



# The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



The Trust has been delighted to support **Honeycomb Racing** in their quest to win the World Finals of **F1 in Schools**, held in Singapore in September 2023.

## Charity contact information



The James Gillespie's Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC022811

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## Charity Trustees

1. Sheena Purdom
2. Jean Knox
3. Bruce Crawford
4. Nic Boyes (Parent Council)
5. Vikki Plant (Parent Council)
6. Susan Scullion (joined May 2023)
7. Ross Grimley (joined May 2023)
8. Neil McCallum (HT)
9. Ian Porter (DHT)
10. Pauline Flannery (Local Councillor))



Nic Boyes



Sheena Purdom



Neil McCallum



Pauline Flannery



Ross Grimley



Jean Knox



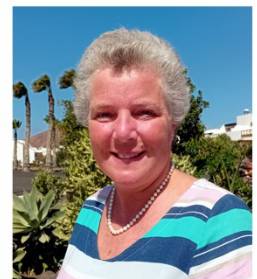
Bruce Crawford



Vikki Plant



Ian Porter



Susan Scullion

## Objectives and activities

James Gillespie's Trust was set up in 1994 to advance the education and improve the circumstances of the students of James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh, by:

1. Supporting the School in providing a high-quality learning and teaching environment for all, including the wider community;
2. promoting, supporting and helping to resource projects, programmes and initiatives designed to enhance the education delivered by the School, whether local, national or international, with which the School may from time to time be associated including the provision of resources, through such projects, programmes and initiatives, to partner institutions of the school wheresoever they may be situated;
3. promoting and conducting research related to developing the educational role of the School and by providing briefings on this research;
4. promoting and conducting research into the history of the school and associated matters;
5. facilitating communication between and among students, staff, parents, former students, the community, the Parent Council or any successor organisations representing or involving the parents of students at the School; and
6. delivering resources and support to students, staff or parents/carers to help deliver the above purposes effectively.

### The Trust's Main Activities

- Small Grants Scheme - to disburse funds to realisable student projects. This scheme will account for no more than 10% of the Trust's assets in any year, in grants of up to £500.
- Staff Grants to support field trips, residential experiences and special projects.
- Organising activities for the alumni of the school. In past years we have had open mornings for the alumni to peruse our archives, a literary event celebrating the centenary of Muriel Spark's birth and tours round both the old school and the new one.
- We act as a resource to help inform current practice based on past experience.

## Structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

James Gillespie's Trust is governed by a Trust Deed which has been updated three times since 1994 to reflect changing circumstances.

### Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees and office-bearers are appointed at the AGM and, on occasions, during the year. Trustees come from a range of backgrounds: JGHS headteacher and depute headteacher, Parent Council for JGHS, local councillors for the school catchment area and alumni from the school. In the past year one Trustee stood down from the Trust.

## Achievements and performance



The Small Grants Scheme allows pupils to apply for funds for realisable projects. **F1 in Schools** is the world's largest STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) competition, and **Honeycomb Racing** is a **Formula 1 in Schools** team comprised of 4 S6 Students from JGHS who, after achieving the fastest car in the UK at the UK Nationals, have qualified for the World Finals in Singapore this September. Along with manufacturing a miniature F1 car, one of their other project deliverables is a 1 x 3 x 2 metre pit display,

which they need to design, manufacture, and transport to Singapore themselves, and which is vital to being able to compete. Substantial funding from many sources will be essential to enable competition at a high level.

In February 2023, the Trust invited Eric Melvin to speak to the Alumni of James Gillespie's High School on Edinburgh and the Golden Age. James and John Gillespie lived through some of the most fascinating years of Edinburgh's rich history. Inspired by Lord Provost George Drummond, Edinburgh burst from the confines of the medieval Old Town and started to build what even then was described as the New Town. At the same time as Edinburgh was being transformed physically and socially, its intellectual reputation saw the city referred to as "The Athens of the North." This was due in no small part to the reputation of the University which attracted some of the finest academics of the day to live and to work in Edinburgh. With their shop in the High Street, the Gillespie brothers were witnesses to exciting times. Their successful tobacco and snuff business saw them amass a fortune which they left to the city to support charitable enterprises. Their generous legacy continues to this day. Eric Melvin's talk drew heavily from the work of their next-door neighbour, the artist John Kay who recorded many of the characters of the Golden Age - including portraits of the Gillespie brothers.



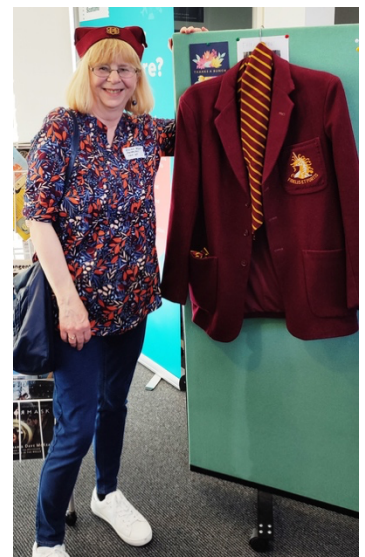
Over the years, since leaving JGHS for Girls in 1960, Norma Allan often wondered what happened to the Swimming Cup which she won two years' running in the late 50s. It used to sit proudly in a glass cabinet in the entrance hall of the second school building. When this was replaced by a third school, all trophies were put randomly and uncatalogued into storage. With the help



from members of the school staff and JG Trust, she searched high and low through all the storage cupboards in the school. And, in the very last cupboard, at the bottom of the very last tea chest, wrapped in bubble wrap, there it was! It was faded and tarnished but otherwise intact. She took it home, polished it till it gleamed like new and sent photos of it to all concerned. The future plan is to catalogue all

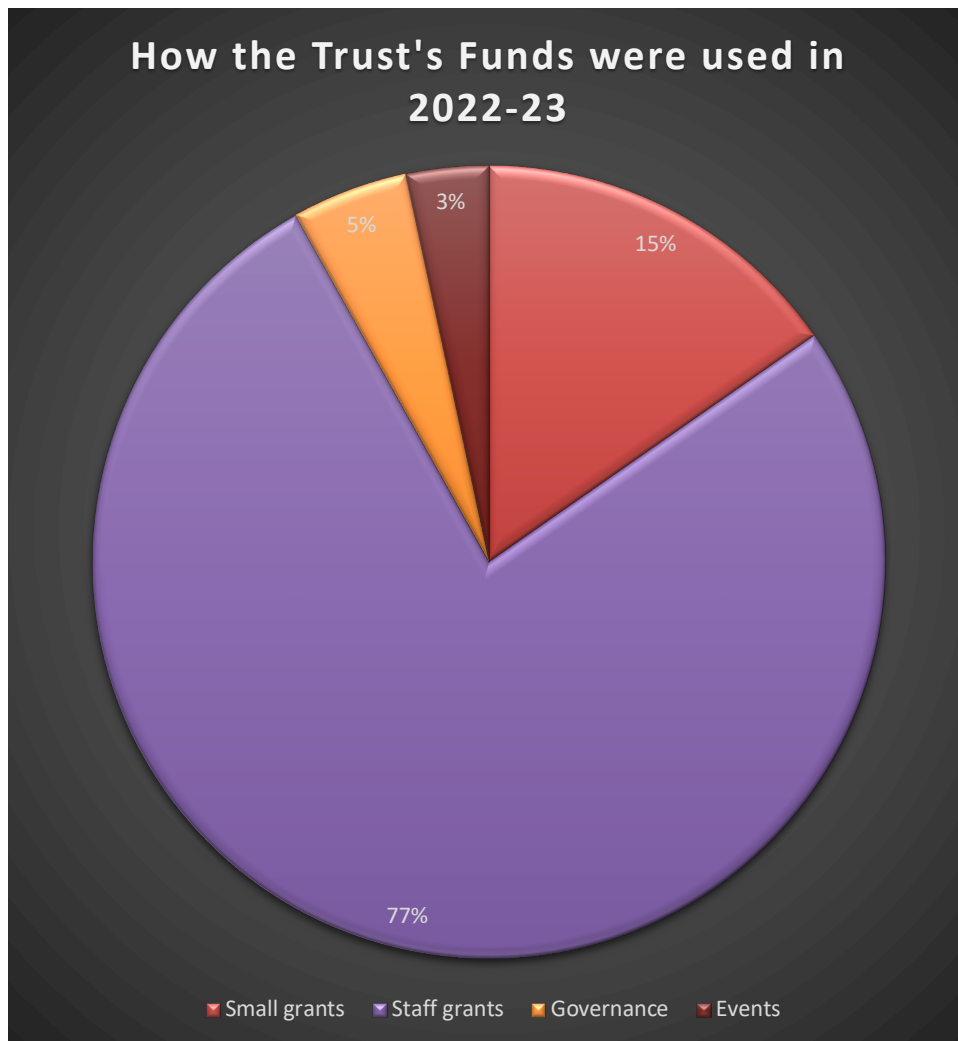
the trophies and provide a permanent home for them within the current school building.

On Saturday, May 13th of this year, a gaggle of 'mature' ladies (and a few gents) gathered in the School Library to celebrate the golden days of JGHS for Girls in the post-war era (WW2, not WW1!). They chattered non-stop, exchanging hilarious and sometimes grim memories of teachers and absent school friends, and eagerly examined the abundant memorabilia on display. Some of them even donned school blazers and the dreaded box hats! There are still many ex-G Girls out there, and their memories of schooldays are still very much alive and well!



Last year, the Trust funded a pilot scheme to support an initiative for a Basketball School to help improve engagement, behaviour, attendance and mental wellbeing at JGHS. This was a very successful project and was funded again this year.

## Financial review



### Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is the policy of the Trust to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Trust at a level sufficient to sustain current expenditure for a period of six months without any income. It is estimated that a figure of approximately £2000 would provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration costs and to cover costs incurred in furtherance of the charity's objectives for that period.

At the moment the Trust is holding much more than this figure due to a very generous bequest from a former pupil, and welcomes applications for funding in accordance with the Trust's aims and objectives.



## **Future plans**

The Trust now has a dedicated team of alumni who will take over matters pertaining to the alumni body, working closely with the Trustees to achieve the Trust's objectives.

The Trust is planning to work with the City of Edinburgh Archive Department to have some of the school's archive collection digitised so that it can be accessed online for research.

## **Additional information**

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Sheena M. Purdom

Print name

Sheena Purdom

Designation

Chair, J.G. Trust

Date

1 July 2023