



## WHA Young Enterprise Board reach the National Finals



**RECORD TIME,** Wallace Hall Academy's Young Enterprise company, won four out of the six award categories at the Dumfries and Galloway regional finals. More information on page 11. Photograph on the left shows Kenny Bowie (Dumfries and Galloway Area Chairman), Daniel Smith, Matthew Holden, Ailie Bryson, Caitlin Murray, all Young Enterprise Board Members, Ivor Hyslop (Council Leader) and Grahame Arrowsmith, Business Education Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy.

## Career Mentoring Award

**Wallace Hall Academy, the Comenius project and the school's partner the Queensberry Initiative (QI) were finalists in three award categories for the Nithsdale Community Achievement Awards held recently in DGOne.**

Also present for this event with its focus on young people and community partnerships was Imogen Leask who was a finalist in the category of Young Person of the Year and Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers who were finalists in the School and Learning Community Award. Representatives from these groups attended the gala ceremony to learn who had been chosen as winners.

Queensberry Initiative was delighted to come away with a beautiful glass trophy and certificate

acknowledging its innovative practice in the area of Career Mentoring. The Initiative is always keen to work with new mentors who can offer support to our young people as they prepare for the

challenges for life beyond school. Anyone who is interested in putting themselves forward for this scheme should contact Pat Kirby at Wallace Hall Academy.

Photograph below shows Derek Clark, QI Board Member, Amanda Hannah, QI Career Mentor and Pat Kirby, QI Development Officer.



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# WHA at the Scottish Education Awards



**Our school was delighted to be shortlisted for two prestigious Scottish Education Awards this year: Global Citizenship Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Pat Kirby. The finals, sponsored by the Scottish Daily Record, were held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June in the Glasgow Hilton.**

Eight staff members and this year's Head Girl Judi Park and Depute Head Boy Duncan Muir travelled to participate in a glittering and fun filled event. This year's theme was The Jungle and the

entertainment and decoration reflected this.

Mr Graham commented: "It would have been great to have come home with first place trophies in both categories. However, Wallace Hall Academy is honoured to have been shortlisted for these two separate awards. The judges made it clear that in both categories the decision had been very difficult and that all finalists deserve recognition for the very high standard they observed during their judging visits."

## S6 Office Bearers



Our new S6 elected office bearers took up their new positions at the start of our new timetable on Monday 3rd June 2013. Picture left shows Lewis Morrison (Head Boy), Chloe Davidson (Head Girl), Finlay Gibson (Depute Head Boy) and Rebecca Muir (Depute Head Girl).



# A piping performance to be proud of

Becky Walker, one of our very talented young pipers, won first prize in her class at the Scottish Pipe Band Association competition held in Sanquhar recently. Becky has been playing the pipes for 7 years and is taught by Hugh Drysdale.

Becky said: "I was really delighted that I played well enough to win first prize and be presented with the winner's trophy. I am keen to progress with my piping and try more

competitions.

"Mr Drysdale has been really helpful, teaching me from when I started playing. I am a member of Upper Nithsdale Pipe Band and I have a number of performances coming up with them which I am really looking forward to."

We look forward to hearing Becky perform at school events over the coming months.



## The Queensberry Initiative supports Higher Biology

**Biology teacher Andrea Weir worked with Queensberry Initiative Project Officers to compile a Higher Biology revision booklet which enabled the pupils to revise for their Biology exams using the Outdoor Classroom.**

The pupils were asked to: photograph a plant defence mechanism highlighting how they prevent infection; sketch an indicator species; find and photograph a perennial plant; find a tree stump showing rings and state its age; and find a freshwater environment, in addition to many other relevant revision activities. They even had to source a cactus in the Duke's greenhouse.

We hope that this very visual and hands-on method of revision will have assisted our Higher Biology pupils in their recent exams.



**A group of around 25 students from Wallace Hall Academy recently volunteered to face a grilling from Rotarians from the Thornhill and District Club as part of the club's Mock Interview programme. The S4 and S5 students are due to leave school at the end of May to take up employment or go on to an apprenticeship or college.**

Frank Williamson, co-ordinator of the Thornhill Club's programmes for young people, said: "My team were delighted to meet up with the Wallace Hall students. I hope we were able to boost their confidence in facing up to interview situations as they move on from school. We wish them all well in the future."

Picture on the right shows student Jodie Carr being interviewed by Frank Williamson with fellow students and Rotarians looking on.

## Interview Experience

report by Gordon Neilson from Thornhill and District Rotary Club





# S1 have fun in France

report by Benjamin Haynes and Georgie Blount

**All S1 pupils were given the opportunity to go to France with our classmates on a Modern Languages trip. We had many meetings in the weeks before the trip which informed us of what we would do, what we had to bring, etc. Before we left we were issued with our Normandy trip hoodies which would help identify us as a group and which had all of our names on the back.**

On Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May at nine pm we left the school and our families behind to head away on a 20 hour journey to the Châteaux du Tertre. When we got on the ferry at Dover it was 7.30am and we were tired but excited. After our 2 hour ferry journey we arrived on French soil at Calais. We then had another long journey to the château and when we arrived we were made to feel welcome.

Rhea was our PGL leader who took us to each of our activities. These included: campfire, games, trapeze, team building and raft building. We also visited a lot of different villages and tourist attractions.

On the Tuesday we went to the market in Ernée and bought groceries which we used to make our lunch. We had to speak French and

make ourselves understood. We were surprised how it got easier the more we tried. It was difficult at the start but the shop owners were very nice and helped us with our pronunciation. In the afternoon we split into groups and did a variety of activities. Each night we enjoyed a lovely meal.

On Wednesday, in the morning we travelled to a little medieval town called Frugerres. We did a little quiz about the town and went shopping. All of the shops were places we hadn't heard of and everyone enjoyed getting something from the bakers.

In the afternoon we visited an interesting tourist attraction called Mont St Michel. It is a little village that winds up a hill. There are small shops that spiralled down to the bottom. A lot of us got all of our presents there for our relatives at home. It was so much fun because it was something we had never seen before.

The campfire was that night and we were all very excited when we got to roast marshmallows and sing amusing songs.

On our last full day, the Thursday, we travelled to a bakers just down the road and got to ask a real French baker all the questions, plus make our very own croissants. The



croissants tasted really good and it was great that we had the chance to make them.

That afternoon we went to a hypermarket where we got to walk around on our own and purchase all the things we wanted with any euros we had left! On Thursday we all enjoyed a great disco with the other schools put on by the PGL instructors.

We then packed and were ready for our departure on Friday morning after breakfast. Our journey back started with a long drive to Calais and once we got on the ferry we had our dinner. On the drive from Dover to Dumfries most of us just slept as it was very early in the morning.

Overall everyone had a fantastic time and a great trip was enjoyed by all! We thought our trip to France was fantastic and hope that next year's S1 pupils get the opportunity to go on this trip.





## S1 visit France





# Passionate about Photography

report by Bethany Ransom

**I joined the Dumfries Camera Club a year ago after having visited their annual exhibition. They are a group of people passionate about photography with abilities ranging from beginner to professional.**

At first, I was quite intimidated by the quality of the images being produced and the competitive nature of the members. As a club we enter many prestigious competitions and we tend to be very successful. Currently Dumfries Camera Club is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK. A monthly competition is also run through the Club's website, where members have the opportunity to both submit images and vote on the candidates anonymously.

During my year at the Camera Club I did a talk with photos from Nepal, and some studio portraits with the help of an advanced member. I have had a lot of practice taking photos for the school at their many events throughout the year. I have learned so much about photography from the people who come in to do talks and also from the people within the club who have helped me improve my work and my understanding of the concepts and equipment.

For my efforts in the past year I was awarded the Octocentenary Trophy for outstanding young photographer. Although I wasn't expecting it I was very pleased with this and look forward to making more progress in years to come.



Picture above is Bethany with her trophy and some examples of her photographic work are shown below.





# Heading for Hungary

report by Michael Godridge

**On the 16th of April 2013 six pupils, Steph Wells, James Donnelly, Beth Johnstone, Rebecca Smith, Emma Holden and me, Michael Godridge, travelled to Hungary accompanied by Mr Harley. We left the school at 8:00am to head for Edinburgh Airport where we enjoyed breakfast before we boarded our plane. Before we knew it we were bound for Budapest Airport. Due to a calm flight we arrived 15 minutes early and strolled casually through security to the gate. Here we met our exchange students for the first time and had to wave a sad goodnight to our beloved peers as we all left for our host accommodation.**

It was an early start the first morning. We introduced ourselves to the other schools and were divided into four different groups to begin our project. The four groups studied water and the uses of it. For the afternoon session we enjoyed a city tour, along with the German pupils, and saw the main sights and attractions the city has to offer. We were given free time in the evenings to explore the beautiful city and the

surrounding areas with our hosts before returning home each night to our host families.

On the Thursday morning we split up into our working groups and went out to gather information on our selected topics which we then put into our presentations. In the afternoon we were taken to the Budapest Rock Hospital - an underground hospital built during WW2 and used to treat soldiers in secret. After our historic tour, we walked up the hill for some more sight-seeing and, more importantly, ice cream at the Gelteria No. 7. Surprisingly, salted peanut ice cream was one of the most popular ice cream flavours. Later that evening, eight of us met up in the city to play pool with and against our hosts; the boys beat the girls and Scotland beat Hungary.

The Friday was the day of our presentations! In front of a group of 50 other Hungarians, we nervously delivered our presentations, thankfully, in English. The afternoon was the beginning of our holiday. Some of us spent our afternoon on Margaret Island enjoying the heat and the sun.

The Saturday was Hungarian Renaissance Day. We went to a



castle just out of Budapest and were treated to an exciting show of jousting between the castle's knights. This was followed by an amazing three course lunch at a Renaissance restaurant. The last hour before we got back on the bus to Budapest was spent in a little village souvenir shopping.

The Sunday was our last day with our hosts and we got to spend the whole day with them and their families. Many of us visited Budapest zoo. As the day progressed we all started to feel regret about our trip ending.

We arrived back in the UK tired, almost frozen, and missing our new Hungarian friends. We still have fond memories of Budapest and would all happily go back again; Hungary, we miss you! P.S. Loved the ice cream.

More pictures from our Hungary trip on pages 8 and 9.











## Heading for Hungary



# Working with wood

**This year's Forestry Module visited James Jones and Sons Lockerbie. This visit was a very interesting end to the 2012/2013 Forestry course.**

The pupils got a chance to see the end product after having studied tree planting, tree

identification, conservation, harvesting, forwarding calculations and much more.

Anne Marie Wood, Queensberry Initiative Project Officer, commented: "The pupils were given a chance to discuss the many diverse career opportunities within



the forestry industry with Eddie Balfour who is the Mill Manager at Lockerbie. Eddie told them that he feels that it is very important that we encourage young people in to this fast-growing sector which offers many job opportunities within our region and further afield."

Jack Pybus, one of the pupils on the trip, commented: "This was a really interesting visit and we learned a lot about the wide range of careers working in forestry."

Thanks also to Buccleuch Forestry and the Buccleuch Rangers who have provided opportunities for practical experiences for this course throughout the year.

## Zombie Workshop

report by Freja Grant

**On the 30<sup>th</sup> April a workshop was held for us in Biology on the theme of infectious diseases, 'Romero Zombieism' and hypothetically what we would do if there was an outbreak of this. A few of the symptoms of Zombieism are rising from the dead, an inability to feel pain and a lack of human personality. This links in with one of the topics covered in Biology about the spread of viruses, gene mutation and DNA.**

After watching some video clips of people who show some of the symptoms of Zombieism, we then had to figure out if it was a virus or a bacteria by conducting a transmission test. This test proved that it came from the indigestion of bacteria. After this we had to then work out if it was a rogue prion or a toxin.



The treatments that we were given to choose from were vaccines and antibiotic gene therapy. We chose that the solution was to kill all of the sufferers of Zombieism. My favourite part overall at the Zombie Workshop was when we were figuring out the cause of the Zombieism.

## Carbon Busters

Emma Platt and Alice Campbell from the Crichton Carbon Centre have been visiting S3 Geography pupils to help the school reduce its carbon footprint. The project runs as a combination of lessons and activities, followed by practical experience of collecting data to calculate their school's footprint. To reduce the school's carbon emissions, pupils will also suggest ideas for a Carbon Management Action Plan, which will be implemented by pupils, teachers and other relevant staff. Watch this space...





# In Record Time



priced at £10, while the singles were £6. We also offered a service offering to convert records brought to us into clocks for a discount price of £5 for an LP.

The company was able to create a simple, original product making a sustainable and profitable business generating a profit of £273.07 after tax during the year.



**'Record Time' is our S6 Young Enterprise Group. The group decided to create quality up-cycled products, reflecting our desire to be environmentally responsible whilst creating imaginative, marketable and commercially viable products.**



We marketed and sold record clocks in 2 sizes. The clocks produced from LP records were



There was a high demand for our products over a range of age groups and we were able to satisfy this by selling in various locations, including in school and in local shops, providing a friendly and helpful customer service.

We gained enormously from the experience in terms of understanding business, team working and problem solving.

Our Young Enterprise year culminated in the Dumfries and Galloway regional finals, where we won 4 of the 6 awards categories including the best overall company. We will now go on to represent the region in the national finals in Glasgow on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Record Time team is:  
Managing Director - Ailie Bryson,  
Company Secretary - Imogen Leask,  
Financial Director - Daniel Smith,  
Marketing Director - Caitlin Murray,  
Production Manager - Rory Kilgour,  
Creative Designer - Arran McLachlan,  
Head of Sales and Stock Control - Matthew Holden





# Prize-winning senior pupils at Wallace Hall Academy

**The Wallace Hall Academy Senior Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the school's Bailey Hall. A glittering array of trophies graced the stage and as usual the hall was filled to capacity by proud parents, supportive staff and prize-winning pupils from years S4, S5 and S6. The weather gave us a beautiful evening which added to the sense of occasion with parents, staff and pupils lingering after the ceremony to reflect on and reminisce about the past year.**

Once all guests were seated, pupils were piped into the hall by Graeme Marshall. Principal Teacher of Pupil Support Kerry Fraser opened the proceedings by introducing Barry Graham, Head Teacher, who welcomed everyone and delivered his annual report. Illustrated by a stunning set of photographs showing pupils in action, the report focused on recognising the wide

achievements of the young people in a variety of contexts. The key strengths Mr Graham encouraged his audience to recognise were: enthusiasm for learning, courage, kindness, optimism, integrity, fairness and participation. Mr Graham's speech finished with a challenge to his listeners to focus on their successes and future attainment.

Duncan Muir then demonstrated why he has been selected for an organ scholarship at Carlisle Cathedral by performing "The Carnival of Venice" by P Frosini on his accordion. The S4 awards were then introduced by Phil Cubbon, Depute Head Teacher. Presenting the awards this year was the evening's featured speaker, Dr Fiona Vernon.

Dr Vernon spoke eloquently about her experience as a Games Maker at the London 2012 Olympic Games where she was a crowd doctor at Wimbledon. Her moving



**Duncan Muir being presented with his cheque for the UWS Dux Prize for Achievement by Dr Fiona Vernon.**

speech highlighted her journey towards selection for this prestigious role and what she learnt from this process about working hard and digging deep as the going gets tough. Pupils were encouraged to follow their dreams and to recognise that high achievement comes in many forms.

It was then the turn of the S5 pupils to collect their awards from Dr Vernon and Mr Cubbon. Mhairi Dalglish followed these awards by delivering a seasonal and charismatic rendition of "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth.

The S6 awards, as always, were the culmination of the evening's awards. This year's Dux of Wallace Hall Academy and winner of the UWS Dux Prize for Achievement was Duncan Muir and he was presented with a medal and a cheque. John Carlisle and Judi Park followed the awarding of the S6 prizes with their eagerly anticipated Head Boy and Head Girl presentation reflecting on the Sixth Years' time at Wallace Hall Academy. As always, there was laughter and tears. They then delivered a vote of thanks to all who had made the evening possible.

Kerry Fraser concluded this very positive celebration by expressing her particular thanks to Alice Bainbridge, who is the key administrative support for this complex event. It was agreed by everyone that Mrs Fraser's organising of the night and her compering throughout the night was a significant factor in making the event such a success.



**Photograph above shows Mrs Nancy Sloan with her granddaughters Rosie and Emma. Rosie was awarded the School Prize in Art & Design and Emma is holding the Margaret Mair Sloan trophy which she won for her prowess in Home Economics. This trophy has significant meaning for the Sloan family as it was gifted to Wallace Hall Academy in the early 1960s in memory of Margaret Mair Sloan, Emma and Rosie's great grandmother and Nancy's mother-in-law. Nancy has been a great friend of Wallace Hall Academy and, for many years, provided beautiful floral displays for our awards ceremonies until her retirement a few years ago.**





**Rory Kilgour with the Neil Robertson Memorial Trophy for Football**

**Erin Roberts with the Closeburn Castle Trophy for Graphic Communication**

**Kathryn Park with the S4 Girls' Cross Country Trophy**

**Ryan Gibson with the AMD Trophy for Construction And the Gill Dykes Trophy for Rural Skills**



**Lisa Ferguson with the David Murdoch Memorial Trophy for Football**

**Craig Neill with his Certificate of Representative Honours in PE and his Scotland Cap**

**Ally Barnes with the Senior Boys' Cross Country Trophy**

**Jordan Tweedie with the Vernon Cup for Outstanding Contribution to Music**

**Ailie Bryson, Caitlin Murray, Matthew Holden and Daniel Smith with the Young Enterprise Trophies. Their company, Record Time, won four out of the six categories at this year's Young Enterprise competition**





# Olympic Aspirations

**Presenting the awards at this year's ceremony was Dr Fiona Vernon. In her speech, Dr Vernon focused on the determination and commitment required to achieve her dream of being a doctor at London 2012. We felt her words were very relevant to all our young people and decided to print her words in this newsletter to allow us all to consider how we too can follow our dream.**

"Mr Cubbon thank you so much for your very warm welcome. Thank you also for your kind words about my children John, Fiona and David. I am very proud of them as I am sure all of your families will be proud of you tonight.

"I have to say that I am extremely honoured to be here and to have an opportunity to talk about one of my favourite subjects – the Olympics.

"London 2012 may seem like a distant memory for some but for me it was a lifetime experience.

"I was lucky enough to be selected as one of 3 volunteer crowd doctors at the Olympic Tennis held at Wimbledon. Our remit was to provide medical cover for the spectators, the sizeable workforce, the broadcasting teams and the VIPs. I was part of Team North covering Court No.1, The Hill and the surrounding outside courts. Our team consisted of myself, a lead nurse and 10 first responders who mainly were nurses but also included a medical student from Northern Ireland and a volunteer paramedic from the South of France. Throughout the 9 days of the tournament we treated all sort of problems from minor

ailments and injuries to life threatening incidents.

But of course at quieter times we managed to sneak away and catch a bit of the action. For



example I enjoyed watching Roger Federer play a mixed doubles on one of our outside courts and watching Andy Murray and Laura Robson play their nail biting semi-final of the mixed doubles and my claim to fame was providing a medical escort for some very 'Very Important People' as they walked from Court No 1 to the Millennium Building.

"However this amazing opportunity was not handed to me on a plate. My journey to London had started 2 years previously.

"First of all I had to submit my application. I had to decide how I might impress the selectors: as you have heard I have been a GP and a GP trainer for a good number of years; I was the crowd and team doctor at Gretna Football Club for 5 years during their meteoric rise to the Premier League and at the Scottish Cup Final; and I am currently a

member of the Dumfries and Galloway Major Incident Team; and to enhance my application I endured a very stressful 3 day course and examination on Pre-hospital Emergency Care.

"But more importantly - how might you impress the selectors when you apply for university or college or an apprenticeship or a job that you really want? What would stand out on your application? I would suggest that you work hard and try to get the best qualifications possible; include in your application your other achievements whether they be in sport, music, dance, art or whatever interests you have; think about volunteering (interestingly my daughter Fiona who now lives in Vancouver in Canada tells me that high school pupils must do

50 hours of volunteering every year); and simply remember to sell yourself – I, your teachers and your families know that without a shadow of a doubt you all have a huge amount of talent.

"My application for a possible place at the Olympics was successful and I was then invited for an interview in Glasgow. Once again I had to think how I might impress the selectors. I decided to try and find out as much as I could about being a Games Maker and was determined to show that I really wanted the job. I needed to convey my enthusiasm and commitment and ability to work in a team and that seemed to pay off. Perhaps some of these points might be worth considering when you are invited for that important interview.

"Commitment was certainly expected of us and I had to make 4 trips to London in the months



leading up to the Olympics.

"The first was for an 'Orientation Meeting' held at Wembley Arena where we learned from Jonathon Edwards and Eddie Izzard what being a Games Maker involved.

"The second trip was for 'role specific' training where we learned about our medical duties.

"The third was for 'venue training' which turned out to be an unforgettable day in the sunshine being shown round Wimbledon and of course preparing for the event.

"However on my fourth visit to London simply to pick up my uniform I had to stand in a queue in the rain for 2 hours waiting to get into the building and I distinctly remember feeling like giving up. But what a mistake that would have been, what an opportunity missed.

"So I would like to say to you tonight as you go forward from



**David Vernon representing  
Great Britain in the  
European Juniors**

here remember never give up, dig deep, be all you can be and you will realise your dreams just as these people did: Andy Murray – winning Olympic Gold at Wimbledon, Sir Chris Hoy – six time Olympic champion in cycling, Mo Farah – double Olympic gold champion for the 5,000m and 10,000m, Jessica Ennis - Olympic Heptathlon champion and closer to home David Vernon – representing Great Britain in the European Juniors at Tallinn in Estonia."

Dr Vernon concluded her speech by wishing all our young people the very best for their future whatever that may hold.



## Sonnets of Importance

**Pupils from Mr Pape's Higher English class were recently tasked with writing a sonnet as part of a project led by local writer JoAnne McKay. JoAnne is currently studying with the University of Glasgow**

**and the event was a crucial part of her Creative Writing course.**

The class took part in a workshop where they analysed sonnets by a number of famous Scottish poets and went on to use what they had learned to create their own pieces. The pupils were asked to bring to life a place that is important to them and six

sonnets were published in a booklet which was distributed at a gala event at the Glasgow Arts Club as part of World Book Night celebrations.

Below are two of the sonnets published in JoAnne's pamphlet: *Scotland* by Kyle Smyth and *Saint Andrew's Beach* by Ailsa Morton

### Scotland

An icy wind blows through this bonny place,  
Island of peaks, glens and landmarks for all,  
With nest place for sheep beside drystone wall,  
A child on his trike who'll win the last race.  
Our population would fill just one city  
But walk past someone, you'll receive greetings  
And I say you'll have no better meetings,  
So welcome to the birth place of whisky.  
Lochs, long, deep or hidden, plenty have formed here,  
Highest peak, a volcano extinguished  
Yet warmth comes your way, whatever you wear.  
A more beautiful place could not be wished,  
A friendly place, to let down your hair  
With one in your life who waits to be kissed.

By Kyle Smyth

### Saint Andrew's Beach

Hot sun beating down on the freezing sand,  
Waves crashing against the shifting beach floor,  
Kites dance across blue sky, getting lower  
In salt air, so fresh, blowing onto land.  
Sand drifting upwards in between our toes,  
Vanilla ice cream cones for us to lick,  
Whilst slimy seaweed lies, wet, green and slick  
And sand worms leave strange trails as they go.  
The dunes are warm and deep, but very steep,  
Little snakes lie in wait for some live bait.  
The arctic cold water is dark and deep,  
A harsh wind cuts though air like a sharp slate.  
This seaside air makes us all want to sleep,  
So off we go home, back up through the gate.

By Ailsa Morton



## **whapples:** an update on our community orchard

Seventy five trees in the **whapples** community orchard have been sponsored by a whole host of donors including local businesses, community councils, primary schools and individual benefactors. That leaves twenty six trees looking for someone to seize the chance to donate the cost of their purchase for the orchard. Donors receive a certificate to acknowledge their donation. The pupil board is also delighted that on its new website soon to be launched - [www.whapplesorchard.co.uk](http://www.whapplesorchard.co.uk) - there are online plaques naming each donor. New donations will be accepted on the website as well as through contacting the Queensberry Initiative team directly at Wallace Hall Academy.

The pupil board will be meeting with their adult board members in June for two working days. During this concentrated period they will be finalising the plans for the donor plaque which will be erected in the orchard very soon. Donors will then be able to visit the orchard and see the name assigned to their donation on the site as well as viewing in the virtual world of the website.

This year's pupil board has been renewed by volunteers who underwent an interview process to gain a position on the **whapples** management team. The new board is comprised of: S2 – Molly Kitson and Mia Osborne, S3 – Cameron Wood and Lucy Doig, S4 – Ian



Carlisle and Ben Wicks, S5 – Alisha Flannighan and Sarah Kerr, S6 – Adam Johnstone and Fae Treadaway.

New adult members of the board to replace WHA staff members who have moved to new posts in other schools are: Grahame Arrowsmith, Business Studies Teacher at WHA and Jamie Pape, English Teacher at WHA. They join the existing adult board members who are drawn from the community and from Wallace Hall Academy staff.

## **Business Mentoring gets a new title for the new year**



**The Queensberry Initiative has been delighted over the past four years to work with over twenty volunteer mentors who have given their time, expertise and enthusiasm, supporting young**

**people at Wallace Hall Academy to think constructively about their futures. At this year's mentoring review, the mentors pointed out that the title Business Mentoring has led some pupils to believe that the programme was only for budding entrepreneurs.**

The mentors want to make it clear that it is open to any S4, S5 or S6 student who would like the chance to work with an adult who is not a teacher or their parent/guardian/carer as the young person starts to think about future career pathways and how to achieve them. It was agreed that Career Mentoring was a more apt title for the scheme and so it has been renamed ready for the June enrolment.

This year's programme will commence in August and run until January with monthly sessions supplemented by email interaction between students and mentors. Queensberry Initiative staff anticipate that as usual the mentors will be oversubscribed so it will be "first come, first served" in June when the students have the opportunity to sign up for the scheme.



# Spring Fling

report by Rebecca Renton, Lauren Whitelaw, Maisie Walker, Rachael McNish and Caitlin Carruthers

**On Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May some members of 1S2 and 1C2 set off on a tour of Spring Fling, accompanied by Mrs Pirrie, Mrs Fraser and Mrs Black. The weather was not at its best - it was really wet and cold. We jumped into the mini bus that took us to 4 of the studios where we were met by the artists.**



The first artist we went to visit was Anthea Summers who makes and glazes pottery. Some of the things she made were teapots, mugs, dishes, jugs, vases and bowls. After she talked to us about the process of making the pots, she took us over to a table where we ate some biscuits and drank some orange juice.

Then in two groups we went over to another table (in the rain) and dipped small pots (that Mrs Black had made) into the glaze. We had three colours to choose from but we did not know what colours they would end up being like because the colours would change in kiln. Since it was raining and very cold Anthea decided that she would put them in the kiln later. This activity was my favourite because it was fun to learn about how she got into pottery and it was also fun dipping the pots in the glaze and deciding how you want to apply the glaze.

On our way to see Jennifer Watt's studio we went past the egg-shaped cairn that is situated just outside Penpont. The sculpture is made of red sandstone bricks and was designed by Andy

Goldsworthy. He built it in April of 1999. Mrs Black told us all about it. Then we headed to studio 58.

There were loads of different types of sculptures which included some silhouettes of dancing people and also a sandstone dove which was priced at £250! Some of the other materials Jennifer uses are wood, springstone, slate resin and aluminium resin.

Whilst we were there we also got to see some of Jennifer Watt's pups that one of her dogs had given birth to not that long ago. They were cocker spaniels and there were only 5 of them - we all got a cuddle!

After this we arrived at Anne Butler's house and studio; it was nice and cosy compared to the weather outside. Anne is a landscape painter who likes to use acrylic paint and paints on canvas. Instead of using a paintbrush, she uses credit cards to scrape the paint. She also uses her own hands and fingers. As we were looking around, a painting in the corner caught my eye. It was called 'Fife Poppies' and it was a field with red and white poppies and the sea in the background. I really liked this because it was very colourful and stood out from her other work. By that time all of us were getting



hungry so Anne invited us into her conservatory where we had lunch.

Lastly, we drove to Carronbridge Village Hall where we met Victor Henderson. He uses watercolour paints and crayons. His artwork is normally abstract painting. He doesn't exactly paint his paintings; he lets the watercolour just run and fill in the spaces where the crayons are. He also doesn't use paint brushes, just like Anne Butler. He had some paper waiting for us when we walked in and we painted a picture; then he talked to us about a few of his paintings and let us have a wee stroll around.

Overall it was a good day despite the cold, rainy weather.





# Queensberry Initiative grows links with our Cluster Primaries



**May Day marked the final session of this year's P7 Outdoor Activity Group. Fourteen Primary 7s from the six cluster primaries have been working together with the Queensberry Initiative since early January. The focus of this work has been making sure that everybody is ready for their transition to the "Big School" in August. Team and individual challenges have been combined with taster lessons in Wallace Hall Academy. All the P7s involved and their teachers agreed that the programme has been successful and a lot of fun.**

Queensberry Initiative (QI) Project Officers have been busy this spring supporting project work

within our cluster primaries. Both Duncow Primary and Closeburn Primary have had the opportunity to visit some of our local farms including Floors pig farm, New Cample Farm and Kirkbog dairy farm where the farmers gave very interesting talks to the pupils which gave them a real insight into a working farm. Pupils were very pleased to take back to the classroom samples of the animal feed for their displays. Wallace Hall Primary is also planning a "Where does our food come from?" visit to be organised and delivered by the Queensberry Initiative Project Officers.

Survival skills including den-building and fire-making were a feature of the educational opportunity provided by QI Project Officers for a group of pupils from



Penpont Primary. Anne Marie Wood and Leanne Peoples, the two Project Officers, agreed that the pupils from Penpont had highly developed survival instincts as well as excellent team working skills.

The Queensberry Initiative works with the seven schools of Mid-Nithsdale to promote health and wellbeing, commitment to high achievement and employability skills.



## Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall Academy is 01848 332120. The fax number is 01848 332564 with the email address: [woffice358@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:woffice358@ea.dumgal.sch.uk). Our office staff are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and to put you in touch with the relevant member of staff. Outside office hours you may leave a message on our answering machine. Please contact us if you have any problems. We are here to help. Visit the school website: [www.wallacehallacademy.com](http://www.wallacehallacademy.com) for the latest news and information.







# Climate Champions

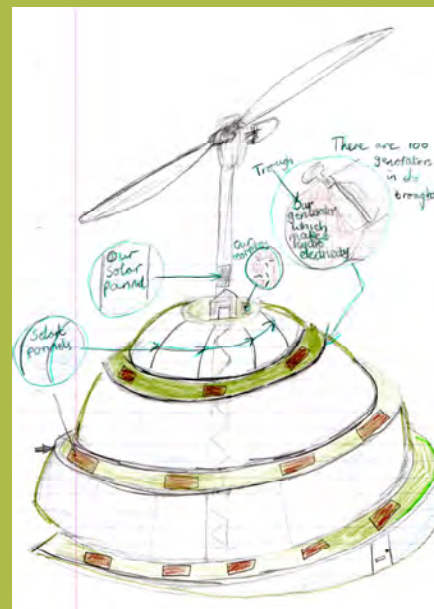
**Pupils from Wallace Hall Academy were recently selected as winners of the Climate Week Challenge 2013, the largest environmental competition in the UK. The challenge took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2013, with over 200,000 people from schools, colleges and workplaces across the UK taking part.**

We are delighted to reveal that the Wallace Hall Academy S1 team of Harris Maxwell, Georgie Blount, Hannah Graham and Alexandru Nan have been announced the winners of the 11-14 age category.

The Climate Challenge runs annually and aims to help develop creativity, innovation and enterprise, team-working and experience of tackling real-life environmental issues to a deadline. This year's challenge was revealed at 9am that

morning and the teams were asked to design the ultimate eco-home. The Wallace Hall team created Hill House, a geothermal heated house set into the hillside and insulated with Black Mountain sheep wool. The design also incorporated a spiral pathway around the house to grow fruit and vegetables for the home, fed with compost produced through a wormery.

Kirsty Landers, Biology Teacher at WHA, said: 'Our pupils came up with some fantastic ideas and were actively engaged and enthused by the project. They demonstrated excellent team work skills and worked strategically to come up with innovative ideas and potential solutions to help combat climate change. We are very excited to be announced winners of the country's biggest environmental competition.'



The competition judge, Robert Swan OBE, was said to be delighted with the knowledge, passion and enthusiasm with which participants tackled the task. The team are now eagerly waiting for their prize to be announced.



We hope you enjoy the summer edition of our school newsletter. It is packed with articles and photographs highlighting all the good things taking place at Wallace Hall Academy along with features focusing on the achievements of our pupils and staff. Thank you to all pupils, staff, parents and members of the community who have submitted articles and photographs for publication. Thank you also to everyone who has helped proof-read and edit our newsletter. We are always really pleased to report on the successes and publish information about the many, varied interests of our young people. If you have taken part in a competition, have an interesting hobby or if you have any pieces of work that you are proud of and would like published, please speak to Mrs Menzies in the Library and she will help with articles and photographs.



# The Queensberry Initiative's future is secured for another year

After a successful funding drive and a lot of community support the Queensberry Initiative (QI) is delighted to confirm that the project will continue in 2013/2014. This secures the commitment of its two experienced Project Officers, Leanne Peoples and Anne Marie Wood, and allows the project to continue its sector-leading work with the seven schools of Mid-Nithsdale for at least a further year.

Barry Graham, Chairperson of the QI Strategic Group and Head Teacher of Wallace Hall Academy, said: "Over the past four years, I have been overwhelmed by the continued level of community support for our ground-breaking initiative. Volunteers work with the QI staff on a daily, weekly and monthly basis to give our young

people the best chance of successful futures and enhanced educational experiences. During our recent funding drive, I was also really impressed by the number of individuals, businesses and other organisations who have been willing, in these difficult financial times, to pledge their support. The success of our funding drive is in large part down to the work of the ten Queensberry Initiative Funding Leadership Group members who undertook the difficult task of seeking funding from the community. I would also like to thank Pat Kirby for her preparation of funding grant applications. We have just learned that we have been awarded a grant by The Robertson Trust for which we are very grateful."

The funding drive continues through the summer with the hope



of securing the Queensberry Initiative's future for years to come. Anyone interested in learning more about how they might be able to contribute to this drive, either financially or by volunteering their time, should contact Barry Graham at Wallace Hall Academy.

## Fantastic Farming Support

Local farmers have been giving their time freely to help the Queensberry Initiative (QI) to provide practical support for Rural Skills courses at Wallace Hall Academy.



The twelve farms involved are all volunteer members of the rural skills support team who have been signed up by Miss Peoples, QI Project

Officer, and Sinclair Barbour, a local farmer who is a member of the QI Strategic Group. Each farmer takes his or her turn to host the class and give them the opportunity to experience a variety of aspects of farming.

Pat Kirby, QI Development Officer, stated: "I am delighted at the support our farming community gives to our rural skills classes. Farmers give their time freely and it is clearly very valuable for the young people undertaking these courses. The support both in arranging the farm visits and on the day from Leanne Peoples is also essential and much appreciated."

If you are interested in finding out more about our Partner Farmer Scheme please contact Leanne



Peoples, QI Project Officer, at Wallace Hall Academy or Sinclair Barbour at Auchenhearn.

QI is currently funded by the Dumfries and Galloway LEADER programme, the Holywood Trust and several local community councils.

The Queensberry Initiative Annual General Meeting will be held on  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 4pm in Wallace Hall Academy.



# Activities for all



**An exciting and varied range of activities were available for pupils to participate in as part of our annual Activities Week.**

Options for all of our S1, S2 and S4 pupils included watersports on Loch Ken, fly fishing on the Drum Loch, a pony day at Camplebridge

Riding Centre, board games, craftwork, rugby, a construction challenge, field games, gun dog training, clay pigeon shooting, a trip to M&D's, a traditional music day, French cookery, Ultimate Frisbee, making a clay piggy bank, natural sculptures, tennis, making a cupcake

stand, crazy cupcakes, a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, Laserquest and Bowling, team sports activities, creating a cushion, mountain biking, a treasure hunt and a visit to the Happy Potter in Thornhill.

In addition to this varied menu, all of our S2 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Liverpool and some of our S1 pupils travelled to Normandy in France. There was an activity there to suit everyone's taste.

Nick Riley, Learning Leader in charge of organising Activities Week said: "It's been great seeing the pupils and staff enjoying themselves and having fun in the various activities on offer this week. Feedback has been hugely positive and I am delighted that the whole week went so well. I am very grateful to Mrs Bainbridge for all her clerical and administrative help with the organisation process."

Reports and photographs on all of the activities are featured throughout this newsletter.

## A Wild Day Out

**An excited group of Wallace Hall Academy pupils set off on safari to Blair Drummond near Stirling on the Friday morning of Activities Week. A wide range of attractions were on offer including the opportunity to see rare animals up close in a natural environment.**

The biggest hits were the lions, the rhinos and the giraffes who were particularly friendly and keen to pose for photographs. Pupils had the chance to spend time with their favourite animals and the group got together for the sea-lion show and a trip to Monkey Island. Everyone had great fun on their "Wild Day Out"!



## Tower Construction Challenge

**On Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> May 18 pupils took part in the Tower Construction Project lead by Irene Lang from the Taylor Woodrow Tower Project.**

They formed into 5 teams to work as construction companies, their challenge being to design, build then tender for the building of a new tower.

Using only the materials provided - lego bricks - their tower needed to be self-standing and stable. The company making the maximum profit was the overall winner.

A huge well done to ETMC with their profit of £61,000. Members were Teddy Boyd, Emma Balfour, Callie McCleary and Maisie Walker.







## The Happy Potter

report by Beth Johnstone and Emma Bennett

**On the afternoon of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May seven pupils from Wallace Hall Academy visited the Happy Potter in Thornhill for an afternoon of artistic creativity and fun with pottery and paints.**

First, we chose which pieces we wanted to paint then started layering on masses of paint to give them a bold colour. Our masterpieces included mugs, a teddy bear and a dragon. We had to leave them to be fired in a kiln before they were delivered to the school.

## Crazy Cupcakes

**Crazy cupcakes was a popular item on the Activities Week menu this year. Pupils taking part in this activity got the chance to bake a batch of cupcakes and decorate them using their imagination.**

After a flurry of beating, whisking and piping, we had cupcakes in the shape of pig's heads, spiders and butterflies. At the end of the afternoon there was a fantastic display of beautifully decorated "Crazy Cupcakes" that all looked far too good to eat!



**What can we say about our day making music? Mrs Davies' music room was filled with the sounds of an eclectic mix of instruments ranging from ukulele to chanter, fiddle to euphonium and piano to tin whistle, not to mention the variety of percussion holding it all together.**

Pupils from across the year groups, with different skill levels and musical tastes and backgrounds, collaborated with some of Dumfries' finest professional traditional musicians.

Throughout the day the group had great fun rehearsing a number of traditional tunes in a variety of musical combinations. The fruit of our happy labour was a recording of eight tracks demonstrating the wealth of musical talent there is here at Wallace Hall. Watch this space for news about our new Traditional Music Group which will be taking place once a month next term. Thanks to all those involved. What a great day!

## Traditional Music Day

Report by Miss Carson and Robert Guthrie  
(on behalf of the group)







## French Cookery

**Report by Hannah Brown and Emma Cronie**

One of the many activities during Activity Week was French Cookery. On a fait des choux à la crème et des crêpes. C'étaient délicieux!



## Board Games Bonanza

report by Robert Guthrie

One of life's forgotten arts was on this year's Activities Week agenda. Headed up by the one and only Mr Gilius, Board Games attracted pupils from across the year groups. Throughout the morning and the afternoon pupils were underway playing all kinds of fun-filled and entertaining games from The Game of Life to Monopoly and The Chase to Risk.

Everyone was on some sort of quest, whether it was aiming to create the most money, take over the rest of the world, capture London's biggest airports or succeed in life. It's definitely not an understatement to say that when it comes to board games in the future, Wallace Hall's pupils will be some of the finest and most tactical players.

## Treasure Hunt



The treasure hunt took place on Friday afternoon. The pupils had to answer questions using local landmarks around Thornhill to complete the hunt.

It was a beautiful sunny day and the pupils really enjoyed taking part. The group that answered the most questions correctly won. The winners were: Kieran Watson, Oishin O'Hara, Ellie Webster and Amy Brown. Well Done!



**I thought that I would try something new for Activities Week this year and put my name down for fly fishing which was at Drum Loch, Dalswinton. I had a few doubts as to whether I would enjoy this activity as we left Wallace Hall Academy but after meeting the instructors I learned that there is a lot more to the sport of fly fishing than I had first imagined.**

First we learned the basics of how to assemble our rods and cast. We were told about the biology of the pond and how this affects the fish. There are a lot of factors which impact on your chances of catching a fish; for example a change in the weather would mean that you had to use different bait.

Despite the choppy waters with very few fish rising, James Wright (S4) made the catch of the day – a good sized rainbow trout. I would definitely try my hand at fly fishing again if I get the chance and now think it is under-rated as a sport!

## Catch of the Day

report by Amelia Snape



## A Rollercoaster of a Day

report by Marianne Willetts



**On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, during activities week, a group of students from each year went to M&D's. We were all very excited as we boarded the bus to make our journey to Lanarkshire. As we arrived and**

**made our way through the entrance of M&D's we looked around in awe at the many different rides that were stationed before us.**

Many of us ran to the fastest and scariest ride first while others started

slow at the Ferris Wheel or Elephant Ride. There was a fantastic variety of rides from Dodgems to Log Flumes. Also there was the Twister Rollercoaster and Caterpillar Ride so there was something for everyone. The highest and fastest ride was the Bomber Mark 2 reaching speeds of 83mph and its height stands at 55 metres; it was not for the faint-hearted. Only a few, myself included, braved the killer of a rollercoaster.

The Tornado was another favourite, being the park's largest rollercoaster and having many twists and turns and a top speed of 80mph. I think all the students on the trip would agree that it was a fantastic day.

On behalf of myself and everyone who went on the trip I would like to thank Mr Wilson and Mr Miller and all the other teachers and support staff for coming along with us on the day and ensuring we all had great fun.

I would also like to thank Mr Riley for organising this trip and all the other activities during Activities Week. It was an epic 3 days!





## Activities Week

Working Together to Achieve More





# Activities Week





## Activities Week





# Activities Week









# Activities Week

## Working Together to Achieve More



# Pony Day

**Eleven S1 pupils had a great time at the Pony Day at Camplebridge Riding School.**

We each had a riding lesson, learned how to clean out a stable and groom and tack up our horses. Another skill we learned was lunging, which is a method of exercising and training a horse before it is ridden.

Overall we had a lovely day and it was really good fun!



# Create a cushion

**It was a very colourful scene in room 0017 when 17 pupils set out to cut, press, stick and stitch their way to produce their own cushion from a wide range of fabrics, ribbons, buttons and threads.**

By lunchtime, through much blood, sweat and (almost) tears, they had created an amazing array of very successful items, all ready to be displayed in bedrooms across the region. Many new skills were learned and it was good for everyone to have something attractive and personal to take home.



# Trip to Loch Ken

report by Lucy McGill

**On the first day of Activities Week, a group of pupils from various years went to Loch Ken for a day full of activities.**

First we were split into two teams and went to do the on-land activities. Team 1 did the climbing wall first, which was comprised of climbing up a very tall climbing wall and then going back down via zip-wire. Team 2 began with archery, where we were given a quick tutorial and then jumped straight into it. Some people got the hang of it quicker than others! The teams then swapped and did the activity they hadn't done yet before we stopped for lunch.

After lunch we went and got our wetsuits and were put back into our teams to do the water activities. Team 1 went on the water park which was basically just massive inflatables floating on the water, whilst team 2 did kayaking. The teams then swapped again, so that



both teams got to do both activities. One of the funniest things that happened was probably when we saw one of the inflatables tip completely upside down, and about 10 people falling off into the freezing water. I thought it was great fun

and I would love to go again to be able to do even more activities.

Tilda Borrows of S4 said: "It was frightening at first but it filled you with adrenaline. Thank you to the organisers of the trip. It was great fun!"



# Clay Creations

report by Darcey Moore

**As part of Activities Week, some of us chose to make our very own clay piggy bank. Everyone had wonderful ideas, such as a whale, an owl, etc. Mrs Black showed us how to start off by taking a good sized chunk of clay and making it into two small bowls. This proved more difficult than it seemed.**

After we had shaped the main part of the body of our piggy bank, we moved on to make the small parts for our chosen creature or object, e.g. ears for a cat. The

atmosphere was great and everyone was very independent with their creations. We all tried really hard to make a good job of our piggy bank (including the teachers who volunteered to make their own as well) and everyone's "clay creations" came to life as people added the finer details and features to their banks with small pieces of clay.

Once everything was done there, the clay looked a bit dull. Nothing like a bit of paint to brighten it up! Busy at work, everyone wanted their own imaginative creations to be perfect.

Overall, I feel everyone really enjoyed the activity and there was a lot of determination in Mrs Black's Art room. All of the clay sculptures looked absolutely fabulous and just by looking at them you could tell every single person in the room had



put one hundred per cent into it. I think everyone who took part would definitely recommend the clay piggy bank choice to go ahead again. I think it was a great success and for all you budding artists out there it is a really fun, creative activity to take part in.

## Team Sport Activities



**On Wednesday morning of Activities Week a group of pupils participated in a range of team sport activities. We started by going through some fun rugby drills before playing a touch rugby competition.**

John Carlyle, our Head Boy this year, organised all of the rugby drills which were fun and competitive. The

weather was really good and everyone enjoyed the activities. After break we were split into teams and played dodgeball in the small gym. We then went back outside to play football on the astroturf.

We were all really tired after the events and headed off for a well earned lunch. Thanks to Dr Fulton, Mr Graham and Mr Harley for organising the day.



# Queensberry Initiative Country Sports Activities



Fraser Clark, an ex-pupil of Wallace Hall Academy. Fraser has been doing really well competing in gun dog trials all over the country."

Project Officer Anne Marie Wood added: "All of the pupils on the day did really well, engaging with the activities on offer. Two pupils deserve special mention: Amy Kerr and Kaine Bray. Amy demonstrated a real aptitude for Archery, hitting the target with accuracy and skill. Kaine really impressed Donald, the lead coach from BASC, by hitting an impressive nineteen out of twenty clays. Donald was delighted with Kaine's natural aptitude for shooting and advised him to seek out further information and training as he could be a potential Olympic candidate in the future."

There is no doubt that the Country Sports events were a very successful and popular option for Activities Week. QI staff are hoping to run similar event next year.



**As part of our Activities Week pupils have been given the opportunity to travel to the Queensberry Estate with the Queensberry Initiative (QI) team to experience three country pursuits: clay pigeon shooting, gundog handling and archery. As you can imagine this was a popular option but numbers had to be restricted to give everyone participating the chance to be "hands-on".**

The weather was kind and everyone who participated had an excellent experience. Project Officer Leanne Peoples said: "We had a great day and were grateful for the providers giving their time to enhancing the skills of the students who were able to come along. We were particularly grateful to Buccleuch Gun Dogs, shooting coaches from the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) and MRM Archery for coming

along providing expert tuition and guidance on country sports. It was particularly apt that one of the tutors from Buccleuch Gun Dogs was





# Can he hit it?

# Yes he can!



**On Wednesday afternoon of Activities Week 30 pupils from various year groups attended the PE Department to participate in some outdoor field games. The teams were duly picked and Mr Dillon, Dr Fulton and Mr Rae were assigned to a team.**

For the first hour the teams played soft ball, with all pupils (and staff) showing differing degrees of

hand eye coordination when batting, bowling and catching. Weather for the afternoon was excellent and pupils enjoyed the game. All of the pupils participated in a very keenly contested and close game.

After 4 innings at softball the group changed games and we played a game of kick rounders. This involved all players taking part and no students being able to pass the ball by hand. We witnessed

some spectacular attempts to stop the ball mid flight with feet, none more so than Ben Murphy's excellent over head kick stop!!

This game was very close and all students enjoyed the experience.

All pupils played with great enthusiasm and their effort levels and excellent behaviour made it a highly enjoyable event. And Mr Dillon managed to show us all how to hit the ball.

## Mountain Biking



**On the Friday of Activities Week, with helmets securely fastened and backpacks loaded, a group of pupils set off for a day of mountain biking.**

This is the sport of riding a bike off-road, often over very rough terrain, requiring balance, skill and endurance.

All taking part had a great time and really enjoyed negotiating the sometimes very challenging tracks around the Drumlanrig Estate.

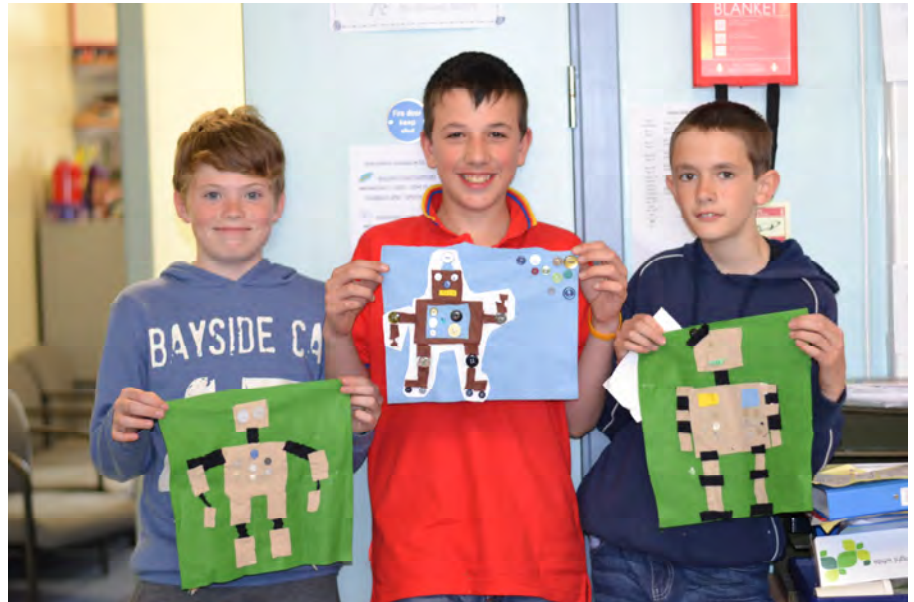


## FarFlung Frisbee Fun



**On Thursday morning of Activities Week, the PE department hosted a training session with a difference: Ultimate Frisbee. This was led by Connor Docherty who is captain of FarFlung, the Glasgow University Ultimate Frisbee Club.**

All those taking part benefited from Connor's years of experience in the sport as they were guided through key techniques and practice sessions before having the opportunity to put their skills into competitive use against each other. Thanks to Connor for giving up his time to visit Wallace Hall Academy and for sharing his expertise with our pupils.



## Some crafty work

**A craft activity was one of the creative offerings during Activities Week. Pupils took part in a variety of tasks and used their creative side to make some unique items take home.**

The activities on offer were: decorating empty glass jars and turning them into pretty tealight holders using paint and glitter,

making friendship bracelets using threads and beads, making a felt tote bag and accessorising with buttons, ribbons and sequins, making a felt pencil roll and finally making a pin board which was by far the most popular activity.

The pupils had a good morning and many had attractive pieces of work to take home.



## Natural Sculptures

**On the Thursday of Activities Week pupils spent a very pleasant afternoon out on the playing fields making sculptures using natural materials. The afternoon started with a walk down by the river where the group collected stones, twigs, leaves and flowers to use for their designs.**

The activity was based on pattern and shapes and pupils were asked to incorporate the natural colour of the plants and flowers they collected. Some of the sculptures were inspired by native American designs and one group created an eagle shape fashioned entirely from daisies.

Oishin O'Hara said: "Making the sculptures was really fun and I enjoyed being outside collecting the flowers for our design. It was a great activity."





## Laserquest and Bowling

**On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May some S4, S2 and S1 pupils went on a trip to Carlisle to Laserquest and AMF bowling.**

The trip was a great success and was enjoyed by all pupils who went. "I really enjoyed the trip. It was lovely," said Kaine Bray of S4.

Laserquest was engaging and highly entertaining, with many people choosing names from fiction for themselves.

The bowling alley was also very good fun, thanks to the wide choice of entertainments on offer there.

The highlight of the trip though was during the bus journey back to Wallace Hall Academy, where staff and pupils entertained each other with accounts of the day's events.

Overall the excursion was highly enjoyable and was considered to be a great success.



## Anyone for Tennis

Our tennis enthusiasts had the chance to learn a bit more about the finer points of the game during Activities Week. Coached by Mrs Miller in the PE department, the group spent some time perfecting their racquet skills and trying out their serve and volley techniques. Keep your eye out for Wallace Hall's own future Andy Murray and Laura Robson.

### Date for your Diary: How to Pass evening for senior pupils

This year's How to Pass evening will take place on Tuesday 10th September at 5pm in the Bailey Hall. More information will be circulated to parents of senior pupils early next term.



# S2 Residential Trip

report by Becky Walker and Lauren Johnstone



**Recently the majority of S2 pupils took part in the Liverpool trip. The bus journey down was quite long but time flies past when you are surrounded by your friends.**

The first activity we took part in was visiting the White Scar Caves. It was a marvel. Although the cave journey stretched over a mile, the tour guide managed to keep everyone entertained. We then made our way to the hostel. When we arrived at the hostel we were pleasantly surprised by the standard of accommodation.

The teachers never gave us a chance to get bored as we were always on the go. We had dinner at the hostel and then we were soon

off to the bowling and arcade. We were free to do whatever we liked for the rest of the night there. That night we were all hyper and many of us had some difficulty getting to sleep.

The following morning we all had plenty of time to get ready, have breakfast and chill for a small amount of time. We then went off



to our selected activities, which were a ferry trip, wall climbing and a museum. All three of these



choices were thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils. After our activities we had an hour and a half to go shopping in Liverpool 1.

In the afternoon we visited Knowsley Safari Park and were highly amused to find that the baboons were clever enough to pull the windscreen wipers off cars. However, driving round the safari park got slightly boring after a while and the bus was awfully warm. We eventually got out and had time to look about and watch the sea lion show. It was highly entertaining.

We arrived back at the hostel soon after, enjoyed our dinner and got refreshed for going to the cinema. When we arrived at the cinema everybody got a chance to buy sweets, drinks and popcorn for the movie, Fast and Furious 6. We got seated and watched intently. Many people say the film was the best they had seen. It was a good chance to see the teachers having a snooze, especially Miss Carnochan. Once the film was finished we walked back to the hostel and soon fell asleep after an exhausting day.

On the final morning we left early for Blackpool Pleasure Beach. We were given three and a half hours to run free round all the rides. Even the teachers let go and were on the rollercoasters. Some pupils even got stuck on the Pepsi Max and Infusion just as we were meant to be leaving. Once everyone returned to the bus from their adventure at the pleasure beach we set off for home. After a tiring day some people slept on the way back.

Overall it was a fantastic trip and we would recommend it to all future S2s.







## S2 Liverpool Trip



# Cash for Charity

**Wallace Hall's Charities Committee has managed to raise an impressive £2959.24 this year. The S6 pupils running the committee have been working hard to coordinate a variety of fundraising events in order to support their chosen organisations.**



Events kicked off in October with a wellie themed afternoon of outdoor activities. The whole school participated in a sponsored walk before competing in various sporting mini leagues and other events. Money raised was sent to Farm Africa, the committee's chosen international charity which works very hard to provide

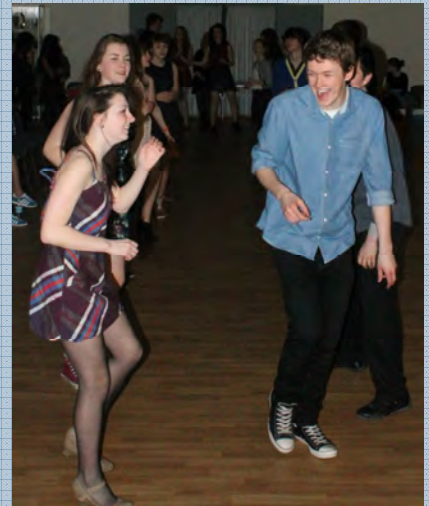
sustainable support for starving communities.

In November pupils and staff donned their onesies and bought bake sale treats to raise money for Maggie's Cancer trust, the committee's chosen local charity. Maggie Keswick Jencks lived in Hollywood, not far from Thornhill, and worked to set up care centres for people who had become terminally ill as a result of the disease just like herself. Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres now exist all over the UK.

In March the S6 pupils had a very busy month as they wanted to show some support for Comic Relief and the great work they do in addition to raising funds for their final charity, the SSPCA.

For Comic Relief pupils sold 400 red noses to pupils from the nursery, primary and secondary. They also organised a joke prize draw in which pupils could put forward their best jokes with winning gags being read out over the tannoy each morning on the lead up to the big day.

Finally an animal themed non-uniform day and the highly



organised kidnap and ransom of our beloved librarian Mrs Menzies preceded an evening ceilidh with performances from pupils across the school. Money raised was sent to the SSPCA whom the committee chose as their national charity. Situated so close to the border with England our area receives a lot of advertising from the RSPCA and not everyone realises that the RSPCA only care for and protect animals in England and Wales, not Scotland. Pupils were therefore very keen to support and raise the profile of the work the SSPCA champions.

All in all this year's Charities Committee has had a very successful year.





# Girls' Night Out

*Report by Gillian Watret*



**On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April more than 150 ladies attended the *Girls' Night Out* event at Wallace Hall Academy. They enjoyed a free drink on arrival and an array of sweet and savoury canapés courtesy of the committee with donations from Green Tea Room and Marchbanks Bakers.**

The organising committee was made up of teaching staff, non-teaching staff and S6 pupils who all worked very hard to ensure the night

was a success. The event was organised to raise money for the Alexandra Unit and Breast Cancer Care and an amazing £1500 was raised to be split between these charities. There was something for everyone to enjoy including fitness activities, pampering, stalls, workshops and health and beauty consultations and bra fitting.

We would like to thank the following businesses for giving up their time to come and support us on the night and for providing raffle prizes: 6TY Shades of Beauty, Lochside House Spa, The Nail Spa, The Hair Boutique, Buccleuch Hotel, Kitchen Staff (smoothies), Body Shop, Moffat Mill, Barbours, Pampered Chef, PartyLite Candles, Bagtasia, Zumba (Frances Forsyth), Pilates (Laura McCallay), Qijong (Susan Neal), Kettle Balls (Barracuda), School Nurse (Fiona Bell), Slimming World (Tracy Candlish), The Health & Beauty Company, 101 and Thornhill Inn. Furthermore thanks go to everyone who attended the event and helped us raise a fantastic sum of money for two very worthwhile causes.







## Girls' Night Out

Working Together to Achieve More





## Girls' Night Out

Working Together to Achieve More



# Ardèche Trip

by Phoebe Callan and Jodie Carr

**On Friday the 7th of June 36 pupils in 6th year departed for the annual trip to the Ardèche region of France and Aosta in the Italian Alps, an amazing opportunity we are all grateful to be able to participate in. A 26 hour bus journey at first sounded daunting but once we had set off it became a time for everyone on the trip to get to know each other.**

When we finally arrived at the campsite in the Ardèche we were all very glad to be able to get off the bus and jump into the swimming pool even though it was raining. We met our guides from Acorn who were there to help us not only on our river descent but also at the camp. They cooked for us and kept us entertained throughout our three day stay there.

After dinner we were briefed on the river descent we were going to experience the following day. Just when everybody thought it would be simply another boring talk from someone we didn't know at all, Tain volunteered and made his demonstration something none of us would or could ever forget. He had his own unique paddling technique and we all wondered if he would manage to negotiate the 32km stretch of the river.

On the second day we set off on our descent down the Ardèche river. We chose our partners and groups and were teamed up with our instructors. In our groups we all came up with chants with frequent references to woolly sheep and garden sheds amongst other things. We had amazing banter along with a little bickering and a lot of laughter! We had a few pairs capsized, including Mrs Miller and Dr Fulton. Thomas and Tom and Laura and Iona showed their talent at capsizing then getting back in, then capsizing again in the process. After a very long day of canoeing down the river through different types of rapids, straights and corners we finally arrived at the bivouac site where we would spend the night. It had

started to rain on and off towards the end of the day so we were glad to have makeshift tents for the night even though it meant sleeping on very uncomfortable wooden floors.

We woke up to sunshine on day 3 and although we all felt tired we were ready for another day on the river. Once we'd had breakfast we put on our clothes from the day before which weren't as dry as we thought they would be! We packed our barrels and headed off. On the way we had a few stops for the chance to "womble" through a small rapid and jump off a HUGE rock into the water and swim to shore. After lunch there was another chance to jump off a smaller rock called "JPaul" (after Jordan and Paul, two instructors.) Dr Fulton had an incident on the canoes when a "huge" frog jumped into the boat sending him screaming and us all into fits of giggles at how small the frog actually was. We discovered how important team work is and how we can defeat anything in our path if we work together.

The 4th day was the day where we had to leave the Ardèche and travel to Aosta, in the north of Italy. After the 6 hour journey, we arrived to find that we were going out for pizza. To get to the restaurant, we had to climb up a MOUNTAIN(!) to see the ruins of an old castle. It was worth the climb as the view from the top was amazing.

We had a very busy 5th day as we travelled to a beautiful village called Cogne where we did gorge scrambling, rock squeezing and rock climbing.

We were put into groups and

sent off to take turns at the different activities. It was a day when many of us had to face and overcome our fears of height, confined spaces and plunging into icy, glacial waters - and a great sense of enjoyment and satisfaction was experienced by everyone. Even squeezing into a wet suit was a challenge for some!

White water rafting was something we had been eager to do and on the sixth day we donned the wetsuits again, were given our instructions and then set off to the Dora Baltea, the river close to our campsite. For many of us this was the highlight of the trip and we thoroughly enjoyed getting wet as we plunged into the waves.

The final evening started with high ropes and again there were more challenges to face as we coped with beams, bridges and rope swings. However, the main event of the evening was the "Miss Villeneuve" and "Bob the Builder" competition. In some cases the entrants were very pretty and in others very scary but we all had a really good laugh. The well-deserved winners were Tom Kehoe and Fae Treadaway.

On the final day we were able to try out activities such as fencing, archery, mission impossible, night line and rounders before we packed up our possessions and boarded the bus once again for the long journey home.

The whole trip was a valuable experience in lots of ways. It has made us braver, stronger and more united as a year group. I would recommend it to next year's sixth year as a trip of a lifetime.









All of S1 pupils visited the Queensberry Estate recently for a day of mathematical activities. The event was organised by Mr Gilius from the Maths department and pupils enjoyed a number of activities all involving numeracy skills. Photographs below show our S1 pupils learning and having fun in the Outdoor Classroom.



## S1 Mathematics Day



## S3 Craft & Design Final Projects

This has been an especially busy time for the Standard Grade Craft and Design students. In partnership with preparing and revising for their final exams, they have been required to complete an extensive design folio and produce their final practical project.

The pupils all worked extremely hard to complete some very interesting, ambitious and creative designs. The projects are on display within the department until the summer and were exhibited on the evening of the S3 Awards Ceremony held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. The department was keen to showcase the pupils' efforts, creativity and hard work at this event.

The pictures on this page show the results of the final practical project. It is clear that they were worth all the hard work and effort that the pupils put in.





# Star Reporter

**Our very own roving reporter Robert Guthrie has been making headlines himself recently. Robert submitted three pieces to Youth Journalism International, a Connecticut based non-profit organisation who encourage young people to seek a career in journalism.**

All of Robert's pieces were recognised by the panel of judges, winning two firsts and a third in their respective categories. We are delighted with Robert's success and wish him well with his writing career. Look out for some examples of Robert's journalistic scoops in our newsletters.



## Twelfth Night on Tyneside

report by Robert Guthrie

**A mysterious yet thrilling performance at the Newcastle Theatre Royal awaited an excited group of Wallace Hall pupils from across the year groups who were ready to witness one of William Shakespeare's finest products. Performed by the touring, all-male Shakespeare company 'Propeller', the play 'Twelfth Night', full of mistaken identity, love complications and medieval brilliance was a treat for everyone.**

One of the greatest works of the English language, the play starts with a problem. Viola becomes shipwrecked upon the island of Illyria. She disguises herself as a man so that she can work in Duke Orsino's court. We also see Orsino fall in love with Olivia. The comedy element is when the other characters play a nasty trick on the butler, Malvolio, leading him to think that Olivia is in love with him. Olivia does not know of the trick and receives the changes in Malvolio's behaviour as quite a shock. At the end, there are two marriages – Viola to Orsino and Maria to Toby.



However, the length of the play being over two hours did not seem to affect pupils' enjoyment. It was a fantastic experience to go and witness the play as it would have been performed in Shakespearian times. The music between scenes was also of interest to many which at times could be jubilant and lively jazz or baroque, but at times eerie with the use of instruments that none of us had ever seen before.

All in all, it was a great afternoon, seeing a famous play, which some pupils had read in class, performed in front of us with top actors.

Thanks go to Mrs McMillan and Ms Beynon for organising such a successful trip.

## Stationery Shop in the Library

The following items of stationery are for sale in the School Library: pencils (40p), pens (40p), erasers (40p), sharpeners (40p), protractors (50p), highlighters (40p), 15cm rulers (40p), 30cm rulers (40p) and 4GB data pens (£9.00). As a result of pupil demand, scientific calculators (£10.00), headphones (£2.50), headphone jacks (50p) and jotters (60p) are also now on sale. Any profit that is made from this venture goes towards purchasing new resources for the Library. We also accept donations of good quality books for our Library, in particular junior fiction, senior fiction and study skills books. Please hand any book donations in to Mrs Menzies in the Library. Any books that are not suitable for our shelves will be taken to a charity shop. Thank you.



# Senior House Hockey

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April the S5/6 House Hockey competition was held after school with an eclectic mix of current regional players and those whose enthusiasm made up for any rustiness in their hockey skills! Rivalry between the Houses was evident, although all matches were played in excellent sporting spirit! The round robin 7 a side event led to some very rosy faces and weary legs by the end of the night. Scaur were worthy winners this year comfortably beating both Cairn and Nith. Photographs show our house hockey players.



## Regional Squad Hockey

WHA have had a number of girls selected for the Regional Development Squad this year. This squad was initially for U18s and has been expanded to include younger players who show potential. Their commitment and hard work in the fortnightly sessions with Miss Miller (DHS) and Miss Austin (Kirkcudbright Academy) and Mrs Miller (WHA) has already shown big improvements to their skills and match play. The WHA girls involved are: Chireille Scott, Chloe Davidson, Judi Park, Kathryn Park, Emily Morton and Zara Duncan.



# Sporting Encouragement

report by Ross Whyte

**This has been a busy year for me with both curling and golf. I played in the South of Scotland Junior Order of Merit golf competitions over the summer around golf courses within Dumfries and Galloway. I ended up winning the Under 14 South of Scotland Junior Order of Merit. I didn't even know there was an Under 14 section before I won it. What a nice surprise.**

Then I moved from golf to curling, although golf practice did not stop over the winter. Our curling team consists of three other boys all from Stranraer, one aged 15, two aged 16 and myself 14. Our first competition of the season was the Dumfries Open. It is an adult competition, which is the first stage of the Goldline Tour.

In the round robin stages we played one of the top Scottish Men's teams and to our surprise we won. We met them again on the last day in the final. This time they were going to make sure they won, and they did. They said that the game

they lost to us was their first defeat. In the Scottish Men's Competition this year they came second.

We carried on to play in the Under 17s grand slam winning Lockerbie, Greenacres (near Howwood, Paisley) and coming second at Hamilton. We had to wait till April in Perth to find out if we had won the Under 17s overall as there was another team on 2 wins and one second place but we had one point more than them. All we had to do at Perth was to make sure they didn't win the competition. Yes, after months of waiting we ended up winning the Scottish Under 17s as the youngest team and I was the youngest skip to win. Our prize is to go to a World Curling Federation Curling Camp in Fussen, Germany for 9 days in July. The top ranking girls team is going as well.

In December we played in the Scottish Playdowns in Perth, where the top eight boys teams go on to Aberdeen to play in the Scottish Finals. The winning team go on to represent Scotland in the World's. In our section we had last year's

winners and that was the match we wanted to win. We played our best curling which did allow us to win. We ended up top of our section, qualifying for the finals. At Aberdeen we came 5<sup>th</sup> - next year's target is to achieve a higher placing. Last year's winners ended up winning again and this year at the world's they came back with the gold medal.

In February Sophie Jackson and I won the Dumfries Mixed Open Pairs for a second time. This is an adult competition open to any players who wish to enter.

My last competition of the season was at the Dumfries Under 21 International. I made a team up with two boys from Perth and one from Forfar. Three of us were 14 and one was 13. We played well and ended up winning the whole competition to top off a great season. I finished curling on the Thursday and started golfing on the Friday.

Why don't you join the curling club or golf club playing competitions outside of the area helps you make friends all over Scotland or even the world?

Photograph below shows Ross, second from the left, with his curling team mates.





## School Sailing Club



**Twelve S1 pupils and one S4 pupil travel every Wednesday night during term time between May and October to sail with the Wallace Hall Academy Sailing Club. This activity is led by Captain Miller, from our Geography department, Petty Officer Black, from the Art department, and our new Design and Technology teacher, Able Seaman MacKellar. Former**

**Wallace Hall Academy Chemistry teacher, Deck Hand Bell, continues to attend to help out with proceedings.**

After a glorious start where conditions on the water were perfect, the next few nights proved to be more adventurous with blustery showers and choppy water to negotiate. This only added to the fun had by all. Roscoe Whittaker said: "I have enjoyed learning how

to sail and competing in the rowing boats when it was too windy to sail. On one of our club nights we learned how to rig toppers and be safe in the water. Some of us had a dunking in the water but it was all part of the fun."

If you want to join our sailors and learn a bit more about how to take part please speak to either Mr Miller, Mrs Black or Mr MacKellar.

**The nautical design below was completed as part of one of our S1 cross curricular projects**





## WALLACE HALL ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL NEWS



**When you read this many parents and pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year will be breathing a sigh of relief at the exam period ending recently. No doubt the pupils are looking forward to the long summer holidays. Examinations, subject choices and Curriculum for Excellence have been topics which have been discussed regularly with parents at our meetings over recent times.**

We are in a time of change both locally and nationally in education with Curriculum for

Excellence, the review of our cluster schools and the effects of possibly a new senior school in Dumfries. These changes can create some uncertainty and offer challenges for parents, pupils and those who work in education. I hope that through the Parent Council we can contribute to the debates and help pass on information. During periods of change, good communication is key.

Some of us were actively involved in the recruitment process of the new Depute Head Teacher John Blair who is joining the school. I was impressed by the very thorough recruitment process and gratified at the enthusiasm with which both the School Management Team and the local authority were very keen to involve parents, pupils and the Parent Council in the process. There is no doubt that local and national government are interested in encouraging parents to become directly involved in schools.

In the Parent Council we have been continuing with our process of looking at the provision of information for careers, and our

leaflet outlining the main responsibilities of parents, pupils and the school staff has now been published.

We had a presentation from a representative for the Pupil Council in the school and we are planning a joint meeting with the Pupil Council and are hoping also to involve the Community Council early in the new academic session. We have been discussing the merit system in the school and plan a further presentation on this at our next meeting.

We have recently been discussing the possible formation of a former pupils association or some type of Alumni organisation for Wallace Hall Academy. We plan to call a meeting about it later in the year. Please do get in touch if you would be interested.

This will be the last newsletter of the current academic session and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Parent Council and also the school staff for their hard work and support over the past year.

Brian Johnstone  
Chairman, Parent Council

## WHA young Burnsians' win national honours



**Four of our talented Burns'-speakers travelled to Dunfermline to represent the region recently in the Robert Burns World Federation Burns Competition and won the overall team award.**

Nathan King, Mhairi Dalgliesh, Catherine Anderson and Lucy Doig were part of the overall winning team and verse-speaking top team. The marks the team gained in verse-speaking were the highest over a total of 10 regions of Scotland.

Lucy Doig said: "It was a fantastic experience and we were delighted to represent Wallace Hall Academy and our region at this prestigious event. We all enjoy reciting Burns and would like to thank Sophia Harkness and Lyne Forsyth for helping us with our accent, pronunciation and presentation - they have both given up so much of their own time to get us to this standard."

Photo on the left shows Nathan, Mhairi, Catherine and Lucy with the team verse trophy and their certificates.