

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

October 2014

Working Together to Achieve More



WHA's Triumphant Team



Wallace Hall Academy pupils were victorious in the recent UWS Enterprise Challenge. Faced with the task of promoting their town for Christmas, the team presented their idea of WHApland which focused on using the school as a base for a variety of Christmas activities this festive season. Photograph above shows Impresa (Alice Byar, Fleur Robinson, Harry Kehoe, Kerris Parkinson, Freja Grant, Sarah Kerr, Elisha Flannighan and Laura Mushet) with the UWS trophy. Please turn to page 4 for a full report and more pictures.



A Creative Combination

Primary 2 pupils recently visited Mrs Blackburn's classroom to enjoy an enterprise activity where they were up-cycling CDs, bottle lids and lollipop sticks amongst other things to make owls.

This was as part of an on-going enterprise project between Mrs Blackburn and Mrs Little. Mrs Blackburn said: "I really enjoyed working with our P2s and was very impressed with their creativity. The pupils did really well, ending up with some super owls at the end of the session."

Next term, Mrs Blackburn will be working with the nursery pupils to make snow globes and some of these will be on sale at the Wallace Hall Christmas Extravaganza on Friday 5th December.

For more photographs turn to page 8.

As Wallace Hall is now a 3 - 18 school we have featured some news from our primary pupils in this issue. We hope to build on this in future newsletters.

In this edition:

- ◆ Pupil achievement
- ◆ Our week in Parliament
- ◆ Music making
- ◆ Alton Towers trip
- ◆ London trip
- ◆ P2 visit the Academy
- ◆ MUNGA
- ◆ Reading Rocks
- ◆ P2 save Fairyland
- ◆ The Big Big Debate
- ◆ IDL days
- ◆ Busy in Biology
- ◆ Charity news
- ◆ Lessons from Auschwitz
- ◆ QI news
- ◆ Ardèche trip
- ◆ Battlefields trip
- ◆ Halloween fun
- ◆ National Poetry Day
- ◆ Hexham trip
- ◆ Pupil voice
- ◆ Let Glasgow flourish
- ◆ S1 photos
- ◆ House Captains
- ◆ Joseph Thomson Group
- ◆ Oh! What a Lovely War
- ◆ Sports news
- ◆ Parent Council news

Preparing for the future



This year's Queensberry Initiative (QI) Career Mentoring programme got off to a flying start on the 1st of September. An impressive thirty eight S6 pupils have signed up to the programme which matches each of them with a mentor from the local business community who can offer them advice and support as they make plans for life beyond school.

During the opening session, each of our mentees was introduced to their assigned mentor. Their initial conversation enabled each partnership to get to know each other and to start to plan out their

priorities for the months ahead. It is hoped that this year's programme will once again offer Wallace Hall's young people the opportunity to channel their aspirations, to develop their confidence and to structure their career planning.

The mentoring programme continues to expand and therefore new mentors are always welcome. If you would be willing to offer an hour of your time each month to work with Wallace Hall's young people as they prepare for further/higher education, employment or training, please contact any of the QI team via the main school office.



Mr Graham gets to know Primary 1 pupils



After the Easter holidays, Mr Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall Academy, became Head Teacher of Wallace Hall Nursery and Primary as well.

In order to get the opportunity to meet their new Head Teacher, Primary 1 pupils designed and wrote

an invitation to Mr Graham, asking him to visit their class. Mr Graham was pleased to accept this invitation and while he was there answered questions to help the pupils learn a little bit more about his role at Wallace Hall. This was a very successful visit with pupils asking

lots of questions. The occasion really helped them get to know Mr Graham as some of them said that they hadn't met him before and thought he was the man who delivered their morning milk!

One of the things the pupils were very keen to find out was where Mr Graham's office is located. Mr Graham was pleased to extend a return invitation to Primary 1 pupils and their teacher Miss Atkinson. This visit took place a few days later with some very happy and excited Primary 1 pupils enjoying taking over Mr Graham's office for a wee chat. Maisie Simpson said: "The visit was good and I really enjoyed getting my photograph taken." Sam Maxwell added: "There were lots of trophies in Mr Graham's office and I really enjoyed looking at them." A highlight for Islay MacKay was: "walking through the corridors to the big school and getting to see the inside of Mr Graham's office."

Mr Graham thanked the Primary 1 pupils for coming to visit and said: "It was a joy and a privilege to work with our Primary 1 pupils and I look forward to creating lots more opportunities for us to work together in the future."

Molly Achieves Artistic Excellence



Molly Cronie was awarded full marks in her Advanced Higher Art and Design examination this year. This was a fantastic achievement. Molly is now studying at Glasgow School of Art and we look forward to seeing her artistic career go from strength to strength. Above we have featured three of Molly's absolutely stunning final pieces.

Innovative Impresa

report by Robert Guthrie

A team of senior pupils from Wallace Hall Academy, some of whom are currently studying Business Management and Administration, have scooped a regional award in innovation and enterprise.

Under the team name of Impresa, the students took part in the University of the West of Scotland's (UWS) Enterprise

said: "Wallace Hall Academy, with its strong links with the community, is the ideal venue for holding a magical winter wonderland experience. The aim is to bring people from all walks of life and all ages together for Christmas."

A number of exciting activities have been planned which the team hope will include a ceilidh, reindeer rides and Santa's Grotto. In



Challenge. This event sees secondary pupils from all over the region generate exciting business ideas for their local area. Dumfries and Galloway's young entrepreneurs were given the task of coming up with a Christmas-themed initiative to "unwrap D&G" and attract visitors to their area.

Wallace Hall Academy students developed the idea of "WHApLand," which focused on using the school as a base for a variety of Christmas activities this festive season. Kerris Parkinson (S6), Impresa Manager,

in addition, it is hoped that there will be a Christmas market selling produce from a range of local businesses and children from local schools will provide some festive entertainment. They also plan to organise a torchlight procession which will leave from WHApLand.

After the two-day planning process on UWS' Dumfries campus, Wallace Hall's Impresa was chosen as the winning team. They were also awarded the prize for the best presentation and best radio advert. Fleur Robinson (S6) commented on the team's success: "It was fantastic to be able to work with some of Dumfries and Galloway's top business people. We are absolutely thrilled to have won the UWS Enterprise Challenge this year and would like to thank the UWS Staff for organising the competition. We would also like to thank them and the sponsors for their support throughout this event."



Broadening horizons

London style

report by Robert Guthrie



Forty students from Wallace Hall's Expressive Arts and Design & Technology faculties recently embarked on a school trip to London.



Pupils who study art, drama, music and graphic communication enjoyed a fabulous cross-curricular experience by visiting some of London's finest cultural attractions including the British Museum, St Paul's Cathedral, Millennium Bridge, the Tate Modern, a matinee performance of Shakespeare's 'A Comedy of Errors' at the Globe Theatre, the South Bank, Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Chinatown, Soho, the London Eye, a river cruise along The Thames, Westminster Bridge, Parliament Square, Whitehall, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.

In addition they enjoyed an evening performance of the critically-acclaimed 'Matilda the Musical' performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Another highlight of the trip was when everyone sat down together to enjoy pizza in the architecturally interesting surroundings of the famous Coptic Street Pizza Express.

Trip organiser Neil Corrigan, Principal Teacher of Design and Technology, explained: "The aim of the trip was to take our pupils out of their rural comfort zone and introduce them to many of the cosmopolitan highlights of London. We saw the spectacular theatrics of the West-End and Shakespeare, culture galore at the finest art galleries and



museums, and grandeur on an eye-popping scale at St Paul's cathedral. The highlight for me was travelling up between the twin domes of St Paul's (don't ask how many steps, but lots!), then tentatively stepping outside onto the 'Golden Gallery' on



the very top of the outer dome to see a glorious panorama of the whole city".

Anna Beynon, Principal Teacher with responsibility for Expressive Arts, added: "Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this trip. It was packed with stimulating activities and experiences that were new to so many of our pupils. I will always remember our sing-song around the piano and the enthusiasm with which everyone embraced the culture and vivacity our capital city has to offer."

Unmissable music-making

report by Robert Guthrie



Several pupils from across the year-groups at Wallace Hall Academy have once again been taking part in a long-standing musical and social

experience provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council's diverse Schools Music Service.

Accompanied by Mr Alan Cameron, who manages children's music services and learning initiatives in local authorities across Scotland, Luke Ball, Josie Fairley-Keast and Robert Guthrie travelled to the beautiful Fife resort of St Andrews in July to rehearse music with a large group of other young musicians.

The course saw pupils create and renew friendships with young people from across the county and culminated in an upbeat concert at The Easterbrook Hall on Wednesday, July 2nd.

Dumfries and Galloway Schools Music Service offers children from all schools the opportunity to learn one of a wide range of musical instruments from all musical categories. With supportive and knowledgeable staff, it is normal for pupils to reach high standards of playing by the time that they leave school. Many have achieved the highest standard, playing Grade 8 in performance by S6.

Dancing to Success



Three of Wallace Hall Academy's talented highland dancers - Catherine Anderson, Mollie Anderson and Kate Lethardy - travelled to Annan to take place in The Annan Riding of The Marches

Highland Dancing competition. All of the girls had prepared their set dances to a high standard, performing them to a panel of expert judges.

Mollie competed in the premier 12 years and under 14 years

sections, winning an array of awards including 5th place in the Fling, 4th place in Swords, 6th in Sean Tuibhas, 6th in the Hullachan, 5th in the Hielan laddie, 3rd in Flora and 3rd in Lilt. Mollie was delighted with these results as she was in large classes against strong competition.

Mollie's elder sister Catherine competed in the premier 14 years and the under 16 years category. She, too, gained a range of prizes that consisted of 4th in the Fling and 3rd in Swords, Sean Tuibhas, Hullachan and Hielan Laddie classes.

Kate, one of our S6 pupils, excelled in her section and won the National trophy. This achievement was particularly impressive given that she was injured earlier in the competition and was advised not to continue.

Mollie reflected on the day by saying: "I had lots of fun and I enjoyed meeting up with old and new friends."

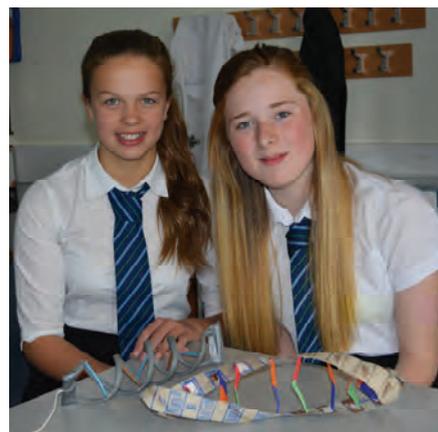
Demonstrating DNA

Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is what distinguishes us as individuals. Our DNA is a personal biological code which can be used to identify someone. It can be used to find missing people, to determine the father of a child or to catch a criminal. It has a double helix shape which can be thought of as a twisting ladder.

As part of 2.N2 and 2.C1's homework, they were required to design a model of DNA. The Second Year pupils were very imaginative with their ideas, making their models out of plasticine, sweets, string, straws and even loom bands. The finished models showed the artistic abilities of all the individuals involved and were very well created.



Currently, all the models are on display in Dr Fulton's classroom and are well worth popping in to have a look at.



Having had an early awakening at 4am on Friday the 3rd of October, we were all excited and ready for the day ahead. After all the hype, our Physics adventure to Alton Towers was finally here! Many of us were still half asleep and it was a quiet bus ride to the halfway point service station. However, after enjoying a hearty breakfast everybody was wide awake and ready for the activities to come.

We arrived promptly at Alton Towers at around 10am and immediately we were let loose to go on the rides. At first the queues were non-existent and you could quite simply walk onto the rides, a real reward following our 4am start! After a few hours of thrills on the rides, we had lunch and met up with Dr. Fulton to attend a roller coaster science talk. The talk was very interesting and informative; we all learned something new with some of us even winning fast track prizes for the best rides!

Alton Towers 2014

report by Jack Roberts and Harris Maxwell



The favourite ride of the day for many of us was the Smiler, a roller coaster designed not for the faint hearted with a record breaking 14 loops. Overall, everyone enjoyed our visit to Alton Towers and we would thoroughly

recommend the trip to all future S3 pupils choosing to study Physics. We would like to thank the teachers Dr. Fulton, Miss Haile, Mr Dawson and all the S6 helpers for organising and running this amazing trip.

P2 enjoy their visit to Design and Technology



Model United Nations General Assembly

report by Emily Kennedy

On the 1 July 2014, S1 pupils (now in S2) took part in a MUNGA. A MUNGA is a Model United Nations General Assembly. It focuses on researching, speaking and debating and requires you to work well as part of a team. At this MUNGA we took forward the issue of climate change.

In preparation for the main debate, we were divided into groups and assigned a country. This would be the country we would speak for, giving our views as to how "our" nation tackles climate change. We had time to research our viewpoints, create posters, banners and even make some costumes to help our country stand out from the rest. On the day of the MUNGA itself we came into the PE block and the gym had been set up with lots of tables and chairs. We were told to find the table with our country's



name on it. When everyone was seated Miss Stuart, our Modern Studies teacher, started the MUNGA. Two countries were asked to give a keynote speech to begin the debate. These countries were China and Croatia. Once the representatives had finished speaking the floor was opened for debate and all countries joined in. There were so many strong points made which got us all thinking about the problems that some countries face in real life. At the end of the MUNGA Miss Stuart issued several awards. The "Strongest Country Award" went

to China and the "Best Participating Pupil" award went to Greig Dunbar. Overall I think this is a really fun and interesting way to get pupils thinking about our attitudes towards climate change and its impact in the world.



Budding Chemists



On Monday the 23rd of September S5 and S6 pupils studying Chemistry travelled to Strathclyde University to experience a practical session in

one of the universities undergraduate laboratories.

Pupils were given the opportunity to use university equipment and resources to complete four chemical procedures under the supervision of Dr Alan Kennedy; senior Chemist. They were given an insight into life as a first year Chemistry student at the University and enjoyed manipulating the acidity of dry ice and trying to chemically engineer stalagmites amongst other procedures.



Reading Rocks



Author Stuart Reid visited WHPS to perform his 'Reading Rocks' show to the whole school.

The pupils really enjoyed hearing about the adventures of Gorgeous George and also about Stuart's own

inspirations for writing his exciting books. Stuart spent time talking with pupils and signing copies of his Gorgeous George series. They learned about the importance of following their passions, using creativity and imagination and finding inspiration in their everyday life.

Emily Hunter, P7, said: "Stuart Reid was ridiculously funny and made his stories really exciting. I really enjoyed his visit and hope he comes back to our school again very soon." Cambell Hiddleston, also from P7, added: "I thought his PowerPoint presentation was great. It explained how he comes up with ideas for his books which I found really interesting."



European Day of Languages

report by Robert Guthrie

Senior pupils from Wallace Hall's Modern Languages department were last week able to give their fellow students and staff a unique linguistic masterclass.

This tied in with celebrations of European Day of Languages, an annual event organised by the European Union (EU). The day recognises the diversity of European languages, cultures of European nations and highlights the skills and advantages speaking a second language can bring.

Students from the Higher French class taught pupils a number of phrases in EU languages and organised a fun quiz to test their linguistic knowledge.



Primary Two Help Save Fairyland

Primary Two have been receiving letters this term from the Friendly Dragon.

Fairyland is disappearing because no-one reads fairy tales anymore. All the characters are losing their homes and the Friendly Dragon wants Primary Two children to help him re-build fairyland in their classroom. Of course they all agreed that they would help and set to work creating a beanstalk for

Jack and now they are creating a castle for the Friendly Dragon.

The children have been communicating with the Friendly Dragon via D-mail. The children have been reflecting on their learning and thinking about what to do next to help the Friendly Dragon re-build Fairyland.

Watch this space or come and visit our classroom to see!



Primary Six take part in the BIG Run

report by Rocco Rinaldi, Joshua Cooper and Chloe Walden

On the 29th September, Primary Six took part in the World 5000m Challenge. We completed a 5000m run between us which was 200m each in a long relay.

We had to pass a baton to the next person. Some of us had to run in pairs which was really fun. We named our team 'The Speedy Pegasus Sixes' and we decided to paint 'WHPS' onto our faces. Some of us brought in mascots. Mr Mack helped us to organise the order that we were running in and he timed how long it took us. It took us 18 minutes and 46 seconds to run the whole thing. Mrs Henderson put the time on the website and we looked at other school's times from around

the world. We were the fastest school in our cluster!

Ellie said, "It was great fun and I want to do it again."

Andrew said, "It was brilliant."

The photograph below shows Josh Watson crossing the line to end the 5000m challenge.

Well done to all in Primary Six for taking part in the BIG Run.



The physics of slip and slide

report by Meagan Wood & Jade Davidson



On the last day of term before the summer holidays, each of Dr Fulton's physics classes in S3 and S4 participated in a slip and slide experiment.

The experiment was to test out how much lubrication (Fairy Liquid and a layer of water) you needed to create a smoother surface to travel a longer distance.

We had a lot of fun doing the experiment and it helped us understand more about friction and lubrication. The physics of slip and slide experiment was the best way to end the school term.

Modern Studies conference in Dumfries

report by Robert Guthrie



Three Modern Studies pupils have been rubbing shoulders with national politicians at a recent Conservative rally held to raise the profile of the Better Together campaign's 'No Thanks' stance on the issue of independence.

Kirsty Masters, Olivia McCabe and Robert Guthrie grasped the chance to meet the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Conservative Home Secretary, and Ruth Davidson MSP, leader of the Conservative Party in

Scotland, at the Dumfries-held 'Conservative Friends of the Union' rally on Wednesday, 27th August.

The pupils heard from both Tory politicians alongside local MP for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale, David Mundell, also a Conservative member who sits in Parliament at Westminster. Much of their address was spent praising the stability, stature and strength of the United Kingdom.

In her powerful appraisal, Mrs May condemned the strategies of

SNP First Minister Alex Salmond, leader of the Yes campaign, saying: "It's much too important a question to be ducked, or dismissed with Alex Salmond's bluster and irresponsible threats to default on debts if he doesn't get his way." She continued by saying that "it's so important to say 'No Thanks' over the next three weeks, and to choose a better future for Scotland... one where we're better together."

Social Subjects staff at Wallace Hall have been keen to expose students to both sides of the argument. The Thornhill school has hosted three successful debates over the past two years with many different local politicians, thereby ensuring that Wallace Hall students were able to make an educated vote on September 18th.

Polling booths opened to the general public that day with hoards of young people aged 16 - 18 grasping the chance to cast their vote in the referendum, welcoming their first ever opportunity to influence the political landscape of their country.

Our week in Parliament

report by Olivia McCabe and Kirsty Masters

Earlier this year, Mr Graham handed out application forms for an amazing opportunity to be interns for David Mundell, Conservative MP for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale and Shadow Scotland Secretary, shadowing him for a week as he carried out his parliamentary duties in London.

After discussion in class and at home we both decided to apply for this fantastic opportunity and interviews were held soon after. At the beginning of May we found out that we had been lucky

enough to be selected and would be going at the end of June for a week. A busy time of fundraising and planning followed while we both became very excited.

After an eventful journey - where we unfortunately boarded the wrong train - we arrived in Euston Station full of anticipation for the following morning.

During our time in Parliament we enjoyed a wide range of experiences. Our first day was spent meeting the people we would be working with and familiarising ourselves with the Houses of Parliament - both the Commons and the Lords. We



were given a tour by Oliver Mundell, David's son and Political Researcher, and in the afternoon we helped in David's office with his constituency casework. This really gave us an insight into the work of an MP and how tight and also changeable his schedule is.

During the rest of the week, we were privileged enough to attend Prime Minister's Questions and Select Committees (one was with Lenny Henry where diversity in the BBC was being discussed, we even got to talk to him!). Both of us decided that the highlight of our trip was having a cup of tea and a can of coke in 10 Downing Street with Ramsay Jones, one of David Cameron's special advisors for Scotland. This was followed by a brief tour and some photo opportunities. At a Rotary reception we met Nick Clegg and had an interesting conversation with him. We also spent time at the Scottish Office and the Conservative Headquarters where we learned how to reply to emails, write professional letters and write and present a speech. We watched David Mundell present a speech and saw him being filmed for "Politics Live" while we stood directly behind the camera. Another great experience was seeing some politically famous people including Theresa May, Ed Miliband and George Osborne and speaking with Michael Moore and Alistair Carmichael.

Overall, it was a fantastic week and we learned so much about how our country's political system works. We were delighted to have been given the opportunity and we would like to thank everyone for their support and guidance.



Busy in Biology!

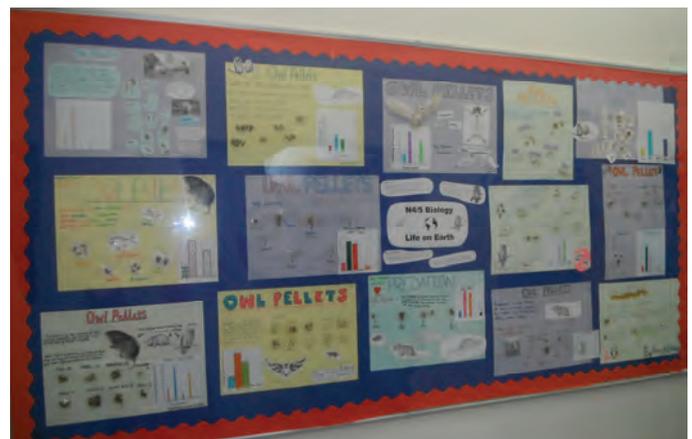
Students have been busy with a variety of tasks in the Biology department recently.

The S3 classes have started their "Life on Earth" topic and are enjoying it so far.

"It has been interesting learning how all the organisms are inter-connected in the ecosystem." said Alexandru Nan.

S3 Pictures include:

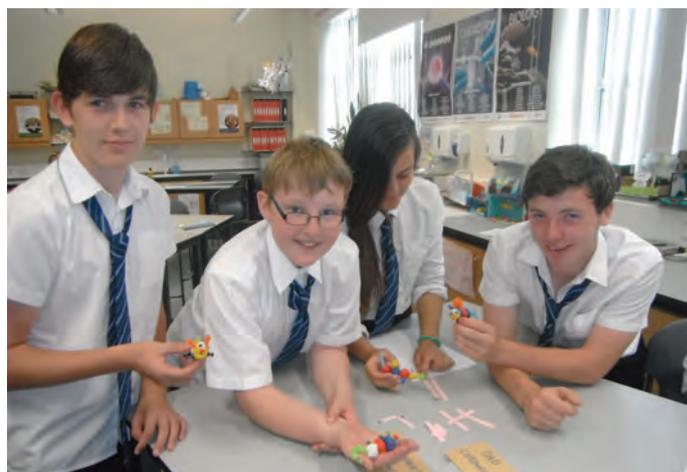
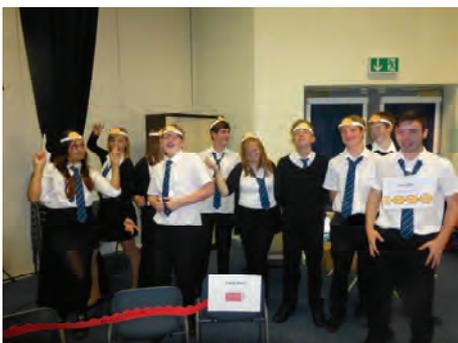
- Winners of a competition, in which students had to research the climate, flora and fauna of a Biome and build a model.
- Owl pellet dissection work displayed in the corridor.
- Activity to show all the connections of the Caledonian Forest Food web.



An S4 Biology class are shown here after their Genetics topic. They had to work out from the chromosomes inherited from the unique characteristics of their "Reebop" creature and then make it!

They also had fun creating a video in the drama department to show Glucose Regulation in the body. "Filmed in just one take - amazing!" said Mrs Belford.

Meanwhile some Snail Races have been going on, following a Higher Biology experiment on Habituation!



MacMillan Coffee Morning

report by Robert Guthrie

Staff from across the school gathered in the Library on Friday to generate support for one of the UK's most influential cancer charities.

Over thirty members of staff took part in MacMillan Cancer Support's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' on Friday, September 26th. This is a nationwide event that encourages

individuals and groups of people to host a coffee morning at which delicious cakes and beverages are served up in exchange for a donation to the charity.

The Wallace Hall event was a huge success. Chemistry teacher Mrs Davidson who organised the event said: "We had excellent participation from staff and great



baking donations from food technology students. The S6 Charities Committee did a great job in selling cakes to pupils at lunchtime too. Over £170 was raised which is a fabulous sum for a fabulous charity."

There was also a coffee morning in aid of MacMillan held in the primary school which raised £98.

ZooLab's crazy creatures

report by Bethany Nicholson

Recently pupils from Wallace Hall Primary were treated to a visit from ZooLab. ZooLab delivers imaginative workshops where young people are given the opportunity to handle a variety of small creatures. Here is Bethany Nicholson's report on ZooLab's visit to Wallace Hall Primary.

Yesterday at school we went into the PE hall to do ZooLab. The first animal I got to see was the giant African land snail. It was a lot bigger than a regular snail and its shell felt like a finger nail its body was black and the shell was a brownish colour. I didn't find the snail very exciting but it was Ok.

After the snail I got to see the cockroaches, they were very small and they made a hissing sound. It was black but it had a little yellow patch on its back which looked like a small shell. It felt tickly when it crawled along my hand and at the end its leg hooked onto my last finger. It was quite an interesting animal.

Next I got to see a tarantula, it was a lot bigger than a normal spider, it had eight legs, eight purple eyes put into one big clump which looked disgusting and it was quite hairy. It had a little wooden house and it was nocturnal which means it only comes out at night I didn't get to hold the tarantula though because its very dangerous it can blind



people, make them very itchy or even make them not breathe.

After the tarantula I got to see the snake. It was orange, yellow and brown. It looked fake and felt fake too. It never blinks and its eyes are black and beady but really small.

Eventually we saw the second last animal which was the millipede. It was long and scaly, it even had one thousand legs! It was so tickly even more tickly than the cockroach, surprisingly it was really slow!

Finally we saw the female rat. She was very thin and when I held her she scratched me.

It was really exciting to see all the creatures. My favourite animal in the end was the millipede and the most interesting was the tarantula.

It was a very good experience which I really enjoyed!



Higher Education Convention 2014

report by Malachy Sweeney

On Monday 8th of September 2014, dozens of S6 pupils along with Miss Brown and Mr Arrowsmith went down to Dumfries to attend the Higher Education Convention at Easterbrook Hall to get more information from some of the universities and colleges about what they have to offer.

Once we got there we spent time going round the stands from the various further education institutions, finding out about the courses available. Every stand had a representative there to answer our questions about entry qualifications etc. There was lots of helpful information on offer.

Later into the convention we piled into the conference room, along with

masses of S6 pupils from different schools across Dumfries and Galloway, to listen to presentations by speakers from UCAS who gave us more helpful advice on how to apply for a university or college place.

We left the convention having listened to some good advice about how to apply for university and what level of entry requirements are needed to secure a place.

Interdisciplinary Learning Days

Wallace Hall Academy pupils took part in the second of two interdisciplinary learning (IDL) days on Monday June 23rd. The whole school IDL days allow pupils to participate in a wide range of activities that are linked to the curriculum. The days are extremely beneficial as they allow pupils to experience new activities and discover new topic areas that they do not necessarily come across in their course work.



S2 pupils tackled the subject of climate change. Pupils took part in experiments to discover what science has to do with our ever-changing planet and investigated flooding and its after-effects. Following on from their previous tasks, S2 pupils studied the United Nations and looked into the fundamental workings of this organisation. To round off their climate change days, the pupils took part in a mock United Nations General Assembly. This allowed pupils to represent a UN country and debate issues ranging from

international conflict to the planet's environmental problems.

Scotland was the theme for the S3 IDL days. Pupils embraced their Scottish roots and had a go at creating their own tartan. Inspired by Scots, such as inventor Alexander Graham Bell, pupils came up with their very own inventions and pitched their ideas to their peers in the style of popular television show "Dragons Den". Pupils also took part in an insightful workshop based on Scots language and poetry led by esteemed authors Hugh McMillan and Stuart Paterson.

S4 pupils travelled back in time to the First World War for their IDL days. Pupils took part in a number of tasks which included creating their own poppies to show remembrance for those who fought and gave their lives for their country, answering short quizzes that tested their knowledge of the war and using netbooks to discover how war influenced sport. In addition pupils enjoyed a number of team-building activities organised by the Army.



In the afternoon, all S4 pupils met to re-enact the Christmas Day truce where the year group was split



into different countries to play several rounds of football before the victors were crowned.

In co-operation with Dumfries and Galloway College, S5 pupils studied China. Along with staff, pupils explored the evolution of the Chinese language and discovered more about the country's cultural values and traditions. Pupils enjoyed a customary Chinese tea ceremony and took part in a Tai Chi lesson.

With the Commonwealth games in mind, S6 pupils created presentations about the games which they then shared with their peers. The seniors also enjoyed a Commonwealth themed barbecue provided by kitchen staff. The barbecue allowed them to sample foods from the different nations competing in Glasgow.

Overall the IDL days were a huge success for all involved. The variety of different activities kept pupils interested throughout and helped them put their learning into context.



Lessons from Auschwitz

report by Elspeth Nicholson and Rebecca Smith



As ambassadors of the Holocaust Educational Trust, we were given the phenomenal opportunity to visit Auschwitz and the surrounding area as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project. This involved a preparation seminar in Glasgow, a day long visit to Krakow, Poland, and a follow up seminar again in Glasgow.

At the first meeting, we met the group of other students we would be travelling with and our educator, Gerry. We also had the chance to listen to a survivor of Auschwitz who had a first-hand account of life as a Jew in World War Two. Ziggy Shipper told us of his extraordinary experience in which he was extremely lucky to endure the trauma of the horrendous events of the Holocaust and still remain hopeful and have faith in humanity.

On the 7th of October, we travelled to Poland along with around 250 other students from all over Scotland to visit Auschwitz. After travelling from Karkow to Oświęcim, a mainly Jewish town nearest to the camps, we visited a synagogue and received a talk from Rabbi Marcus. He showed us how the Jewish people lived and helped us to see them as individual murders rather than simply numbers. The synagogue was shown to us as an upbeat, lively

place – a huge contrast to how we previously viewed places of worship. This demonstrated to us how such a wholesome and positively spirited religion was turned, through propaganda, into apparent “evil” by Hitler and the Nazis. They were exactly the same as anyone else. They were innocent.

After the visit to the synagogue, we made the short journey to Auschwitz 1, the concentration camp where the Nazis held mainly Polish political prisoners and Soviet prisoners of War. As we walked into the tourist-filled museum, there were row upon row of red brick buildings – which were, pre-Nazis, used as army training camps – which was, to us, unexpected. The grounds themselves weren't eerie or dark but knowing what had occurred there made them feel tremendously unnerving. We were taken round buildings where items – which had been found after liberation – were displayed. These items took over several buildings and yet only made up 4% of the total items taken from the prisoners. The items were kept in case any use became of them. There were many items stacked up: suitcases, hair, toothbrushes, shoes – a whole two rooms worth, and many other personal possessions. Each set of items hit someone in our group with that same realisation – these blameless victims were

stripped of everything they had. For some it was viewing the ponytails in the weight of hair which still had ribbons attached. For others, it was reading the names and dates on the suitcases. In every case, the experience left different people with the sheer weight of these atrocities in their mind.

After this, we travelled to the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The grounds had mainly been bombed by the Nazis to cover their tracks and so the camp is largely ruins. Some of the buildings, however, have been carefully reconstructed. The camp is unquestionably massive. The barracks, that the workers who had been deemed fit enough to work resided in, appeared to be a reasonable size. This was until we were told how many were in a barrack – around 400 people. This equated to 6 people per single bed. The conditions were appalling and led to many of the deaths in the camp. We were then shown the remains of the gas chambers – most were blown up by the Nazis in an attempt to bury evidence of their actions. One of the gas chambers, however, was blown up by four Jewish prisoners, just before liberation, in revolt. We were very fortunate to be in the camp on the 70th anniversary of this rebellion. There was a ceremony held for them and all others lost which involved a couple of Hebrew poems and a prayer all led by Rabbi Marcus. We then lit candles in their memory to conclude our journey. This was an opportunity to reflect on what the day had given us and reminded us how important it is that the Jewish people and their memory live on.

This opportunity, whilst scary and eye-opening, is a huge honour which we are very privileged to be a part of. Passing on accounts, such as Zigi Shipper's, are essential in keeping the memory of all the deaths of the Holocaust alive. We hope we have given you an insight into the experience that the Jewish people endured and helped to clarify to you the sheer terror that went on during the Holocaust.

Lynda and Shona on board with QI

The Queensberry Initiative (QI) Strategic Group has recently welcomed two new members.

Lynda Bryson and Shona Morrison, both of whom have a wealth of local knowledge and business acumen, joined the board in June as QI prepared for the academic year ahead. This year, QI will be focused on the expanded P7 transitions programme for all the primary schools situated in Mid-Nithsdale and on securing funding for the future of the project beyond September 2015. The QI board look forward to working with Lynda and Shona on these priorities and to hearing their ideas for the development of the project.

Sadly, however, due to other commitments, Derek Clark has had to step down from his position as Treasurer. At the AGM, the board warmly thanked Derek for his significant contribution to QI's

success over the years and wished him well for future ventures. Derek has kindly agreed to keep in

contact with QI on an informal basis, continuing to offer support when he can.



L - R: Sinclair Barbour, Ian Carlisle, Shona Morrison, Anne Marie Wood, Gill Dykes, Mark Coombs, Leanne Peoples, Jamie Pape, Lynda Bryson, Joe Kirkpatrick, Barry Graham

Facing our fears

report by Peter Wall



Saturday, 6th June saw the departure of the annual Ardèche trip, and one of the highlights of the year for many of the then 5th year pupils. For the first part of the long journey we enjoyed the scenic wonders of the M6 motorway, the friendliest motorway in Britain. Despite the late hour of the ferry ride, the lack of sleep and more than half a day sitting down, hefty banter was had by all.



There was little chance for boredom at the campsite, as the first night was set aside for the "Snapchat Challenge", a super-fun game devised by one of the staff;

the legendary Reece. We were given vague descriptions such as "greatest plank" and "fastest man alive" and told to do what we could with our phones' cameras. Points were awarded for witticism and innovative ideas, such as simply taking a picture of a plank of wood. The whole group found it to be great fun, especially one David Andrew Charles Wallace, who wholeheartedly declared: "Banter". After being allowed in the pool, the Acorn staff broke out the guitars and anybody who could play eventually got up and had a jam.

The two day descent of the river was broken up by an assortment of games for each two-man team to test their balance and coordination, such as swapping places on the canoe, swapping canoes, or just jumping in. One lunchtime, before a buffet on an upturned canoe, we stopped off by a sizeable drop into the river from a rock. After some

encouragement, the whole group managed the 35ft jump and all felt the buzz afterwards. It was definitely a high point in the trip.

That night was spent on the ground under the stars. At one point a wild boar appeared, but fled before Oliver could throw anything at it.

The more challenging activities came in Italy, where fears of heights, confined spaces, and being helplessly swept away by white water were challenged. However, there was no pressure to do any of these, so everybody either had fun pushing beyond their comforts or watching other people do it.



Another hilarious yet valuable experience came when four boys and four girls were invited to show off their talents for dressing up. Regan, Oliver, Michael and Euan were made up at the chance to show their feminine sides while Rebecca, Emily, Jessica and Fleur manned up for their attire.

The Ardèche trip was definitely an unforgettable experience and it is safe to say that it is truly the trip of a lifetime.





Their names liveth for evermore

report by Malachy Sweeney



Lunch at the Menin Gate Memorial gave us time to look around at the many names of the soldiers who fought during World War One. Our final visit of the day was to the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres where the experience of WW1 was brought alive for us through a wireless wristband. We found out how the First World War started, where in fact WW1 took place (in Belgium and in France), what impact it had on the two countries and also how many people fought in the Great War with surnames similar to ours.

On Tuesday we visited the famous Somme battlefield in Northern France. We spent time at the huge Lochnagar Crater, amazingly a staggering 90 feet deep and 300 feet wide! The crater was caused by just one artillery shell and many thousands of soldiers were severely injured as a result. We moved onto the Contalmaison, where the Heart of Midlothian FC memorial to all the players who fought during the war is displayed. It inspired other men in the Lothian area to sign up for the war effort. Keenan Moss and I both laid football scarves and Scottish flags as a tribute. After seeing the Heart of Midlothian memorial, we visited Thiepval memorial where, during the Battle of the Somme, around 72,000 soldiers had lost their lives. Their names are all engraved on the memorial.

Wednesday, which was our last day in France and Belgium, saw us return to Ypres and the nearby Sanctuary Wood where we had the chance to experience being in the trenches, giving us a taste of what it was like for the soldiers living and working in these conditions on a day-to-day basis. During World War One, the trenches were filled with disease and the suffering must have been unimaginable for the soldiers.

Our next destination was Tyne Cot Cemetery: the biggest

Just before midnight on Sunday 14th September 2014, 31 senior pupils with a keen interest in history, (plus 4 members of staff) embarked on a 4 day trip to France and Belgium to mark the centenary year of the start of the First World War. In our History lessons in school we have learnt about this “war to end all wars”; about the mud, about the trenches and about the approximately 9 million lives lost fighting in this so called “great war”- but actually seeing the outcome of what happened one hundred years ago in Belgium and France really had a profound effect on all of us.

After a long bus journey we boarded the ferry at Dover, sailing into Calais just before midday. Our first stop was Vimy Ridge where we saw the trenches of the Canadian troops who helped the French fight against the German soldiers. It was emotional; many French lives were lost as they defended their territory from the German soldiers and the bravery of the Canadian soldiers on Easter Monday 9th April 1917 can't be underestimated.

On the Monday, we travelled into Belgium to visit Lijssenthoek

Cemetery. The town of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. The cemetery contains over 9,000 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. We saw the grave of Nellie Spindler who treated many wounded casualties during the war and she is buried among all of the soldiers who fought for the Allies. Later on in the day we travelled into Poperinge, which is near the city of Ypres, to visit Talbot House. During their time off from fighting in the trenches, soldiers would come here and relax and it showed that the First World War wasn't just non-stop fighting. We also went upstairs to the chapel where the soldiers could go to and worship.



Commonwealth memorial cemetery in the world. Twelve thousand soldiers are buried there and thousands of names of the fallen are engraved on the walls. It was very poignant when Niamh Snailham, accompanied by Sam Solley on guitar, sang the famous war song 'Willie McBride'. It was so emotional to hear these words resonate round the peaceful surroundings of this famous cemetery. Before leaving, we had the chance to walk around Tyne Cot to search for any soldiers with surnames similar to ours who fought during the First World War.

We then went to Langemark cemetery (a German cemetery in Belgium) where the atmosphere was very different to that of the Allied cemeteries. The grave stones are laid flat into the ground and, unlike the cemeteries we'd already visited, it was not well kept with the grass surrounding the grave stones untidy and dead. It really was a bit of an unpleasant experience and so sad to see the neglect.

Next, we headed off to the Saint Julien Memorial where Alistair Muir brilliantly recited "Dulce et Decorum Est" by the war poet Wilfred Owen. Later on in the day, we were allowed to go for a walk around Ypres for a few hours and have a look at the shops. All throughout the trip, along with visiting war memorials, cemeteries and museums, we were



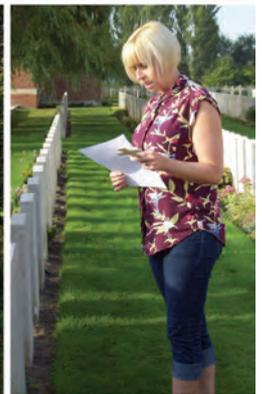
given time to socialise and we enjoyed a walk around Ypres, bowling in Saint Omer, quizzes and going out to eat.

That night, our last night of the trip, four of our Wallace Hall pupils (resplendent in full school uniform) – Morgan Crosbie, Cameron Dobie, Freja Grant and Erinn Walker along with Mr Munro – laid down wreaths from Wallace Hall Academy, the Battlefield Trip Group and the wider community of Dumfries and Galloway at the historic Menin Gate memorial

which, since 1927, has held a Last Post Ceremony each evening to honour those who fought during the First World War. This was a fitting way to end to our trip.

On the journey home we reflected on our visit to the Battlefields. It was a life-changing experience and brought home to us the reality that vast numbers of young men of various nationalities, many of them the same age as us, paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we could be free. We will remember them.







Spooky goings on at Wallace Hall

Wallace Hall's annual Halloween Disco evening - a night of spooky fun for both pupils and staff of the school - was held on Thursday 30th October.

Organised by the Sixth Year Social Committee, the disco was a huge success with pupils and staff making a real effort with their costumes. Callum Candy, one of our S2 pupils, did a fantastic job of DJing, playing requests and keeping the dance floor busy throughout the night. Winner of the best dressed female was Emily

Young with Sam Godfrey chosen as the best dressed male.

Along with the disco, pupils could get their picture taken in the photo booth, visit the scare floor (where activities included a touchy feely zone and a mortuary room) and settle down in the spooky story room to hear Mr Gilus recount the spine-chilling tale of Rogano's Ghost. In the run up to the disco, pupils brought in their pumpkins to be judged. The winners were chosen as: 1st Anna Wilson, 2nd Donald Kennedy and 3rd Ailsa Morton.



Grace Tait and Lucy Currie face the photo booth



Anna Wilson

Emily Young

Sam Godfrey

Ailsa Morton

Spooktacular goings on in the Primary

The Primary Halloween Disco was a spooktacular success. There were amazing costumes of headless monsters, mummies, robots, witches, zombies, highwayman, vampires...

Plenty of fun was had dooking for apples, eating dangling doughnuts, pinning the wart on the witch's nose, rummaging in the lucky dip cauldron and dancing to everyone's favourite tunes. Winners of the Fancy Dress were, Angus MacCormick (P1-P4), Manny Allardice (P5-P7), Della Frame (Best adult) and Fergus and Alice Bainbridge (Best Family Group). A big thank you goes to the Primary Parent Council and parent helpers who ensured everyone had a fun filled evening.



Picture above shows Manny Allardice (headless man), Angus MacCormick (mummy), Fergus Bainbridge (robot), Ellen MacCormick (pumpkin) and Bruce MacCormick (zombie).



Halloween Disco 2014



Halloween Disco 2014

Partnership Working

For a number of years, local farmers have been working closely with Queensberry Initiative (QI) to support our Rural Skills course and to share their practical knowledge and expertise with the pupils. QI are delighted that another four local farmers have now agreed to support the project by hosting practical activities on their farms which can only

enhance the experience of our Rural Skills pupils. The practical elements of QI's vocational courses are very important, giving pupils the opportunity to show how well they can apply the theory, which they learn in class with Mr Miller, to any working environment.

So far this academic year, Rural Skills pupils have been able to



develop a wide range of skills and to work with a number of our partner farmers: they've covered milking, fencing, crops and machinery. They've also had visits from a range of experts and they've been to a free-range egg farm.

Miss Peoples has seen how the pupils have coped when challenged with new experiences and she's been delighted to see new skills constantly developing. This confirms the value of the practical elements of the course. Thank you to all our partner farmers for all their commitment and enthusiasm.

National Poetry Day

'Remembering' was the theme of this year's National Poetry Day, Thursday 2nd October, and Wallace Hall Academy's students and staff have been marking this in a big way.

Poet Hugh McMillan visited Wallace Hall as part of the National Poetry Day celebrations to give a lunchtime reading to pupils and staff. Hugh entertained us with a selection of his poems on the theme of remembering, and treated us to a preview of his latest book, *McMillan's Gallovidian Encyclopaedia*, which was launched this week at Wigtown Book Festival. Hugh said: "It's always a real pleasure to come to Wallace Hall and join in with the creativity of days like this."

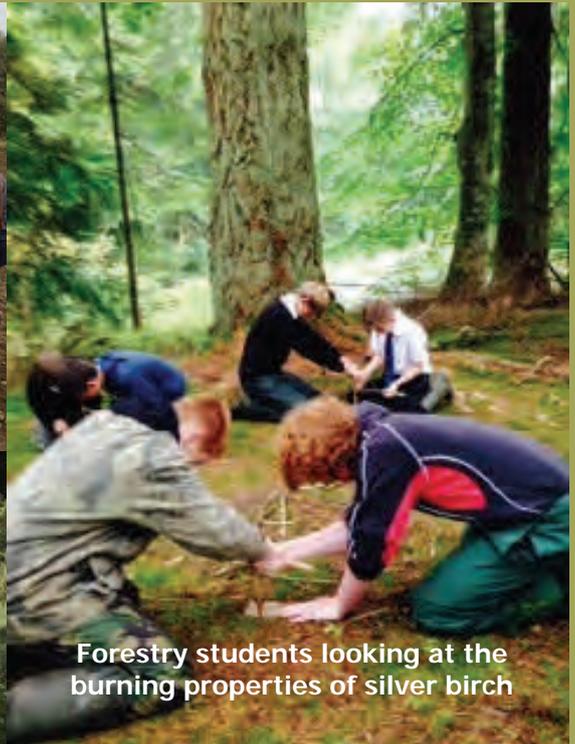
Senior students Joe Kirkpatrick, Nick Willetts, Sean Wicks, Emily Morton and Kayla Kerr led a series of house assemblies for National Poetry Day, illustrating how the theme of remembering featured in many poets' work. The students then invited everyone in the school to write some lines of their own about something or someone they remember. Pupils and staff all wrote their verses on colourful autumn leaf-shaped templates which are displayed around the school as memory "trees", making this year's day of poetry one to remember.



QI Out and about with QI



Alistair Kingan discussing crops and their uses



Forestry students looking at the burning properties of silver birch



Primary 7 pupils gather inspiration for creative writing



Forestry pupils on a site visit to Airds Wood



Discussing crops at Kirkbog Farm



Stewart Bryson from South West Seeds explaining germination and weed control

Enjoying a Terrific Transition Topic

Primary 7 pupils from Wallace Hall's cluster schools have recently been enjoying some productive visits to Wallace Hall Academy and the Drumlanrig Estate, thanks to the work of Queensberry Initiative (QI) staff.

In collaboration with Laura Carnochan, Wallace Hall's new Transitions Co-ordinator, the QI team has redesigned the Primary 7 transition programme to ensure that all pupils within the cluster have the opportunity to take part in a series of collaborative outdoor learning projects. Each visit includes both outdoor learning on Queensberry Estate and taster lessons with subject staff in Wallace Hall.

The first three transition days went very well with pupils from Closeburn, Wallace Hall, Dunscore, Moniaive, Penpont and Duncow Primaries working in Drumlanrig Castle and out on the Queensberry Estate, before coming back in to class to take part in an English lesson. At the beginning of the day, pupils found themselves deep down in the musty cellars and passageways of Drumlanrig Castle taking part in a real 'hands-on' creative writing experience. The pupils were asked to write down



how a character would feel about being 'imprisoned' in the Castle and to think about how that character would escape. Fleeing from the depths of the Castle into the woodlands and beyond, the pupils were shown inspiring locations where they stopped to write down what their character might see, smell and hear, and to imagine their character's feelings. The pupils really embraced this idea and went left the Estate with a wealth of new vocabulary and creative writing ideas. These ideas formed the backbone of the fantastic creative writing pieces

which were developed during the afternoon session in the English Department.

The Primary 7 transition programme will continue throughout the current academic session with all pupils being involved in three days which combine outdoor learning and taster lessons in Wallace Hall Academy. Feedback from the pupils and teachers involved in the transitions programme has been extremely positive, and the QI staff are looking forward to the remainder of the sessions.



Hexham High Jinks

report by Lydia McMillan



in pairs, getting harnessed to a long metal bar which was pulled up skywards on a long wire. When they had reached the height they felt comfortable with, the pulling stopped and the pupils braced themselves for the fall. On the count of three, a cord was released and the enormous swing swooped towards the ground. Despite initial fears, most first years really enjoyed the experience and even wanted another go!

Other highlights of the trip included Nightline, a team assault course involving crawling through tunnels, climbing over ropes and through tyres – blindfolded! Pupils also enjoyed the High Equilibrium, an activity which involved climbing up a ridiculously high pole and attempting to balance on a seesaw at the top of it. The final activity that took place was a campfire on the last night, during which all students sang and ate marshmallows in the woods.

Altogether, the 2014 trip to Kingswood was a success, with a great time had by all pupils involved!



On the first week of September 2014, S1 pupils travelled to Hexham to take part in an adventure weekend at Kingswood, a popular outdoor activity centre. The pupils had a chance to try a variety of different activities, such as archery, team building assault courses, climbing and a swing that moved at three times the force of gravity!

One of the highlights of the trip was definitely the afore-mentioned 3G swing. The first years went on





'The Big Big Debate'

report by Robert Guthrie

Thirty-eight Wallace Hall Academy students attended a televised BBC debate on Thursday 11th September on the issues surrounding the independence referendum.

More than 7,000 other pupils from all over Scotland gathered with their teachers at Glasgow's premier arena, the SSE Hydro, for BBC Scotland's 'The Big, Big Debate.'

BBC News' Scotland Correspondent James Cook chaired the debate. A number of similar ones had already taken place in several Scottish cities with voters predominantly aged over 18.

One of the largest to involve young people on such a wide scale, the political debate in Glasgow saw an equal number of Yes, No, and undecided voters pose their questions to four of the nation's most well-known political figures.

Five of Wallace Hall's students – Steph Wells, Aiden Halliday, Robert Guthrie, Kaine Bray and Elspeth Nicholson – grasped the opportunity to sit in a separate area of the SSE Hydro in order to pose their questions directly to the panel as part of an audience of 200. As the campaign trail entered its final week, students at the debate asked about issues directly affecting them and their families.

Aiden Halliday (S6) was one of the pupils attending on behalf of WHA and voted for the first time.

He said: "It was great to be right in the front rows of political history, and to be able to hear from the politicians at the forefront of this huge discussion."

Kaine Bray, 16, also a pupil of Wallace Hall Academy, spoke positively about the experience. "It was an incredible opportunity for all the young people in Scotland to take part in the political process," said Kaine. "I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the debate and I was very pleased to see a number of nationally renowned political figures giving us the information we needed to make informed decisions on something which will affect us for the rest of our lives."

At the debate, Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP represented the pro-independence 'Yes Scotland' campaign along with Patrick Harvie, who is co-convenor of the Scottish Green Party. On the other side of the debate, representing the 'Better Together' side, were Scottish Conservative Party Leader Ruth Davidson MSP and Respect Party Member George Galloway.

Pupils presented questions to politicians on a wide range of issues surrounding job security, university tuition fees, the possibilities of increased powers for Scotland in the event of a No vote, and the currency which an independent Scotland would adopt. Sturgeon keenly



promoted a Yes vote, saying that independence would allow Scotland to put bold left-wing policies in place and that it would end contradictory right-wing governments. She commented: "How many times has Scotland voted Labour to only end up with the Tories?" Sturgeon also highlighted that a Yes vote would enable Scotland to make decisions for itself, by itself. "Voting Yes puts controlling the future of our own country into our own hands. We'll have control of our own resources," said Sturgeon. "It's what all independent countries do, and it's what Scotland should do as well."

But Davidson argued differently, hailing the security and stability of the status quo stating: "We have huge control over our health care, education and our policing," adding that Scotland is part of a £63 million market. She concluded: "We can be a better country without being a separate country."

It is evident that Wallace Hall Academy is one of many Scottish schools whose pupils were able to make an informed decision in the referendum. Young people across the nation are pleased that their voices have been heard.



Pupil voice at its loudest

report by Robert Guthrie



Photograph above shows some of this year's Pupil Council members from S4, S5 and S6.

Last week, Wallace Hall's successful Pupil Council had its first session of the new academic year. The Pupil Council representatives do a fantastic job, conveying the pupils' opinions and ensuring that their voices are heard.

With the help of Ms Beynon, Principal Teacher with Whole-School Responsibility for Citizenship, representatives from all year-groups, identified their priorities for the year ahead.

At the first meeting it was agreed to focus on the following areas:

school environment, learning and teaching, the merit-demerit success/behaviour system and increasing House profiles. The Pupil Council will be working with the Head Boy, Head Girl, the Parent Council, staff and fellow pupils over the next year to put their suggestions in place.



Our plan as this year's Head and Depute Head Boys and Girls is to leave some form of lasting legacy which will have made our period of office worthwhile.

Having been elected by the pupils and staff of Wallace Hall Academy in March, we have identified our biggest priorities and

Making a difference

are already working with pupils, staff, parents and wider community to make the school a better place for all.

Firstly, we are working on a major upheaval of the current Merit/Demerit system which recognises achievements and deals with misbehaviour. For several years many have voiced concern and we are now working with the Pupil Council to look at real alternatives.

Secondly, we would also like to make sure that transport to-and-from school is safe. For those on buses, the journey to school can be a somewhat unpleasant experience. We are looking into current transport arrangements to make improvements.

Another of our priorities is to raise the profile of the House System, incorporating house colours into some aspect of the school's

uniform. This could be in the form of something easy to add like a badge.

Alongside the Pupil Council, the team is also investigating changing the school's environment, alongside the Pupil Council. Many have voiced concerns about lighting and air conditioning, and the interior of the S6 Common Area. These are issues we endeavour to sort.

Next, we are working with the school's SMT at whole-school teaching and learning, including changing the way that Mentoring Time is used and ensuring that Social Education lessons are relevant and enjoyed by all.

With your support, we aim to leave a lasting legacy at Wallace Hall Academy. We hope to leave next year knowing that we have bettered the school experience for those following in our footsteps.

Let Glasgow Flourish

report by Lucy McGill



For two weeks in summer, Tilda Borrows and I were given the honour of being part of the Tin Forest International Performing Company. We and 88 other young people from all over the Commonwealth - including India, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada – travelled up to Glasgow to work together to create 5 unique pieces of street theatre based on the children’s book ‘The Tin Forest’ by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson.

The whole performing company stayed in the Euro hostel, a short walk from SYT (Scottish Youth Theatre) where we had our rehearsals. After meeting everyone on the first night, it became obvious to us that it was going to be an amazing experience as everyone shared our interest in drama and performance.

All 90 of us were split into 5 groups – The Forgotten, The Workers, The Dreamers, The Players, and The Travellers. Tilda

and I were in different groups – she was a Player and I was a Worker – which proved a good thing as we had completely different experiences in our groups and performances so we had plenty to talk about and compare. All 5 groups quickly got closer and everyone became good friends, and for me being in the Workers and meeting the people that soon became close friends was an honour.

Each group had around 3 directors, each with different talents which helped our 10 minute pieces be completely unique and diverse. Soon, 5 people from each group were chosen to perform in the evening of the Queen’s Baton Relay, while the others would perform in the morning. Tilda and I both performed in the morning, which unluckily for us meant we had to get up incredibly early. There was also a much bigger audience for the evening performers, so they got a better deal than us!

Around halfway through the project, when our pieces of theatre were starting to take

place, Alex Salmond came to SYT to see us perform. We had previously been planning to attend the Glasgow Green showing of the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony, but after seeing us perform, Alex Salmond decided to buy all 90 of us tickets to attend the actual Opening Ceremony! Everyone was incredibly excited and the anticipation of this made the rehearsals even more enjoyable.

Alongside devising our street theatre, we had a flash mob to learn, costumes to get used to, a hub to make feel like home, and an interactive installation to make. The Workers costumes were navy blue boiler suits with neon birds painted onto the legs, along with clunky black boots. The Players costumes were paper-thin, white boiler suits splattered with neon paint. These were only temporary however, as each of the Players had a completely different costume underneath to reflect what they always wanted to be when they were younger – such as a rugby player or a ballerina.

Each group also had their own performance hub, which is where they were based and where half of their performances were. The Players’ hub was Custom House Quay, and The Workers’ hub was the Waterbus Terminal underneath the railway bridge, which meant it was very noisy and we had to perform loudly enough to compete with the overhead trains. Each of the hubs was along the Clydeside, making them very accessible, drawing in good audiences.

When the performance days came along, each group had to walk around public places in Glasgow which were called their ‘zones’. This meant The Workers had a lot of people staring at us as we marched up Buchanan Street and Argyle Street in a marching formation in boiler suits and carrying huge bin-liner balloons! People started filming us and looking at us like we were



insane, which was to be expected as we were singing the Workers' song very loudly and drawing a lot of attention to ourselves.

One of the Workers had a megaphone, which many of us shouted through to advertise our show and we even got a few people following us to come and see our performance!

Each group performed twice a day, and so over the two performance days there were 4 performances. Each group performed with all the other groups once, for example on the first day of performances the Workers performed with the Travellers and the Players, and then performed with the Forgotten and the Dreamers the next day. Depending on which hub you were performing in determined which group performed first, while the other group waited in their 10 minute standing tableau (which was painful as we weren't allowed to move for 10 minutes). If we were performing in the Waterbus terminal, then the Workers would perform first as that was our hub.

At the end of the hub group's installation (which was a 30 minute filler that gave the gathering crowds something to watch before the actual performances began), a piece of music called a soundscape started

playing and the other group would arrive and the two groups would meet, the visiting group walking around the hub group and forming its 10 minute standing tableau while the hub group prepared to begin their performance.

At the end of this performance, soundscape 2 began to play which was when the two groups swapped. After the other groups had performed, there was a dance number to soundscape 3 as the two groups came together. This included singing, and some of the lyrics were "Let Glasgow Flourish" which proved very emotional for some of the audience members!

In the evening of the second performance day, we attended an 'Opening of the Tin Forest' party at the South Rotunda where we performed a surprise flash mob (which didn't go too well because we all forgot the moves!)

On the last full day of the project, we performed a condensed 5 minute version of our pieces with all 5 groups at the South Rotunda. This was one of the hottest days, unluckily for the Workers in our heavy boiler suits and the Travellers in all black!

When we returned to SYT, we had to say our goodbyes to our directors which was incredibly emotional for all of us. We had

spent the whole 2 weeks learning from them, so saying goodbye to them was one of the most emotional moments of the whole project.

We couldn't stay sad for too long, however, as that was the day of the Opening Ceremony and we had to rush back to the hostel to get ready!

As we were only given 90 tickets, no staff could come with us which meant we had to navigate our way to the stadium and back all by ourselves. Thankfully some of the participants were adults and knew what they were doing, so we were in safe hands.

It is safe to say that the Opening Ceremony was one of the most incredible experiences of the whole project, made better by the whole company going crazy every time a country that some of us originated from came on!

This was definitely an appropriate ending to the project, as the next morning we had to gather our things together and leave the hostel. It is safe to say that the goodbye was the most emotional farewell many of us have ever had, as we had made so many incredible friends that we would struggle to meet again since they live so far away. This didn't detract from our overall opinion of the project, however, as both Tilda and I would do it again if we were given the chance.

I honestly think it was the best experience of my life, and I urge anyone to take part if given the chance to be involved in anything run by the National Theatre of Scotland!



First Days at WHA



1.C1

1.N1 – Back row (left to right) – Kaytlin Donnelly, Laura Fitzsimon, Freya Chalmers, Sandy Quin, Finlay Bainbridge, Ines Wood, Emily Khan.

Middle row (left to right) – Aidan Dobie, Lareb Naqvi, Holly Dobie, Josie Harkness, Caitlin McKenzie, Amber Wright.

Front row (left to right) – Lee Wood, Torrin Howat-Langley, David Broatch, Lukas Andreasen, Saphrone Hurley, Phoebe Murray.



1.N2

1.S1 – Back row (left to right) – Sam Godfrey, Finlay McCrudden, Robin Bradford, Lydia McMillan, Emily Moodycliffe, Chloe Wallace.

Middle row (left to right) – Simon Jaupi, Leigh Hyslop, Aaron Grierson, Lewis Cheetham, Lucy Dale.

Front row (left to right) – Livia Nicholson, Anna Wilson, Kieran Taylor, Molly Barr, Faye Mundle.



1.S2

In their first week at Wallace Hall Academy, S1 pupils met in the Drama Studio to have a class photograph taken. We hope the pupils will be able to look back on these photographs in years to come and remember their first days at secondary school.

1.C1 – Back row (left to right) – Joshua Haynes, Irvine Maxwell, Heather McKinna, Ewan Robertson, Millie Bowie, Gregor Hiddleston.

Middle Row (left to right) – Ryan Kirkpatrick, Jennifer Clark, Harry McCabe, Mark Anderson, Cameron Thomson, Olivia Macklin.

Front row (left to right) – Joshua O'Sullivan, Elin Boyd, Josie Blount, Alex Gallagher, Steven Smith, Duncan Sloan. Harry Austin is missing from the picture.



1.N1

1.N2 – Back row (left to right) – Penny Gonlag, Emily Young, Isaac Jackson, Fergus McVicar, Charlie Brown, Frazer Fry.

Middle row (left to right) – Finlay Lord, Edan Hoddinott, Roni Rippingale, Finn Bell, Sharna Gosling.

Front row (left to right) – Chloe Clark, Molly Ayres, Poppy Hannah, Emma Hamilton.



1.S1

1.S2 – Back row (left to right) – Campbell Lamb, Dean Carson, Hannah Spence, Ailsa Black, Eimear Hill, Luke Rands.

Middle Row (left to right) – Peter Wilson, Nathan Candlish, Daniel Kean, Oran Murray, Nadia Hodgkinson, Kyra Tullius.

Front row (left to right) – Alex McKie, Christopher Adkin, Todd Wilson, Sarah Clark Wyse.

Our House Captains for 2014 - 2015



CAIRN

- S1: Josie Blount
- S2: Sarah O'Connor and Matthew Godridge
- S3: Caitlin Harley and Harris Maxwell
- S4: Maia Smyth and Ross Bell
- S5: Anya Borrows and Ben Wicks
- S6: Eden Fisher and Ailsa Morton

NITH

- S1: Emily Khan and Lukas Andreasen
- S2: Emily Saunders and Freya Donald
- S3: Marianne Willetts and Nathan King
- S4: Lucy Doig and Lorna Rideout
- S5: Alistair Muir and Nick Willetts
- S6: Joanne Hutcheson and Millie Parks



SCAUR

- S1: Molly Barr and Lewis Cheetham
- S2: Chloe Williams and Neil Macdonald
- S3: Jack Roberts and Caitlin Greenwood
- S4: Lorna McCafferty and Josh Notman
- S5: Sean Wicks and Olivia Mess
- S6: Emma Thomas and Cameron Dobie



Chilling challenge for WHA

report by Robert Guthrie



Last week at Wallace Hall teachers did their bit for charity while entertaining the pupils at the same time. The school's S6 Charities Committee hosted their first event in aid of The International Alliance of ALS/ MND Association.

Senior pupils at Wallace Hall are encouraged to join committees as part of their last year at the school. One of their fundraising ideas was to get pupils from across all year-groups, along with staff, to vote for

willing teachers to do the now-famous 'Ice Bucket Challenge'.

After a week-long ballot, four teachers were selected to accept the challenge: Headteacher Mr Graham, Depute Headteacher Mr Collins, Principal Teacher of English, Modern

Languages and Literacy Mrs McMillan and History teacher Mr Harley.

Crowds of pupils flocked to see staff face their icy ordeal. Steph Wells (S6) from the Charities Committee commented on the success of the day: "We are really pleased with what the committee has already managed to achieve. Throughout the day, pupils and staff donated an impressive £600.10. The team is extremely thankful to all those who contributed."



Joseph Thomson Group

The Joseph Thomson Group is based in Penpont, in the house where Joseph Thomson, a famous explorer was born in February 1858. He was a past pupil of Penpont Primary and Wallace Hall Academy.

Joseph Thomson went on many expeditions throughout his life including several in Africa. His great-grand nephew, John Hastings-Thomson recently walked part of the route taken many years earlier by his great-great

uncle through Maasai Land in Africa. Mr Hastings-Thomson shared his experiences with the whole school and brought some artefacts to share including a walking stick crafted from ebony wood, a beaded belt and a special necklace with the Maasai word for peace embroidered on it. He also shared some photographs of the JT Bears on the journey with him and some of the wildlife he encountered on his travels.

P3 worked together to write this short article about their experiences:

In September Gladys Cuttle, a member of the Joseph Thomson Group, came to P3 to talk about Joseph Thomson. She brought 2 bears with her for the school to keep and to take on outings. The Scottish bear is called JT and the Maasai one is Ulu. They have already been for a trek in Maasai Land.

Photograph below shows Primary 3 proudly displaying their bears - JT and Ulu.



Music Mania visits Wallace Hall!

report by Abigail Maxwell and Anya Graham

On the 28th of August we (P6) began to be visited by Sarah, Eilidh and Blackie from the YMI (Youth Music Initiative). They have been coming once a week for all of term 1 and are really kind and helpful.

Blackie plays the double bass and African drums, Eilidh plays the violin and last but not least Sarah plays the harp. They have been

teaching us about traditional Scottish music. We have been singing songs and even playing some musical instruments also. We have all enjoyed it astoundingly. We have learned to sing and play a song called 'The Diamond Ship' and we have also learned a tune on the glockenspiels about coffee and tea. It helps us to learn about rhythm. We've learned a song called 'Jimmy

Lost His Jaurie' (jaurie is Scots for marble). We have also learned a cool warm-up game where you have to say 'shwee, boom, flim-flam and tiffy taffy'. It helps us to remember our parts and to work as an orchestra. We are all excited for our next Thursday visit... who knows what we will learn this week?

Celebrating Success



Mrs Valerie Inglis presenting the Joan Inglis Memorial Rosebowl for progress and individuality in Art and Design to Elle Findlater

Wallace Hall Academy's First, Second and Third year pupils may be classed as our junior pupils, but their achievements are just as great as those of our senior pupils, as was proven at our Celebration of Success ceremonies held on Thursday, June 12th.

The S1 proceedings, led by Miss Brown, our new Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for Scaur House, took place in the afternoon with S2/3 celebrations, led by Mrs Fraser, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for Cairn, held in the evening. Presenting the prizes this year were Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Gall who are both soon to leave Wallace Hall Academy after many rewarding years of teaching there.

The events, attended by pupils, staff, parents and invited guests, showcased the range of different areas where Wallace Hall Academy pupils excel. All pupils who had



Lorna Rideout



Niamh McQuarrie Parks and Charli Geddes

achieved Certificates of Endeavour (for hard work), Wider Achievement Awards (for achievements outside of school) and subject-specific Certificates of Excellence, received a printed certificate and many pupils collected a mixture of different certificates, trophies and awards for their successes both at school and through external competitions.

Both events commenced in typical Wallace Hall style, with pipers Robbie Logan, Becky Walker and Mhari Prentice playing as pupils proudly walked in through the doors of the Bailey Hall. Following opening remarks from the relevant PT of Pupil Support, Head Teacher Barry Graham presented his annual review which highlighted Wallace Hall Academy's successes and those of its pupils both in school and in the wider community. These

highlights included sports and music commendations, the innovative learning experiences pupils receive at Wallace Hall and the school's above average exam results.

Pupils were also able to provide an insight into their lives at Wallace Hall Academy with, in the afternoon, Matthew Godridge and Emily Kennedy from S1 and, in the evening, Cameron Wood from S3, and Sam Hamilton from S2 speaking to the assembled audience about the highlights of their year. They talked about the various school trips, the Christmas Dances, the Hallowe'en Disco and other school events of the past year.

For S2/3 pupils, Yvonne Gall, Depute Head Teacher for Scaur, was the evening's guest speaker. Mrs Gall provided an interesting insight into the advantages of using modern languages to communicate with people from all over the world, with humorous tales of her own experiences.

During the ceremonies, the audience witnessed some of Wallace Hall's exceptional talent in action. Pupils Lorna Rideout, Niamh McQuarrie-Parkes and Charli Geddes performed a beautiful rendition of 'Caledonia' complemented by dramatic recitations of Burns' poetry by Mollie Anderson of S1 who performed 'To a Louse' and by Justine Crosbie of S3 who performed 'Willie Wastle'.

After both the S1 and S2/3 Celebrations of Success at Wallace Hall, it is clear that everyone is a winner.



Mollie Anderson



Neil Macdonald with his Certificate for Excellence



Murray Crosbie with his Certificate for Excellence



Jasmin Bell with her Certificate for Excellence for Excellence



Georgia Rinaldi with her Certificate for Excellence



Gavin Wilson with his Certificate for Excellence and trophies for PE



Georgia Watson with her Certificate for Excellence



L - R: Matthew Godridge, Mrs Mitchell, Emily Kennedy, Sam Hamilton, Mrs Gall and Cameron Wood

Oh! What a Lovely War

report by Lucy McGill

When Ms Beynon told us that we were going to be doing "Oh! What a Lovely War" as our next school play we were slightly unsure about how we would even attempt it, but we trusted her after the success of last year's performance of "Macbeth" and the rehearsals went underway.



Once we were allocated our (for the majority of us, many) parts, we

began to block each individual scene. This meant that not everybody was needed at each rehearsal, which was good as it meant that everybody got a break. As most of us had so many different parts, the line learning was a challenge as so many of the parts were completely different to one another. Because of this, practically the whole cast were still using our scripts in the run up to the performances!

We experimented with the set, making some of the bunting ourselves. The Art and Technical departments were very involved in helping us build the set, such as the sign posts and the bar. The Music department was also heavily involved in order to help the singers feel more comfortable, and provided us with the live music during the show. Miss Stuart excellently choreographed all the dances and had heavy input to the movement during the songs, such as "Gassed Last Night".

When we were nearing the date of the first performance, we were given our costumes. This included



an incredibly large number of hats which had to be swapped around from person to person multiple times throughout the show. We were also given our Pierrot costumes which were white tops with 3 black pom poms, leading to many "pom pom casualties" and quick repairs even on the performance days. Once we had our costumes and the stage was set, we were finally ready to perform!

The show was a great success, and I can't wait to be involved in the next one!



Magnificent Masterpiece

The following is an extract from a letter we received from a member of the audience who attended both performances of 'Oh! What a Lovely War'. We would like to share these comments with you.

"I wanted to write to let you know how much I enjoyed last Thursday and Friday nights.

"Oh! What a Lovely War' - an absolute tour de force; a memorable and moving performance in which all those involved played their parts with outstanding energy and enthusiasm. It is hard to pick out specific performances, as the entire cast was magnificent. They acted so well together as a team that they made the performance appear effortless.

"The use of the original Pierrot costumes was superbly effective, taking us from the end of the pier show where we might have been happy to eat ice cream to the dawning realisation that this was not a musical comedy but a hard hitting attack on the futility of war.

"The comedy was needed - it was the counterpoint to the overwhelming tragedy, and it was brilliant. To pluck out but one example, the scene with Donald Kennedy as Sir John French in his car, as Martha Beynon-Grey skilfully navigated the potholes, was acted with outstanding comedy timing - how is it possible that they were not in fact driving along those damn bad French roads?

"To go from that directly to the meeting (at which an Interpreter was not needed) took the audience to the edge - we were led into laughing at a situation where a patronising man was stumbling in the dark of his own overwhelming self-importance and condemning thousands to a horrific death.

"Donald excelled in that part - an example of the superlative casting which made the show the amazing success it truly was.

"Each actor seemed to have been born to play the exact parts they were given - who could have played Lady Pankhurst with more verve and pathos than Lucy Doig, who also gave us the shockingly funny English aristocrat in the shooting party. Lucy has been a hidden gem - if she does not go into acting the rest of the country will miss out on a huge talent.

"The Borrowers sisters were of course amazing, as anyone who has been at previous productions would expect, and their solos were outstanding. Anya's rendition of 'Stille Nacht' was tear wrenching, while Tilda's recruiting song would have led to the enrollment of half the audience, had there been a recruiting sergeant on hand.

"The portrayal of Haig by Nathan King was the lynchpin of the second part of the show - his deadpan upper crust rendition of lines such as 'I ask Thee for victory Lord before the Americans arrive' and his overwhelming arrogance as 'the predestined instrument of providence for the achievement of victory for the British army' was mind blowing - surely I thought made up for dramatic effect - but no, Haig did in fact say that.

"Lucy McGill's exhausted nurse was the lone upper class voice on that bleak muddy field recognising the futility of the unending 'big pushes'.

"And yes, for me she was on a muddy field. By then I had forgotten this was a school production; had forgotten it was a production at all.

"Thinking back on my way home on the Irish soldier scene, I saw Lucy, Tilda and Anya wearing khaki and lying in the mud - I wondered when the change from

the Pierrot costumes had happened. I felt confused and disorientated as I realised they never did change into khaki - my mind did that for me. Their acting of that scene had been so realistic that in my mind I saw it as it had been almost 100 years ago.

"The singers were wonderful, going from humour to tragedy, (and indeed between genders) without pause - I think it will be a long time before anybody in the audience forgets 'Gassed last night'.

"One of my party said that she had been hard pressed not to cry at various points in the production, and I am sure that was the reaction of many of the audience.

"And how much did you pay for the dialect coach??

"What was the aim of the production? To entertain, yes - and that was done superbly. But in this case more - to make the audience who left more aware than the audience who arrived; to induce them to challenge their preconceptions about WWI and in doing so to make them challenge preconceptions about everything. If it did that for the audience, then how much more must it have done so for the young cast - I am sure none of them will take things so much for granted any more. That may make life more challenging for the parents and teachers but it will help to turn the students into better citizens and just better human beings.

"A lot to ask of a school play, but here achieved.

"Last year my one regret was that I had attended only one of the nights of 'Macbeth'. This year, I was at both nights, and that was absolutely the right decision. The show was so fast paced that I missed some of it on the Thursday night. I took in much more on the second night, and had there been a third night I would have gained even more.

"Congratulations to everybody involved - this was a masterpiece."



Oh! What a Lovely War

The Active Games Come To Town

report by Matthew Johnstone, Josh Watson and Ellie Hyslop



afternoon. Heather Lamb stated, "It was really fun to watch everyone trying really hard." Everyone from the athletics team said it was really fun.

For the football group there were 8 games to play against different teams from around the region. They won 4, drew 1 and unfortunately lost 3. Andrew Oram said, "I thought we played very well and kept a solid defence." Abigail Maxwell was quoted saying, "It was very fun."

The games were held on Dumfries High School's pitches and the football team was coached by Mr Oram. Andrew Oram scored 7 goals, Josh Watson scored 5 goals and Lewis Brown scored 1. Unfortunately Josh Watson hit the crossbar 6 times.

On Friday the 12th of September, Primary 6 embarked on a journey to the David Keswick Centre in Dumfries. We left at 9:20am sharp and arrived at 9:45am to be greeted by a huge gathering of children all there to compete in the 'Active Games'.

We started off with a group warm-up on the athletics field with the fantastic workers from DGOOne. We then split into 3 groups: Football, Athletics and Netball.

The netball group started with a few mini games that helped improve different netball skills. They also met a famous netball player who played in the Scottish Commonwealth Games team. The games consisted of passing, throwing and shooting. After lunch they played a few games of netball. They were split into two groups, A and B. B scored 2 goals with A doing the same. Eilidh Wilson scored a goal for group A in the last minute of one of their games. Michael Taylor said it was 'awesome' and Eilidh Wilson said, "I loved every minute of it and want to do it again." All in all

everyone from the netball team said that it was an amazing day.

The athletics group stayed on the field and were put into 6 groups. In their groups they moved around some activities. The six different events were 300m, chest pass, 75m, 150m, standing long jump and throwing. Jessica Maxwell won a hoodie in the morning for showing good sporting attitude and Brogan Wood won another hoodie for good sportsmanship. After 3 events they had a delicious lunch to refresh their bodies for the remaining 3 events in the



Everyone from the football really enjoyed it and would love to go back again.

It was a brilliant day and we were all really proud of our sporting achievements!



Sailing to success

report by Jordan Tweedie



The Sailing Club has been active for a few years now and pupils and staff both really enjoy being part of it. It takes place on a Wednesday night during the season, leaving Wallace Hall at 4pm and returning back by 8.30pm. There are three teachers that help on the sailing club: Mr Miller, Mrs Black and Mr MacKeller. Sailing with the school club helps to increase confidence out in the water

and also teaches the rudiments of sailing. It is also a good opportunity to go and meet new friends and have a great time sailing picos and toppers.

Mrs Black said: "The best thing about sailing is the relationship between the elements and the boat, trying to make yourself move efficiently on the water and, after lots of practice, reaping the rewards. At the sailing club we work together as a team, getting the boats on the water and helping the less experienced sailors with rigging."

Mr Miller added: "We rely on the Annandale Sailing Club for equipment and a senior instructor to come and help us out. The club is very accommodating in getting young people into sailing and racing. When a Sunday of sailing to give our pupils a chance to learn more about the official side of the sport was suggested, the club responded very enthusiastically and turned up with a lot of volunteers to help us out. We had a fantastic day on the water and are very



grateful to the Annandale Sailing Club for their support.

"This term we have been focussing on the RYA Level One qualification and our sailors have completed the necessary requirements. Well done!!! They have also been learning about racing so look out for more events in the future."

If you would like to join the WHA Sailing Club, just speak to any of the three members of staff who will be happy to give you more information.



Rugby rules

Photographs on this page are from a recent after-school rugby tournament against St Joseph's College. Four pitches were in operation with competition fierce on every one of them. Well done to all taking part.



Recommending Rugby

report by Becky Walker and Rebecca Renton

Girls' rugby is becoming pretty popular at Wallace Hall Academy. Recently three teams of girls, one senior team and two junior teams, from Wallace Hall travelled to Glasgow to play in a tournament against other teams from many different schools.

Each team played four matches with one of the junior teams winning two games out of the four. For some of us it was our first time playing competitively and we really enjoyed it. There were a few minor injuries but nothing too serious. Everyone had a great day and we would heartily recommend trying rugby out as a sport.

On this page is a selection of photographs from our practice sessions and from our day in Glasgow.



Showing Signs of Success



At the end of August, Annabelle Hiddleston, S3, was delighted to win the novice showing class at the prestigious Blair Castle Horse Trials. Riding Cian, her 14.2hh pure-bred Connemara pony, Annabelle was thrilled when the judge pulled her forward into first place.

Annabelle said: I was given my first pony when I was two and a half years old, starting lessons at the age of five. We bought Cian in July 2012 and since then have been entering local shows in Dumfries, Biggar and Stranraer where we qualified to compete at Blair Castle.

During the class at Blair Castle I had to ride round the ring at walk, trot and canter and then do an individual show, showing off Cian's paces to the judge. I was shocked and happy to be picked as the winner and it really didn't seem real at the time. It is a real responsibility to look after and care for my own pony but I just love it. I would like to keep going with my showing and aim to do well at the bigger shows.

Head Teacher Barry Graham said: "I was really delighted to hear about Annabelle's achievement with her pony. I hope it is the first of many and look forward to hearing how she gets on with her pony next season."

Track and Field Triumphs



Two of our pupils represented Wallace Hall Academy recently at the Scottish Schools Athletics

Association Track and Field Championships at Hampden Park.

Competing in the 1500m, Eloise Coombs ran a fabulous race to take the gold medal, achieving a personal best time and track record of four minutes 50 seconds. Erin Dobie qualified in two categories, winning a bronze medal for high jump and silver in the 100m, again achieving a new personal best.

Eloise said: "Hampden stadium was such a good experience. We had an appointed helper who lead us into the stadium. The track was very good and I was delighted to achieve a new personal best. I loved standing on the podium in front of the huge stadium. I am so delighted with my gold medal and pleased I did so well for Wallace Hall." Erin added: "I was really proud to qualify in two categories and win a medal in both. I

think the atmosphere really spurred me on to achieve a new personal best. I loved every minute."



Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy said: "I was delighted to learn of Eloise and Erin's success at the SSAA Track and Field Championships. It was particularly exciting that they were competing on the Commonwealth track which was the centrepiece for Glasgow 2014. Both girls are fantastic ambassadors for Wallace Hall Academy and their achievements will help inspire others to take part in sport."

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.

Wallace Hall Parent Council News



Jane Bailey

With a new 'through-school' Parent Council, October 1st saw the new Primary Policy and Fundraising Sub-Group meet for the first time; the group will report its activities to the newly integrated Wallace Hall Parent Council.

The meeting was well attended and included parents and staff; all parents or carers of children at Wallace Hall Primary are welcome to attend these meetings.

Sometimes people wonder what fund-raising activities are for. As an example, during the 2013/14 academic year the Wallace Hall Primary Parent Council paid for the class Christmas parties; Santa's presents for the nursery to P4; contributed to the cost of the school pantomime; bought leaving dictionaries for the P7s and paid for water for every child for sports day and the run/walk challenge in health week. WHPPC also purchased new items for the playground and was successful in attaining a grant for a willow

structure project for the primary playground.

For 2014/15 members of the Policy and Fundraising Group decided to plan the fund raising events out for the year ahead with a target of raising funds to continue what had been done previously, but also much more.

Whilst raising the much needed funds is a key part of the events calendar, the group hopes for events to be fun for the children, family members and members of the wider Thornhill community. Whilst some traditional events such as the Halloween Disco remain on the calendar, there are also new events to come. These include a Christmas Extravaganza - to include a festive film for the children, whilst the parents can enjoy mulled wine and mince pies - and the Spring Clothes Swishing Event, where clothes swapping, wine and chat will no doubt make for a fun evening.

We are really grateful for all the support we receive from parents and teachers. We are fortunate that parents enjoy taking part and helping with events and appreciate that volunteers are needed to make the events a success. We are very lucky that parents at Wallace Hall are willing to come forward to assist and everyone is very welcome to come along and join in the fun.

Two years ago the hugely successful Wallace Hall Primary tea towel was a popular gift and

memento of all the pupils self-portrait artwork. This Christmas the Wallace Hall Fundraising Group plan to work with class teachers to create a festive class picture for a Christmas card. Parents will be able to view and order these cards. The next Primary Policy and Fund Raising Sub-Group meeting will take place in January 2015. Parents and carers wishing to know more or wanting to get more involved should contact Jane Bailey on jane@indigodoor.com or 07887 854553.

Fundraising Events for 2014/15

Friday October 31st - Halloween Disco for Wallace Hall Primary Pupils and Parents

Saturday November 15th - Wallace Hall Craft Fair

Friday December 5th - Christmas Extravaganza, A festive film for Pupils and Mulled Wine and Mince pies for parents

Friday February 13th - Valentine's Disco for Wallace Hall Primary Pupils

Friday March 13th - Sponsored Bounce

Friday May 8th - The Wallace Hall Swish - a clothes swishing event for all!

June 6th - Wallace Hall Car Boot Sale

Friday June 26th - End of Term BBQ, Disco, Games night!

Jane Bailey
WHPS Parent Council Chairperson

Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall is 01848 332120. The fax number is 01848 332564 with the email address: 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.