

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

April 2015

Working Together to Achieve More



Funded by Fashion

On Sunday 29th March the Bailey Hall at Wallace Hall Academy hosted a fashion show courtesy of Mrs Bertha Barbour of the 101 Boutique. The event was conceived as a result of the ongoing relationship between Sinclair Barbour's Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers, Queensberry Initiative and Wallace Hall Academy. The afternoon was a huge success, with over £5000 being raised to support the Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers and Queensberry Initiative.

Diane Jarvie (School Support Manager at Wallace Hall and one of the event organisers) summed up the afternoon by saying: "I was delighted to be involved in the organisation of this wonderful event. A huge amount of money was raised for two very worthwhile causes. The event itself was superb with Bertha and Sinclair's teams of models and dancers excelling. The outfits from the 101 Boutique were stunning, with the audience really captivated by the show. It was a lovely atmosphere all through the afternoon. A warm thank you to everyone who sponsored the event, donated a raffle prize, or helped out in any way." For more pictures of the event, please turn to pages 26 and 27.



Wallace Hall's new S6 office bearers have been chosen and will take up their posts at the start of our new timetable in June.

Following a rigorous process involving a written submission, an interview with the school's Senior Management Team and a fiercely fought campaign, the successful candidates were elected as follows: Head Boy – Ben Wicks, Head Girl – Emily Morton, Depute Head Boy – Donald Kennedy and Depute Head Girl – Olivia McCabe.

After the election Ben said: "For me, Head Boy isn't just a position – it is an accomplishment I have been working towards since starting at Wallace Hall in S1." Emily added: "Although the election process was stressful and time consuming, being elected Head Girl made it all so very worthwhile."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, said: "All of the candidates' campaigns were strong with the end result very close. It was encouraging that so many of our current S5 pupils put themselves forward for selection with some very capable leaders emerging through the process. I look forward to working with our new office bearers in June."

Heading the School



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An Inspirational Illustrator

report by Robert Guthrie



Wallace Hall pupils recently gained a unique insight into the exciting career of Clare Melinsky, a renowned artist and illustrator. Clare is best known for creating beautiful linoprints – some of which were used to illustrate covers of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels.

Clare's work was recently exhibited in Thomas Tosh's café (TTs) in Thornhill and pupils in Mrs Black's printing elective got the chance to visit the exhibition to meet Clare and learn about her career. Clare explained to the pupils the way she receives commissions from companies who use her work and how she works to their brief, usually meeting very tight time constraints.

The pupils have been producing vibrant oil prints of their own in class and found Clare's advice both inspiring and helpful. Mrs Black said: "Clare really helped the pupils understand the print making process and explained how they will be able to apply this knowledge with their own prints. She had lots of her work on display and this highlighted the different ways her prints have been used - for example on biscuit tins, on fabric, on stamps and, of course, as covers for the Harry Potter series. It was a lovely afternoon. Thanks to Clare and to TTs for making us so very welcome."

Contacting the school

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

Our office staff are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and to put you in touch with the relevant member of staff. Outside office hours you may leave a message on our answering machine. Please contact us if you have any problems. We are here to help. Visit the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk for the latest news and information about the whole school.

Lightning Fast Visit

report by Matthew Johnstone, Ellie Hyslop and Andrew Oram



They came to teach us about electricity and energy. We were split into groups of 5 to do various activities.

One of the activities was a house with holes in the living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.



On Thursday the 25th of September, two scientists visited Primary 6 at Wallace Hall Primary. But these weren't your usual scientists - they were from E-on Energy.



blades and you had to move them to an efficient position that creates the most energy.

A crazy professor called Brainstorm and an assistant called Ne-on accompanied us and helped throughout. At the end the professor put his head in a cardboard cut-out of an oversized head which was really funny.

Abigail Maxwell quoted "I learned what insulation is and how it heats our homes." Joshua Cooper said: "it was fun and the professor was crazy." Charlotte Colley told us that she started not knowing much about electricity and went out of the door knowing lots.

All in all it was a great experience for P6.



In another one you had to find the correct materials and had to decide which was the most energy efficient. Another task was where we had to match photos and facts together to make a honeycomb pattern. The last activity was where you had a windmill and a fan. The windmill had moveable

Regional Dance Competition

Congratulations to the Wallace Hall Academy S3 Dance Group who won the recent Dumfries and Galloway Schools' Dance Competition.

The girls fought off tough competition from other schools in the region, performing a contemporary routine to a medley of tracks by Florence and the Machine. The ten girls had been practising hard since August, perfecting the steps to ensure that their performance was tight and professional. Marly Baker, lead choreographer of the group, was delighted to be awarded the prize for the best dancer.

Iona Haile, PE Probationer at Wallace Hall, said: "The girls did so well. Their performance sparkled and their hard work and preparation really shone through on the night. They spent a lot of time organising

their costumes, deciding on their make-up and working out their routine, and this attention to detail

has paid off. Well done to them all."

Photo below shows the team in their dance costumes.



Positive Reaction from Practical Physics

report by Caitlin Carruthers, Travis Kelting and Ellie Thorburn



We are in Dr Fulton's S3 Physics class and have recently been studying nuclear reactors. In groups we had to design and make a model of a nuclear reactor.

Our models had to include the five main parts: the concrete shielding, the control rods, the coolant, the fuel and the moderator. Working on this activity gave us a better understanding of how a nuclear reactor works and how electricity is generated. Once we had completed our models we had to explain to the rest of the class how a nuclear reactor works. A practical activity like this helps us develop our understanding rather than just reading it out of a book.

Picture on the left shows Travis, Caitlin and Ellie with their model of a nuclear reactor.

Dissertation Masterclass

report by Robert Guthrie

S6 pupils studying Advanced Higher Modern Studies and Physical Education have been given a masterclass in dissertation research from one of the region's top academics.

Professor David Clark, Director of the University of Glasgow's Dumfries Campus, as well as Chair of Wallace Hall Secondary Parent Council, is one of the world's top academics specialising in the sociology of end-of-life care. Professor Clark regularly

publishes research papers of high calibre and was willing to share some of his tips with senior pupils.

Students studying the two Advanced Higher subjects must produce investigative dissertations into a topic in relation to their core coursework. Professor Clark showed pupils how easy it is to use the internet in order to gain easy access to a wide range of research publications free-of-charge using Google Scholar.



Professor Clark

Citing academics is paramount at this level of study, and Professor Clark's knowledge has provided a huge insight into the ease of accessing quality research content.

Collaborating with our cluster colleagues

As part of our transition programme and cluster working Mr Dillon, our Acting DHT, has invited a number of teachers from Wallace Hall's cluster primary schools to spend a day in our school to visit classes

and shadow pupils who they taught last year.

This programme is aimed at promoting a culture of sharing good practice between primary and secondary colleagues. Mr Dillon said: "It is hoped that through these

opportunities we will be able to speak to our primary colleagues and receive and offer strategies for success. I am sure that it will be a very positive experience for us and primary staff."

P5 and P6 Cluster Ceilidh



Wallace Hall hosted a morning of dance for P4 and P5 pupils in the cluster. Mr Law, our PE specialist, arranged the morning and organised the superb musical entertainment which was provided by Feis Rois.

The pupils were piped in by Becky Walker, an S4 pupil at Wallace Hall Academy, and we enjoyed dancing displays from Wallace Hall primary pupils Emily Hunter, Bailey Fraser, Maeve Bain, Ellie Hyslop, Sarah Jones, Charlotte Colley, Joshua Cooper, Bethany Platt, Lauren Frame, Jessica Hiddleston, Jessica Maxwell, Anya Graham, Abigail Maxwell and Eilidh Wilson. Then a group of S4-6

pupils, Donald Kennedy, Fraser Lethardy, Sam Murphy, Mhari Prentice, Becky Walker, Teigan Lord, Meagan Wood and Laura Brown, (who are all members of the Thornhill Scottish Country Dancing group) performed a selection of dances for the pupils including a sword dance and a MacDonald of Sleet. The newly formed Wallace Hall Academy Traditional Music group played a set of tunes, delighting the pupils. There was even time to stop for a Scottish-themed snack of shortbread and juice in the middle of the entertainment.

The event was a fantastic success and was enjoyed by staff

and pupils alike. Here are some comments from pupils:

'I found the dances good and fun.' James Hobman P5

'I saw lots of friends from different schools and my old teacher. We had to work together to make the dances like the Dashing White Sergeant work.' Alex Flannigan P5

'It was really fun because I saw all my friends from other schools and met lots of new people.' Bryce McKie P5

'I liked it because we were dancing with other schools.' Fern Bain P5

'At snack time I liked talking to new people and making new friends.' Megan Ayres P5

'I liked that it was actual people playing music.' James Hunter P5

'I liked the music that the band played.' Arland O'Hara P5

'I liked the bit when the Academy pupils danced, especially the sword dance.' Kerr Hamilton P5

'It was good because it was interactive.' Fergus Bainbridge P5

'Some of the dances were a bit different like the Canadian Barn Dance where we had to run to find new partners.' Jessica Hiddleston P5

'I liked watching the Wallace Hall Academy dancers and the Wallace Hall Primary dancers.' Lewis Young P5



Supporting Solway Sound



Before Christmas, senior students on our S6 Charities Committee organised a pupil-led concert for Solway Sound, a Dumfries based charity which provides over 150 recipients with a weekly recorded talking newsletter. Solway Sound's editorial team meet once per week to discuss the main local headlines. These are made into an eighty-minute recording which is distributed to listeners from Annan through to Stranraer.

The Christmas concert took place over three periods on the last day of term. The audience enjoyed a variety of musical acts from bands to solo performances and even a brass section. To raise

extra cash, pupils were also invited to sport their best Christmas jumpers in return for paying £1.

Andrea Weir, a Biology teacher at Wallace Hall Academy and leader of this year's Charities Committee, said: "I am overjoyed that the Committee raised over £1000. The pupils of the Committee were extremely committed and I was very impressed at their organisational skills. I'd especially like to thank Wallace Hall's Music Department – teachers Nick Riley and Margaret Davies, and S6 pupils Aiden Halliday, Angus Bruce and Peter Wall who co-ordinated the show."

Fiona Power, Chairperson of Solway Sound, was invited to Wallace Hall to be presented with

the cheque. She said "I'm delighted that pupils at Wallace Hall decided to support Solway Sound. The money raised will allow us to provide our listeners with easy-to-operate USB speaker devices."

Calum Fraser, Chief Technician, who accompanied Fiona said: "The editors decide what stories, from an array of regional newspapers, make our broadcast. Technicians, like myself, record the broadcast and after that process we distribute them far and wide." It is evident that the money raised by Wallace Hall pupils will make a difference to the blind and partially sighted community of Dumfries and Galloway.

World Book Day Victors



Congratulations go to Josh Notman, S4 Scaur, Ewan Robertson, S1 Nith, and Owen Nicholson, S3 Cairn, deserved winners of the World Book Day Quiz held across three house assemblies in early March.

In a thrilling knockout competition, each was the last student standing from their house groups following a series of testing questions on teenage literature. Yasmine McLurg, a member of WHA office staff, is seen presenting each boy with a copy of 'Lockwood & Co – The Screaming Staircase', a ripping yarn by Jonathan Stroud.

Pupils pick brains of local politician

report by Robert Guthrie



Six Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils grabbed the chance to speak to one of the region's local politicians in relation to their studies.

Elaine Murray, MSP of the Scottish Labour party, came to speak to the six pupils in the group about her views on human rights, the Scottish and UK judicial systems and the treatment of

criminals. Elaine Murray's place on the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee gave the pupils access to her extensive knowledge on the relevant study areas.

Elspeth Nicholson, Steph Wells, Robert Guthrie, Aiden Halliday, Emilia Kostka and Jessica Fergusson are writing dissertations on a range of different subjects relating to Law and Order in the UK.

Steph said: "The visit has really helped me with my dissertation research."

Aiden added: "Elaine was very knowledgeable and what she told us was very helpful for our dissertations."

Barry Graham, Headteacher of Wallace Hall Academy as well as a Modern Studies teacher overseeing the pupils' research, spoke positively, saying: "Elaine Murray impressed all of the students with her detailed knowledge relating to criminology. These statistics will help the Advanced Higher students greatly in their coursework."

Engineering: Your Mark on The World

report by Emily Kennedy

On the 19th of January, a representative from The Institution of Engineering and Technology came into all of the S2 Design and Technology classes.

He told us about different engineering jobs, how having a creative job could take us all over the world, and how much of a difference we could potentially make in people's lives.



Some of us even got involved by holding beach balls, steadying wooden boards and by catching marshmallows. We got told all about engineering in developing countries and some solutions they've come up with which was interesting as we don't appreciate the products engineers have exposed our country to.



Thoughts on Transition



Now that Wallace Hall is an all-through 2-18 school, we are working harder than ever to maximise use of our fantastic resources. Initially, the focus has been on Wallace Hall Primary but we hope to expand on this and involve our other cluster primaries next term.

P6 and P7 have benefited from a programme of activities which allows them to experience the facilities available in the secondary school. Throughout the year, primary and secondary teaching staff have worked together to identify elements of the curriculum which are best suited to delivery in a purpose-built space and have gone on to collaboratively plan these experiences. As a result, P6 and P7 pupils have enjoyed lessons in Science, Design and Technology, Home Economics and Physical



Education on a rotational basis. Further curricular areas will be covered later in the session.

Staff have benefited from working together and sharing good practice, from using a range of facilities and from seeing an increased enthusiasm for learning from pupils in Primary 6 and 7.



Here are some thoughts from our Primary 6 and 7 pupils:

P.E.: On every Friday for six weeks, our P6 class visited the PE Department at the Academy. As we arrived for the first time, we were really looking forward to finding out what we would be doing. Mr Dillon welcomed us and then we were split into groups. Some of us went to play basketball and some of us went to trampolining where we did jumps and spins on the trampoline. Every week was great fun and we loved our visits.



Home Economics: Last term, pupils from P6 visited the Academy for Home Economics lessons with Miss Wilson. Brogan said: "On our first visit we made a pasta salad. On our second visit we tried some scrumptious food and on our third visit we designed and made the ultimate healthy PIZZA!"

Written by Sean, Brodie, Charlotte and Michael.

Science: Sarah from P7 said: "I learned about how rust starts and how you can prevent it."

Campbell from P7 said: "I really liked using the Bunsen burner to learn about changes of state."

Danny from P7 said: "I learned about viruses, circuits and lots more."

Design and Technology:

Katie from P7 said: "I enjoyed cutting and shaping the wood for my pencil holder."

Bethany from P7 said: "I really liked using all of the machines and using all of the different materials."

Diesel from P7 said: "I learned about the safety rules and that you always have to wear goggles at all the machines."

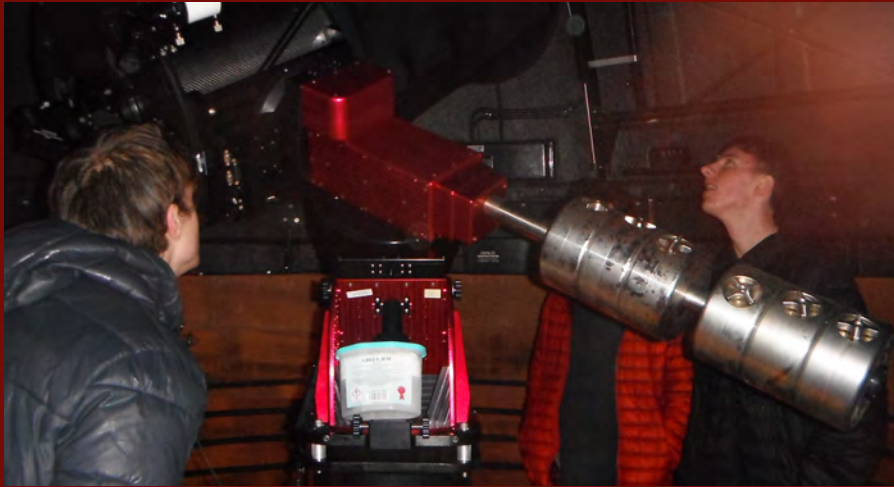




P4/P5 Cluster PE Day

Activity Tourism organise a trip to Dark Skies

report by Lucy McGill



As part of our Activity Tourism course, the class had to fully research and organise a trip to show our management and leadership skills.

The first step involved in planning such an event was deciding where we were going to go and which class we were going to take. We considered places like Xscape in Glasgow to do some rock climbing and also thought about sports such as kayaking or skiing. However, we couldn't think of what subject these things could apply to so we eventually decided to take the Advanced Higher Physics class to do some stargazing at Dark Skies Park in the Galloway Forest Park. The next step was finding out more about the Dark Skies Park, and what we could do while there. Some of us researched about the Observatory and the surrounding area while

others carried out tasks such as booking the bus and identifying an appropriate date for the trip. In order to book the bus we had to figure out how many people were going, and so we had to know how many people were in the Advanced Higher Physics class that would want to come. We decided that we would take the Physics class to Ayr for an hour and a half where we could have lunch and do some exploration. We then began to write an information letter outlining the trip and an itinerary, ensuring the letter included details of what the Physics class needed to bring (a torch and money for lunch in Ayr, for example). We also gathered some information about the Galloway Dark Skies Park and made our own information leaflet which would give the Physics class a good idea of where we were going, which we

then attached to the letter. We also gathered up some official leaflets for the Dark Skies Park and a guide to Ayr which we planned to hand out on the bus. We then got an insurance form and permission slip which could be attached to the letter, and once we had all 4 sheets for the letter we were able to hand them out to the Physics class. We received the letters back quite quickly and were then able to relax a bit more before the trip as we knew what was going on and knew what our individual tasks were to carry out during the trip.

Once we gathered together in our meeting place and did a register to make sure everyone was there, we were able to go to the bus together. On arriving in Ayr we walked around for a while before the girls decided to go for some lunch, and the boys went to the beach. After spending an hour and a half in Ayr, we all got back on the bus and made our way to Dark Skies. Once we were taken in to the Dark Skies centre, we were given a talk on space and the atmosphere before using the telescopes. Although it was too cloudy to see any stars, we went to see the two telescopes anyway. This was an extremely interesting experience, but it would have been a lot better if we were able to see some stars. We then had another short talk on the constellations and learned a lot about the different groups of stars. The trip was very worthwhile and we felt a sense of accomplishment as we organised it all ourselves.

UCAS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

UCAS is the organisation that processes all full-time applications to UK universities and colleges. It is there to support you – as well as your son or daughter – through every step of the application process. UCAS sends all applicants a monthly newsletter, full of useful information, reminders, advice and competitions. But did you know you can get information from UCAS too?

You can sign up to monthly parent newsletters quickly and simply online. They're completely FREE and contain timely information and advice about your son or daughter's journey to higher education and what you can do to support them.

For further information about the UCAS process, take a look at the advice for parents on ucas.com.

BBC News School Report

report by Emily Kennedy



On Thursday 19th March, Miss Stuart's S2 module class began preparing their reports for BBC News School Report 2015.

Everyone was split into small groups and set up interviews, surveys and visits relating to their chosen subject.

There was a huge range of reports with Fairtrade, The Wickerman 2015 and Dumfries and District Music Festival to name but a few.



Lots of pupils and members of staff got involved whether it was answering questions or trying different types of chocolate.

Miss Stuart said: "I was very proud of all of the pupils taking part in this year's BBC News School Report. They worked extremely well and were a credit to the school."

Witnessing the magic of Moat Brae

report by Robert Guthrie



Two Wallace Hall Academy pupils from S2 have gained an insight into the Moat Brae House and Garden, Dumfries, thanks to the school's involvement in the annual youth news-making initiative BBC News School Report. The project aims to promote careers in journalism to youngsters aged 11 to 16.

Two Second Year pupils, Gemma McLeod and Shona

Buckley, chose to write a feature article on Moat Brae, which is set to become Scotland's first children's literature centre.

The Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust is aiming to raise £5 million in order to make Moat Brae one of Dumfries and Galloway's top attractions for all ages and this objective has been publically supported in recent years by world-renowned actress Joanna Lumley OBE. In December, the Trust received a £1.78 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which will go towards making its plans a reality. The project aims to restore the Dumfries-based Georgian townhouse and gardens, which have been badly damaged over years gone by, to their former glory.

In preparation for the School Report practice day Emma Stuart, the teacher leading Wallace Hall's BBC involvement, took Gemma and Shona to look round Moat Brae. The pupils spent time

exploring the historic surroundings that inspired author J.M. Barrie to write 'Peter Pan' - his enchanting tale of a boy who can fly and who never grows up.

While at Moat Brae, pupils Gemma and Shona interviewed Flora Burns, a trustee of the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust, the committee which oversees developments.

Shona said: "We really enjoyed speaking to Flora. We had an interesting discussion and it is amazing to think that J.M. Barrie got his inspiration for 'Peter Pan' from Moat Brae. We got a lot of information that will be very useful for our report."

Gemma added: "The plans to create an enchanted garden sound fantastic and, when the work has been completed, visitors from all over the world will enjoy learning more about the story of Peter Pan. I really am looking forward to visiting Moat Brae once all the restoration has taken place."

Charities Committee overview

report by Lucy McGill, Emma Holden and Kayla Kerr



In September, the S6 charities committee held their first charitable event in aid of 'The International Alliance of ALS/ MND Association', which is set to help people living and suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Motor Neurone Disease.

The day involved non-school uniform and a nominated teacher

ice bucket challenge. This activity was chosen because of the popularity of the craze on social media. The teachers who were nominated were Mr Collins, Mr Graham, Mrs McMillian and Mr Harley. This event was a great success and raised a total of £600.10 for the charity.

In December, the committee held their second event for 'Solway

Sounds' - a charity set up to deliver those with sight difficulties recordings of the local news. For this, we held a Christmas jumper day and a Christmas themed concert. This gave pupils an opportunity to show off their talents and also to unwind before the Christmas holidays - but primarily to raise money for a worthy cause. The day helped to raise £1003.07, £45 of which was given to the 'Smile of Arran Trust'.

Event number three was a Valentine's themed day in aid of 'The British Heart Foundation' - see report below. This was a huge success and finished our year off in style.

Throughout our year as charities committee members, we have developed many new and valuable skills to help us prosper in the world beyond school. We have improved our organisational and team work skills.

Raising over £2000 for charity this year has been a very rewarding process and we would highly recommend that next year's S6 pupils choose to become involved with the charities committee.

All dressed in red

report by Lily Gonlag, Joanne Hutcheson and Rebecca Smith

The final fundraiser for the S6 Charities Committee this year was a Valentine's Day themed event.

The funds raised were donated to the British Heart Foundation who are involved in life saving research and are currently funding nearly 1,000 research projects. They also promote healthy living and care for people who are living with heart disease.

Heart disease is currently the single biggest killer in the UK hence the committee felt it was an appropriate cause to support. Throughout the week we were selling handmade Valentine's cards



(see picture) as well as a 'guess how many feathers are in a feather boa' competition for a chance to win a Valentine's Day hamper. This was won by Ellis Corrigan from S5.

On the day, we encouraged all to dress in red attire to support the Wear It Beat It Campaign. We also

sold red berry smoothies to encourage healthy living by providing alternatives to the usual bake sales at break.

In total, we raised £439.33 from the event. We'd like to thank all who generously donated to this worthy cause.

Viking John visits P4



Last term, John the Viking visited P4 to tell the class about Viking life. He brought many weapons, clothes, animal skins and even stones for grinding flour. The pupils enjoyed a

fantastic experience handling real weapons, wearing clothes of the era and grinding the wheat into flour.

Charlotte Potter said the following about the visit: "When Zennor and I arrived at school a blue car was parked outside we ran over to it and we were shocked to see a man dressed as a Viking. He was unpacking all sorts of bags with labels out of his car. When the bell rang we all rushed into class. He first asked Lucy to come out and hold a sword and a shield. Everyone got to hold a weapon. I got to hold what used to be a Viking tool kit. It was used as an axe and hammer.

"He got one of his bags and brought out a whole load of animal skins. These are what animal skins



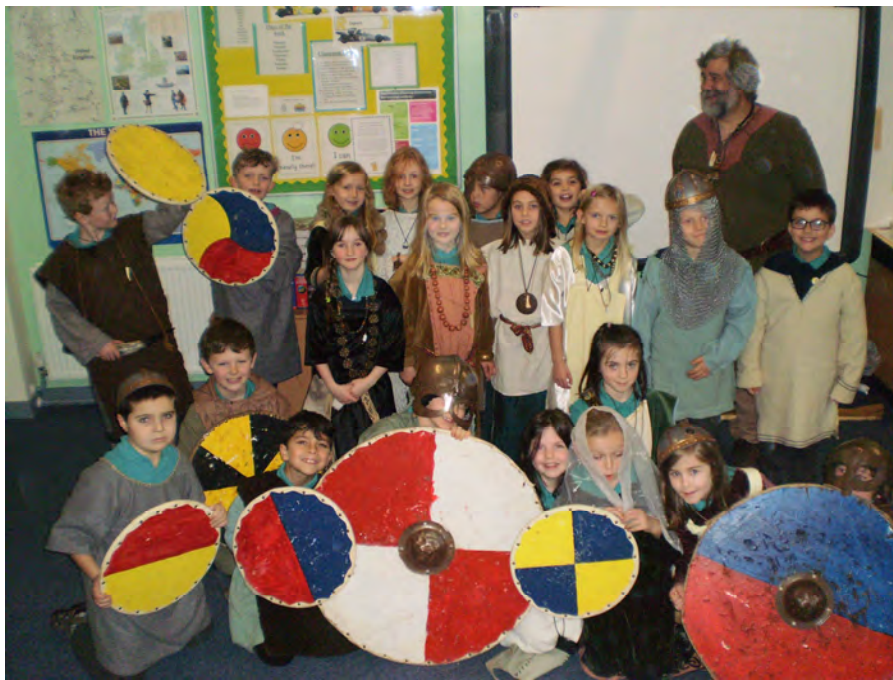
he brought out... a rabbit's skin, a silver fox's skin, a wild boar's skin and a lot more!

"After that we got to dress in real Viking clothes! I wore a long green silky dress with a white apron and a hat that embarrassed me a lot. My friends were embarrassed too.

"I found out that the Vikings made their own coins and this is how they did it...they simply took a bit of silver put it into a metal carving they pushed the metal down and BANG! It turned into a coin.

"John placed down a court mat. He asked Daisy and Brodie to come up. He tied their thumbs together and said 'Pretend you're getting married'. He said does anybody here object and you wouldn't believe what Daisy said. Anyway this is what she said, 'Somebody please object and so on so on'. Somebody to Daisy's relief finally objected. After that Daisy took off Brodie's helmet and put it out of the court which meant Brodie had to make his own house and leave.

"Soon after that we ground oats to make flour. I really enjoyed that part."



Chinese New Year

report from our Nursery

We have been learning about how Chinese people celebrate the New Year. Chinese New Year fell on 19th February 2015 and this year is the year of the sheep.

Anna's dad is a chef at a hotel in Thornhill. He came into Nursery and helped us make chicken noodle soup to celebrate

the New Year. Our photos show John taking part in a question and answer session about the Chinese ingredients we used, and some of the morning and afternoon children preparing the ingredients to go into our soup. When we had finished cooking we enjoyed eating the tasty soup for our snack in Nursery.



Musicians strike the right chord for the Rotary



Wallace Hall Academy pupils have once again been tasting success at the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition.

In the first round of the competition held in Wallace Hall Academy, musicians were hoping to impress sharp-eared judge Frank Davis, Rector and Music Teacher at Annan Academy. Thirteen pupils in total competed for the top spots with nine of them from Wallace Hall Academy: Ailsa Black, Heather O'Connor, Robert Guthrie and Anya Borrows all demonstrated their talent in the vocal section with Alice Dale (piano), Charlie Carr (piano), Sam Solley (piano), Emily Burnett (trumpet) and Jordan Tweedie (euphonium) performing to a very high standard in the instrumental section

After two hours of very musical performances, Mr Davis reached his decision, announcing that four Wallace Hall Academy pupils would progress to the regional finals. Jordan Tweedie (S6) came 1st in the instrumental category, narrowly followed by Emily Burnett (S5) in 2nd place. The vocal category saw Robert Guthrie (S6) take 1st place

followed by Heather O'Connor (S5) in 2nd place.

The second stage of the competition was held in Annan Academy with Jordan, Emily, Robert and Heather doing a fantastic job representing Wallace Hall Academy in a quality line-up of other really talented musicians from both Annan Academy and Castle Douglas High School. After much deliberation by the judges, Robert Guthrie was chosen as having given the best vocal performance of the night.

Robert went on to excel at the Scottish area final which was held at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh

on Sunday, March 8, being awarded second spot in the vocal category and qualifying to compete as a finalist in the Scotland and North East of England final held at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) at the end of March. This was a fantastic experience for Robert and, although he didn't win, he really shone in his category. Robert said: "Having never competed in the Rotary Young Musician vocal category before or having sung solo previously in public, I was really delighted to have reached this level. I would like to thank Margaret Davies, Jamie Brand, Raymond Budd and Michael Allan for supporting me and accompanying me throughout the competition. It was a privilege to compete against so many talented young musicians and I am very grateful to Rotary for providing such fantastic opportunities for young people."

Gordon Neilson from Thornhill and District Rotary said: "We were delighted to be able to accompany Robert up to the RCS and support him in the final. Competing at such a high level is a wonderful achievement for any young musician and we are very proud of how he represented Wallace Hall and Thornhill and District Rotary Club. All of the performances at the final were exceptional with Lucy Hughes chosen as the eventual winner in the vocal group. Robert came second to Lucy in the area heat in Edinburgh, highlighting just how well Robert has performed throughout the competition."



Solar Eclipse of 2015

report by Malachy Sweeney



In the week leading up to this event, the Advanced Higher Physics pupils instructed classes on how to create viewing ports. Pupils then spent time during registration making the different kinds of apparatus which would allow them to view the eclipse safely. One of the devices created by pupils was a pinhole projector which was made by piercing a hole through a box or a piece of cardboard covered by tinfoil. The pupils then held this up with their back to the sun, projecting the image onto the other side of the box or another piece of white cardboard. Another device used to watch the solar eclipse safely was specially approved solar eclipse sunglasses but they could only be used to look at the sun for



On Friday the 20th of March, at around twenty past nine in the morning, all pupils and staff at Wallace Hall Academy gathered outside to watch the first solar eclipse in the UK since the 11th of August 1999.

A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes in a straight line between the Earth and the sun. The moon's shadow travels over the Earth's surface and blocks out the sun's light as seen from Earth.



a limited time. It was impressed on pupils and staff that it was really important not to look at the solar eclipse with the naked eye as this could lead to permanent eye damage or, even worse, blindness.

Pupils and teachers did manage to get a glimpse of the solar eclipse but only briefly as it was pretty cloudy that morning. For many, it was a very interesting and exciting experience and one they will never forget. The next time a solar eclipse will be expected to be seen in the UK will be in August of 2026 and then in 2090.



Warhammer Club

Throughout this term, Cammie Walker has been doing a great job teaching some of our primary pupils the rules of Warhammer.

Warhammer is a tabletop wargame where two or more people compete against each other with armies of miniature figures.

The primary pupils have all enjoyed meeting up every week in the library to learn how to play Warhammer and are looking forward to the Club restarting again after Cammie has finished his exams.

Wallace Hall's Young Burnsians



Wallace Hall was very well represented at the Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association competition held in Lockerbie Academy recently.

Pupils taking part were: Bethany Nicholson (P7) and Ailsa Black (S1) in the singing section and Josie Blount (S1), Mollie Anderson (S2), Emily Kennedy (S2), Nathan King (S3), Mia Osborne (S3), Justine Crosbie (S4), Lucy Doig (S4) and Catherine Anderson (S5) in the recitation section. The standard of the competition was very high and the large number of entries

demonstrated that our young people have a genuine interest in the works of our national bard.

Wallace Hall pupils did really well with Lucy Doig winning the Rose Edgar Memorial Trophy for the best overall verse speaker. Lucy also won the S3/S4 recitation section with Nathan King coming second in the same class. Emily Kennedy won the class for the S1/S2 recitation section with Mollie Anderson taking third spot in the same section. Catherine Anderson



added to Wallace Hall pupils' success by taking top spot in the senior recitation section. Emily, Lucy, Nathan and Catherine will go on to represent Dumfries and Galloway at the finals in Glasgow at the end of April.



Claire launches her new novel



The Library at Wallace Hall was delighted to host a book reading by Claire Watts recently.

Claire has just published her first novel, "what they don't tell you about love in the movies" - a tale about Kate and Joe, two young people who ought to be a perfect match, but it isn't that simple. The book describes the feelings and emotions of the two main characters beautifully and this dialogue is complemented by a well-paced plot with references to some excellent films woven into it.

After reading from her book, Claire spent time answering questions about the process of writing her novel and her career as an editor of children's books.

Caroline Menzies, Library Assistant at Wallace Hall said: "I was delighted that so many pupils came to the library to hear Claire read from her book. The story is very intelligently written with believable characters who you really warm to. I would like to wish Claire every success with the launch of "what they don't tell you about love in the movies" and look forward to reading her next book."

P2 create Fairyland

P2 have been learning all about Fairyland. It all began when they received a mystery letter from the friendly dragon asking them to help him save Fairyland.

They replied and decided to create Fairyland in their own classroom. Each week they learned about a different fairytale including Jack and the Beanstalk, the Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel. P2 have worked together to turn their classroom into a magical place where all the fairy-tale characters can live happily together. They presented a fantastic assembly to their families sharing all their learning.



Reading for Success

Pictured receiving their Bronze Level Certificates for Reading from Mr Graham are L - R: Harry McCabe, Kieran Taylor, Sam Godfrey, Leigh Hyslop, Lydia McMillan, Lewis Cheetham, Hannah Spence, Finlay Bainbridge, Ryan Kirkpatrick and Frazer Fry from Miss Carson's S1 English class.

All pupils in S1 and S2 English classes work through a structured programme of personal reading and are rewarded with certificates to mark their progress.



P1 go birdwatching with QI



Comenius students visit Wallace Hall

report by the Comenius S4 group



On Wednesday 11th February, 12 students from Belgium arrived in Scotland and waiting to meet them stood 12 very nervous Wallace Hall pupils. After we all introduced ourselves we went home with our allocated exchange visitor.

The following morning we all met up at Wallace Hall to begin our activities. The Belgian students showed us presentations about their school and their local area. We then split up into groups and showed them around Wallace Hall. After a session of Belgian and Scottish dancing they set off for a visit to Drumlanrig Castle where they enjoyed a tour around the grounds.

After the school day finished we made our way to the Marchbank household where the group socialised and got to know each other better. A highlight of the night was when Laura won against Jasper at pool.

The next day we made our way to Loch Ken where we enjoyed a variety of outdoor team building activities. We played laser quest and competition was fierce with Scotland vs Belgium. After a closely fought battle, we were delighted that our team won.

We then went to Caerlaverock Castle where Charles and Taho decided to climb the castle to see the view from the top. Later on all of us went to Drumlanrig Cafe for some delicious pizza thereafter returning to socialise at Meagan's where we learned a lot of dances such as Marie Louis.

On the Saturday we all did our own thing such as going to watch the football, playing crazy golf or visiting Braehead. On the Saturday night we all met up at Lauren's and just enjoyed playing the guitar and having a sing song. We also played the cereal box game which the Belgian exchange students really enjoyed.

Sunday we had a quiet day with some of the families going bowling and others taking a trip to

the beach. Ingo, one of the Belgian students decided to take a rock home with him to give to his Geography teacher. On Sunday night we all went to Becky's where we played sing star and Becky gave us a tune on the bagpipes.

The Monday morning was an early start as we all met at the school to travel on the bus to Glasgow. First we visited the Riverside Transport Museum where we spent an hour or so walking around the museum looking at all the different kinds of vehicles. Henri found a piano and started playing it much to everyone's enjoyment. We got back on the bus and then went to the Kelvingrove Museum where we spent some time trying to find our way about this huge building. We all found it a very interesting place. Later that day we had some free time at Braehead Shopping Centre in Glasgow where we were able to get food, go shopping or visit the Activity Centre just across the road. The bus journey home was pretty quiet as everybody was tired from the weekend's activities.

Tuesday morning was very emotional for everybody as it was time to say goodbye to our Belgian visitors. We gathered at the school with our tissues in hand, took our last selfies together and sang our group song 'Country Roads'. We will all keep in touch with our new friends from Belgium and look forward to seeing them again later this year.



Pupils Pedal round Wallace Hall



The Wallace Hall Big Push/Pedal was organised by Mrs Little (DHT) as part of the Nursery and Primary School 'Celebration of Health Week'.

The event took place on Tuesday 10th March 2015 and was supported by Nursery and Primary School parent representatives. All stages from Nursery to P7 were invited and classes were timetabled to push or pedal their way around age appropriate courses throughout the school day. The weather was Spring like as were the children's spirits. The event gave all of the pupils an opportunity to build upon areas of

Health and Wellbeing that they have been taught so far this session.

Fergus Bainbridge said: "During the Celebration of Health week I really look forward to the Big Pedal, it's great fun cycling with all your friends."





S1 Science Trip

report by Sarah Clark Wyse and Nadia Hodgkinson



On Wednesday 25th February, S1 pupils all went on a trip to Glasgow Science Centre. When we got to the school we waited until everyone was here and then clambered into the hot bus and headed to Glasgow. It was a long journey, so when we finally got there everyone was happy to be off the bus.

Our guide showed us where to put our coats and bags. We went to the first floor and enjoyed some fun, interactive experiments. However, we did not get through

all of the experiments as there were too many of them! One of the most interesting experiments was one that had 5 laser beams and a couple of 3D see-through shapes. You put the shapes in front of the beams to make them change direction. There were lots of cool games, contraptions and optical illusions too. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

After about half an hour we went to see a film at the IMAX theatre. It was about the seas and oceans. It told us how all the animals had different ways of protecting and defending themselves. Some animals lit up and glowed while others scuttled or floated away. It also told us how important it is to keep the oceans clean. It was such a good movie because the IMAX is one of Scotland's largest screens and the film was in 3D so it felt really realistic. Everybody was reaching out as if they could grab the things that came up on the screen.

Then, after lunch, we went to a science show where the lady showed us lots of cool experiments. One of the experiments we most enjoyed was the one where the



magnet levitated because of the chemical she used. The chemical was liquid nitrogen which boils at room temperature. She put gases and dye into all sorts of stuff and, at the very end, she made a really loud bang.

On the second floor we played some fun games on the computers which allowed you to get involved and make choices. I loved the game that showed you how fast your heart was beating.

Finally we visited the top floor which was really fun too. Before we went home we got the chance to go to the science shop and buy some souvenirs. I would really recommend making a visit to the Glasgow Science Centre as it was so much fun.





World Book Day

Enjoying reading across the generations was the theme for World Book Day in the library at Wallace Hall this year.

Nursery pupils and Sixth Year pupils enjoyed a morning and an afternoon session in the library, spending the time reading their favourite stories and, for the nursery pupils, becoming familiar with the surroundings. All of the nursery pupils and staff made a big effort, dressing up in the costumes of their favourite characters and telling the Sixth Year pupils about their favourite books. Emma Thomas, S6, said: "It was lovely to welcome the wee ones up to the library and it was great to see the effort they had all made with their costumes. I hope to study to be a primary teacher and this event really showed me how important reading is, particularly at such an early age."



A dramatic delight

Pupils taking part in Wallace Hall's production of 'Oliver!' this year enjoyed a night out at a five-star drama performance recently.

Organised by Anna Beynon, Principal Teacher of Expressive Arts at Wallace Hall, pupils visited the King's Theatre in Edinburgh to see the critically-acclaimed performance of 'One Man, Two Guvnors' by playwright Richard Bean.

The National Theatre has described Bean's play as a "glorious celebration of British comedy – a unique, laugh-out-loud mix of satire, songs, slapstick and glittering one-liners."

The multi-award-winning play follows Francis Henshall, a musician who has been ousted from his own skiffle band. Francis becomes minder to Roscoe Crabbe, a small

time East End hood, now in Brighton to collect £6,000 from his fiancée's dad. But Roscoe is really his sister Rachel posing as her own dead brother, who's been killed by her boyfriend Stanley Stubbers. Holed up at The Cricketers' Arms, the permanently ravenous Francis spots the chance of an extra meal ticket and takes a second job with one Stanley Stubbers, who is hiding from the police and waiting to be re-united with Rachel. To prevent discovery, Francis must keep his two guvnors apart – a job which proves harder than it may have seemed.

Ms Beynon said: "The trip was a huge success with the cast, crew and staff of the Wallace Hall Theatre Company thoroughly enjoying what was a highly entertaining and funny



performance. The visit to 'One Man, Two Guvnors' has inspired us to be the best we can be for our production of 'Oliver' later this year.

Wallace Hall Theatre Company will be performing 'Oliver' in the Bailey Hall at Wallace Hall Academy on 23rd, 24th and 25th June. The performances will start at 7.30pm prompt each night. Tickets for this can be purchased by phoning the school office on 01848 332120.

This is sure to be a popular event so book your tickets early.

Tickets prices are: Adults £5.00, Concessions £3.00, Family Ticket (2 Adults and 2 Concessions) £15.00.

Geography River Study Field Trip

report by Caitlin Greenwood



On a sunny Wednesday morning in March, Queensberry Initiative staff and Miss Livingstone's S3 Geography class set off for the Dalveen Pass. We were armed with clinometers, flow metres, metre sticks, measuring tapes, chains and buckets.

Our task was to study and collect data on the middle course of the Carron Water which runs through the Dalveen Pass.

After a short hike through a field, we reached the river. The team split into groups to measure speed, depth, width, gradient and wetted perimeter. Everyone collected the data we needed; the trip was a great success.

We reluctantly headed back to school for the rest of the day's lessons, pausing to check out the waterfall which fell above the road on the hike back.







Creative Writing at Wallace Hall



As part of the National 5 English course, each student creates a portfolio of his or her own writing which contributes 30% to the final course award.

Under the supervision of the English teachers, everyone works hard to produce their best work - but sometimes we see pieces of writing that really impress us with their originality and skill. Here is one of those pieces. It's a reflective essay written by Josie Fairley Keast in S4, one of this year's inaugural winners of the Thornhill Burns Club Prize for Creative Writing, generously funded by the Club to recognise Wallace Hall's most talented young writers.

Never Had The Last Word Yet by Josie Fairley Keast

Picture, if you will, a girl running over a tidy lawn, the Braid Hills Hotel rising in the background like a fairy tale palace, away over the park. There's something clasped in her small hand - an empty butter tub, the lid lying discarded on the table inside. *I've got one* she says, waving her treasure in the air.

Her companion straightens slowly, well into his eighties at this point. By the time she's old enough to retain a clear image of his appearance, he probably looks very different. Countable wisps of grey hair drift over a constantly smiling face which is creased like a leaf in the autumn. Gnarled hands reach out from the sleeves of a knitted jumper - they're so twisted that she doesn't realise one of them is disabled until years later, the result of a broken wrist and scarlet fever as a child. *Oh, yes* he says contentedly. *Oh, yes.* She'll hear that phrase repeated many times as she grows up, after a meal, or when meeting a relative.

They kneel on the gravel, and she peers at the underside of the large carved stones which run along the side of the path. The butter tub fills up with small, round things like spiralling conkers or hollowed pebbles, and is soon abandoned on the worktop inside. By the time she remembers, the snails have grown bold and are making a slow escape up the side of the tub, retreating back into their shells at the merest tap.

This is her earliest memory of her grandfather; collecting snails from the garden he tends so carefully. There are other stories too: the colourful, numbered natural history books, filling several shelves, up to 118; the row of photographs featuring smiling children and grandchildren through the years; his indomitable fondness for cheese pastry biscuits (*Oh, yes. Oh, yes.*)

Years pass, and she is taller and he is older. She does more music, and takes up instruments which can be taken from house to house. His passion for live music never wavers, even when the shriller notes of a pennywhistle interfere with his hearing aid. As a teenager, she plays the saxophone for him. *You need a*

proper backing band, he tells her, shaking his head. When she takes up the ukulele and sings for him, he says the same. *See if you can get a recording with a piano*, he advises.

He dies at the age of ninety-four. She misses two days of school to go to the funeral.

When they arrive the house is already full of people. She asks them all to sign a page in a notebook before they leave, and she gets twenty-two signatures, a list of cousins and uncles and aunts and her half-brother's new girlfriend. Two musicians are also there, preparing to play in a Mozart quartet with an aunt and uncle. She plays too, with her sister, harp and whistle. She's been asked to play at a funeral before, but it's very hard to play a wind instrument when you're crying. This time she buries herself in trying to remember quotes for homework and doesn't cry, and they play a song named after the river which runs past the house in Dumfries and Galloway her grandfather used to live in. They - her grandparents and her father and his siblings - would travel there every weekend, away from the city life of work and school and Edinburgh. They seemed to cycle to every hill and field possible, and several that were not. He spent years developing the garden, and there are trees there today that were planted well over half a century ago.

These days, she lives in that house. *I remember helping to plant that tree*, her father says sometimes, when she points out a bird, delicately paused on a branch, swaying in the wind for a minute, a second, before flitting away again.

The funeral is fairly brief, and there are aunts reading passages and uncles telling stories - *he was the most stubborn person I have ever known...he kent fine I would*

have the last word in the end...
 She never knew these things, never had any sort of discussion about the merits of a particular opinion with him. It seems that he loved to argue, about newspapers, about politics, about music. Her uncle says that he had never known him to let a point go. (As it turns out, when they leave the crematorium, a mass of black-clothed people like the wings of a crow, there is a text on somebody's phone to say that the burglar alarm back at the house opposite the Braid Hills Hotel went off for no reason halfway through the ceremony. *Oh, yes* she can imagine him saying smugly, sitting in a comfortable

chair in a room filled with books and cheese biscuits, not a snail in sight.)
 Back at the house, spread between two rooms, she listens to the sort of chatter you can only get at a family gathering, the sound of two or three generations mixed together. There's a crossword at the back of a discarded paper, and between them all and the immense collection of books to hand, they answer almost every question.

*

What she has left of this event is tucked away on her bookshelf. A small booklet, smiling picture of her grandfather on the front, a list of readings and rituals and

performances printed inside. There are also a few sheets of A4 paper. Contributions from various family members are folded inside, stories and memories, lives and histories.

...his reaction to our engagement: "Are you sure you know what you're doing?"...

...when I first met Rod, he was a surprisingly sprightly octogenarian...

...his parties were the best of all, and he was always very happy to see everyone...

Her own contribution, of snails and natural history books, seems small and weak in return. She wishes she had known him better.

Ailsa enjoys the taste of success



Ailsa Morton, one of our Sixth Year students, reached the national semi-final of Rotary's Young Chef of the Year competition recently. Ailsa was one of several hundred students from throughout Great Britain and Ireland who took part in the preliminary rounds of the competition.

Earlier in the year, Ailsa won the Rotary Club of Thornhill and District heat of the competition and then was runner up at the Dumfries and Galloway final. She competed in the South of Scotland final held in Livingston, where again she was runner up. She then represented Thornhill and District Rotary Club at the national semi-final event held in

Dundee on Saturday 7th March where she was one of six talented young chefs from Scotland and the north of England.



At Dundee, Ailsa impressed the judges with her starter of seared scallops with leeks and a lemon chilli butter; a main course of Gressingham Duck with a port and blackberry jus accompanied by savoy cabbage with bacon and potatoes finishing off with, for dessert, a mille-feuille layered with caramel and raspberries accompanied by homemade ice cream.

Ailsa was delighted to be awarded fourth spot in the competition, only five points adrift from the winning chef. She said: "It was a great honour to cook at such a prestigious event and the

facilities were absolutely amazing. I really loved the whole experience and I was thrilled to reach the national semi-final."

Ed Hunter convenor of Thornhill Rotary's Youth programmes said "We are absolutely delighted with Ailsa's success. This is the third year Ailsa has taken part in this competition and each year she has become more and more successful. Her success shows us all what you can achieve if you keep trying. Well done Ailsa."



Back to School

It was 'back to school' recently for members of our Parent Council.

Inspired, by an idea from Acting Depute Head, Mr David Dillon, several parents were able to join in the last lessons of the day on Friday 30 January.

Nervous at first, the parents soon found themselves at ease. They sat in on Higher classes in Chemistry, Geography, and Business Studies as well as sessions for younger pupils in Modern Languages.

And they were impressed! Parent Council members commented afterwards on the ease of interaction between teachers and pupils. They praised the calm and structure of the classroom environment. And they were fascinated by the many learning and teaching aids – from

interactive whiteboards, innovative learning materials, to well-designed experiments and a wealth of IT support.

Professor David Clark, Chair of the Parent Council said: "This was a terrific eye opener for parents. All of us were impressed and delighted to see such good things happening in the classroom. We are grateful to the school for giving us such an interesting opportunity".

Dave Parkin added: "The short visits to various classrooms on the last Friday of January served to confirm what, as parents, we probably already knew—that the mutual respect between teachers and pupils at WHA clearly leads to a highly productive and stimulating learning environment."

Rob Nicholson continued: "What struck me was the variety

of classroom styles we saw - from the S1 French class where participation was snappy and quick, to a Higher Science class where the atmosphere was calmer, more collegiate, but where there was clearly just as much learning going on. I believe that paying a visit to the classrooms would be really beneficial for all parents, giving them the chance to see first-hand the excellent learning and teaching taking place."

Dave Dillon said: "It was excellent to welcome the Parent Council members to the school on Friday. The visits to the classes gave parents an insight into the excellent teaching and learning which occurs in Wallace Hall Academy and the feedback which they delivered was very helpful, interesting and thought provoking for staff. We are now looking at how to extend the 'open classrooms' idea to all parents."



Electives are one way in which pupils enjoy new school experiences. All pupils from S1 to S5 choose an Elective for either one or two periods per week. Some of these great experiences include opportunities to work in the community/develop critical thinking/learn new and old languages/problem solve/work with real life applications/challenges to imagination/learn about real-life issues. Photographs on the following page show pupils participating in some of the Electives on offer.

Ceramics

Comenius

Sports Leaders

Skating

Teen Yoga

Working in the Community

Football with OOS



Latin



Spanish

Accessorise Your Life

Hockey



Coding Academy



Computer Graphics



Eco Group

Fun with Food

Forestry



Printmaking



Science in the Movies

Upcycling

Bookworm



Travel and Tourism



A Taste of Italy

Printmaking

Birds and Bird Mythology

BBC News Report

Dancing Around the World

Have I Got News For You

Pupils Perform in Dumfries

Pupils from Wallace Hall and its cluster primary schools had yet another successful year at Perform in Dumfries.

The festival takes place on four separate weekends during March and features sections for Accordion and Fiddle, Country Dancing, Music and Speech.

Justine Crosbie (pictured right), who won the Wallace Hall Academy Trophy for Scots Verse and the War Poetry class for Secondary 4 – 6

(receiving a gold outstanding certificate for this performance), said: "Competing in the speech section of the festival is great practice for speaking in public. The judges are really encouraging, giving us constructive advice on our pace, tone, delivery and pronunciation."

This page and the page opposite shows a selection of trophy and certificate winners from all sections of the festival. Congratulations to them all.





Fantastic Fun Family Fundraising Ceilidh

report by Alfie Grant & James Hobman

On Friday 20th February 2015 Primary 5 held a fantastic fundraising family ceilidh. We organised the ceilidh because we wanted to raise money and awareness for unfortunate children in Sierra Leone, West Africa. In class we compared Sierra Leone to Scotland and found out that these people are less fortunate than us.

When we arrived at Wallace Hall Academy for 6:30pm, we put up tartan bunting so the hall would be relevant for our Scottish ceilidh. After that Bryce and Alfie got their fundraising game ready. Alex and James also got their game ready. James said: "The feeling in the hall was very tingly."

Then people started arriving at 7:00pm, Alfie stated, "It was now nerve racking." Bryce and Alfie went around tables selling 'guess the birthday of the pink fluffy unicorn' for 10p a shot. In addition to that we were interrupted by the evening starting with the Gay Gordons. "Wee Willie Winkie" was the first singing performance by

our whole class. After that the audience performed the Dashing White Sergeant. Then Cailin and Hollie, from P7, recited amazing poems. Also the audience danced the Canadian Barn Dance. Next WHPS dancers danced Hedwig's Reel which was great. They were followed by P5 demonstrating a fun dance called The Sausage Machine. Then P5 poets, Jessica and Megan, recited two splendid poems. Next the audience performed the St. Bernard's Waltz very well. Bethany from P7 sang "Ae Fond Kiss" beautifully. Afterwards everyone danced Strip the Willow.

During the interval James was supervising the 20p push (to win a bottle of Irn Bru) and Alfie and Bryce were going around tables selling the birthday of the pink fluffy unicorn. The rest of P5 sold teas and coffees.

The second half began by P5 singing "The Shepherds Wife". Now that made us nervous! The audience danced the Circassian Circle extremely well. Then Jessica danced the Flora MacDonald



brilliantly. The WHPS dancers demonstrated the dance called Lady Dumfries and it was very well done. P5 danced the Flying Scotsman with their partners. The Orcadian Strip the Willow was the last dance to be performed. After that we all happily sang along to "Auld Lang Syne".

At the end of the evening all the guests and the class thought it was an exceptional night! Mrs McDiarmid concluded, "I thought the night was fantastic. It was very well organised and P5 were superb throughout the evening!"





Focusing on Forestry

report by Cameron Wood



On Thursday the 5th of March, pupils from the Forestry Elective got the chance to visit the James Jones sawmill near Lockerbie. This was a fantastic experience as we got to see how a real-life sawmill works and we got to meet the people working there.

When we first arrived we met Rob, one of the Mill Managers. He was very friendly and taught us a lot about the company, James Jones. At first, we had a presentation on the history of the mill and a run down on what the mill produces. Back in 1830, when James Jones was first founded, the main business was shipbuilding and nail manufacturing, and they even supplied the timber for Captain Scott's ship that sailed to Antarctica in 1901. We learned that approximately 110 lorries pass through the Lockerbie site every day, bringing in 2500 tonnes of timber. After the presentation, Rob began the tour of the mill where we saw the timber being unloaded from the trucks and then going through a series of processes such as being butt reduced, sawn, edged and kiln dried. Some of the timber is also treated to preserve and protect the wood.

All these processes are completed in one of three parts of the Sawmill. The Lockerbie site is split into three sections called Lockerbie 1, 2 and 3. James Jones



Head Office is in Larbert, Stirlingshire, and they have four sawmills at sites across Scotland. They also have four other businesses based in England and a

company in Canada, called Stella-Jones, which is North America's biggest timber treatment business. At the end of the tour, we returned to the offices for another presentation but this time the focus was on career opportunities in the forestry sector. Rob told us about the diverse opportunities available in forestry and these ranged from the study of Forest Science to a career as a Machine Operator. Overall, the visit to James Jones was a fantastic opportunity and we learned a lot of new things about life in forestry.

The forestry group has been busy this year as we have also been up at the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate learning about tree brushing with the Buccleuch foresters, and at Clauchrie Farm participating in forest design with the Forestry Commission. Recently, we returned to the Estate to learn how foresters manage wildlife,

especially badgers and birds of prey, to ensure their woodlands continue to flourish. We also enjoyed a visit from David Paton, Mr Graham's father-in-law, who spent time demonstrating the basics of chainsaw operation and maintenance. We learned a lot about the component parts of a chainsaw and how to

handle one safely. The forestry course is great and provides many valuable opportunities for people interested in that career path.



The future of renewables

Graham
The Plumbers' Merchant



Michael Murdie, an engineer from Graham, The Plumbers' Merchant, kindly agreed to visit Wallace Hall to discuss his experience of the sector and why it is increasingly important to the Scottish economy.

He gave the pupils a talk using lots of examples of renewable energy sources from around Thornhill; he had a mini wind turbine which lit up a bulb and some solar panels for pupils to see.

Pupils were interested in the facts about our energy usage such as: "Today we use around 600% more energy than we did in the 1970s." Pupils were given the task of inventing their own renewable energy device, and they have now produced some great ideas and designs from wind-powered cars to solar-powered phone chargers.

The class learned a lot about this innovative sector of the local economy and gave Michael a warm vote of thanks at the end of the lesson.

A few weeks later, Michael returned to Wallace Hall with some fantastic prizes for the best ideas. Michael will be forwarding these ideas on to relevant experts in the field of renewables - watch this space!

S3 Geography pupils have been covering renewables in class and, to build on what the pupils have learned, Queensberry Initiative staff arranged for an

expert on the renewables sector to come into school to discuss the industry with the two S3 Geography classes.



Food and Farming



In partnership with the Royal Highland Educational Trust, Queensberry Initiative staff have organised two Food and Farming Days for primary 5 and primary 6 pupils. These will take place on Wednesday 13th May and Thursday 14th May and will be hosted by the Kingan family at Tibbers Farm, Thornhill. There will be six topics covered: meat, machinery and cereals, food miles and biosphere, dairy, game and fish.

Look out for a report and photographs in next term's newsletter.

Comic Relief comes to Wallace Hall



Lots of fundraising activities have been taking place at Wallace Hall recently in aid of Comic Relief. These included a staff v pupils netball match, a 5 aside tournament, a sale of second-hand goods, a

sponsored run, a guess the teacher's nose and a bake off with all cakes being sold thereafter for the charity.

The activities were organised by Mr Dawson, probationer Physics teacher at Wallace Hall. Mr Dawson

said: "It was great that so many staff and pupils got into the spirit of Comic Relief. We raised the fantastic sum of £1838.10 for this very worthwhile cause. Thanks to everyone who organised an activity, helped out or donated money."



Our visit to Paris

report by Alma Riddell



On the 26th February 2015, I and 4 other classmates from our Higher French class went to Paris for 2 days.

In order to make the most of the time we had, I, Emma Thomas, Niamh Menzies, Chloe Flannighan, Sean Wicks and our accompanying teachers were required to get up at 4am to get to school at 6 for a 9 o'clock flight. It was definitely one of the most difficult things I have had to do ever, and I needed a lot of energy drinks to compensate.

When we arrived in Paris we stopped at our hotel, a studenty and stylish place, before immediately going on a walk past Notre Dame and stopping at a café. It was all perfect until we got caught in torrential rain. The only respite was when we stopped for a boat trip down the Seine. It was interesting but we were all too hungry and drenched to concentrate fully – the most interesting thing for me on that walk was a part of the bridge where you wrote you and your lover's name on a padlock and locked it to the bridge.

After the boat trip, we managed to get lost trying to find the restaurant. It was hilarious, but we were all glad to get dinner, which was comprised of 5+ pizzas shared between us, and chocolate pizza too.

The next day we did everything; we went first to the Galeries Lafayette, which was a huge shop full of beautiful things we couldn't afford, but a beautiful view on top.

Next we went to a cake shop, which was the highlight of the activities for me. The cakes were like works of art or something straight off Masterchef – it was amazing! We then walked to the obvious tourist attractions – the Eiffel Tower and Sacré Coeur. The final activity of the day was shopping on Champs Elysées, and even though we were shattered, Emma and I managed to get ourselves into the Disney shop while the others bought makeup.

We returned home after buying a huge amount of sweets and



crisps for dinner from the supermarket and staying up for banter. The next day we travelled home, shattered from the collective 15 miles of walking during the trip.

All in all I really enjoyed this trip because although we did touristy things, it was great to be immersed French culture for a few days and watch how people are living their lives in this amazing place.



Careers Advice



Peigi Brough is the Careers Adviser for Wallace Hall Academy and she is normally in school on a Thursday. Peigi is based in the Chief Invigilators Office and, alongside offering 1:1 career guidance appointments to senior pupils through Pupil Support and group sessions, she offers a drop in service

every Thursday at lunchtime when pupils can come along with any questions or queries related to careers.

S4, S5 and S6 pupils who require a 1:1 careers appointment with Peigi should first of all discuss this with their Principal Teacher of Pupil Support or a member of the SMT and, thereafter, an appointment can be made through

Mrs Menzies in the Library. Prior to the appointment, pupils should ideally register on the My World of Work website (www.myworldofwork.co.uk), completing the "my strengths" section and, where possible, have undertaken some research on their possible chosen career.

In addition to working with senior pupils, Peigi also has a valuable role with younger pupils during the Options process. Prior to choosing their subjects, S2 pupils have all recently taken part in group sessions with Peigi where she has been promoting the importance of career management skills when planning ahead. The sessions were aimed at ensuring that the pupils are aware of how each of their chosen subjects can have a direct impact on their Higher and Advanced Higher subjects as well as entry to university, college courses and career paths.

Peigi can also be contacted directly by telephoning Skills Development Scotland in Dumfries on 01387 272500 or via email at Peigi.brough@sds.co.uk.

David Mundell visits Wallace Hall

report by Elspeth Nicholson



On the 23rd of February David Mundell, MP for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale, came to school to talk to the Advanced Higher Modern Studies class. For Advanced Higher Modern Studies, we

need to write a dissertation about an issue surrounding crime in the UK.

Crime is a major concern and a huge range of different opinions exist on the issues surrounding crime. To write a successful

dissertation it is essential to get as many different viewpoints and opinions about our chosen topic as possible.

Our interview with David Mundell helped to give us a different perspective for our dissertations. We each asked him three questions, to which he gave full and exemplified answers, hugely helping us with our research. This interview was greatly appreciated by our class and was very helpful to our studies.

Our class would like to say a sincere thank you to David Mundell for giving up his valuable time to help us.

Queensberry Initiative present at 'Seminar for Elected Members'



On the 23rd of February, selected pupils from Wallace Hall Academy and local primary schools presented at a 'Seminar for Elected Members' at the Education Department offices in Dumfries.

S6 pupil, Alice Byar, said: "Each of us had to prepare a short speech to present to a group of elected members about our experiences with the Queensberry Initiative (QI) and the benefits we have gained.

"In my presentation I spoke about the wide range of practical experiences that QI has provided me with through the Rural Skills course. I highlighted my weekly visits to local farms where I have been able

to work with many large farm animals. This is something which has greatly improved my application to university to study Veterinary Medicine and Zoology."

Morgan Crosbie, another of our senior pupils, discussed Career Mentoring, a further opportunity offered by QI where each pupil is paired with an experienced mentor from outwith the school. QI mentors have monthly meetings with their 'mentees' where they focus on improving skills including writing CVs and personal statements, and interview techniques. This is very valuable when pupils are applying for further or higher education

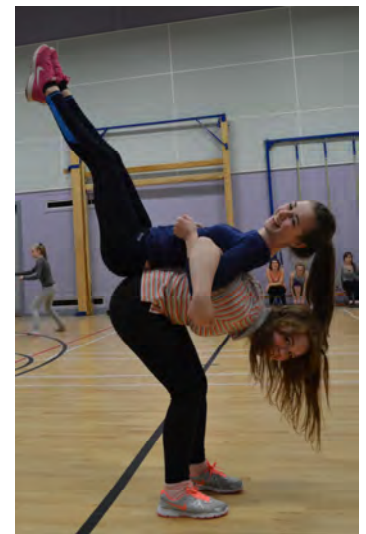
courses or for employment opportunities.

Other pupils from across the year groups spoke about how QI has supported them in sourcing work placements, in making the transition from primary school to secondary school and in enhancing their learning in many subjects across the school.

Anne Marie Wood, Project Officer for QI, said: "The elected members showed a keen interest in the presentations and complimented QI on their ground-breaking approach to partnership working."

Why Dance with Ydance?

A second day of dance training, led by Ydance staff, took place recently at Wallace Hall. Those taking part really enjoyed the activity and spent time learning new routines and perfecting their techniques. Thanks to Amy and Gillian from Ydance and to Miss Haile for organising the activity.



YDance

Keeping fit through dance was high on the agenda recently at Wallace Hall Academy as two representatives from *Ydance*, Amy and Gillian, spent the day teaching a group of pupils and staff to dance. Organised by Miss Haile, PE Probationer at Wallace Hall, the activity was initially offered as a CPD session for PE staff in Dumfries and Galloway. As the event was staged at Wallace Hall, pupils who wished to pursue a career in education were invited to join in.

The activity started with street dance, a form of hip-hop, to Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' *Uptown Funk*. With such a catchy tune it was inevitable that everyone would enjoy this type of dance. Then the leaders divided everybody up into small groups to invent a short piece of dance. This proved to be quite a challenge but an enjoyable one none the less.

The afternoon focused on contemporary dance - a modern, more expressive version of ballet. This was very different to the morning activities and a lot more



difficult. The two leaders taught the dances in a way that could be cascaded, with everyone getting the chance to lead a small group and teach the dance back to them. This really helped everyone learn how to teach dance –

by Amy and Gillian. Miss Haile who organised the event said: "It was a very beneficial day where members of staff and senior students developed their knowledge and skills within dance. All senior pupils were an absolute

credit to the school. Every student embraced the opportunity to take part in an activity which for many was out with their comfort zone." Anne Murphy, the Acting Depute at Dumfries High commented: "The seniors were a delight to work with. I



ultimately the aim of the activity.

Overall, it was a great day with those taking part learning lots of new skills and techniques which were demonstrated very capably

believe that four of the pupils are hoping to pursue a career in PE. With that quality of candidate, the PE profession is in good hands."



Solway Synchro Team

Solway Stars

report by Chloe Williams

This season Laura Brown, S6 , and I are in the Solway Stars Synchro Team which is made up of 16 skaters.

At the start of the season, Solway Stars was promoted to the Junior B category; this means we now skate both a long and a short programme in our competition which really tests both our skills and our stamina.



Our short programme is a tribute to Elvis and his music. It has some tricky 60s inspired dance moves along with a section of great Elvis choreography which gives the routine a real buzz. Our costumes (with hair in ponytails and quiffs) are a lot of fun too. Our long programme is our popular winter routine skated to a jazzed up version of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons". This is my favourite routine as the dresses are bright and elegant. This season I get lifted up at the end of the programme which requires a lot of trust between us all and makes for a spectacular ending to the 4 minute routine.

In Trophy D'Ecosse we scored 25.27 for the short programme which was the highest score for that category. In the long programme we scored 43.77, giving us an overall score of 69.04. This was enough for us to secure 2nd place at the end of the competition. We were also crowned Scottish Champions. In the British Championships, held a few weeks earlier in Nottingham at the Capital FM arena (the national centre for Synchronised skating), we scored 24.82 in the short

programme and 47.80 for the long programme, finishing with a total score of 72.62 making us British champions. This was a fantastic result for us and we were all thrilled.

Solway Eclipse

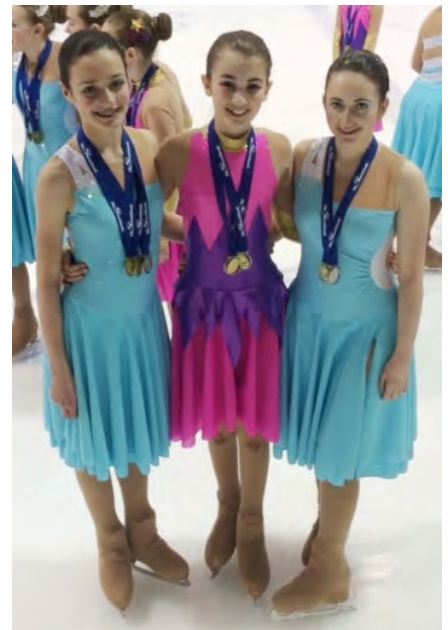
report by Ines Wood

I skate for a synchronised skating team from Dumfries called Solway Eclipse. I skate 5-6 times a week and spend a lot of my time at the ice rink.

Recently Solway Stars and Solway Eclipse headed to Nottingham (home of Torvill and Dean) for the British Championships. We had a fabulous weekend as it was the biggest rink any of us had ever been to. It was a great experience and both teams got British Champions in our category. We are all very proud of this achievement.

Three weeks after Nottingham, the Trophy D'Ecosse (an international Skating competition) came to Dumfries. We were delighted to be chosen as host for this prestigious competition. Solway Stars, Solway Eclipse and Solway Lightning, our newly formed team, all skated at this competition.

Solway Lightning won a bronze medal, a fantastic result at what was their first competition. Solway Eclipse secured 1st yet again which was really exciting for all of us. Solway Stars had more teams competing in their category and, after a tremendous performance, they were awarded the silver medal. I really enjoyed having the



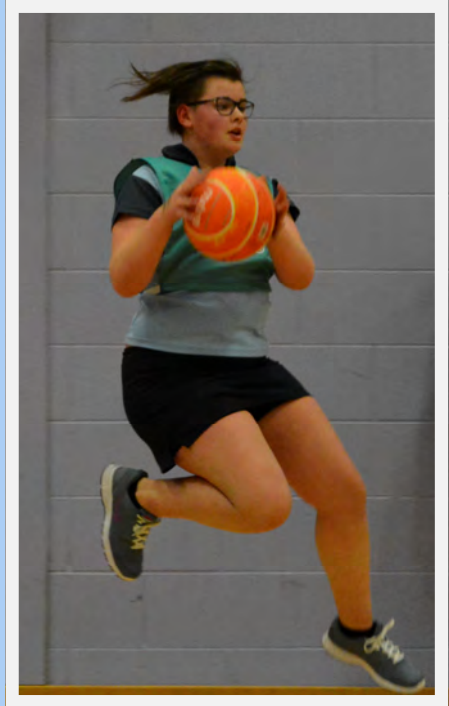
Trophy D'Ecosse at our local rink as it gave me a lot more confidence. The atmosphere was amazing and the rink was jammed pack with spectators.

We had teams competing from Turkey, Netherlands and we were even lucky enough to have Team Nexxice from Canada who are the current silver world champions. Nexxice stayed in Dumfries for a week and we had such a good experience training with them at a skating skills session which they prepared with their coach. It was a fun and exciting lesson where everyone learned lots of new skills. Then we had a great night socialising with them over dinner at Primo Piano.

The last few months for our skating club have been fantastic and everyone is getting very excited for our next competition, the Kempen Trophy, which will be held in Belgium in a couple of weeks time.



Netball Roundup



Last year, in August, Wallace Hall welcomed Iona Haile as a probationer teacher of PE. Miss Haile is a keen netball player and, on arriving in the region, identified that this sport was not currently played in Dumfries and Galloway schools. One of her first initiatives was to implement and organise a netball league for both seniors and juniors. This has been taking place on a monthly basis at schools across the region.

Nine schools in total have entered teams for the league and competition throughout the season has been fierce.

Wallace Hall entered two junior teams and one senior team into the league. Both teams have been doing well, enjoying some friendly rivalry with the other teams. The WHA junior team has done particularly well, having won eight games out of eight and winning their league. The WHA senior team has also played very well, developing their skills and abilities and winning a number of matches. All the girls

have really enjoyed learning the skills for a new sport.

Miss Haile said: "The girls' determination and commitment throughout the season has really impressed me. Netball is a great sport and I am delighted that so many schools have elected to take part. I am very grateful to the other teachers for supporting the league through entering teams and coaching the girls. It has been fantastic to see the progress made

by all of the teams and this has made organising the league a real pleasure."

Netball awards will be presented at two final netball festival days which will take place on 2nd June (Juniors) and 10th June (Seniors). These days have been organised to encourage all schools to participate in a whole day of netball, learning lots of new skills and techniques while playing matches throughout the day. For more information, please contact Miss Haile at Wallace Hall Academy.

Photograph below shows the Wallace Hall team wishing Miss Haile a very Happy Birthday.



Super Saints



Dumfries Saints Under 15s team has had a fantastic season, winning the SRU West of Scotland U15 Division 2 League without conceding a point in any of the matches they played.

Captain Gavin Wilson said: "The team played really well throughout the season and we were delighted to finish top of the League. The boys were easy to motivate and the team really worked well together."

Scott McLellan added: "We had some tough competition but our aim was to not drop any points and we managed it. We still have a couple of friendly matches to play this season against other clubs and hope that we can maintain the standard we have set."

L - R Back Row: Jack Bain, Jack Roberts, Fergus Hiddleston, Gavin Wilson (Captain), Scott McLellan, Owen Davies, Fraser Morton, Joe Robertson. Front row: Josh Notman.

Indoor Hockey Tournament



S1 Hockey Team

Emily Kennedy and Sarann Scott made a strong start to their tournament, winning 2:0 against Dumfries Academy. The remainder of the matches were against Dumfries High School, Moffat and Dalbeattie. It was a close run thing with the Wallace Hall squad edging ahead of Dalbeattie to lift the trophy.

The S1 squad of Emily Khan, Millie Bowie, Holly Dobie, Heather McKinna, Josie Harkness, Ines Wood and Amber Wright also played well, ending up being placed very near the top of their league.

The Dr Turner regional tournament (outdoor) took place on Thursday 12th of February where



S2 Hockey Team

our S3 girls again acquitted themselves very well by being runners-up to Lockerbie Academy who had a two goal advantage after count-back. Well done to all of the girls taking part.

Wallace Hall hockey teams have been doing well recently with both the S2 and S3 teams winning the Indoor Hockey tournament for their age groups. The five-a-side format produced a very high level of hockey resulting in some very close matches.

The S3 squad of Mia Osborne, Mhairi Watret, Molly Kitson, Erin Dobie, Caitlin Greenwood, Tyme Milligan, Niamh Johnstone and Rebecca Renton managed to win all of their matches against two Annan teams and teams from Dalbeattie and Moffat. They were convincing winners due to being unbeaten, only conceding three goals in the whole tournament.

The S2 squad of Shona Buckley, Jade McWhirter, Morven Dobie, Lauren McKinna, Jemma Gordon,



S3 Hockey Team

YDance Workshop

report by Tyme Milligan and Zara Kennedy



Earlier this term in school we got the opportunity to take part in a YDance Workshop with two YDance leaders.

We both really enjoyed this activity and, at the end of the afternoon, we found out that there was a four day course where we could study for our Grade One certificate which qualifies us to become dance leaders. There was

no doubt that we were both really up for this challenge and promptly put our names down to take part.

The course took place in Dalbeattie High School during our February holiday from school. The first day was spent getting to know the other girls on the course. They came from a variety of other schools in Dumfries and Galloway. Our first lesson taught us a

traditional jazz dance. That day we were also issued with a booklet which became our journal which we had to use throughout the course to record the evidence of what we had done each day.

Day 2 focused on getting ready for our first assessment and we learned a Bollywood style dance. We also worked on how to teach a primary workshop. The third day we worked really hard to prepare for the final assessment, making sure our journal was full of the necessary evidence and information. The final day was just a half-day as we had worked so hard the previous three days. As part of the final assessment we had to do an introduction, a warm-up, a game relating to our dance, a chosen style of dance and then a creative activity. The two YDance teachers watched us and judged our performance throughout. We were very nervous waiting to hear the result of our morning's work but were both delighted to learn that we had completed all the requirements to the necessary standard, passing the course and becoming, qualified Level 1 Dance Leaders.

After all the excitement was over, we had a party with all who took part, enjoying some lovely cakes and refreshments. We both loved the course and it was great to spend the time with other like-minded people who are interested in dance.

Table Tennis Report

Last term, 11 pupils participated in the regional Table Tennis tournament at Dumfries Table Tennis Club. All Pupils enjoyed their day in what turned out to be a very popular and keenly contested event.

Ben Murphy came second in the senior category, with Harry McMenemy also placed 3rd. Ben had the unfortunate task of

defeating his younger brother on the way to the final, in a hard fought semi-final match!

In the Under 16s event, Fergus Waugh, Aaron Grierson and Charlie Carr had mixed fortunes, but all played well. In the under 13s event, Irvine Maxwell was placed 3rd, with Sandy Quinn and David Broatch just missing out.

A number of pupils were invited back to play in the Scottish



qualifiers on Sunday 1st February, and Fergus Waugh from S2 managed to improve his performance and get through. Well done to all involved.

P7 Curling Trip

report by Annis Gaskell and Emily Hunter



On Monday 26th January our class went to the ice bowl for a curling session. On the way there we all sang "The Wheels on the Bus" for a joke!

Once we got there everyone was very excited. As soon as we got in, we were all put into groups with an instructor. It was very cold!

In our groups we did some practice slides with two stones then a stone and an arrow. Next we had a game or two. It was quite difficult, but in the end our team won.

Once we were finished we went for our lunch in the warm upstairs cafe.

As soon as we had all finished our lunch we went back downstairs to continue our curling games.



We all really enjoyed our trip to the ice bowl and we are sure that everyone would like to go again.

Curlers taste Success

The week beginning 9th March was a good one for the Wallace Hall curling team.

Firstly the team, comprising of Ross Whyte (Skip), Fraser Morton (Vice Skip), Cameron Parkin and Olivia McKeown, played in the Annual Secondary Schools' Bonspiel at Lockerbie Ice Rink. Competition was fierce, with ten teams from eight schools taking part in the bonspiel. After some very close shots, the team from Wallace Hall was victorious, winning the Andrew McClure Cup.

Then, on the Friday of the same week, the team travelled to the Scottish Schools Championships held at Murrayfield Ice Rink. The team did exceptionally well, winning four out of the five matches 12:2, 12:2, 11:3 and 5:0, and being narrowly beaten by the team from Hamilton in the remaining game.

The performance was enough to take the WHA team through to the quarter finals where they played against last year's winners, Lockerbie Academy. It was a tough game and at the start the team was behind on points but, after an amazing shot by Ross, pulled back

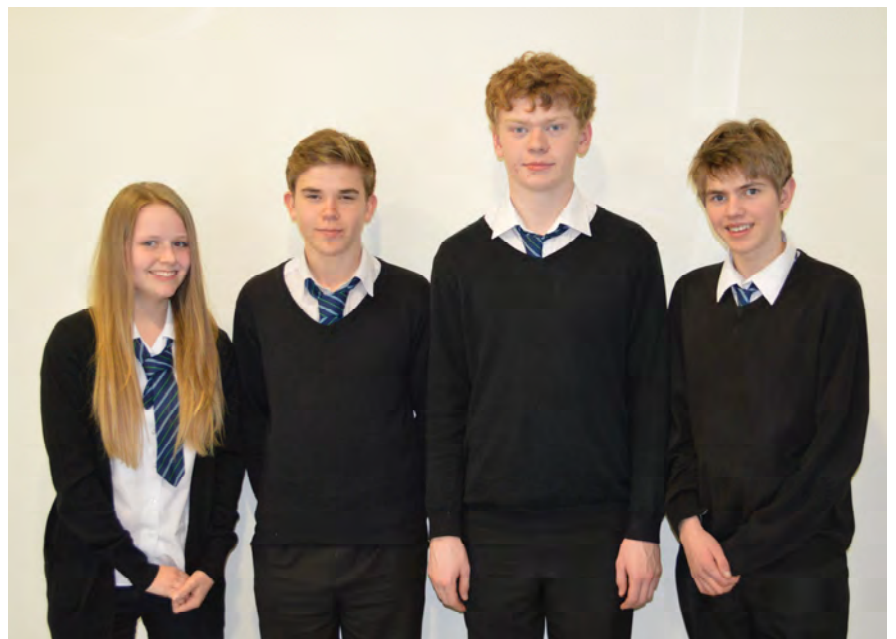
three shots. In the end the WHA team won by two points.

In the semi-finals, Wallace Hall played against Forfar. This match was also an extremely close match with the teams going into the last end 6 all. Unfortunately Forfar edged ahead, winning 7:6. Forfar went on to play in the final against Stranraer who were the overall winners, keeping the trophy in Dumfries and Galloway.

Cameron Parkin, on behalf of the team, said: We would like to



thank Mary Morton for coordinating our entry into the Scottish Schools competition. We would also like to thank our parents for supporting us throughout the competitions."



Wallace Hall Cross Country

report by the Sports Leaders

Wallace Hall's annual cross country event was held on Monday, February 23rd. Competition was fierce in all sections with lots of runners braving the cold, blustery conditions to compete for their House.



As part of gaining our Sport Leaders qualification, we had to organise the whole event. All 8 sports leaders were given a specific role and responsibility within organising this event. Donald's role was to assist the poster design and

hand out place cards at the end of the races. Fraser's role was to acquire the trophies and deliver them to the PE department. Sophie's role was to design the poster, and certify it through Mr Graham then display it around the school. Ian's role was to advertise the event through the use of the tannoy. Tom and Nick were course organisers and stewards throughout the race plus getting the medals for each of the winning participants. Olivia's role was to advertise the event through going round each tutor class and telling them what, where and when the event was. Sean's role was to organise the registration on the day and obtain the results of the races plus organising the house points assisted by Sophie.

We were all delighted to see so many competitors arriving at the PE department ready to race and, after some closely fought finishes, the results were as follows:

S1 Girls – 1st Ines Wood, 2nd Caitlin McKenzie, 3rd Olivia Macklin, 4th Ailsa Black, 5th Holly Dobie.

S1 Boys – 1st Aidan Dobie, 2nd Lewis Cheetham, 3rd Sam Godfrey, 4th Liam Robertson, 5th David Broatch.

S2 Girls – 1st Chloe Williams, 2nd



Bethany Wade, 3rd Lauren McKinna, 4th Sarann Scott, 5th Tammy McWhirter.

S2 Boys – 1st Fergus Waugh, 2nd Finlay Smith, 3rd Mathew Godridge, 4th Argyle Smith, 5th Joshua Earley.

S3 Girls – 1st Mhairi Watret, 2nd Caitlin Greenwood, 3rd Kathryn Phillips, 4th Chloe Ackland, 5th Molly Kitson.

S3 Boys – 1st Oliver Adkin, 2nd Rory Grant, 3rd Billy Dundas.

S4 Girls – 1st Alexandra Slepkovska, 2nd Charlie Geddes, 3rd Imogen Gordon.

S4 Boys – 1st Robert Ponton, 2nd Niall Holden, 3rd Niall Gauld, 4th James Robertson, 5th Owen Davies.

Senior Girls – 1st Emily Morton, 2nd Jessica Fergusson.

Senior Boys – 1st Euan Murgatroyd, 2nd Donald Kennedy, 3rd Fraser Morton, 4th Cameron Lang, 5th Ben Wicks.

The first five to cross the line out of each year group qualified for a place in the regional Cross Country Championships. Well done to all who took part.





Regional Schools' Cross Country



On Thursday 26th February, those who had previously qualified for the event (after coming in the top five of the school cross country), departed for Wigtown to compete in the regional

schools' cross country championships.

After a long and tiring bus journey we arrived and set up camp in front of the clubhouse in preparation for the races. We proceeded to warm up and take

on any nourishment we could before the S3 girls began their race. Though the weather was bad, nobody was downhearted. A sterling effort from all performers on a particularly energy sapping course led to some great results from most years.

Notable performances on the day were in the S1/S2 category - Aidan Dobie for S1 boys and Chloe Williams for the S2 girls. Other performances in S3/S4 came from Robert Ponton, Niall Holden, Niall Gauld, James Robertson, Owen Davies, Mhairi Watret and Caitlin Greenwood. Particularly outstanding performances came from Mhairi Watret and Euan Murgatroyd who both came 1st in their races. Further success came from S4 Boys and S5/6 Boys who won their team events.

Along with all the participants were four sports leaders who assisted in the excursion: Kathryn Park, Ben Wicks, Nick Willetts and Donald Kennedy (who came 5th in the senior boys) section.

Badminton success

On Saturday 24th January, 10 pupils took part in the regional badminton tournament at Dumfries High School. All pupils performed exceptionally well in an extremely competitive 'knock out' tournament.

Results were as follows:

U14s Boys Singles – 2nd Ewan Robertson, 3rd Struan Robertson

U14 Boys Doubles – 3rd Mathew Godridge and Charlie Carr

U16s Boys Singles – 1st James Robertson

U16s Boys Doubles – 1st James Robertson and Ewan Robertson

U19s Boys Singles – 2nd Ben Murphy, 3rd David Wallace

U19s Boys Doubles – 2nd Ben Murphy and David Wallace

A haul of eight 1st, 2nd and 3rd places makes this one of the most successful years the school has had in the competition. Congratulations to all who took part.

Photograph on the right shows some of the pupils who participated in the tournament: Back row L - R Charlie Carr, James Robertson, Ewan Robertson; Front row L - R Harry Austin, Lauren McKinna and Mathew Godridge



Rugby Mania

report by Joshua Cooper, Abigail Maxwell,
Jake Fraser and Bailey Fraser



Recently Primary 6 started training for a touch rugby tournament; they only had a couple of weeks to step up their game. There was sweat, there were tears but it was all worth it in the end!

The competitors were very nervous before the event, especially

on the bus journey down to Dumfries. Lots of schools went to the touch rugby tournament to compete; we couldn't believe how many people were there.

We all loved the experience but playing in all the matches tired us out, it was hard work!



Ellie said "It was really fun and everybody did a great job!", Sean said "It was interactive!", Jake said "The tournament was splendid!" and Joshua said "It was very hard work for the boys and girls!"

The boys team eventually finished as overall runner up and the girls team played very well and enjoyed their day.

Well done to everyone involved in the tournament.



Cashback 7s Tournament

On Thursday 5th March, 10 boys and 10 girls took part in the regional Cashback 7s tournament.

The boys who were representing the school at U13s level, finished in 3rd place with 3 wins, 1 draw and a narrow defeat. Aidan Dobie was impressive and finished top scorer with 4 goals, with Dean Carson also playing well and chipping in with 2 from midfield.

In the girls U15s section, Wallace Hall again finished in 3rd place. Notable performances came from Anna Wilson in goal, and Lauren Whitelaw.

Well done to all who took part.

Your newsletter – your views

The Wallace Hall school newsletter features a selection of articles, photographs, pupil work and reports taking place in the nursery, the primary and the secondary. At the moment the newsletter is published four times a year with one printed copy automatically sent home per family. We are interested in your views on this and would be grateful if you would take a few minutes and complete an online survey.

Please type in the following link into your computer and answer the questions:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Newsletter15>

Wallace Hall Theatre Company

proudly presents



**Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and
Thursday 25th June**

in the Bailey Hall, Wallace Hall Academy, at 7.30pm

**Tickets prices are: Adults £5.00, Concessions £3.00,
Family Ticket (2 Adults and 2 Concessions) £15.00.**

**Tickets for this can be purchased by phoning the
school office on 01848 332120**