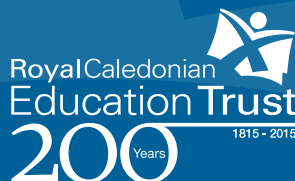


Royal Caledonian Education Trust

A National Institution of the Scottish Nation

A retrospective: 1815-2015

By Malcolm Noble



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MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Scots who have protected and served this country as members of our Armed Forces. The Royal Caledonian Education Trust continues to support their sons and daughters in making the most of the opportunities open to them throughout their education. As your Patron, I recognise that the work of the Trust is as important today as it was when founded 200 years ago.

I send my very best wishes on this bicentenary.

Elizabeth R.

PREFACE

On 14 June 1815, an Act of Parliament provided for the incorporation of a “Charitable Institution called The Caledonian Asylum for supporting and educating Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, Natives of Scotland, and of indigent Scots Parents, resident in London, not entitled to Parochial relief”.¹

The Trust owes its origins to the Highland Society of London. Its members were aware of the numbers of Scottish children made orphans or families made destitute, through loss or injury of a father in the Napoleonic wars. The Highland Society transferred responsibility for The Caledonian Asylum to individuals who would make regular donations for its upkeep. These subscribers constituted a Court of Guardians, and from their number a Committee of Directors was appointed.

The Charter named His Royal Highness Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn as the first President of the Asylum, with 10 members of the nobility as Vice Presidents, three gentlemen as Treasurers and three as Auditors. Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, Commander of the Allied forces who was then about to fight the battle of Waterloo, served as one of the Vice Presidents. A further 24 nobles and gentlemen constituted the Committee of Directors.

From first to last, The Caledonian Asylum (later the Royal Caledonian Schools) benefited from the support of the Royal family. The Royal Princes, the Dukes of Kent and Strathearn, Sussex, and York played an active part in its foundation. King George III gave the Royal assent to the Act of Parliament in

1815 that established the Asylum as a corporate body. Every succeeding monarch, up to and including Queen Elizabeth II, has maintained the royal connection. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother took a particular interest, starting from her time as Duchess of York, in 1925, continuing when she became Queen on the accession of her husband as George VI in 1936, and subsequently up to her opening the Hall of Regiments in 1989. As well as a considerable degree of interest shown by members of the Royal Family, the nobility, and men from the highest ranks in the Army, there were also many prominent Scots by birth who took a keen interest.

The list of well-known supporters included Prime Ministers Henry Campbell Bannerman and James Ramsay MacDonald. Other notable names of the times included philanthropist and steel magnate Andrew Carnegie; John Buchan (Lord Tweedsmuir), author of ‘The 39 Steps’ and future Governor General of Canada; and His Grace, Cosmo Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury.

After 177 years the Committee of Directors believed that the original objectives of the Society could best be served by selling the school buildings at Bushey and forming an educational grant-making Trust.

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1. *The Corporation of the Royal Caledonian Asylum – Charter of Incorporation – 1815.*

The new Royal Caledonian Education Trust, which has offices in London and Edinburgh, offers grants and services for the benefit of the sons and daughters of Scottish serving and veteran Armed Forces families. The key to the Trust's survival has been a willingness to adapt to changing circumstances, while maintaining its Scottish ethos that continues to be valued by supporters and beneficiaries alike.

One aspect of the Trust's existence that remains unchanged is the continuing support of the Royal Family and the Church of Scotland. This is as important to the Trust's ability to fulfil what the Trustees see as its obligations in 2015, as when His Royal Highness Prince Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn presided over an institutional dinner 200 years ago and his daughter, Queen Victoria, bestowed Royal Patronage on The Caledonian Asylum in 1852.

This bicentenary year is an opportunity to both celebrate and reflect on how the aims as set out in the original Charter have been met. This reflection can only be achieved because of the determination of those responsible for maintaining unbroken meticulous records over 200 years. The records now rest in the care of the London Metropolitan Archives and form a significant part of the history of Scots in London.

This is also an appropriate time to look to the future, as the Trust raises its profile and extends the reach of its educational programmes.

The aim of this celebratory publication is to share something of the remarkable story of a Scottish institution which has endured for 200 years.

The first chapter shows how the Asylum came into existence and ends with the grant of Royal Patronage in 1852. The next chapter provides an account of the Asylum's expansion, culminating in the move to a purpose-built establishment at Bushey.

The third and fourth chapters show how the institution adapted and coped with two World Wars, the requirements of the 1944 Education Act and the sale of the Bushey premises.

The final chapter has an explanation of how the Asylum and the schools, founded towards the end of a long war, managed to find a place in the changed circumstances of state provision of education in the Victorian period and post years. This publication ends with a glimpse of the Trust's plans for the future.

*Drum and Fife Band of
the Schools, 1898,
The Home Magazine*

CHAPTER 1

The Caledonian Asylum 1815–1852

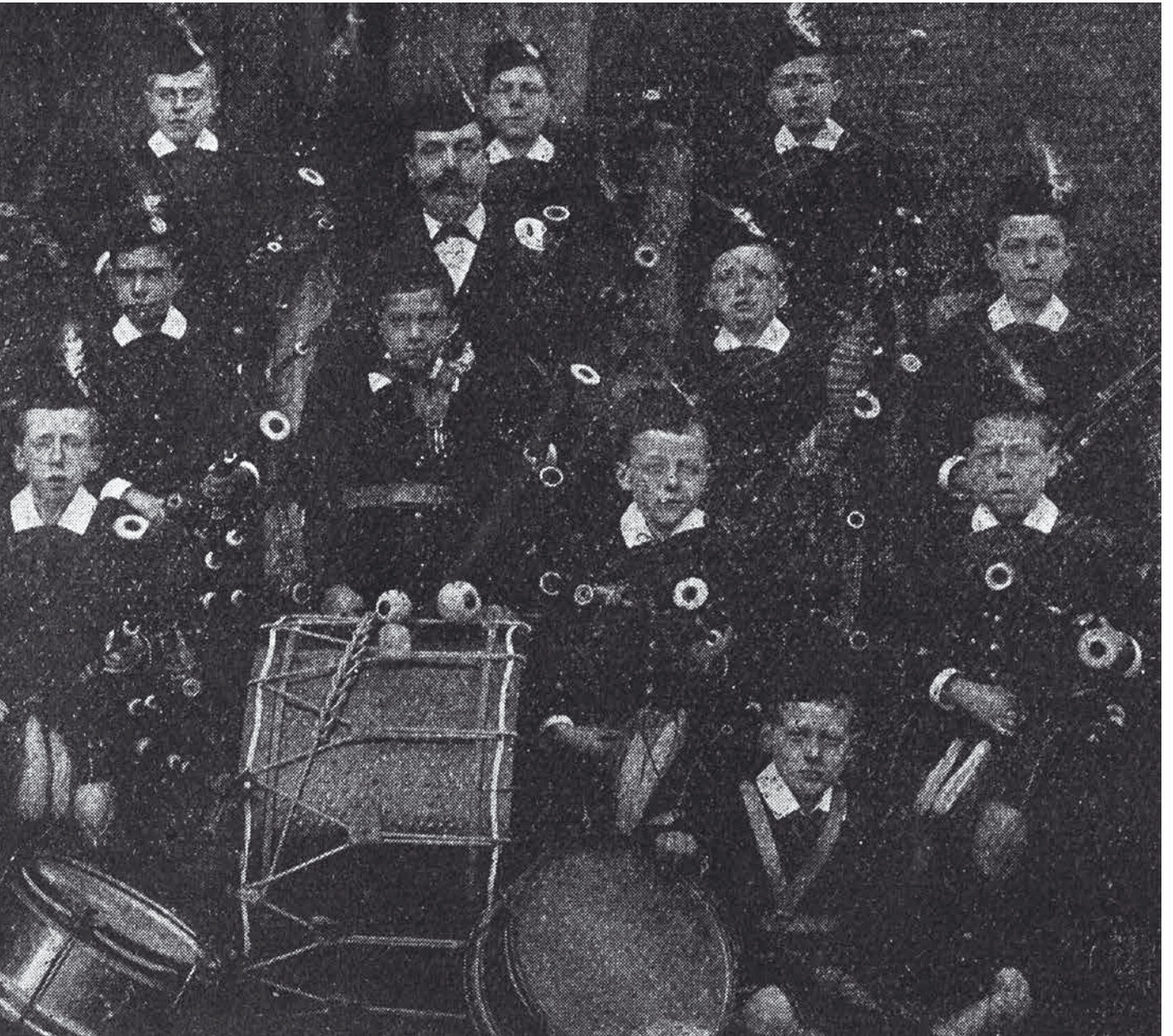
What claim has Scotland not got on the whole Empire?

The Charter of Incorporation noted that at the “conclusion of a war, unusually long and sanguinary” the numbers of children in a “desolate and forlorn state, as a parent suffering death or disablement, and of Scotch parents in London in the greatest poverty and want”, far exceeded “establishments provided for their relief”. This led to the foundation of an “Asylum or House for the Reception, Maintenance, Education and Employment of such Children”.¹

The Act of Parliament² was supported by the Royal Princes: Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn, Frederick Duke of York and Albany, and Augustus Frederick Duke of Sussex and Inverness; the Dukes of Marlborough, Buccleugh and Queensberry, Gordon, Argyll, Atholl, Montrose, Roxburgh; the Marquises of Stafford, Huntly, Bute; the Earls of Poulet, Eglinton, Moray, Strathmore, Kinnoull, Home, Dalhousie, Dysart, Selkirk, Dysart, Northesk, Aboyne, Breadalbane, Rosebery, Glasgow; Ferrers, Radnor, Mansfield, Gowrie, Rosslyn, Harrowby; the Viscounts Palmerston and Melville; the Lord Bishop of Winchester; the Master of the Rolls and 118 other “general officers, noblemen and gentlemen”.

The Charter provided that these persons and others in the future, paying ten guineas or more in any one year, would be designated Guardians for Life. Anyone paying two guineas each year would be a Guardian as long as they continued to do so. The Guardians, together with the President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer, constituted the body corporate. They still do in 2015.





Among the list of subscribers in 1815 was John Galt, Scottish author, then living at Weymouth Street, Portland Place, in the County of Middlesex. He was to become the first Secretary of the Caledonian Asylum. The Asylum was then established in Hatton Garden just twenty minutes' walk from today's Royal Caledonian Education Trust offices, in the City of London.


A prospectus had been issued by the Highland Society in 1808. It is remarkable how far this continued to guide the school curriculum and financing over nearly 100 years. The primary object was seen as providing the sons and daughters of those "as may have served their country for at least three years, died in His Majesty's Service by sea or land, been disabled by wounds or have fallen in battle".

The curriculum for boys was intended to give them the rudiments of an elementary education, to prepare them for a career in the Merchant Services or related trades. The lessons would cover reading, writing and arithmetic; and instruction "following a plan which originated with the Rev. Dr. Bell in the Madras Asylum in Madras, India". The boys would receive instruction to qualify them for the Royal Navy, Merchant Services or fisheries as well as the "trades associated with a seafaring life and such of them as possess the military ardour of their forefathers may have the preparatory education to fit them for the Army".

Education for girls was to be "suitable for persons in their station of life, with an emphasis on the practice of virtue and religion". The girls would be "trained up in a due sense of subordination, humility and obedience to their superiors and to practical habits of industry as the best security to keep them in the charge of every other part of their duties, moral and religious"³.

The apparently restrictive curriculum was designed to prepare the children for the employment opportunities likely to be open to them. In some ways, the attention paid to future careers represented forward thinking for the time. An effort was made to introduce individual children to particular employers by introducing into the establishment certain manufacturers or employers from the mechanic arts, adapted to their subsequent pursuits in life, which would be attended without possible disadvantage to their education.

A method of financing that might sustain the institution in perpetuity was introduced. The prospectus set out an explanation of the subscription principle that was adopted by the Highland Society of London for The Caledonian Asylum.

 *The attention
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*A Scottish night for the Bairns: Children's
soiree at the Royal Caledonian Asylum,
1902, Daily Graphic*





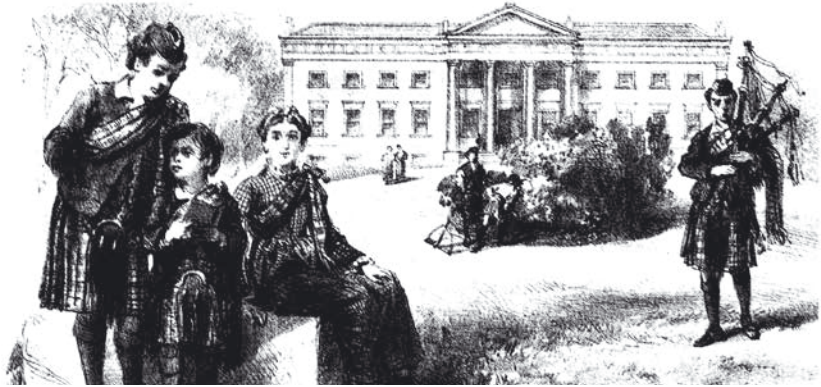
A Scottish night for the Bairns: Children's soiree at the Royal Caledonian Asylum, 1902, Daily Graphic

This involved individuals making regular payments that would confer the right to be named as a governor, with an ability to recommend children for admission. There were nine articles for subscription, as follows:

- Article 1** – on payment of 170 guineas at one time confers the position of governor for life with three votes on all questions pertaining to management of the institution and the presentation of one child: cannot recommend any other until this child be educated or discharged;
- Article 2** – 50 guineas at one time becomes a governor for life with two votes and the right to present one child; with two votes and the right to present one child a year after the institution has opened;
- Article 3** – 25 guineas at one time becomes a governor for life with two votes and the right to present one child two years after the institution has opened;
- Article 4** – 15 guineas at one time becomes a governor for life with one vote and the right to present one child three years after the institution has opened;
- Article 5** – 10 guineas at one time becomes a governor for life with one vote and the right to present one child four years after the institution is opened;
- Article 6** – 3 guineas annually becomes a governor and remains so as long as subscriptions are paid and the right to recommend one child five years after the institution has opened;
- Article 7** – 2 guineas annually confers entitlement to vote 12 months after being mentioned in the books;
- Article 8** – half a guinea annually confers membership of the institution;
- Article 9** – 2 guineas by way of benefaction entitles the subscriber to be named in the list of benefactors.

On 7 May 1808 a special general meeting of the Highland Society of London, chaired by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, adopted this plan for an institution named The Caledonian Asylum. A Special Committee was established to 'promote the objects of the Asylum'. Colin McRae was appointed Secretary, along with a Committee of Directors. The Committee met for the first time on 27 June 1809.⁴

However, the initial enthusiasm was not sustained, and it seemed likely for a time that The Caledonian Asylum project would fail. The Highland Society of

The Caledonian Asylum

London felt that drastic action was necessary, believing that “the Caledonian Asylum wants hands to work it”. A new Special Committee was formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions.

At its first meeting held on 17 December 1813 it was noted that, “measures adopted to raise subscriptions were attended with considerable success but from causes not easily ascertained that noble feeling which existed at the beginning gradually subsided to such a degree that last year it was resolved to refer back the management of the Asylum to the Highland Society; it was represented however that had the subscriptions promised been collected, the establishment would have been secured”. By the time of the Special Committee meeting held on 18 November 1814, the sum of £8,878.5/6d had been collected and there was little doubt that the target of £10,000 would be reached imminently.⁵

“The Special Committee’s success owed a great deal to Royal intervention. Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Wales was asked to take the Asylum under her protection”

The Special Committee’s success owed a great deal to Royal intervention. Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Wales was asked to “take the Asylum under her protection” and become patroness. His Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander in Chief, was asked to advise on how subscriptions might be procured in the Army. His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence would do likewise for the Navy. The Special Committee opened subscriptions in every Scottish town. An application was made to Government, and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland gave a “brief to authorise charity sermons to be preached bi-annually in every parish, and once every month during the ensuing season at one or other of the established Scotch churches in London. Every Club in London, comprising chiefly of Scotch members was applied to for subscriptions”.

The Special Committee resolved that on 21 March every year there would be a meeting of subscribers' elect officers, with a dinner afterwards. The first foundation dinner was scheduled for 26 March 1815 at the Freemasons Tavern in London with his Royal Highness Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn, President of the Highland Society of London, in the chair. This meeting saw the appointment of John Galt as first Secretary of The Caledonian Asylum. Galt was a prolific Scottish author, the first biographer of Lord Byron and founder of the city of Guelph in Canada.

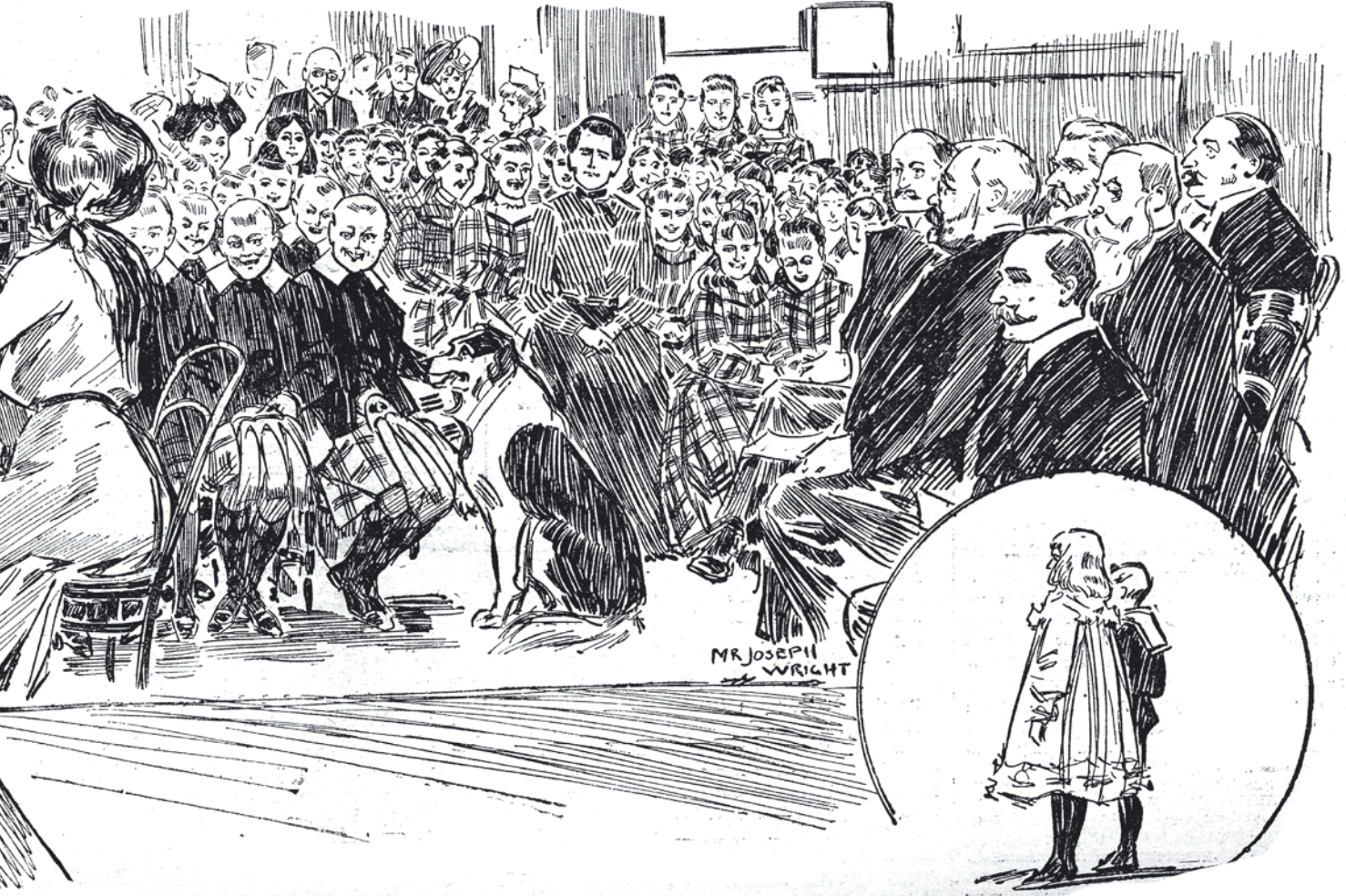
At this institutionary dinner, announced subscriptions for the Asylum "exceeded £5,000, and the annual subscriptions pledged were about £400". John Galt employed "Chappell, the music seller in Bond Street, and a proper composer to arrange the airs". Galt viewed the dinner as "one of the most splendid ever given in London, at which upwards of seventy musicians were employed, and above two hundred and seventy servants in livery attended".

John Galt was not convinced of the viability of an institution based in Edinburgh. He managed to convince his Royal Highness Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn, that the Asylum ought instead to be established in London. Accordingly, His Royal Highness called a meeting of subscribers at Freemasons Hall for 4 February 1815. His statement of intent was accepted by those present and the "future of The Caledonian Asylum as a London institution was secured from then onwards".

His Royal Highness set out his reasons for his recommendations: "It perhaps does not occur to everyone what actually is a very large proportion which Scotland furnishes from its population to the Army and Navy of the country, this I am anxious to stay to and so here I must express how much I am indebted to the indefatigable researches of the gentleman who sits on my right. I mean Mr Galt who has been appointed Secretary of The Caledonian Asylum from a stem end which that gentleman has made out, it appears that Scotland furnishes a greater proportion of men to the Army and Navy of the Country than any other part of the United Kingdom.

"When this is considered, what claim has not Scotland upon the whole empire, in that great debt of gratitude to the Army and Navy which can only be acknowledged by supporting the children of those who have so gallantly shed their blood for us?"





I have to share with you the very judicious observations made by Mr Galt: "It may be said that London is not the proper place for directing The Caledonian Asylum and that the National Institution of the Scottish Nation should be in Edinburgh. This objection presented itself in great force to the members of the Highland Society, or rather in their affections early pointed to them the

A Scottish night for the Bairns: Children's soiree at the Royal Caledonian Asylum, 1902, Daily Graphic



*A Scottish night for the Bairns:
Children's soiree at the Royal
Caledonian Asylum, 1902,
Daily Graphic*

propriety of raising the establishment in their native country, but when on reflection they had considered that although funds for erecting a suitable edifice might be collected in Scotland, yet that the permanent income would only be obtained from the opulence and liberality of the London public".⁶

Thus The Caledonian Asylum would become a reality and incorporation followed three months later. The first six boys were admitted in December 1819, soon rising to 12. The Asylum had acquired premises in Hatton Garden, at 16 Cross Street (now St. Cross Street). The nearby Chapel had opened in 1808 and by 1820 was struggling to make ends meet, with only 10-12 communicants attending regularly.⁷

The Chapel held services in both English and Gaelic each Sunday. It provided a convenient place for the Asylum boys to attend for worship. The Chapel Committee sought to arrange a transfer of the property to The Caledonian Asylum. The Committee of Directors agreed in 1821 on the condition that they would pay off all debts not exceeding £2,000 and engaged a Minister to conduct Chapel services.⁸

However, a meeting of the Committee of Directors in 1822 noted that the "arrangement was highly favourable to the original subscribers but most injurious to the best interests of the charity". The Asylum found itself saddled with a debt standing at £3,194. Moreover, there being no residential accommodation, a rental of one shilling had to be paid for lodgings weekly for each child. In August 1822⁹, the Committee of Directors put three options to the Caledonian Chapel. The Chapel Committee agreed reluctantly to the second option which involved taking back ownership of the building on receipt of £2,000 from The Caledonian Asylum.

The next move came from the Committee of the Caledonian Chapel. Their "congregation had become so numerous that a new church was required in the very near future". The Committee of Directors was asked to decide whether or not they might be disposed to build a new Caledonian Asylum in conjunction with the Chapel. A meeting of the Court of Guardians resolved that the "premises now occupied by the Asylum were inadequate to the accommodation of the number of boys which the funds of the institution can now maintain". It was resolved further that the Committee of Directors be "asked to take this into consideration and to present a report to a special Court to be summoned previous to the anniversary of 1824".¹⁰

The Caledonian Asylum would henceforth go its own way. In April 1825, a Building Ground Committee was formed to consider the purchase of five acres of freehold ground on a road from Battle Bridge to Holloway. This road, in time, would be named the Caledonian Road after the Asylum.

The process did not go smoothly. The Committee of Directors was informed by its Solicitor C.A. Simpson, that the purchaser had refused to pay over the agreed sum of £3,100 for the Cross Street premises, as “the Asylum did not have a marketable title to the property”. However, the matter was settled by the Courts in the Asylum’s favour.¹¹

A purchase price was then agreed for a new site at the Copenhagen Fields in Islington. His Royal Highness Augustus Duke of Sussex laid the foundation stone for the new Asylum on 17 May 1827. The children transferred to the new building on 29 September 1828. The new school had both classrooms and living accommodation for 100 boys designed by the architect George Tappen. It cost £6,556.¹² The original intention had been to admit both boys and girls and in 1844 an extension was built to provide a separate, but linked school for girls.

Links with the Church of Scotland were reinforced in 1826 when the Committee of Directors asked the Presbytery of the Scots Church in London to carry out an examination of the children. The school was divided into two parts, lower and higher. The lower part, numbering about a quarter of the school roll, were found to be “well taught in the catechisms of the Christian faith and in the first four rules of Arithmetic”. The higher class “showed much intelligence in the Old and New Testament” and “in secular subjects they were found thoroughly instructed in; Arithmetic and keeping of Accounts, in Geography, General Knowledge of the Solar System and in the heads of Civil History”.¹³

In 1852, Queen Victoria, daughter of His Royal Highness Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn, conferred royal patronage on The Caledonian Asylum. It seemed that John Galt and His Royal Highness Prince Edward had been correct, establishing the Asylum in London had indeed enabled the Committee of Directors to raise capital for a new building and meet the annual costs for the education and boarding of children of Scots recommended by the subscribers.

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CHAPTER 2

The Royal Caledonian Schools 1852–1903

And the boom of the guns is a thing never to be forgotten

In 1828, The Caledonian Asylum stood in open countryside, ideal for both the health and education of young children. However, very soon afterwards, the growth of London extended to the Copenhagen Fields and beyond. In 1846, the new Pentonville Prison was opened in the immediate vicinity. By 1852, the Caledonian Asylum was situated in an urban environment. In that year there were 60 boys and 50 girls on the roll with little opportunity for further expansion.

Nevertheless, the Committee of Directors responded to the start of the Crimean War by resolving to admit 24 children aged between 7 and 14 years, whose fathers were killed during that conflict. Later, the Directors decided that they would be prepared to admit 100 children whose parents had been killed or disabled in the Crimea. They would do so at a reduced admission charge of 50 guineas: the usual rate being 100 guineas. A special Crimean fund was set up to finance this arrangement. This was ratified at a Special Court of Guardians on 23 October 1854. This meeting “resolved that the Court while expressing its thankfulness and joy at the glorious victory gained at the Alma in the Crimea, and not a little at the distinguished part taken by their Scottish countrymen in that same struggle, yet cannot but deeply deplore this great sacrifice of lives of gallant men and suffering thereby entailed on their wives and children.”¹

In recognition of this gesture, Sir Colin Campbell GCB agreed to chair the anniversary dinner held on 20 June 1857. Sir Colin had commanded the Highland Brigade on the Alma and the ‘Thin Red Line’ at Balaclava. He went on to take command at the relief of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny in November of the same year.²

*Girls’ Calisthenic Class, Sept 1898,
The Home Magazine*

There was growing support for the Caledonian Asylum. On 19 June 1847, Caledonian Asylum pipers played at the annual festival of the Caledonian Society of London who had started supporting the charity.³ Members of the Society attended the 44th anniversary dinner of the Caledonian Asylum on 23 June 1858. The Committee of Directors were informed that Society members “purported to appear in the dress of their native country”⁴

The Asylum’s standing was reinforced by the decision of the Royal Scottish Corporation to establish a firm connection in 1878. The Corporation was prepared to change the by-laws on its school fund, to allow payment of interest directly from the Corporation to the Caledonian Asylum. In return, the Corporation was granted the “Privilege of Electing one child annually”⁵ The Royal Scottish Corporation, known today as Scotscore, was founded in 1603. It was, and remains, a “landmark focal point for Scots in London”⁶

Further recognition of the Asylum’s place as a London Scottish institution came in 1895 on the initiative of Sir Donald Currie a Liberal Member of Parliament. William Ewart Gladstone resigned as Prime Minister in 1894, but was asked to represent the country at the opening of the Baltic and North Sea Canal. Sir Donald Currie owned the Castle, later known as Union-Castle Shipping Line. One of his ships, the RMS Tantallon Castle, carried the British contingent as well as pipers and Scottish dancers from The Caledonian Asylum.

Among those to board at Tilbury on 15 June were “five boys from that noble institution, The Royal Caledonian Asylum, in which Sir Donald takes a deep and warm interest. The boys looked well in their Highland dress of the Stewart tartan. Two of them were pipers, the rest dancers, so that when the occasion offers, the sweet strains of the bagpipes will accompany the dancers when, to the delight of onlookers, they perform the Highland Fling on the spacious deck of the noble vessel. The boys seemed delighted at the treat before them and were accompanied by the esteemed matron Miss Burgess and the two were the secretaries Messrs T. Ingles and Graham who handed them over to the care of the ship’s officers”⁷

On 17 June 1895, the ship docked at the port of Hamburg. Dinner was arranged for Mr Gladstone and his wife by the Burgomaster and city dignitaries. “Dinner and entertainment of pipe playing and dancing was given on deck by five boys in Highland costume from the Caledonian Asylum London; the sword dance greatly pleasing the Hamburg ladies”⁸ The ship arrived at Copenhagen in Denmark on 18 June. The King Christian IX and Queen Louise of Denmark



On way to Kiel Canal, 1895, Daily Graphic



“Pipe playing and dancing was given on deck by five boys in Highland costume from the Caledonian Asylum London; the sword dance greatly pleasing the Hamburg ladies”

came on board at lunchtime. It was reported “after luncheon the entire party proceeded on deck where Scottish national dances were performed”⁹.

The next day the Royal Family and their British guests boarded the Danish warship Prinz Waldemar. The boys from The Caledonian Asylum remained on the RMS Tantallon Castle until the ship reached the entrance to the canal, whereupon the boys descended into the ship’s pinnace which took them over to the Prinz Waldemar. The “youngsters were invited on board and favoured the company with Highland reels and dances, accompanied by the strains of a bagpipe carried by one of the number. The little entertainment was the greatest possible success.”¹⁰ The two ships had been standing at anchor in the Baltic Sea by the entrance to the Kiel Canal. Warships from the main European powers had begun to gather in preparation for the opening ceremony on 19 June. According to the London Daily Chronicle, the “curiosity of the fleets was roused by the unwonted strains of the bagpipes: this having been arranged by Sir Donald Currie, the pipers being boys from the Caledonian Asylum and proved a most unexpected novelty”.¹¹

The Daily Telegraph reported on the opening of the Baltic and North Sea Canal or, as it is called today the Kiel Canal, by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. This was also the anniversary of Queen Victoria’s coronation. Kaiser Wilhelm was Queen Victoria’s grandson and he had ordered all of the warships to fly the British Royal Ensign. At noon, a 21 gun salute was fired in honour of Queen Victoria and “Sir Donald Currie sent his orphan Scots to the tune of the bagpipes on board the Prinz Waldemar, an attention which was greatly appreciated”.¹²

This for the boys was undoubtedly the highlight of the entire trip. The boys were Ernest James Kennedy, Hugh Proudfoot, Angus Gunn, David Blythe Hume and David Storar. One of their number, Hugh Proudfoot, wrote an account of the experience that was published in the Arbroath Guide on 26 June. He started by referring to the initial ride on a special train from Fenchurch Street to Tilbury. His descriptions are evocative of the period before the tensions had arisen between the great powers, that were to then lead to war nine years later.

Hugh Proudfoot writes with obvious pride of the response from the sailors to their playing: “We got under way early and started for the Kiel Canal which we reached in the afternoon after passing some very attractive scenery. In the bay we found men of war of almost every nationality. About 6.00pm we boarded a tender and were conveyed round the bay to look at the ships.

As we sailed along, we played the pipes and the crews of the different warships cheered us. It was a magnificent sight. At sundown cannons were fired from every one of them. And the boom of the guns is a thing never to be forgotten.”¹³

Meanwhile, the Committee of Directors were becoming increasingly exercised by the inadequacies of the existing Caledonian Asylum. A Special Court of Guardians was arranged for 26 April 1897 to authorise the Directors to move the Asylum to the northern suburbs of London. Sir John Heron Maxwell, Treasurer to the Asylum, reiterated the list of the shortcomings of the existing site: ranging from the limitations of the building itself to its unsuitable location next to a prison. Sir John informed the Court that an anonymous supporter had promised to donate £12,000 towards provision of a replacement on a new site. A Building Committee was formed to oversee the sale of the Islington building, the purchase of land and construction of a new school.¹⁴

The Building Committee met on 14 May 1897 under the chairmanship of Sir John Heron Maxwell. Sir John reported on a valuation of the Asylum site of being 95.39 yards, or as he put it, 1 acre, 3 roods, 35 poles and 10 yards. He assumed that the building would be razed and the site subject to redevelopment. The Asylum’s Surveyor, Thomas Dinwiddy, valued the site at “£10,700, and noting the building as simply a minefield of old materials worth an additional £1,000: together say roundly £12,000”.¹⁵

The Committee of Directors met to consider their next steps on 14 June. However, the first item on their agenda was a congratulatory address to Queen Victoria on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. This message highlighted the continuing links between The Caledonian Asylum and the Royal Family. It noted that “the Royal Caledonian Asylum has been highly favoured with the patronage of your royal house, the first President having been Your Majesty’s revered father Edward Duke of Kent and Strathearn while all of Your Majesty’s sons have occupied the chair on the occasion of the anniversary festival”.¹⁶

The Building Committee continuing the search for a new location had arranged site visits in Mill Hill and further away from London in Potters Bar. On 2 September 1897, the Directors held a Special Meeting to consider an offer from the East End Dwellings Company of £13,500 for the Asylum site. They had hoped to reach a price of £16,000 but were prepared to accept £15,000.¹⁷ At a further Special Meeting held on 8 September the Directors accepted a revised offer of £14,000 from East End Dwellings.¹⁸ The Building Committee met on



**“The Building
Committee met
to review possible sites
for the new school”**



Boys at the new residential school, 1903

27 September to review possible sites for the new school. These were Bushey, Pinner, Chorleywood and Reigate. Mill Hill was added to the list.¹⁹ This was reported to the Committee of Directors meeting on 11 October 1897, where a decision was made to remove Chorleywood from the shortlist.²⁰

On 12 November 1897, the Directors received a report from the Asylum's honorary architect MacVicar Anderson. He viewed the Bushey asking price as reasonable and otherwise "most eligible being more happily situated in regard

“The Committee of Directors had shown great perseverance in organising a move from London to Bushey”

became a Vice President of what became the Royal Caledonian Schools. The Committee of Directors had shown great perseverance in organising a move from London to Bushey. The Asylum building was surrendered on 26 May 1903 and then demolished quite quickly by the LCC. Thereafter the names of Caledonian Road and Caledonian Park would serve as reminders of a Scottish presence lasting between 1828 and 1903. The LCC itself sought to preserve this memory of the site’s history by allocating a Scottish name to the new blocks of flats and adding Scottish motifs to the railings.²⁷

The new residential school opened on 23 May 1903. The children travelled by train from Euston to Bushey, marching on to their new school. The Committee of Directors met for the first time at Bushey on 8 June 1903. The final costs payable to Sir William Emerson and the builders, Messrs Kerridge and Shaw of Cambridge amounted to £43,287 4 shillings and 1 penny.²⁸

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CHAPTER 3

The Royal Caledonian Schools 1903–1996

In no other school in England is Scottish dress always worn and the sound of the pipes the familiar music of every day

By 1914, The Royal Caledonian Schools were well established at Bushey. In that year, the Directors established a centenary festival committee. This was scheduled for the summer of 1915. King George V and Queen Mary were expected to attend, but the event had to be called off due to the pressures of war. However, it seems normal life returned to the Schools quite quickly after the war.

A souvenir brochure of 1933 features photographs of the pipe band and the children wearing tartan uniforms. The impression created was of the School having retained the Scottish ethos that had been the defining feature of The Caledonian Asylum. This was reinforced by a feature in *The Scotsman* newspaper: “In no other schools in England is Scottish dress always worn and the sound of the pipes the familiar music of every day.”¹





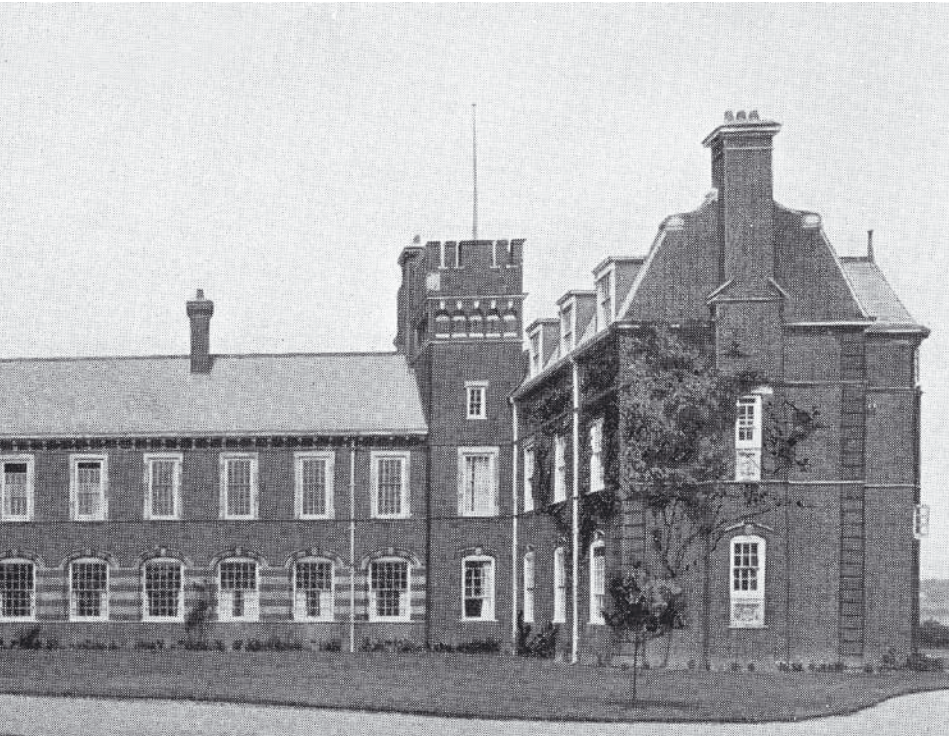


King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, as Patron and Patroness, visit Royal Caledonian Schools, 1937

The Schools' survival continued to depend on the financial support of donors and subscribers. The subscription rates were published as follows in 1933:

- A donor of 100 guineas was a Director for life able to place one child in the Schools
- A donor of 10 guineas was a Governor for life
- Annual subscribers of two guineas were Guardians
- Subscribers of one guinea were entitled to sign forms of application for admission of children
- Ladies were admitted as life Governors on payment of five guineas
- Subscribers and donors contributions accumulating up to the 10 guineas level became Life Governors.²

A feature of the interwar period was the contribution of a *Society of Old Caledonians*. This magazine kept former pupils in touch with the Schools and in so doing encouraged them to make regular contributions as subscribers. The



*Left: The Royal Caledonian Schools, 1939.
Below: Pupil presents a bouquet to Her Majesty Queen Mary*



“After 1947 the children attended local schools. From this point onwards the Royal Caledonian Schools offered residential accommodation only”

October 1938 edition contained a typical article from an Old Caledonian about the early days of schools in Bushey. The writer explained how the Schools coped with the absence of public transport. There were “no trams or buses and the rail station was miles away”. Eventually the problem was resolved as “the Schools became the proud possessor of a pony and trap”. The pony was called Punch.³

The Second World War had a considerable impact on life at the Schools. A fire damaged the Hall of the Clans in 1940. While the fire was not war damage, some 200 bombs were said to have been dropped on or around the Schools during the Blitz. One bombing raid led to the destruction of the chapel in 1941. The children witnessed enemy aircraft being intercepted by the Royal Air Force and were warned not to touch parts of planes falling close by. However, being inherently curious they would often do so, even where the metal was obviously burning hot. In 1942, newly arrived American troops stationed nearby began to make use of the gym and other school facilities. A few took lessons on the bagpipes.⁴



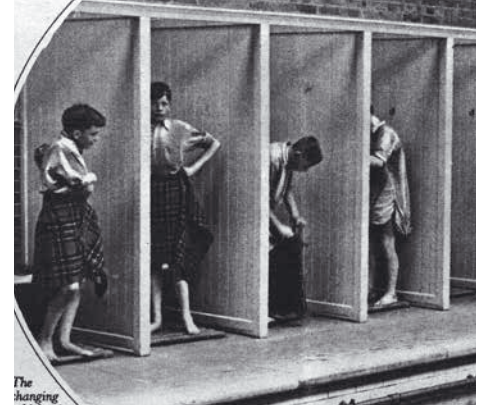
Observing Scottish Traditions, 1931



*The London Scottish gathering at
the Duke of York's headquarters
in Chelsea. Girls from the RCS
dancing a reel, 1931*



Changing cubicles at the indoor swimming baths of the RCS, 1934, Weekly Illustrated



The 1944 Education Act changed the education system for secondary schools in England and Wales. This was introduced by Richard A Butler, President of the Board of Education. The Act brought in the tripartite system of secondary education, modern, technical and grammar schools. The school leaving age was raised to 15 years and the division between primary and secondary education fixed at 11 years. With the introduction of the Act, the Directors of the Royal Caledonian Schools believed the local state schools were better placed than the Royal Caledonian Schools to meet the requirements of the new system. The declining school roll made it difficult for the Schools to offer the choice of subjects recommended by the new Act. Accordingly, after 1947 it was decided to hand over the education of the children to Hertfordshire County Council.

After 1947 the children attended local junior and secondary schools. From this point onwards the Royal Caledonian Schools offered residential accommodation only.⁵ The Committee of Directors were subsequently able to focus on the welfare of the children and improving the facilities. The Hall of the Clans was restored and opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1963. Her Majesty also visited the Schools again in 1988 to open Coltart House, a new building designed to accommodate 24 young people aged 16 and over.⁶

The last great Royal occasion at Bushey took place on 7 March 1989. On that day “Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, in a glorious hyacinth blue coat and hat with matching dress, was led into the soon to be named Hall of the Regiments by the President, the Duke of Argyll, to see the Hall in its new splendour; Regimental Crests, gleaming pictures, lovely flowers and in a horseshoe around

In 1942, newly arrived American troops stationed nearby began to make use of the gym and other school facilities

the Hall, the children in their Royal Stewart tartan kilts, standing quietly with the Colonels of the Regiments and friends of the Schools”⁷ The Queen Mother unveiled a commemorative plaque and dedicated the Hall. This event took place a full 64 years after her first visit as Duchess of York in 1925.

The 1990s represented a period of decline. In 1989 there had been 124 children enrolled, but by 1994 this had reduced to only 54.⁸

In 1995, the Committee of Directors decided to close the Schools⁹ and Mr John Horsfield was seconded from the local authority Social Services to take charge of them. They remained open until the departure of the last remaining children in June 1996, and the premises sold to the Purcell School of Music.

The capital from the sale provided an investment income that would be used to support the education of individual children. On his retirement from Social Services, Mr John Horsfield became the first Chief Executive of the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust as a grant-making charity.

His experience was invaluable in understanding how grants might be used effectively to support children’s education, often through years of school and into further or higher education. It was John Horsfield who initiated what became the Scottish Education Programme.

As the Trust moved out of the Schools at Bushey, the Directors were concerned to ensure the preservation of the School colours and the Shields from the Hall of the Clans. The colours were displayed in Crown Court Church, Covent Garden and the Shields, though not until 2004, were unveiled at the Drill Hall of the London Scottish Regiment.¹⁰





Above: Children enjoying a picnic in the garden of a supporter during a padres outing

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Catriona Butler, Vice-Chairman of the Trust visiting Colinton Primary School, Edinburgh, 2012. All photography in this chapter by Malcolm Cochrane Photography (www.malcolmcochrane.co.uk)

CHAPTER 4

The Royal Caledonian Education Trust 1996–2015

When he takes his bagpipes somewhere and he plays them for people who are away from Scotland, it reminds them that they are Scottish and where they come from¹

Over the years, the numbers of grant applications on behalf of poor Scots in London have declined markedly. As a consequence, the Directors decided that grant awards would be used solely to support the children of Scots who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces.²

The Trust's Grants Committee, chaired by Mrs Dorothy Strickland and comprising Mr Alistair Wilson, Mrs Jan Coughtrie, Mr James Robertson, Ms Wendy McCaffer, Mrs Christine Adams and Mr Malcom Noble, awarded around 250 grants in 2014. In that year, 81 per cent of grants went to Army families, 7 per cent to Royal Navy families, 7 per cent to Royal Air Force families, 5 per cent to other. The Trust relies on collaboration with the Armed Forces Charity, SSAFA, which provides support for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and military families, to recommend support for families in need. Donations from Poppyscotland, charitable trusts and the Caledonian Society of London supplement the funds available to the Trust from investment income and subscribers.

The period of transition from the Schools to a grant-making charity was eased by the continuing loyalty of regular donors. Other individuals supported the Trust by facilitating links with charities such as SSAFA and Poppyscotland,

giving advice and attending profile-raising events in London and Edinburgh. These included Lt. Col. Andy Middlemiss, with an advisory role, former Caley Scholars Mrs Bea McDowell, Mrs Liz Beckley, Mr Alan MacDonald, as well as Miss Maggie Harvey and Miss May Holmes.

Demand for places at the Royal Caledonian Schools had fallen steadily since 1945. By contrast, after closure of the Schools in 1996, increasing numbers of Armed Forces families required support to cover clothing, after-school activities and essential excursions. A significant proportion of grant monies are apportioned to support those who wish to continue their education beyond school. In such cases, the Trust contributes to living expenses, where financial circumstances might otherwise prevent individuals taking up a course. An example is former Caley Scholar Kyle Warren from Helensburgh, who was helped with funding to enable him to attend piping tuition classes, culminating in a First Class Degree in Piping. He has since gone on to achieve international acclaim with four world champion wins under his belt as a member of the renowned Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band. He remains, to this day, honorary piper to the Royal Caledonian Education Trust.

From left: RCET Chief Executive James MacBain, Major General Nick Eeles, GOC Scotland and RCET Chairman Malcolm Noble, 2013

Following a decade as a grant-making charity, the Directors decided to review every aspect of the Trust's activities. In 2010, James MacBain was appointed

Chief Executive. He was charged with implementing a far-reaching programme of change intended to raise the profile of the Trust especially in Scotland. Lisa Freedman, Executive Assistant at the Trust, played an important part in ensuring the smooth running of the Trust's administration during this programme of change. A start was made with a new structure for governance of the Trust. The Committee of Directors was reduced in size from 14 to 9. An audit of skills was undertaken with new Directors recruited to ensure that the Committee possessed the skills and experience required for the running of an educational charity.





RCET Commissioned DVD 'Forces Kids - This is My Life', 2012

The Committee of Directors, comprising Mr Malcolm Noble (Chairman), Mrs Catriona Butler (Vice Chairman), Mrs Dorothy Strickland, Mr Gary Gray, Mr James Robertson, Ms Valerie Peay and Lt. Col. Hugh Cowan, hold their meetings normally at London's Caledonian Club in Belgravia. Trust Guardians pledge a minimum annual contribution of £120 or £1,000 for life.

Jen Nash, Director of Panache Communications, was engaged to raise the profile and improve the marketing and communications of the charity and in 2012 the charity was renamed the Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET).

The advice of a Scottish Support Committee formed in Edinburgh in 2004 proved invaluable in guiding the strategy implemented north of the border, particularly as the Trust began to provide assistance to schools and local authorities in Scotland. This was chaired by Lt. Col. Hugh Cowan. The members were: Mrs Evelyn Cargill, Lt Col Helen Homewood, Mrs Liz Beckley, Lt Col Andy Middlemiss, Mrs Carolyn MacLeod, Major Roy Fraser, Mr Alec Rose and Mrs Marlene Love.

The formation of this Committee led on to the most significant initiative since closure of the Schools in 1996. It had become obvious that targeting resources to schools would enable the Trust to actively promote good practice in supporting Armed Forces children, especially those with parents deployed to conflict zones. To ensure that limited resources were used effectively, a 'support for learning' teacher at Colinton Primary School in Edinburgh was engaged to co-ordinate this activity in 2009.

Thus the Trust's Scottish Education Programme came into being, managed by Carolyn MacLeod, and quickly established a reputation for the quality of support and training offered to teaching staff and other education professionals. Initially, this took the form of engagement with individual schools with significant numbers of Forces children. Examples were Colinton Primary School and Firrhill High School in Edinburgh, together with Mauricewood Primary School and Beeslack High School in Midlothian.

“Targeting resources to schools would enable the Trust to actively promote good practice”

Armed Forces children frequently experience moving homes and schools. They have to cope with the stresses of having a parent deployed to a conflict zone. In the case of parents serving on submarines, children may have no contact for months at a time. The Directors of the Trust became aware that, despite many examples of good practice in Scottish schools, there was an urgent need for



The Right Rev. John Chalmers and Moira Leslie, Trust Education Programme Officer with pupils and staff at Beeslack Primary School, Edinburgh, 2014

co-ordinated action across Scotland. This led to the decision in 2009 to inaugurate a series of Practitioner Conferences. Lt. Col. Nick Kitson, whose soldiers were at that time gathering outside ready for deployment to Afghanistan, was the first to address the Conference. Sadly, this 3rd Rifles battle battalion lost six men who were killed in action and more than 100 were wounded during that tour of duty in Helmand Province, most from improvised explosive devices.³

The keynote presentation at the 2009 Conference came from Professor William Yule Emeritus Professor of Applied Child Psychology, University of London Institute of Psychiatry. He set out objectives: focus on specific needs of individual families, differentiate between the phases of deployment, share good practice, build a database of useful advice and undertake research related to present conflicts. This served to guide Education Programme activities over the next two years.⁴

A reference group of education professionals was established to support the Education Programme and meetings were held at Bonaly Primary School in Edinburgh. The Head Teacher, Gordon Robertson, remains on the Service Children Support Group (SCSG), which replaces the original group and now has a much wider-ranging remit, as does Wendy Bellars, Head Teacher of MOD-funded Queen Victoria School in Dunblane.

The keynote speaker at the Trust's 2010 Conference at Queen Victoria School in Dunblane was Dr Grace Clifton, who outlined factors from her research that prevented Armed Forces children from realising their potential. Brigadier George Lowder MBE, Commander 51 Brigade, also spoke and Keith Brown MSP, Minister for Schools and Lifelong Learning, opened the Conference.⁵

An important outcome of the 2010 Conference was the consensus over a need to provide a transition service, and to co-ordinate support for Armed Forces children as they move between the four different curriculum and assessment systems within the United Kingdom. This was considered as increasingly urgent, as education in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales had become the responsibility of devolved administrations.

The UK Government's Military Covenant made this a reality in 2012, as the Military Covenant budget made it possible to finance the post of National Transitions Officer, for Children and Young People of Armed Forces families in Scottish schools. The Trust's Education Programme Manager, Carolyn MacLeod,



*Kyle Warren, Honorary
Piper to the RCET, 2013*

*“An important
outcome of the
2010 Conference was
the consensus over a
need to provide a
transition service, and
to co-ordinate support
for Armed Forces
children”*



Skye MacLeod, who was the volunteer project co-ordinator behind the making of RCET DVD 'Forces Kids - This is My Life', 2012

was seconded to this role, reporting to the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES), while continuing to work as an adviser to the Trust.

The 2013 Practitioners Conference was attended by more than 100 practitioners drawn from schools, local authorities, the military, the Scottish Government and the third sector. Sir Andrew Cubie, Chairman of the Scottish Curriculum and Qualifications Framework, was the keynote speaker. A military perspective was provided by Major General Nick Eeles, General Officer Commanding Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.⁶

Today, the Education Programme provides a vital lifeline to Armed Forces children in Scotland. Moira Leslie, Education Programme Officer for the Trust, works with schools and in communities, providing advice, educational resources and training to help professionals recognise and support children and young people who are struggling to cope in school. This is particularly important when a parent is away from home on active service, or if a family is experiencing financial problems, health issues or other challenges at home.

As well as classroom support, the RCET is also leading the way in identifying successful school procedures and targeted interventions that can support pupils. The RCET does this through research collaborations, partnerships with Armed Forces communities and Community Covenants and through links with policy makers, education professionals, community organisations and third sector partners.

The Trust is also represented on the Scottish Government Stakeholder Group. This brings together the Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP), the Ministry of Defence (MOD), local authorities, schools and the military to co-ordinate policy initiatives designed to support Armed Forces children. This group evaluates bids for funding from the MOD's Education Support Fund.

Good relations have been established and are maintained with key partners including Education Scotland, DCYP, ADES, schools, local government support services, and the military Tri-Service: Army, Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

A highly important connection over 200 years has been with the Church of Scotland. The Moderator comes to London each year and a meeting with the Trust Directors, staff and supporters always features in the Moderator's

programme. These links have now been reinforced as the Trust, looking to acquire a base in Edinburgh, now rents office space in the Church Headquarters at 121, George Street.

At a meeting in Edinburgh on 19 November 2014, the Committee of Directors took the decision (in response to the question: Should the RCET be based in London?) “to unanimously agree that the Trust would move its operations to Scotland in 2016 or early 2017”. There is no intention to restrict Trust activities to Scotland. The Trust will continue to register with the Charity Commission in England and retain its London links. However, the Trust’s Headquarters will be established in Edinburgh.⁷

Three factors have combined to significantly raise the profile of the RCET in Scotland. The first is the series of Practitioners’ Conferences, which have been well attended by those professionals seeking to promote good practice in improving support for Armed Forces children and families. The second is a ground-breaking film ‘Forces Kids – This is My Life’. This was commissioned by the RCET and gave a voice to Scottish children with parents deployed to a conflict zone. The third is a recent development for the Trust, a research collaboration, which has been developed with the University of Stirling. A successful bid to fund a PhD student research project will focus on the lack of understanding there is about the ways in which children from Armed Forces families experience school. It will also identify kinds of interventions that can be effective in meeting their educational needs.

By working collaboratively with local authorities, schools, colleges, support agencies and the military, the Trust can make a difference to the life chances of children across Scotland and beyond. An important strand for the Trust’s work in the future will be to mitigate the effects on children and young people moving between the different education systems in the United Kingdom. In doing so, the Trust can build on its existing links and establish new partnerships south of the border. The Trust will be a United Kingdom charity based in Scotland.

Under the leadership of James MacBain between 2010 and 2015, the Trust has implemented transformational change. The expansion of Trust activities has also increased spending for the benefit of Armed Forces children in Scotland and in 2014, the Trust appointed Matthew Middler as the first dedicated fundraiser in its history.

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Some of the children who starred in the RCET DVD 'Forces Kids – This is My Life': (from left): Alysha Pest-Hutchinson, Josh Galloway, Lauren Nelson and Ollie Strudwick, 2012. All photography in this chapter (excl. p42/43) by Malcolm Cochrane Photography (www.malcolmcocrane.co.uk)

CHAPTER 5

Review 1815–2015

'The Dandelion has become the symbol for Forces kids internationally. Its seeds are scattered by the wind and it puts down its roots anywhere'

The Caledonian Asylum was founded in 1815 to provide an education for the children of destitute Scots in London. The intention was to build a school where the children would be taught and live up to the age of 16, initially in London, later moving to Bushey. The Royal Caledonian Schools continued to educate children until after the Second World War. The Schools offered accommodation and arranged admission to local schools from 1948 to 1996. The Committee of Directors did consider that there was still a role for a Scottish educational charity based in London. They acted prudently by investing the capital from the sale of the Bushey premises. The income from the investments was used to meet the objects of the charity. This was achieved in the form of grants to support individual children. Later on, grants were given to fund projects in Scottish schools with significant numbers of Armed Forces children.

The Caledonian Asylum has by no means faded from memory, at least on the western side of Islington Borough. In 1861, Chalk Road was renamed as the Caledonian Road. Nearby is the Caledonian Park [and the] regular Caledonian market. The Asylum's name was shortened to the 'Caley'. In Islington, this lives on as 'The Cally'. This is painted on both sides of the railway bridge at the Barnsbury and Caledonian London Overground station. It is just a short walk from the Caledonian Road Underground station on the Piccadilly line.¹

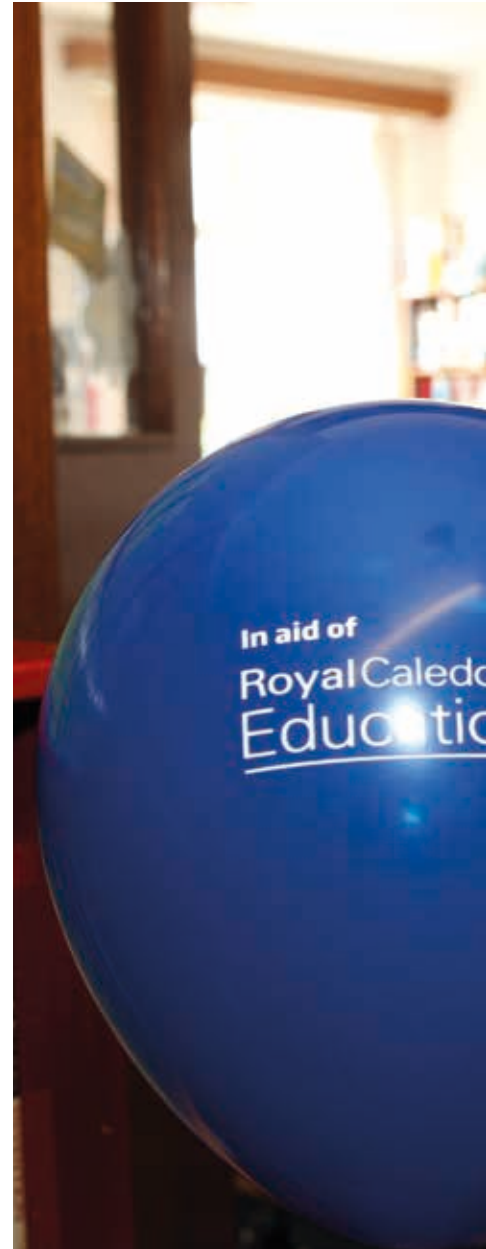
*Conor Bowie was among pupils from Mosstowie Primary school, Morayshire who put on a World War 1 musical drama and donated proceeds raised on the night to the RCET, 2014.
Photographer: Mark Williamson (www.mark-williamson.co.uk)*

The London County Council (LCC) housing estate built on the Asylum site retains the Scottish connection with the blocks of flats named after Burns, Wallace and Scott. Nowhere else in London are there so many Scottish names, all derived from a long-departed London Scottish institution.

The schools were successful in retaining earlier links with London Scottish organisations, including Crown Court and St Columba's Church of Scotland churches. The 1858 annual dinner was probably the first to have been supported by the Caledonian Society of London. The Society remains committed to supporting the two main London Scottish charities; the Royal Scottish Corporation and the Royal Caledonian Education Trust.²

The closure of the schools provided a challenge to the very existence of the charity. The Committee of Directors decided that they would continue to fulfil the objects set by the Charter of Incorporation, albeit adapted to 21st-century conditions. They did so by making grants to support the education of children from Armed Forces families and initially, the children of poor Scots resident in London. By working in partnership with SSAFA, the Trust was able to secure a regular flow of referrals on behalf of Forces children and young people. A further change of direction followed in the early years of the 21st-century. Following the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and later the war in Afghanistan, support for service men and women, veterans and their families became a national priority.

The renamed Royal Caledonian Education Trust responded by introducing its Scottish Education Programme into schools which evolved in stages from these modest beginnings to offer high-quality training for school and local authority staff and promote good practice in supporting the education of Armed Forces children. The Trust is about to embark on a new chapter. Coinciding with the bicentenary year, the Committee of Directors has decided to reverse the decision taken by their predecessors, on the advice of John Galt in 1815. The Trust will relocate to Edinburgh. A new headquarters will open in Edinburgh. This will enable the Trust to extend its support for Armed Forces children in schools, colleges and universities across Scotland.³







There will be greater emphasis on influencing policy in co-operation with the Scottish Government, the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) and the Ministry of Defence's Directorate for Children and Young People (DCYP).

The Trust aims to ensure that policy and practice are based on research evidence. There will, therefore, be further research initiatives, like the RCET-funded research collaboration with the University of Stirling. The Trust is planning a major initiative to follow on from the DVD 'Forces Kids – This is My Life'. This will feature support for children transferring between the different curriculum and qualification systems operating in the four nations that make up the United Kingdom.

However, the Trust will keep its status as a cross-border charity with registration in both England and Scotland. The base for operations is transferring to Edinburgh, but current links will be retained through SSAFA in the City and with the London Scottish institutions. The Trust has survived and prospered by being prepared to adapt to changing conditions of its time.

The Committee of Directors remain grateful for the continued support shown by Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family. They are grateful also to the Trust's staff, advisers, guardians, supporters and donors wherever they happen to live.

Above left: 2013 RCET Practitioner's Conference, Edinburgh. Above: Sam Forsyth, director and producer of 'Forces Kids – This is My Life' with pupils from St Marks RC Primary School, Edinburgh, 2014

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RCET staff and directors, and Ian McGregor, Chief Executive of Poppyscotland (third from the left), celebrate Poppyscotland's £50,000 donation to RCET at the Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, Edinburgh, 2014

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Note to reader: Regarding original quoted text and paragraphs, for the purposes of readability, certain points, commas, have been added by the editor.

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My thanks are also due to Sally Bevan and her colleagues at the London Metropolitan Archives in Farringdon.

The Minutes and Guard books, together with press cuttings, are the main primary sources used in this work. The co-operation of the staff at the London Metropolitan

Archives, therefore, has been essential to my completing this work. Once catalogued, this archive will constitute a vital source for any study of London Scottish institutions over the past two centuries.

James MacBain, Chief Executive, and the staff of the Trust have been consistently helpful throughout, always prepared to answer my questions on their own experiences with the Trust at Watford and subsequently as the office was re-located to the City of London. My thanks also to my fellow Directors, who commissioned this account in the first place.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Malcolm Noble has been Chairman of the Royal Caledonian Education Trust since November 2011. He was previously a Director of the Trust and, from 2009, consultant to its Scottish Education Programme.

His background is in education, serving for 14 years as Headmaster at Bexleyheath, then London's largest school with 2,300 pupils aged 11–19 years.

Currently, Malcolm chairs the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) in the East of England and is a member of the RSA's UK Fellowship Council. He is an Academician at the Academy

of Urbanism in London and a Senior Visiting Fellow at the University Campus Suffolk, in Ipswich. Malcolm was born in the Scottish Borders town of Peebles. He was educated in his home town of Innerleithen, at Peebles High School and the University of London. Malcolm is a communicant at St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Chelsea and a member of the Caledonian Society of London.

He is married to Sarah, formerly Head of Department at an Essex College, and who is now working part time for an examinations board.

