

# Wallace Hall

## NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Together we grow, learn and achieve



# Midsummer Magic



The cast and crew of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" pictured in front of Drumlanrig Castle in June. For full report and photographs please turn to pages 24 - 27.

## Lest We Forget

Wallace Hall pupils and staff have recently returned from their annual visit to the Battlefields of Belgium and France.

The trip is a chance for pupils to visit cemeteries, memorials and museums which commemorate the sacrifice made by so many during the conflicts of the First World War and learn more about the challenges faced by our brave soldiers fighting for freedom.

Photograph on the left shows Zara Kennedy, Amy Dagleish, Mrs Innes, Jack Roberts and Owen Nicholson at the 'Last Post Ceremony' held at the Menin Gate Memorial each evening to honour those who fought in WW1.

For full report and more pictures from this year's trip please turn to pages 34 and 35.



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**Competing at the College**

report by Emily Saunders



**On Tuesday 21st of June a number of S4 pupils from Wallace Hall Academy participated in a competition at Dumfries and Galloway College.**

Pupils from Wallace Hall won three of the sections. Murray Crosbie and I won the Chunky Charcoal activity and our winning drawing is now on display in the Library at Wallace Hall. Chloe Williams, Saranne Scott, Finlay Smith and Finlay Gibson competed in the Sports and Fitness section and won. Leah Thompson and Erin Leslie were our representatives in the Outdoor Fitness activity and Jasmine Bell and Georgia Rinaldi came second in Dragon's Den.

Overall Wallace Hall finished in third as a school. We received a small trophy and gift token in recognition of our winning efforts in each event. I'd like to thank Mrs Innes for giving us this opportunity and Dumfries College for organising the competitions. We all had a great day and were very pleased with our efforts.

**Contacting the school**

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

# Hospitality Suite

report by Josie Fairley Keast



**Colin Grant, Head of CYPLL, and Jeff Leaver, Education Chairman, visit the Hospitality Suite at Wallace Hall Academy**

that the space used to be a storeroom and classroom. "We've already had the Parent Council in for dinner, and facilities are currently open to staff on a Thursday lunchtime, but we will be looking to expand both times and market. The menu changes seasonally, with occasional themed lunches. Preparing the food themselves teaches the pupils about seasonality and food cost - for example, as we move into next term, we'll start making use of winter vegetables. The current team consists of S5 and S6 pupils who do it as an elective and have chosen to give up their lunch breaks. It's a great team and I'm fortunate to have them, especially at the start of the venture."

Euan Mack, PT Health and Wellbeing, said: "The new hospitality kitchen is a great facility which we are very lucky to have. It is a fantastic opportunity to promote skills for work in our pupils while delivering restaurant-quality food in a professional setting."

Photographs of the visit to the Hospitality Suite were taken by Lottie Bramley, S5.

**"This is a training restaurant, better known as the hospitality suite. Here we translate National 5 practical cookery skills into professional cookery, with customer service training as an addition. The emphasis is on practical skills, especially front and back of house."**  
**David Gilius, Home Economics**

**teacher, is clearly enthusiastic about the new developments in the department and the potential it offers, both as a teaching space and a functioning restaurant within the school.**

The suite certainly looks the part; with an inviting restaurant area in front of the gleaming kitchen, it's difficult to imagine



## Lisa joins the team



At the start of this term, Anne Marie Wood and Leanne Rutherford, Queensberry Initiative Project Officers, welcomed Lisa Edwards to the Queensberry Initiative (QI) team.

Lisa has been appointed as their clerical assistant and will be in school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am until 2.30pm.

Anne Marie Wood said: "I am sure Lisa will be a real asset to our team and Leanne and I are looking forward to the new skills that she will bring." Lisa said: "I am really looking forward to working as part of the QI team and helping Anne Marie and Leanne support QI's new partnership with Sanquhar Academy."

## A new session of Career Mentoring



**Career Mentoring has got off to a great start this year with 38 pupils signing up to work with our excellent team of mentors.**

Organised by the Queensberry Initiative team, the sessions help pupils with their next steps into further education, training or employment. S4, S5 and S6 students who apply to be mentored complete an application form

clarifying their reasons for asking to be included in the programme. Many of them are seeking support with personal statements, CVs and interview skills. Students see that working with a mentor can help them to shape a career plan and gain the self-awareness and confidence they require to embark on life beyond school.

Photographs above show Emma Cronie working with Joyce Beattie from Buccleuch Estates and Hayden Payne working with John Miller from John Miller Ltd. For more information on Career Mentoring please contact Leanne Rutherford or Anne Marie Wood on 01848332120 or [info@queensberryinitiative.co.uk](mailto:info@queensberryinitiative.co.uk).

## 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](http://ucas.com).

# Forestry Module

**This year's S3-S4 forestry module have been enjoying themselves carrying out a variety of practical activities in local woodland and working with local businesses such as James Jones and JP Wilson.**

Some of their tasks include clearing paths at the Chimney Plantation, learning how to identify various species, and cutting down and planting new trees.

Rory Thornely-Kyle said: "Forestry is a very enjoyable module. There is loads to learn and Mr Miller will help you every step of the way. It is very useful if you want to go into Forestry when you are older.

The group will continue with the module through the winter, and are looking forward to starting a mountain biking session in the Spring term.



# Reablement Course

report by Kyle Thomson and Oliver Treadaway

**Wallace Hall is currently the only school in Scotland to offer a college course in reablement, covering a variety of areas of health and social care.**

As a result, two of our S6 pupils, Niamh McQuarrie-Parkes and Georgina Wise, were invited to

speak at a conference at the Easterbrook Hall last June. They gave a presentation on their experiences studying the course while in school, making links to college, and what they could do if they continued it after school.

The conference was attended by local employers and businesses, as well as schools, colleges and universities. Niamh said: "Talking in front of so many people has helped me a lot, and I'm really glad to have had this opportunity." Georgina added: "It was scary at first because of the amount of people that attended the conference, but overall it was a great experience and I really enjoyed myself."

# Duke of Edinburgh Award Success



**A number of Wallace Hall Academy pupils have recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards. Photos above show Georgie Blount, Scott McLellan, Lorna Rideout, Reid Paterson, Travis Kelting and Erin Walls receiving their certificates from Mr Graham and Mr MacKellar.**

# Finding out about Fish

report by Bethan James



**On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the Advanced Higher Biology class from Wallace Hall Academy were treated to a delightful double period of fish dissection with help from Debbie of Nith Fisheries. The first step was to meet our fish, and we quickly named them Barry, Jeff and Simon.**

The main reason for doing a fish dissection was to look for parasites. We were shown a presentation about all the different types of parasite which can affect the Rainbow Trout (which is a member of the Salmonid family). It was quite disgusting, although it was funny to discover that if fishermen find lice in a fish's gills, they are pleased because it indicates that the fish are relatively new in that area of water from the sea. We then investigated the outside of the fish to see if there were any obvious signs of infection. We took a mucus and scale sample, which was examined under the microscope. An interesting fact we learnt was that there are small rings on the scales close to the dorsal fin which can be used to identify the age of the fish, in the same way that you can count the rings on a tree trunk to determine how old that tree is.

It was soon time to bite the bullet and open up the fish. It



was a messy job trying to remove the fat and the guts in order to see the organs, but it was really interesting looking at the interior anatomy of our fish. Two of us took the plunge and dissected the eyes; this was probably the worst part of the dissection as they were not easy to remove.

There were no signs of parasites, which is a good thing because they were bought from Tesco, where you would hope the fish would be healthy for consumption. Despite the smell it was not as bad as expected – on the contrary, it was quite intriguing being able to identify the different organs to determine what the overall health of the fish was like.

# Drama Trip to Edinburgh

report by Eleanor McKie



**On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, students from S4, S5 and S6 travelled to the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh to see a performance of *The Cheviot*,**

***The Stag and The Black, Black Oil.***

We arrived in Edinburgh in plenty of time and eagerly took our seats near the stage. As the

performance began, an opportunity to participate in the Canadian Barn Dance arose and a few of the older students joined the performers on stage.

Over roughly three hours, the cast told the story of Scotland, starting from the late eighteenth century and finishing just before present day. Performed by the group 7:84 (named appropriately as 7% of the U.K.'s population holds 84% of its wealth) the show told the struggles of Scotland over the centuries, involving everything from sheep and the Gaelic language to American oil moguls.

Overall, there was a healthy balance of humour and despair with even a few pantomime gags. A lot was learned about our nation's history and many would recommend the production to others.

# Our trip to Auschwitz

Report by Emma Cronie and Caitlin Harley



**On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, we were excited to be embarking on our journey to Auschwitz; a journey we knew would be a life-changing experience.**

After arriving in Krakow, Poland, we took a trip to Oswiecim, where we first visited a Jewish cemetery. During these few moments we were allowed to walk around freely and reflect upon those who had died and the life they lived. Unfortunately we were only given a couple of minutes in the cemetery before we had to set off for Auschwitz 1.

Whilst travelling to Auschwitz 1, we were given some advice about what was to be expected. The main advice we were given was that if we felt overwhelmed or devastated, we could sit out. This simple instruction was taken lightly at the time, as we never fully grasped what was to come.

Upon entering Auschwitz 1, we went around many Blocks that had held more than 400 people apiece. We had to go in groups of 20, and even in these small groups we found it extremely claustrophobic. Each Block contained information and artefacts that were found after the war and we were lucky enough to be allowed to take photos of some of them. However, before entering one room we were told that we were not allowed to take

any pictures in that area as it was deemed disrespectful. We had no idea what we were about to experience and many were initially confused about what they were actually seeing. There was a glass display full of hair, shaved off the victims of Auschwitz 1. This sight is one that will never leave us; it was so visually disturbing that many had to exit the room. It was heart-breaking to see the hair from all those innocent people, and it wasn't until that moment that we fully realised the significance of our surroundings.

After being in a few more Blocks, we walked to the Death Wall. This wall is a powerful symbol of all those murdered. Whilst there, we had a minute's silence to remember all those who had fallen in the war.

As we left the Death Wall, we were told that we had one more place to visit; the last crematorium still standing. When walking into this building, we were told that around 700 people were forcefully put into the room that we stood in. We could all see that it barely held our group of 20. The most devastating part was that everyone that entered that room during the war never came out again - yet we did. Our visit to Auschwitz 1 gave us so much appreciation for the world we live in.

After this hard-hitting experience, we made our final visit of the day to Auschwitz Birkenau. When we arrived, we were told that what we could see was as far as the eyes reach. It stretched for miles, miles of buildings built from the houses of the Jews that the Nazis tore down. After going inside a few buildings that showed us the living conditions for those that stayed there we went to the crematorium that the Nazis tried to burn down. Our tour guide told us that where we stood marked the "falling of the German Nazis", because we stood on the spot where they thought that they had got rid of the evidence of their horrific actions during WW2.

The memorial service that took place after our walk around Birkenau gave us the opportunity to light a candle for all those that were murdered at the historic site we stood at. During the memorial, we got a reading from a Jewish Rabbi that told us the story of his great grandparents that survived the Holocaust. For one final tribute, he brought out a woman who was a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and survivor of the Holocaust to sing a famous Jewish song with him to remember her family and friends and all who died. Even though she told us how deeply upset she was being back in the place that brought her so much grief, she had a smile on her face from the moment she started to sing the traditional Jewish song of remembrance.

This experience is one we will never forget, one that will stay with us forever, and one we hope to never stop talking about. It is a privilege and a gift that we got to share with our groups. As we left to begin our journey home, we were told to spread our experience to ensure that the atrocities we had learned about will never be forgotten, to ensure that they will never be pushed aside, and to always respect those around us and never judge anyone for their personal lifestyle choices.



# WHPS Halloween Disco



# Our new Pupil Council Members

S1, S2 and S3 Pupil Council Members



S4, S5 and S6 Pupil Council Members



Our new Junior and Senior Pupil Council members meet once a month in the Drama Studio. The groups, co-ordinated by Ms Beynon, use the forum to express pupils' ideas about how to improve the school for everyone. On a regular basis, representatives of the Pupil Council meet with members of Wallace Hall Academy Senior Management Team to share these ideas and discuss ways forward. If you have an idea or a concern that you would like discussed at Pupil Council then please speak to one of the members who will add this to the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

## Parent Council News



Parent Council members enjoy a meal prepared and served by pupils in our new Hospitality Suite

# A warm welcome at Wallace Hall

report by Deri Ronan and photographs by Lottie Bramley

**Wallace Hall Academy was delighted to welcome some of our prospective students and parents to the school for our P7 Open Evening. The beginning of the night was filled with nerves and excitement for many of the P7s. However, they soon found themselves feeling much more relaxed as they were separated into groups with some of their future classmates.**

Each group was timetabled to visit four activities, giving the pupils a flavour of what their first year at Wallace Hall Academy will be like. While this was happening, parents were taken on a tour of the school and given the chance to have any questions about Wallace Hall answered by some of the teachers.

For many of the P7s, the first stop of the night was in the Home Economics kitchen. With the help of Mr Gilius, the students set about making pancakes, and were even given the chance to try and flip them. Although the latter skill proved unsuccessful for some, the pupils left eager to return to the kitchen next August. In fact, many of the pupils said that their time in

H.E was the highlight of the night.

After tucking into their pancakes, some of the P7s set off to the Library where they had the chance to take part in a Beetle Drive, led by Mrs Menzies and Emily Kennedy. This was a particularly tense moment in evening for P7s and prefects alike, as they tried desperately to be the first to win. After some fiercely competitive but much enjoyed rounds of Beetle, the pupils set off to Modern Studies. Here, with Mrs Andrews and some of her Higher pupils, they were introduced to what was, for many, a brand new subject. Alex Flannighan from Wallace Hall Primary particularly enjoyed his time in Modern Studies. He said: "I thought Modern Studies was really fun because it wasn't just about politics, it was so much more".

Many of the pupils then trekked down to the P.E department where, with the help of Mr Rae, Mr Steele and the Sports Leaders, they took part in games of basketball, football and dodgeball. The time in P.E proved to be popular, with everyone getting involved in the games. Ms Beynon's activity in Drama was



also a success. Encouraged by two Advanced Higher Drama pupils, the pupils had terrific fun playing an exciting game of parachute. Maths was another highlight where the P7s did their best to tackle numerous problem solving activities which Mr Adair had set out for them. Activities were also on offer from the Science, English and Geography Departments with experiments, poetry games and quizzes organised for their visitors. All too soon it was time for the Primary 7s to make their way up to the canteen to share their stories of the evening with friends and parents.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, commented: "Our P7 evening is a very important part of our preparation for the next group of students coming to Wallace Hall Academy. Our results are first class but you have always got to look to the future and make sure you provide the right support and challenge. Having met the future S1s, we are really looking forward to working with them."

Overall, the night was a huge success. The prospective students were reassured about any anxieties they had about attending high school and instead left excited to return. Equally, everyone at Wallace Hall cannot wait to see all of the pupils again when they come into first year next August.





# Employability Workshop



## S5 pupils recently attended an employability workshop.

In the sessions, led by Jill Millar and Tony Read from Catapulting Growth, pupils learned more about the 10 key employability skills. In particular they developed their problem solving skills, working under time pressure and understanding diversity and differences in people.

The event ran over two weeks, with half the S5 year group attending each week. Looking at the feedback, they really enjoyed making the radio advert, especially as the pressure of time made it feel like a genuine 'broadcasting' situation where it has to be completed on time.

In addition, to emphasise that first impressions at job interviews can sometimes be wrong, they enjoyed asking the candidates questions, getting to know more about their backgrounds and situations. This resulted in many groups changing the person they would appoint into the job.





Primary 1 to 7 worked extremely hard during the last few weeks of the summer term to put together a fantastic show - 'Time Warp'. The audience were taken on a tour of the decades with lots of singing and dancing.

# whapples Harvesting

## - We Have Fruit!

**These are exciting times in the school orchard which was planted four years ago.**

The fantastic news is that the trees are now becoming established and are producing some delicious fruit. The amount is still relatively small, and this will increase as the years go by. However, we have a crop to enable us to make products

such as apple crumbles for this year's Christmas Fair.

We anticipate much more fruit in the autumn of 2017, and the pupils on the whapples Board will now begin discussions as to how this can be used inside and outside school. This will involve exploring options such as use in fruit pies, crumbles or apple juice.



Many thanks to the whapples Board for their ongoing work and Mr Miller's Geography group, who helped harvest the crop in October.



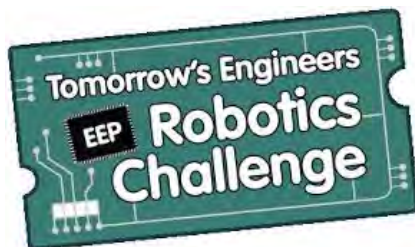
# Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan Coffee morning was a great success again this year, raising over £360 for this worthwhile charity. A delicious selection of baking was provided by staff and Mr Gillius' classes and this was enjoyed by staff and pupils at morning interval and lunchtime. Well done to all of those involved.



# Robot Challenge

After great success in the Scottish National final for the Lego Mindstorms Robotics Competition at the Glasgow Science Centre, the Wallace Hall team of Aleksei Wishart, Duncan Sloan, Oran Murray, Lukas Andreasen and Greig Dunbar had two weeks of preparation before heading to Coventry for the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP British finals.



The competition involved the group taking part in several challenges over the day and using their skills in Engineering and Technology to compete against around 20 schools from all parts of the UK.

The Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge introduces student teams to real-

world engineering, technology, robotics and computing challenges. The challenge aims to help students put their school learning into context and discover exciting new careers.

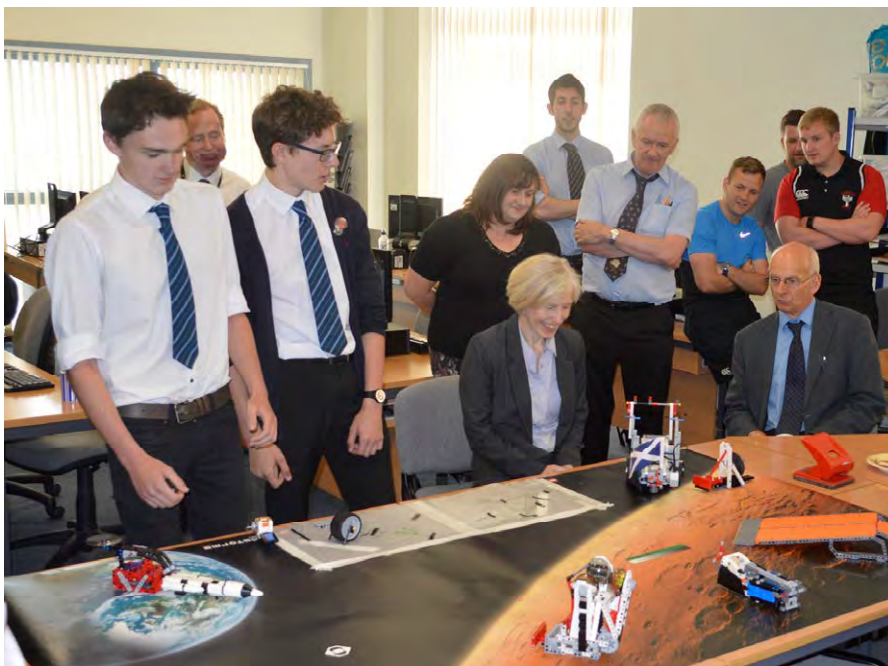
The boys, who called their team The Bus Coders, were commended for the LEGO robot they built. For another part of the challenge, they researched, designed, planned and presented their own solution to a contemporary scientific problem which was developed by LEGO Education with NASA. The Bus Coders went head to head with teams from across the country

and ended up finishing in second place.

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of Engineering UK, said: "In order to meet the country's demand for engineers we need to boost the number of graduates and apprentices entering the engineering industry. The Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge aims to help young people from all backgrounds understand the variety, excitement and opportunity presented by a career in engineering."

Erika Smallridge, Tomorrow's Engineers Product Development Manager added: "The whole team should be really proud of what they have achieved in designing and building their robot and in achieving a top three place in the national finals. I hope they'll go on to use what they've learned about engineering and the importance of team work."

James Lees, Teacher of Design and Technology at Wallace Hall, said: "This has been a brilliant opportunity for the boys. The Robotics Challenge has been really exciting and we're so proud to have been highly commended in the national finals. It has been quite a learning curve for the team, but they've enjoyed every minute. Everyone should take part next year!"



## Saltire Success



**In June this year we had our second Saltire Awards assembly. Nineteen pupils received awards this time for their superb efforts in volunteering in a variety of activities within and outwith school.**

A special mention must go to the pupils who received a 200

hour volunteering award. This is the highest level of Saltire Award we have reached this year and is a fantastic achievement. These pupils are Josie Fairley Keast for services to the library, Corin Skinner for his participation in the Camp International Project in Tanzania, Bethany Krease for her participation in the Strictly for

Charity events, and Annabelle Guthrie for her assistance with the Calside Brownies and NYCOS Choir. We hope all students will continue to work towards the next stage of their Saltire Awards.

Photographs show Mr Dillon, Mrs Marchant and Mrs Andrews with some of the Saltire Award winners.



## S6 Summer Ball





# Thumbs-Up for Wallace Hall

Report by Josie Fairley Keast

**When asked what his favourite part of being in primary one is, Callum Padkin replies: "Staying at the school all day." Luka McKeown thinks for a moment. "I like playing outside," he adds. "I liked learning about our blood," Bonnie Smith finishes with a smile. From this, it's clear that the new primary ones have settled in well and are already enjoying learning lots of new things, from sounds and phonics to a project on the human body.**

First year students have also found a firm footing within the secondary school, taking the opportunity to join a variety of extracurricular activities. Holly Hudson said: "I really like it in secondary so far because there are a lot of subjects which I've never done before, like Home Economics." Jake Fraser added: "You have a lot more subjects

than primary. I like having lots of different teachers as it makes the day pass really quickly."

Pupils have had the opportunity to join in with a variety of extracurricular activities and clubs. Joshua Cooper said: "My favourite subject is Drama and I have joined the Drama Club. I am really looking forward to the school show next year." Lewis Brown added: "There are lots of good things to do in your free time at Wallace Hall Academy. I really like playing on the computers at lunchtimes."

Students also have the chance to work with the Queensberry Initiative, which aims to help with the transition from primary to secondary with an emphasis on outdoor learning. John Hewson said: "I'm really looking forward to going out with the Queensberry Initiative and visiting all the farms."

The first years have recently returned from their visit to the Scottish Outdoor Education Centre in Belmont, hopefully the first of many residential trips over their time with the school. Tom Currie said: "I really enjoyed the Belmont trip. It was a great opportunity to spend time with my new classmates and the teambuilding activities really helped us to get to know each other."

Lucy Doig, Head Girl for the coming year, said: "It's been an exciting start to the year. I'm looking forward to the opportunities ahead, and I want to wish the best of luck to all students throughout the school."

Barry Graham, Headteacher, said: "Pupils in all stages of their time at Wallace Hall have now spent several weeks as part of their new classes, and we are all delighted with the very positive start they have made."



## WHPS Primary 1 - Day 1





**1.N2 - Day 1**



**1.S1 - Day 1**

# Shepherding Success

Report by Josie Fairley Keast

**Charlotte Colley, S1, has recently been very successful in the class for Shepherds at Moffat show.**

Charlotte entered three of her sheep, making her the youngest competitor in her class. Charlotte said: "This was my first year entering the show, so I was very nervous. My dad helped me hold the sheep when the judge came round. I got a first with my gimmer, a second with my ewe lamb, a third with my ewe, and another third with the whole team. I enjoyed the show so much, and can't wait to enter again another year."



## Faraday Challenge Day



**Wallace Hall pupils recently had the chance to take part in a Faraday Challenge Day.**

The event is set up and run by a team of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics) professionals and is a great way to encourage students in these subject areas.

Emily Hunter and Holly-Elise Parkinson, two members of the winning group, said: "The

Faraday Challenge was a great event where we experienced lots of new technology. We found the challenge helped us express our ideas, opinions and talents in specific subject areas where we already have some knowledge. Taking part was a fantastic opportunity and we would strongly recommend others to get involved if they get the chance. We were delighted that our team won the challenge and hope we get further opportunities like this to develop our skills and interests. Thanks to Mr Lees for organising the event and Rebecca Cottrell, the IET Faraday Challenge Leader."

Members of the winning group were Emily Hunter, Holly-Elise Parkinson, Ella Parry, Connor McAvoy, Alfie Harkness and Rhuararidh MacKenzie (pictured top left).



# Trip of a lifetime

Report by Deri Ronan, Mhari Prentice, Suzie Wedge and Lorna Rideout

## The Ardèche trip 2016 was an amazing experience for all.

The beginning of the week was spent in the Ardèche region of the South of France. After spending the first night in a campsite, we spent the following two days kayaking 34km down the beautiful Ardèche river in the sunshine. This included rock jumping, navigating rapids and, for Mr Graham, a lot of swimming. The evening between our days of kayaking was spent with a barbecue and hot chocolate before we settled down to a luxurious sleep under the stars in our sleeping bags. When we returned to our campsite, we had time for the pool, team games and sports before leaving France and travelling through the Mont Blanc tunnel to Aosta in Italy the following morning.

The watersports in Italy were much colder than the 30°C heat in France, as they included gorge scrambling in glacial water and white water rafting in the midst of a thunderstorm! Despite these Baltic temperatures everybody had a great time and enjoyed it even more in the storm, with bigger and faster rapids to capsize and swim in.

As well as water-based activities, we got to see beautiful views in Italy from the top of an

abseiling and climbing rock. Our trip ended with a high-ropes course, where many of our group conquered their fears along the obstacles, swings and zipwires.

In both France and Italy we got to experience the local cultures, exploring villages and shops and having a wonderful meal in an Italian pizzeria.

Overall, the eight days were brilliant, as we had the chance to travel to new places and try so many new things. Thanks to the Acorn staff and the teachers who made the trip such a memorable experience.

On the journey home some of the pupils were asked for their comments about the trip. Here is a selection of these comments - Callum Rennie: "The best things about the Ardèche trip were the activities, especially the climbing and abseiling."

Sam Murphy: "I had fun in the Ardèche. Pour moi, le white water rafting et canoeing était très bon. Je n'aime pas les longs voyages et dormir sous les étoiles."

Mhairi Morton: "The Ardèche trip was the best school trip I have been on. The gorge scrambling was painfully cold but apart from that it was one of my favourite activities. I didn't enjoy the slugs and bugs in our tent."



Harry McMenemy: "Gorge scrambling proved testing, in water barely above freezing with the assistance of a wet suit. Swimming in the glacial water was an excellent experience, even though I did not think so at the time."

Suzie Wedge: "Ardèche was an amazing experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. All the activities were great in different ways and provided a variety of new memories and experiences. My favourite part was the white water rafting, as it was something I had never done."

The worst part was the long journey but all the opportunities we had definitely made up for it. Thanks to everyone who made the trip possible and to our teachers for making the trip a really enjoyable and educational experience for all of us."







Together we grow, learn and achieve

# Midsummer Magic

report by Hugh McMillan



**Wallace Hall Academy performed William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the grounds of Drumlanrig Castle on June 20th - 22nd. An open air production, it was a spectacular way to celebrate both Shakespeare's birthday and the unique partnership between land and school that is the Queensberry Initiative: a project that enables pupils of**

**all ages and abilities access to the open air classroom and the benefits, opportunities and well being that it entails.**

This highly entertaining and accessible production was the culmination of a huge cross-curricular project in the school led by Anna Beynon, Drama specialist and Principal Teacher of Expressive Arts at Wallace Hall.

The cast of pupils used the original text, lightly edited and

incorporating modern elements of dance and music.

"This year, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, it is important not just to celebrate but to remember Shakespeare is for everyone," said Jane McMillan, Principal Teacher of English. "Rather than being elitist or difficult, he is really a gateway to literacy for people of all age groups and abilities, from primary pupils right through to the senior pupils taking the lead roles in this show."

The play showed to large and enthusiastic audiences in bright sunshine and to unanimous acclaim.

To some of the audience, it was a revelation. "I came here out of duty," said one, "expecting to be bored. What I saw was a production worthy of the West End."

When the dream ended on Wednesday night and the set melted away in a matter of minutes it seemed, many of the older pupils, veterans of previous productions, were in tears. Younger folk, in the cast and in the audience, stood around taking pictures and selfies, imagining the times yet to come. Midsummer had gone, but the magic will live on.











# Celebrating Success

report by Rhuairidh MacKenzie

**Wednesday 8th June was an eventful night for all junior pupils of Wallace Hall. This was the night of the annual Junior Celebration of Success evening.**

The Junior Celebration of Success evening is, as we all know, a night when pupils are presented with awards to recognise their particular enthusiasm and hard work in one or more areas of education within school. Wider pupil achievement is also recognised, with awards presented for a variety of out of school achievements including horse riding, street dance and success at the Dumfries and District Music Festival. It was pleasing to see that many pupils attended the night, which played out rather well.

The evening was opened by Mrs Fraser, PT Pupil Support and organiser of the event. As is customary, Mr Graham started the main proceedings with a speech which was complimented by a presentation that featured many photographs of Wallace Hall pupils enjoying the variety of activities taking place throughout the year.

Our honoured guest, Dr Sharon Irvine, was introduced to present the academic and wider achievement awards to S1, S2 and S3 pupils. The three Depute Head Teachers, Mr Blair, Mr Dillon and Ms MacNicol, each introduced the prizes for a specific year group. They explained why the awards were being presented and invited the pupils up on stage to collect their certificate or trophy from Dr Irvine. These awards included sporting achievements, which were awarded to the S1 Boys' and Girls' Hockey Teams, and the S2 Boys' and Girls' Football Teams, in addition to more individual sporting honours, such as golf and athletics. As they stepped off the stage, each pupil had their photograph taken by Mr McEwen.

In her address, Dr Irvine, a former pupil of Wallace Hall, told the audience about how she followed a slightly unconventional route into studying medicine and where her eventual career as an Infectious Disease and Microbiology Registrar in Glasgow has taken her. Dr Irvine explained that she was part of the first group of NHS volunteers to go out



to Sierra Leone in 2014 to help with the deadly Ebola crisis, returning to Sierra Leone in 2015 to see many of the survivors the team had discharged. During that visit, Dr Irvine said she ran a WHO psychosocial counselling course for Ebola-affected individuals along with the national staff and the team worked alongside a few survivors who had very interesting but heartbreaking stories. Dr Irvine concluded by saying how proud she was to have been awarded the Ebola Medal for Service in West Africa. Dr Irvine's speech was most thought provoking, and certainly added a great deal to the night.

Throughout the night we enjoyed accomplished musical and dance acts from Fergus Hiddleston (bagpipes), Ailsa Black (voice), Declan McGarva (piano) and Lois Geddes (street dance). Zara Weir, Holly Elise Parkinson, Finlay Bainbridge and Emily Kennedy all spoke extremely well, delivering a review of the past year.

By the end of the evening it was obvious that everyone had done really well and truly deserved their recognition. To finish the night we got together to enjoy refreshments in 'The Street'.

Photographs on this page and next show some of our pupils with their awards.





# Maasai Magic

report by Niall Gauld, Deri Ronan, Lucas Sale and Oliver Treadaway

**Earlier in the term, pupils at Wallace Hall had the privilege of welcoming members of the Osiligi Maasai Warriors into our school. The seven-piece group travelled some 4000 miles from their village of Oleopolos in southern Kenya. Since 2003, the group has been performing an annual tour of the UK from the south coast of England to the Isle of Skye; they present authentic and lively tribal songs, dances and the world-famous Maasai jumping.**



Pupils from all across the school gathered in the Bailey Hall filled with anticipation about what they were about to witness. From the very beginning of their performance the members of the tribe captured the attention of everyone in the room. They presented unique songs which consisted of whistling, singing and harmonies in order to create a production without any other instrument than their voices. The tribe members then proceeded to inform us of what everyday life in Southern Kenya is like. One key aspect of their lives which was particularly memorable was hunting lions. Although the tribe is no longer able to kill lions, as they are protected by the government in national parks, they still emphasised how noble this act is considered in their community. The leader of the warriors, known as Richard, then proceeded to show off a plethora of traditional weapons and clothes. Most impressively, he managed to

present all of these things in three different languages - English, Swahili and the native language of the tribe, Ma.

However, after around 15 minutes of this captivating presentation, the warriors took a more interactive approach. Ms Beynon, Joshua Cooper and Hunter Gibb were invited to the stage to take part in the world famous Maasai Jumping. Although this provided brilliant entertainment for the rest of the crowd, it was an invaluable experience providing the pupils with a quality insight into the life and culture of the tribe.

Although the Maasai tribes wish solely to entertain and share culture in their performances, the group now do far more than just put on a show. Since 2010, they have worked in close association with a small UK charity - The Osiligi Charity Projects - to support infrastructural improvements within their local community. The results have been astounding and have not only seen developments in the infrastructure of the local community but in education and healthcare too. It is truly amazing that the simple spread of culture and music has helped to



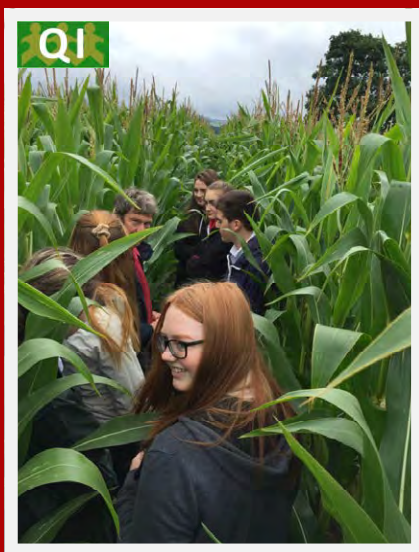
accelerate development within the country and better the community as a whole.

Although Thornhill had been one of the many stops on the tour for the tribe, the warriors had a particularly significant connection with the Thornhill area. Joseph Thomson, born in 1858 in Penpont, was an explorer who had ventured to Africa to share his faith with the continent. Thomson was the leader of a group who shared Christian beliefs to Maasai tribes and for this reason the members of the tribe felt a special link with our village.

Overall, the visit from the Osiligi tribe was an insightful and unique experience for all. The pupils were left inspired by the new culture, so much so that some even went back for more at the second performance in Thornhill Parish Church. The school wish the tribe all the best on the rest of their tour and hope to see them all back next year.



# Practical lessons in Rural Skills



organisational skills. It is all thanks to our 17 Queensberry Initiative volunteer farmers who give up their time to enlighten our young people about the variety of careers within the agricultural sector.

Elaina Bray said: "Rural Skills is a great way to learn practical skills on a farm. It's great for people who like being outside with livestock and getting involved with hands on activities. We have visited local farms and got to know the local farming community a lot better."

Scott McLellan added: "I have spent plenty of time working on farms but was interested to visit Floors farm. We took a tour round



the farm and discussed the benefits of housing pigs outdoors and high animal welfare standards."

**Our Rural Skills Agriculture course has got off to a bright start this term. We have visited a variety of Farms and seen classroom theory in action during our weekly practical visits.**

So far our practical visits have involved weighing, drawing, tagging and dipping at some of our partner sheep Farms at Hayfield, Auchenhessnane, Clonhie, Marr and Auchbainzie Farms.

On some of our dairy farms we have tagged calves, and investigated milking parlours, silage production, hoof trimming, tedder maintenance and cattle housing at Barndenoch, Waterside Mains, Shawsmuir, Rosehill and Muirside Farms.

At Tibbers Farm we learnt about dosing, weighing and finishing beef cattle. On our practical lesson at Floors Farm we investigated outdoor pig production and learned the benefits of the excellent animal welfare this provides.

Our fencing skills are developing with help from the Buccleuch fencing team.

We are incredibly lucky to have the opportunity for our practical sessions to be on working farms. This helps the pupils greatly with their employability, confidence and



# Artistic Achievement



**Congratulations are in order for Faith Goodburn and Aidan Kennedy, S2 pupils at Wallace Hall Academy, for their success in the Club Round of the Rotary Young Artist Competition. The judging, held at WHA in September, was carried out by Dumfriesshire-based artists Alison Proudlock and Claire Melinski.**

Mrs Black, Art Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy, said: "For the competition my class decided to use artwork which was inspired by the book 'The Northern Lights'. Pupils were asked to choose an animal that compliments their character and incorporate this in a self-portrait. We had some



fantastic entries on the day and I am delighted that Aidan and Faith's talent was recognised."

Aidan, who won first place in his section, said: "I couldn't believe it when I learned I had won. My self-portrait featured a hoopoe; an exotic looking bird notable for its distinctive crown of feathers. I think the hoopoe reflects my personality and I really enjoyed working on the piece."

Faith added: "I chose the tiger as my animal after completing a quiz on what animal suited my personality. I was really happy when my artwork was chosen as I didn't expect to do so well. I love art and I have learned so much from Mrs Black."

The first and second-placed entries from both the Intermediate and Senior category (the latter being won by students from Sanquhar Academy) will be featured in the District Final, which takes place on October 5th.

Sharon Glendinning, Thornhill & District Rotary Club Youth Opportunities Convenor, who instigated the competition at Wallace Hall this year said: "The standard of entries from both Wallace Hall Academy and Sanquhar Academy was really high and to have 49 entries submitted for our first year was fantastic. The judges had some terrific pieces of artwork to choose from and they had some difficult decisions to make. Thank you to the pupils, the teachers and the judges for making this such a good competition and good luck to all of the winners for the next stage."



## Jazz group

**Ailsa Black and Josie Fairley Keast have recently performed at Lockerbie Jazz Festival as part of the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Jazz Orchestra.**

The group had just three rehearsals before the performance, and included several young musicians with little or no previous experience with jazz and improvisation. However, under the expert leadership of Richard



Ingham, the group was immensely successful at the festival with a mixture of jazz classics and Richard's own compositions, including a world premiere of the aptly named 'Lockerbie Groove'.

The set featured many soloists within the band, as well as legendary New Orleans trumpeter Leroy Jones.

The group will reform in November, meeting for monthly rehearsals with Richard in preparation for the Perform in Dumfries music festival. This is an excellent opportunity to explore a new genre of music, and any instruments at any level are very welcome- please ask around the music department for more information.





## Horsing Around!

report by Annabelle Guthrie

**Twelve excited pupils from S1, S2 and S3, accompanied by Mrs McMillan and Mrs Marchant, embarked on a day trip to the Camplebridge Riding School, as part of Wallace Hall Academy's Activities Week. This is when pupils can take part in a number of different trips and activities, from shooting and M&Ds, to active games and spa days at Neuro's on the Crichton Estate.**

On arriving at the stables the pupils were met by Mel and Dave, proprietors of the riding school. The first activity was to tack up some of the horses and ponies. After that, some had a lesson on grooming and then rode around the adjoining field at a gentle walk while more experienced riders had a lesson on lunging, a practice activity to teach the horse how to go around a curve or bend.

After lunch, both groups came together to create a 'Handy Pony Course' - an obstacle course to be completed on a horse in teams against the clock. It was a day enjoyed by all and everyone was very sad to leave after having a great time taught by fantastic riding teachers. Thanks go to Camplebridge Riding School for letting us go and teaching us all we needed to know about riding.

## Go Forth



**After winning the regional finals of the GO FORTH! Bridge Building Challenge, the team of Hugh Southall, David Rennie, Thomas Gashi and Callum Candy took on over 30 other Scottish secondary schools for the first civil engineering National final at the Glasgow Science Centre on June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

The day itself saw the team using their skills to compete in a series of STEM challenges set by a variety of

Engineering companies and also presenting their previous successes to a panel of judges. The final challenge included the bridge, nicknamed "Kevin" having to withstand 50 full bottles of water being placed across its span and to great success the team walked away

as Scottish Champions for the competition. The boys have been a real credit to the school and D&T department. It was a great year for Engineering and Technology achievements, and we hope to get a new crop of pupils involved in this year's competitions and challenges.



# Battlefields 2016

Report by Emily Newport

**On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, Wallace Hall Academy students had the chance to attend the school's annual trip to the battlefields in France and Belgium. Throughout the trip students were able to visit many historical sites and war memorials that highlighted the sacrifice of the people who were lost in the war.**

After a long drive from Wallace Hall to Dover and a ferry ride to Calais, our first visit was to the largest French military cemetery in the world, Notre Dame du Lorette. While visiting the memorial we were able to look for our family



names amongst the list engraved alphabetically around the Remembrance Ring built outside the cemetery. Our next visit was to the Vimmy Ridge Canadian Memorial, which was dedicated to the memory of the Canadian Force members who lost their lives in WW1. After this we drove to the Chateau in Ebbingham where we met our very friendly guide Will, who would be travelling with us for the next few days. Finally, after our first meal in the Chateau, we all got some much-needed sleep to prepare for our journey to Belgium the next day.

Our second day started with an early rise for our drive to Belgium, where we visited Talbot House in Poperinge, a house opened in 1915 as a safe place for soldiers to relax with their friends. It was only a short walk from there to the



shooting post and death cells, built for soldiers who had been accused of treason or abandoning their position. Our next visit was to the Brandhoek Military Cemetery, where Danny Ronan and I read to the group about Noel Godfrey Chavasse, a British medical doctor who won the Victoria Cross twice for conspicuous bravery. We then journeyed to Ypres where we had lunch in the gardens above the Menin Gate memorial before visiting the In Flanders Fields Museum. This was filled with hundreds of real findings from the war, as well as short films including quotes recorded in books and diaries at the time. Our next stop was at the Bayernwald Trenches, where we were able to walk around and see where Adolf Hitler would have fought in the First World War. Finally, we headed to Essex Farm Cemetery, where Gavin Wilson was able to find his relative's name on the memorial.

The third day was spent in France and started with a visit to



the underground Somme museum in Albert, where we could see displays of guns and old uniforms. Our next visit was to Lochnagar Crater, which was created by an exploding mine during the Battle of the Somme. We then stopped at Thiepval Memorial, which was built to commemorate over 72,000 soldiers who went missing during the Battles of the Somme in 1915-1918. I asked a fellow pupil,



Rebecca Renton, how she felt when she saw all the names of the lost soldiers. Rebecca said: "I was really taken aback by all the names across the walls. It was a very emotional visit." Our final trip of the day was to the Newfoundland Canadian Memorial Park where we were lucky enough to be taken on a guided tour of the park, which would have been filled with thousands of soldiers fighting on a battlefield.

The first trip of our last day was to Sanctuary Wood, where we could walk around some of the best kept British trenches. There was also a small museum filled with weapons, bombs and photographs.



We made a short detour to the Scottish memorial in Frezenberg to show our respects by laying a wreath on behalf of Wallace Hall. Our next visit was to Tyne Cot, one of the most visited war cemeteries in the world. As we walked into the cemetery, we heard Ava Bowie and Eve Watson performing *The Green Fields of France*. We were able to walk around and lay a small cross on a grave we chose to pay our respects to. We then travelled to Langermarck German Cemetery, which Adolf Hitler visited during the Second World War to pay his respects to the German soldiers who had died fighting for their



country. British Commonwealth graves are tall and white, and usually paired with a red remembrance poppy. In contrast, the German graves were small grey plaques, usually containing more than one body and, of course, there were no poppies present unless a British soldier was buried

there. Our next visit was to Vancouver Corner, where Emily Kennedy gave a breath-taking rendition of Wilfred Owen's *Dulce et Decorum Est*. I asked Emily how she felt reciting the classic poem, which highlights the pain and suffering of soldiers attacked with poison gas. Emily said: "I felt really privileged to have been given the opportunity to perform at the crossroads, as that was where they used gas for the first time. It was very emotional and I'll never forget the experience."

To finish our final day we returned to Ypres to attend the Last Post ceremony, which is held at 8pm every night. Zara Kennedy, Owen Nicholson, Amy Dalgleish, Jack Roberts and Mrs Innes were selected to represent the school by

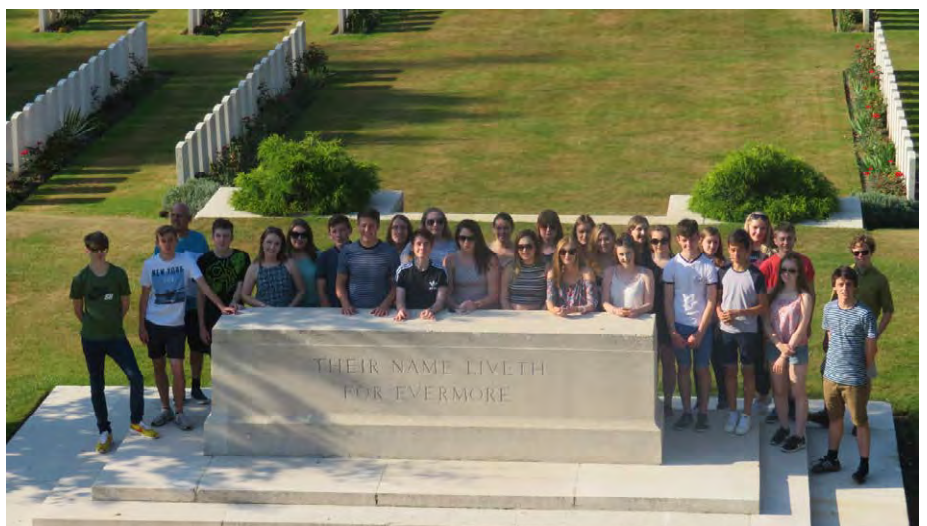


laying a wreath at the ceremony. Zara said: "I felt honoured to be representing our school and to be able to show respect for those who died for our freedom. It was an eye-opening experience." This was my personal favourite part of the trip, because I felt it was a once-in-a-



lifetime chance to see the way the ceremony brought people from all over the world together to learn about the history of the men and women who were lost in the past. After the ceremony I met some girls from Holland who were visiting with their school, and we spoke about how we'd enjoyed our experiences.

The trip was truly unforgettable, and we became very emotional on the journey home when we realised it was over. Everyone learned so much and became so thankful for how lucky we are to have the things we do today. I would like to thank our wonderful teachers, Mr Munro, Mrs Andrews, Mrs Innes and Mrs Sims for teaching us throughout this amazing experience.



# Prefect Training Day

report by Niall Gauld, Kyle Thomson and Oliver Treadaway

**On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, all of the prefects came together for a training day organised by Mr Blair. The day was designed to show us our responsibilities as prefects and how to deal with a broad spectrum of scenarios. We did an array of exercises, varying from teambuilding to improve our relationships with each other, to understanding and solving other pupils' problems.**

First of all we had a talk about feeling left out and not being listened to. We then did a task called Roadblocks, which showed us the steps of becoming a good prefect, including how to approach and deal with different situations around the school.

Later on in the training program, Mr Blair split us into groups where we took part in different activities teaching us to always be aware of our surroundings. This gave us an idea of how serious the role of a prefect is. The last task of the day was a discussion about how to keep control and remain authoritative during any situation.

Overall the day was a very good day and we all learned a lot from the experience. We now feel our skills have improved enough that we can handle situations better as prefects.

Cameron Wood, one of our new S6 prefects, said: "I really enjoyed working with other

prefects, and all the exercises will be really helpful in becoming a good prefect around the school."

Mr Blair said: "Our prefects really engaged well with the training activities and I have high hopes for a very successful year."



# Musical Memories

Report by Josie Fairley Keast



Photograph © NYJOS

**During the summer, I was in three different ensembles and took part in two different concert tours, which in hindsight looks like rather more work than it felt like at the time.**

The first group was NYJOS Access, a training group for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland. Although I've attended the NYJOS summer school since I was thirteen, this was the first year that I'd applied for Access. Despite the fairly stressful audition process, I didn't realise quite how competitive it was until I actually arrived on the Isle of Skye in July and discovered that I was one of only three alto saxophonists in the band. We had a week rehearsing

pieces ranging from jazz classics to original compositions and arrangements by our conductor, Jules Jackson. A highlight for me was Jules's take on Simon and Garfunkel's *The Sound of Silence*, although this may have been because I had a solo on that one. This was quite a significant year for Access, as we ended the week by joining NYJOS on the first two stops of their summer tour, performing as part of the Skye Festival and in Glasgow the following day.

The second group I was in was a lot less intense - Richard Ingham, Professor of Jazz at St. Andrews University, has been running the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Jazz Group for the last couple of years, introducing jazz improvisation to

young musicians in the area. During the summer he invited myself and a trombonist from the group to take part in a demonstration of his technique at the International Conference of Music Educators. Although the workshop was really a sort of 'Improvisation for Beginners' and featured a classically trained violinist, it also included the pianist from NYJOS, and I had a lot of fun.

Finally, I spent the last fortnight of the summer (and then some) with Village Harmony, an international choir based in Vermont, USA. I joined them on their UK tour, both as a singer and as part of the dance band. We had a week of rehearsal in Seahouses, Northumbria, and then travelled around the north of England for a bit. We also gave a concert in Moniaive, where I led the choir in an entertaining performance of a local song. The tour finished at Whitby Folk Week, where half a dozen of us stayed on to help lead or play for an American contradance workshop later in the week. The whole experience seemed incredibly far out of my comfort zone at first, but I have never come out of anything feeling so confident, and I know that I will treasure the skills and memories I have made for the rest of my life.



# Nursery News

**Halloween:** We had our Halloween Parties at Nursery on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. We enjoyed coming to nursery dressed up in our favourite costumes. We took part in lots of different Halloween activities before tucking into a delicious Halloween snack. Our mums and dads looked at photos of our fun-filled day on the big screen when they came to pick us up.



**Outdoors- Wellie Wednesday and Forest Friday:** We enjoy Wellie Wednesday Mornings and Forest Friday Afternoons at Nursery when we have part of our session outdoors. In term one, we were busy building dens and shelters. In term two we will be making fairy doors to take to the woods.



**Science:** We are enjoying being scientists at Nursery this term. We made glow in the dark dream jars and learned about fluorescence.



**Briery Park:** We were learning about Autumn and Harvest time in Nursery the week before the October Holidays. We went on a group walk to Briery Park in Thornhill to visit the residents. We sang some songs and played games for the ladies and gentlemen. We also took items collected from our Harvest Hamper to give to the residents. We enjoyed a drink of juice and a biscuit for all our hard work.

# Singing together in perfect harmony

By Annabelle Guthrie



**Singing with 110 talented choir members from all over Scotland and being offered a chance to sing at the Edinburgh International Festival sounds like it could only be a dream, let alone reality, for a 15 year old girl. But this year, I was given this opportunity to be a member of the National Girls' Choir of Scotland, comprising of 12-16 year olds led by world-renowned conductor Christopher Bell.**

I've been singing with the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) for almost eight years through Dumfries Area Choir, and have regular singing lessons in

Dumfries. I was in the National Girls' Training Choir previously, but this year I wanted to be in the National Girls' Choir (NGC), one step up from the Training Choir, as the National Girls' Choir gives the opportunity to tackle more demanding music and longer, more intense rehearsals. I had an audition in November in Dumfries which I was quite nervous about, as I really wanted to get into the choir to help me become a better singer. In early December, I got the letter saying that I had earned a place in the National Girls' Choir.

In the second week of the Easter holidays I joined Lara, an S4 pupil from Dalbeattie who also sings with NYCoS Dumfries, in Edinburgh for the six day residential course with young singers from all over Scotland, from the Highlands and Islands down to the very edge of the Borders. We had to learn all the music for the end of course concerts and the additional engagements that NGC have the opportunity to participate in this year - 23 songs in total, some of which we had to memorise. Rehearsals were up to two hours long and needed every ounce of our concentration, especially during the evenings when we were all exhausted from long days of focus and singing.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, the last day of the course, all the singers boarded three coaches and were driven up to Dundee to have the end of course concert at Caird Hall, a beautiful concert hall reported to have the best acoustics in Scotland. On the way, we were still singing along to the radio, even though we were told to save our voices for the concert! We arrived and went into more rehearsals to get used to singing in the concert hall and to have some photos taken, before having lunch and relaxing before the concert began. NGC kicked off the concert, and standing on that stage was one of the best moments of my life, but before we knew it, the week was over and we had to say goodbye to newfound friends, with the hope of seeing them next year.

Through singing with NGC, I have been offered the opportunity to sing at the opening gala of the International Society of Music Educators (ISME) annual conference on 24<sup>th</sup> July. I will also be attending several rehearsal days in July and August to get ready for the performance of Elgar's "The Apostles" in the Edinburgh International Festival in August, for which I have been selected to sing with 45 others.

## Wallace Hall Netball Teams in Action

The annual regional netball festival was held at Wallace Hall Academy earlier this year. Photographs below show the WHA junior and senior netball teams in action.

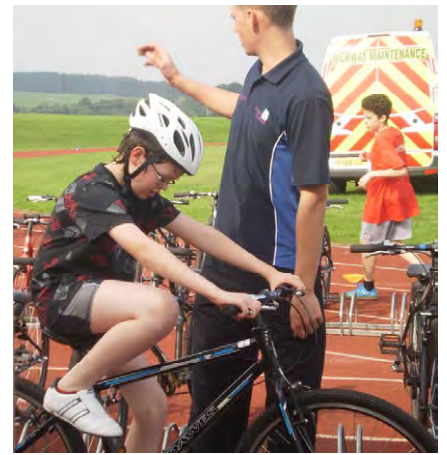


## P4 - 7 Mini Triathlon

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 45 of our Primary 4 to 7 pupils headed off to Sanquhar Pool to take part in a Mini-Triathlon. It was a great experience and the children had a lot of fun!

"I had lots of fun. The swimming was my favourite part and I also enjoyed the running. I would love to do it again!" Kerr Hamilton.

"The cycling was the best because you could do two laps instead of just one. It was a huge challenge. I loved it!" Cameron MacGregor.



"I got to ride a bike. It was great because the path you got to cycle on was nice and smooth. We didn't have to swim very far!" Muskaan Naqvi.

"My favourite part was the biking because it was easy but hard at the same time. I liked the challenge!" Bryce McKie.



## WHPS Sponsored Bounce

Primary 1 to 7 had a day of bouncing as they raised money for their school trips for Session 2016-17.



# Sloan brothers showjumping success



**Duncan Sloan, S3, recently competed in the Regional Show Jumping Championships held in Ingleston, Glasgow. Duncan was a member of the team representing the Nithsdale Pony Club based in Dumfries and they competed against 100 riders from over Scotland.**

The team were delighted to qualify for the finals held at the Ian Stark Show Jumping Centre at Selkirk. This was both a team and an individual competition with competitors travelling from all over Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland. Sara Collier, S1, was also a member of the Nithsdale team. After some excellent rounds of jumping from all of the members, the team finished well but unfortunately not in the top 6. Over the course of the competition, Duncan and his pony, Country



Rendevouz (Dinky), completed 5 excellent clear rounds to get into the final jump off. After another clear round with some real dare-devil turns, Duncan took top spot, winning the entire competition. It was a massive achievement for Duncan to be crowned Regional Showjumping Champion 2016 against 112 of the top show jumpers in the country.

Older brother Arran has also been excelling with his horse, Mr Finn, competing in the Novice Area Showjumping Championships against riders from all over the United Kingdom. Like Duncan, Arran was representing the Nithsdale Pony Club. The first stage of the competition was held at Ingleston in Glasgow against a field of 85 top Scottish showjumpers. Although the team was awarded overall 2<sup>nd</sup> for tack and turnout, they just missed qualifying for the next stage. However, Arran finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall to get through to the UK



Championships held at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire where he jumped against 90 of the top showjumpers in the United Kingdom. Although Arran didn't quite make it into the top 6, he was delighted to have performed well at that level.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Duncan and Arran have done exceptionally well to achieve success at the top level in showjumping. The sport requires a great deal of courage, athleticism and physical ability alongside a positive mental attitude. The boys have clearly demonstrated that they possess all of these attributes – well done to both of them."





# Wallace Hall Nursery and Primary Sports

Together we grow, learn and achieve



# Wallace Hall Nursery and Primary Sports

# An Olympic Effort

Reports by Finlay Bainbridge, Laura Carruthers, Hazel Fairley Keast, Sam Godfrey, Charlotte James, Simon Jaupi, Fergus McVicar, Chloe Williams and Todd Wilson.



One of the S3/S4 Elective choices this year is Sports Journalism. This has proven to be a popular choice, with a cross-section of pupils from the two year groups seizing the opportunity to combine their love of sport with their interest in writing. Their first major assignment was to cover the Wallace Hall Olympics, a whole school event which was held in June. The following report is a compilation of their efforts. One of the activities on Olympics Day was photography and the

accompanying pictures were taken by some of our budding photographers.

On Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, Wallace Hall hosted its own Olympics Day, inspired by the 2016 Olympics in Rio, Brazil and organised by Mr Steele, PE Teacher. The day featured a combination of sports events and a

Not long after that, Aidan scored. With the help of his team mates, Charlie scored the next goal. The defence on Aidan's side was quite strong but Charlie's team were able to grind out a 3-2 win. At the end of the day Ruairidh Fair said: "We've had a ball!"

**Rugby:** The rugby was run by Dr Fulton and Mr Lees, who were also ably assisted by senior pupils Gavin Wilson, Jack Roberts, Sam Murphy and Cameron Robertson. Altogether, there were 30 pupils taking part in this event. The first task was a game where you had to get down into a plank position and swipe at your opponent's hands or arms to knock them down. Next, there was a mini-tournament, leading to the final between Alex Gallagher and Kyle Colchester. This match went on for quite a while, but the eventual winner was Alex. Following this, the pupils moved on to a ten-a-side 'round robin' involving three teams. The teams all played well in what was a very close competition.

After the tournament there was the chance to try a light-hearted game of Nerf Tennis. Everyone was



wide range of other activities such as baking, carnival-themed arts and crafts, and banner making. The following reports give a flavour of the day.

**Football:** The football activity took place on one of the playing fields. Three teams of nine were picked by captains Aidan, Alex and Charlie. The first game played was Aidan's team against Charlie's team. The first goal was a long distance shot from Leigh Hyslop.

put into one of four teams which were captained by the senior pupils. Jack and Cameron's teams made it to the final, leaving Gavin and Sam's teams to battle it out for third and fourth place respectively. After a fracas of a final, Jack's team emerged triumphant. To finish off the day there was a seniors vs juniors match. Unfortunately, from a junior's point of view, the match didn't end very well!



**Netball:** The senior netball session saw 34 players competing while 24 players took part in the junior session. The games, each lasting fifteen minutes, took place on the outside pitch and were led by Mrs Innes and Miss Stephen. Justine Crosbie, S6, said: "I enjoy netball because it's a good chance to develop skills and to have fun."

**Table Tennis:** Mr Arrowsmith, Mr Steele and Mrs Graham organised the table tennis activity which took place in the small gym.



final score was rather lop-sided at 29-10. The seniors, while trying hard, couldn't match the juniors for enthusiasm: "S1 and S2 pupils were much more competitive than the seniors," said Mrs Bruce.

**Total Wipeout:** "It's a total wipeout!" said Mr Riley out on the school playing fields. Total Wipeout

clambered over a stack of mats and slid along a soapy 'slip and slide' before finally making their way to the finish line. Caitlin McKenzie said: "I wouldn't do it again but I enjoyed the slip and slide." The overall winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Emily Moodycliffe; 2<sup>nd</sup> Finn Bell; 3<sup>rd</sup> Lauren Fitzsimon.



There were nine tables with the winners moving up and receiving House Points for their efforts. Mr Arrowsmith said: "I think table tennis is a sport that is accessible to everyone and is good for improving fitness and building hand-eye co-ordination."

**Tennis:** Nunholm Tennis Club in Dumfries hosted the Olympics Day tennis with a total of 27 pupils participating. Mr Harrison was in charge of this activity and even took part in some of the games. We played for roughly an hour. Everyone who attended enjoyed the activity, with Lee Wood commenting that he "wanted to play longer."

**Softball:** Softball was the sport of choice for many. Two teams of juniors played, and the

ran all morning, with plenty of students queuing up to take part in the challenging assault course. Participants had to make their way across a balance beam, over four trampettes, crawl under an army net and bounce over three exercise balls without falling into the paddling pools. They then

**Hockey:** The hockey activity was a series of games run by Mrs Miller. There were 20 senior pupils playing seven-a-side and 19 junior pupils playing six-a-side, each with three teams and a rolling sub. Emily Moodycliffe said: "I picked hockey because it is fast-paced and great fun."





## In memory of my Gran

report by Josh Notman

**On the 4th of December my Gran, Audrey Fisher, passed away after a long battle having several strokes following an initial subarachnoid haemorrhage. In memory of her I decided to take on the challenge of completing a 10k run and two 5k runs in the space of a week.**

The 5ks took place on the 8th and 9th of October, one in Glasgow and the other in Edinburgh. Both routes were scenic and had a good atmosphere around the course, with stewards placed at certain stages to cheer us on and show us what way to go.

The first 5k was in Glasgow around Bellahouston Park, I completed this run in 25 minutes and 36 seconds, placing 5<sup>th</sup>. The last one was in Edinburgh around Arthur's Seat, a beautiful route round the Mound, I completed this one quicker but placed a bit further back in 10<sup>th</sup> with a time of 21 minutes and 42 seconds.

The 10k took place on the 2nd of October around the streets of Glasgow, without a doubt this was one of my proudest moments, seeing my family at the start line cheering me away and then again as I stormed my way over the finish line in a decent time. Considering this was the first 10k I'd ever ran, I was delighted to finish in 52 minutes and 30 seconds, ending up 1994<sup>th</sup> out of 22000.

I look back on the finishes with pride and I hold the medals I won close to my heart along with my Gran. I have been fundraising for a few months now and have raised over £500.

This isn't the end of my running I plan on doing some half marathons next year as I thoroughly enjoyed my running experience.

## Wallace Hall Academy rugby team in action against Dumfries High School



# Wallace Hall Warriors conquer Tough Mudder

report by Josie Fairley Keast

**Congratulations are in order for the members of WHA staff who formed a team to take on Tough Mudder, a gruelling 10-12 mile course through the grounds of Drumlanrig Castle featuring a variety of brutal obstacles.**

Mr Arrowsmith, Miss Carnochan, Dr. Fulton, Mr Graham, Mrs Harvey, Mr Mack, Miss Marchant and Mrs Robertson endured every challenge imaginable, from hauling each other up a steep, greased pyramid to struggling through 10,000 volts



doubtless be a great help, and the commitment, spirit and enthusiasm they showed throughout their preparation and participation deserves no small degree of recognition and respect.

An honourable mention must go to Miss McLurg, who was originally a ninth member of the team, but was unfortunately unable to take part due to injury.

of electricity. All this was done in aid of Theo's Fund, part of an effort by S2 student Holly-Elise Parkinson and her family to send her cousin Theo to America for a life-saving cancer treatment. The money raised by the team will



# Zara Jumps for Joy

report by Josie Fairley Keast



**Zara Weir, S2, has had a great year competing in various equestrian events around the country. She was selected to ride two ponies in the international working hunter teams for Scotland, and won the 14 hand class on her pony Ryan, helping the blue team to achieve third place, and riding**

**Otto in the white team, which won overall.**

Earlier in the year, she won the gold cup in the winter championships, qualifying her for the Burghley Horse Trials. Here she came first in dressage and sixth in show jumping, as well as jumping the joker fence, an extra challenge which put her into fourth place

overall. Most recently she competed at the Horse of the Year Show, coming in both seventh and eighth place with Ryan and Otto.

However, her crowning achievement has to be her success at the Royal International Horse Show, where she won both Overall and Reserve Champion. This is the first time in the history of the show that the two prizes have been won by the same rider, a phenomenal achievement for someone of Zara's age.

Zara said: "I was so happy with my results at the Royal International, especially as it had never been done before. Horse riding is a really nice hobby to have and it keeps me busy. I'd like to be in the Scottish teams again next year, and in the future I'd like to get a big horse for show jumping."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, commented: "Zara is a tremendous all-round sportswoman and has demonstrated a great deal of commitment and courage to excel at this level of equestrianism. Winning Overall and Reserve Champion at the Royal International Horse Show is terrific for such a young competitor and it is clearly a fabulous achievement for both her and her family. Well done Zara."



## Celebrating Pupils' Achievements

**We are very keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements in the school newsletter, whether these achievements happen in school or in the pupils' own time. However, we cannot do this unless we know about them. To help us with this process, we would ask that parents and/or pupils send us an email at [gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk), detailing any achievements and attaching any relevant photographs. Thank you.**



# Dr Turner's Tournament Triumph



**On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October the annual senior girls' regional schools hockey tournament took place at KGV by kind permission of QOS Football Club. The Dr Turner's events have a long history of some forty plus years, and the tournament was started by a local GP who was enthusiastic about girls' participation in team sports, in particular hockey.**

Although entries were slightly down on previous years the standard of hockey did not disappoint. Schools represented were Dumfries High School, Lockerbie Academy, Moffat Academy, Douglas Ewart High School, Dalbeattie High and Wallace Hall Academy. The round robin format ensured plenty of pitch time, and rivalries and friendships were reaffirmed, with many of the girls having played with or against each other in previous years.

The qualifiers for the final were Lockerbie who were unbeaten and Wallace Hall who had lost just one game to Lockerbie in the preliminaries. The final set off at a cracking pace with Wallace Hall taking the game to Lockerbie, playing as a team with excellent passing. They managed to win

some early penalty corners but did not quite manage to convert their sustained pressure into goals.

Lockerbie eventually found some form with some skilful individual challenges and managed to pressure the Wallace Hall defence, but they too could not convert their chances despite winning a penalty corner.

At the end of a long afternoon and an exciting match which finished in a 0:0 draw, it was Wallace Hall who took the trophy home having won three penalty corners to Lockerbie's one.

B Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall, commented: "The Dr Turner's senior hockey tournament is a hugely prestigious event which is hotly contested by all schools in the region. I am delighted that the Wallace Hall team won this year and I am sure competition was fierce with full commitment shown by all teams. The Dr Turner's tournament has been a fantastic vehicle for encouraging girls to play team sports and I would like to thank Miss Bryce from Dumfries High School for organising the event, Gladys McClymont and Bobby Lees from Dumfries Hockey Club for umpiring the matches and Mrs Miller for encouraging and supporting our hockey teams this season.



# Sports Day

Report by Josie Fairley Keast

**Having been postponed due to bad weather, Wallace Hall's annual sports day was not the whole-school event it usually is. However, lack of an audience did not prevent the athletes from participating with all the determination they could muster, resulting in fierce competition across the year groups.**

The winners for each year group were as follows: S1, Zara Weir and Finlay Thomson; S2, Penny Gonlag and Aidan Dobie; S3, Chloe

Williams, and joint winners Fergus Waugh and Logan Paterson; Seniors, Molly Kitson and Gavin Wilson.

Owen Davies and Liam Robertson, both senior students at Wallace Hall, said: "We thoroughly enjoyed our last sports day, and thought it was a great way to bring the school together." Fellow seniors Suzie Wedge and Lorna Rideout continued with: "Taking part in sports days pushes us out of our comfort zones while encouraging us to keep fit."

Finlay Young, a competitor in the S1 Boys' championships, said: "It was a great experience and really good to take part in."

Molly Kitson, Senior Girls' Champion, said: "I've always had a competitive streak, and taking part in sports days allows me to enjoy myself, regardless of whether I win or not."

Euan Mack, PT of Health and Wellbeing at Wallace Hall, summed up the day. "It's always good to see students competing, whether it's alone or as part of a team. This year's sports day was a huge success despite the weather issues, and everyone involved felt that it was a great way to round off the year."





# Wallace Hall House Captains 2016/2017

## Cairn

**L - R: Zara Kennedy, Caitlin Harley, Alexandru Nan, Hannah-Kate Fisher, Eleanor Burns, Olivia Macklin, Ella Parry, Lottie Gaskell, Hollie Menzies, Duncan Sloan, Emily Kennedy**



## Nith

**L - R: Jemma Gordon, Tammy McWhirter, Lukas Andreasen, Marianne Willets, Bethany Nicholson, Nathan King, Charlotte Colley, Kerri Canham, Olivia Andreasen, Finlay Thomson, Lorna Rideout**



## Scaur

**L - R: Jack Roberts, Simon Jaupi, Eleanor McKie, Caitlin Greenwood, Niall Holden, Joshua Cooper, Gregor Black, Ted Bowie, Sam Godfrey, Oliver Young**

