

# Wallace Hall

## NEWSLETTER

June 2015

Working Together to Achieve More



# Awesome Activities



Pupils and staff enjoyed a very successful Activities Week recently with something on the menu for all tastes. The three days of activities are an excellent opportunity for pupils to try something new. For a full report and pictures please turn to pages 22–25.

## QI Focus on Food and Farming

**Primary Five and Primary Six pupils from nine schools across Dumfries and Galloway recently enjoyed learning about Food and Farming.**

The event, hosted by the Kingan family at Tibbers Farm near Thornhill, was organised by Queensberry Initiative (QI) staff in partnership with RHET Dumfries and Galloway. The two-day event was a huge success. For a full report and pictures, please see pages 6 - 9.





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**Recitation Honours**

**At the recent Robert Burns World Federation competition Nathan King was awarded second place in the recitation section. The competition took place in Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow and attracted performers from all over Scotland.**

Youngsters competed for the honours in four different disciplines: singing, instrumental, piping and recitation. Nathan won his place by achieving success at the National Finals held in Lockerbie earlier this year and was accompanied to the finals by fellow Wallace Hall Academy pupils - Catherine Anderson, Lucy Doig and Emily Kennedy - who all also qualified at the Lockerbie competition. Nathan, who is taught by Lynne Forsyth, impressed the judges with his performance of an extract from "Death and Dr Hornbrook".

Nathan said: "It was a real honour to represent Wallace Hall Academy at the Robert Burns World Federation competition. The standard of the performances was really high and I was really pleased to have secured second place in my section." Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, added: "I am very proud of all of our pupils who are involved with Burns recitation and am particularly pleased that Nathan has been successful at this high level. Well done to them all."

**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](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.

# Singing the right notes

report by Annabelle Guthrie

**Every Thursday, since the start of Primary 4, I have been singing with the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) at what is called "Dumfries Area Choir". But in November 2014, I was given the opportunity to audition for the National Girls' Choir of Scotland (NGC) and the National Girls' Training Choir (NGTC) of Scotland.**

My audition was on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Dumfries. I chose to sing a song I had been preparing in school with Mrs Davies. When I came out of the audition, I didn't think I had done that well as I had been very nervous. But on February 9<sup>th</sup>, a letter came through the post saying that I had been offered a place in the National Girls' Training Choir. I was very happy and excited to get in - I couldn't wait for it to start. I was one of four girls and two boys (they got into National Boys' Junior Corps and National Boys' Changed Voices) to be chosen from the Dumfries Area Choir.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, it was the day I had been waiting for - it was

the start of the course. I travelled to Edinburgh, to the Loretto Boarding School, where I was staying until the Friday. I was feeling a mix of excitement as I hadn't been before, but also I was feeling nervous as I was the only one from Dumfries Area Choir in NGTC and I didn't know anyone that was going to be there. However, as soon as rehearsals began, I started to make friends with girls from Annan to the Isle of Tiree. We had to get up at 7am every day, and lights out was 10.30pm. We would sing from 8.45am until 3pm when we got to do activities, such as watching films or going swimming, and then sing again from 6.30pm until 9pm. At 9pm, we went back to our boarding houses (I was in Barcarres House) and we had toast, biscuits and hot chocolate.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April marked the end of the 6 day long course with a concert at St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh. We had a short journey to make by coach to the church where we had a short session of photos taken and a quick rehearsal



in the morning. After that we ate and everyone was swapping numbers and Facebook names while having their hair done! At 3pm, it was time for the concert. The first half was NGC and, during the interval, the NGTC lined up ready to go on stage. I was really nervous and I was trying to remember everything we had learned in rehearsal. The first song was an Italian tongue twister called "Ma Come Bali Bene Bella Bimba". It was really hard to remember all the words in the right order as they were all so similar. Two of my favourite songs were called "It's Raining" by Chris Hutchings and "Bad Hair Day" by Sheena Philips. The reason why I liked both of these was because they were really fun songs, as "Bad Hair Day" had actions like hair flicks and the words in both of them were really funny.

In August, I have another concert with the NGTC in Falkirk to go to with the treble voices of the National Boys' Choir. I am really looking forward to that as I am going to be able to see all my friends again!

I am definitely going to re-audition for National Girls' Choir next year as I want to make it into the National Girls' Choir, rather than just the Training Choir.



Photograph above shows Annabelle (2nd from left) with fellow choir members

## Celebrating Pupils' Achievements

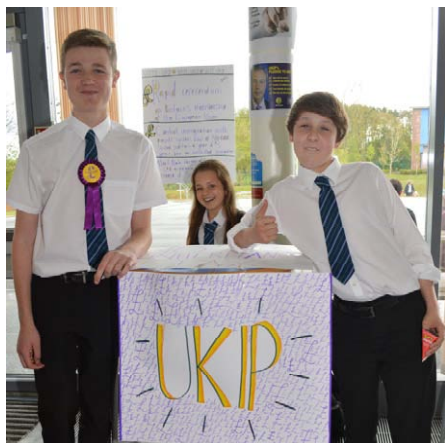
**We are very keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements in the school newsletter, whether these achievements happen either in school or in the pupils' own time. However, we cannot do this unless we know about them.**

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



# WHA Mock Election

report by Emily Kennedy



**Election fever gripped Wallace Hall Academy on 7th May as the S3 Modern Studies classes held a mock election in tandem with Britain's General Election which was happening on the same day.**

The seven main parties up for election were: The Scottish National Party (SNP), Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, The Green Party and UK Independence Party (UKIP). In the few weeks before the election, each group had had their turn to campaign in the street and on the school tannoy in the hope of securing the most votes.

At the beginning of lunch on the 7th, the polling stations were opened and manned by Miss Stuart's S2 module class and the votes began rolling in from pupils in P6 to S3. Everyone was excited and eager to find out the results.

Miss Stuart said: "Competition between parties was fierce and all pupils did themselves proud. Their



tannoy addresses would have put real politicians to shame!"

At the end of the day, the winner was announced as the Scottish National Party with the Green Party coming in a close second. Well done to everyone who took part and campaigned.



## Young Enterprise

**This year's S6 Young Enterprise Group used their scientific skills to manufacture a variety of scented candles. Michael Craig, David Wallace and Oliver Rideout experimented with a variety of different formulations and fragrances, which were tested by research panels from inside and outside school. They finally arrived at a number of popular scents which were manufactured under the 'Return to Nature' brand.**

They successfully sold the products both in school at the WHApland event in December and at the Young Enterprise Market in Dumfries.

Finally, they represented Wallace Hall at the Young Enterprise Regional Finals held at Easterbrook Hall in March, where they submitted their final report,



displayed their products on a trade stand and presented to the audience of judges, teachers and fellow students.



# World Book Day Enterprise

report by Jessica Dickson P4

**Time to do it again, today it was time for World Book Day. P4 had to get everything organised. There was so much to do and so little time.**

First of all we had to price all of the books. There was a range of six different prices of books: 50p, 75p £1, £1.50 and £2.20p.

Once we had priced all the books we began to think about the stalls. In the end Mrs Sloan just said that the books would be put into groups and the groups would be arranged on the tables we had put together.

Then we had to think about the order the classes would come in. Mrs Park wrote the names of all the classes on bits of paper, put them in a hat and then she pulled them out to give us the order they would visit in. I can remember the order went something like this: P1 and P2 were first and then it was



Nursery, then P5, followed by P6 then P7 finishing with P3.

Then the big day came!!!!

When we came to school we were all dressed up (of course) and we looked amazing.

I got put into the group selling books at 75p. We didn't sell much at first with the Primary 1 and Nursery but when we got onto the other classes the books were selling like hot cakes and it was like rush hour on the tube!!!!!!

All of the classes asked me what price the books were and I went crazy telling them over and over again!

When all of the selling was over and when it was the end of the day we had a number carousel.

We played some games but the best part was that we got to count up all the money we raised. We raised an amazing total of £184.

What a wonderful day and thank you for all the money.







**Stock judging, butter making and cereal grinding were just some of the activities on the agenda for 250 local pupils. Queensberry Initiative teamed up with RHET Dumfries and Galloway to deliver educational workshops at Tibbers Farm near Thornhill, teaching pupils about food, farming and the countryside. This two-day event was hosted by Kingan Farms.**

Following registration on arrival at Tibbers Farm, the P5/6 pupils from nine schools across Nithsdale split into groups and made their way around seven activities run by local farmers and other professionals from the industry. The finale of each day was a livestock judging session,

## Learning about Food and Farming

led by QI partner farmers, where all the groups competed to identify the best cattle and sheep.

Pupils covered a wide range of farming activities, learning about meat production with Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), game management with British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) and fishing with the Nith Fisheries Trust & Solway Firth Partnership.

There were also sessions on dairy farming, again led by QI partner farmers, at which enthusiastic pupils were able to milk 'Daisy', the life-size fibreglass cow, make butter and learn about the nutritional value of cattle fodder. During sessions led by staff from Agrovista and Gordons, pupils were also able to grind cereals into wheat using quern stones and examine different types of machinery currently used on farms.

The team from Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere led interactive sessions on food miles

where the pupils learned about how far their food travels and the importance of eating food which is in season.

Anne Marie Wood, QI Project Officer, said: "We were delighted by the success of the QI and RHET Food and Farming Days which were hosted by Kingan Farms. It was great to see how the pupils engaged with all the learning opportunities offered and we are very grateful to all our community partners and volunteers for giving up their time." Her colleague, Leanne Peoples, added: "These events are crucial in connecting young people with the countryside and rural industries. We hope that all the pupils involved enjoyed their day and learned how food and farming have a huge impact on the local area."

The day was funded by the Scottish Government Food and Drink Division and supported by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

















## Fantastic farm visit

report by Robert Guthrie

**Several pupils from across the year-groups have been making good use of the outdoor classroom recently, thanks to the Queensberry Initiative.**

The Initiative provides new learning experiences for pupils from the secondary and cluster primary schools. These projects, which use nearby outdoor locations, are hugely beneficial to many pupils who wish to pursue a career in outdoor industries.

Rural Skills pupils from S4, S5 and S6 visited Lochhill Farm at New Abbey, which is run by farmer Alistair Kingan and family.

The visit gave the students the chance to look at the Biomass Boiler and the types of machinery used on a modern-day farm.

Farming technology has greatly changed over recent years, and the

trip allowed pupils to see how new innovations such as satellite tracking

and self-steer tractors are revolutionising the industry.

Photograph below shows Alistair Kingan with Callum Clark, Josh Paterson and Joe McGrain.



## Emily Strikes Silver

**Emily Young of 1N2 recently gained her Silver Reading Award in English.**

To achieve this award, which is open to every student in S1 and S2, Emily had to read at least 10 books spanning the genres of prose fiction, prose non-fiction and poetry, and had to write about each one.

Emily said: "I read '*Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*' by T.S. Eliot, which I found very funny, and I'm looking forward to starting my Gold Award, and hope to complete it by the end of S2."

Photograph on the right shows Emily being presented with her certificate by Mr Blair, Depute Head Teacher.



## Checkmate for Aleksei



**In a thrilling three-way final, Aleksei Wishart of S3 conquered two worthy opponents, including previous winner Nathan King, to become Wallace Hall's 2015 chess champion.**

The three finalists, Aleksei, Nathan and Ruairidh Fair had already beaten opponents in the earlier rounds.

Congratulations go to the twenty students who participated in the earlier rounds, and we hope to see you taking part in 2016.

Photograph on the left shows Aleksei with the chess trophy, flanked by Nathan and Ruairidh.



# Transition Support for P7 Pupils

report by Robert Guthrie



**The transition between primary school and secondary school is a daunting experience for all pupils. Queensberry Initiative (QI) works with every P7 pupil across our six cluster primary schools to ensure that this transition is as seamless as possible for all involved.**

Regular visits to Wallace Hall have been ongoing since the start of this academic year with pupils

actively engaging in taster lessons in a variety of subject areas.

Recently, pupils from our cluster primary schools visited the school and enjoyed taster lessons in Home Economics as well as in Music, Art and Drama. Students also took part in a 'timetable challenge' to make sure that they know how to find their way around the school. The afternoon session was topped off with an exciting visit to the

Queensberry Estate, where QI staff led pupils in teambuilding activities.

Over the course of the academic session, pupils have also been involved in outdoor learning opportunities which have highlighted the links between the classroom and a range of local environments. The frequent visits to Wallace Hall allow pupils to adjust to their new surroundings quickly in readiness for induction days and the first weeks of S1.





## One of the Oliver! family

**Preparations are well underway for this year's school show at Wallace Hall Academy.**

The cast and crew of Oliver! are working hard to ensure that the show will be ready for opening

night. Lucy Doig, who plays Nancy in the show, said: "The cast are bonding well and we are all 'considering ourselves as part of the family'."

There will be three performances open to the public:

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of June and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of June, starting at 7.30pm prompt in the Bailey Hall with doors opening at 7.20pm.

Oliver! is already shaping up to be a fantastic show. See our next newsletter for a full report and pictures.



## Representing the Rotary



**Thornhill and District Rotary welcomed two young star students from Wallace Hall Academy as guests of the club at a recent meeting held in Thornhill Golf Club.**

Both students had been sponsored by Thornhill Rotary Club and both had reached the national semi-final stages in two Rotary competitions.

Ailsa Morton from Penpont, competed in the Rotary Young Chef of the Year competition held in Dundee. At the end of the day Ailsa was just a few points short of progressing to the Great Britain and Ireland Final.

Vocalist Robert Guthrie, Head Boy at Wallace Hall Academy for 2014/15, did a fantastic job of representing Thornhill Rotary Club at

the national semi-finals of the Young Musician of the Year competition held earlier this term at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.

In their very accomplished presentation to the club, both students emphasised the very high standard of performance at that stage in the competition and sympathised with the adjudicators who had very difficult decisions to make.

Club President Derek Clark said "We are very privileged to have these most talented young people with us this evening. They have brought great credit to the Thornhill Club in Rotary circles. They are also a great credit to their parents and tutors who have supported them throughout the competition."

Picture shows President Derek admiring Chef Ailsa's Trophy with vocalist Robert Guthrie and Youth Programme Rotarians Frank Hall and Joan Neilson looking on.





**Wallace Hall Primary has recently established a collaborative link with a school in the village of Jarreng, in the Gambia. This has been facilitated by Margaret Keene at New Cample as she runs an agricultural charity in the village and travels to the area regularly.**

It is hoped that pupils and staff will be able to share experiences and learn about the respective cultures of each country. Pupils in P6 were horrified to discover that the classrooms in Jarreng had bare, concrete walls and no colourful displays to learn from. They decided to do something about this and created educational posters showing the letters of the alphabet alongside matching words and pictures. They also created number posters to display in the classrooms and made colour photocopies so that there were enough packs for each of the junior school classrooms. P6 pupils decided to take photos of their school and send them along with letters to the pupils in Jarreng, so they could have an insight into life in a primary school in Scotland.

## Linking up with The Gambia

The pupils were delighted to receive personal letters back and were excited to learn about the hobbies interests of the pupils in Jarreng. Lots of the boys were fascinated to find out that the Gambian pupils had such an interest in football, with one commenting: "I did not realise that football was so popular in The Gambia" and another wondering: "How do they know so much about football without access to the internet or TV?"

Wallace Hall pupils also collected and donated books for the Jarreng school library as they were lacking in good quality reading materials. These books were taken over to The Gambia by Mrs Keene and she

came into school to share some photos of the books reaching their destination.

P3 pupils sent their JT Bear on the exciting trip with Mrs Keene and he came back having met lots of new people and with lots of photos of his special journey which were also shared with the school.

Our Pupil Council are planning the next event in our collaboration. They have written to parents asking them to send in any unwanted toys, which will be given to New Cample to be sold in the charity shop. All the proceeds will then be donated to support the people of Jarreng. We would be happy to accept any donations of unwanted soft toys, jigsaws, board games and so on.



**On their last day of S2, some Science pupils had a little fun outside with a fizz pop rocket experiment. Pupils started a chemical reaction between some water and some effervescent tablets in sealed canisters. Then they stood back and waited for them to explode!**





# My Manchester Expedition

Report by Jessica Dickson, Primary 4



**On Thursday I went to school, just as normal, but at lunchtime I set off to visit Manchester Art Gallery!!!!**

The reason I was going there was because not long ago I entered an art competition called The Little Painting Challenge and I was awarded 'Highly Commended' for my picture. As a prize winner, my painting was put on display outside the Grand Hall. It was very exciting to be going down to see it on display.

The journey to Manchester was long but at last we got there. The first thing we did when we arrived was find to the gallery. We looked around the various

areas and found it all very interesting indeed! Here is a list of some of the things we saw:

- A picture of God stepping through a ring of fire.
- A cool picture made of Japanese paper and gunpowder.
- A massive exploded shed hung on string and much more...

Then it was time to see my picture in the Grand Hall. It felt great to see it hanging there. I got my picture taken with the director of the gallery and one of the judges of the competition. It was also really interesting to see the other pictures entered in the competition. We listened to a speech about art before the prizes were handed out. It was a very exciting experience. We looked at lots more artwork and I really liked the war room (full of poppies), a statue made out of cigars and a chair with a pretend stuffed body coming out of it.

I really enjoyed my day out and was pleased that my painting had been chosen as one of the prize winners to be put on display.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall said: "Jessica has done very well to have her artistic talents recognised at such a prestigious event. It is a fantastic achievement - well done Jessica."

Picture above shows Jessica during her visit to Manchester Art Gallery.

## Remembering Mr Collins

report by Sean Wicks



**Due to the sad passing of Mr Collins, Depute Head Teacher of Wallace Hall, the Scaur House Captains decided to dedicate a week of assemblies in his memory.**



A collection was also taken with the money donated being given to the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

During the assemblies, the pupils watched a presentation from BHF and then carried out a quiz made up of



ten different catchphrases from different superheroes, a topic Mr Collins loved. The final part of the assembly was a touching montage of photos of Mr Collins in and around Wallace Hall.

The Scaur House Captains would like to thank everyone who donated to BHF in memory of Mr Collins. The final amount raised was £451.85

Mr Collins will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.





# DofE (Bronze Award) Practice Expedition

Working Together to Achieve More



## S4 Employability Group



**During May, a group of our S4 pupils undertook a challenging programme based around the development of their employability skills. In total 18 pupils achieved their SQA Level 4 Employability Award, consisting of the following units:**

- Unit 1 – Preparing for Employment, where they reviewed their current skills and achievements.
- Unit 2 – Building on Employability Skills, practising the skills involved in researching and applying for jobs.
- Unit 3 – Responsibilities of Employment, where they learned what is expected of employers and employees in the workplace.

During the program, they also gained experience in other areas:

- Geography - achieved National 4 Added Value Unit in Human Geography through the study of tourism at Drumlanrig.
- Science - practised the skills required for writing a National 4 Added Value Unit or National 5 Assignment. This was done through a scientific report involving research, data analysis, presentation of findings and drawing of conclusions.
- Spanish - learned real-life Spanish phrases through interactive video clips. Practised conversational Spanish with each other.

- Design and Technology - the group looked at the role of a computer games designer, evaluating a number of games in terms of the specific success criteria that would be relevant to this job.
- Maths - preparation for forthcoming SQA exams and practical Maths skills.
- English - preparation for National 5 course starting in June.

They also experienced employability related activities outside school including a number of visits to the Drumlanrig Estate, a meeting at Dumfries Job Centre and attendance at a careers fair organised by Skills Development Scotland.

Callum Rennie said: "With the Employability Course I gained everything I need for the world of work." Harvey Buchanan continued: "I gained the necessary skills to improve my CV and get a job." Bryony Martin added: "I thought it was quite useful as it will help in the future." Carla Freeman concluded: "I thought it was quite a fun course as well. We went on trips and learned new things along the way. In my honest opinion I would do this again."

Head Teacher, Barry Graham, said: "I was most impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm of all our young people who completed the Employability Course. There is no doubt that this experience will have prepared them well for life beyond school."





**Primaries explore dairy, beef and pig farming with QI**



# S6 Leavers Ceremony



**The Bailey Hall was packed with over two hundred pupils and parents gathered together to celebrate the Sixth Year pupils' time at Wallace Hall Academy.**

Mrs Fraser opened the ceremony by welcoming all present and introducing Barry

Graham, Head Teacher, who congratulated the pupils on a very positive six years. As has become customary at Wallace Hall, the audience enjoyed a presentation highlighting the pupils' destinations and showing photographs of all of them as they were in S1 and as they are now.



The leavers' certificates were presented by Mr Blair and Mrs Menzies and this was followed by a speech by Robert Guthrie and Kathryn Park, the Head Boy and Girl this year, where they looked back on their six years and highlighted key events. Next it



was the turn of Mr Blair who gave a warm and humorous address recounting his memories of the sixth year.

Throughout the evening the audience was treated to tremendous musicianship from "Sticks and Stones" and an impressive vocal rendition from Robert Guthrie.

Mr Blair, DHT with responsibility for Sixth Year, said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this year's Sixth Year. They have all taken their responsibilities seriously, working together to make their final year at Wallace Hall a positive one. I have no doubt that they are ready for life beyond school and look forward to learning of their future successes."





# New Award for Creative Writing

**Young writers at Wallace Hall are being recognised in a major new annual award generously provided by the Thornhill Burns Club.**

The best creative writer in each year S1 – S6 now receives a special certificate at our Celebration of Success Evenings and also a book token kindly sponsored by our local literary club. Their kind offer to support

creative endeavours in the school was made earlier this year and the winners of this year's inaugural prizes were: Lydia McMillan in S1; Irvine Laird, S2; Marianne Nicholson, S3; Josie Fairley Keast in S4, whose work was published in the last newsletter; Molly Bain, S5; and Aiden Halliday of S6.

Our writers displayed their outstanding skills in various

genres including poetry, fiction, and reflective essays. Principal Teacher of English, Jane McMillan, commented:

"It's wonderful to have the chance to reward our creative writers in this way. We are very grateful to the committee of the Thornhill Burns Club for supporting this award and encouraging the next generation of local writing talent."



Photograph above shows Mrs McMillan and some of the winning creative writing pupils meeting members of Thornhill Burns Club in the library

## Stationery Shop in the Library

The following items of stationery are for sale in the School Library: pencils (40p), pens (40p), erasers (40p), sharpeners (40p), protractors (50p), highlighters (40p), 15cm rulers (40p), 30cm rulers (40p) and 4GB data pens (£6.00). As a result of pupil demand, scientific calculators (£10.00), headphones (£2.50), headphone jacks (50p) and jotters (60p) are also now on sale. Any profit that is made from this venture goes towards purchasing new resources for the Library. We also accept donations of good quality books for our Library, in particular junior fiction, senior fiction and study skills books. Please hand any book donations in to Mrs Menzies in the Library. Any books that are not suitable for our shelves will be taken to a charity shop. Thank you.



# Rydell High comes to Wallace Hall



David Dillon, Acting DHT, said: "This was a very fitting climax to the year for what has been a fantastic group of young people who have had a massive contribution to the life of the school. The Sixth Year students put a huge amount of effort into making their last day special and they really pulled it off. I wish them well with their next steps and I am sure that they will be successful in whatever life holds for them."

**Sixth year pupils enjoyed a fantastic last day at Wallace Hall Academy by recreating the atmosphere of "Grease", the much loved hit musical.**

The day started with all Sixth Year students dressing up as their favourite "Grease" character and meeting in the Bailey Hall where they enjoyed a delicious breakfast of croissants, fruit, muesli bars and hot drinks, generously provided by the school.

The year group then watched the film, cinema style, on the large screen in the Bailey Hall before enjoying coffee and cakes in the library with all staff.

After having pictures taken to remind them of their day, Sixth Year gathered in the PE department for games and a barbeque.









# Activities for All

**Every year, at the end of May, Wallace Hall Academy pupils get the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities over three days which take them into situations outside their normal learning environment.**

In industry, companies invest significant sums of money in team-building activities which go a long way towards enhancing productivity and the general working environment. At Wallace Hall, Activities Week serves a similar purpose and is seen as a crucial part of building an ethos of staff working together with pupils. All staff at Wallace Hall offer their assistance willingly, with activities led by teachers and support staff alike.

Activities Week is organised by Neil Corrigan, Principal Teacher of Design & Technology, and planning starts for the huge menu of activities straight after the previous year's events. Mr Corrigan ensures there is a balance between trips away and more school based activities to ensure that the programme is accessible for all. Some of the activities on offer

include: a trip to the Time Capsule, a visit to Galloway Activity Centre, a pony day at Camplebridge Riding Stables, a visit to Buccleuch Gun Dogs, French Cookery in our Home Economics Department, African Drumming, Sailing, Mountain Biking, Laserquest, Bowling, a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, a visit to M & Ds, Indoor Karting, Kayaking and numerous team sports activities. New this year was a trip to Eden Rock Climbing Centre which, although a little scary for some, was a huge success.

Efforts are made to include our local community in passing on their knowledge and expertise to our pupils with John McVie and John Pearson from Dumfries Camera Club coming in to provide a very informative and educational insight into the world of photography for those with a keen eye. The generous offer from Thornhill Golf Club to offer access to our pupils free of charge was very much appreciated, giving those who haven't had the chance to play golf before an opportunity to enjoy their fantastic facilities.

Mr Corrigan said: "I am always asked if it is a stressful task setting up Activities Week and admittedly, there is a lot of work goes in to make sure that everything runs smoothly and safely. However, it is genuinely a pleasure to see pupils who nervously embarked on an



activity out-with their comfort zone return, without fail, with a smile on their face."

Mr Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, added: "Activities Week is a hugely valuable part of our school calendar for both pupils and staff. It is a real opportunity for pupils to see staff in a different light, perhaps by watching them ride a horse, test their archery skills or climb a wall. The success of the three days is due to the involvement of all staff at Wallace Hall with particular thanks to Mr Corrigan for all his hard work and organisation all through the year."















# Activities Week

**Working Together to Achieve More**



# S1 Trip to France



**In the last week of May, a group of 34 Wallace Hall Academy pupils from S1 and four members of staff embarked on a French adventure visiting the bustling city of Paris and the calmer region of Normandy.**

Pupils had opportunities to develop their language skills and build confidence in speaking French in real-life contexts whilst immersing themselves in the culture and learning the history of D-day and William the Conqueror. As well as lots of learning, lots of fun was had on the trip too!

**Day 1:** Having travelled overnight, we arrived at Folkstone early in the morning to cross the channel by Eurotunnel. With lots of stops we finally arrived in Chelles, outside Paris where we got settled in and had a buffet dinner in the restaurant across the road. We unpacked, got settled and then it was ready for bed for an action-packed week to start.

**Day 2:** We got up early and set off for Parc Astérix. The park is based on the famous French

Astérix books and it is the second-largest theme park in France. It is set in the forest about 30km away from Paris and has lots of attractions including Goudurix, a roller-coaster that turns you upside down seven times, log flumes, river rafting and a ghost train. This was arguably the most

enjoyable part of the trip where the weather was fantastic and much fun was had. Millie Bowie said: "This was the best part of the trip! We had the full day to go exploring and go on all the rides we wanted." Jennifer Clark added: "It was good to get free time having travelled a lot and the weather was brilliant – really sunny and hot!"

**Day 3:** This was our last day in Paris before heading for the picturesque countryside of Normandy. We went on a relaxing and interesting tour of Paris by boat, cruising past the Eiffel Tower, Grand Palais, Notre-Dame, Musée d'Orsay and the Louvre amongst many other sites. Whilst a bit windy, the sun was still out and all the major monuments and buildings could be seen.

**Day 4:** We started the morning off with some chateau activities that included a range of fun and educational activities including a blind trail walk, survival skills and initiative exercises. These were real tests of communication skills and we all learnt a lesson in how to work together. We then set off for lunch at Omaha beach, one of the D-day landing beaches. Afterwards, we set off to Chèvrerie du Mesnil. This is a hands-on goat farm that allows you to see dairy products







such as cheese and milk produced. You could play with the goats and could take part in the milking process. This was a truly great way to find out more about the traditional produce of Normandy and to also practice some French. Mark Anderson said: "I really enjoyed visiting the goat farm because I love animals. It was so much fun to be able to play with them and feed them." Before dinner, we visited the US cemetery that contains 9387 white crosses, a commemorative wall to the 1557 Americans who couldn't be named

**Day 5:** Our final day before returning home! We went to Bayeux and saw the Bayeux Tapestry.

The embroidery of the tapestry portrays the events of the 11<sup>th</sup> century leading up to the Norman conquest of England and the resulting battle of Hastings. The market town of Bayeux has many shops, mills and examples of medieval architecture. We had plenty of time to explore and go shopping and we were lucky that the Saturday market was on so we could buy lots of local fresh produce. Molly Barr said: "This was the best time to go shopping and we had loads of time to explore and buy our souvenirs and gifts." After lunch in the sun, it was time to board the coach and head for home.

Having had such a wonderful time in France, we were all very



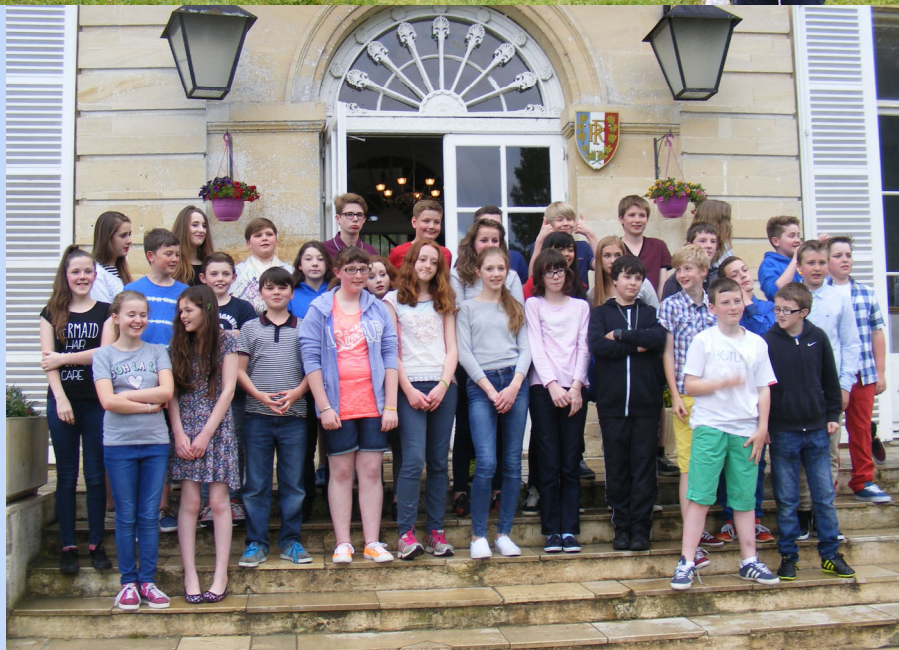
sad to leave but we take away with us a wonderful experience to remember!

Thanks to Miss Stephen and Mrs Bruce for organising this great trip and to Mrs Robertson and Mr Davolls who came along to help. Thanks also to Mr Davolls and Emily Young (S1) for being the "official photographers" during the course of the week.



and a visitor's centre. It was very sad to think of all the lives that were lost throughout the time of the war. We even managed to fit in a trip to Arromanches. This town is in the heart of the D-Day beaches, Arromanches is renowned for its 'Mulberry' artificial harbour. Its remains speak of the remarkable technical feat of taking 600,000 tonnes of concrete and equipment across the Channel in wartime to serve as a base for Allied troops.

On return from the second landing beach, a disco for the final night was set up for us and we experienced how to make crêpes. They were delicious and some of us even got up for seconds!





## S2 Liverpool Trip



**During activities week ninety one S2 pupils and nine members of staff went on a three day residential trip to Liverpool.**

The first day was spent exploring the White Scar Caves and then checking in to our hostel in central Liverpool. We even got to see the Queen Victoria ship in the Mersey! Dinner and then ten pin bowling was our first night. Top score for Martin Bonnar!

The second day we split into groups so we could either: ride the Mersey ferry (much singing on that

boat!), go to the climbing centre or visit the museum of Liverpool at the Albert Dock.

In the afternoon we all went shopping and then to Knowsley Safari Park where wildlife "expert" Jack Denholm described the various animals to us!

In the evening we saw the movie "Tomorrowland" with George

Clooney, mixed reviews but Mrs. Belford seemed to like it!

Finally we woke up early to tidy our rooms (some more than others!) and headed to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. The new ride "Red Arrows Skyforce" was popular, as was the very wet Valhalla ride (as the pictures show!). Unfortunately the "Big One" was closed due to windy conditions, but students made the most of their time at the park and had a great time.









# Celebrating Success at Wallace Hall



**Ellie Hall presents the UWS Outstanding Achievement Award to Emma Holden**

## The annual Wallace Hall Senior Celebration of Success evening was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in the Bailey Hall.

A capacity audience of pupils, parents and invited guests turned out on this glorious spring evening to celebrate the wide variety of pupil successes achieved over the past academic year. Once all parents and guests were seated, prize winners were piped into the hall by Robbie Logan. Mrs Fraser, Acting DHT, thanked Robbie for leading the procession and opened the proceedings by welcoming all present.

As is tradition, the evening began with Head Teacher Mr Graham presenting his annual report. He focused on recognising the pupils' resilience, courage, kindness, optimism, integrity, fairness and love of learning through a presentation of photographs taken all throughout the year. Heather O'Connor was next on stage performing,

accompanied by Mrs Davies, a haunting rendition of "Howl" by Florence Welsh and Paul Epworth demonstrating her vocal range and ability.

To present the S4 awards, Mrs Fraser welcomed on stage Mr Dillon, Acting DHT, and our guest speaker for the evening, Claire Hastings. A former pupil of Wallace Hall, Claire has recently been crowned the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year and has been nominated for a prestigious Sunday Mail Young Scot Award. Once the S4 awards were presented, Claire recounted her journey since leaving Wallace Hall, highlighting the importance of "stepping out of your comfort zone and grasping every opportunity offered." She concluded her address by performing one of her own compositions, "I Missed the Boat".

It was then the turn of S5 award winners to be invited up on stage by Dr Fulton, Acting DHT, to

collect their awards from Claire. To follow, again accompanied by Mrs Davies, Jordan Tweedie performed "Carnival of Venice". The audience loved Jordan's performance; over the years he has really proved to be an outstanding musician with extraordinary ability on his principal instrument, the euphonium.

The final awards for pupils in S6 were announced by Mr Blair, DHT, and this was followed by Angus Bruce executing a technically accomplished and musically expressive performance of "First Movement from Sonata in C Minor" by Beethoven on the piano. Angus has recently passed his Grade 8 piano exam with merit and, judging by the applause, his exceptional skill and talent was much appreciated by the audience.

Robert Guthrie and Kathryn Park, this year's Head Boy and Girl, were up next to give their review of S6 pupils' time at Wallace Hall. This was an entertaining look back at the highlights of the past six years, featuring Christmas dances, school trips and the joy of exams! Robert and Kathryn finished their speech with a special vote of thanks to teachers and support staff for the encouragement and assistance given to pupils.

Concluding the musical part of the evening, Claire sang "Come Spend a While Wi' Me", written by Lionel McLelland, a former music tutor at Wallace Hall who sadly passed away in 2010. This was a very moving performance and Claire's stunning vocal tone and ability to communicate through song demonstrated clearly why she was chosen as the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year.

After a comprehensive vote of thanks by Mrs Fraser to all involved in the ceremony, parents, staff and guests had the opportunity to spend some time socialising and reflecting on the wide variety of achievements that had been celebrated at the ceremony.



**Gavin Grierson****Niall Gauld, Robert Ponton and Niall Holden****Laura Marchbank****Fraser and Emily Morton****Mollie Hoddinott****Jordan Tweedie****Lily Gonlag****The prize winners are piped into the Bailey Hall by Robbie Logan****Mrs Fraser, Team Impresa and Claire Hastings****Ailsa Morton and Mrs Nancy Sloan****Claire Hastings****Donald Kennedy, Claire Hastings and Euan Murgatroyd**



# whapples Fun Day



The recent **whapples** fun day was a huge success with a phenomenal £700 raised.

Pupils and staff got involved with the fund-raising activities on offer which included a non-uniform day, a guess the weight of the basket of apples competition, a tuck shop and a bake sale. A highlight of the day was the archery contest with pupils shooting to hit a William Tell apple target (kindly drawn by Mrs Black in the Art Department) to win a prize.

Mrs Turner, **whapples** Administrative Assistant, said: "It was great to see the whole school involved with pupils from Nursery right through to Secondary taking part. Thank you to everyone who donated, baked or helped out "





# Biology Trip

**On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April the current National 4/5 Biology students went on a trip to the Queensberry Estate to try out different sampling techniques. The trip was set up by the Biology department and the Queensberry Initiative (QI) to help with our Biology unit 'Life on Earth'.**

It was a full day of activities with lots of useful help and advice given by local experts: the county mammal recorder Andy Riches, the county moth recorder Alison Robertson, pond dipping with Jim

Rae and kick sampling with the Nith fisheries Trust team. The Biology teachers and the QI staff helped guide students, using quadrats and line transects to study the distribution of plants. The students also got to investigate what had been caught in pitfall traps and identify invertebrates. (creepy crawlies!)

Marianne Willetts from S3 said: "We were divided into six groups and each group went to a different activity. The activities included tree beating, pond dipping and using pitfall traps and quadrats.

"At one of the activities we were given a talk on the different species that lived in the Drumlanrig Forest and were given the chance to see how some different mammal traps



were used. We were also shown how to measure pollution levels of a river by identifying the creatures present and how to catch and identify moths.

"Despite the baltic weather conditions we all had a positive, educational day with lots of successful sampling."





# Vocal Masterclass



**Vocalists at Wallace Hall Academy were treated to a fantastic singing masterclass recently when Robyn Stapleton, BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2014, paid a visit to the school. The school had been contacted by Peter Renwick, the Programme Director of Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, to offer Robyn's**

**vocal expertise to the school. Of course, the school was delighted to accept this generous offer.**

Robyn spent two hours with a group of 50 young singers introducing them to the tradition and culture of Scots song. Much of her material was sourced locally with Robyn using some tunes from McMath: The Current Page – a project Robyn is working on with a number of local

musicians. Robyn is also currently working with two former pupils of Wallace Hall Academy, Emily Smith and Claire Hastings, both also winners of the prestigious BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician competition.

As it was a beautiful day, the group congregated on the outdoor stage and the beautiful sound could be heard all around the school grounds. Robyn's method of teaching was by rote (without music) as is customary in the tradition. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning rounds and ballads in the traditional dialect.

Nick Riley, teacher of Music at Wallace Hall, said: "We were privileged to be offered this workshop from such a successful musician. Robyn has a glorious voice and the pupils were captivated throughout the workshop. I would like to thank Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival for their support."





# Tanzania Bound

report by Sarah Wilson



Most people will know about the trip but for those of you who don't I would just like to explain. A few of us from Wallace Hall Academy, along with some people from Dumfries High School, are going to Tanzania on a charity trip that has been organised by Camps International. We will be away for a month and in that month we will be at four different camps, Camp Msaranga, Tanga, Mbokomu and Ndarakwai.

While over in Tanzania we will be working with the local schools, people, community and animals. The trip has cost just over £4000 and we have all worked very hard to fundraise the money by organising a quiz night, holding a book sale, running a race night, organising bake sales and bag packing. In addition, we have applied for money from various organisations e.g. the Hollywood Trust and Dumfries and Galloway Council. We have also been lucky enough to be given donations from friends, family and the local community.

Thanks to everyone for their support.

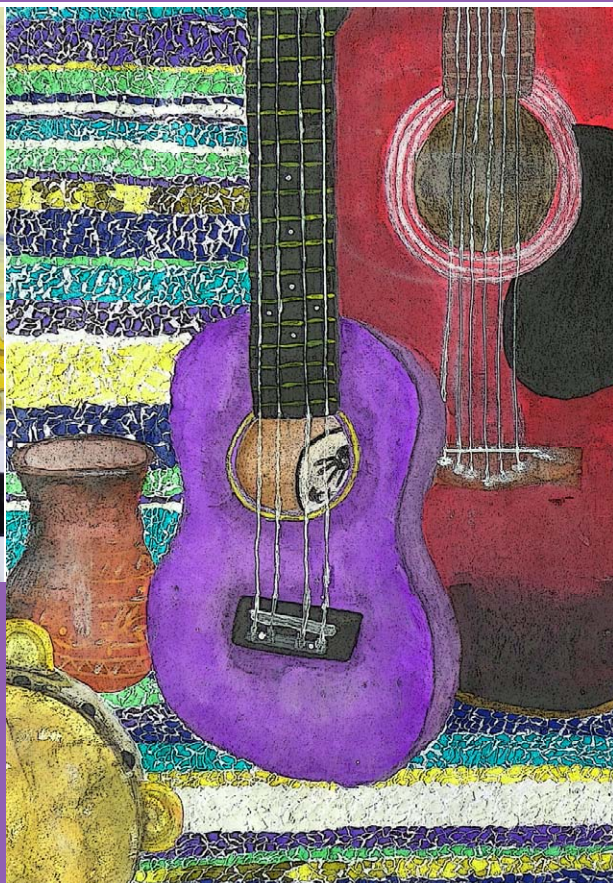
On behalf of everyone going to Tanzania I would like to thank

you for your support, help and donations over the past year.



## Pupil Art Work

Pupils in our Art and Design Department have produced some stunning pieces over the course of this school year. On this page are two examples of National 5 level finished still life pieces. Pupils took inspiration for their work from famous artists. The still life on the left has been painted by Myrna Rose, and the piece on the right was created in mixed media by Emma Cronie.





# Fishing for the Future

**Mrs Simpson's S3 Biology class have taken part in the Nith Fisheries Trust 'Fishing for the Future' project.**

Throughout the year, the class have been to visit the trust at Blackwood Estate in Auldgirth to learn about the lifecycle of salmon, visit the hatchery and see salmon eggs and fish. They have observed electrofishing and took part in a river study - collecting data.

On Friday 22nd May the class went to Drumlanrig Castle to have a shot at fly fishing. Pupils learned how to roll cast and overhead cast and were then given the opportunity to use their skills on real fish.

Annabelle Hiddleston said: "I have really enjoyed the 'Fishing for the Future' project. One of the activities was to go fishing where we caught six fish in total with three of them landed (caught and brought out of the water). Once we had landed the fish we set them free again." Elaina Bray added: "I enjoyed having a go at fly fishing and learning how to roll cast really helped my aim." Jacob Fisher concluded: "Overall, I found the project very interesting and I would like to learn more in the future."





# Recognising Achievement



**Livia Nicholson**

**This year, it was decided to organise a joint celebration of success evening to acknowledge the achievements of pupils in S1, S2 and S3. Over 140 young people received awards and certificates in recognition of their achievements both in and out of school over the past year.**

After the prize winners had been piped in by Robbie Logan from S4, Mrs Fraser, Acting DHT, opened the evening by inviting Mr Graham to give his report of the year. Mr Graham highlighted 5 key priorities of the school: Attainment, Achievement, Participation, the Broad General

Education and Transition, illustrating these with photographs showcasing pupils' successes. In his address, Mr Graham paid tribute to the staff leaving Wallace Hall this year and took a moment to remember Andrew Collins, DHT at Wallace Hall, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Presenting the awards this year was Miss Wilson who has been a much valued member of staff at Wallace Hall since September 1984. During this time Miss Wilson has been a Principal Teacher of Home Economics, a member of Wallace Hall's Extended Management Team and a key member of the school's Social Committee. Miss Wilson was on Wallace Hall's very first trip to the Ardèche in 1993 and hasn't missed one since. Miss Wilson has made a huge contribution to the life of Wallace Hall and will be much missed when she retires later this term.

The core business of presenting the pupils with their awards was punctuated by three musical items: a very accomplished set of tunes from the Wallace Hall Ceilidh Band, a rendition of Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud", performed in style by Ailsa Black, Declan McGarva and Charlie Carr and an exciting contemporary dance routine by the Wallace Hall Dance Group which won the Regional



**Miss Wilson**

Choreography Competition earlier this year.

For each of the year groups, Mrs Fraser invited Rev. Ella Pennington and Mr Les Byers from Thornhill Burns Club onto stage to present a prize for the best creative writer. The Burns Club has generously donated sponsorship to purchase a book token in recognition of the pupils' literary skills.

After a warm vote of thanks from Mrs Fraser concluding the formal part of the evening, parents, pupils and staff congregated in the 'Street' to reflect on the wide range of success achieved by our young people.



**Nathan King and Marianne Willetts collect the Sports Shield on behalf of Nith**



**Caitlin Greenwood and Jack Roberts collect the Academic Shield on behalf of Scaur**



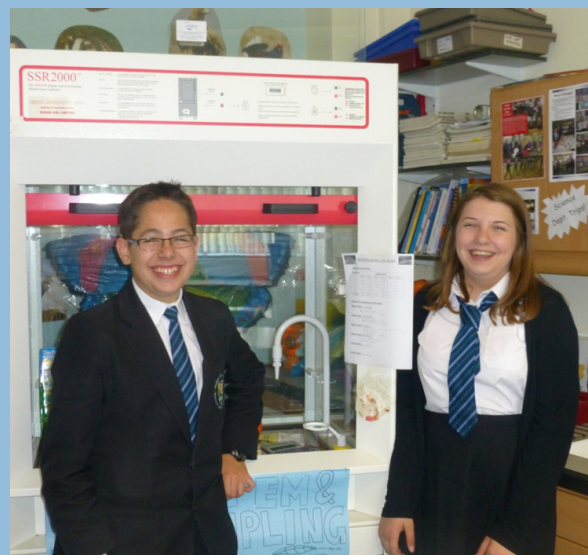
**Mia Osborne****Mhairi Watret****Fergus Waugh****Rev. Ella Pennington, Les Byers and Irvine Laird****Arran Sloan****Wallace Hall Dance Group****Josie Blount****Marianne Nicholson, Les Byers and the Rev. Ella Pennington****S3 Girls' Hockey Team****Aidan Dobie****Olivia Macklin****Alice Best****Leigh Hyslop****S1 Boys' Hockey Team****S2 Girls' Hockey Team**



**Ines Wood****Hannah Spence****Anna Wilson****Peter Wilson****Aleksei Wishart****Struan Robertson****Caitlin Carruthers****Hayden Meredith****Zara Kennedy****Ellie Thorburn****Marianne Willetts****Phoebe Murray****Penny Gonlag****Mrs Fraser and Miss Wilson****Les Byers, Lydia McMillan and the Rev. Ella Pennington****Sam Hamilton and Mrs Valerie Inglis**



## Biology Butterflies



Over the past month the S3 (now S4) students have been watching the development of butterflies. They had to measure and record the growth of the caterpillars and describe the stages as they formed chrysalides and underwent their metamorphosis. A time lapse camera was set up to capture them emerging. Finally, they were set free in the school grounds. (The butterflies, not the students!)



## Pupil Art Work

The piece of artwork on the left was painted by Mhari Prentice and was submitted for her National 5 Art and Design Award. Mhari is a keen piper and she used her set of bagpipes as the focus of her painting. Mhari used mixed media of paint and pastels.

Pupils have spent time in class studying famous artists renowned for their still life paintings and took inspiration from these. Mrs Black, teacher of Art and Design, said: "I have been really pleased with the standard of work completed by the National 5 class with some stunning finished pieces achieved."



# A Successful Sports Day

**Sports Day at Wallace Hall is always a popular whole school event.**

This year was no exception with a large number of competitors, pupils, staff and parents turning out to watch the closely fought track events, the field ones having been already been completed earlier in the week.

The winners of the overall Sports Championships were as follows:

**S1 Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> Aidan Dobie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ewan Robertson, 3<sup>rd</sup> = Charlie Brown and Lee Wood

**S1 Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> Penny Gonlag, 2<sup>nd</sup> Olivia Macklin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Emily Young

**S2 Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> Logan Paterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Fergus Waugh and Finlay Smith

**S2 Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> Chloe Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bethany Wade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lauren McKinna

**S3 Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> Gavin Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Bain, 3<sup>rd</sup> = Billy Dundas, Louis Staples and Kain Briggs

**S3 Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> Erin Dobie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mhairi Watret, 3<sup>rd</sup> Caitlin Carruthers

**Senior Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Ponton

**Senior Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> Emily Morton.

Scaur were victorious in the Tug of War contest with Nith winning the House Championship.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall, said: "I was very impressed with the drive and commitment of all of the pupils competing in both the track and field events and I was particularly pleased to see so many girls taking part in our Sports Day. It was great to see so many of our young people embracing the importance of a healthy lifestyle through physical fitness."

David Dillon, Depute Head Teacher, added: "Sports Day was a fantastic whole school event which showcased the outstanding sporting ability of many of our young people. We were very fortunate with the weather this year and the whole school community were on the playing fields to support the competitors. Well done to all."







**Sports Day 2015**





**Sports Day 2015**



# Festival of Netball

**As part of an initiative to encourage more girls to participate in sporting activities, Miss Haile, PE Probationer at Wallace Hall Academy, decided to organise a regional netball tournament. This has been ongoing since October and culminated in June with two days of netball organised for junior and senior teams.**

Nine schools took part at junior level with seven schools at senior level. Monthly games were held with the league finishing in March. Matches were held on a Wednesday night with teams all getting the chance to play home and away games.

The results of the league matches were as follows:

S1 – S3: 1<sup>st</sup> Wallace Hall with 24 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> Douglas Ewart with 20 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> Castle Douglas with 18 points.

S4 – S6: 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Ewart with 16 points (winning on goal difference), 2<sup>nd</sup> Dalbeattie also with 16 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> Castle Douglas with 14 points.

At the beginning of June, all participating schools travelled to Wallace Hall for two final netball festival days. One hundred and forty girls from S1 – S3 competed at the junior day with sixty S4 – S6 girls attending the senior day.

Competition was fierce on both occasions with a very high standard

of netball on display. Miss Haile was pleased to welcome Laura Gibson, who plays for the Scottish Thistles, and two netball scouts, Andy Reid and Kate Maxwell, from Dumfries Netball Blues and Kirkcudbright Netball Club respectively. Matches took place both indoors in the big games hall and on the outside netball court.

At the junior final netball festival, Annan A team won the shield with Wallace Hall A team coming a close second. In the plate competition, Castle Douglas A team were victorious with Langholm finishing in second place. The overall player of the season was Kayleigh Proudfoot with Wallace players of the tournament chosen as Josie Blount (Wallace Hall A) and Charlotte James (Wallace Hall B).

On the senior netball day Wallace Hall B team achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place, in 2<sup>nd</sup> place was the team from Annan Academy (winning the plate) with the team from Douglas Ewart taking top spot, winning the shield. The overall player of the year was Bethany Hutton from Annan Academy and Wallace Hall players of the tournament were Emma Holden (Wallace Hall A) and Molly Kitson (Wallace Hall B).

Miss Haile said: "Organising the season of netball has been a challenge but one worth taking. It has been so encouraging to see so many girls participating in the



sport. The girls have learned new skills, worked well together as teams, mixed with girls from other schools while building their fitness levels in the process. I have been really impressed with the commitment from all of the girls taking part – they have all worked very hard this year and I hope they will continue to enjoy the sport. Thank you to all of the PE teachers in the region who have supported the netball initiative and particular thanks to Louise Cooper who was a huge support throughout."

Sarah Smith, a member of Wallace Hall A team, said: "Miss Haile's netball club has been a great success. Although she will be leaving Wallace Hall at the end of term to start her new post at Dumfries Academy, we hope the club will continue. We would all like to thank Miss Haile for all of the support and encouragement she has given us and wish her well for the future."









# Pitch Perfect

report by Ryan Cano



The annual school golf championships were held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June in beautiful sunshine and surroundings by kind permission of Thornhill Golf Club. Twenty nine pupils from S2 to S6 took part, comprising of beginners through to the more experienced players.

I was paired with Jack Roberts and Sam Murphy. I was delighted to score my second lowest round of the season, coming in with a 74. Jack and Sam also played well and competition amongst the three of us was fierce.

At the end of the competition, Aaron Grierson commented: "I have never puttied so well and I really enjoyed my game. I thought that the day was a great success." Lewis Cheetham added: "I felt that I struck the ball well all day and the weather just topped it off." Neil MacDonald, winner of the longest drive, said: "The company was great and I was really pleased with my drives off the tee all the way round - they sounded sweet as I struck the ball. My favourite shot was my chip in on the 13<sup>th</sup> to save my par."

Results were as follows:

- **Scratch winner** - Ryan Cano
- **Handicap winner** - Lewis Cheetham
- **Stableford winner** - Harry McCabe and Josh Notman (joint)



- **Longest drive** – Neil MacDonald

- **Closest to the pin** – Cameron Robertson

This year, I was delighted to be chosen to play for the South of Scotland under 16s Boys Team. Having watched some of the younger players from Wallace Hall, I'm sure it won't be long until they too are selected and get the chance to play for the region.

The course at Thornhill was in great condition and the green keepers do a fantastic job. We would all like to thank Thornhill Golf Club for making us so welcome and allowing us to use their fantastic facilities.





# Showjumping success



**Congratulations to Arran Sloan, a Third Year pupil at Wallace Hall, who recently won the Blackdyke Winter Showjumping Championships.**

Over fifty pony and rider combinations take part in the championships and the winner is decided by a points system taken from the results of a number of competitions held from October through until April. Competition is fierce, with Arran taking top spot with his new pony Socks and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall on his other pony, Bailey.

Arran has been involved with ponies since he was eleven and is a member of Nithsdale Pony Club and South West Riding Club where he has lessons and competes with his ponies. He has been chosen as a member of the Pony Club showjumping team, representing Nithsdale at Area competitions.

Arran said: "My favourite discipline is showjumping. It is really important that I have a good relationship with my ponies which is built on trust. I love to watch John Whittaker – he is an exceptional horseman and I hope someday to be as good as him. Winning the championship was a huge achievement for me as we only bought Socks a month before the competition started. Already



we have formed a good partnership and I am really looking forward to summer season."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall, said: "I was really pleased to hear of Arran's success. He has obviously put in a lot of hard work and commitment to get to this stage and I look forward to hearing more of Arran's achievements with his ponies as the summer season progresses."

## Your newsletter – your views

**We hope you enjoy the July edition of our school newsletter. It is packed with articles and photographs highlighting the good things taking place at Wallace Hall along with features focusing on the achievements of our pupils and staff. We are always pleased to report on the good news that is happening in our school and publish information about the many, varied interests and attainments of our young people from our Nursery, Primary and Secondary classes.**

**If you have taken part in a competition, have an interesting hobby or if you have any pieces of work that you are proud of and would like published, please speak to Mrs Menzies in the Library and she will help with articles and photographs.**

**As ever, a big thank you to all pupils, staff, parents and members of the community who have submitted articles and photographs for publication. Thank you also to everyone who has helped proof-read and edit our newsletter.**

**At the moment the newsletter is published four times a year with one printed copy automatically sent home per family. We are interested in your views on this and would be grateful if you would take a few minutes and complete an online survey.**

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



# Parent Council News

**It has been a lively few months for both Parent Councils of our School. It is time to change and merge! Wallace Hall is now a 'through school' with children and young people from the ages of 2-18. Huge opportunities exist for thinking differently about the involvement of parents and in particular about the role of the Parent Council. Until now the Primary School and the Academy have had separate Parent Councils. Recently they have been having periodic joint meetings to share their experiences. Now there is a proposal to bring them together as one body.**

I believe that is the right thing to do. Subject to consultation and agreement of those concerned, from next school year there will be just one Parent Council at Wallace Hall. It will conduct business

relating to the whole school, and will have a series of standing and short-life sub-groups to deal with specific, more focussed issues. In this way we should be able to act in the best interests of all the pupils, families and staff at Wallace Hall, but also to meet the needs of the specific parts of the school that have their own special concerns and responsibilities.

One sub-group I would like to see formed would be focussed on learning, teaching and assessment. In May the Academy Parent Council had an excellent presentation from Dr Ray Fulton on new approaches to giving feedback to pupils in ways which can engage parents. It was a good example of something that might be of interest across the whole school.

If you are not yet involved with the Parent Council, do enquire at



the school about how things work. Meetings are informal and friendly but packed with good information about life at Wallace Hall. They are great opportunities to learn about what is happening in the school – and also to share your ideas on what might be done differently.

**David Clark**



## Pupil Art Work

Two more examples of National 5 finished still life pieces from our Art and Design Department. The painting on the left is a mixed media piece by Justine Crosbie and the one on the right is created in pastels by Elle Findlater.