

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Working Together to Achieve More



QI Career Mentoring is chosen as Dumfries and Galloway Life Community Project of the Year



The prestigious Dumfries and Galloway Life Awards 2015 were held recently in the Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries.

Some 300 invited guests were in attendance for a glittering awards ceremony to celebrate the successes in the region during 2015. Wallace Hall's sector leading Queensberry Initiative Career Mentoring programme,

linking students with local businesses, was nominated for the Community Project of the Year.

The judges acknowledged that this year they had their toughest job yet, due to the sheer number of nominations and the high quality of the nominees, and we were delighted when Queensberry Initiative was announced as the joint winner. Malcom Morrison, one of Queensberry Initiative's Career Mentors, and Grahame Arrowsmith, teacher at Wallace Hall with responsibility for Employability, collected the award on behalf of Queensberry Initiative.

Congratulations also to Sinclair Barbour, founder member of Queensberry Initiative and leader of Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers, who was the recipient of the DG Life Community Champion Award.



On Thursday 5th November, the Advanced Higher Biology students along with Mrs Belford were invited to be in the live audience for BBC Autumnwatch Unsprung, aired on the red button and BBC iPlayer.

The BBC Nature team, including Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan, Martin Hughes-Games and Lindsay Chapman, were filming from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust down at Caerlaverock. This fantastic location showcased our region's amazing wildlife and the migrating birds we have at this time of year. The show featured the author Simon Barnes, an artist, and a heroic army dog. At the end Michaela entertained us with adaptations of songs from the musical Grease made into wildlife parodies such as "Geese Lightning!"

After the show we stayed to watch the live show going out on BBC2 with a cup of tea to warm us up. We were then lucky enough to sneak back to the studio for photos and signed cue cards. Even our rats got a pumpkin from the Autumn Watch set!

Awesome Autumnwatch



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Andy Goldsworthy Inspires

A group of Advanced Higher pupils were given an exciting opportunity to meet Andy Goldsworthy and Tina Fiske at their Cample Mill studio project.

The visit, organised by the Queensberry Initiative, gave the pupils the chance to see and touch some of Mr Goldsworthy's 'Leaf Sculptures' and discuss aspects of his art and inspiration.

Cample Mill has four separate buildings which are being restored to house a host of different art works from a wide range of artists and craftspeople. Andy Goldsworthy will have a permanent display of some of his beautiful, natural-form sculptures in the recently completed cottage. The small dwelling will be part of the art installation.

The pupils have been given the amazing opportunity to see Andy Goldsworthy at work, discuss and learn about his projects and discover how they can become a part of the project team which will talk about his work to the public.

The studio behind the cottage is almost finished in its renovation. This space is going to be used to show contemporary work of artists and objects from around the globe - much like the concept behind the old museum in Thornhill. The pupils are going to be part of a 'Brain Trust' with Tina Fiske to select art work they feel will be appropriate and interesting to the local community and further afield - ultimately what will attract the public to come and visit these exhibition galleries.

The Cample Mill studio project will be a truly exciting and unique experience for our pupils and a real asset to the local area.

Photograph above shows Andy Goldsworthy and Tina Fiske with Alix Muir, Molly Hoddinott, Anya Borrows and Molly Bain.

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.

New member of our Queensberry Initiative



Bruce Clarke from Bruce Clarke Associates has joined the Queensberry Initiative (QI) team and will be focusing on sourcing funding to secure the future of the project.

Bruce commented: "Having helped QI with its Business plan, I was delighted to be invited to continue to work with the Board and team. This is both a challenging and exciting time for QI as it faces the future but it is great to work with such an enthusiastic team and community and build upon such a successful model."

Bruce is pictured above with Barry Graham, Head Teacher and QI Chairperson, and Anne Marie Wood and Leanne Peoples, Project Officers, Queensberry Initiative.

Second Year make sweet treats in Biology



At the end of the Christmas term, the S2 pupils made DNA out of sweets in Biology. Here they can be seen building their double helix with 4 types of base molecule and sticking them all together with toothpicks - before eating them!

Celebrating Pupils' Achievements

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

To help us with this process, we would ask that parents and/or pupils send us an email at woffice358@ea.dumgal.sch.uk, detailing any achievements and attaching any relevant photographs. Thank you.

Celebrating our Bard

Report by Catherine Anderson



Wallace Hall Parent Council's Annual Burns Supper took place this year on Friday 15th January. It is the first of many Parent Council school events organised for this coming year with money raised going toward activities and projects within Wallace Hall.

The evening commenced with a warm and welcoming introduction from Peter Kormylo, our Chairperson for the evening who is a former Dumfries and Galloway Head Teacher and Education Officer.

Proceedings began with the arrival of the haggis, expertly piped in by Mhari Prentice and addressed with gusto by Lucy Doig, and with the Selkirk Grace being delivered by David Clark, chair of the Wallace Hall Parent Council.

Following this, the entire room sat down to a delicious three course meal, prepared by Alison Kennedy and the catering team, and served by David Gillius' contingent of waiters and waitresses. The traditional repast of soup, haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by biscuits and cheese,

was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

After a short break it was time for the top table to take to the stage. The first speaker was our Chairperson, Peter Kormylo, who delivered a very interesting and entertaining Immortal Memory which, as tradition dictates, focused on the life and works of Robert Burns. It was then time for the first set of songs from Claire Hastings, an ex-pupil of Wallace Hall and winner of the Scottish Traditional Musician of the year 2015. Claire delighted the audience by singing a selection of well-known Burns songs, finishing

her second and final set with a beautiful version of "Come Spend a While Wi Me" written by the late Lionel McClelland, well-known musician and former Wallace Hall music tutor. This song will feature on Claire's debut album which she will be releasing in the next few weeks. The Toast to the Lassies was executed with wit and flair by Dr John Locke, another former pupil and doctor at Kirkcudbright. This was more than adequately replied to with hilarious comedic effect by Inspector Sharon Tait.

Alongside the top table we had a fantastic array of school pupils to entertain us with a poem, a dance or a tune or two. The school ceillidh band consisting of Flo, Issy, Josie and Benji played three toe-tapping traditional tunes. We were treated to a display of Highland Dancing from Catherine and Mollie Anderson of the Lynette Turner School of Dance, while the Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers: Teigan Lord, Becky Walker, Meagan Wood, Fraser Lethardy, Sam Murphy and Declan McGarva, performed the Jacobite Sword Dance and The Royal Salute, accompanied by Mhari Prentice on the pipes. Our final performer from the school was Nathan King of S4, who delivered an exhilarating extract from "Death and Doctor Hornbook".

The evening closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne led by Claire Hastings, ending a night of outstanding entertainment and celebration of our Bard.



Auschwitz Ambassadors

Report by Erinn Walker and Jordan Findlay



As ambassadors of the Holocaust Educational Trust, we were given the great opportunity to visit Auschwitz as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project. This involved a preparation seminar in Glasgow, a day long visit to Krakow, Poland, and a follow up seminar again in Glasgow. At the first meeting, we were introduced to our group and team leader, Emma. We also had the chance to listen to a survivor of Auschwitz who was born in a concentration camp in World War Two. Eva Clarke, a Holocaust survivor, told us of her mother's amazing journey and how she was extremely lucky to not only survive the horrendous events of the Holocaust but also give birth to her second child and keep the both of them alive.

On the 28th of October, we travelled to Poland along with around 250 other students from all over Scotland to visit

Auschwitz. After travelling from Krakow to Oświęcim, we visited an almost ruined Jewish cemetery. We were fortunate to be able to visit this cemetery as it is locked all year round due to headstones being smashed and Nazi swastikas painted onto the walls in 2003. We found this shocking and disturbing as it was a recent event which proved that some people still do not view the Holocaust as a horrendous crime that never should have happened. This also demonstrated to us how such a spirited religion was turned, through propaganda, into apparent "evil" by Hitler and the Nazis. People were brainwashed and some to this day still believe in the propaganda that was fed to them through the Nazi regime.

After the visit to the cemetery, we made the short journey to Auschwitz 1, the concentration camp where the Nazis held mainly Polish political prisoners and Soviet Prisoners of War. As we walked into the oddly tourist-like building we were surrounding by

massive brick buildings lined up in perfect rows which held over a million prisoners in their time. Without prior knowledge of the atrocities that went on, the buildings would've looked normal and unthreatening. However, because we knew some of the history, the buildings seemed daunting and unnerving. We were taken round buildings where items – which had been found after liberation – were displayed. These items took over several buildings and yet only made up 4% of the total items taken from the prisoners. There were many items stacked up: suitcases, hair, children and adults' shoes and even pairs of glasses along with many other personal possessions. There were items that affected people more than others. For us it was the children's shoes and the hair which was also used to make military uniforms. This meant that Nazis would wear their victim's hair as clothing. This hit a nerve in us both.

We were then taken to a gas chamber where many people were sent to be killed. The feeling of walking in to the large room left you feeling cold. It was not until we stopped to have a moment inside the room that we noticed the markings on the wall that were actually scratches from





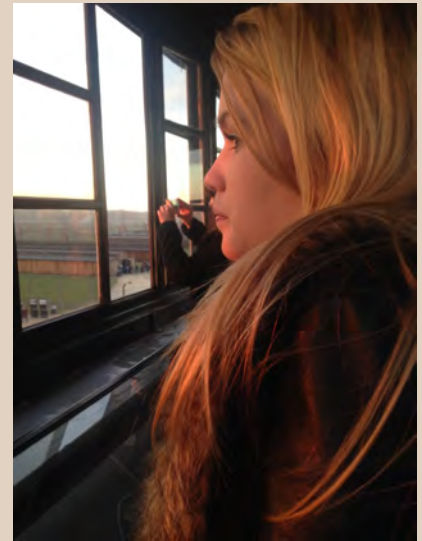
the victim's in their final moments.

This was very difficult to comprehend.

After this, we travelled to the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The grounds had mainly been bombed by the Nazis to cover their tracks and so the camp is mainly ruins. Some of the buildings, however, were still standing and had been since the war, without alteration. The camp is unquestionably massive. The barracks that the workers who had been deemed fit enough to work resided in appeared to be a reasonable size. This was until we

were told how many were in a barrack – around 400 people. This equated to 6 people per single bed. The conditions caused more death than either of us could possibly imagine. We were then shown the remains of the gas chambers which had been destroyed in a limp attempt to hide the proof of the mass murder that occurred.

We then had a short but powerful ceremony standing next to the memorial with Rabbi Marcus. He posed many more questions for us and told us to always tell the people that we cared about that we loved them. He mentioned this while looking at the rail track and said he often thought about the last words families said to each other as they were harshly separated and put up for selection. We then lit candles in memory of all those who suffered and were murdered during this horrific time to conclude our journey. This was an opportunity to reflect on what the day had given us and reminded us how important it is that the



memory lives on so that nothing like this can ever be allowed to happen again. This opportunity, whilst upsetting and painful, was an honour which we are very grateful to have been part of.

We hope that our report has given you an insight into the experience of the Jewish people and other prisoners of war and portrayed the dreadful terror that went on during the Holocaust.

Our Fairtrade Fridays

Our Fairtrade Group is going from strength to strength this

year and now includes pupils from S1 and S2 as well as

senior students. Fairtrade Fridays have been even more popular than ever with record-breaking sales of goodies. Once a fortnight we sell a range of fairly-traded snacks to suit all budgets, and have introduced several new products this year, with the fabulous Divine White chocolate bar continuing to compete with Divine Milk chocolate as our regular top seller.



Very popular this year was the staff Christmas shopping event (pictured). To spread some seasonal cheer we brightened up a staff meeting by setting up our stall and selling a new range of specially chosen chocolate Christmas treats and stocking fillers to our appreciative adult customers. Needless to say - it was a sell-out.

Pudsey Games

Report by Matthew Johnstone, Sorcha Corrigan,
Brodie Fergusson and Chloe Walden

Throughout the course of the morning and lunch, Wallace Hall House Captains and P7 class reps put on a morning of activities in the hall and a talent show in the afternoon.

Also occupying the hall on the day were members of the Parent Council and pupils from the academy who kindly came and gave up their time to face paint pupils at the primary.

The activities were chosen and assembled by the Pupil Council in the weeks before the day. The activities consisted of beat the goalie, sweets in the jar, Pudsey ping pong, skittles/bowling, treasure map and in addition to these activities the face painting had a stall at the end of the hall.

Every class (and nursery) came at their designated time to take part in the various events taking place in the PE hall. This was a



great chance for all of the children to donate spare change to the different stalls. Each stall had either a prize or a sweet. The prizes were: the jar of sweets for How Many Sweets in the Jar, a miniature Pudsey bear for the treasure map (if you won), a sweet or jelly baby for the younger classes and a fruitella or starburst for senior pupils taking part in any of the other activities apart from the face painting.

I think we can speak for the whole school in saying that everyone had great fun taking part and donating to a great cause.





How to say Gooseberry in French

Report by Josie Fairley Keast



group of people she barely knows. Claire read two passages from the book, introducing some characters **you can't help but smile at**, and giving a clear demonstration of the mixture of sweetness and humour which runs through the book. She answered questions about the writing process, her characters, **and what she's planning next**. The inevitable "so how *do you say gooseberry in French?*" was met by a smile and a simple "you'll have to read the book to find out."

Pupils had the opportunity to buy copies of the book and have them signed, and it appears to be generally acknowledged that the session was definitely something worth attending. Copies of both *how do you say gooseberry in French?* and Claire's previous novel, *what they don't tell you about love in the movies* are available to borrow from the junior fiction section of the library- both are certainly worth a read.

Claire, you're welcome back any time.

"This book is a miracle," Claire Watts said when she visited Wallace Hall Academy to read from and answer questions about her newest novel, *how do you say gooseberry in French?* The miraculous edge to the book, other than the quirky characters and feel-good plotline, is that it was written almost entirely during

the summer holidays, the result of Claire setting herself a challenge to write over a thousand words every single day.

The book follows the story of Molly, a teenage girl spending part of her summer living with a pen friend in France, and how she copes with the challenges of speaking another language to a



Masterclass in Mathematics

Report by Scott Clancy and Aleksei Wishart

Recently we attended a series of Mathematics Masterclasses at the University of Glasgow. These took place every Saturday morning from 10 am till 12.30 pm from October 31st till December 5th 2015.

Each week we covered a different topic ranging from "knots and links" to "why nature loves patterns". The lecturers all came from different universities, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to the University of Edinburgh. To encourage us to work harder at the masterclasses, we were rewarded with snacks and treats. This was a great incentive. Both of us feel like we have benefited from the experience and at the very least found it enlightening, extremely interesting and productive to our learning.

Survival Guide to Leaving Home

Report by Ben Wicks



On Tuesday 1 December, all 6th year pupils were given the opportunity to be part of different interactive talks which would help us to prepare for life after school.

The talks were delivered by representatives from five areas: First Aid, Finance, Police, Fire and Accommodation. We spent a period with each presenter, and many of us thought that one period wasn't enough! Our group started off at the Finance lecture which focused on budgeting and the different types of bank accounts available. After this we went to the First Aid presentation which taught us the basic skills needed to help someone in an emergency such as CPR and the recovery position. After break we went to see the Police who delivered a very insightful session on drugs, social media bullying and peer

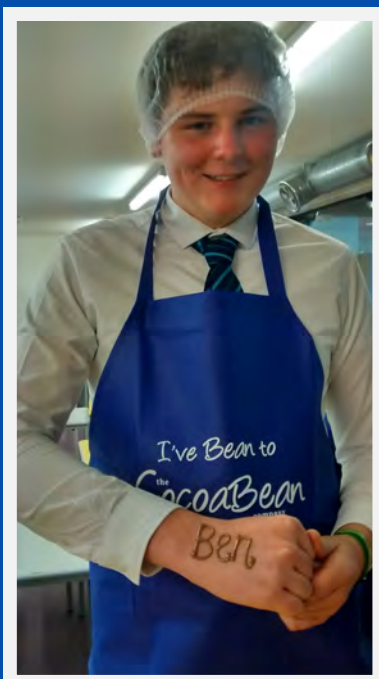
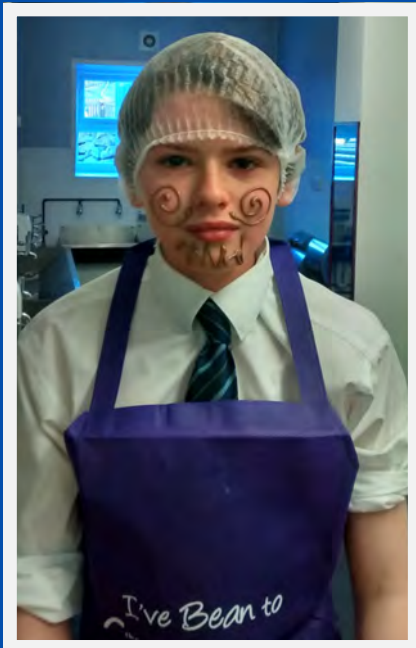


pressure. We didn't think it could get any better until we started to listen to the most inspirational speaker I've ever heard, the Firefighter. Many of us loved this session as he focused on life skills instead of the usual fire safety. At the end of the day we finished with a session on accommodation from UWS. This gave us an insight into how university accommodation runs and our responsibility when living there. Overall this was a very useful day that exceeded every sixth year's expectation. Sixth year pupil Connor Barnes said: "I loved the day and thought that it was one of the most valuable things I have experienced this year." The general consensus of S6 is that we would most definitely like to have one again and would encourage the teachers (Mrs Marchant and Mrs Andrews) to organise similar days for the younger years.



Wallace Hall Entrepreneurs

As part of their Entrepreneurial Module, a number of pupils visited the CocoaBean company in Twynholm. They learned about the process of manufacturing chocolate products, understanding the costs involved in order that a profit is made, and about the marketing of the business. The pupils used these skills to prepare their own products for the Wallace Hall School Craft Fair which was held on the 21st November.



Reading Together



Reading for enjoyment is a crucial part of literacy, an important skill for life – and a fun part of our English courses. Reading skills in S1 – S3 classes have been given a boost this year by the introduction of paired reading, a scheme that gets S6 students involved in helping younger pupils.

During timetabled library periods, over twenty trained volunteers from S6 join all S1 classes, and some in S2 and S3, to share their enthusiasm for reading with the younger pupils, talk about books, and help them pick new books to enjoy. S1 pupils especially value the support they get from their senior school mentors. Kyle Colchester of S1 said: "I love the paired reading period because it makes you more confident with reading aloud." Ellen Meredith added: "It's nice to talk about a book instead of expressing your ideas in a writing activity." Ellie Forster commented: "I enjoy paired reading because it helps me to think about the book more and realise what other books I might like."

Oliver Buchanan said: "It helps me feel better about reading out loud, and helps me understand the book better." Kian McNeil summed it up perfectly: "It's fun to read together and discuss books."

Our fantastic volunteer paired readers from S6, who give up their time each week to contribute to the project, gain valuable interpersonal skills and get a lot of satisfaction from helping the younger pupils.

Sean Wicks said: "As well as making a difference to their reading, it allows me to interact with and get to know the pupils I'm working



with." Sophie Lawrie added: "It's great to help the younger pupils build their confidence and it's given me some beneficial experience and skills for my UCAS application and future career."

The English staff are delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment of the sixth year volunteers. English teacher Mr Pape, who recruited and trained the paired reading helpers, said: "The paired reading scheme has been a great success. My S1s really enjoy having the chance to discuss what they're reading at home, and my S6 helpers have been brilliant at supporting and encouraging positive reading habits."



P6 pupils demonstrate their artistic talent



As part of a rolling programme, P6 pupils from Wallace Hall Primary visited the Art Department at Wallace Hall Academy. They were asked to choose a painting by Joan Eardley from her pictures of Townhead children and to use this as inspiration. They then had the chance to create their own drawings using oil pastels on sandpaper. Some great work was produced and the pupils took these away to put them on display in their classroom.





Halloween in the Nursery



Primary Halloween Disco



Primary Halloween Disco

Halloween Disco 2015

Report by Adam Dalglish

On Thursday 29th October, the S6 Social Committee hosted the annual Halloween Disco, inviting all pupils from S1-S6 into school for a fun night of games, ghosts and ghoulish costumes.

On arriving, pupils were given the opportunity to have their photographs taken in the scary Halloween photo booth before moving through to the disco area. DJ for the night was Callum Candy, one of our S3 pupils, and he did a fantastic job keeping the floor full. The Social Committee established an array of traditional games and activities next-door in the school canteen, where old favourites such as apple bobbing

and the mystery boxes were found. Pupils had great fun and hilarity delving their hands into anything from mushy porridge to spaghetti hoops.

A number of interesting characters were in attendance at **this year's disco, including an uncanny resemblance to the character "Red" from the hit series "Orange Is The New Black",** skilfully portrayed by S6 pupil Sam Calder. The winners of the best costume award, as chosen by Mrs Davidson, were Zara Weir and Isla Wright, who came as zombie school students.

A selection of much needed refreshments were provided **throughout the night and it's safe**



to say, based on all the positive feedback received, that the night was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Huge thanks goes to Mr Blair and the Social Committee for making the night such a success.





Creating Gallipoli Writing Competition



2015 saw the centenary of the ill-fated First World War Gallipoli campaign. Some of our S2 and S3 English classes have recently taken part in an important national creative writing competition to mark this event, run by Stirling University and sponsored by the Turkish government.

Working in collaboration with Mr Harley of the History department, pupils researched this tragic wartime episode, and, imagining they had been part of it, wrote poems and letters describing the terrible scenes and events.

Four of our pupils were chosen to attend a special creative writing workshop with Chris Powici, the Creative Writing Fellow at Stirling University, and many other pupils

took part in the writing activity within their English classes. About fifty pupils' work was sent in for the national competition, which is currently being judged.

To mark the importance of the topic, and to recognise the hard work and imagination of our pupils, we ran the competition and awarded prizes and certificates within school as well. The standard of work was very high and Mr Graham, our head judge, had the tricky job of choosing the winners.

Overall S3 winner was Aleksei Wishart, and the runners-up were Georgia Watson and Mathew Godridge. In S2 the overall winner was Livia Nicholson, with runners-up Lydia McMillan and Lucy Dale. Certificates of commendation were also awarded to the other finalists:

Molly Ayres, Penny Gonlag, Eleanor McKie, Aidan Dobie, Irvine Maxwell, Finn Bell, Finlay Lord, Emily Moodycliffe, Oran Murray, Olivia Macklin, Phoebe Murray, Eryn Robertson and Finlay Bainbridge.

Mr Graham commented: "The quality of work produced by the pupils was impressive and it was great to see so many of our pupils engaging creatively with this important historical event."

The photograph above shows Mrs McMillan and Mr Graham with 3 winners from each year group

The two overall winners' work is shown opposite: Aleksei Wishart's poem "The Pain of Gallipoli" and Livia Nicholson's letter, in which she imagines being a young nurse at the front line of Gallipoli.

Dear Mother,

There is not much news. The battle still seems far from finishing. I ask the officers when I can but I never really get to know anything. None of us know what's really happening. That's what war is like. When I signed up for this I was expecting the glory of helping my country and curing soldiers. But I am surrounded by death. When the patients are brought to me with their pale, sad faces it takes everything inside me not to cry. But I am strong, Mother. You'll be glad to hear it. Even the dead Brits and Anzacs make me quiver but I keep going because I know that's what you'd want me to do. I will not bore you with the misery of war; you probably get enough of that everywhere else.

I received your parcel last week. Thank you so much! Please don't waste any more of your rations on me, though it is lovely. The socks are good and thick not like my uniform ones which are riddled with holes. I let Ayla have some of my caramels, I know you said I was to keep them for myself but she's an orphan. She's got no chance of a package from home.

Oh sorry, I just realised I never mentioned Ayla before. She is a nurse like me, though younger than the rest of us. I think she's only 17 which is frightfully young to be out here away from her family. She's become a firm friend of mine.

Please send my love to little Pinar, Grandpa, Grandma, Mittens, all the chickens and sheep. Hope to be back with you soon.

Your ever loving daughter

Emine xxx

The Pain of Gallipoli

We're waking up
At the break of dawn.
I look around the trenches
And remember the horrors
That these pits have shown me.
I swat away the flies
As I try to eat what qualifies for breakfast.
I glimpse outside and peer into the abyss
The sky runs red
With the blood of my comrades.
At that single moment,
I can only think one thought.
This peninsula will bring no joy;
No great victory will be won.
The hell that is Gallipoli,
Will bring only death and misery.
When we leave, if we leave,
It will be the happiest day of my life.
The never-ending stalemate, the constant
gunshots,
The everlasting threat of disease and pain,
The scorching summers, the arctic winters.
It all adds up to nothing short of purgatory.

Aleksei Wishart

Stationery Shop in the Library

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

Belgium Trip

Report by Niamh McQuarrie
Parks and Laura Marchbank

On Sunday the 25th October 2015, 10 pupils departed from Wallace Hall Academy to Waragem, Belgium. We arrived at Brussels late at night and then faced a 1 hour car journey with our new families for the week.

The next morning we had an early start and most of us woke up to the news that we had to cycle to school. When we arrived at Heilig-Hart College we discovered that it was much larger than Wallace Hall and any other school in our region. Roughly 1800 pupils attend the school with a road running through the middle of the campus, splitting it in two. Due to the large size they have to eat their lunch in shifts which meant



we had our lunch at 11.30am. Most of us, although excited to be trying out their food, thought it was too early to feel hungry.

The layout of the buildings at Heilig-Hart College seemed very confusing and, even after our tour, we found it challenging to return to the classrooms we were working in. However, we practised our language skills and think we deserved an A+ for effort.

After a long lunch all the exchange students got on a bus which took us to a passive school – a school which generates its own energy. We received a tour around the school in order to aid our task of designing an eco-classroom. Later that night we and the schools from Spain and Finland set up a food court of



traditional foods from our respective countries. We brought foods such as tablet, salmon, haggis and oatcakes.

The next day we took a trip to Bruges which was a very old and traditional European city.

We saw some famous buildings and enjoyed local delicacies.

On the Wednesday we started our project work and were split into 6 groups. Each of which had to present their idea in a different way. In the evening we went to a football match between Waragem and Ghent. The Belgians were very passionate about the whole thing.

On the last day we went to the capital of Belgium, Brussels. The Belgians took us on a very factual tour around the famous landmarks. On the Thursday we spent the night with our host families and then met up with all of the other students for the last time. It was a great way to end the trip.



'An Inspector Calls'

report by Eleanor McKie



On Wednesday the 4th of November, Miss Carson organised an exciting opportunity for a group of S3 and S4 English students to see Stephen Daldry's production

of J B Priestley's "An Inspector Calls" at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow.

After leaving halfway through the school day, we arrived at the theatre in good time and took our

seats in the highest balcony which overlooked the entire theatre. Our seats offered us a prime view of the stage and we settled back to enjoy the performance.

The play opens with Inspector Goole arriving unexpectedly at the prosperous Birling family home, and thereafter their peaceful dinner party is shattered by his investigations into the death of a young woman. The plot of the play was captivating and enticing, although there was a lot to take in. The actors kept the show going with a believable yet dramatic manner. **The play's** startling revelations shake the very foundations of the Birling family's lives, challenging us all to examine our own consciences.

Overall I'd thoroughly recommend the show to anyone considering seeing it and take any further show opportunities the English department offers.

Learning to Save our Soil

Report by Josie Fairley Keast

You may not be aware of this, but 2015 was named the International Year of Soils. I know - what a time to be alive. As part of the celebrations, students from a number of schools around Scotland were invited to take part in a day of workshops focusing on soil, what it does for a variety of ecosystems, and the dangers it faces in the modern world. (Strange as it seems, soil is sometimes just as threatened as the species which rely on it.)

After an early start deemed to be a bad idea by all, ten Higher Biology students arrived at

Edinburgh Zoo. We had a talk on the importance of soil by the head gardener before beginning our first activity. Having been paired up with another school, our task was to follow a trail of rhyming couplets from animal to animal, each describing a modern threat to the environment and the effect it had on both the local ground and the animal which lived on/in it. Our second activity was more scientific, involving a series of experiments to find out which of a variety of soil types was most suited for the zoo's population of meerkats to live in, taking into account factors such as texture, mineral content and pH. We had a



short break for lunch, taking the opportunity to visit animals we **hadn't already seen, before** beginning our third workshop. In keeping with the meerkat theme, a helpless puppet was locked in a box and we were given thirty minutes to make our way around the zoo, answering questions on how different species used the earth around them to build their homes. If we got the correct answers to form a code, the box would be unlocked and the meerkat would be released. Fortunately, one group got the right code before time ran out. Our final activity focused on different forms of decomposition and fertilisation. We were given a **talk on the zoo's composting** system, were challenged to work out which of a set of faecal specimens came from which animals, and had a close encounter of the detritivore kind with some Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. After the obligatory feedback/gift shop session, we headed back to the minibus, stopping for Burger King on the way back.

To conclude, we can now all find our way around the zoo blindfolded, are hopefully more knowledgeable about all things soil, and, judging by Mrs **Simpson's reaction, the Biology** department will not be acquiring a cockroach any time soon.



Life cycle of an Atlantic salmon

On Monday 11th November, Mrs Simpson took her S3 Biology class to visit Nith Fishery at Blackwood Estates, Auldgrith.

The pupils learned about the lifecycle of the Atlantic salmon, threats the salmon face and got to see salmon eggs and a real salmon. Rogan Smith said: "I really enjoyed having the chance to look at the fish close up. It was interesting to learn more about the lifecycle of the Atlantic salmon and that when the fish matures its colour changes."



Dancing the Night Away

Report by Adam Dalgleish



During the second week of December, a total of more than five hundred pupils and over thirty staff members attended Wallace Hall Academy's annual Christmas dances: three nights packed full of traditional ceilidh dancing, live music and joyful festive fun. All three evenings were undoubtedly a success, living up to the high standards set by soirees seen in previous years.

To the sounds of the Jim Gold Duo (S1/2 and S3/4 dances) and the David Kennedy Scottish Dance Band (S5/6 dance), pupils and staff members demonstrated their top-notch dancing skills across an array of traditional Scottish dances. The hours of practice put in was crystal clear for every single dance; from the Canadian Barn Dance to the Square Tango, or the Britannia Two-Step to the Orcadian Strip the Willow, the level of maturity and sophistication displayed was first class.

As an added bonus to the Senior Dance, S5/6 pupils were given the luxury of sitting down to

enjoy a delectable two-course dinner prior to the beginning of the main dance, prepared by the school kitchen staff and served by a number of S3 and S4 pupils.



Senior pupils were given the option to choose between Roast Turkey, Braised Steak or Vegetable Curry as a main course, followed by either Sticky Toffee

Pudding, Passion Fruit Pavlova or Chocolate Gateau.

The general consensus amongst all pupils and staff was that all three nights were a huge success, with many pupils looking forward to attending next year's festivities already. Rachel Cronie, S1, said about her dance: "All of the S1 and S2 pupils were very smartly turned out. Lois Geddes and Euan Robertson got the evening off to a good start by welcoming us all and introducing Mrs Miller who did a fantastic job keeping us right by calling the dances for us. Our first dance was the Gay Gordons which got everybody onto the floor. The evening passed very quickly and we all had a fun time." Eleanor McKie, S3, commented about the S3/S4 dance: "Mr Rae was our dance caller and he did a brilliant job. One of the highlights was our prize Square Tango which is always popular. After a fantastic display of dancing by everyone, Eilidh Thomson and Aleksei Wishart were chosen as the winners. The hall was packed and everyone really enjoyed the night."

S6 pupil Heather O'Connor described the S5/S6 night as "a great event on the School Calendar which is always something to look forward to." Likewise, Archie Harkness of S6 said that the senior dance "exceeded expectations and was thoroughly enjoyed by all." For these reasons a huge thanks must go to all who made each night happen, including all staff members who were in attendance and also all PE staff for their hard work during core PE time in perfecting our fine footwork. A thanks must also go to the S6 Social Committee, led by Mr Blair, DG First Catering Staff, the Jim Gold Duo & the

David Kennedy Scottish Dance Band for providing the live music, and last but not least all the students who attended and made each night such an enjoyable experience for all.



Christmas Dances



Christmas Dances



Nursery Celebration of Christmas



Nursery Celebration of Christmas

Charity Christmas Concert

On the last day of the Christmas term the Charities Committee organised a very successful concert. Over £800 was raised which has been donated to Soul Soup, a mental health charity based in Dumfries. Well done to all the performers and all those involved in organising the event.



John the Viking's Visit

Report by Chloe Hamilton

We were delighted one morning when John the Viking came into our P4 class to talk about Vikings.

He talked about clothes first so we now know about what they wear. On the top half the men wear the shirt and a waterproof coat. It was made of thick wool with no holes in it. The women wore dresses that

were long and mostly brown. The women, if married, wore a head cover (it was illegal not to) Viking weapons were used for fighting against the enemy. They were also used for killing animals for meals. The Vikings used weapons in battle. He brought in lots of weapons such as spears, swords, axes and knives. It was amazing holding all of the



weapons. Two boys fought with foam swords and mini shields. After the boys, Ruby and Muskaan fought against each other. Later on we saw lots of animal skins. My favourite animal skin was the rabbit. I also liked the badger. They had been cleaned but we still had to wash our hands after we had touched them. Then we all got dressed up. I wore a long black dress and a head cover plus a belt with a pouch. We all got a photo with Viking John. After that it was time to tidy up so we all took our costumes off and put all the jewellery and things in the bags. Some people helped John put things back in the van while the others went for lunch.

I had a brilliant morning learning a lot about Vikings. I am sure everybody else did too!

Toffee whapples

The whapples Orchard produced its first crop of apples in the Autumn. The whapples board members were keen to put these to good use, and so agreed to make toffee apples to celebrate Halloween.

Thank you to Mr Gilius who helped them to produce almost 100 fantastic toffee apples which sold out in less than 10 minutes! The money will eventually be used as part of the plan to develop the orchard, hopefully in the near future.

Hot off the press: whapples has been successful in its funding bid with Tesco in Dumfries. We will be awarded between £8,000 and £12,000, depending on the number of votes whapples receive in the next few weeks. The money we are allocated will go towards the landscaping of the orchard.

If you are shopping in a local Tesco, look out for the voting tokens at the checkout during February and cast your vote to support whapples.



S3 Forestry class learn about brashing

Report by Dean Wallace, Liam Keating and Rory Thornley-Kyle



As part of the QI Forestry course our class carried out some brashing in an area of planted oak woodland at Queensberry Estate last week. This is a necessary Forestry task as pioneer species grow much faster and don't allow the oak saplings space to mature.

Our task involved cutting back the pioneer species and piling these up for Buccleuch Forestry. We were using hand saws and loppers to carry out this work along with safety goggles, hard hats and high-vis vests.

Before we went out to Queensberry Estate we had watched

a video of last year's class carrying out some brashing, this meant that we could complete the task safely and quickly as we didn't have much time on site and wanted to use our time effectively. We were pleased with how much we manage to clear in the short time, working together in pairs.

It was a shame we couldn't fit a tree in the school mini bus as it would have made a great Christmas Tree for the classroom.



John Muir Award Success



The S4 Geographers were awarded their DISCOVERY level John Muir Award in December last year.

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focussed on wild spaces. It aims to encourage awareness, understanding and responsibility for wild places.

The John Muir Award involves participants discovering a wild place, exploring it, conserving it and then sharing what they have found.

The Geography Department worked with our S4 pupils on a number of exciting outdoor activities. A fieldtrip to Dabton Loch was used as an opportunity

to do some environmental surveys. A summer trip to Drumlanrig Castle, facilitated by Queensberry Initiative, involved visitor questionnaires and a tourist impact study. Later in the year (and a good bit colder!) fieldwork was carried out in the Dalveen Pass and the data processed and used to complete a River Investigation.

Thank you to Mr Kyle Hennan from Buccleuch Forestry who gave a talk on forests and conservation in Nithsdale to our Geographers.

The pupils look forward to starting on their EXPLORER Level awards in the near future.



Wallace Hall and the World: Our Opinion

Friday 13th November - Several attacks occurred in the French capital, Paris, bringing the threat of Islamic State to the forefront.

At around 21:20CET two explosions rang through the Stade de France, where a friendly between France and Germany was taking place. Fans flooded on to the pitch and President Hollande was swiftly evacuated.

Attacks then occurred in central Paris, with attacks on the Petit Cambodge restaurant and Le Carillon bar just across the road. Attackers gunned down innocent civilians enjoying Parisian nightlife. Then the gunmen drove down the road to the Casa Nostra pizzeria on Rue de la Fontaine au Roi killing a further five. 19 were then gunned down at La Belle Equipe bar.

The worst of the attacks occurred at the Bataclan concert venue, where US group Eagles of Death Metal were playing. Attackers wielding suicide belts and AK-47 machine guns methodically gunned down 89 concert-goers.

Subsequently, the French President announced a state of



emergency and border restrictions, barring entrance into France.

Our Opinions

"These abhorrent attacks further highlight the need to bring the influence of the 'Islamic State' group (ISIL) to an end. We must have solidarity in these times of despair and I believe the pride of the Western nations helps to ensure that this is achieved. I am in favour of the British Armed forces operating in coalition with French and US forces to eliminate ISIL at its source." - **Kai Ferguson S5**

"I think the attacks in Paris show that the UK must take more care with the immigration of refugees, ensuring full background checks are carried out in order to prevent further

acts of terror. I am for Britain taking in Syrian refugees, as large swathes of British land are currently unused." - **Harry McMenemy S5**

"We should take care to not to make knee-jerk reactions to the attacks. We should continue to monitor activity in the Middle East and try to carry out background checks to ensure the security of our nation. I am against bombing raids within IS as it may cause the death of innocents." - **Cammie Walker S5**

"The attacks in Paris were awful, and show us that we need to stay alert because anything can happen. I believe we should continue to take in refugees from the Middle East with appropriate checks in place in order to protect our country. We should not carry out military action in Syria, as innocent civilians will be killed and it may make the situation worse." - **Laura Marchbank S5**

"I was shocked at the attacks in Paris, it is just plain wrong. However we should not generalise Muslims as it is only a few radicalised individuals who have sympathies to the attackers and terrorist groups." - **Owen Davies S5**

Image Credit: Jean Jullien Studio/ AFP/Getty Images

We will remember them

To coincide with Remembrance Day, our Head Boy and Head Girl, Ben Wicks and Emily Morton, visited the Commonwealth War Graves at Morton Cemetery in Thornhill to pay their respects to some of the brave men and women who died fighting for their country in World War One or World War Two.

Ben and Emily were accompanied by well known Penpont historian, Gladys Cuttle, who has published a set of renowned reference books that feature our local war memorials alongside a collection of wartime memories from a variety of local sources.

Emily said: "It was a real privilege to visit the graves with Gladys as she has a wealth of knowledge which she was happy to share with us. Learning more about those who died make the visit all the more poignant."





QI take P2/3 on a woodland walk



At the start of November, Queensberry Initiative staff organised a woodland walk on Drumlanrig Estate for Wallace Hall's Primary 2/3 class.

The morning was spent in Drumlanrig Wood and Gardens learning about seed dispersal, parts of the tree and changing seasons, all finished off with story time in the Heather Hut and some leaf art on the lawns. It was a lovely morning out and everyone enjoyed spending time learning outdoors.

S3 History trip to the National Mining Museum

Report by Leah Thomson and Erin Leslie



Our S3 History class had a chance to experience life down the mine when we took a trip to the National Mining Museum at Newtongrange in Midlothian. The museum was created in 1984 to preserve the surface remains of the Lady Victoria Colliery, the 3rd largest coal mine in Scotland.

It was really cold when we arrived at the museum and this made us think of what the miners went through every time they arrived for work. Once we were

inside, our guide introduced himself and told us that he used to work in the mines. He showed us the miners' equipment, including a Davy safety lamp which stayed lit for fourteen hours, and explained a little about the safety rules they had to follow when down the mine.

When we left that room we walked past bird cages which had been used by the miners to take canaries down into the mines to alert them to any dangerous gases. This was one of their

warning systems and they knew that if the birds died then they had to get out immediately.

Our guide then took us down to where the shafts are situated. He said that originally there had only been one shaft but this was increased to two shafts to increase safety. We then had the chance to go down into the mine. It was very dark and claustrophobic.

While we were at the museum, we saw two really educational videos of coal mining – one from the 1930s and one from the 1960s – which gave us a comparison of the machinery and skills used at those times. We also saw some of the actual machinery used down the mine. One of the machines, The Lady Victoria machine, was massive and it was also known as the winding machine.

A highlight of our day was when we were given the chance to dress up as a miner. This really brought home to us what life was like for these hard-working people.

On the way home we stopped off at McDonalds for some food which was a great ending to a really enjoyable trip. Thank you to Mr Harley for organising the visit.

Bronze Reading Award

Reading for enjoyment is an important part of all our English courses, and in S1 and S2 all pupils spend one period a week on personal reading. Supported by our fantastic S6 paired reading volunteers, they are encouraged to choose a wide range of books from our well-stocked library, and record their reading in Bronze, Silver and Gold Reading Award booklets. Pupils are rewarded with merits for their progress, and also a certificate on the completion of each level of award.

Head teacher Barry Graham regularly visits English classes to present our S1 and S2 readers with their well-earned certificates. He said: "Research has shown that keen readers are the learners most likely to do well in all subjects. It's great to visit the classes to celebrate their progress and see the pupils enjoying their reading."

Picture shows Lauren being presented with her Bronze certificate by Mr Graham.



Last session's 2014/15 Duke of Edinburgh group was one of the most enthusiastic and dedicated groups that we have had for some years. Out of the twenty one pupils that started the programme, nineteen reached the end, finishing all of the required elements.

At present twelve out of those nineteen pupils have had all their evidence signed off and have been successful in achieving their Bronze award. Many of the group are looking to continue to the next level of Silver with the Oasis Centre in Dumfries. The remaining seven students are still working on their evidence sections and it is anticipated that they will all get through the process very soon.

Mr MacKellar, teacher in charge of Duke of Edinburgh, said: "I would like to thank the support team of teachers, our assessors and our group leaders for their hard work throughout the year and congratulate all of the students who have completed their award." Photograph shows some of the successful Bronze students from this year's group with their certificates along with Hannah Jones from last year's group, Mr Graham and Mr MacKellar.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Achievements



Rural Skills Options

To give more pupils the opportunity to see what our Rural Skills courses entail before they make their subject choices, Queensberry Initiative decided to offer some taster visits which were hosted by some of our volunteer farmers.

The first group of S3 pupils visited Auchenhessnane Farm where Sinclair Barbour and Ivor Coltart had set aside some tasks for the pupils to carry out under their instruction. Some of the pupils were a little nervous at first but confidence grew as they handled the blackies. Pupils moved the sheep from each pen and ensured they all had the correct dose before releasing. Sinclair demonstrated

how to correctly turn a ewe and showed the pupils how to check their feet, explaining why this is important.

The second group were some of our Forestry pupils who had expressed an interest in taking Rural Skills and they visited John Maxwell at Hayfield Farm. John gave pupils a tour around the farm and showed them examples of the types of tasks they'd be expected to carry out under supervision when taking part in Rural Skills.

Thank you to John, Sinclair and Ivor for taking time to pass on their expertise. The hands-on teaching they provided was much appreciated and a great way to begin the pupils' Rural Skills



experience. I'm sure they are already looking forward to the full course next year when we'll be out each week on our local farms.

Cornerstones of the Community



Congratulations to Adam Dagleish and Archie Harkness from S6 who have recently been recognised for their voluntary work.

On the 12th of November 2015 Adam and Archie attended the Newcastle Building Society '*Cornerstone of the Community*' award ceremony at the Hallmark Hotel in Carlisle, and were awarded

the Dumfries Branch Award in recognition of their volunteering efforts. The boys received this award after volunteering at a local social enterprise for disabled adults in Dumfries, '*Buddies*', where they have devoted many hours of their school holidays. Whilst at '*Buddies*' the boys assisted several members with creative and educational activities.

Adam Dagleish said, "I was honoured to have received this award and would like to thank all of the volunteers and members at '*Buddies*' for making the experience so enjoyable." Archie Harkness agreed and said, "I was also honoured to have received the award and would like to thank the charity leader Christine Crossley for nominating us."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Adam and Archie are two exceptional young men who have given their time freely to help out at '*Buddies*'. I am delighted that they have been recognised by the Newcastle Building Society for their outstanding commitment - well done to both of them."

Musical Maestro



Eilidh Thomson, S3, has recently been chosen as this year's custodian of the Moniaive David McColl Memorial Mandolin.

The mandolin belonged to David McColl a local man who, when he died two years ago, bequeathed the mandolin to the Moniaive Folk Festival in the hope that it would be used and enjoyed. The mandolin is to be lent on an annual basis to a deserving student who would appreciate the opportunity to use and enjoy this fabulous instrument.

The school forwarded S3 student Eilidh Thomson for this honour. Paul Lyttle, Artistic Director of the Moniaive Folk Festival, came to the school recently and presented this beautiful instrument to Eilidh. This is the second time a pupil from Wallace Hall has been granted this honour as Peter Wall, an S6 pupil at Wallace Hall last year was chosen as the recipient.

Lessons are also included in this award and it is hoped that Eilidh will enjoy and benefit from this wonderful musical opportunity.

Wallace Hall Primary pupils show off their snowmen



QI Work Experience Opportunities



Queensberry Initiative (QI) work with business partners to offer tailored work experience to all S4, S5 and S6 leavers at Wallace Hall. Pupils apply for a placement by completing an application form and handing this to the QI staff along with a copy of their CV and Personal Statement.

Kerry Love, one of our S6 pupils who has benefitted from the tailored placements, said: "Throughout my sixth year at school, I participated in the QI Work Experience scheme. I have had a passion for nursing for a long time and decided I would like to look further into the field. The QI staff helped me find my placement and put me in touch with the manager of Briery Park residential home. Visiting Briery Park provided me with a good insight into the field of work I was applying for. I was able to speak with staff and residents about the

type of care that they provide at Briery Park. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and will never forget what I have learned from it."

Kirsty Masters, S6, added: "I thoroughly enjoyed my work experience during the summer holidays with various legal and social services within Dumfries. I started off in the social care sector and had a very worthwhile experience with the Listen2Us project who help looked after young people to have a voice in their community. I moved on to work within both the education and the legal departments of Dumfries and Galloway Council which I also found advantageous. This work experience really helped me clarify the area of study to pursue after leaving Wallace Hall Academy and gave me direction for my UCAS application. This type of reputable work experience that QI provide is looked upon very favourably by universities and in

addition, has led to several contacts of whom will be of great help to me as I move on to University to study politics next year. Thank you to Mrs Wood and Miss Peoples in Queensberry Initiative for their support and guidance."

Ally Muir, S6, has also gained a lot from his placement. He commented: "For a while now, I have been interested in archivism and researching the history of Dumfries and Galloway. I was lucky enough to get a work placement in assisting the local studies officer at the Ewart Library. I started this placement on 24th November and it involves researching the births, marriages and deaths in the whole of Dumfries and Galloway in the 1940s from old articles in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard. Although I do the placement for only half the day, I enjoy it a lot and I also enjoy the company of my bosses and co-workers. I feel this placement is useful as I am now keen to pursue a career in archivism in the future. This placement wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the work of the QI as they made contact with the library for me. I therefore recommend work placements in the future to younger pupils as it prepares them for life outside of school and in the outer and wider world of work."

Pupils wishing to find out more about work experience should speak to any member of the QI team.

Swimming Sessions

Report by Alexander Bettaney 1C1

My PE class have been going swimming on a Tuesday morning to the temporary pool at the Ice Bowl. We leave at quarter past 11 and we are back for lunchtime. The pool is surprisingly

warm. I thought that it would be cold because it is only a temporary pool.

The swimming pool is 18m long and 1.2m deep. We get about half an hour in the water. The disabled facilities are ok but they could be a lot better, there could be a hoist and a bed in the disabled changing room. I have enjoyed going to the swimming pool.

Senior Girls Hockey

Report by Kirsty Higgins



On the 4th November the senior girl's hockey team travelled to King George V Sports Complex in Dumfries

to participate in the annual Doctor Turner's tournament.

The team consisted of 14 players from 4th, 5th and 6th year

pupils all enthusiastic and determined to do their best.

All of the schools taking part were separated into two pools in which they would play their heats and this would decide who would progress to the semi-finals. After playing skilfully, Wallace Hall managed to make it to the semi-finals after coming 2nd overall in their pool. The next team we were up against was Dalbeattie High School and unfortunately, after a very good game, we lost 1 - 0 and our time at Doctor Turner's was up.

In the end, everyone had a great day and enjoyed taking part in the tournament.

Back row, L-R – Erin Dobie, Kirsty Higgins, Caitlin Harley, Niamh Johnston, Justine Crosbie, Rebecca Renton, Emily Morton (Captain).

Front row, L-R – Emma McKendrick, Lauren Whitelaw, Kathryn Phillips, Zara Duncan, Charlie Geddes, Mhairi Watret, Molly Kitson.

Rugby Report

By Ally Muir
Wallace Hall 40 Langholm 7

Wallace Hall U18s maintained their winning form as they soundly trashed Langholm Academy 40 - 7 at Park Farm on 16th December 2015.

Wallace Hall got off to a lacklustre start as they conceded the first try, courtesy of the Langholm full-back. Fortunately though, this was the only points Langholm would score as Wallace Hall fought back. After wasting numerous chances, Wallace Hall took advantage of pressure on the Langholm 22. Sean Wicks passed to twin brother Ben who went over for the try in the left corner, converted by Josh Notman. Wallace Hall then took the lead when Cameron Lang intercepted a Langholm pass in their own 22 and went for the try which was converted by Notman. Langholm

had their chances and frustrated Wallace Hall at times but Langholm lacked the killer instinct and failed to take their chances. Wallace Hall then scored their third try when skipper Tom Martin went over the line and Notman added the extra two and the score at half-time was 21 - 7 to Wallace Hall.

Wallace Hall were more dominant in the second half and pinned Langholm down in their own 22. Nick Willetts then scored the fourth try and although Notman failed to convert, Wallace Hall were now running away with the win. The lads then applied pressure to Langholm and the game was won but there was still time for another spectacular winning try in the dying seconds of the game, Reid Paterson

disrupted a Langholm scrum which gave the advantage to Wallace Hall with Evan Cringean coasting to the try-line to conclude the game in style. The final score was 40 - 7 to Wallace Hall.

All the team contributed well to the win but some players stood out. Tom Martin had another ideal **captain's performance, marshalling** from the front. Nick Willetts also had a decent game, stealing two lineouts. Reid Paterson was also in fine form, creating turnovers which made it difficult for Langholm. Evan Cringean also had a superb game at scrum-half which culminated in the clinching try. However, the man-of-the-match was Josh Notman who had a good day with the tee, kicking five out of six conversions.

Lineup:

S Wicks, Paterson, Martin (c), Robertson, Mahoney, Lang, Muir, Willetts, Cringean, Lethardy, B Wicks, Notman, Barnes, Payne, Scobie

Lewis is on course for success



Congratulations to Lewis Cheetham who has had a very successful season of golf this year, winning the pairs and individual handicap match play at Dumfries & County, the Stanley Morrison Trophy, the Crichton Open and the South of Scotland Under 18 boys handicap order of Merit.

In addition, Lewis was runner up in the Watt Smith, the Under 18 at Uphall and Prestwick Open, and was selected to play for Dumfriesshire in the under 14 age group for the final match of the season.

Lewis said: "I first started playing golf when I was 5 with a set of 3 clubs which my Dad put in his bag and I would walk around the course with him. Dad used to say it was obvious even at that stage that I had the potential to play the game well as the only time we lost was whilst I helped him look for his ball, as mine was never in any trouble!

"I started playing with a handicap in 2013, playing of the red tees and moved onto the adult tees half way through the 2014 season. By the end of this season I was playing off a handicap of 21.

"At the start of the 2015 season I set myself the goal of reducing my handicap to 15. I had been advised not to expect too much as I am still very young and, shall we just say, not one of the tallest members of S2! Although weather-wise the 2015 season has not been one of the best for playing golf, I have spent every available minute either on the golf course or practising.

"My proudest achievements are: being top of the South of Scotland under 18 boys handicap order of merit winner as, although I only won one open competition this year, the Order of Merit encourages players whose home club is in the Southern area to compete in the major local competitions in order to find the most consistent golfer in the South of Scotland; being selected to play for Dumfriesshire Under 14s and surpassing my goal set at the start of the season and finishing with a handicap of 11.

After the close of season I plan to have weekly lessons with Brian Gemmell at Tower Wood and also TPI fitness training with the Dumfriesshire team and continue to play and practice whenever possible.

Next year my aim is to compete in competitions further afield and at a higher level through the SGU. I am also looking at cementing my place in the Dumfriesshire team and eventually hope to be selected for the South of Scotland."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, commented: "Lewis is a very talented young golfer and his achievements to date are very impressive. I look forward to following his progress next year and wish him well in future competitions."

Smalls for All

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



Fraser is selected to play for Scotland

Congratulations to Fraser Morton, S6, who has recently been selected as the goalkeeper for the Scotland School Boys' under eighteens football squad.

His first match is on 24th February against Northern Ireland at Lesser Hampden. Fraser will be playing in four international games this season as well as several friendly matches against Scottish professional teams.

Fraser began playing football at the age of five and by the age of fourteen he had signed for the youth team at Queen of the South. Fraser is now signed with Queen of the South under twenties and is on loan to lowland league side, Dalbeattie Star.

Fraser said: "I am looking forward to representing my country and being presented with my first cap. It was a huge honour to be selected for the Scotland School Boys' under eighteens team and it has been a lifelong ambition to play for my country. This is the first time that three boys have been selected from Dumfries and Galloway and this largely due to the support received from our club and regional coaches. It is also thanks to the support we have received from our families and our schools who have supported us in getting to this level."

Girls' Football

Report by Jordana Hall

On 1st December 2015 our Girls' Football Teams competed against other regional High Schools at the Queen of the South Indoor Arena at Palmerston in Dumfries. This

opportunity was amazing and great fun.

The Junior players, regardless of their skill and experience, were encouraged to have a go and try their best. The girls worked together

really well and, with the help and encouragement of our amazing coaches, had a successful day out.

The Senior Girls' Team also took part in this event, defeating Maxwellton High in a 13-0 goal scoring extravaganza!

Both Teams will play further games in this "local league" later in the year.



Dr Turner's Hockey Tournament 2015

Report by Emily Kennedy



Back row L - R: Tammy McWhirter, Shona Buckley, Claire Armstrong, Sarann Scott and Jade McWhirter
Front row L - R: Jemma Gordon, Morven Dobie, Emily Kennedy, Lauren McKinna and Charlotte James

A month before school broke up for the Christmas holidays, the S3 girls' and S3 boys' hockey teams were involved in the annual Dr Turner's Hockey Tournament at King George V. The tournament is something we enter every year, only ever achieving 3rd place, until this year.

Weeks and months of practice had gone into preparing for Dr Turner's. It was organised that girls and boys would train together on Tuesday nights, which benefited everyone immensely. In addition to this,

girls also go to the school's hockey club on Thursdays. Dumfries Hockey Club is something that the majority of the girls' team are part of too, with some training on Tuesday or Wednesday nights.

On the day of Dr Turner's, everyone was eager to know what other schools were there and when we would be playing. Our first match was against Dumfries Academy, winning 3-0. On the other side of the pitch, the boys were playing a tough game with Kirkcudbright, but the final score was 2-1 to WHA. Moffat

also challenged the boys and played an intense game.

Schools from all across the region came to take a stab at **winning the Dr Turner's Trophy**; such as The Douglas Ewart, Moffat, Kirkcudbright and Dumfries High School. WHA were **very anxious about the girls' semi-final** against Dalbeattie as we had played them a week beforehand, and knew that they were a good team. Despite this, WHA came out on the upper-hand, securing a place in the final.

The boys' final was between Moffat and Kirkcudbright, but WHA played incredibly well considering they were up against such strong teams with more **experience**. The girls' final was between Dumfries High School and Wallace Hall. Dumfries High were first to score, which made us skeptical about our chances of winning. However, we had fought off all the competition and **weren't about to give up before** the game had finished. The game ended with a draw, both teams with one goal each. It was taken to penalty corner shoot-outs and Wallace Hall came out victorious. None of us could believe it, we had finally won after three years of trying!

A special thanks to Mrs Miller, who made the entire tournament possible. Thanks for coaching and helping us to achieve things like **winning Dr Turner's**.

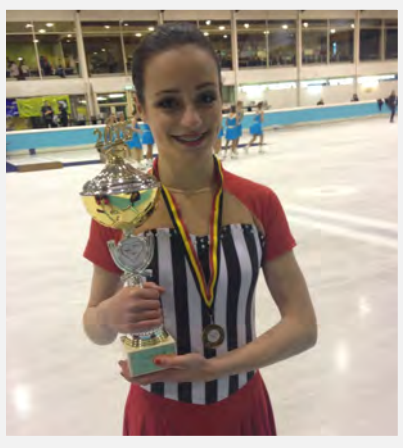
Hockey Team

The S3 boys also participated in the boys' Dr Turner's tournament. The team played very well together considering their experience to date scoring many goals in the round robin format.

Eventual winners were Kirkcudbright Academy with the Wallace Hall team finishing in third place. Photograph on the right shows the boys helping the girls celebrate their victory - see report above.



Skating Success



Three pupils from Wallace Hall Academy recently travelled to The Wintercup in Belgium with their respective Synchronised Skating Teams from Solway Sk8ing Club.

Chloe Williams in S3 competed with her team Solway Stars who

took gold in their category and Ines Wood in S2 along with Nadine Coltart in S1 competed with Solway Eclipse and took Silver. This was a fabulous start to the season and the girls are all now back in training for The British Synchronised Skating Championships which are held in Nottingham in January 2016.

Aidan Kennedy from S1 will also compete at the British Championships with Team Lightning, and Stars and Eclipse will be defending their titles as British champions in their respective categories.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall, said: "Solway Sk8ting Club is competing and achieving success at a very high level and this is largely due to the



commitment and dedication of the skaters, their coaches and the parents. Congratulations to everyone involved and I wish them continued success for the busy season ahead."



Fraser takes the High Road

Fraser Morton, S5, has been enjoying success on the curling rink recently. Fraser, along with the other members of his team, reached the final of the High Road in the Baljaffray Trophy held at Greenacres Curling Rink in November.

Twenty four teams contested the trophy with the final match ending up a very close game with Fraser's team only losing by one shot. Fraser said: "It was a real thrill to reach the final of the High Road. Although we lost, I was really pleased with how our team played."



Ross is on the road to the Olympics

Congratulations to Ross Whyte who has just been selected for the Youth Olympics Curling Team. This is a phenomenal achievement and we asked Ross to tell us about his path to selection.

"I first started curling at the age of 6 when I was introduced to it by my sister, Naomi. Naomi was introduced to the sport by the school programme and very quickly became a keen curler. When she was at training I would sit and watch her and my brother, Ruaraidh, curl and it wasn't long till I was eager to have a go too. One session Naomi asked one of the coaches if I could try a shot or two and he was very happy for me to do so. From that first try I was hooked and was practicing every day after that.

"My first big competition was the Dumfries Junior (Under 21) international where lots of teams from around the world come to play. This was in 2007 when I was just eight. When I was ten, I joined up with three other boys from Dumfries to play in the Under 17 Scottish tour and in our first event we came third. That year I also played in my first Scottish qualifier. I managed to win the Scottish under 13s title at the age of 11 in Aberdeen. This leads me onto some of my more recent successes. I have won the Under 17 tour three times in a row and the first time I won the tour, I was the youngest ever to do so. I won the under 21 Scottish tour last year and I was again the youngest ever to do so. I am currently leading the under 21 tour again with two events to go.

"I have recently been selected for the Youth Olympic team to represent team GB in Lillehammer, Norway, in February. The selection process started with me filling in an application form to note my interest in being in the team. The next stage was that we were invited to a performance day in Braehead where we played games in teams whilst the selection panel watched our curling abilities and our actions on the ice. There were 24 players in this stage and this got cut down to 5 boys and 5 girls for the next stage. In the next stage we had to give a presentation on "how the experience of the youth Olympics will help me to



become a better curler for the future". This was followed by an interview.

"The next bit was the hardest - the final stage. This was the part where I had to wait to find out if I was selected as one of the two boys in the mixed team of four. Waiting in anticipation for this email to come through was awful but the relief when it came through to say I was in the team was amazing. We have not been given a training schedule yet but we will be doing lots of preparation as a team for the Olympics and a lot of team building. Just before we head out to Norway, we will go down to London to meet all the other youth Olympic athletes who will be representing team GB. I look at this as a huge stepping stone for me to get into the men's Olympic team in the future but just the experience of this will make me a lot more confident. I am really excited for this opportunity."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "I am sure that Ross will be a fantastic ambassador for his country and wish him every success for the Junior Olympics and beyond."



1616–2016
"...not of an age
but for all time!"



Wallace Hall Academy

1616–2016
"...not of an age
but for all time!"



presents an outdoor production of ...

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare



at

Drumlanrig Castle

(by kind permission of The Duke of Buccleuch)

Monday 20th June 2016

Tuesday 21st June 2016 – Midsummer Night

Wednesday 22nd June 2016