

## HISTORY OF THE CLUB

Founded in 1849, The Royal High School Club exists to keep alive the spirit of one of the oldest secondary schools in Britain.

The Royal High School dates from 1128 (the World's 18<sup>th</sup> oldest school) and is a celebrated Edinburgh institution. Famous for the magnificent building on Calton Hill (designed by architect and former pupil Thomas Hamilton), the school is renowned for its traditions and consistently high academic achievement.

The Royal High School Club aims to "form a bond of union among the Former Pupils". All former pupils share eight centuries of history. However as school-leavers pass through the Memorial Door and into a new life, it's not unusual to lose touch with friends and even memories from school. The Club aims to provide a central gathering point for former pupils and teachers of all ages throughout the world.

Many former pupils have distinguished themselves since leaving the school. The list encompasses all walks of life, is long and includes:

Sir Walter Scott, Ronnie Corbett, Robin Cook MP, Ivan Tukalo, Alexander Graham Bell, Norman MacCaig, Dr Robert Knox, Sarah Boyack MSP, James Hutton, Frankie Poullain, Pringle Fisher



## WHAT THE CLUB DOES

The Club's aims and objectives are maintained by the Club President who is supported by a 12-strong committee all working on a voluntary basis. The Club provides a great deal of support in its activities throughout the year:

### Prizes and Bursaries

The Club funds a number of prizes and bursaries including Dux of School and the Sir Percy Malcolm Stewart Scholarships. Club subscriptions also support a variety of projects around the school including the presentation room displaying the proud history of the School and Club to visitors.

### Contact with the School

The strength of the Club is of direct benefit to the school and current pupils. The link between the Club and the school has always been important, whether it is through close contact with the Rector and the School Council, the leavers' events, or attending Personal and Social Education (PSE) classes for sixth years about to leave.

### Website and Archive

The Club has maintained a website since 2002 for events and former pupil news and for storing parts of the vast archive of photographs, memories and stories recently unearthed. It is updated regularly and records over 1000 hits per month. The web address is [www.royalhigh.co.uk](http://www.royalhigh.co.uk).

### Social Events

By maintaining a database of around 2,500 former pupils, the Club keeps members informed of the social events arranged by the Committee: the Annual Dinner in March, the Leavers' Gathering in August and the informal November Drinks.



2005 Annual Dinner



2007 Prize Giving



2005 School Leavers Party



Website home page



1921 Memorial field opening



1964 Rugby - PP's v FP's



The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Memorial windows in the Barrton Assembly Hall were originally installed in Regent Road in 1948

## **WHY JOIN?**

The £25 Life Membership fee is a contribution to the Club's funds which are invested to produce the Prize Fund and other income for the School. All members receive a copy of *A History of the Royal High School* written by the renowned former Depute Rector Dr A.J. Murray and an annual newsletter with an update on Club news and events.

Extent of participation in the Club is up to members themselves. It could be making decisions on the Club Committee, attending the Annual Dinner in March or the informal November drinks in Edinburgh, using the Club to contact old classmates, or just keeping contact details up-to-date through the Club Secretary or website. There is also a very active London Club

## **HOW TO JOIN**

Membership is open to all former pupils of the school and to all current and former teachers at the school. To join, send a cheque for £25 made payable to 'The Royal High School Club' along with your name, address, telephone number, email address and year of leaving to:

Robert C B Forman WS  
Honorary Secretary  
The Royal High School Club  
5 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh EH1 2AX

Alternatively, contact Robert Forman on 0131 222 8000 or email [rhs@mckaynorwell.co.uk](mailto:rhs@mckaynorwell.co.uk).

The Club history is provided on a complimentary basis to all new members. Ties and other items with the Club crest are available. from the Honorary Secretary

## **A HISTORY OF WHICH TO BE PROUD**

The Club remembers all Former Pupils (FP's). One of our older and most treasured FPs is Jim Ford, MC (leaving year 1938) who, along with his brother Douglas were taken prisoner in Hong Kong in 1941 when the Japanese overran the colony. Sadly Douglas was executed by the Japanese but Jim lives on and recently met with Lord Provost George Grubb (another notable FP) Jim is a noted author, and his career in the Civil Service included the post of Registrar General of Scotland.

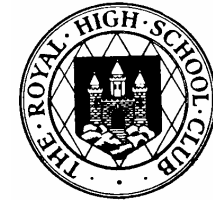


*Jim Ford MC with Lord Provost George Grubb and Club President Alastair Allanach, May 2008*

## **A PROMISING FUTURE**

The future of the Club is exciting. Each year, the Club grows as new former pupils join, but we need to ensure everyone can take advantage of the Club and the opportunities it provides. A strong Royal High School Club is ultimately good for the Royal High School, but its future depends on students participating as former pupils. Please help us to support the school and continuing the bond among all former pupils by joining the Club.

# **The Royal High School Club**



*Forming a bond of union  
among former pupils of  
The Royal High School, Edinburgh*



## **HISTORY OF THE CLUB**

## **WHAT THE CLUB DOES**

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

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*June 2008*