

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Working Together to Achieve More



Leading the Way for Charity



For their final event of the year, the S6 Charities Group at Wallace Hall organised a sponsored walk and non-uniform day to raise money for Spinal Injuries Scotland. For full report and pictures please turn to pages 26 and 27.

Our new S6 Office Bearers

Wallace Hall pupils and staff have cast their votes and chosen their new S6 office bearers.

The successful candidates elected were as follows (L - R): Owen Davies (Depute Head Boy), Josh Notman (Head Boy), Lucy Doig (Head Girl) and Charlie Geddes (Depute Head Girl). Owen, Josh, Lucy and Charlie will take up their posts at the start of the new timetable in June.

For full report and more photographs on the election process please turn to page 13.



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An excellent SCHOLAR

Congratulations to Alison Pinkerton, Modern Languages teacher at Wallace Hall Academy, who in January was given an award for her excellent work with SCHOLAR. The award recognises the contribution Alison made last year to the success of SCHOLAR: Scotland's online learning and teaching resource for schools and colleges.

Alison said: "SCHOLAR is an excellent e-learning programme produced by Heriot-Watt University. Students can work independently on a range of subjects, for example, Maths, Physics and French. The website offers materials at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. All S4 - S6 students are provided with a username and password. Students have access to online communities, resources, monitoring information and information tools. The resources include comprehensive online interactive learning materials, activities, assessments and revision packs. SCHOLAR also offers study guides which contain key reference materials and learning activities.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, commented: "I am delighted that Alison was recognised for her excellent work with SCHOLAR. Alison has embraced using technology in her subject and it is fitting that her good practice has been acknowledged through this award."

Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall is 01848 332120/332140 with the fax number 01848 332564. The email address for our secondary is: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk and for the primary/nursery it is: gw08officewallacehal@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.wallacehall.co.uk for the latest news and information about the whole school.

Scottish Book Trust and Wallace Hall Academy bring the magic of writing into the classroom



Poet Hugh McMillan visited Wallace Hall on Thursday 24 March to lead a creative writing workshop for Mr Docherty's Higher English class. The workshop linked the students' work on *Romeo and Juliet* with the school's forthcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Although one play is a tragedy and one a comedy, both focus on the trials and

tribulations of young love and the power of words and of dreams. Students had the chance to explore the language of the plays at the same time as trying their hands at some creative writing.

The event took place thanks to Creative Scotland's **Live Literature Funding**, which is managed by Scottish Book Trust. The fund exists to bring the work of Scottish fiction writers, playwrights, poets, and storytellers to every corner of Scottish society, subsidising up to 1,200 writer events around the country each year.



Barry Graham, Head Teacher, said: "We are delighted that inspirational writer Hugh McMillan visited Wallace Hall to enthuse our students with their writing in the run up to our outdoor production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Drumlanrig Castle.

"Live Literature funding is a very valuable resource for Wallace Hall as it enables us to increase our pupils' ability, confidence and enjoyment in reading and writing and encourage them to extend their reading choices to include a diverse range of authors, from Shakespeare to modern Scottish writers like Hugh."



Celebrating Pupils' Achievements

We are very keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements in the school newsletter, whether these achievements happen either in school or in the pupils' own time. However, we cannot do this unless we know about them.

To help us with this process, we would ask that parents and/or pupils send us an email at gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk, detailing any achievements and attaching any relevant photographs. Thank you.

Living Things and Food Chains with Queensberry Initiative



Queensberry Initiative Project Officers were joined on the Queensberry estate recently by P4 pupils from Wallace Hall Primary.

As part of their Living Things topic the children visited the Woodland at Drumlanrig to explore the concept of living and non-living things. Does it breathe? Does it grow? Does it move? There were lots of exploratory questions which the children used during the visit. The children formed food chains starting with the sun's energy and worked out who was prey and who was predator. On arriving at

Beech Loch they did an aquatic food chain and the pupils found out where the water boatman fits in to the food chain. They learnt



that the lesser water boatmen likes to feed on plant matter and the algae in the loch and then finally the pupils were shown how

to pond dip and were delighted when they caught their very own lesser and greater water boatmen.

Muskaan Naqvi from P4 said: "On Wednesday 9th March it was P4's trip to Drumlanrig Woods. When we walked to the bus everyone was excited because it was P4's first trip. On the bus I sat next to Simeon. When we got there we made a line of the smallest and biggest children. After that we were put into groups. In my group I had Simeon, Zac, Zen and Anesu.

"Our group leader was Mrs Wood. Our first task was finding non-living and living things. We were told to find living things and non-living things on the way to meet up with the rest of the class. We found lots and lots. We walked up many paths and found little worms under trees. We finally met up with the rest of our class and we were given another activity. Our activity was fishing which was really fun! We caught a newt, a water boatman and little sea worms.

After fishing we were going for a break. I had tomato ketchup crisps. After that we walked back to the bus and headed back to school. We all enjoyed the day and thanks to Miss Peoples, Mrs Wood and Mrs Sloan for organising it."



Snowdrops in Spring



Queensberry Initiative took Mrs Black's S1 Art classes to Durisdeer at the first signs of spring to gather inspiration.



Pupils captured photos of snowdrops to include in the foreground of their artwork and photos of the surrounding landscape of Durisdeer Parish Church to use as inspiration for their own backgrounds.

They were asked to look for attractive composition and



Durisdeer through the Lowther Hills to Edinburgh.

On returning to school, the class drew fresh snowdrops brought in from Drumlanrig Castle Gardens. Once the drawings were completed, the snowdrops were taken down to the Nursery and planted in the garden by the pupils, helped by a Ranger from Drumlanrig Estate. Hopefully the snowdrops will thrive and bloom at the first sign of spring next year.



contrasting textures between the old stones and the fresh blooms.

The sun shone bright and, once the photographs had been taken, the pupils enjoyed a walk up the "Well Path" – an ancient Roman road which goes all the way from



A Trip to the Glasgow Science Centre



After lunch there was an opportunity to see the live show, *All About Science*. Issy Trower said: "We learned about science and did a lot of experiments. We also watched the presenter blowing up gases, making fire tornadoes and cool stuff like that."

After the show, pupils were given the opportunity to explore the second and third floors. Finlay Thomson said: "First I went to the third floor where there was equipment for measuring how fast you can run or how fast you could cycle. There were also lots of different brain tests and puzzles which were challenging but great fun."

Zara Weir concluded: "Before we left we were given the opportunity to visit the gift shop where we could buy a reminder of our visit. There were lots of things to choose from such as gem stones, real dinosaur teeth, stationery or sweets. I don't think you would ever be bored at the Science Centre, no matter how long or often you visit, because there is so much to see and do. It really was a great day out. Thanks to Mrs Simpson for organising the trip and to all the staff who came along to help out."

On 24th February 2016, S1 pupils from Wallace Hall Academy enjoyed their annual trip to Glasgow Science Centre. The Science Centre trip is always popular as there are lots of fun, educational activities to try, all spread out over the three floors of the Science Mall. There is a wide variety of "hands-on" interactive exhibits and gadgets which aim to promote science and technology

through thought-provoking, fun and exciting experiences.



Danny Buckley said: "First we all watched a short film in the IMAX cinema. It was called *The Lemurs of Madagascar*, and it was informative and entertaining. My favourite fact about Lemurs was that they can dance. We also learned about the island, its hot weather and the bush fires that the natural world causes."



Rotary Young Photographer

report by Gordon Neilson of Thornhill and District Rotary Club

A group of eight budding young photographers from Thornhill's Wallace Hall Academy recently took part in the Rotary Club of Thornhill and District's very first Young Photographer of the Year competition. The theme of the competition was *Our World is Beautiful*. Each student was asked to submit three photographs along with a short piece outlining how the photographs they took best fitted the theme.

The winning photographs were selected by locally-based professional photographer Ed Baxter. Winner of the Intermediate section was Connor McAvoy (S1), while the winner of the Seniors was Josie Fairley Keast (S5). Both young photographers will now go forward to the Rotary District 1020 Finals in May.

Joan Neilson, convenor of Youth Service at Thornhill Rotary said: "This is the first time that



Thornhill Rotary has offered this competition to schools and I am very pleased that Wallace Hall students rose to the challenge. I am also most grateful to Ed Baxter who, as well as judging the competition, offered the young students advice on how they might further develop their interest in photography."

The photograph above shows L - R: Joan Neilson, Caitlin Wells, Connor McAvoy, Ed Baxter, Josie Fairley Keast, Poppy McMillan, Lottie Bramley and Erin Clark Wyse. Missing from the photograph: Emily Young and Caitlin Gaskell.

Staff bake for Sport Relief

At the end of last term, staff at Wallace Hall Academy took part in a bake-off competition in aid of Sport Relief. Competitors brought in a sport themed cake and, in true bake off style, completed a technical challenge of baking mini Bakewell tarts.

The three judges on the night, Mr Graham, Dr Fulton and Mr Gilius, sampled all the bakes. They were unanimous in their choice, announcing Mrs Weir as 'Star Baker' for her technically proficient Bakewell tarts and for her delicious cake, which she had decorated with a fishing theme.

Pupils and staff had the chance to taste the baking the next morning when it was put on sale at morning interval in 'The Street'. Over £64 was raised for this good cause. Well done to all the staff who took part.



Pupils Perform in Dumfries



Pupils from Wallace Hall and its cluster primary schools were once again very successful at this year's Perform in Dumfries competition. Organised by the committee of Dumfries and District Music Festival, the competition features sections for Accordion and Fiddle,

Country Dancing, Music and Speech.

Emily Kennedy, who won two classes in the speech section of the festival said: "Competing in the festival has helped me become more confident at speaking in public and I would encourage other pupils to enter next year." Sam Solley, winner of the open piano class

added: "I have competed at Dumfries Festival for a number of years and this experience has helped prepare me for my future career as a music teacher." Declan McGarva, winner of the Grade 3 piano class, continued: "I really enjoyed competing in both the piano class in the Music section and in the group class alongside Darroch Wood and Kyle Anderson in the Accordion and Fiddle section. Entering the competition gives you a goal to work towards and the feedback the adjudicators give you is really encouraging."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Perform in Dumfries is an excellent platform for young people to hone their performance skills to give them confidence as they progress through their education and beyond. Many of the topics covered and skills required really enhance our young people's broad general education and I am pleased that so many pupils from Wallace Hall chose to enter the competition. Well done to them all."

Photographs show a selection of trophy and certificate winners.





Taking the bull by the horns

report by Eleanor McKie

As recommended by the Care Commission, all schools are required to have emergency lockdown procedures in place in the event of an intruder or a similar dangerous incident. On Tuesday 2nd of February our school organised the first practise of our proposed lockdown procedure.

It was decided to use the scenario of an escaped bull in the school grounds and to set the procedure in motion a "Code Blue" alert was announced over the tannoy. Pupils and staff approached the exercise sensibly and followed the recommended procedures calmly and confidently. It was agreed that all had gone smoothly without any issues. The exercise will be repeated on an annual basis to ensure the safety of all at Wallace Hall.

Primary 4 pupils and pupils studying Art and Design in the secondary were asked to illustrate the scenario by drawing pictures, with prizes awarded to those chosen to be featured in this newsletter.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, said: "Pupils, staff and parents reacted really well to the lockdown procedure and I was impressed with how professionally the exercise was undertaken. It important that we take the safety of all at Wallace Hall seriously but I am delighted to see that our pupils have retained their sense of humour through their drawings. Well done to everyone for their efforts."



Poppy McMillan S6



Ruby Harkness P4



Zen Ethalion-Ubergs P4



Sophia Wilson P4



Grace O'Sullivan S5



Euan Wilson P4

Pupils involved in Wallace Hall's **whapples** project have won an award of £8,000. This money will be put towards landscaping the school's orchard which can then be used as an outdoor classroom.

In total, Tesco selected 3 finalists for the award, with the winners taking 12,000, 2nd place £10,000 and 3rd place £8,000. Grahame Arrowsmith, Principal Teacher of Employability and **whapples** board member said: "Thank you for everyone who voted for **whapples**. Landscaping the orchard will ensure that there is a valuable resource available for pupils, parents and the wider community."

Tesco Bags of Help



Why every vote counts

S5 and S6 pupils at Wallace Hall Academy met Sarah Beattie-Smith on Monday 7th March to discuss voter registration and how the voting system works. Originally from near Biggar in South Lanarkshire, Sarah moved to Peebles and now lives in East Lothian.

Commenting on her visit, Sarah said: "It was great to have the chance to speak with the pupils about how our Parliament works and why it's so important to register and vote. We talked about

how the voting system works and reminded the pupils that they get two votes - for the constituency and for the region.

"Many of the pupils at Wallace Hall are younger than the Scottish Parliament itself. This year, for the first time, they'll get a chance to cast their vote and choose who speaks for them and the issues they care about. As a young woman, I know that young people's voices are often ignored or not taken seriously. That's why it's so important that 16 and 17 year olds

register to vote before the 17th of April and take part in this election."

Brenna Aston, a former pupil of Wallace Hall, joined Sarah to visit her old school. Brenna said: "When I left school, I had almost zero interest in politics. I wasn't registered to vote and I don't really remember anyone coming to speak to us about why it's so important.

"It feels really great to come home and help to spread the word, letting young people know that when it comes to making change the power is in their hands. Though it's not the only way - putting a cross on their ballot paper come election day is a crucial part of that."



Big Bird Watch

report by Andrew Patterson



Our eco group at Wallace Hall took part in the Big Bird Watch. Our bird feeders were placed just behind school, next to the wood.

We saw lots of birds and shared the information with the RSPB for their big bird watch survey. This is an nationwide annual event and we particularly wanted to see if different birds visited because of climate change. Over the course of the survey we saw chaffinches, dunnocks, robins and blackbirds.

The next project for our eco group is to build bug boxes - see photographs below, We are looking forward to seeing the variety of bugs they attract.



Election Fever at Wallace Hall



After a spirited week of campaigning, votes were cast and counted with the successful candidates announced as Lucy Doig (Head Girl), Josh Notman (Head Boy), Charlie Geddes (Depute Head Girl) and Owen Davies (Depute Head Boy).

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "All of the candidates conducted impressive campaigns delivering some very well thought out ideas to attract support from the voters. Congratulations to all of them and I look forward to working with Lucy, Josh, Charlie and Owen when they take up their posts next session."

Election fever was in full flow recently at Wallace Hall Academy as the candidates for next academic session's Head Girl and Head Boy set off on the campaign trail.

After a rigorous application and interview stage, five girls and four boys got through to face the pupil/staff vote: Justine Crosbie, Lucy Doig, Charlie Geddes, Laura Marchbank, Carly Thomson, Owen Davies, Niall Holden, Sam Murphy and Josh Notman. Emily Morton, current Head Girl at Wallace Hall, said: "I am really impressed with all the candidates' campaigns. Being

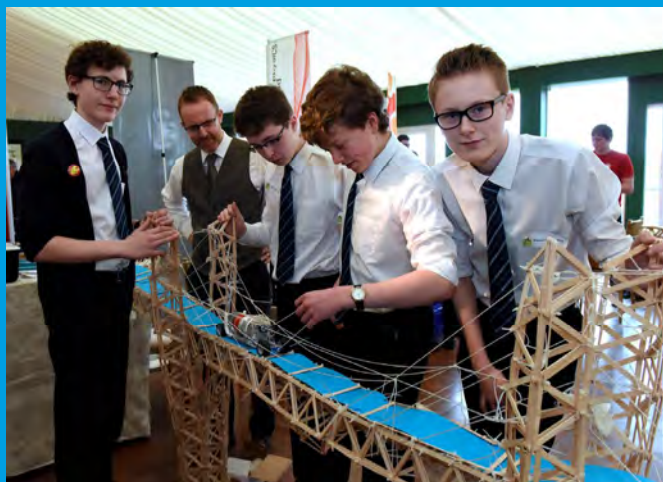
elected Head Girl was a huge privilege and I am sure the successful candidates this year will be excellent representatives for our school. I wish them every success with their campaigns." Ben Wicks, current Head Boy, added: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Head Boy and it was a real honour to be chosen for the position. The role has taught me many new skills which I am sure will be hugely beneficial as I embark on the next stage of my education. Thanks to Olivia and Connor, our two Deputes, who have been fantastic. Good luck to all of the prospective candidates."



Construction Challenge

report by Hugh Southall

On Wednesday 9th of March, David Rennie, Hugh Southall, Thomas Gashi and Aleksei Wishart, along with Mr Corrigan, visited Dumfries House to participate in various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges and a bridge competition.



For the bridge building competition we had to design and make a bridge constructed from lollipop sticks and cable ties which had to span a distance of 2.6 metres and hold fifty 500ml bottles of water (25kg). Our bridge was named Kevin and achieved holding the water with ease.

The STEM challenges were hosted by companies such as BAE systems and Scottish Power and included activities such as how an aeroplane wing is designed and building a pylon out of marshmallows and straws.

We won the competition and our prize was a nice trophy with a theme of engineering, along with a day enjoyed by all involved.

Parachute Eggs-periment

report by Ellie Arnold and Kathryn Dempster

S3 Physics pupils recently took part in an activity to test how a parachute would affect the speed of a falling egg.

The first thing we did was name our eggs; this resulted in

suggestions such as Isegg Newton and Albert Eggstein. We created parachutes for the eggs and dropped them off the balcony onto the Street. We had to think about the weight of the wire and material

the parachute was made of, as this would affect the egg's air resistance.

At the end of the experiment, only two out of eight eggs survived (Eggward and Omelette), but our class is now more aware of which factors we could have changed to get a less messy result.



S3 Saltire Awards

report by Eleanor McKie and Josie Fairley Keast

Students across the school have recently been working on their Saltire Awards with Mrs Andrews and Mrs Marchant. Any young person in Scotland can achieve a Saltire Award simply by totalling up the number of

hours they have spent volunteering, both in and out of school, at any time over the last two years.

The Saltire Award is a national award which is recognised by universities. They are a great addition to CVs for the future, as



well as being a fantastic way to recognise the time and energy given to the various causes. Pupils taking part record their progress through their individual online account which keeps track of how many hours they have volunteered.

On February 15th a special assembly was held so that those who have already dedicated over ten hours to their causes could receive their first awards. In third year alone, twenty-eight volunteers have received awards so far, including four pupils who have passed the hundred-hour mark. These students are Argyle Smith, Logan Patterson, Annabelle Guthrie and Bethany Krease. Congratulations and good luck to all pupils taking part in the award.



P4 pupils organise a book sale

report by Paige Marchbank & Nicole Wilson

P4 Book Sale was a big success thanks to all the people who donated.

We sent out a letter to invite everyone to bring in at least one book to sell on World Book Day.

Everyone from Nursery to P7 wore fabulous costumes on the day.

First we had to price the books that came in. They ranged from 10p to £2.50. We sold a lot of books and bookmarks also.

We were surprised at how much money we made. We raised £213.97!

P4 had an amazing time and we hope everyone did too.





Primary 5 design a book cover

Beast Quest Adam blade

A boy called Tom fights monsters from across the land.

Tom is my favourite character because he protects the poor. I love this type of book when good fights evil. I would recommend this book to every one because I think lots of boy like action (like me) would love this book too.

Fergus Hannah



Dork Diaries Rachel Renne Russel

Hi, my names Nikkil I am an ordinary girl who lives in an ordinary town.

The only problem is, is that I write a diary. I know that sounds really dorky but that is me! The dorkiest dork in America! These are tales from a not-so- fabulous life!

There are 2 problems in my life ... no wait 3

1. That I write a diary
2. My little sister Bronnie is the worlds most annoying sister. If she was entered in the world most annoying sister competition she would win in a heart beat!!
3. MCKENZIE HOLLISTER!!!!



Olivia Taylor

Pippi Longstocking Astrid Lingren

Pippi Longstocking is the best book I have ever read. I think you should read it. You will enjoy it!

Pippi Longstocking is the daughter of a buccaneer captain and Pippi Longstocking doesn't want to grow up. She has four best friends, and a pet horse. Pippi Longstocking can lift her horse up with one hand and Pippi also has a pet monkey.

Pippi Longstocking doesn't really care what other people think about her. She wears odd stuff but if people make fun of her she doesn't care. She likes to be herself and she also doesn't want to change her look.

You should really read this book because if other people were to read this book they would really enjoy it.

Paige Marchbank



Charlie and the chocolate factory Author Roald dahl

Charlie and the chocolate factory book tells and invents

Charlie lived in an old shack with his two grandmas, and two grandpas who share a bed and his mum and dad. Charlie's family is poor one day Charlie found a fifty p in a chute and on his second bus he won a golden ticket.

Charlie and the chocolate factory is a fantastic adventures story about kids who win a golden ticket.

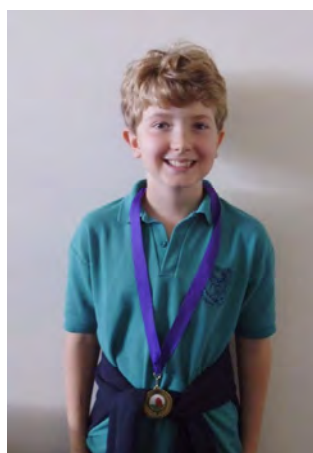


Lucy Stirk



As part of the World Book Day celebrations at Wallace Hall, pupils in Primary 5 were asked to design a cover for their favourite book. Above are some of the finished designs.

Celebrating Success in the primary



Jessica Cooper P5

Jessica participated in a karate grading which took place over 3 weeks. She had to demonstrate her level of competence in a variety of skills including kicks, blocks, sparring, katas and fighting. She moved up from an orange belt to a green belt.

Fergus Hannah, George Willis-Fleming and Munro Willis-Fleming

Fergus Hannah and the Willis Fleming brothers played in a rugby festival for Dumfries Saints RFC, which was held at Cartha Queens Park. They played in the Micros and Minis tournament which is for the pupils from P1 - P5 age. All of their teams were unbeaten throughout the day, meaning they all won a medal.

P5's FUNtastic, FUNfilled, FUNdraising Family Ceilidh!

report by Primary 5 pupils

On the evening of Friday 4th March, Primary 5 of Wallace Hall Primary School organised and hosted one of the most successful ceilidhs in the Universe! (Charlotte)

The organisation of the ceilidh was an amazing experience for P5 who all worked extremely hard to write letters and emails, fill out forms, publish posters and tickets, learn Scottish dances and songs, memorise Scots poems, as well as working out the finances of such a huge event! It was also quite an emotional time for some of the class as they debated about which charities they wanted any profits to go to. (Cara)

As well as being a great success it was also a profitable night with P5 raising over £450 for their chosen charities: Robin House Hospice, Marie Curie, Asthma UK and Help for Heroes. (Casey)

Finally the evening came and P5 were buzzing with excitement. They had a blast because it was so much fun. They and their friends

and family danced all night long to the music of the David Kennedy Scottish Dance Band. Some of the parents helped to serve teas and coffees (so that the children didn't get burnt) and P5 helped to serve the soft drinks and refreshments, sell raffle tickets and persuade people to spend money on other interval activities. (Olivia)

We sang 'The Wellie Boot' song in our wellies which was really funny and made the audience laugh. We also sang about 'The Three Crows' and that really made everyone laugh, because Brooke, Sebastian and Brady were all dressed up as crows. (Skye)

Brady's mum declared, "I enjoyed my one and only dance with one of my children, thank you Brady!" (Cara)

Angus' family and friends thoroughly enjoyed themselves and said, "We all had a great kilt-swinging evening at the ceilidh. Well done P5!" (Asher)

Brooke said, "It was a great idea to take turns on the different



stalls and games!" and Mrs Chilton declared, "I thought the children's recitations of the poems were excellent!" (Ruby)

Primary 5 would like to say an enormous thank you to the David Kennedy Scottish Dance Band, their teachers, the janitors and office staff, parent helpers, parents who donated raffle prizes and baking ingredients and of course to everyone who came and took part in the ceilidh. Mrs Kennedy told the class, "You all worked so hard and excelled yourselves on the night. Miss Purves and I are both extremely proud of you all." (Angus)



Belgian Exchange Visit

report by Niamh McQuarrie Parkes



On Saturday the 16th of January our Belgian exchange students came over to Scotland as it was our turn to host them. They arrived at the school at 3:30pm and we all went straight home from there. In the evening some of the exchange students and their hosts went to a Burns Supper and others went to a concert organised by the Thornhill Young Farmers.

On Sunday we had time to spend with our families and allow our Belgian guests to get to know them better. In the afternoon some of the students and their hosts went to Airspace and in the



evening some of the other students went to a concert at the O2 ABC.



Monday came around soon enough and it was time to head to school. This wasn't for long though, as we set off for Caerlaverock Castle at 11am. Whilst there, we read the boards that give you a bit of background on the castle and its history and learned some really interesting facts about it. When we left the castle some of the boys thought it would be a great idea to start a snowball fight, which didn't end well! We then set off to Ruthwell church which contains a cross



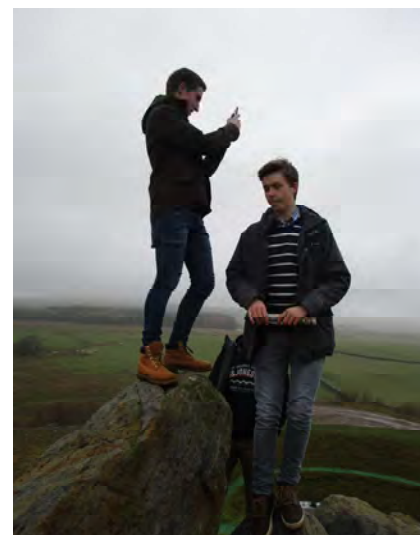
that is almost over 1300 years old.

On Tuesday we went to Glasgow. When we were there we visited the transport museum and also Kelvingrove Art Gallery. We then went to Braehead and got lunch.

Then came the day we'd all been dreaming of... Wednesday! This was the day when we had to do project work. This involved researching different universities in our home countries and writing a study guide. In the afternoon we took a trip to Crawick Multiverse and got a guided tour from Ian Bell, the site supervisor, who gave us a little more information about the site.

On Thursday we went to Edinburgh. Whilst there we visited the Edinburgh Art Gallery, Edinburgh Castle and had a general walk about.

Then came Friday, the day our guests departed. It was an emotional goodbye but everyone thoroughly enjoyed their week and we are all looking forward to seeing each other again.



News from our Drama Department

This week, the Higher Drama classes have been sitting their SQA formal practical examinations.

The students gave up a significant amount of their own time to rehearse over the Easter holidays to ensure that they were fully prepared for their exam. For one of their pieces, "The Importance of Being Earnest", the Higher Drama class hired costumes from Dumfries Theatre Company and it is hoped that this

association will continue for future school productions.

Rehearsals are well underway for the department's next production, "A Midsummer Night's Dream". This will be an outdoor production and will be performed in the magnificent grounds of Drumlanrig Castle on Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd June starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are priced at Adult - £5.00, Concession - £3.00 and Family - £15.00 and can be

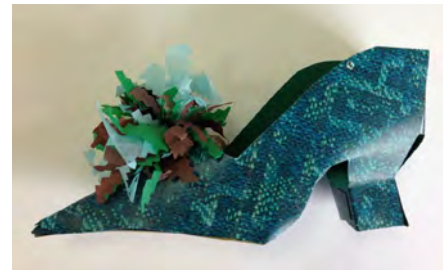
purchased by phoning the school on 01848 332120. The grounds will be open from 5.30pm onwards and, as this is an outdoor production, those wishing to attend should be suitably dressed for the weather, bring something to sit on and also a picnic if wished.

The production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is sure to be a popular event so book tickets early to avoid disappointment.



S3 pupils design a shoe

Report by Ruaridh Higgins



S3 pupils focused on shoe design for their recent Art and Design unit. Mrs Black explained the importance of

inspiration for this unit and illustrated this by highlighting the work of the

late, great Alexander McQueen, the famous avant-garde Scottish fashion designer.

Particular attention was paid to the armadillo boot, designed by Alexander for his 2010 summer collection which Lady Gaga wore in one of her videos.

The photographs show some of our pupils' beautiful shoe designs which clearly demonstrate individuality and inspiration.



Coffee morning for charity



The charities committee raise money throughout the year for a variety of good causes.

One of the charities chosen this session was the British Lung Foundation as a number of pupils



and staff have had personal reasons to support this charity. To raise funds, pupils and staff came together to enjoy a coffee morning held at interval in the library. This was a great success with a huge selection of baking available for staff and pupils to purchase and enjoy with their morning coffee. Leftover baking was sold to pupils later in the day, raising further funds.

Kerry Love, one of the committee organising this event, said: "We were delighted to raise over £600 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you to all pupils and staff who supported the event."

Fair Trade Fundraising



Charities have benefited from our taste for Fair Trade chocolate – in the form of some big donations. At the Fair Trade group meeting at the start of term, pupils decided to donate this year's £250 profits to three good causes: the Fairtrade Foundation which is the charity promoting fairly traded goods, Water Aid which

helps provide clean water to people in developing countries, and Book Aid, an educational charity which helps children in poor countries get access to textbooks.

Group spokesperson Lorna Rideout explained: "We source our fairly traded goods from our wholesaler at trade prices, and we then sell these to our customers at a small profit at our fortnightly tuckshop. Over the year a few pence profit per chocolate bar can add up to hundreds of pounds - which we can then donate to charities which help people in the developing countries where our fairly traded goods are produced. We'd like to thank all our customers for buying from our tuckshop and helping us to support some very worthwhile causes."

Teacher Jane McMillan added: "Taking part in Fair Trade activities gives pupils valuable experience in customer service and the running of a small business, as well as the chance to develop a sense of global citizenship and responsibility for others. This year pupils of all ages have collaborated really well to increase the profile of Fair Trade and raise money for charity at the same time."



A stitch in time

All S1 and S2 pupils at Wallace Hall Academy paid a visit to Thomas Tosh earlier this year to see and learn about a fantastic wall hanging depicting the village of Thornhill 20 years ago.

Led by mid-Nithsdale base artist Denise Zygadlo, the wall hanging (initially created as part of the "Stitch in Time" project in the mid 90s) was produced by Thornhill people, young and old, using a variety of techniques including applique, embroidery and quilting. Denise formed the basic design from historical records and photographs. Volunteers then started work on individual sections of the community project and the names of many of the contributors are

sewn around the edge of the wall hanging.

Organised by Mr Riley, Principal Teacher of Social Subjects at Wallace Hall, all S1 and S2 classes spent a period in Thomas Tosh learning about the wall hanging and its history. Denise explained to the pupils that: "The wall hanging incorporates a fantastic collection of local memories and is both a snapshot of life in Thornhill at the end of the 1990s and a record of the village's deeper history. In the space of two decades, there have already been many changes in Thornhill that mean the wall hanging continues to be a valuable record of the village's past, but there's also lots of continuity."



Mr Riley said: "I was delighted to be able to organise for our S1 and S2 pupils to visit Thomas Tosh to see the magnificent wall hanging and to learn about the history of the village. The pupils found it a fascinating experience to learn more about the village that many of them live in. Thanks to Denise Zygadlo and to Thomas Tosh for inviting us."



Smalls for All

Wallace Hall are supporting a collection for Smalls for All – a fantastic charity that collects and distributes underwear to women and children in Africa who need our help. Underwear is a luxury some people can't afford. Giving pants and bras may seem like a small thing but it can make a difference. If you want to show us your support, please hand in packets of new ladies pants size 8 – 16 or new children's pants aged 3 – 15 into the Library at Wallace Hall. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

A Taste of Your Future



Pupils from Wallace Hall Academy attended 'A Taste of Your Future', hosted by SRUC at the Barony Campus.

Pupils met SRUC staff along with local businesses and were

given the opportunity to sample aspects of some of the courses on offer including - Agriculture, Animal Care, Engineering, Forestry/Arboriculture and Veterinary Nursing. The pupils got

the chance to see the campus facilities and practical elements of the courses as well as to chat with current pupils about their chosen courses and learn from their experiences.

This was a great opportunity for our S3 and S4 pupils to think about future plans and possible careers within Dumfries and Galloway.



Rotary Interviews

report by Gordon Neilson of Thornhill and District Rotary Club



Around 80 Senior students from Thornhill's Wallace Hall Academy were the latest group to take up the challenge of participating in the Rotary Club of Thornhill and District's

Annual Mock Interview programme for local schools.

The programme is designed to give students an opportunity to experience the interview process when the outcome of the interview

is not crucial to their future. It is an opportunity for the young people to 'sell' themselves to interviewers - people whom they have met for the first time.

Rotarian Joan Neilson, Convenor of Youth Service at the Thornhill Club said: "This year we have invited local business and professional people to join us in carrying out these interviews and I am most grateful to them for giving up time away from their business to help us out. As usual, the young people from Wallace Hall Academy are to be complimented on their performance at these interviews and it is clear that they will do well when they face the 'real thing' in the future."

Picture shows student Jack Adkin being interviewed by Rotarian and Thornhill businessman Stewart Lee. Looking on is a group of interviewers and Wallace Hall students. Also in the photo is Wallace Hall Principal Teacher Kerry Fraser who co-ordinates the programme within the school.

QI Work Placements

Queensberry Initiative is continuing to source work placements for the senior pupils at Wallace Hall and its aim is that every pupil will be given the chance to undertake a placement before they leave school.

Work experience enhances young people's chances of being accepted into university, college, apprenticeship or employment.

The Queensberry Initiative team has facilitated tailored work placements for many of our senior pupils, and a number of our pupils were out in the workplace during

the Easter holidays. This included some of our current S5 pupils who spent time, for example, work shadowing at a firm of local plumbers or working with staff in the accounts department of a busy local business. Some pupils in that same year group have already signed up for work experience during summer 2016; an S5 girl will be heading in to court to work alongside a lawyer and another will be shadowing one of our partner Civil Engineers.

Queensberry Initiative is constantly looking for new businesses who are willing to give

our pupils a flavour of work in the real world. If you think you or your business can support one of our work experience pupils please get in touch with Mrs Wood or Miss Peoples at info@queensberryinitiative.co.uk.



Wallace Hall Primary Pupil Council



Members of Wallace Hall Primary Pupil Council recently paid a visit to Mr Graham's office.

Best foot forward at Wallace Hall



For their final event of the year, the S6 Charities Group organised a sponsored walk and non-uniform day in aid of Spinal Injuries Scotland.

They chose to support this charity because of the special relationship that exists between Wallace Hall and Mrs Valerie Inglis. A few years ago, Valerie donated a beautiful rosebowl to the school in memory of her daughter Joan. Joan, a former pupil of Wallace Hall, was disabled following a spinal injury she sustained in a fall and sadly passed away in November 2009. Joan was always very keen on art and crafts and, following her accident, she taught herself how to paint using her mouth.

Valerie, who still lives in Thornhill, donated the rosebowl to the school, and it is presented each year to an S3 pupil for originality in Art & Design. Valerie, who taught at Wallace Hall from 1966 until 1973 and whose late husband, Stan, was Head Teacher of Wallace Hall Primary from 1966 to 1973, has been present at every award ceremony since. In her own words, Wallace Hall is very close to her heart and she feels that she is an important part of the school community.

Sean Wicks, lead organiser of the event, said: "When I heard about Mrs Inglis and her extraordinary daughter, I felt a need to support this worthwhile charity. The

committee and I decided that a sponsored walk would be an appropriate activity and one which everyone could take part in. Joan was a keen artist who loved painting sheep and sunflowers. We felt it fitting that these be the theme for the day. Valerie kindly donated prizes for the best sheep and sunflower inspired costume, the best sheep and sunflower inspired drawing, and for the three pupils who raised the most sponsorship money. We were delighted that she was able to come along on the day to present these prizes. Thank you to all pupils, parents, staff and members of the wider community who donated money and made this event such a success."

Andrea Weir, a Biology teacher at Wallace Hall who worked with the pupils on the charities committee to help organise the event, said: "The sixth year charities committee has worked very hard and put in a lot of time and effort into organising this event. Unfortunately the weather was unkind but all who took part did so with great spirit. In excess of £2000 was raised for this worthy cause."

Mr Graham, Head Teacher, said: "I am very proud of all of our pupils for taking part and raising such a fantastic sum of money for Spinal Injuries Scotland."





Rotary Quiz success

report by Andrew Oram and Matthew Johnstone



On the 9th of February, teams of four children from six different schools situated in the Rotary Club of Thornhill and District Area competed in a quiz which was hosted by last year's winners, Penpont Primary. Competing were Duncow Primary, Moniave Primary, Closeburn Primary, Kelloholm Primary, Penpont

Primary and Wallace Hall Primary.

In the hall where the quiz was held, every team had a designated table to work on. Once all the quiz teams had arrived and everyone was seated at their table, the quiz finally began.

In Wallace Hall's team were Matthew Johnstone, Andrew Oram, Abigail Maxwell and Brodie

Fergusson who were all chosen after achieving the four highest scores in their class during a test quiz held earlier in the year. Competition on the day was fierce with all of the teams practising hard before the quiz, gaining as much knowledge as possible.

In each round there were 4 questions and we had to write down our answers on a paper sheet. The quiz started with the Language and Literacy round. In this round there were 8 points possible and most teams achieved those 8 points.

The second round was Numeracy where Wallace Hall managed to gain 5 out of a possible 7 points. Penpont quickly advanced to 1st place but Wallace Hall pupils were still confident that they could win even though they were falling behind.

By the third round the Wallace Hall team was nearing 4th position. However, the final round entitled 'pot luck' was where Wallace Hall's practising paid off with them being the only school to achieve full marks! This resulted in Wallace Hall winning the title of 'Thornhill and District Rotary Club Primary Schools Quiz Winners 2016'. Everyone was overjoyed with the new title and shield for the trophy cabinet.

Winning the title also means that the next quiz in 2017 will be held at Wallace Hall and everyone on this year's team wishes them good luck!

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) and 30cm rulers (40p). 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.

Tribute to the Bard

Six pupils from Wallace Hall Academy - Mollie Anderson, Josie Blount, Emily Kennedy, Nathan King, Lucy Doig and Ailsa Black - all competed at the regional heat of the Scottish School Burns Competition held in Dumfries Academy recently.

Entries were at a record high this year with some very strong competition in all disciplines. All Wallace Hall pupils did really well, impressing the judges with their recitation and singing performances. Emily Kennedy and

Josie Blount were both second in their respective recitation classes, Nathan King won his class (S3/S4 recitation), Lucy Doig (S5/S6 recitation) won her class and was awarded the prize for the best overall recitation on the day and Ailsa Black won her class (S1/S2 singing), the trophy for the best overall singing performance and the Millennium Cup for the best overall secondary pupil performance from all sections.

Ailsa, Lucy, Nathan, Emily and Josie will now go on to represent Dumfries and Galloway at the

national finals for secondary pupils which will be held in St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh on 23rd April.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said:

"Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Scottish Schools Burns competition. I always enjoy listening to our pupils perform Burns and I am delighted that their talent has been recognised at this competition. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to get to this standard and I wish them well for the national finals later on this year."



Reinforcing Road Safety

Report by Andrew Oram, Rocco Rinaldi, Anya Graham and Holly Jackson,

We are the Junior Road Safety Officers, otherwise known as Holly, Anya, Andrew and Rocco. We are here to look after the roads around the school and to see if you understand all the safety regulations regarding the school roads.

A few times a week we carry out spot checks on cars parking in the drop off zone and disabled spaces. Our aim this year is to keep parents and carers



parking in the right areas, to plan competitions for all the pupils to win prizes and to raise money to work towards equipment to reduce the speed at which people drive around the school.

Read all about it

report by Josie Fairley Keast

This year, World Book Day took place on the 3rd of March. To mark the occasion at Wallace Hall, the nursery pupils dressed up and descended on the library for a morning or an afternoon reading session with a selection of older students.

Volunteers from S2-6 and an assortment of small fictional characters found a space to sit and read through a book or two together, while the staff (having made an impressive effort with their own costumes) watched on.

This is a great opportunity for the oldest and youngest members of the school to interact and celebrate reading for all ages, and we hope to continue this with a similar event next year.

Thank you to all students who took part in this activity.



Nathan impresses MSPs

Report by Josie Fairley Keast



Congratulations to Nathan King who was invited to address the haggis at the Scottish Parliament Burns Supper on Wednesday 20th January.

This was a huge honour for Nathan as the high profile event was hosted by the Presiding Officer, Tricia Marwick MSP, with contributions from the Deputy Presiding Officers, John Scott MSP and Elaine Smith MSP. Since the age of ten, Nathan has enjoyed reciting Burns poetry and has achieved significant success at both the Scottish School Burns competition and at the Dumfries and District Music Festival.

Nathan was contacted by Isa Hanley, a renowned Burnsian in Dumfries and Galloway and a member of the Robert Burns

World Federation, who had been asked to select someone from the whole of Scotland for the honour of addressing the haggis at the Consular Corps' Burns Supper held at the Scottish Parliament Building. Nathan said: "I was delighted to be chosen for this honour. Before the Burns Supper began, I was greeted by one of the organisers who knew that I was very interested in Politics and that this was what I wanted to do when I left school, so they took me on a tour of the Parliament building where we went into the Debating Chamber and many other places within the Parliament. The supper itself started at 6.30pm, with my Address to the Haggis coming in at 7.30pm.



There were over 80 guests in attendance; I was sitting between the Conservative MSP for Lothian, Cameron Buchanan, and the Consul General for the Czech



Republic, Dr Paul Millar. Both of them made fascinating company for the evening. Everything went exactly according to plan and I received many compliments for my recitation. Cameron Buchanan offered me work experience in the Scottish Parliament, which I completed during March this year. I thoroughly enjoyed this placement and it was a really positive experience for me." Tricia Marwick has since sent Nathan a letter expressing her personal thanks for his work, and an extract from it is included here. "The Presiding

Officer's Burns Supper is an important occasion in the Parliamentary Calendar, an opportunity for Members of the Scottish Parliament to come together with Scotland's Consular Corps, whose members represent countries around the world. I have since received compliments from colleagues and guests saying how much they enjoyed the evening, including your Address to the Haggis, which was a particular highlight."

This is a tremendous achievement and we wish Nathan all the best with his future recitations and approaching work experience.

Photographs courtesy of the Scottish Parliament.



Gopher Lab Day



Wallace Hall Academy's Science Department invited all the P7 pupils from our 6 cluster schools for a day of scientific discovery. Activities were designed by the Biochemical Society and the Royal Society of Biology and were titled: Can you smell as well as a shark?; Lemon Batteries; How does a butterfly drink?; Why do slugs and snails have slime?; Can you beat the test?; The marvellous colour changing cabbage; Why do leaves change colour in Autumn?; What is the best way to clean up an oil spill?; Do you see what I see?; Don't blow it!.

Students also took part in a True or False science quiz and entered an art competition to win an Easter Egg. All the experiments were demonstrated and explained by our senior pupils. Jordan Findlay, S6, said: "I enjoyed teaching science to kids, it was nice to see them getting excited about the whole thing. I have been working with P2 usually reading so this made a nice change" Lucy Brown, also S6, added: "It was very interesting to see how different children interacted with

the experiments and responded to us as older pupils. It was really valuable experience for me as I hope in the future to become a teacher"

Matthew Johnstone, Joshua Cooper and Abigail Maxwell, all Primary 7 at Wallace Hall, wrote the following report: On the 23rd of February Wallace Hall P7 pupils, as well as P7 pupils from Closeburn, Duncow, Penpont, Moniave and Dunscore schools, came to Wallace Hall Academy for a fun day at the Gopher Lab held in the Bailey Hall. The reason for the day was part of the transition programme for all P7 pupils in the area.

Everyone who came enjoyed themselves and would love another day meeting new people and making new friends before we come up to the Academy. It was all put together by many people including the science teachers, academy pupils and many more.

All in all, there were twelve activities including a quiz, turning cabbages into different colours with acids and bases, and a stroop test. At one table we were finding out our lung capacity by blowing up a balloon and finding its diameter but many of the balloons did end up blowing up and making big noises. One of the favourites for most people would have to be the snail slime where we had to mix a pot of cornflour with water and feel how it moves and feels in our hands. Another part of that activity was doing the same to toothpaste. Everyone got very messy and had to clean their hands afterwards.

The stroop test was to test your reactions. For this we were given a piece of paper with the names of different colours, but the colour of the words were not the same as the name. For example, some said **blue**, **yellow** or **red**, but the challenge was to say the word, not the colour it was written in.

I think we can speak on behalf of all the schools involved in saying that we thoroughly enjoyed working together on all twelve activities and would like to come back to meet everyone again. Thank you to Thornhill Rotary for organising the event.





Food and Farming with Queensberry Initiative



The pupils were fascinated by this. Everyone went back to school with lots of new interesting facts and a new enthusiasm for local food produce.

Kyle Hough, P2/P3, said: "On Tuesday 15th of March 2016, Primary 2/3 went to the farm. We got to watch the farmer making breakfast for the animals. The cow was called Bo Peep and the farm was called Lakehead. At the other farm, I got to sort out the eggs and clap a chicken."

Darach Smyth, P2/3, added: "When we arrived at the dairy farm we saw calves and cows. I learnt that cows live up to 8 years old. Then we went to the egg farm. It was fun! We entered the

Where does our food come from? That is what Primary 2 and 3 pupils from Wallace Hall wanted to find out as part of their food and drink topic, so QI arranged for them to visit some of our partner farmers.

First stop was Lakehead Farm where Richard and Grant gave the pupils a tour of their dairy farm and talked about the process from cow to carton! They found out about what a dairy cow eats in a day and how much milk she produces.

Then it was back on the buses and off to visit Nith Valley Free Range Eggs where Stuart talked about egg production and the pupils followed the journey of an egg from the hen, via Stuart's impressive grader, to the shops.



chicken coop which was very smelly! Then we went back to the buses and had lunch. We all really enjoyed our day out in the country."



S1/S2 Dodgeball Success



On Wednesday the 16th of March, both Wallace Hall first and second year pupils took part in Dumfries and Galloway Schools Regional Dodgeball Tournament at St Joseph's College. The pupils travelled down by minibus accompanied by Head of PE, Mr Mack.

Wallace Hall's two Young Sport Ambassadors, Fraser and Emily Morton, were responsible for organising the Wallace Hall teams and played a key role in

organising the event as a whole. The event was run and organised by Young Ambassadors across all schools. Over the course of the year, these Young Ambassadors have attended monthly meetings, in which they have discussed the planning of sporting events just like this one and also, more importantly, how they can maintain a growing number of active people in this region.

In total 10 Ambassadors alongside additional pupils from other schools, Active Schools co-

ordinators and PE teachers ensured the event ran smoothly from the start till the end. All schools taking part played five games, with the top two teams from each age group qualifying to a straight final. Due to their diligence and determination both Wallace Hall teams managed to qualify to the final stage and win both tournaments.

The S1s played against St Joseph's College and the S2s played against Dumfries Academy. The pupils were rewarded with their efforts by each receiving a gold medal which they did not expect and were delighted about, with the runners up in 2nd and 3rd place receiving silver and bronze medals.

On the whole the event ran according to plan and gave a great chance for the Young Sport Ambassadors in the region to put into practice their roles. As Young Ambassadors, both Fraser and Emily Morton, on behalf of Wallace Hall Academy pupils, would like to thank Jacqui Biers as well as all other Active Schools coordinators for enabling the ambassadors to run this event and give people a chance to enjoy themselves while keeping fit.

S2 Boys Regional Hockey Tournament

report by Sam Godfrey



On March 14th the squad of Lewis Cheetham, Sam Godfrey, Aidan Dobie, Finlay Bainbridge, Lee Wood, Aaron Grierson, Leigh Hyslop and David Broatch travelled to King George V pitch to try to retain their Regional Championship title, but this time for S2. It was a perfect day weather wise which made for a hot and tiring afternoon of 6 a-side matches across a quarter pitch.

There were only three schools involved this year so we played a round robin format playing each team twice. The other two schools were Douglas Ewart High School and Moffat Academy. The day started well and we beat Moffat comprehensively and drew with Douglas Ewart in the first round.

Having beaten Moffat again in the second round, it was all down to the final match. Unfortunately for us the Douglas Ewart team had really got their passing game going, and this led to them creating numerous scoring opportunities. They managed to win the game despite us having a couple of near misses.

S2 Hockey

report by Holly Dobie

On March 1st, the S2 girls hockey team travelled to the King George V sports centre in Dumfries to participate in the annual Dr Turner's Hockey Tournament.

Every year, weeks of training go into preparing for the tournament and we all attended training on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

The team consisted of myself, Josie Blount, Millie Bowie, Heather McKinna, Olivia Macklin, Emily Moodycliffe, Anna Wilson and Lucy Dale.

On the day of the tournament, we set off from school at around half one, determined to do our best and eager to know which schools we were going to be competing against. During the tournament we played about eight different teams. The hardest match had to be against Dumfries High School as they were

a very strong team, and we lost to them 3-0.

In the end we came fourth overall, which was a bit disappointing, but we tried our best.

Although it was a very cold night, everyone enjoyed the tournament and we're all looking forward to next year.



Our Dr Turner's Experience

report by Zara Weir and Isla Wright



We were delighted to win the Dr Turner's S1 Girls' Hockey Tournament this year. We won six games, only losing one game against Dumfries High School. We had some close matches but luckily managed to get in the lead before the whistle was blown.

The team consisted of Zara Weir (Captain), Isla Wright, Lois Geddes, Hannah Ogilvie, Jill Hamilton, Amy Broatch and Iona Morton.

We were so excited when our school was announced the winner and everyone in the team was really happy as we weren't expecting to win.

We hope that next year we can come back to succeed once again in the S2 girls' competition. Thanks to all the organisers of the tournament and to Mrs Miller for helping us.

Dr Turner's S1 Boys' hockey

report by Sam Taylor and Finlay Thomson.



Last term the S1 boys' hockey team travelled to King George V in Dumfries to compete in the Dr Turner's S1 hockey tournament.

Our team consisted of William Dempster, Finlay Thomson, Ted Bowie, Findlay Young, Rhuairidh McKenzie, Sam Taylor, Campbell Hiddleston and Scott Landsburgh. Our first game was against Douglas Ewart and the score was 4-0 to Wallace Hall. The second game was against Moffat Academy with the final score was 2-0 to Wallace Hall. The third game was against Douglas Ewart again and, once again, we won the match by 1-0. The fourth game was against Moffat Academy and the score was 3-0.

We were delighted to win all four of our games and be announced as winners of the whole tournament. We were presented with the Dr Turner's Cup and this was collected on our behalf by William, our team captain. Everyone in the team was given a winner's badge. Thanks to Mrs Miller for helping and encouraging us.

A Master of Martial Arts



Hayden Meredith, S4 pupil at Wallace Hall Academy, is making a name for himself in the world of martial arts. He recently competed in a kickboxing/karate competition in Edinburgh, winning three medals over the course of the competition.

Hayden said: "I competed in three categories: teams, light continuous, and semi-contact points. My club and another local club joined together to enter the

category for teams and were delighted to win a bronze medal. I then competed in light continuous, an area of kickboxing I'm fairly new to. Even though I was hit hard, I got a bronze in this too. My final category was semi-contact points. I'm more familiar with this section, and managed to get the silver. Despite finding it challenging to be set against adults, I had great fun taking part in the event. This was only my second kickboxing competition, and I can't wait to compete again."

Dave Dillon, Depute Head Teacher at Wallace Hall said: "Kickboxing and karate are ideal sports for improving overall fitness, conditioning, speed, flexibility, power and co-ordination. Hayden is well on his way to becoming one of Wallace Hall's martial arts specialists and we wish him well for future competitions."



Congratulations to Lois Geddes, Ewan Robertson and James Robertson, who all won medals at a recent badminton competition held at Lockerbie Academy.

Ewan won two gold medals, first in the single U14 section and then with his brother James in the U16 doubles. James also won silver in the single U16 section, narrowly losing to Dylan Holmes from Annan Academy. Lois took bronze medal in the U14 girls.

Ewan said: "I was very happy with my performance on the day as the competition was fiercely fought. James and Lois both played really well in strong sections to win their medals. Thanks to the organisers for giving us all such a good day."

Badminton Stars



Cross Country Competition

Report by Catherine Anderson



On Monday 15th February, Wallace Hall Academy's school cross country competitors stepped up to the line, fit and ready for Mr Rae's starter's orders. Weather conditions were ideal for the competitors with glorious winter sunshine making a welcome change from the wet, windy weather of recent days. A good representation of pupils from all year groups set off round the course, ready for the challenge that lay ahead.

Nathan King, winner of the S4 boys section, commented: "The course really challenged everybody's ability, especially with how soft the

ground was in certain areas, but I am delighted with my finishing time and thoroughly enjoyed taking part."

The winners of the races were as follows - S1 Girls: 1st Zara Weir, 2nd Lois Geddes, 3rd Ella Gildert. S1 Boys: 1st Ted Bowie, 2nd Finlay Thomson, 3rd Kyle Colchester. S2 Girls: 1st Josie Harkness, 2nd Olivia Macklin. S2 Boys: 1st Aidan Dobie, 2nd David Broatch, 3rd Charlie Brown. S3 Girls: 1st Tammy McWhirter, 2nd Sarah O'Connor, 3rd Saranne Scott. S3 Boys: 1st Finlay Smith, 2nd Fergus Waugh, 3rd Mathew Godridge. S4 Girls: 1st Mhairi Watret, 2nd Caitlin Greenwood. S4 Boys: 1st Nathan King, 2nd Billy Dundas, 3rd Oliver Adkin. Senior Girls: 1st Emily



Morton. Senior Boys: 1st Robert Ponton, 2nd Niall Gauld, 3rd James Robertson.

Race winners were presented with a trophy by Mrs Miller and Mr Mack. Also, all of those coming home in either first, second or third place were presented with a lovely medal to reward them for their efforts.

Mr Mack, Principal Teacher of Health and Wellbeing said: "All of the pupils taking part ran well, demonstrating real determination to achieve their own personal best. All medal winners will now go on to represent the school at the forthcoming regional championships and I wish them all the best for the competition."

Turn to the next page for more photographs of the event. Thank you to Lottie Bramley of S4 for acting as Assistant Photographer for the event.







Cross Country Champions



Two Wallace Hall pupils demonstrated superb speed and stamina at the Annan River Race held on Sunday 26th February 2016.

Mhairi Watret (S4) and Niall Gauld (S5) both ran fantastic races to win gold medals in their respective sections. Mhairi came home first overall in the Under 17

girls with Niall winning the Dumfries and Galloway championship for Under 17 boys.

Mhairi said: "It was a tough course but I really enjoyed the race. I was delighted with my time of 12:05 and I crossed the line well in front of my nearest competitor. I have been training hard with Nithsdale Athletic Club and would

like to thank David Hood for his excellent coaching – he really helps to motivate and encourage all runners at the club. I am looking forward to running in the nationals later this month and hope to finish with a strong time."

Niall added: "The race location changed from beside the river Annan to Annan Academy due to recent flooding. The ground was very muddy and the rain and the wind made the race conditions even more challenging. The Under 17 boys ran alongside the seniors and the masters (21+). I was representing Nithsdale Athletic Club and competition between runners and clubs was fierce. I was delighted to finish in 29:01, particularly given the conditions, as had set my goal at finishing the 6K race within 30mins. Overall I am really proud of my result and hope to improve my time next year."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, commented: "I was very impressed by the level of performance from Mhairi and Niall. I have run the Annan River course in the past and know that the competition would be challenging and the course demanding for any runner. Well done to the two of them and it shows that they have a real determination to do so well in such a fiercely fought competition."

Under 15s Girls' Football Success

report by Saranne Scott



On the 4th of March, the U15 girls football team competed in the regional Cash Back 7s tournament. We came second overall, only losing one game to the competition champions Dumfries High.

Eilidh Thompson and Freya Sale did a sterling job in defence and, thanks to some excellent saves by Anna Wilson, we only lost 3 goals over the whole day. Kelsey Yard, Saranne Scott and Chloe Williams linked up well to score 23 goals in total, taking us through to the next round on goal difference.

We are looking forward to representing the region at the next stage in Glasgow.

Thanks to Miss Carnochan for supporting and encouraging us throughout the season. We would also like to thank Emily Morton for her amazing coaching this year.

Skating to Success

Report by Nadine Coltart



Solway Sk8ing Club now have four competing teams and after our success at The Wintercup in Belgium in November 2015 we set off to Nottingham in January 2016 with 3 of our teams to compete in the British Synchronised Skating Championships.

During this competition I skated with Solway Eclipse, who won gold,

and Solway Lightning, who won silver. Solway Stars skated two routines and also came home with a gold medal. Chloe Williams, S3, Ines Wood, S2, and Aidan Kennedy, S1, also skated with our teams. We train very hard to prepare for these competitions but it was all worthwhile as we had great fun and everyone was happy with how they skated.

In February 2016 we had one of the biggest competitions of the season - Trophy D'Ecosse. This event was held in our home rink at Dumfries Icebowl which made it even more exciting for the teams. We welcomed teams from the USA, Holland, Spain and even Australia who really enjoyed our Scottish hospitality and we made lots of new skating friends. Trophy D'Ecosse was also the first competition for our youngest team Solway Comets who really enjoyed themselves and we were extremely proud of them for having an amazing skate. Solway Eclipse, Solway Stars and Solway Lightning all won gold in their categories and became Scottish Champions which was a great achievement for our club.

Now we are looking forward to next season and the hard work starting all over again.



Silver success for Ross

Ross Whyte, S6 at Wallace Hall, has achieved outstanding success in the sport of curling. After rising through the ranks of junior curling in Scotland, Ross was selected to curl with Team GB at the Winter Youth Olympic Games held in Lillehammer, Norway on 12th – 21st February.

Ross skipped the rink through the group stages, reaching the quarter finals to be narrowly beaten by the team from Russia. Ross was also chosen to play in the mixed doubles with Yu Han from China. The pair won four

games in the qualifying stages, playing well in a closely fought final against a mixed Swiss and Japanese team to achieve Silver.

Ross said: "Curling in the Winter Youth Olympic Games was a great experience and gave me a taste of what the senior Olympic Games would be like. Team GB stayed in accommodation with athletes from all of the other nations and I met some really fantastic people. The atmosphere at the games was exciting and the support our team had from our coaches, our families and our friends really helped us to remain



motivated and competitive at all times. It was a great achievement to reach the quarter finals with Team GB and the icing on the cake to lift the Silver medal in the mixed doubles alongside Yu. Curling is pretty universal so, despite a language barrier, we developed a series of hand signals and shouts to communicate how we wanted to play. Our opposition played really well and although we tried hard they were just too strong for us. Standing on the podium in my Team GB kit made me very proud to be representing my country and it is a moment I will never forget. I hope to develop my skills in the sport with the aim of progressing into the senior squad in the future."

David Dillon, DHT with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing at Wallace Hall, said: "Ross is a terrific ambassador for our school, for the sport of curling and for our country. He is a fine sportsman and I am delighted to see him reaping the rewards for his hard work and dedication. It is a phenomenal achievement to be selected for the junior Olympic squad and to win a Silver medal in the process is just fantastic. I am sure Ross will continue to progress and reach his goal of playing for his country at a future Winter Olympic Games."

Wallace Hall U18s finish season with a flourish

report by Ally Muir



The U18s concluded their season by handsomely beating Annan Academy and St Josephs College in a round-robin game at the former's home ground.

Our first game was against St Joseph's, who had just beaten Annan 15-0. Despite having the presence of Jamie Connor, a former Wallace Hall player, in their

ranks, Wallace Hall players were just too good for them and brushed aside St Joseph's with the final score being 30-0 to WHA.

Our next game was against the hosts, Annan, and we continued to improve and play with more freedom. This was reflected by the final result which was a 35-5 trouncing of Annan, despite the fact that Annan scored a

consolation try from close range at the last moment. On the whole, though, it was good performances from the lads on both games.

All of the team contributed well to the game. Nick Willetts and Reid Paterson did well, both scoring a try as well as making a lot of chop tackles alongside Ben Wicks. Owen Davies, Scott McLellan, Josh Notman and Evan Cringean also did well, scoring a brace of tries. Morton Harvey also had a cracker of a game by scoring a try for the U18s. He took on several defenders and ran all the way to the line. Connor Barnes had a decent game, scoring a try and then making a sniping move down the right wing where he was unfortunate to be bundled into touch.

Tom Martin had another good game, captaining his side from the front. However, the man of the match was Nick Willetts whose tackles, turnovers, try and performance reflected his deserved award.

Squad

Lang, Paterson, Martin (Captain), Robertson, Willetts, Davies, S Wicks, McLellan, Lethardy, Wilson, Barnes, Notman, B Wicks, Cringean, Scobie: Subs, Maxwell, Muir, Mahoney, Payne, Harvey.

Lois makes all the right moves

Congratulations to Lois Geddes, S1, who is continuing to be very successful at competitions for street dance.

At the British Championships recently, Lois achieved 8th position in her duo section, 5th in the quads section and 3rd with her team "New Kidz". Lois said: "I was really pleased with my performance at the British Championships and am looking forward to the European Championships later this year."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "I am really impressed with Lois's commitment, enthusiasm and energy. It takes real discipline to compete at such a high level and it is lovely to see her achieving success. Street dance is an ideal way to keep fit while encouraging expression through dance and music. I look forward to following Lois's progress in future competitions."



Curling Congratulations

Congratulations to the Wallace Hall curling team who reached the semi finals of the Schools' Curling Championships held at Braehead Ice Rink in Glasgow recently.

The team, comprising of Ross Whyte (Skip), Fraser Morton, Cameron Parkin, Olivia McKeown

and Katie Jackson, played seven games overall to reach the semi-finals and were narrowly beaten by a team from Perth Academy who went on to win the competition. This is the third time that the Wallace Hall team have reached this stage which is a great achievement.



Cameron said: "Curling is a very social sport so, although we lost in the semi-final, we really enjoyed mixing with the other school teams. Thank you to our parents for supporting us and especially to Mary Morton for organising all the games and encouraging us to compete."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Reaching the semi-final of the Scottish Schools' Curling Championships for a third time is a great achievement and the team are fantastic ambassadors for our school. Well done to all of them."



Gavin is selected for Scotland



Gavin Wilson, S4, was recently picked to play for the Scotland U16 rugby team in the prestigious Four Nations Tournament.

The squad was selected following several camps from the start of the year involving a large number of players. The tournament, with sides from Scotland, Wales, France and Italy, was held at the beginning of April and Gavin was picked to play three games for the squad.

Gavin said: "I was really delighted to be selected to play for my country as I hope to go on and follow a career in rugby. I have been playing rugby since I was 9 and just love the game. Currently I am the captain of Dumfries U16s, training twice a week, and last summer I played a number of matches for Glasgow Under 16s. Playing in the Four Nations was a terrific experience and I hope to get further opportunities to develop my playing skills."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, commented: "Gavin is an excellent rugby player and it has been great to see him develop his skills and talent during his time at Wallace Hall Academy. He has been a key member of the school rugby team for the last four years and has been a really positive role model for our younger players. This is a fantastic achievement and I am sure that his family is very proud of him. To get

selected for Scotland requires a huge commitment from Gavin and his family and his success clearly demonstrates what can be achieved from hard work and dedication."



Orienteering Championships

report by James Robertson



A group of Wallace Hall pupils competed at the regional orienteering championships recently which were held at Cream o' Galloway, just outside Gatehouse of Fleet.

It was a beautiful day with conditions excellent for the competition.

Participants were set off at 2 minute intervals so that they couldn't follow each other round the course. During the race the



control points were sneakily hidden and many of the competitors ended up in fights with brambles while searching for controls. After the races we had to wait for the results and enjoyed the wide variety of attractions at Cream o' Galloway.

All pupils performed admirably and managed to complete the course in a good time. Notable results were Connor McAvoy (3rd – S1 Boys), James Robertson (1st – Senior Boys) and Cameron Lang (2nd – Senior Boys).

Congratulations to all who took part in the competition.

Regional Cross Country Championships

Report by Caitlin Greenwood



Earlier this year, Wallace Hall pupils travelled to take part in the regional secondary cross country championships held at Kirroughtree on the site of the famous Seven Stanes.

After we had arrived and warmed up, we all lined up ready for the off. It was a very cold day but none of us were deterred by the snow on the hills or the earlier hail showers. It was a tough course, taking us through the forest, down steep hills and over uneven ground which had lots of rocks and tree roots.

The race made a fast start and we managed to maintain a steady pace. As we left behind the rest of the pack, we had to push ourselves to beat a couple of girls that were keeping pace with us. Motivated by the

cheering and shouts from our sixth year supporters, we were encouraged to give an extra push through to the front and, as a result, Mhairi Watret crossed the line in first place. Mhairi said: "I was really happy to have come home in first place for the second year in a row and I really enjoyed running this challenging new course". I followed Mhairi over the line, delighted to be taking second place also for the second year in a row.

Other notable performances on the day came from Zara Weir, who came fourth in her race, and from Chloe Williams, who also took fourth place in her race.

Overall it was a very enjoyable day, with everyone performing really well despite the cold, wet conditions.



Wallace Hall Academy Presents

A midsummer night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

Drumlanrig Castle

6:30pm
Monday 20th June

6:30pm
Tuesday 21st June

6:30pm
Wednesday 22nd June

Adults - £5 Concession - £3 Families - £15

This is an outdoor production so please bring suitable clothing, something to sit on, a blanket or deck chair and even a picnic! Grounds open at 5:30pm.