipe Band asked us to fund the purchase of some electric chanter (see image on right) to enable the band to comply with Covid-19 guidelines and resume face-to-face tuition. We have also been asked to help fund applications for participation in the Regional and National finals of Formula 1 in Schools (an engineering centred competition where the competing students will have to design and manufacture a model car using CAD/CAM design tools).



Accounts

Our accounts, audited annually, have been submitted to OSCR. This ensures we maintain our charitable status. You can see the links to them, including the annual report, on our website:

Development Office * The James Gillespie's Trust * James Gillespie's High School * 120 Warrender Park Road * Edinburgh EH9 1DD

Email: alumni@jamesgillespiestrust.com

Registered Charity Number: SCO 2281

<https://www.jamesgillespietrust.com/trust-reports/> - look for the section headed Trust Accounts 2019-20.

Book Sales

John MacLeod's book about James Gillespie's High School, "Faithful and Brave", continues to sell well but we do still have some copies in stock if you didn't manage to get one earlier. Here are the updated details if you wish to buy a copy:

Email the school at: admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk to reserve a copy and arrange for collection. Price is £17.99 if collected from school or £21.95 if the book is to be posted. Electronic payment: Account name: James Gillespie's Trust, Sort Code: 80 22 60, Account no: 17854260

Muriel Spark Society Talk – Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 5pm

Online via Zoom OR Live in the boardroom of the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. The talk will be given by Norma Allan, author of "Box Hats and Blue Stockings", published in 2019, about what is often considered to be the golden age of James Gillespie's High School for Girls. Norma is not a Muriel Spark specialist but will centre her talk around her book and will include as many associated connections with Muriel Spark as possible. There are many links with Muriel Spark in and around Edinburgh, not least of which is that Norma lived until recently in the same tenement stair in Bruntsfield where Muriel was born and where her son lived until his death some years ago. The date was chosen because it is the 60th anniversary of the date of publication of "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" on 5 October 1961. Please email Norma at norma@snowgoose.uk for information about buying a copy of her book or to note interest in her talk for later contact when the venue has been finalised.

Trustees

In 2019 we welcomed Jan Melvin to the Trust. In 2020 Bruce Crawford also agreed to join the Trust. Unfortunately, there has been little opportunity since then for any of the Trustees to become involved in Trust projects, but we hope to be able to continue our work as and when coronavirus restrictions are (hopefully) lifted over the next few months.

We hope that you will continue to support us as generously as you have done in the past. If you would like to make a contribution to future projects, please either send your cheque, made payable to James Gillespie's Trust, together with your details (name and dates), to Treasurer, Mrs Jean Knox, at James Gillespie's High School, 120 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh EH9 1DD or make electronic payment to James Gillespie's Trust, Bank of Scotland account number **17854260**, sort code **80-22-60**, using your name as reference and email her at alumni@jamesgillespietrust.com.

If you have any interesting suggestions for future alumni events we would be happy to consider them.

Kind regards,

Ann

Ann Henderson,
Chair of James Gillespie's Trust