

# FORTUNAS





On Saturday 23 June 2018 we mark the start of our Bicentenary Year at Dollar Academy.

To celebrate this significant milestone in the school's history, you are invited to join us at The Bicentenary Ball, a black-tie event to be held in the marquee that evening.

**Tickets £75.00 per person**  
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## **Fortunas 41**

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed articles or images to *Fortunas 40*; the deadline for submission of articles for the summer issue is **Thursday 29 March 2018**.

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#### **DATA PROTECTION**

Dollar Academy sends out copies of Fortunas and its enclosures in envelopes addressed to Former Pupils, former staff of the Academy and parents of current pupils. As such, recipients' names and addresses are stored in our database. Any recipient who does not wish to receive a copy of Fortunas is asked to inform the Academy by email: dollarfp@dollaracademy.org.uk. Similarly, in order that we may keep our data as accurate as possible, you are asked to inform us of any change of address.



## FROM THE RECTOR

Excellence, opportunity and community. Scanning the magnificent photographs in this edition of *Fortunas*, and reading the wide array of articles reflecting so many different and exciting aspects of life here, it is sometimes hard to remember that Dollar Academy is simply a school.

The astonishingly high standard of performance on sports pitches, on the stage, in concert halls, and in various galleries and arenas, seems almost ubiquitous. The articles on *Oliver!* and the Pipe Band, for example, emphasise the extent to which Dollar is committed to ambition and excellence.

The myriad activities described demonstrate clearly the huge range of opportunities available, including for travel. Some of the travel writing in *Fortunas* is inspiring.

And the warmth with which so many people write about Dollar, whether current or Former Pupils or staff, can leave readers in no doubt about the strength of our community.

All this, and no mention of our examination results! Yet it is in the classroom that much of what is best about Dollar happens. Inevitably, this is less reported in magazines of this nature, but I know it is not taken for granted. Pupils and parents understand that the school's 'core business' of learning and teaching is key to the future of the children. This is something Dollar continues to do well.

The balance between curricular and co-curricular is a difficult one to strike, but there can be no doubt that our school is committed to an all-round education. Reading the articles by FPs, that appears to have long been the case.

As the Academy approaches its Bicentenary, there is much to celebrate, but there is also much still to do. No successful organisation can rest on its laurels. We can, however, feel proud of the achievements described in *Fortunas 40*. Enjoy your reading.

David Knapman  
Rector

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**DOLLAR**  
ACADEMY



## JASON BROOKS

Throughout my time at Dollar Academy, I had heard periodically about Dr Brooks. This was mainly due to his organisation of the timetables each year. However, apart from the occasional sighting around the grounds and in Assembly, I rarely saw him. It wasn't until my fifth year that I had the chance to meet him properly. I looked at my timetable at the beginning of the year only to find that I was in Dr Brooks' class. At the time this surprised me: I had no idea that he taught Physics.

On arrival to class on our first day, Dr Brooks introduced himself and started an icebreaker. The game involved sequentially memorising the names of each person in the class; of course, the list of names gradually increased as you progressed around the class. The aim was to name everyone who had come before you and then end with your own name. This was

relatively easy for most of us as we were with our peers whom we knew well. Dr Brooks, however, had never met most of us. This appeared not to matter—he went round the class, perfectly recalling each pupil's name in turn. To say that I was impressed by this was a bit of an understatement. I struggle to remember names easily. The effort Dr Brooks made to remember each person's name and the clear importance he placed on this, won my respect on Day One. With this simple game, Dr Brooks had engaged everyone in the group and given them a reason to engage with his class. This was a recurrent theme in his teaching. He always made the effort to involve us, taking the Physics off the whiteboard and into our surroundings. This created a very productive working environment. He also encouraged pupils to take a leading role in their own learning, something I have found very useful at university.

As a result of this positive experience in the classroom, I asked that Dr Brooks be my personal tutor in sixth year. He helped me with my UCAS application for university and generally offered advice and guidance to help me through Form VI. Though he was always busy with the infinite responsibilities that must come with being Assistant Rector, Dr Brooks always found the time to sit and talk with me. He was always keen to know how I was doing and make sure that I was balancing my time properly.

In summary, Dr Brooks was a great addition to the staff at Dollar Academy—a very approachable and hard-working man who will be very much missed. It will be strange to think of anyone else taking his place.

*Tim Torrance (FP 2014)*

## 'A Man for All Seasons'

Jason Brooks really was Dollar Academy's 'Man for all Seasons'...and all jobs. He was the 'go-to' person for solving any problem. At one stage, early on this term, a number of us were considering clubbing together for a first-class air ticket and hired kidnapper to get him back.

Jason's great skill is his ability to meet and communicate with everyone on their terms and in their 'language', and to do so with humility, grace and a sharpness of intellect that always enabled him to cut quickly to the chase and identify the nub of the problem. His USP, though, was that he did not simply identify the problem; he solved it.

Whether preparing a Form VI pupil for a Cambridge Maths interview, gently reprimanding a Prep child for some misdemeanour on a bus, negotiating a better printing solution, promoting the benefits of a Dollar education to potential boarders, addressing the Governors or explaining pentominoes, Jason had the knack of saying just the right thing, in just the right tone. He blended a hearty dose of common sense with a good moral compass. He could deliver a stern dressing-down when needed, but his compassion and humanity usually resulted in a smile and a handshake at the end. This made him approachable and popular both with staff and with pupils.

Jason's roots were on the south coast. He took a first-class degree in Physics at Bristol and followed this up with another first, this time for his PhD in Theoretical Physics at Cambridge. An actuarial career briefly threatened before an epiphany whilst climbing in the Himalaya set him on his true vocation of teaching. Following two happy years of teaching at Clifton College in Bristol, and swift promotion to Deputy Head of the Maths Department there, Jason followed his heart and moved to Germany (not for the last time).

Jason arrived at Dollar in 2006, initially as Houseparent of

Argyll House alongside his wife, Sandra, a popular appointee to the Modern Languages Department. His manner and his mathematical prowess proved irresistible and he was soon snapped up to join the teaching staff. A gifted teacher of both Physics and Mathematics (and pretty useful at German, too), he was a valuable and versatile acquisition, able to inspire all ages and abilities. Sandra and Jason enjoyed five happy, busy years with the girls at Argyll House, bringing up their two young daughters with a happy family of big sisters. In 2009 Jason was appointed Head of Mathematics at Dollar, a role he held for just over two years before being appointed Assistant Rector.

Jason joined the senior management team as new national qualifications were being introduced; his analytical skills, attention to detail and level of accuracy proved invaluable as he navigated teachers and pupils safely through that period of change.

To call Jason's remit 'wide-ranging' is an understatement. He had the uncanny knack of analysing, rationalising, streamlining and remodelling one area of the school, before moving onto the next. Every single pupil and member of staff has benefited from his input in some way. He has made us all just that little bit safer through his leadership regarding issues of health and safety; he insisted that fire extinguishers were not suitable door wedges and that we should all use safety ladders. The electronic green smiley face that lights up the West Approach every morning, as we enter at the correct speed, is a daily reminder of Jason's good work. But his most lasting legacy will prove to have been his leadership of IT and his innovations in the exciting realms of digital learning.

Jason and his family never forgot their boarding house roots and

they were loyal supporters of boarding events long after returning to civilian life. A passion for languages meant that Jason was always at the heart of developments here, accompanying trips and exchanges whenever he could be spared. A qualified mountain leader, he was a regular on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for many years, and he even turned out for DAJO, being a fine trombonist.

So, once again, he has followed his heart and his family to Germany. And some lucky children will, I am sure, enjoy the privilege of honing their spoken English under the kind and watchful eye of a man who was one of Dollar's finest. We will miss his self-deprecating sense of humour, his sartorial elegance (ranging from *Our Man in Havana* to *Men in Black*), his many kindnesses and his endless patience even when asked the most trivial question. Jason was exceptionally hard-working, loyal and a very good friend—the words 'sorely missed' never rang more true.

*Alison Morrison*

# MAY SHARP

Deep in the heart of Dollar Academy, there is—or there ought to be—a little oak door, iron-studded, set under a heavy Gothic arch. This door (unlocked with a massive, rusty key) should lead down, down to a dark and musty passageway. Clasp one's taper, one should be led to a little locked cell, and a filing cabinet—to the files of our most senior colleagues. May Sharp's would be there, deepest down in the cabinet.

Here it is—a primary source of flimsy, typewritten carbons. (Think Bletchley Park, le Carré...) Dust it down, bring it out into the pool of flickering light...It is a thick one, this dossier—37 years' worth of Dollar. Thirty-seven years of history in both senses: of the academic subject she was central to AND of the story of Dollar.

Thumb through the index, to 'R' for 'Radical'. No one who has sat through one of her Advanced Higher theoretical 'dinner parties'—where pupils created menus of evidence for the Russian Revolution— could fail to understand how far MDS moved History teaching from mere chalk dust and essay plans copied from the blackboard. May stood for a style of teaching that required children to think hard, to appreciate the tangential, the context and the humanity. History was not necessarily about the answers, but about the questions. She inspired plenty.

May also stood up, right from the start, for a way of thinking that questioned old assumptions about women and their place in management and the world of work. Consider how it must have been—AD 1980, and something of a shock to the system, four Rectors ago. A mere girl, brilliant-haired, brilliantly read (and red) and radical to her scarlet fingernails: Sharp by name, and a razor of damascene complexity by nature, she worked through the very formative years of Dollar's

emergence into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Rolling up her elegant sleeves, she tackled the business of teaching, then running a department, (and being a Head of Year *en passant*) hiring the very best staff, creating an ethos of enquiry, looking ever outwards. And thus, on to a wider stage, becoming the SQA Principal Assessor for Advanced Higher History—the face, indeed, of History in Scotland.

Find the 'Statistics' docket next. The end result of her tenure as Head of Department is all there in numbers: witness the extraordinary 2017 AH History results—22 out of 23 pupils graded A, and this year more university applicants than ever wanting to study History, International Relations or Politics-related subjects. Through the commitment and expertise of May's hugely skilled department, the Politics and International Relations Society flourishes and the model United Nations, too. Debate is everywhere. And over the years, trips abroad have expanded to include Cuba, Moscow, Auschwitz, America, China, the Battlefields...

Flicking through 'Beyond History', you get to the greasypaint-tinted pages...As head of the stage makeup team, May trained generations of artistes to understand just what you can do with colour: remember *Cats*? There was the Charities Committee, too: decades of support for the work that cares and looks outwards. And wider still, her experience of management was called upon in her appointment as Regent—a quaint, appropriately musty title for the senior member of staff responsible for the induction of new colleagues into the school community.

Close the file. Turn the key. Extinguish the taper. But somehow there remains, as upon the retina, a brilliance that does not fade. Generations of staff and pupils have cause to be thankful to May Sharp, for the intellect, the compassion—and the fire.

Geoff Daniel

## In Praise of May...

After 37 years at Dollar Academy, May Sharp has retired. The school will miss her guidance and inspiration as much as the History Department which she has led for 25 years.

When she joined Dollar as a fresh-faced probationer in 1980, straight out of Glasgow University, even then with a shock of red hair, she joined a department headed by the serious but never solemn John McIntosh. The four-person team was scattered throughout the school and May herself occupied a historical enclave at the end of the Prep School. A bright classroom for a bright teaching talent—from the beginning her room was as much art gallery as a space for study. In the early days artistic inspiration came from historical posters—World War I's recruiting poster, 'Britain Needs You'; Daumier's pear etching of King Louis Philippe from *La Caricature*; and South African proverbs—in more recent years Soviet posters proclaiming the Russian Revolution were interspersed with paintings from modern artists like Fergus Dunnet (FP 2001) and Rachel Maclean (FP 2005).

At the time Dollar's History Department taught just that. Philosophy, Modern Studies and Politics were a distant dream. Lessons on current affairs took place once a week in fifth year, and pupils were exposed to Sigmund Freud only in Form VI.

Although she has always claimed to be a couch potato, some have memories of Sharp, in those halcyon days, wearing tartan trousers and Tukker boots attempting Jane Fonda's workout with the non-hockey playing classes. She soon abandoned any pretences at athletic activities, finding her natural home and what was to be a long relationship with the Charities Committee.

In those early days too, May's theatrical tendencies—encouraged by *quondam* school archivist Bruce



Baillie—found an outlet as the social worker in *West Side Story* (played with a distinct hint of Joyce Grenfell). Her career shone behind the curtain after that, as she guided the makeup team's efforts in most of Dollar's dramatic and musical productions.

In the late 1980s, May was promoted to Head of Year; these were known as the peripatetic years. With no set classroom, May relied on minions to stagger up and down stairs with overhead projectors, more often than not some biddable Form VI.

Under her wing, the naturally argumentative quality of Dollar pupils was sharpened and the Dollar Academy Literary and Debating Society reached the finals of most national competitions including those of the Scottish Press Debating Competition in the Men's Union at Glasgow University.

May took the History Department under her wing in 1991. Housed in the old Music block and the Portacabins, they were immediately and inevitably dubbed 'the Gulag', given the department's focus on Soviet history. The changes were noticeable almost immediately. Although Modern Studies had been available as a crash Higher, the subject was now examined from Standard Grade and formally taught in the school from Form II.

Despite the department's brief flirtation with a combined A-Level History examination together with CSYS History, the History Department went from strength to strength. A particular highlight was the number of conferences that the department hosted: a healthcare UK conference with MSPs George Reid and Nicola Sturgeon was a standout event. Indeed May's time has been highlighted by the number of significant names she persuaded to travel to Dollar.

It is hard to think of a department left in as good shape or in such good hands as her successor, Neil McFadyean. It is now seven strong and recognised as one of the best in the country.

And while May's career within



Dollar is both well known and respected, what is as significant is how important it has been nationally.

Following a school inspection in 1998, she was invited to 10 Downing Street in recognition of her contribution to education. Along with Tony and Cherie Blair (to no one's surprise Cherie was complimentary about her jewellery), she met with Northern Irish education minister Martin McGuinness, British education secretary Estelle Morris and Scottish education secretary Cathy Jamieson. There was also the invitation to address European teachers in Riga, Latvia, on how to teach History.

But most of all, May has been acknowledged as the *capo di tutti capi* for History in Scotland for years. In her work for the SQA she has, for more than a decade, shaped and guided the way that History has been taught and examined in schools, ensuring that the transition between school and university has been as painless as possible for those who want to take the subject further. The number of senior History teachers, academics, journalists and lawyers around Scotland and beyond who have been taught and inspired by May can barely be counted.

And she has done all of this, always in fabulous shoes.

*Adrian Murdoch (Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and FP 1988)*



## MARILYN RAEBURN

On 18 August, 2017 we said farewell to Marilyn Raeburn, our Fees Administrator, after a career at Dollar Academy lasting 48 years and 2 months (17,593 days), during which time she has processed an approximate £375,000,000 worth of fees, worked with five Rectors—Graham Richardson, Ian Hendry, Lloyd Harrison, John Robertson and David Knapman and with four Bursars—James Douglas, John McDonald, Mike Fox and me. I suspect that Marilyn has views on all of them, but that they will remain a closely guarded secret. I can, however, reveal that Lloyd Harrison frequently escaped the cares of the Rector's office for a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit in the Bursar's office. I'm not certain if any other member of staff in the history of the school can claim such longevity of service as Marilyn (records are incomplete), but I very much doubt there are any contenders.

Prior to joining us on the morning of 19 June, 1969 (a Thursday), Marilyn was attending a Secretarial

Studies course at Clackmannanshire College and was selected, by some mysterious process, to attend a group interview for a post at Dollar Academy. Four young ladies arrived at the back door of number 4 Academy Place (the Bursar's office then being located in the back sitting room of the house) for interview with Mr Douglas in the dining room, which also served as his office. Amongst queries regarding her parents' employment and their church attendance, Marilyn was required to complete a test. This consisted of Mr Douglas reading a piece from that morning's *Glasgow Herald* whilst Marilyn recorded it in shorthand and read it back to him. At the age of just 16, she was understandably nervous and went back to the main office to await the outcome of the ordeal. In front of the other candidates (no careful protections of privacy in those days), she was informed that she had got the job, but that her hair was a bit on the long side and would need a cut. Two weeks later she started, arriving in Dollar from Sauchie on the bus with Mary Paterson, who did the book-keeping. On arrival, she discovered that the final denizen of the office was the typist, also Mary Paterson, which must have made life very confusing.

A month after Marilyn joined, on 20 July, 1969, Neil Armstrong took the first steps on the surface of the moon. It may seem a *non sequitur*, but I thought it useful to establish a broader historical context. Harold Wilson was Prime Minister; Richard Nixon, the President of the United States.

Marilyn's joining instructions had included the requirement to bring with her a knife, fork, soup spoon and dessert spoon, cup and saucer, teaspoon, soup plate, dinner plate and pudding bowl. The work table was cleared at 10 o'clock and set with a tablecloth for tea; the process was repeated at midday for lunch. This repast was delivered from Tillicoultry in steel containers and would typically include something along the lines of 'vile' soup, shepherd's pie and vegetables, followed by jelly and custard. I'll bet sago pudding made an unwelcome appearance, too. All of this was to be reheated using a heater ring which was kept under the table when not deployed in use. Presumably the jelly escaped the heat treatment. Marilyn found the whole thing bizarre and (typically) hilarious.

The office heating was provided by the coal-fired boiler which was stoked by the groundsman, Willie Crawford, who became a very well-kept and colourful local figure. His part in 'The Mystery of the Christmas Turkeys' is a narrative I fully intend to shape into a real edge-of-your-seat potboiler if I ever manage to claw my way to the threshold of retirement. There were other larger-than-life characters inhabiting the place, too. Bob Morris, the postman, was famed for entertaining the office with his singing and whistling routines; the janitor, Alf Coutts, also masterminded the army of cleaners and the laundry;

the formidable Miss Duthie, Rector's PA and Registrar, was never seen outside her office without a mysterious, and intimidating briefcase—she was assisted in her duties by the sole member of the school office in those days, Nesta Kettles. At the time the school was still very closely linked with Clackmannanshire County Council and the Bursar's office had previously been located in Alloa; some members of the office felt it should have stayed there. Whether this was a reaction to this interesting cast of characters or not remains lost to history...

During her time here, huge changes have been wrought not only in the school, of course, but also in the town of Dollar where the losses (some of which have been subsequently replaced, but mainly not) include: two filling stations and garages, two hotels, two booksellers, a dairy shop, a grocer's, a fishmonger, a baker, several hairdressers, a haberdashery, an electrical store, two butcher's shops (run by two brothers, the Waddells) and a draper.

Within the school—and beyond the physical changes in the campus and the endless ebb and flow of teachers, staff and pupils—perhaps the greatest change has been in boarding. In those days, six houses were packed to the rafters with boarders from all parts of the globe. Office technology included an Adler typewriter and a huge accounting machine which was operated by magnetic card strips in some mysterious way. This latter was a significant advance, and was, I suspect, similar technology to that which had guided the aforementioned Neil Armstrong to his destination. Certainly much training was required to operate it. The need for such computing power was questioned at a time when every

fee account was individually typed; incredibly, the heavily subsidised termly fee in those days, for children of Dollar Parish, amounted to £1 17/- 6d. Anyway, Marilyn's verdict on the whole question is that life was a lot more straightforward before computers were introduced to the workplace. Considering the increasing rate of information flow, the barrage of e-mails from which we all suffer and our 24-hour, online availability, she does have a point.

Managing money was a physical labour in those days and, despite early computerisation, Marilyn's routine Thursday task was to visit all the shops in Dollar to receipt payments made for goods and services received. She would pass via the Co-op to drop off the week's collection of empty milk bottles and thence to the surgery of Dr Galloway where she would sit in the waiting room, every week, (to the consternation of other patients who clearly wondered what the trouble was) waiting for Dr Galloway, a Governor, to sign the week's cheques.

I have learnt a thing or two about management from Marilyn—during the bus strikes of the 1970s the Bursar of the day very kindly arranged for the tractor and trailer to be sent to Tillicoultry to collect the office staff and boarding house assistants and transport them, somewhat bemused, to Academy Place in a precursor to the concept of 'park and ride'. Very efficient and not a day lost...

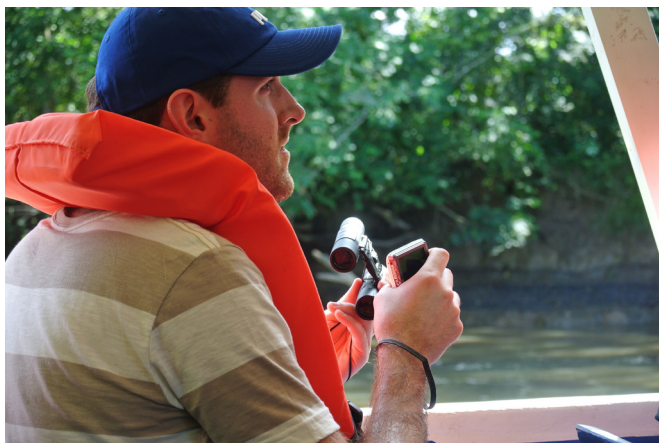
One final and little-known nugget about Marilyn: she has seen every school musical since she started here. Her verdict, based on what is clearly a unique level of experience, is that *Oklahoma* was the best yet. I have a strong feeling that she will continue to cast her verdict on annual

performances for many years to come.

To say that we will miss her is an understatement. She has been a hugely important first point of contact for many parents over many generations of pupils and she came to know many of them well. She has been punctilious, professional, polite and welcoming to all, fulfilling her vital role without missing a beat. She has daily maintained the bird feeder in the garden of the current Bursariat premises with the same constancy and assiduity with which she has attended to the school's business. A duty rota has been drawn up to ensure that this important aspect of life at number 23 is not overlooked.

We wish her and her husband, Danny, a long, happy and fulfilling retirement together.

*Justin Wilkes (Bursar)*



*Space was considerably restricted in this edition of Fortunas; we regret that the following farewell articles had to be kept unusually brief. (Ed.)*

## PAUL ARNOLD

Prior to coming to Dollar, Paul proved himself a dedicated and professional teacher at the Oasis Academy in Hull, a school with a very different pupil demographic. He came to Dollar to broaden his teaching experience and quickly became an integral, highly valued member of the Biology Department. He has the ability to present complex concepts and systems in a very clear, logical way, and his pupils benefited greatly from his teaching. His contributions to the development of the Form II and Advanced Higher Biology courses mean that pupils will continue to do so.

Passionate about football, Paul came to us a Hull City fan (and an even greater Manchester United fan), but he left as one of Dollar's diehard Ross County fans. He could often be found singing in the away end with Messrs Fraser, Gibb and McKay, united in the vague hope of their team scoring a goal. Outside the classroom, he coached the boys' football team and resurrected girls' football with a notable degree of success. He was a committed and engaged House Tutor and pub quiz aficionado—always ready with an answer regarding anything to do with football or biology. He was also a stalwart of the Surf Club and the Edinburgh car pool—delivering young and old, to and from the school with good humour and punctuality.

With the intention of broadening his teaching experience still further, Paul leaves somnolent Dollar for Mexico City, an intimidating metropolis of 9 million people, 2,200 metres above sea level. So far he has already had to contend with two earthquakes and a scorpion in his sock. As we say in Surf Club, 'Vaya con Dios, Paul!' The adventure continues...

*Charlie Ainge*



## CHERYL BOWIE

Cheryl is the epitome of the consummate professional who gives her all for her charges—someone whose ambitions are entirely focused on producing the best for the pupils in front of her and who measures career success not by notches on her CV, but in terms of a happy, purposeful classroom and exceptional exam results at national level.

She joined us in 2011, with a fascinating background that included (besides her French and Spanish teaching credentials) a professional ballet career at Covent Garden and knowledge of Japanese. She was to put both skills to good co-curricular use.

In the classroom, she delighted in teaching at all stages, but her particular speciality was to take the highest performers in French to the next level. This saw her organise and accompany many reciprocal Work Experience visits to Tours. She also masterminded our Spanish Exchange with Toledo, developing that embryonic link into a successful and oversubscribed trip. Uncountable out-of-school hours were devoted to the multiple tasks associated with these endeavours. Cheryl simply saw this as part of her job, and benefit to her pupils was the only recompense she sought.

Personal circumstances have seen her move south to teach in St Albans, Hertfordshire. They have acquired a real gem.

*David Delaney*



## SANDRA BROOKS

In 2004, we welcomed a short-term trainee teacher of German, Mrs Sandra Brooks. It was well into her placement before anyone realised she actually *was* German (when she let slip that she was from Passau). That establishes her linguistic credentials!

Two years later, she returned as a part-time teacher, becoming full-time in 2007 when she also became a Houseparent in Argyll House. In class, she taught German and some French, while also fitting in girls' football, Christmas Market trips, European Day of Languages events, and so many other undertakings that both she and I have probably forgotten about them. But her main contribution was taking pupils abroad to use their language, particularly to Germany. Ulmen, Fellbach, Amberg—go to these small German towns and you might run into someone who remembers Sandra with fondness and admiration.

Eventually she came out of boarding and walked straight into a newly created, promoted post—Coordinator of ESOL. The next years saw her, in addition to her German teaching, devote free periods, intervals and lunch breaks to the individual needs of Dollar's non-native English speakers.

However, the call of the homeland proved overwhelming. Sandra moved back to her native Bavaria, taking along her Assistant Rector husband, Jason, and their two daughters. But there are whispers of individual exchange links with her current school in Passau. Dollar has not heard the last of Sandra Brooks.

*David Delaney*



## KYLE CAMPBELL

Kyle left a lasting impression on the Mathematics Department. She was completely unflappable, and her calm and grounded demeanour never faltered. From challenges in the classroom to challenges on the hockey pitch, Kyle took everything in her stride.

In the classroom, she was thorough in all that she did. Her pupils were privileged to have her expertise and knowledge, and she frequently went the extra mile to help any pupil experiencing difficulties in Maths. She enjoyed a trip to Shanghai as part of an exchange and, on her return, she shared with the department all the good practice that she had observed.

She is further missed on the hockey pitch—where she and I spent many a rainy and dark evening entertaining the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XIs. It was a joy to see Kyle in action in this less formal environment. A talented hockey player herself, training and playing with Linlithgow, she brought club-level insight to the training sessions, which was much appreciated by all.

The Maths Department were very sorry to lose Kyle, although her return to her home town of Edinburgh was inevitable. Her infectious giggle, her passion for high heels, her love of lunchtime soup and her inability ever to feel the cold were amongst her many endearing qualities. We wish her well for the future; I am sure that her common sense approach to everything that teaching can throw at her will be equally appreciated by her new colleagues.

*Vicky Mason*



## ANNE GIBSON

Anne worked in the Support for Learning Department for nearly 20 years, yet trying to find a photograph of her proved an almost impossible task. Quiet and unassuming, Anne was happiest when out of the limelight. Yet she touched the lives of very many people—pupils, teachers and parents—with her gentle wisdom, infinite patience and genuine kindness.

She arrived in Dollar to do supply cover in the Junior School in 1999. She eventually settled into Support for Learning, which perfectly suited her qualities and skills. Anne went into classrooms unobtrusively, intuitively knowing where her support would be most useful. Outside the classroom, too, she could always be found helping others: whether teaching knitting in the Junior School; ‘in the pen’ at Junior Sports Day; behind the refreshments table after the Christmas Carol service or ‘kraaling’ pupils back stage at the Junior School musical.

Teachers trusted Anne’s sound judgement, born of years of experience. Nothing was ever too much trouble. Thoughtful, efficient, always flexible and accommodating, she was the perfect colleague. Pupils found her a calm, kind, and trusted presence. Those for whom learning was sometimes difficult knew she would never give up on them—she was loved and respected by very many. Because of her diligence and attention to detail, parents also trusted her compassionate judgement when discussing sensitive issues.

The uniqueness of Anne’s role brought her into contact with a surprisingly wide range of people, though she always worked quietly in the background. Those people all know that Anne’s kind and gentle influence left a legacy far beyond that which, with her unassuming nature, she would ever have imagined. We wish you well, Anne, and hope that you will come and visit soon.

*Joyce Smith*



## LISA HUDSON

Twitchee, Munro-bagger, astronomer, teacher, colleague, friend—all these words describe Lisa, but perhaps the most fitting is ‘football coach’. Any success our Senior pupils achieve later in life can be traced to the rigorous honing of skills and fostering of sportsmanship that took place on the Prep School field under Lisa’s watchful eye. As soon as the bright-red Hunter wellies were pulled on and the whistle brandished, we knew Lisa meant business and the stalwarts of the Prep 4 and 5 Football Club were in for a drilling before the much-coveted ‘Player of the Week’ trophy could be claimed.

But to most, Lisa is remembered as a steadfast member of the Prep School teaching staff. She taught Prep 3, Prep 4, Prep 5 and, latterly, Prep 1, for 18 years. Teaching was not Lisa’s first profession; after studying English and Economics at Stirling University, she forged a very successful career in personnel management at a major department store. A job re-location for husband, Andy, took their young family to Istanbul. There, a stint of nursery teaching persuaded Lisa that, on her return to the UK, her future lay in teaching. With a PGCE from Chester and some teaching in Cheshire under her belt, the family moved back to Stirling, and when her two boys enrolled at Dollar Academy, she began to do some supply work for us. A full-time, permanent position swiftly followed.

Lisa came to know her pupils really well, very quickly. She knew when they were happy and on-song, and she knew when something was bothering them and, often, how to put it right with a kind word, a quick ‘buck-up’, a funny story. Very much a team player, she worked with her various stage partners to create outstanding learning experiences for the children in her charge. She was creative in her approach, and her love of music and the outdoors permeated her teaching.

Lisa had a firm belief that children were never too young to follow ‘grown up’ things, like current affairs, and she amazed us with the variety of subjects her classes embraced.

She introduced pupils to many of her own interests. Every child who passed through her care, for instance, can identify Scotland's garden birds and the constellations; they even learned the science behind the aurora borealis. It was touching to hear how much her former pupils remembered from her classes in the tributes paid to her in a leaving video diary that used the Beatles' song 'Blackbird' as its soundtrack.

The word that came up time and time again was 'fun'. Anyone who has spent any time in the Prep School staffroom over the last 18 years will agree: Lisa is undoubtedly, uproariously funny. Her ability to find amusement in almost any situation is legendary, rivalled only by her willingness to laugh at herself—something she does with glorious regularity.

Lisa's loyalty and commitment to Dollar Academy knew no bounds. Her three children went through the school and enjoyed many of the opportunities on offer, so she could talk positively to pupils, parents and new staff alike. Her own children's education also brought her into the company of many teachers throughout the school and gave her a strong whole-school perspective. She supported many school events and trips, and especially enjoying accompanying Form III pupils on the Battlefields Trip.

An avid traveller, Lisa can also list every European destination served by a Scottish airport; she never missed an opportunity for a half-term break in the sunshine. Already, she has enjoyed the spoils of retirement and enjoyed September sunshine in Spain. A month in South Africa is next on the horizon. I suspect, however, that a cruise is not on the wish list. If you want to know just how funny Lisa is, ask about her trip to St Kilda. Fortunately, enough water is now under that particular bridge and Lisa can at last dine out on the gruesome experience of riding the North Atlantic swell (the best part was setting foot back on terra firma in Oban).

We miss her laughter, her down-to-earth common sense, her warmth and her great kindness—and wish her bon voyage.

*Alison Morrison*



## MAIRI LEGGATT

Mairi joined our instrumental music staff as a piano teacher in 2005. She loved working one-to-one with pupils, and her calm demeanour and her desire to really get to know the children resulted in many special relationships. In 2007 she moved into classroom teaching where she demonstrated her ability to inspire and engage pupils of all ages. She particularly loved working with the Preps, and she started using Kodály method in her teaching. Her lessons were imaginative and creative; she always found an innovative approach. Entering her room, you would see hoops, beanbags, cuddly toys scattered about and some very excited pupils sitting in a circle on the floor. Mairi would be amongst them, and the sound of singing games and rhymes would drift down the corridor.

Mairi's love of music was always evident in her co-curricular involvement. She developed the Prep Choir and Prep Orchestra, and her Practice Challenges motivated many. In the Senior School she could be found playing bass clarinet, percussion or even double bass in First Orchestra.

Outwith the Music Department, Mairi was also an Assistant Head of Year and, more recently, the school's Pupil Counsellor. She engaged with staff and pupils in her unique way and made a difference to so many lives.

*Karol Fitzpatrick*

# CHRISTINE MACIVER

Never let it be said that Dollar Academy does not prepare pupils for a life beyond school! The fact that all of our Form VI pupils can create a tasty chicken stir-fry and a nourishing vegetable soup, and that all of Form I can sew a button and iron a shirt is something I am very proud of (and boast about frequently). For this, we are all very grateful to Christine Maciver, a loyal member of the Home Economics Department for the past 20 years. Even the Rector once received instruction, during a lesson observation, on the correct way to iron his shirt!

A graduate of Queen Margaret College and Jordanhill, Chris joined the teaching staff at Dollar Academy in September 1996. Her forte has always been in fabric technology and craft work, including dressmaking and costume creation; many of her designs were used for school stage productions such as *Grease*. Chris was also responsible for the creation of our Millennium Wall Hanging, and her own handmade cards were a particular delight to receive.

She has helped many young children develop their fine motor skills, displaying infinite patience whilst helping an entire class of Prep 3 or 4 children to thread their needles. And our pupils' ability to thread and run a sewing machine (and even programme a digital sewing machine) would put many a reader to shame.

Chris' contributions to Dollar life went far beyond her own department's remit; she demonstrated a strong commitment to the personal and social development of pupils through teaching PSE and she offered a comfortable, friendly space to the many attendees of the Fabric Lunch Club.

A good friend to many across the teaching staff, Chris was always happy to welcome visitors into the cosy rooms of the Iona Building. Her cheerfulness, kindness, homemade cards and cakes will be greatly missed.

*Alison Morrison*



# CHARLES WILLIAM PRIOR

Billy took full advantage of his time as a pupil in Dollar Academy. He was Pipe Major of the Dollar Academy Pipe Band and accumulated a string of subject awards during his time at the school, culminating in School Dux (2003). And, oh yes, at some point he won over the equally driven, intellectually powerful German boarder, Johanna Pfadt (who has since become Mrs Johanna Prior).

A double first from Oxford University followed and then a few years in Shanghai, where he worked as Project Co-ordinator and Development Associate at the UK Pao School. Among other pursuits at that time, he was also editor of the website 'Best Food in China'. In 2012 Billy joined the staff of Dollar Academy as our first-ever Mandarin teacher. New teachers usually benefit from subject mentors, an existing syllabus, support resources. Not Billy. He was, essentially, starting up his own one-man department. In Billy's first year, Mandarin was taught only as a sixth-year option. Five years later, it is a flourishing subject boasting three members of staff and a substantial group of proprietorial pupils. Billy's many achievements include putting all pupils through the internationally recognised HSK Mandarin proficiency exam,





## AILEEN WATSON

introducing and running the Taiwan Exchange and, this past summer, producing excellent results for his first National 5 cohort, leading to a 75% continuation rate to Higher. Billy also put in sterling work as a German teacher, a House Tutor, a debate coach and a musician with DAJO. He was a leading light in his subject at the SQA and invaluable company on German exchanges and Battlefield Trips.

He leaves us for Oxford, where he will be conducting a year's research, to be followed by joint-headship of a new school. Headmaster at 32? Probably a record—but no great surprise to those who know him.

*David Delaney*

Aileen first joined the staff at Dollar as administrator of the Music Department. She settled in easily, bringing with her a great sense of humour, a tremendous capacity for hard work and the ability to relate well both to colleagues and to pupils. She quickly moved into the classroom, and it was immediately evident that she was a natural educator. She brought a wealth of experience that was evident in everything she did. Pupils loved her lessons; she had a very special way of nurturing and developing the musical talents of every pupil in her care.

Aileen threw herself into co-curricular projects too, and she was always willing to go the extra mile. Whether she was conducting Junior Orchestra, playing piano for Junior Choir or sitting amidst the cello section in First Orchestra, her warmth and willingness to contribute was greatly appreciated by staff and pupils. We will miss seeing her many different coloured spectacles lying around the department (I think we still have some, Aileen) and we wish her all the very best in the next chapter of her life in East Lothian.

*Karol Fitzpatrick*



## ROBIN MACPHERSON

Robin joins Dollar from Wellington College in Berkshire, taking up the role of Assistant Rector vacated by the incomparable Dr Jason Brooks. He previously taught at Merchiston Castle (which he hopes won't blot his copybook overtly) and at Repton Dubai. He has been, at various stages of his career, a housemaster, Head of History, Head of Theory of Knowledge and Head of Professional Learning. At Wellington he was the Content Director of the Telegraph Festival of Education, which is probably the biggest event of its kind in the UK, with over 300 speakers and around 5,000 attendees. He also writes and speaks frequently at conferences about educational research and professional learning, and he has just published a book on these themes called *What Does This Look Like in the Classroom?*

Robin has really enjoyed being able to teach Scottish history after a long hiatus, and it has managed to alleviate the loss of teaching about the Middle East (which he still tries to work into every possible conversation). In his role as Assistant Rector he has been very busy learning all about the

culture and traditions of Dollar and has been truly humbled by how kind and welcoming the school community has been. A major part of his job involves watching lessons and this has been a labour of love. The commitment and expertise of the Dollar staff and the enthusiasm for learning of the pupils has been impressive—and if you don't believe him, try visiting P3 for a science lesson on making rockets!

Robin is an avid football fan (though more of the Fantasy Football variety than actually playing these days) and a golfer. He moved to Dollar with his wife, Hossa, and their young daughter, Rana. They are looking forward to exploring this part of the world and all that it has to offer.



## JENNIFER BURBURY

Jennifer joins Dollar Academy as a Support for Learning Teacher and, when she is not in the Prep and Junior School, she can be found teaching pupils who have English as an Additional Language in the Senior School. Jenny may have only joined Dollar in August but she feels that she knows the school well as her children have been involved in every possible co-curricular club going since starting Dollar four years ago.

Jenny's teaching career began at Moray House in Edinburgh, but it has led her around the world; she has taught in America, Egypt, Singapore and in the north of Scotland. In her spare time, when not teaching or being a taxi driver for her busy children, Jenny has taken up skiing—she gave up her scuba diving hobby when she returned to the cold waters of Scotland.

Once bitten, there is no cure for the travel bug and Jenny has spent several recent holidays visiting Romania to volunteer at an orphanage with her family. The first term has flown by, but the warmth of the Dollar staff and the strong work ethic of the pupils have made for a great start.

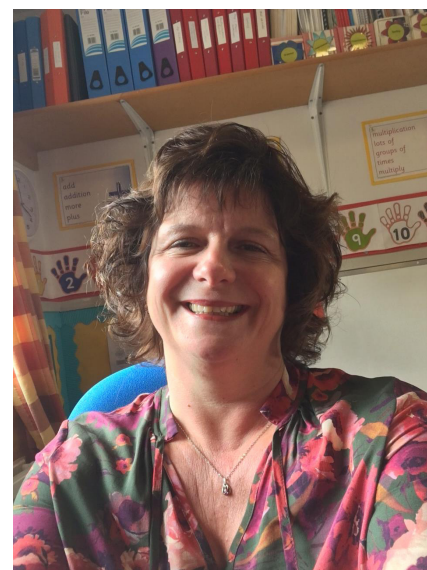


## EMMA CLARKE

Emma joined the Modern Languages Department in August. Born and raised in Sutherland, she developed an early love for languages. This translated into studying French and German at Strathclyde University before applying her language skills working in a variety of roles in Germany, Switzerland and New Zealand. Emma's passion for languages and culture continued to develop, and she subsequently undertook her PGDE. More recently, she studied Spanish and travelled to Spain and Peru.

Following 11 years at Lomond School in Helensburgh, Emma is delighted to have joined the teaching staff at the Academy, where she has been impressed by the pupils' enthusiasm and confidence and the commitment of her colleagues.

Emma enjoys spending time with her young family, current affairs, world cinema, hillwalking and swimming. She is also looking forward to co-running the Scottish Country Dancing Club in the New Year.



## SUSAN DELANEY

Susan joins the Support for Learning and Business Education Departments at Dollar. Born and raised in Clackmannanshire, she worked with the Royal Bank of Scotland before taking a career break to raise her family. Through her children, her passion for learning was reignited; she embarked on a degree course at Stirling University, gaining a first-class honours degree in Business Education with Computing and Education.

Susan previously worked in Alva Academy. Having an interest in Support for Learning and a passion for encouraging her pupils to reach their full potential, she moved across to SFL after eight years of subject teaching, subsequently gaining a postgraduate diploma in Educational Support.

In her spare time, Susan is an active member of her local church and she also enjoys reading, knitting, doing crafts and going walking. Her first term has been both pleasant and rewarding, and she has been made to feel very welcome by pupils and staff alike.



## ROBYN FARQUHAR

Robyn studied German and French at the University of Glasgow before completing a postgraduate diploma in Secondary Education at the University of Strathclyde. She joins Dollar Academy from Bishopbriggs Academy.

She was immediately impressed by the opportunities available in the Modern Languages Department and has already been involved in a successful German exchange. Robyn is looking forward to being part of future German trips and getting involved in activities across the school such as the Battlefields Trip, ballroom dancing and the Senior School musical. She is enjoying teaching Junior and Senior pupils alike and has been made to feel very welcome by the entire Modern Languages Department.

In her spare time, Robyn enjoys watching European cinema, dancing and socialising with friends. She also enjoys reading and travelling, having spent time in Central America this summer.



## LAURA ROSE FRASER-TILUS

Laura joins the Junior School following four years at Lambrook, an independent preparatory school in Berkshire. She graduated from Edinburgh University with a bachelor's degree in Primary Education and completed her probationary year in Clackmannan Primary School. Laura then worked for three years in Düsseldorf, Germany, where she was a primary teacher in an English international school. Laura grew up in Edinburgh and, although she enjoyed her travels, she was keen to return home to Scotland. She is now back living in Edinburgh with her husband Tomi, who is from Finland.

In her spare time, Laura enjoys keeping fit, regularly attending the gym and yoga classes. She enjoys visiting the theatre and spending time with family and friends. Laura has been extremely impressed with what she has seen at Dollar Academy so far; she has thoroughly enjoyed the autumn term.



## MICHAEL MCCOMISKIE

Michael comes to Dollar Academy from Denny High School where he spent seven years honing his craft to become the enthusiastic, driven practitioner he is today. Previously he was a student at the University of Stirling where he earned a BSc (Honours) in Biology with Professional Education. He went on to complete a successful probationary year at Graeme High School in Falkirk.

A qualified Duke of Edinburgh leader and assessor, Michael enjoys spending time outdoors. He is also passionate about football and enjoys golf, despite his serious lack of ability. Perhaps he will be used as an example of what not to do during co-curricular golf sessions!

Outside of school, Michael enjoys nothing more than spending time with his young family. This summer, they visited the US Virgin Islands following an extensive tour of Florida's west coast. If he ever finds himself with any free time, Michael spends it, coffee in hand, at a music venue or a sporting event.

Having been particularly impressed by the warmth shown to him by both staff and pupils, Michael is looking forward to further embedding

himself into the traditions of Dollar and helping pupils in their pursuit of greatness—no matter what they choose to do in the future.



## LISA MACDONALD

Lisa grew up in a small, picturesque village on the Black Isle, just north of Inverness. After attending Fortrose Academy, Lisa moved to Glasgow to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. She attended the University of Strathclyde to complete her Bachelor of Education degree, graduating in 2009 with first-class honours.

The following year saw her move back to the Highlands to complete her probationary year in a small village school where she was one of only five staff. Although she very much enjoyed this challenge, Lisa decided she was not done with city living quite yet. She returned to Glasgow for her first post in the independent sector. Over the next seven years, she led school-wide initiatives in areas including international education, resilience and Learning for Sustainability. This work

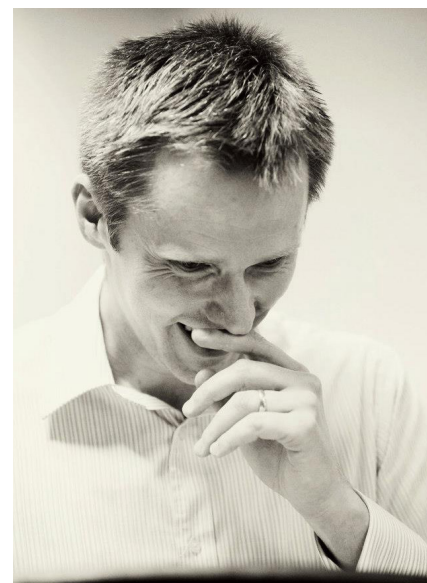
also saw her visit schools in Delhi, India to mentor staff and coordinate collaborative projects between students in Scotland and India.

Last year, Lisa got married and moved to a new home. She has very much enjoyed her first term in the Prep and Junior School and is looking forward to making the most of the huge range of opportunities on offer throughout the school. On a Saturday morning, you may hear her before you see her, on the side lines of the hockey pitch, shouting words of encouragements to the Junior 2 girls.

## PAWEL PIWOWAR

Pawel has joined the Music Department. Originally from Poland, where summers are very hot and winters very cold, Pawel loves black pudding and the Highlands, which remind him of 'Tatry', the Polish mountains.

He holds a Master of Arts in Clarinet Concert Performance from the Academy of Music in Kraków and gained his teaching qualifications at the Academy, too. As a member of Krakow Academy of Music Concert Choir, he performed in the live recording of JS Bach's great Mass in B-minor, under the direction of Professor Helmuth Rilling. In 2005 as a clarinetist in the Krakow Music Academy Symphony Orchestra, he performed during the Beethovenfest in Bonn. With the same orchestra, he performed the Symphony No. 7, 'Seven Gates of Jerusalem' under the direction of its composer, Krzysztof Penderecki. He has delivered a series of educational concerts for primary and secondary schools in Poland, attended



numerous vocal master classes (where he studied vocal techniques focusing on breath control) and run choir workshops.

Before starting at Dollar Academy, Pawel was a visiting music specialist in various primary schools across East Lothian and in Edinburgh, and he has taught recorder and clarinet. He is also an advisor to several Edinburgh interpreting companies, teaching voice control and stress management techniques. In 2016 Pawel was Assistant Director for the National Youth Choir of Scotland where he taught using the Kodály method. Having developed a passion for musicals, he was onstage at the King's Theatre in May 2017, playing an innkeeper in Edinburgh Musical Theatre's *Fiddler on the Roof*.



## YANSHU SONG

Yanshu comes from a city called Anyang, in central China. She studied Chinese Language and Literature at university in Beijing. Upon graduation, she taught Chinese in Nepal for two years. She then taught for a year in an international school in Indonesia before deciding to study for her PGDE in Scotland.

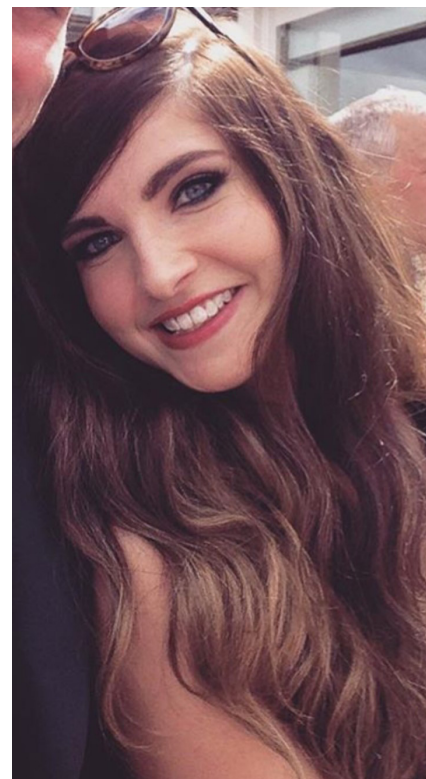
Having experienced several different cultures, she remains passionate about finding new ways to engage pupils and make learning fun and relevant. She has enjoyed her first term of teaching in Dollar very much, and she feels very encouraged by the warm welcome and support she has received. She is particularly impressed by the academic atmosphere and range of different activities that Dollar Academy offers to its pupils. She hopes she can bring her background of experience to make a difference in the lives of pupils here, and she looks forward to learning all about Scottish culture while doing so.



## LINDA TAYLOR

Linda joins the Mathematics Department at Dollar Academy, following 15 years at Denny High School in Falkirk. She was very excited to take on new challenges at an independent school—the motivating factor being the extensive co-curricular programme at Dollar. Linda has enjoyed being part of the Running Club and, having volunteered with the Wee County Harriers, she hopes to get involved with athletics in the summer term. In her spare time, Linda enjoys spending time with her husband and children, keeping fit and reading. In recent years she has taken on a half marathon and the Tough Mudder; she is looking for a new challenge next year.

Dollar struck a chord with Linda from the moment she first visited the school, from the beautiful surroundings to the warm and friendly atmosphere within the school, and she has been overwhelmed by the welcome she has received from both staff and pupils.



## HANNAH THOMSON

Hannah began her university career studying journalism but decided halfway through the course that she wanted to be a Modern Studies teacher. She completed her degree and then did a postgraduate degree in International Politics and Organisations before starting her PGDE in Modern Studies. She likes to travel and spent six weeks in Thailand and Vietnam whilst studying at university. Hannah was also once a British national trampolinist. She loves to read and her favourite book is *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara. She is a keen baker, much to the delight of her new department. She is very excited to have joined the History and Modern Studies Department at Dollar Academy; she has always heard great things about the school and is very much looking forward to the next two terms.



## CECILIA WEI

Cecilia joined Dollar Academy after completing her probationary year at Leith Academy in Edinburgh. She grew up in Sichuan, a province in the southwest of China famous for its giant pandas, its misty mountain scenery and, most of all, its hot and spicy cuisine. She has always loved learning about different languages and cultures and studied English at university before moving to Edinburgh to study 20<sup>th</sup>-century English Literature.

In 2015 Cecilia turned her love of learning English around and began training to teach Mandarin Chinese to students in the UK. She has been very impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm shown by the pupils at Dollar and is excited to have the opportunity to teach here. In addition to her regular teaching, Cecilia offers training for the Mandarin HSK certificates and will soon be running an Origami Club for Junior School pupils.

Cecilia now lives in Edinburgh with her husband, Tom. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling to different parts of the world, reading, walking, and eating great food.



## BETH WRIGHT

Beth's teaching career began 15 years ago at St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh before she moved to teach at George Watson's College, where she worked for nine years. Though an English teacher, she has also taught Drama and directed several productions. Latterly, her career focused on a number of roles in both guidance and management. Moving out of the city centre of Edinburgh and coming to teach at Dollar, however, offered a great opportunity to return to the English classroom and pursue her passion for teaching English again. She has thoroughly enjoyed teaching English and ESOL at Dollar, and she is very glad to be teaching both English and some Form I Drama this year. In her spare time she enjoys reading and writing poetry, visiting art exhibitions, gardening, painting and floral design (see article on p. 63). She is also a committed dog lover and devotes as much of her time as possible to breezy beach walks with her lovely Labrador.



## CRAIG WILSON

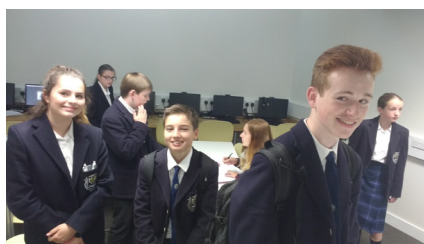
Originally from sunny Fife, Craig studied History at the University of Edinburgh, specialising in topics such as the Russian Revolution, 19<sup>th</sup>-century nationalism and medieval Europe. Following a brief spell in the wine trade after graduation, he returned to Edinburgh to become a History teacher in 2011. Craig taught for five years in the Highlands before joining Dollar Academy. He loves to travel and counts St Petersburg, Hong Kong and Cadiz among his favourite destinations. He enjoys long-distance running and will definitely, eventually, run a full marathon before his knees give up. In his spare time Craig also enjoys sampling as much foreign cuisine as possible, reading, drawing and writing. Craig is very happy to have joined the History and Modern Studies Department at Dollar Academy and is looking forward to the rest of the 2017/2018 session.



## CALLUM MCLEOD

Callum came to Dollar Academy in January 2017 after ten years with Scottish Hockey as their Performance Manager. After graduating from Jordanhill College of Physical Education he pursued a career in high performance sport, whilst continuing to study for an MSc in Coaching Studies from the University of Edinburgh. He is an ex-international hockey player and has coached for over 30 years with a variety of teams and individuals, from primary age to international level. The ability to apply his experience in hockey in a school that is so committed to providing its pupils with an excellent experience in the sport (combined with the opportunity to teach Physical Education) drew him to apply for a maternity cover. He was made a permanent member of staff in August 2017, citing the enthusiasm and dedication of the pupils and staff as the major factors in wishing to teach at Dollar Academy.





## LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS: OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE... OLD?

All right...in with the **young**. But not particularly **new**. In the light of so many teacher departures (see elsewhere in this magazine), it is a matter of great relief to the Modern Languages staff that four of our five language assistants are returning for a second...or third...or fifth year with us.

The many qualities of Nathalie (French), Chantal (German), Gioele (Italian) and Joaquín (Spanish) have been listed in previous editions, so we'll limit comment to two heartfelt words: welcome back!

The one newcomer, Xiaoyan Zhou, has also made our job a lot easier—by telling us to call her simply 'Yan'. A fully qualified teacher of the subject, she has fitted in without fuss, considerably strengthening the all-new Mandarin team.

All five assistants are again turning the Westwater Building into Babel by putting pupils through their linguistic paces: in class, in Pods, in corridors, at intervals, at lunchbreaks, after school—whenever, wherever. The photos show them one week into session, signing up 'clients' for out-of-class practice. Over 80 pupils turned up to seize the opportunity, and Chantal, with 25 takers, won this particular popularity contest. Now she has to solve more mundane problems—like finding time to eat, drink, sleep, breathe, etc.

And maybe—just maybe—our Famous Five will be signing up additional, more mature clients in the near future. But more of that, perhaps, in a future edition...

*David Delaney*

A very warm welcome to our new Prep 1 pupils, members of the Class of 2030...  
And a fond farewell to the Class of 2017. We wish you the best of luck and look forward to hearing about your adventures...

*Prep 1 class photograph courtesy of Chris Cairns*







## JEN ALEXANDER HEAD GIRL

Jen has been at Dollar since Prep 3, making her the only member of this year's Top Six to have been through all stages of school life at Dollar. During this time, she has become friends with every member of the year group, and it came as no surprise to anyone that she was voted Head Girl. She is also one of the hardest workers in the year and, in fact, completes almost every Top Six job before the rest of us even knew the job existed.

She has earned many academic awards during her time at Dollar, most notably Spanish prizes in every possible year. She is strong across the range of subjects, too, having won straight A's at both National 5 and Higher. She hopes to study Economics at university (she won the Economics prize last year) and, with her excellent results, she will have her pick of universities.

Nor has she spent all her time at Dollar working in darkened rooms and libraries. Jen has also played drums in two of the Pipe Band's World Championship-winning performances, sung several times in the Usher Hall Christmas Concerts and played some exceptional tennis as a member of the school's top tennis team. If all of that were not enough, she is also vice-captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and also an outstanding photographer. She contributed to collaborative videos of both the recent Romania community project and the Rugby and Hockey Clubs' 2016 Argentina Tour

Jen has always been one of my closest friends. One of her most endearing qualities is that she looks for the best in people. And, despite her many accolades, she does not bang her own drum (except in the Pipe Band).

*Fingal Hall*

## FINGAL HALL HEAD BOY

Fingal joined 'The Ship' in Junior 1, and, since then, has made a tremendous impression on our school community with his wide range of co-curricular accomplishments and his kind-hearted personality. Fingal has always been one of the most genuine members of the year group. It came as no surprise that he was announced Head Boy.

He contributes a vast amount to the co-curricular life of Dollar Academy. He has played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team since Form III and has also played for the top rugby squads throughout his school career. To our amusement, Fingal likes to describe himself as a 'top' tennis player, but we all know that yet another of his real talents is his skiing; he plans to earn his ski instructor qualification after leaving school.

He balances his passion for sport alongside numerous contributions to the cultural life of the school. Fingal has been a member of the World Championship-winning Pipe Band three times over his school career. (He also spends huge amounts of time with Rory and me—an achievement in itself.) He has sung in many Christmas Concerts at the Usher Hall and performed memorably in the school's recent production of *Chess the Musical* at the end of the 2016 summer term.

Somehow, Fingal is still able to fit in his school work. He is studying for Advanced Highers in Maths, Physics and PE, and his aspiration to study Engineering at an English university came as no surprise to us. For someone as ambitious and talented as he is, all things are possible. It is fair to say he has established himself as an immense presence within our year group. He never fails to put a smile on our faces. Fingal is a much-loved member of the Top Six and the wider school community, and we wish him all the best for his undoubtedly bright future.

*Jen Alexander*

## JENNIFER AITKEN DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

Jennifer joined Dollar Academy in Form I and swiftly became an integral member of the year group. She throws herself into a huge variety of activities and is a well-known, friendly face at school.

She is captain of the hockey 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, and has travelled to Argentina and Amsterdam with the Hockey Club. She also loves music and has performed in several Usher Hall Christmas Concerts. Her enthusiasm and notable skill at the piano is widely celebrated.

And her talents do not end there; she also likes to indulge her argumentative side. An avid member of the school's Debating Society, Jennifer has taken part in debates at St Andrews University. She plans to read both Law and French at university.

Her dedication in the classroom was duly rewarded when the SQA results came out. She achieved an impressive set of five As (all Band Ones) at Higher in English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Economics and French. She is currently studying for Advanced Highers in Chemistry, French and History, and also a Higher qualification in Spanish.

Jennifer's love of travel and her essentially exploratory nature have taken her across the globe. Recently she volunteered at a sports facility in Sri Lanka, embracing a totally different culture and environment whilst working with children who spoke little English.

A fantastic person with a brilliant work ethic, Jen dedicates herself entirely to everything she does. Her effusive

personality and positive outlook, even when things are not going smoothly, make her a fantastic addition to this year's Top Six, and to the year group generally. I wish her the best in everything she does in life; I know that she will succeed in anything she sets her mind to.

*Rory Power*

## **RORY POWER DEPUTY HEAD BOY**

Since joining Dollar in Junior 1, Rory has made his mark upon the school. A brilliant sportsman, top academic and undeniably talented drummer, he has already been an asset to this year's Top Six.

After attempting to pursue a rock star career, he stumbled into the Pipe Band and drumming 'ensnared' his life. He soon found a second home in the Piping Hut. He was appointed Lead Drummer in Form III with his corps collecting Dollar's first World Championship Drum Corp trophy in 2015. In addition to a successful Pipe Band run on the 'Worlds' circuit (winning three titles with the Band), he also excelled in the solos with his finest performance securing him the title 'Number Two in the World'.

Rory also displays an aptitude for academic work that culminated in an impressive set of SQA Higher results. When not drumming on his desk, he can be found studying hard for Advanced Higher qualifications in Business, History and Economics, and a further Higher qualification in Politics. Combine his academic prowess with his charismatic disposition, and he is brilliantly placed to succeed in his study of Politics and International Relations at university.

He has also proven himself a keen sportsman, and his dedication to the Dollar rugby team secured him a place in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. He has a keen interest in skiing, too, and he will spend next winter in Japan, training to become a ski instructor.

Amongst his friends and classmates, Rory is renowned for his impressive ability to laugh at his own jokes, and he always wears a smile almost as big as his eyebrows. He is a genuinely caring individual who has been a pleasure to work alongside. With his eclectic mix of interests and his determined character, Rory will doubtless go on to succeed in everything he attempts.

*Jennifer Aitken*

## **MEGAN STEDMAN DEPUTY HEAD GIRL**

Since her earliest years at Dollar, Megan has always tackled every situation head-on and with a (mostly) positive attitude. An inherently charismatic individual, she often surprises those who meet her for the first time because she becomes somehow larger-than-life when she begins to speak. She is

intensely determined in everything she does, picking up her duties as Deputy Head Girl with ease. She will never allow a job to linger for someone else to do, and she is happy to lend a hand with the duties of others.

Over the years she has contributed a great deal to the school. While certain aspects of her sporting career at Dollar have been short-lived (hockey, for instance), she was a stalwart member of the Ski Team for many years and has even captained the school's mixed team.

Her determined nature extends to her academic pursuits as well. When Megan is not away on work experience, she's studying hard for Advanced Higher qualifications in Physics, Maths, and Chemistry, determined to follow up on her excellent Higher results. Her caring nature is also always in evidence, and she is undertaking a module in volunteering, too—happily giving up her own time to help others in Dollar and in the wider community.

When Megan leaves school she wants to follow in her father's footsteps and study Chemical Engineering at university—preferably somewhere like Bath where the weather is 'basically tropical'. I wish her all the best of luck in the future though, being Megan, she won't need anyone's luck to succeed.

*Arthur Morris*

## **ARTHUR MORRIS DEPUTY HEAD BOY**

Since joining Dollar in Form II, Arthur has made a significant impression on the year group, so it was no surprise when he was announced Deputy Head Boy last summer. His hard work and dedication can be seen in his clean sweep of A grades from National 5 to Higher. He is currently studying for three Advanced Highers in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, and is also undertaking modules in Robotics and Astronomy. After school, he plans to study Chemical Engineering at Strathclyde or Birmingham University.

Over the course of the past four years, he has completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Awards, and he is in the process of completing his Gold Award. I was lucky enough to be in his expedition group on our Bronze and Silver expeditions; his National 5 Geography skills landed him the role of map reader and, thanks to him, we only got lost a couple times.

Since the age of 11, Arthur has been playing hockey. He picked up the sport at Strathallan and now plays with the Kinross Cobras' 1<sup>st</sup> XI; he was also selected for the Midland Boys' U18 hockey squad. His proudest achievement in hockey came last year when, for the second year in a row, the boys beat the girls in a pupil-organized hockey match.

Being a friendly and outgoing person makes Arthur invaluable as Deputy Head Boy, especially when it comes to convincing prefects to take on the less-appealing duties. One thing is for certain, the Top Six would not be the same without his 'quality chat', and we wish him all the best with his future plans.

*Megan Stedman*



# ARGYLL HOUSE

Every year the return to Argyll House after the summer holidays produces a tumultuous mixture of emotions: excitement about all the new people there will be to meet, happiness at seeing old friends again after months spent apart, sadness for the end of the always-too-short holidays and a lot of curiosity about what the coming year has in store for us.

It was sad to say goodbye to the girls who left at the end of the last session; they had made last year so special. But we know that the new school year will offer up still more new experiences and further opportunities to form more beautiful memories. Accordingly, on 23 August, 11 new girls from all around the world (from New Zealand to Abu Dhabi) walked through the Argyll House front door and received a warm welcome from all of the returning girls and the House staff. The Hoses and the House ladies, true to form, made everyone feel comfortable and at home from the very first moment—offering tea, cookies and lots of big smiles...just as they did

when I first arrived at the House three years ago.

Not long after the start of session, all the girls had dived willingly back in to the usual busy Argyll routine. Some became involved in CCF, others in hockey, others in Running Club. A number of girls are showing interest in the summer term school musical, and one talented singer has even managed to get into the very competitive Chamber Choir. All of this is evidence that the enthusiastic, capable and outgoing Argyll spirit is flourishing as usual; the standard of previous years is being maintained.

Our weekdays can be nicely chaotic, full of school work and activities, while our weekends are (mostly) reserved for fun and entertainment. We regularly take the house bikes and cycle to Tillicoultry for a quick coffee and a bargain at the outlet shopping centre. Every Sunday a House trip is on the schedule. We have been to Jupiter Artland, played laser tag, visited Stirling and Edinburgh and experienced a wide range of attractions around Scotland. The best trip so far was a day out at Go Country at Loch Ard in the Trossachs National Park. We took on canoeing, mountain biking and other ‘extreme’ activities—and despite the rain, we contrived to have a simply

brilliant time in each other’s company. It was the perfect opportunity to meet and bond with the other boarders who are (and, that day, were literally) in the same boat as we are. After drying off, we all made our way to McNabb & Tait for a hog roast; we spent the evening re-telling our adventures, sharing jokes and devouring some truly delicious food.

All the trips have drawn us closer together, and we Argyll girls feel that we are part of something special. This connection is evident when all 20 of us enter the Dining Hall at the same time in our identical, baby-pink hoodies—each with the silly nicknames that we gave each other printed across the back.

Everything seems to be promising a fantastic year, and I am motivated to do everything I can to make it such. I am proud to be Argyll’s Head of House; I cannot wait to share the rest of my time in Dollar with these girls, building strong and lasting friendships.

*Maria Carletti (Head of House, Form VI)  
Photograph courtesy of Chris Cairns*



# HEY WORTH HOUSE

Two and a half years ago, during my earliest weeks as a boarder in Heyworth House, I began to question why I had decided to leave home. My homesickness, however, quickly faded, and it soon became apparent to me that Heyworth House was not a boarding house anymore; it was a second home. I realised that the girls with whom I shared this home would be lifelong friends.

Arriving back after the summer holidays two years later with Emma Grimminger (now Form VI and Deputy Head of House), we felt as excited and nervous as ever. Our nervousness evaporated once we settled in again and realised that the house was just as much filled with happiness and comfort as it had always been. Certainly, one thing that never changes is the friendly, fun and laughter-filled atmosphere. Whether Poppy Drysdale (Form V) is having a 'party' in her room, or Una Tonkovic (Form VI) is amusing us with her general light-heartedness, there is never a dull or unhappy moment.

Everyone begins the new school year with an intense and infectious determination to succeed academically. This is all the more true this year, as every girl in the House is in either Form V or VI. Some are returning boarders and some are new to the House, but all are equally focused on examination success. Nevertheless, we always make time to socialise with each other and with the other boarders at Dollar. During Oktoberfest this autumn—an event traditionally hosted by Heyworth—we celebrated the German festival and very much enjoyed having other boarders round for a fire bowl in the garden.

There is almost always a great deal of musical talent

amongst the Heyworth girls (this was one of the first things that Emma noted when she first arrived), and the current cohort of Heyworth girls is no exception. With such an abundance of singers, flautists and guitarists, pianists and pipers, music is always in the air. Anna Brabcova (Form VI) and Magda Grunwald (Form V) are members of the Chamber Choir; I am a member of the Pipe Band and Bente Kieckhöfel (Form V) is a member of First Orchestra. There will be no shortage of entertainment at Christmas time! Many of the girls are also members of the Mixed Voice Choir and, at the time of writing, everyone in the House is looking forward to going to this year's Christmas Concert at Perth Concert Hall.

Sport is also an important part of life in Heyworth House. Our longest boarder, Ruby Adam (Form VI) is a member of the Stirling County U18 women's rugby squad; they have won several titles and earned the right to call themselves Scottish champions. Many of the girls play hockey at Dollar, and others are regular members of the Badminton Club.

We take many trips, on a weekly basis, and this has to be considered one of the best aspects of boarding. Organised by our Houseparents, Mr and Mrs Duncan, these trips and activities are on offer each weekend and include shopping in Glasgow, laser tag, canoeing, visiting the Highlands and enjoying the Edinburgh Christmas Market during the festive season. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to attending November's Scotland v New Zealand rugby match along with the rest of the boarding community, and we are travelling to Glasgow this coming weekend simply to enjoy an afternoon in the city centre.

It has been fantastic being back in Heyworth House this autumn term, and we are all looking forward to growing closer still as we embrace the experiences that lie ahead.

*Katie MacDonald (Head of House, Form VI)  
Photograph courtesy of Chris Cairns*

# MCNABB & TAIT

Forty-five boys—twenty of whom have never met before—are thrown together in an elegant Georgian home in a small Scottish village. This could be sold as a reality television show. Instead, it is the bustling boarding house of McNabb & Tait, home to boys and young men from all corners of the world: Turkey, Spain, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Armenia, Hong Kong, Mexico and even Caithness. Here, boys form unique friendships, adapt to the rules of witty (and not so witty) banter, and embark on a voyage of brotherhood that will last a life time.

Success for the McNabb & Tait boys can be measured in different ways across the academic year; the first benchmark is the opening day of school, where the main challenge is to blend in. This becomes less important as the year progresses and the boarders' positive impact on the Dollar community and school life becomes apparent to all. Exam results, too, are a measure of success for the boys of McNabb & Tait. Even results, however, pale into a kind of insignificance when compared with the outcome of the Leggat Cup (at the Christmas party) and the Tug of War (in the summer term). By the first weeks of September, some intense strategising had already taken place regarding how we might redeem our unbelievable losses to Argyll House and to the day pupils last session. Forty-five boys hunger to

ensure that the titles are restored to their rightful place.

In 2018 the House will be led into all battles by Reni Ashkar (Head of House, Form VI) with his hands-on, proactive and no-nonsense approach. Filippo Santi (one of our Deputy Heads of House, Form VI) is also keen to roll up his sleeves. Whilst I (the other Deputy Head of House, Form VI), as everyone knows, would prefer not to be in the midst of anything competitive—happy instead adopting a quiet, nurturing role, and orchestrating the troops from afar.

There is a tradition of sporting excellence at McNabb & Tait, and this year's cohort of boys continues to make a significant impact on sport at Dollar. Many represent the school on the rugby pitch. I captain the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, having gained four international caps for Scotland, and I line up alongside Jordan Miller (who represented Scotland in the U17 squad and is also in Form VI) and Zak McMorran (Form V). Cameron McDermott (Form V) is captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and plays alongside Blair Dickinson (Form VI), Reni Ashkar and Daniel Valles Font (Form V). Michael Gray (Form IV) has the accolade of being the longest-serving boarder in the House; he, too, is pushing for international recognition on the rugby field. He plays a vital role for the U16s where he is accompanied by roommate Fatih Candan (Form IV) and fellow boarders Colin Bonner and Gabe Ammar (Form IV). Jack Waterland (Form III) also plays regularly alongside his roommate, Bob Hawkins (Form III), whilst James Wang (Form II), Sonny Qiu (Form 1) and Ethan Grady (Junior 2) are new

to the game but are making excellent progress. The current gap student, Tim Creer, is ensuring rugby success for future generations of the House and the school by teaching the basics of the game to the eager, enthusiastic Junior 1 contingent.

However, the house is not only focused upon rugby. Half of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team lives in McNabb & Tait, including Head of House, Reni; our new arrival from Mexico, Fabricio Blanco (Form V); and a whole collection of Form IV boys: Max Hofman, Julius Guntermann, Jordi Busquets Esteve, Jamie Garvin, and also super-sub, Igor Menshikov (Form VI). Sonny Qui excels on the badminton court while Hamish Gardiner (Form II) hopes to compete for the British judo squad one day. The summer term cannot come soon enough for Luka Bukelic (Form V) and Cord Kolker (Form IV); everyone is anticipating an impressive display of their skills on the tennis courts. And Jonlhi Jordan (Form V), newly arrived from Barbados, looks to excel on the cricket pitch. Some of the boys also have tremendous skill in basketball; Tom Buchan-Steele (Form IV), in particular, can often be found impressing our House Tutor, Mr Florence, with his slam dunks. Table tennis is another arena for some vicious competition amongst the McNabb & Tait boys: Egor Mushkeev (Form V), Johannes Wiedergut (Form V) and Max Queen (Form V) frequently challenge the resident self-proclaimed champ, Igor Menshikov, to a battle.

Music, too, is central to the everyday life of the House. Fragments of all manner of tunes drift from the common room where the more skilled





practise the piano, whilst others happily make the most of a well-used set of speakers. And it is rare to have music playing without at least one boarder 'cutting shapes'. But when Deputy Head of House, Filippo, takes the floor, everyone stands back to marvel; he was a runner-up in a prestigious hip-hop dancing competition in his native Italy. Other boys have tackled a very different form of dance, taking up opportunities offered by Dollar's excellent Ballroom Dancing programme. Reni and his younger brother Deni Ashkar (Form IV), Hunor Borcsa (Form VI) and Andrii Safonov (Form II) have all impressed us with their 'Strictly' moves.

Recently, we have also unearthed a secret talent in the House: the spectacular voice of Fatih Candan; he possesses a vocal range to rival Pavarotti. And, as always, the Pipe Band is very well represented in the House; pipers Finlay Cameron (Form V) and Blair Dickinson and bass drummer Michael Gray look forward to helping to defend the DAPB's Champions of Champions title in the forthcoming season, whilst Colin Bonner hopes to break into the Novice Juvenile Band with his drumsticks.

This year we also have some exceptional linguists. Bob Hawkins (Form III) and Jackson Lam (Form V) have particular expertise in Mandarin and are keen to help the non-native English speakers in the House. David Sheffler (Form IV) is making lots of progress with his Russian; Manvel Manvelyan (Form V) has at least three languages in his locker, whilst our Swiss/Hungarian recruit, Janos Kekessy (Form V), is fluent in five languages.

With two sets of brothers—the Ashkars (Deni and Reni) and the Savonovs (Nikita and Andrii)—there is an added feeling of family intimacy in the House. Arran (Form IV) is the third Volrath brother to reside in McNabb & Tait, whilst Seb Mittre (Form VI) is coming to the end of his time in McNabb & Tait, having followed in his brother's footsteps. This year we have also been delighted to welcome Hunor Borcsa (Form VI) back into the wider McNabb & Tait family.

It is not possible to write about McNabb & Tait without including Mr and Mrs McFadyean and the Johnstons. These are the people who ensure that a ragtag stream of

boys becomes a band of confident, young men. They help us successfully navigate the challenges and demands of school life, and they ensure that in each of us is instilled a powerful moral compass that will help us navigate the years ahead. Indeed, they are nothing short of superheroes—never more evident than this year when Mrs McFadyean (aka Batman) found her own little Robin (McLean). In Prep 5, he is the youngest boarder in the whole boarding community and very special to us all.

Thus, the diverse McNabb & Tait family (fearlessly supported by 'the ladies') continues to go from strength to strength. It is an incredible experience to live in *this* House—Big Brother has nothing on us.

*Gus Warr (Deputy Head of House, Form VI)  
Photograph courtesy of Chris Cairns*

# WONDERFUL WINDFARM

*'I was blown away by the views.'*  
*'To watch the turbine's blades go round above my head at 180 mph was truly amazing!'*  
*'I recommend this trip to everyone, young and old.'*

These were some of the comments from our Prep 5 pupils, upon their return from a visit to Whitelee Windfarm in East Renfrewshire. As part of their 'Forces in the Air' topic, the children, teachers and some enthusiastic parent helpers embarked upon an adventure to the UK's largest windfarm in order to learn first-hand how Scotland is leading the way in sustainable development and renewable energy.

In the morning, there was an opportunity to get up close to one of the 215 wind turbines that are spread across the 10-mile-wide site. The sheer size of the structures left many speechless; we discovered that it takes at least 12 Prep 5 pupils just to stretch around the circumference of the tower. Then it was time to return inside to warm up a little and take part in a hands-on science workshop investigating which shape of blade would help the turbine create the most electricity. All we can say is that it was certainly not the answer that some of us expected...

In the afternoon, we ventured outside again—this time accompanied by the local rangers, Ryan and Rennie—to learn about the local flora and fauna. After hearing lots of fascinating stories and facts, it was time to put what we had learned throughout the day to the test and take on the role of energy company directors. The pupils had to decide how to power the national grid. It was great to see all the groups thinking carefully about the effects that different energy sources can have on the environment and how this will impact us in the future.

*Lisa Macdonald*





## VICTORIAN DAY

Victorian Day took place on Friday 9 June, giving Prep 3 pupils the opportunity to experience a typical school day in a typical Victorian classroom.

Pupils travelled back in time to 1860 and to a transformed MCC—it had, in fact, been the Dollar Infant School at that time so it offered the perfect setting. The timetable included arithmetic on slates, handwriting with nib pens and ink, poetry recitation, recording facts about Queen Victoria into copybooks and, of course, a spot of drill. Only one or two pupils forgot the highly exacting classroom rules and found themselves sporting the dunce's

cap! Thankfully, the tawses that Mrs Houghton and Mrs O'Hanlon had warmed at their necks did not have to be put to use. All enjoyed a morning snack of bread and butter, and the children brought in typically plain fare—a sandwich, a piece of fruit and (if they were lucky) a piece of simple cake or biscuit for lunch.

After a Bible story in the afternoon, the class de-camped to the Assembly Hall (rainy weather cancelled plans to visit Mill Green) where they played with some Victorian toys, supplied by the wonderful Janet Carolan (the school's archivist) and two Dollar Museum volunteers.

'The children played happily with marbles, girds, whip and tops, yo-yos, kaleidoscopes, building blocks, dolls, a Shove Ha'penny board, cup and ball, quoits and many more simple but exciting games for around an hour,' said

Mrs O'Hanlon. 'We really did have a great day!' At the end of the afternoon, Mr Daniel arrived for an inspection of the children. He appeared pleased with their learning from the day and reminded them that the poem they recited to him carried an important message for all that lay ahead:

*Good, better, best  
Never let it rest  
Till your good is better  
And your better best.*

*Katie O'Hanlon  
Photograph by Chris Cairns*



# THE SUPER-HEROIC PREP 3

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's...this year's Prep 3s! This autumn term, the Prep 3 topic was 'Superheroes'. Across the curriculum, pupils considered what makes a superhero so super, and they paused to consider whether they, as mere mortals, might possess any of these 'super-heroic' skills and qualities too.

# STORIES OF GREATNESS

Pupils wrote about their personal strengths and qualities. After realising that they share many of these qualities with the likes of Supergirl, Traction Man and Spiderman, they decided to give themselves their own superhero titles.

And, of course, no superhero can be seen out and about without a suitable costume and mask!



# THE POWER OF NUMBERS

In Maths, the pupils tackled some Superhero Sums, too. Faced with eight tricky word problems, pupils had to work out all the correct answers and add all the totals to crack the code. What did the pupils think? Well...

'I thought it sounded really complicated when I first saw the sums but when I started, some were quite easy.'

*Connor McCourt*

'Adding up all my answers was really tricky. It took me a long time and I got closer and closer to the answer the longer I tried.'

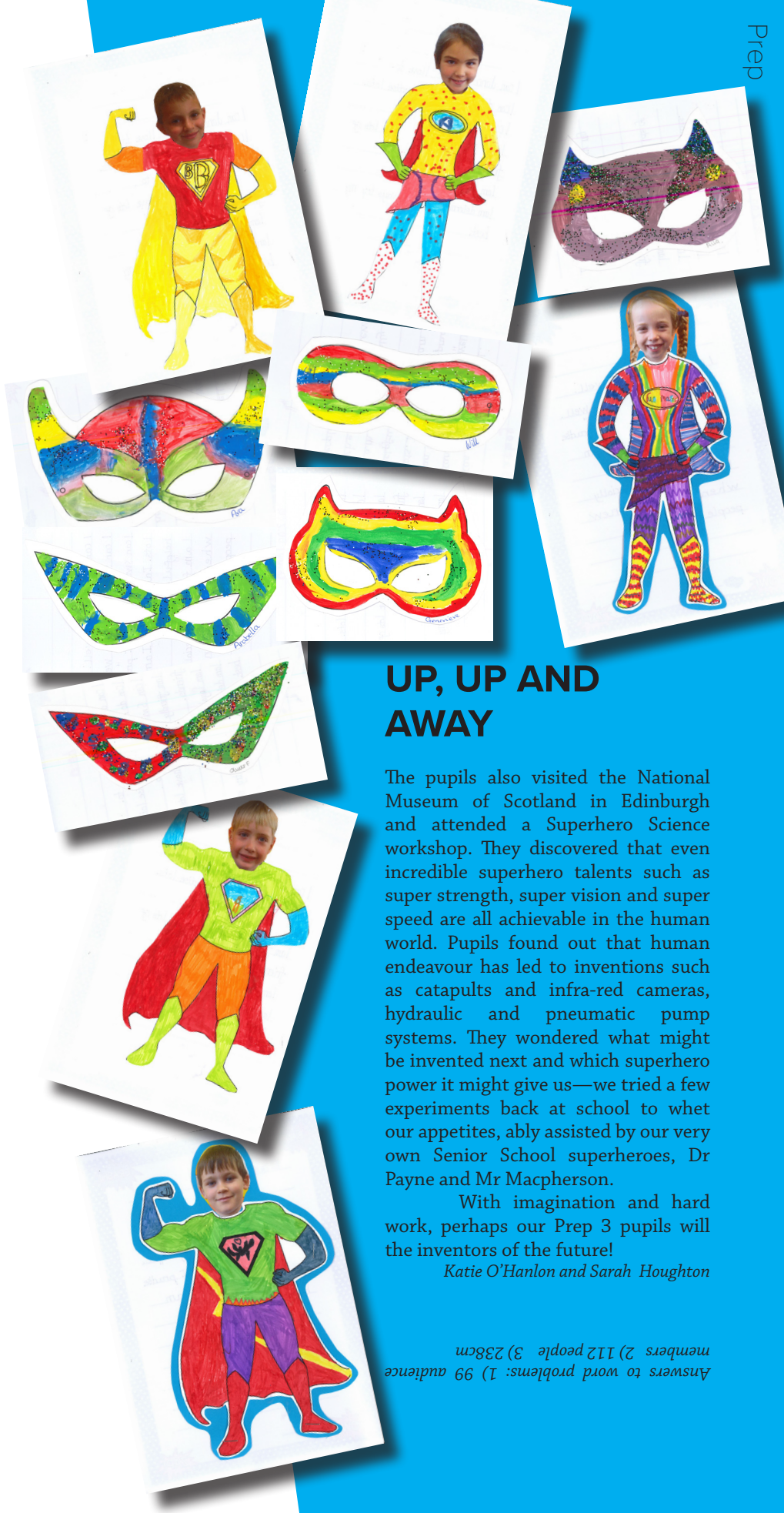
*Sam Milling Smith*

'I felt surprised and ecstatic when I finally got the code!'

*Anna Healy*

Some of the word problems the pupils faced were challenging indeed. Here are just a few so that even those of you without superhero minds can test yourselves at home...

- 1) If 3 classes come to the show, and each class has 30 pupils and 3 adults, how many audience members are there in total?
- 2) Three classes come to the show, each with 35 people in total. There are also 2 superhero scientists, 1 engineer, and 4 members of staff guiding schools in and out who then also watch the show. What is the total number of people in the training room for the show?
- 3) Super Panda flew a total of 220cm in one show. In the next show, he flew 18cm farther. How many centimetres did he fly in the second show?



# UP, UP AND AWAY

The pupils also visited the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and attended a Superhero Science workshop. They discovered that even incredible superhero talents such as super strength, super vision and super speed are all achievable in the human world. Pupils found out that human endeavour has led to inventions such as catapults and infra-red cameras, hydraulic and pneumatic pump systems. They wondered what might be invented next and which superhero power it might give us—we tried a few experiments back at school to whet our appetites, ably assisted by our very own Senior School superheroes, Dr Payne and Mr Macpherson.

With imagination and hard work, perhaps our Prep 3 pupils will be the inventors of the future!

*Katie O'Hanlon and Sarah Houghton*

*Answers to word problems: 1) 99 audience members 2) 112 people 3) 238cm*



## THE JAPANESE GARDEN AT COWDEN CASTLE

To complement a mini-topic on Japanese Culture, Junior 1L spent an informative, if slightly wet, June afternoon enjoying the delights of the Japanese Garden at Cowden Castle. The pupils were very fortunate to visit the garden (before it is officially opened to the public) and experience the modern-day version of the one that was designed and planted by Taki Handa for Ella Christie in 1908.

The garden is the brainchild of explorer Miss Christie who (on a tour of Japan) became enchanted by the gardens, temples and flowers of Kyoto and Tokyo. Taki Handa was commissioned by Ella Christie to create the garden in 1907, and she was the first and only woman to have designed a Japanese garden of this nature. The garden was named Shāh-rak-uen, meaning a place of pleasure or delight.

The children spent the afternoon wandering around the lake, criss-crossing the zigzag bridge, taking shelter in the *azumaya* (bamboo pavilion), admiring the entrance gate and the many stone lanterns, listening to the stream, experiencing the perfect calm in the *Karesansui* ( a Japanese rock garden often called a zen garden) and sketching the many memorable sights on offer. Kate White, the head gardener, was there to offer help and answer the many questions that were asked.

The children gave a beautiful Japanese maple to Kate and the Stewart family as a thank you for giving us the opportunity to experience this wonderfully tranquil place, and to be a part of its future. The tree's leaves will turn a brilliant orange in the autumn.

*Arigatou gozaimasu Shah-rak-uen.*

*Nicola Letford*

## JUNIOR 1 TRIP TO FORD CASTLE

The first day began with a breakfast pow-wow followed by a variety of activities from enigma to crate stacking, from zip wire to obstacle course, from initiative exercises to the leap of faith. Everyone tried hard, pushed themselves and stepped outside of their usual comfort zones.

All this was done with the support of friends, new and old—whether creating new hairstyles for the day ahead, relishing the shock of the crate stack collapse or shouting encouragement for that final leap of faith—and the children learned a great deal about themselves and about one another.

The day ended with the evening's activities: mini-Olympics or Capture the Flag. Some intense rivalry was on display and not just amongst the children!

A visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne gave time to reflect on the history studied and the uniqueness of this island. A wander along the shoreline allowed us to collect a great many St Cuthbert's Beads (300-million-year-old crinoids), swiftly pocketed, ready for their pilgrimage to Dollar.

On the way home we encountered earthquakes and even witnessed the Big Bang during our visit to Edinburgh's Dynamic Earth before at last heading home to Dollar where mums and dads awaited with promises of a favourite meal and an early night in a familiar bed. Ford Castle done—roll on Benmore!

*Nicola Letford*





# ROMANS INVADE DOLLAR

On Wednesday 21 June the grounds of the Academy rang out with the commands ‘*sin! dex! sin! dex!*’ as Quintus Valerius Maximus, a soldier from the VI Legion, put the pupils in Junior 1 through their paces.

Scouting for new recruits, he spent time with each of the classes, outlining the various recruitment requirements (many were relieved not to make the 5’10” minimum) and the conditions of service.

Potential recruits had the opportunity to handle some of the key military kit items (wooden practice sword; hobnailed sandals for marching over the rough Caledonian terrain; nit comb and manicure set to remove dirt from beneath soldiers’ nails and wax from ears). They could even try out the helmet and shield for size. Then it was down to some serious drills: marching in various formations; battle tactics and finally, with much excitement, some assault techniques to help claim the spoils of war.

‘He was impressed by the enthusiasm and guile displayed by the Dollar recruits,’ said Mrs Lumsden, ‘and Quintus returned to report his findings at his station on the Antonine Wall.’

*Heather Lumsden*







## DRAGONS' DEN COMPETITION

The annual Dollar Dragons' Den Competition is an eagerly awaited element of the Form II Business Education course. Every Form II pupil participates in the first round that takes place during Business Education lessons, under the guidance of class teachers. The first round of judging takes place to select the winning group from each form tutor class.



The six winning groups (plus two or three wildcards) go through to the Grand Final, which took place in the Drama Studio on Friday 2 June. The 2017 'Dragons' were Bill McFarlane (Chief Dragon), former Head of the Business Education Department at the Academy; Troy-Ann Bates, local business owner; Gail Clark, Digital Marketing Manager at Dollar Academy; Ian White, Director of Run 4 It; Ashlee Callender and Katrina Longstaffe (then Form VI) who studied a number of Business Education subjects during their time at Dollar. The judges were very impressed by the ideas that were pitched to them and the confidence shown by the groups as they delivered their pitches.



After much deliberation, the judges finally announced the results. The winners were the creators of 'Pure Puddings', homemade high-protein ice cream. The winning team members were Florence Henderson, Matthew McKillop, Josh Pert and Poppi Roberts.

The runners-up were the creators of 'Cell Shells', glue covers for mobile phones; the team included Lucy Dempster, Caitlin Fyfe, Zara Kennedy and Hannah Taylor.

Two teams received Commended awards. These were Eilidh Scheuerl and Eden Vincent for 'Marvellous Mugs—Make Your Own Muffin in a Mug' as well as Ross Bathgate, Andrew Hynd, Archie MacKechnie and Adam Williamson for 'Parknow', a parking app product.

Congratulations to all those who took part in this lively, exciting competition. There were some very creative products, and the 'dragons' delighted in hearing about so many ingenious ideas and innovations.



Hazel Duncan

## FORM II SCRATCH PROGRAMMING COMPETITION 2017

The Scratch programming language provides an enjoyable introduction to computer programming. It allows the user to create interactive stories, animations, games, music and art which can then be shared on the web.



In Computing Science class, Form II pupils were given the task of producing a program in Scratch using 'Superheroes' as their theme. The pupils were encouraged to work in small groups for the competition and were given three lessons to implement their program designs. Some chose to work further on their projects at home and in the Computing Department after school.

All of the teams did very well, producing final results that were varied and interesting. A high standard was achieved, especially considering the time limitation imposed.

*Rosemary McGuinness*

Form II COMPUTING SCIENCE

## SCRATCH PROGRAMMING COMPETITION 2017

Winners	NIGHTRUNNERS Ross Bathgate, Andrey MacNee & Adam Williamson (2SC)
	
Runners Up	SUPERHERO KARTING Joe Jennings & Harry Jaffrey-Smith (2AB)
	
Third Place (Joint)	DOCTOR BLOB Marc Taljard & Kerr McLaughlin (2LM)
	DEADPOOL BOOTCAMP Struan MacLean (2NG)
Special Merit (Joint)	VILLAIN ADVENTURES Ellie Trace & Lucy Walsh (2DC)
	DANCE ATTACK Anna Cameron & Grace Stirling (2AB)



Winners

**NIGHTRUNNERS**  
Ross Bathgate, Andrey MacNee & Adam Williamson (2SC)



Runners Up

**SUPERHERO KARTING**  
Joe Jennings & Harry Jaffrey-Smith (2AB)





**Third place**  
(Joint)

**DOCTOR BLOB**

**Marc Taljard & Kerr  
McLaughlin (2LM)**



**Third place**  
(Joint)

**DEADPOOL BOOTCAMP**

**Struan MacLean (2NG)**



**Special Merit**

**DANCE ATTACK**

**Anna Cameron & Grace  
Stirling (2AB)**



**Special Merit**

**VILLAIN ADVENTURES**

**Ellie Trace and Lucy Walsh  
(2DC)**

# Peter Pan

## THE JUNIOR MUSICAL



The Junior 2 pupils of 2016/2017 followed on from the success of *The Lion King* with another colourful, ambitious and professional summer musical. *Peter Pan* is based on JM Barrie's classic tale about the boy who never wants to grow up and his relationship with the Darling family children. This musical production of the famous story enjoyed a three-night run in the Gibson Auditorium in June. The pupils auditioned for roles in March and rehearsed weekly, both in class and after school.

Querida McFall was cast as Peter, and her confident acting and movement ensured a convincing performance as the mischievous lead. Laura Koechlin took on the role of Wendy, the eldest of the Darling children and main rival of Peter Pan's

sidekick, Tinkerbell, played by Anna Milling Smith. Laura's singing was outstanding and her rendition of 'Your Mother and Mine' was truly beautiful. The portrayal of both of these strong female characters communicated tremendous charm and sense of mischief. Finlay Beattie and Archie Jaffrey-Smith played the parts of brothers Michael and John; they displayed faultless acting throughout and lovely singing in their solo lines. The portrayal of the Darling family was completed by Daniel Marshall as Mr Darling and Tilly Farrow as the very elegant Mother. The pirate leader, Captain Hook, was played by Morag Peterson; she commanded the stage and played her comic role with confidence and expert timing, ably assisted by her companion Smee, played by Harris Philip. One highlight, in a show full of highlights, was their capture of Tiger Lily, played by Cecily Douglas, in a rowing boat. The trio clambered in and out of the foam replica trying to escape the crocodile in what was a very funny and successful scene.

Characters were brought to life with fantastic costumes provided by parents, and the group scenes with Indians and Pirates presented a vibrantly colourful stage scene. The fairies (complete with tutus, wings and an abundance of beautiful makeup) made a grand and sparkling entrance. Their singing was magical, and they complemented the stunning backdrop (painted by Mrs Brown from the Art Department) to great effect.

The shimmering satin and a sea of aqua and silver left the audience in no doubt that the mermaids had made their entrance, seeking to entice Wendy into



the sea. Their alluring singing was led beautifully by soloist Sarah Corr.

A powerful contrast was then achieved when the vigorous war cries and drumming from the cast of Indians and Lost Boys had the audience almost in fear for their lives. Covered in war paint and bedecked in spectacular costumes, the boys' singing of 'What Makes a Brave Man Brave' was matched only by the energy with which they danced and moved around on stage. They were led in this madcap caper by Chief Tiger Bamboo, Dugald MacKechnie.

Mr Delaney, from the EDT Department, created many of the props, including the famous window that allowed the children to 'fly in and out' to Neverland and the ship's wheel for Captain Hook's pirate vessel. It was indeed a whole-school affair: Senior pupils organised the makeup, lighting and sound and Jimmie McKie (then Form III) and Sunita Burgul (then Form VI) provided extra musical input to the band. Chris Cairns captured the whole magical event on camera, so we can all return to Neverland whenever we want to.

*Louise Timney  
Photographs courtesy of Chris Cairns*



Some thirty years ago, when I was producing *Oliver!* for a school in Malawi, I decided (probably quite illegally) to remove the exclamation mark from the title for the programme; I couldn't quite see the point. I do now. What we were given in the Macrobert Theatre in June was absolutely worth exclaiming about, and a production which taught me a lot about what you could do with a large, talented and enthusiastic cast; a full set of technical supports; a very skilled band and an experienced director, choreographer and stage management team. This was a visionary production that was consistently strong in every element: in drama as well as song, in music as well as dance, in costume and make-up, and in sound and lighting. There were some very powerful bits of vision going on that delighted, moved and had me, well, exclaiming out loud...

But to the performances, first, and the principals. Once more, but for a final curtain, Finlay Balfour (then Form VI) had a key role as Fagin, bringing more than a mesmerising comic pantomime villainy to the part—there was pathos there and depth, too. He has notable comic timing, a powerful vocal range and he owns the stage. He was admirably balanced by Tom MacFadyen (then Form III), perfectly cast as Oliver—he did the requisite sweet innocence just fine, but combined it with an edge that hinted at the very competent, mature actor he is. He was neatly balanced by the very Artful Dodger, cleverly carried off by Naomi Langford-Thimm (and why not? Why should the best roles be restricted by gender—after all, it's all just acting, innit?). Naomi (then in Form IV) made a lot of fun out of the part, with plenty of art and lightness. Hers was a good

example of how an actor can inhabit a role completely; a good number of the company did this also, and it is a sign of the dramatic best: people who act even when they have no lines, but never upstage others.

Talking of the company, this would be a good place to acknowledge the huge number of supporting actors who filled out the scenes, acting, dancing and singing. They provided both the living context of street, workhouse or drinking den, but also an impressive pool of talent from which to draw for miniature scenes. The orphans/thieves grouping was particularly adept at picking up parts and acting their little socks off, from the sheer fun of 'Pickpocket' to the darker sides of London scenes.

But back to the big beasts of the stage—Bill Sikes was presented by the remarkable Jonty Haywood (then



Form VI). An atypical Sikes, it must be said, he relied on stringy malevolence to convey the threat exuding from his every fibre; we certainly recoiled from the blackness he inflicted on the Nancies. I say *Nancies*, because we had two of them. Between them, they demonstrated all that is admirable about Dollar musical performers at the height of their game: Catriona Ferguson and Lucy Cousin (both then Form VI) have been central to the musical life of the school for years. They were by no means carbon copies of each other, however: they have their own particular strengths and these were evident in the two performances each gave. With characters of this depth, needing to run the gamut of deep and conflicted pathos ('As Long As He Needs Me' to the thigh-slapping 'Oom Pah Pah'), you require very special performers. Catriona and

Lucy are those, and are another pair we shall greatly miss. They were both ably supported by Anna Stonebridge (then Form V) as Bet, herself no mean performer, supporting but never upstaging.

On now to the great fun of the comic duo that was Mr and Mrs Bumble. Even though Hamish Munro (then Form V) might not have been an obvious physical choice for the corpulent Beadle, he conveyed well the hideous smugness/craven weakness of the bully. Sophie Chandler (then Form V), as his acidic-saccharine Intended, demonstrated a hideous kittenishness, and thus their courtship entertained us expertly. 'I Shall Scream' was a masterpiece. Always there is light and shade in *Oliver!*, just as the original Dickens novels so effectively combine both sentimental comedy and trenchant social criticism.

(Note to younger readers: you've seen the musical—now read the book! It's worth it!!! **Exclamation!**). So to the Sowerberries—and the macabre slapstick scene in the undertaker's workshop. Eva Caie (then Form V) was another of the strong female roles that stock this musical. Her casual, energetic brutality was answered by the suave and poisonous Mr Sowerberry, Robert Mair (then Form VI). They in turn were well-supported by the crude thuggery of Daniel Robins and Olivia McKay (both then Form IV) as Noah Claypole and Charlotte respectively; another good piece of casting and direction.

In this story of good and evil, the Brownlow/Grimwig/Bedwin axis was universally light and bright—Hamish D'Ath, Freddie McFadyean (both then Form VI) and Georgia Robertson (then Form V) respectively conveyed an image of a wholesome



alternative to the dark underworld. A little neat and bloodless, of course, but what can you do when the devil has all the best parts...? They were warm, loving and they moved us. There was the lovely crossover scene where the two worlds of London meet; 'Who Will Buy?' gave us a beautifully sung quartet from Scott Ewing (then Form VI), Lara Garry (then Form III), Imogen Hubbard and Erin Stevens (both then Form V). This was one of producer Jackie Smith's signature scenes, built character by character, group by group, line by musical line, expanded with chorus and overlaid with principals and the key melodies—great vision. The choreography here, as elsewhere, was expertly managed by a welcome addition to the Dollar musical/dramatic scene, Sarah Houghton from the Prep School; her invention and energy were impressive.

And as we say hello to bright newcomers, so we have to say goodbye to someone who has been central to an aspect of Dollar's productions over many years: May Sharp has headed up the makeup team with creativity and skill, giving us wonderful visual feasts in miniature, over the course of a long line of Dollar musical productions. The artistry we saw on faces was wrought more largely in the scene setting as a

whole. The effects there could not have been achieved without the director's visionary use of lighting and set design. Consider the Bumbles' engagement scene—two armchairs and a table, neatly contained downstage right in a pool of light; the colour scheme all red, white and blue, right down to the flowers in the vase and Mr B.'s costume detailing. And then, by contrast, the tavern scene: a stage-wide lighting almost subterranean in its mottled greens/yellows/shadows—an effect almost of an ancient Kodak negative. This was vision transmitted to the stage par excellence, matching the tattered London dress in muted colours, slashed across by the vivid scarlet of Nancy, and contrasting with the neat blue uniform of the socially elevated Oliver. Throughout, the costumes here were once again the province of the indefatigable Gill McFadyean, Pam Webster and their team. Talking of technicality, the school lighting and sound team deserves, every one of them, to be named: Alex Parker, Ramsey Sewell (both then Form VI), Emily Williams, Anna Brabcova, Tim Hunter (all then Form V), Rhianne Stronach (then Form III). You don't see these people, but you certainly know when they are doing their job well. Respect!

And to the music itself, finally. Remarkable. It was not for nothing that violinist Martina Sillence (then Form V) was brought on stage at the end to join the curtain call; her playing in 'Reviewing the Situation' was phenomenal—so much so that (forgive me, Mr Christie, Martina) I wondered whether it had been pre-recorded. I should have known better—Martina is a virtuoso and David Christie does nothing by halves, professional that he is. The band are, of course, generally invisible, but they are the brilliant thread binding all things together. As is traditional, they are largely composed of pupils, and their demanding job was to master the incidental as well as the aria. It is a compliment to say that most of the time the music was so professionally created you didn't really notice it, and when you did it was because something special was happening.

It was a very good night—and those of us who have cause to know the show a bit better than others were still sent out delighted and invigorated, aware once again of the power of music and drama to move, and the power of young people to inspire by their energy and commitment. (!)

*Geoff Daniel*

*Photographs by Jacob Timney (then Form II)*



# News From The Music Department

## JAZZ WORKSHOPS

In June our jazz musicians were fortunate to attend two jazz workshops. The first came from Malcolm Edmonstone, Head of Jazz at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. He visited Dollar as part of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland Education Programme and he was accompanied by Jonathan Silk (FP 2007, Form V). The pupils experienced a variety of rhythm warm-ups and exercises and had a brief introduction to improvisation. The second workshop took place a couple of days later and was delivered by Rob Hall, one of our saxophone teachers. This led on very nicely from all that the pupils had learned in the first workshop. Pupils worked on a couple of numbers and extended their improvisation skills still further.



## PREP CONCERT

Pupils from the Prep and Junior School were entertained by our Prep musicians in May. The Prep Orchestra and Choir performed in the Gibson Auditorium alongside a variety of young instrumentalists.



## VISIT FROM THE SCOTS COLLEGE, SYDNEY

Pupils from the Junior School listened to a lovely concert from our Australian visitors in June. The programme consisted of piano duets and solos from a variety of instrumentalists including a cellist, flautist, bassoonist and a singer. Our guests had a tour of the school and attended a performance of *Oliver!* before continuing their Scottish tour to St Andrews.



## INSTRUMENTAL TEACHING OPEN AFTERNOON

At the start of term, parents and pupils attended the Instrumental Teaching Open Afternoon in the Music Department. Instrumental teachers demonstrated a wide array of instruments, and pupils enjoyed having an opportunity to try some of these out for the first time. The Edinburgh music shop, The Wind Section, put up stalls for pupils and parents to visit, and everyone had the chance to chat to both instrumental teachers and Music Department staff.

## ADVANCED HIGHER PUPILS PERFORM AT DOLLAR MUSIC SOCIETY AGM

Pupils from the Advanced Higher Music class were invited to give a recital at the Annual General Meeting of the Dollar Music Society last term. The society has greatly appreciated the support of our pupils this year, our pupils having provided some pre-concert music on several occasions. We look forward to enjoying another season of fabulous concerts.

*Karol Fitzpatrick*





Carenza Dickens (Form VI)



Ruby Simpson (Form IV)

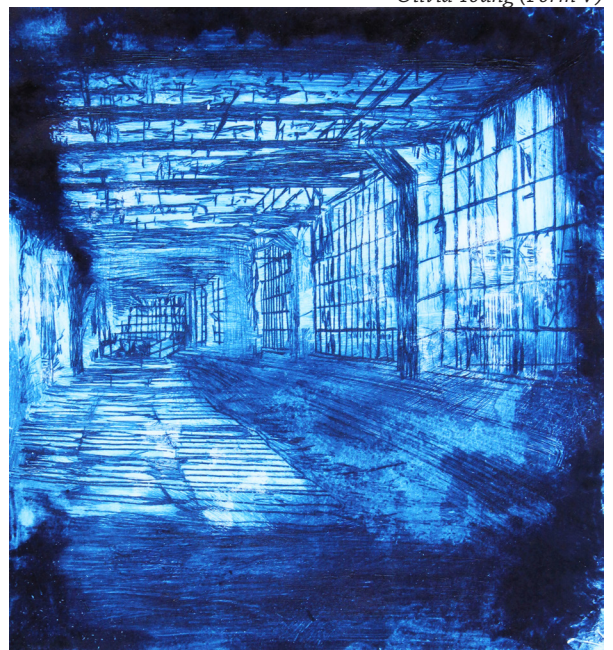
# Art Gallery



Natasha Cant (Form VI)



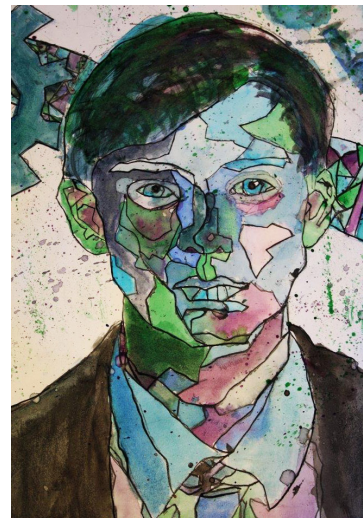
Olivia Young (Form V)



Ruby Simpson (Form IV)



Lowrie Dickson (Form VI)



Callum Rae (Form III)



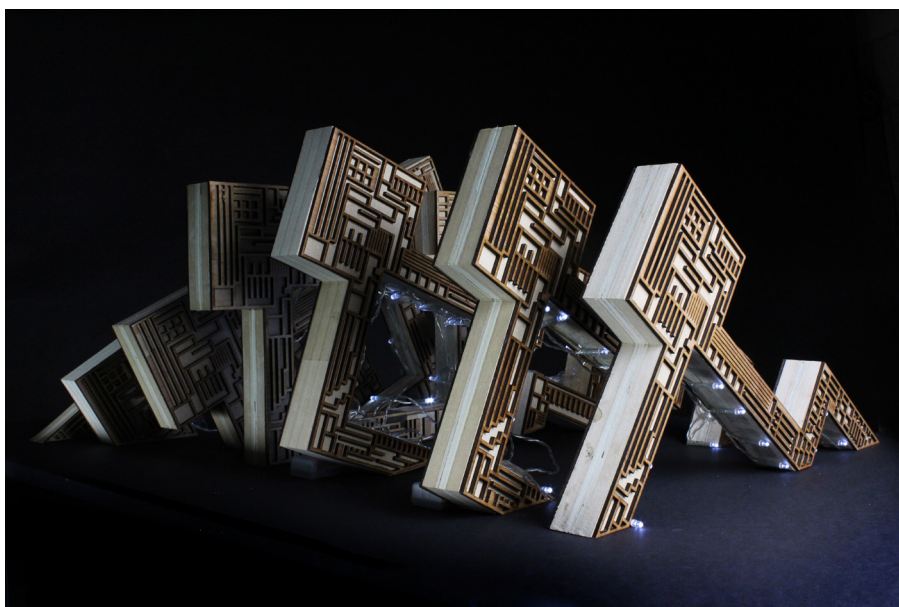
Deborah Deekae (Form IV)



Olivia Hutt (Form IV)



Hannah Fearn (Form IV)



Rebecca Johns (Form VI)



Yisi Lu (Form IV)



*Iona Peterson (Form VI)*



*Emma Grimminger (Form VI)*



*Eva Smith (Form III)*

# THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND ART COMPETITION

With over 7,700 entries, the National Gallery of Scotland Art Competition is now established as one of the top competitions in Scotland for young artists. Winning entries are exhibited at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the top entries are published in the National Gallery 2018 calendar, so it is quite an accolade to be awarded a prize.

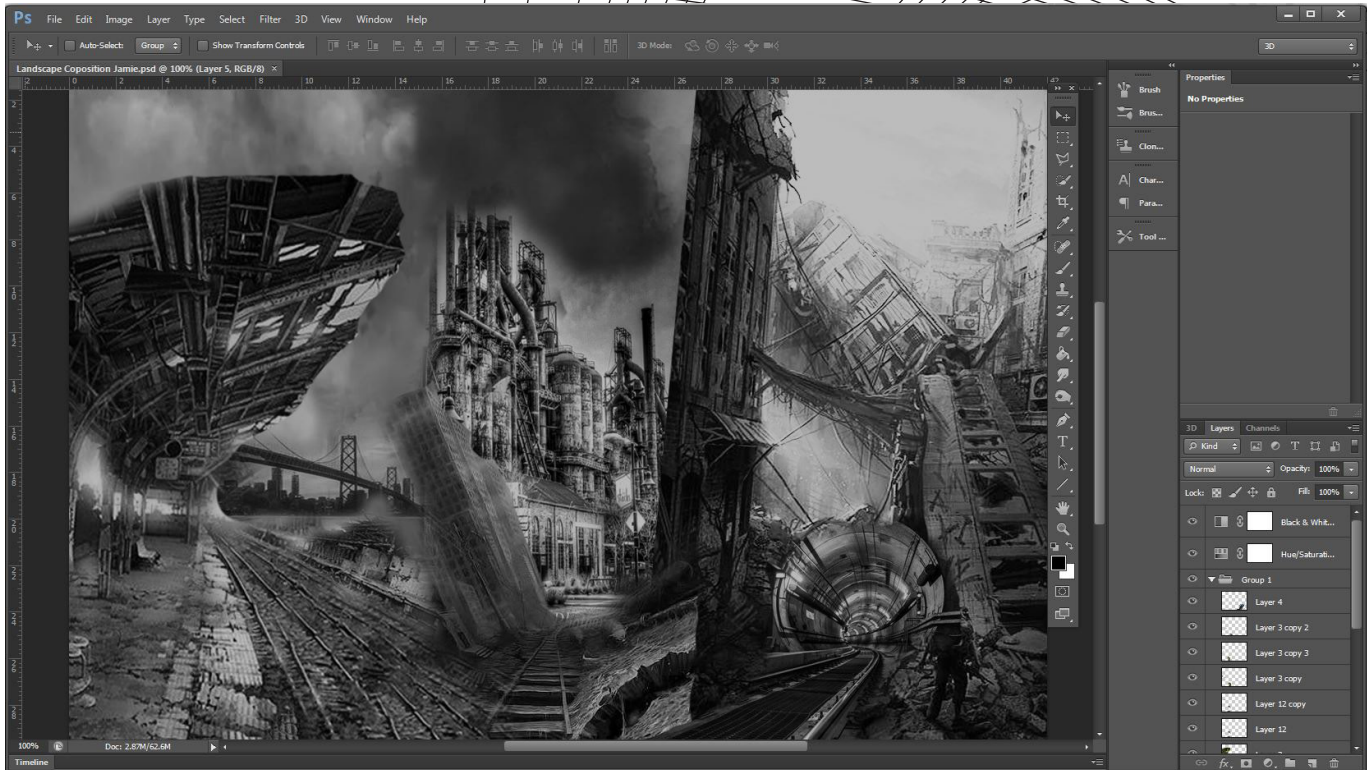
Participating in the competition encourages imaginative and original thinking; artists are asked to respond to themes and art works that are currently on show in the National Gallery.

The Art and Design Department are delighted that Ruby Simpson (Form IV, pictured above right) was awarded second place in the Intermediate category, with her highly skilled etching responding to Joan Eardley's 'A Sense of Place'. Beatrice Smart (Prep 5) was given a Highly Commended award in the Junior category for colour and imagination in her illustration of the word 'Transported'.

And it doesn't get much better than having your work placed next to a Caravaggio on the home page of the National Gallery of Scotland website. This was how Skye-Rose Tweedie (Junior 2, pictured below right), with her second place in the Intermediate category, rounded off Dollar's successful run of awards. The judges lavished praise upon her highly original art work. Congratulations to all those who took part in this year's competition.

*Cath Kelly*

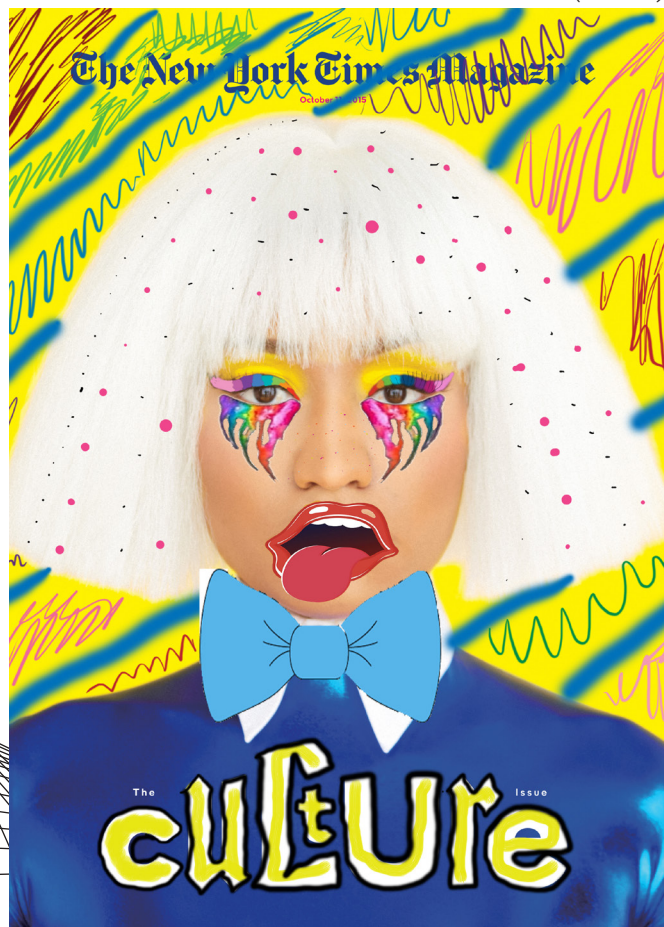




Jamie Watson (Form VI)



Amy Selena (then Form VI)



Hannah Gray (then Form I)



# DESIGN IN A DIGITAL WORLD

## FORM I CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DAY

The Art and Design Department staff are exploring the impact of digital technology in the making of art and design. With this in mind, Martin Skelly (Director of Digital Media and Product Design at Dundee University) was invited to speak to Form I at our 'Day of Creative Industries' in June. Exploring the ideas and culture behind digital art, innovations in multi-media film, sound technology and graphic design, our pupils were exposed to new opportunities in creative digital art. Lively discussion was followed by a series of workshops about green-screen filming and editing, architecture, digital design and theatre set design. We also looked at fashion and the popular Nike shoe design.

Digital technology is transforming the arts and expanding the opportunities to have art and design visually displayed. With digital art so prevalent in many areas of everyday life—from animations to design plans for a new building, from vehicle design and product design generally—our pupils are exploring these new outlets and developing their creativity.

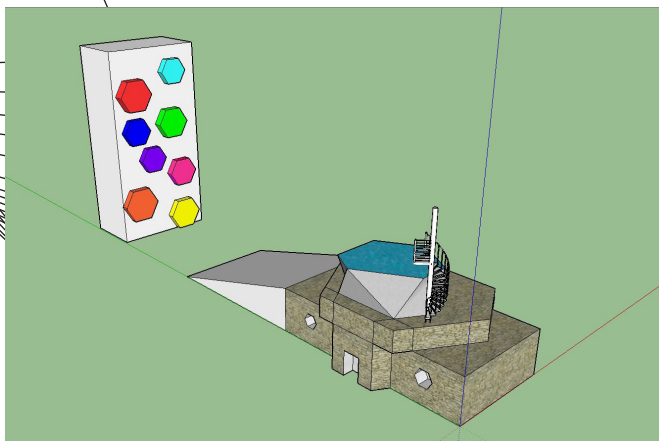
*Cath Kelly*

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN DIGITAL DESIGN

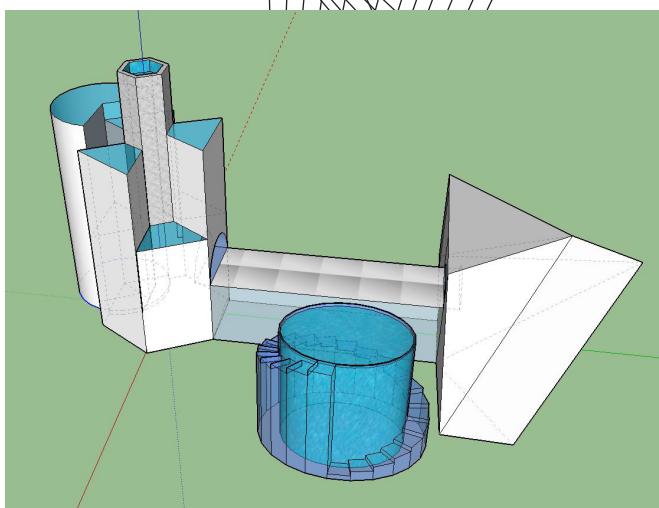
Pupils at Dollar are successfully using computer aids in many creative and exciting ways. Photoshop helps us to build essential compositional ideas and mix images together so that we can layer and transform images into new ideas. Examples include Jamie Watson's (Form VI) dystopian industrial scene, which mixes architectural forms to create dynamic compositional ideas. His scene was later developed into an etching for a Higher outcome.

National 5 Graphic Design projects also use technology extensively, combining scanned hand-drawn images, colour manipulation and Photoshop tools to produce professional results. Google SketchUp is a program used to create 3D fantasy buildings, and is now part of a Form II Architecture programme. Examples here show the pupils working creatively with the software to indulge their fun ideas. Imogen Patchett's (then Form I) ski jump, with colourful buttons to press when flying through the air, highlights both her imagination and her understanding of computer-aided design. SketchUp has not only been used extensively in Form VI Advanced Higher Design work, the program is also now being used by members of the J2 Art Club. We look forward to progressing with these new innovations in digital design.

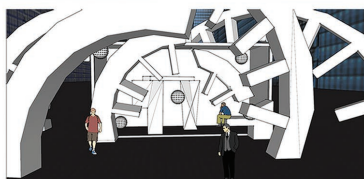
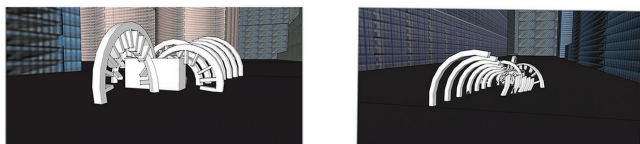
*Milo MacDermot*



*Imogen Patchett (then Form I)*



*Tilly Kay (then Form I)*



*Ramsay Bryce (then Form VI)*

## THE FORM I & II/III PLAYS



Dollar Academy's Drama Department had a very busy summer term. In early June, the Form I play was performed in the Studio Theatre. *Once Upon a Time...Grimm's Tales* is a collection of short plays based on some of Grimm's best-known collected fairy tales. With a cast that numbered almost 30 pupils, the stories of Ashputtel, Hansel and Gretel, Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, Redcap were staged to magnificent effect by directors, Mr Russell and Mrs MacBean.

On Monday 12 June, it was time for Forms II and III to show what they could do with an adaptation of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* by Lindsay Price. This version of another classic text was very well received by the enthusiastic audience that night.

A large number of pupils from Forms I-III took part in the two productions following weeks of preparation and dedicated rehearsal time. 'The casts involved in both plays were tremendously focused, pulling together these ambitious plays in a relatively short space of time,' said Mr Russell. Many talented individuals contributed a great deal behind the scenes, too: the lighting and makeup crew, those involved in set design and those who helped at the front-of house. All contributed to two highly successful dramatic productions.

*Heather Moore*





# My Nigerian Heritage

I am Nigerian.

Nigeria has 527 languages and over 1,150 dialects and ethnic groups. The three largest ethnic groups are the Hausa and Fulani in the north, the Igbo in the south-east, and the Yoruba, who predominate in the south-west. My parents and all known relations are Igbos—a race with a population of around 5.5 million—from Imo State in the south-east of Nigeria. My heritage stems from there. My mum is from Ngor Okpala in Imo State, and my dad is from Ikeduru. They were both born, brought up, and educated in Nigeria before coming to the UK to pursue higher education at the University of Hull. My father is now a professor at the University of Edinburgh, and my mother is a PhD candidate at the University of Durham.

I am also British.

I was born in the UK, and I have lived here for all my life—six years in England, and seven years in Scotland. But that has not made me any less Nigerian. I still listen to Nigerian music. I still wear Nigerian attire. I still eat Nigerian food.

I have travelled to Nigeria three times (the most recent trip being this past summer) to visit my family. Life can be very difficult in Nigeria without the essentials which we may take for granted in UK—simple things like good roads, portable water, good housing, electricity and good schools with great facilities for teaching and learning. When I was there on holiday, there were power cuts at least three times a day, usually for an hour or two. It was hardly noticeable because the generator came on almost immediately. In some parts of the country, however, there may be no electricity for much longer, which means that people have to generate their own electricity—or go without. How can one even begin to compare this life to a life lived in Scotland? I admire how my grandparents, and my parents, managed to make good lives for themselves despite the sometimes challenging environment and the lack of facilities.

After a university degree in Nigeria in 1974, my paternal grandfather had also come to the UK to pursue further education at the University of Reading. He earned his master's degree in 1976. In his book, *Prosperity in the Face of Adversity*, published in 2014, he narrated his struggle in life and education. He paid glowing tributes to his own father, describing him as a pioneer of education in his own time; my great-grandfather became a teacher in 1922 when many of his fellow Nigerians were oblivious to the benefits of education. My paternal grandmother is also a retired school teacher. I know that education is very important because it offers knowledge and a clearer perspective upon the world around us, and that can help us transform our world into something better. As my great-grandfather once said: 'Power, position, and wealth lie at the tip of the pen.'



On my mother's side, my grandparents also worked hard to carve out meaningful and successful lives for themselves. My grandfather is a retired chemical engineer who also fought in the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970). He was, I am told, courageous and resilient—both deeply honourable traits. Sadly, both his brother and his father died in the war. My grandmother is a retired civil servant who became a postal manager—a prestigious job.

All of these experiences, trials and achievements of my grandparents, and my parents too, are entrenched in my psyche. And this has encouraged me to do my best, always. I am proud of my heritage. It influences my world view and my self-identity. I will most likely pursue a career which involves both writing and science, and I hope to become as influential as my ancestors: a role model for many.

Despite the problems Nigeria faces—widespread corruption, high levels of poverty, and a brutal Islamist-led insurgency—the country continues to thrive. It is a beautiful country, full of intelligent and creative citizens. It is said that there is not a single country in the world without a Nigerian, because of their resilience and innovativeness. Nigeria leads Africa by the sheer size of its population, its recent emergence as the largest economy on the continent, and its cultural vibrance which can be seen in its music and film industry—clear echoes of which reach round the world.

I am Nigerian. I am British. I am proud and privileged to be both.

Amanda Amaeshi (Form II)

# FORM I CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY DAY

*The theme for National Poetry Day this year was 'Freedom'. Pupils in Form I English classrooms learned how to write 'found poems', carefully selecting, omitting and combining words from a range of celebrated texts and speeches on the topic of freedom. What resulted were some very powerful original poems, a few of which are published here.*

## 'Between Shadows'

The shore was fledged with light.

Beneath

Was fallen

Darkness.

Something shimmers

Beyond the open sea.

The shadowy water,

*Endless to a point,*

At infinity.

Invisible heat,

Thick with fierce movement.

Among shadows shine

Bright, excited eyes.

*Maya Millar*

## 'Frozen Time'

Your attention becomes

a trance-like state.

Days slide by like minutes,

temporarily forgotten.

Something stirs in the north,

on the hanging glacier—

the ribbon of meltwater.

Followed by a crumbly

armour of frost feathers, growing

imperceptibly steeper.

A low, hypnotic rhythm—

ice slams into diorite

beneath, left, then right.

*Boan Ge*

## 'Beyond the Dream'

I have a dream that

glory and hope will transform struggle.

This will be the day—

when all my country

Sings.

And this must become true.

So let freedom ring

from the mighty mountains.

Let freedom ring

from the heightening stone.

*Querida McFall*



## POETRY IN THE GARDEN

*The Advanced Higher Creative Writing trip was organised by English teacher (and floral design artist) Mrs Beth Wright.*

Venturing into the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on a bright September morning, 31 Form VI pupils (accompanied by Miss Nozedar, Mr Johnson and me) set about creating original pieces of poetry inspired by the world of plants, trees and the history of botanical science. The pupils were guided in their work by the poet, Claire Askew, Writer in Residence and Lecturer in Poetry at the University of Edinburgh, along with Tricia Lancaster from the Royal Botanic Garden.

Pupils spent the morning following one of three trails through the gardens; they discovered tumbling waterfalls, dramatic Himalayan landscapes, Victorian glasshouses and secluded grottos. As they walked, they observed the colours, textures, shapes and the history of their surroundings, noting down words and images which would later inspire their own poetry.

On returning to the workshop, pupils modelled their writing on two poems inspired by wild places: Mary Oliver's 'Maples' and 'The Dregs of the Year' by Kerry Hardie. Claire encouraged each young poet to choose a line or an image from what they had just written—one they felt confident about—and read it aloud to create a live, collaborative, organic work. Pupils then had the opportunity to continue with their own work, and they produced a wide range of ideas and forms in their writing.

The group was particularly moved by Eva Caie's poem; her writing was a response to what she had observed in the garden dedicated to Scotland's organ donors. We



were even more impressed when Eva agreed, courageously, to have Claire read it aloud to us. It was delivered in true performance-poetry style. The experience certainly inspired our Advanced Higher writers, and we look forward to reading more of their writing as their current 'works in progress' become thought-provoking and original literary pieces.

*Beth Wright*

## DONOR

Home of the dead—  
Who are you,  
Louis Brown?  
Your blood, a puddle  
on the floor:  
A puddle of red  
flowers and berries.

You are a hidden beauty,  
waiting to blossom  
after a year of hard work.  
Your heart stopped beating  
so mine could go on. You  
are the dead who keeps on  
living.

The light from those taken  
is seen through the trees.  
The cluster of red berries  
surrounded by the dead, brown leaves.

A gift ends in nothing  
that ends in a gift

that keeps on giving.  
You opened my gate to life  
but, at the same time, closed  
your own. You were my  
lifeline.

*Eva Caie (Form VI)*



## ON POETRY AND FLORAL DESIGN

My fascination with gardens as places of creativity and artistic inspiration comes from reading a variety of poetry, but particularly the work of Keats, Marvell and Heaney. Their work is imbued with the sensory and spiritual experiences to be found in natural landscapes. It is, as Heaney said himself, about finding inspiration in ‘The Green World’.

My enjoyment of all things related to gardens and creativity led me to undertake a six-month course in floristry. I have gained a range of experience in floristry and floral design, from creating tiny pieces of jewellery using fragile orchids, to building and installing archways and sculptural pieces using twisted willow, hazel and birch. I love the variety in texture, colour and fragrance in floral design. The organic and naturally transient quality of every piece also makes it feel a little bit different to the more ‘permanent’ materials we might associate with traditional modes of painting, sculpture or writing.

*Beth Wright*

# A SENSE OF PLACE

*Pupils in Mrs Monk's Form III English class wrote about their favourite places...*

## TIGHNABRUAICH

Boats sway in the natural and sheltered harbour, metal stays clinking on the masts, disturbing the otherwise overwhelming peace. Glints of sunlight dance from the water, mesmerising and entrancing. The solemn pier reaches majestically out of the Kyles, slimy seaweed dangling from its legs. Minnows dart and dash below in the crystal-clear water. Fishermen try their luck—casting with a rapid flick of the wrist, ripples forming as the line penetrates the surface. A cry of delight breaks the silence as a boy reels in a line teeming with mackerel, writhing as they face the inevitable.

Almost imperceptible at first there is a thud, thud, thud becoming clearer, ricocheting off the hills as the elegant Waverly cuts effortlessly through the water. Soon, the only evidence of its passing is the wash dashing over the pebbly beach.

*Adam Holden (Form III)*

## NEWHILL

For us kids, Newhill isn't really a farm as it once was, at least not the part we graze our pets in. The fields round back, dubbed 'Noah's Ark', all house two of each animal and surround the would-definitely-not-be-needed-on-a-working-farm arena. Aside from the reasons one might want a cat or a dog, most of the animals have no practical purpose—except the lambs (not named, for the sake of those in the family more tender). The pigs, goats, chickens and horses make up the rest of our 'ark', living together almost—but not quite—as harmoniously as one might imagine.

The pygmy goats are usually placid animals, pushed easily aside by the pigs, but quick to change their tune for the food intended for their four-legged friends. With skin like stone, the pigs barely notice a horn to the side (remarkable, I know, for I have also been on the receiving end of a head-butt from a goat). Through the winter months though, the little Houdinis escape from their field to join the pigs in their hut, apparently favouring the muddy pig paradise to their own straw bedding. It's at that time of year that the tough, old farm is most peaceful, as if the animals have made a truce during the short, dark days. Through the darkness they bark as I trudge over, buckets in hands, and struggle with the gate, red with rust. Like excited puppies, they bound over, grunting loud enough to wake every house within a mile.

Luckily for us, there are not many to wake.

*Milly Hamilton (Form III)*

## DOLLAR

In the spring, splashes and children's screams of excitement can be heard around the burn, as the children wait patiently near the bridge for the annual town duck race to start. Suddenly, a vibrant-yellow rubber duck tsunami cascades towards me, and young children jump with joy in their wellies as the ducks strike them. The clear water moves hastily, carrying the bobbing ducks to the finish.

Summer brings cherry blossoms shining bright in the sun—an avenue of cherry trees lines each embankment. A gentle breeze stirs the branches and rustles the lanceolate olive-green leaves. Pastel pink petals fall like confetti to the ground. A warm, creamy vanilla and almond-like aroma journeys through the air. Reddish-brown bark, striped with lenticels, supports the pure beauty of the trees.

Songs of praise can be heard to my right, emerging from the Parish Church. At the far end of the avenue of trees, people enter the golf clubhouse, ready with their clubs for a round of golf on the overlooking hills.

In winter, the light of daytime lessens as the nights creep in and scintillating Christmas lights, placed in the trees, line either side of the burn. There are now no leaves or flowers on the trees, just dark bark, weathered by the autumn rain and wind. Winter brings water that is fast-flowing and murky with debris carried by streams that originate in the hills. The water level has risen and threatens to reach up to the underside of the bridge where I stand. Joyful Christmas carols dance through the air, emanating from the church once more. This is my home, Dollar.

*Cameron Denham (Form III)*





## HARRY BELL TRAVEL AWARDS 2017

*Over the last decade the Harry Bell Travel Awards have generated a great deal of interest and resulted in some remarkable journeys and pieces of writing. The awards are open to Form V pupils who wish to travel during the summer holiday in order to study a topic of literary interest. Each recipient writes a lively report reflecting upon their experiences of a particular writer and a particular place. In addition, the Harry Bell Travel Scholarship is awarded at Prize Giving the following year in recognition of the best written report. This year the prize was awarded to two individuals: Anna Glasgow and James Guthrie. Their reports are published here.*

# A VIEW OF FLORENCE

*'...there emerged Florence, a magic city where people thought and did the most extraordinary things.'*

Florence is indeed a 'magic city'; it pulls off the difficult trick of appearing both modern and liberal even amidst the splendor of its spectacular historical architecture and culture. Stepping out of the train station and into the sun, I felt a surge of excitement and curiosity. This is a feeling that I imagine both EM Forster and (one of his most celebrated characters) Lucy Honeychurch might have experienced upon their own arrivals, historical and fictional, in Florence. Many similarities can be identified between the author and his character: each undergoes an experience of sexual awakening and an introduction to the liberal face of the world outside of English society. In *A Room with a View* (1908), Forster projects his experience of Florence onto the character of Lucy Honeychurch, showing that the feeling of release from a rigid moral code is something that can transcend reality, time and gender.

Arriving promptly at 11 o'clock in the morning, I knew it was going to be a riveting, tiring, day. Of course, Florence was going to be busy, and my friend and I made our way quickly to the city centre. From there, we would work our way outward. The city was indeed swamped with tourists: every bustling street, every corner we turned presented us with a fresh wave of people. Weaving between and amongst the families and dreamy wanderers required the utmost agility. This almost (but not quite) distracted us entirely from the charm of the streets and alleyways

of Florence, from the canopy of Italian balconies hanging above street-level. We tried to slow down...

I was relieved that I had travelled with my copy of *A Room with a View* in my backpack; I only had one day in the city and I needed Forster's help. He reminded me that, although Florence is a capital of art, it is not merely an overcrowded museum. Florence must be explored without a strict agenda, at a slow pace, with impressions gathered over time.

In his novel, Forster describes Lucy Honeychurch, like so many British travellers, flocking to Florence at the turn of the century. She arrives in the Tuscan capital with her chaperone, Charlotte Bartlett, her mother's overbearing cousin. The two women stay in the Pensione Bertolini, a popular hotel for British travellers, where they are assigned rooms without any of the celebrated Florentine views. Another guest of the Bertolini, Mr Emerson, offers Lucy and Charlotte his rooms, boasting views of the Arno. During her stay in Florence, of course, Lucy falls in love with George Emerson. When she returns to England, however, she becomes engaged to Cecil Vyse—a cavalier man who does not rouse her passions. Lucy's fundamental dilemma is that her instinctive attraction to George Emerson goes against the social rules of her Edwardian English circle.

Forster himself went through just such an inner conflict. For many years, Forster had kept

his homosexuality suppressed. As he wrote *A Room with a View*, he battled with whether or not to accept his sexuality—though it was illegal and completely unacceptable at that time in history. Forster, like his character Lucy, was tormented by the possibility of becoming one of *'the vast armies of the benighted, who follow neither the heart nor the brain, and march to their destiny by catch-words.'*

If Lucy decided to marry the pretentious Cecil, she would be relinquishing her sexuality having only just discovered it. This decision was daunting; one's sexual desires are fundamental and primitive human responses. To suppress or ignore them can lead to great unhappiness. Lucy, a young woman, would deprive herself of a full and complete life. However if she chose her beloved George Emerson, a young man with a passionate desire for truth, she would risk her standing in society and in her family's eyes. In Victorian and Edwardian society there were rigid moral codes that every young middle- and upper-class woman was expected to adhere to. Forster experienced spiritual release and sexual awakening in Florence, and he gave that same experience to his character. What was it about this city? Was it the people? The art? The landscape? Or something else altogether...

The most immediately striking thing about Florence is its architecture. The splendour, beauty and elegance of its buildings are juxtaposed with the bustling excitement of the streets and the people wandering amidst it all. The iconic dome of the the Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore. The radiance of the Basilica di Santa Croce. And my favourite: the Ponte Vecchio, with all those tiny, quaint and colourful shops lining the bridge, poking out so precariously over the water. The Renaissance architecture of the city transports you to another time. Visiting locations from the book allowed me to glimpse what Forster saw—what his characters saw—and to understand the transformative and enlightening power of the city. Seeing the Arno—the same river on which Lucy, George and Forster himself had gazed—gave me a thrill of connection to a past historical age and to the timeless, fictional narratives of this great novel.

Forster peopled Florence with other characters who exerted powerful influence over Lucy Honeychurch, and I found for myself sources of inspiration amongst the people of Florence. Most of the people I met in this Italian, European and global centre for art were, unsurprisingly, artists—with the exception of some very entertaining waiters. Street artists talked

to me about their life and work with strong passion. I also met a friend of a friend for coffee and, despite being almost strangers, we soon found ourselves talking about our futures, interests and relationships. I was invigorated by conversations held that day. Gradually, I began to realise that it was the environment, the place itself, that lent everyone and everything a kind of exciting and rich fullness. Everyone in Florence had a place they were going, or something clear and sure they wanted from life. People had passion, drive and desire. It made me want to live spontaneously. Perhaps Lucy felt the same.

One specific person encouraged Forster to liberate himself. While the female character of Lucy embodied Forster's internal strife, Mr Emerson was created in the image of a man Forster admired: Edward Carpenter. Carpenter was a social pioneer who believed in equality for women and the open expression of homosexual love. First through his published works, and later as a friend, Carpenter was to Forster a beacon of spiritual and sexual liberation who guided him toward a deeper understanding of himself. Similarly, Mr Emerson encourages Lucy to follow her heart's and her body's desires, explaining that *'love is of the body; not the body, but of the body.'*

I think Forster became more sexually liberated from the repressive nature of English society's expectations at that time because of the influence of Florence as a city and the people he met there. He projected this experience onto his character Lucy Honeychurch. That stay in Florence not only unleashed Forster's creativity, but also provided a source of spiritual release from the rigid moral codes of English society. His depression over his own self-deception and his increasing mistrust of English middle-class society are mirrored in the conflicted Lucy. Florence is a powerful focal point for culture and art, and so it is difficult to travel there and not feel exposed to love, life and a love of life. It inspires those who go there to make their own lives fuller and more meaningful. Lucy does so by choosing the man she loves despite society's rules. And Forster does so when he begins to accept, discuss and write about his sexuality upon his return from Florence.

*Anna Glasgow (FP 2017)*

# LEWIS GRASSIC GIBBON AND THE MEARNS

*'Nothing, it has been said, is true but change, nothing abides.'*

The Lewis Grassic Gibbon Centre—a small though attractive building, standing out in the seemingly infinite countryside of the Mearns—is proof of just how deceptive looks and, by extension, expectations can be. Close to the town of Arbuthnott, the rural community where Gibbon spent his adolescence, the Centre serves as a landmark in the local area, becoming the main attraction of this delightfully unremarkable town. Arbuthnott knows it is nothing special to what lies around it: miles and miles of countryside, dotted with ancient ruins, manor-like farmhouses and quaint hamlets. If one were to come from a city such as Glasgow and be introduced to the Mearns, one would likely be shocked by the sheer lack of people. Ploughed farmland and the seemingly ancient housing are the only markers of civilisation in Kincardineshire.

Visiting the Mearns made for a strangely familiar experience. I have lived all my life in a tiny farming-based hamlet, rather aptly named Cowstrandburn, surrounded only by family, fields and forests, and remarkably similar in description to Gibbon's Kinraddie. Whereas to a person from an urban area the Mearns might seem like another world, to me the feeling of isolation from civilisation was familiar, almost unnervingly so, to the point where my mother even commented, 'It doesn't really look that different from Cowstrandburn.' This felt more like a half-truth, the more I thought about it. The Mearns indeed bears similarities to Cowstrandburn, but its fields were rougher; its trees, like its people, dotted around the landscape; and, rather than simple natural beauty, its appeal could be found in its rugged harshness. The inspiration for Gibbon's difficult environment of Kinraddie—where severe weather constantly threatens the livelihood of the Guthries, Tavendales and their neighbours—was instantly clear to me. This was no easily tamed land; generation after generation had shaped the Mearns into a habitable environment and, even now, nature's challenges abound—from the infertile or hard soil, to the storms which were so dangerous to Kinraddie because of the irreparable damage they could cause.

Searching to further my connection with the author, hoping for an answer regarding why or how my family's name might link me to the heroic Chris Guthrie, and curious to discover what *Sunset Song* really meant to Gibbon himself, I set out with my mother to find meaning

in the Mearns. The Lewis Grassic Gibbon Centre, perhaps foolishly, was where I focused my search—determined to find out more about James Leslie Mitchell, the man behind the pseudonym, and his vision of the modernised future that was to bring about the end of the peasant life so prominently featured in *Sunset Song*. Despite warnings from relatives who had visited the Centre, informing me that Gibbon's life was the clear focus there, I optimistically believed that the visit would reveal similarities in our adolescent lives and would offer unique insight into Gibbon's use of the name Guthrie in *Sunset Song*.

Unfortunately, perhaps inevitably, this was not to be. The Grassic Gibbon Centre does indeed hold connections to Gibbon's past, from photos and letters provided by his friends, to books the author himself had prized and ensured were cared for—but it was not by any means what I expected. The Centre felt little different from a museum exhibition: artefacts from Gibbon's life, books he had read, notes about where and when he was born, where he lived and how he died. It developed for me a sense of that same historic disconnection I feel when I travel to museums or visit a relic of the past: a sad undertone to an otherwise exciting journey. Gibbon was made once more to feel like an incomprehensible figure, his life so utterly different from mine that we could never have that vital understanding of ideologies and humanity that allows us to truly connect with the author of a book. Upset, I buried away the thoughts of the connections I could have had with Gibbon, regretting that I had placed my expectations so high. Fortunately, this was not the end of my journey. It merely required an adjustment in objective. After all, as Jean Guthrie told Chris, *'There are better things than your books or studies...there's the countryside your own, you its.'*

Glum and disheartened, I talked to my mother who suggested a visit to the nearby churchyard where Gibbon's ashes had been laid to rest and where a memorial had been erected to the Mitchell family. Regaining some of my previous excitement, we travelled to the grave where, for the first time, I truly took in the view of the Mearns, Gibbon's home and the heart of *Sunset Song's* setting. Looking around at this landscape caused me, in one of only a few such moments in my life, to experience a profound and sudden change in my views.

On Gibbon's tombstone, loving messages from

his family are presented along with the famous line from Revelation 2:28, used by Gibbon as the title of the epitaph read by Kinraddie's new priest in memory of the war dead: *'For I will give you the morning star.'* This inspirational sermon not only honours the dead of the Great War, but also focuses on the love they bore their homeland. The group of men from Kinraddie who died during the war, including Chris' first husband Ewan Tavendale, were men who lived and worked on the Mearns as the previous generation had done before them. Their memories were infused with the land itself; they lived their lives only by this land's few blessings and the arduous work they put into it and, like the generation before them, they came to be a part of the land. The *'passion of their blood and spirit'* is permanently engraved into their handiwork, and this land is a testament to them. Gibbon's home is very much the same; the people of Arbuthnott in Gibbon's time lived through the same hardship and strife that *Sunset Song* focuses on, and as the memorials and graves of the graveyard pointed out, these men and women were one with the land, living a distinct lifestyle that relied on nature's bounty and the work they put in to sustain their own unique culture. This real-life inspiration led to *Sunset Song's* Kinraddie becoming the epitome of the crofter's lifestyle, capturing and maintaining a culture within its pages that its memory may never die.

Looking out across the Mearns, where life clings on in what would otherwise be barren land, I gained a deeper understanding of the vision of the future Gibbon saw, and challenged, as he wrote this book. The cars gathered around the Centre, the presence of heavy machinery in the fields, even the banking systems in Arbuthnott; these were what drove Mitchell to write *Sunset Song*. He saw—in the increasing industrialisation, in a world where money mattered more than life, in the exploitation of the land—the destruction of his way of life: *'The crofter is gone.'* The Mearns, a land only made habitable by the combination of human effort and nature's rewards, was under threat in this new modern world, where 'new oppressions' and 'foolish greed' overpower and conformity is expected—forcing the people of the Mearns to give up the unique lifestyle they had developed over centuries to join and benefit from the modern world. Even looking at Arbuthnott, I could see that Gibbon's words rang true:

*"These were the last of the Peasants, the last of the Old Scots folk. A new generation comes up that will know them not, except as a memory in a song...with loves and desires that grow dim and alien in the days to be."*

The clarity I gained from my journey to the Mearns may not have been what I expected, but it was a

journey made worthwhile by the realisation that Lewis Grassie Gibbon's vision had come to pass. I may never know of Gibbon's connection to my family name, and the similarities between our lives may be outweighed by the differences. But I developed the understanding that I sought to appreciate *Sunset Song*: I saw the Mearns and the relics of their lost culture, an unknown lifestyle preserved only in stories such as Gibbon's; I watched the destruction Gibbon knew was inevitable for this culture in the modern world; and I felt the intensity of his emotions, his anger at this misguided world for simply allowing this tragedy to take place. Modernisation and mechanisation have killed off the crofter's way of life, while commercialisation and a lack of understanding have forced the people of small hamlets like Arbuthnott to adapt to the modern world. This likely decimated the potential successors of the memory of land and people, working as one to achieve a successful society that could survive against the odds. Gibbon's devotion to Scotland, to the forgotten elements and history of our nation, to the importance of warning us of the dangerous effects of our modern world upon our collective psyche—eliminating individuality in communities and culture to better create this conformist society—have led me to consider what I can do to rectify his vision. *Sunset Song's* bleak vision for the future, a future which has now come to pass, is one that must be attended to. My ambition to resist the harmful elements of this vision, to achieve *'a greater hope and a newer world'*, will continue to guide me as I form my own vision and work to bring it to fruition.

*James Guthrie (FP 2017)*

## THE GALLEY'S TIME TO SHINE

Toward the end of last session's summer term, a few representatives of *The Galley's* team—Miss Langley, Charlie Worsley, Tom Keely (both pupils then in Form VI) and I—headed to the City of London for the Shine School Media Awards 2017.

The ceremony was held at the magnificent 17<sup>th</sup>-century Stationers' Hall near to St Paul's Cathedral. The nominees had the opportunity to attend workshops on all aspects of journalism and magazine publishing. We attended one, put on by UCL, about how to compose a news story, and it was both fascinating and useful to discover how the professionals work. Over lunch we met nominees from other schools and chatted about their school magazines.

An excited silence fell upon the hall as we waited for Simon Heffer from the *Daily Telegraph* to take his place on the stage. He would be announcing the winners. The competition from the other schools was very intense, and we hoped we would not have to go away empty-handed.

Once the ceremony began, the excitement built in the hall. Jonty Haywood was highly commended as Most Outstanding Pupil. The judges noted that Jonty had worked on *The Galley* since joining in Form I, and they were impressed with his journalistic skills, as well as his tutorship when leading writing seminars for younger students. Jonty was away rehearsing for *Oliver!* that day so Charlie Worsley collected it for him; it was received with great delight.

Miss Langley was also highly commended in the Most Inspirational Teacher category with the judges noting that her sense of humour and open-door policy had gone a long way to producing a high-calibre publication.

I was very nervous when, at last, the nominees for Best Original Photograph flashed up on the big screen at the front. I remember seeing the image of Fraser Laing's legs (the subject of my photo) for a split second before hearing, 'And the winner is... Archie MacKechnie from Dollar Academy for his photo 'Jump!'' I could not believe it: I was the youngest pupil there. In a bit of a blur I walked up on stage to receive my award and smile nervously as the photographer's camera flashed. This victory topped off what had been a great day for *The Galley* team.

*Archie MacKechnie (now Form III)*



# CHARITIES WEEK 2017

Charities Week—a phrase synonymous with priceless entertainment and fun—is an event-filled series of fundraising events which takes place during the countdown to the summer holidays. Through the Charities Committee’s efforts in June, £1000 was donated to Little John’s House in Romania, a home where the resident disadvantaged children have their needs met by staff and volunteers 24 hours a day. This particular charity has important links with Dollar: every summer a number of pupils spend time volunteering at the house.

The week kicked off with the Bake Sale; the Charities Committee made a vast number of mouth-watering cakes which sold out very quickly at break and lunchtime. Over 700 cakes were sold in total, thanks to the hard work of our Committee members and the generosity (not to mention the sweet teeth) of our pupils.

The most anticipated event of all, of course, is the Custard Pie Auction. Pupils bid for the opportunity to pie their (least) favourite member of the staff or sixth-year in the face. The undeniably nervous volunteers were Finlay Balfour, Ewen Randfield, Anya McCrimmon, Lucy Currie, Mr Burbury, Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr Florence (whilst an unsuspecting Sam Smith suffered substantial collateral damage). All in all, it was a great fundraising event and was enjoyed by pie-ers, pie-ees and spectators alike.

This year the week’s events concluded with the Junior Football Tournament, a prestigious annual event which brings out the competitive streaks in many of the Juniors, allowing them to showcase their talents in aid of charity. There was a variety of costumes ranging from a group of ‘Donald Trumps’ to ‘Crayons’ to ‘Mad Scientists’—huge efforts had certainly gone into the design of their fantastic costumes. The sun shone beautifully for the day as the teams prepared to play; it was a memorable end to a successful week of fundraising.

The money raised will make a huge difference to the lives of those at Little John’s, and we look forward to supporting them further as more opportunities arise. This brilliant week would not have been possible without the dedication and work of the 2016/2017 Charities Committee: a huge thanks to everyone who was involved. The 2017/2018 Charities Committee is already making plans for and looking forward to next summer’s Charities Week.

*Kaya McConnell (Form VI)*





## CHARITIES COMMITTEE 2017-18

Catherine Archibald

Kieran Bell

Murray Biggart

Eva Caie

Amo Citro

Olivia Crombie

Sophie Ferguson

Alexandrina Ghetiu

Nikki Hampson

Ryan Hartley

Gavin Hay

Emma Johnston

Cameron Keys

Katherine MacDonald

Greg Marshall

Lewis Marshall

Kaya McConnell

Lewis McLaren

Rachel Pollock

Katherine Reid

Georgia Robertson

Finn Saunders

Isabel Shand

Una Tonkovic

Cameron Walker

Olivia Young



# BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

The instructive and inspiring parting words of Mr McComiskie rang in our ears ('Don't get lost!') as we set off southward on our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition into the Ochils in late September.

We soon left the smooth comfort of the private farm roads near Peterhead Farm, but the path was well trodden and easy. We watched the startled pheasants near St Mungo's Farm and waved wildly to the motorists on the far side of the glen. When we reached the Frandy Fisheries, our bright sky had clouded over, and the wind had picked up slightly, dampening morale almost as much as my (retrospectively irritating) insistence to the group that we walk faster on the flat sections.

Soon, we were walking alongside the Glendevon reservoirs, past a number of apparently abandoned houses, whose macabre appearance still haunts me today. We ate lunch (a Caprese sandwich) beside the road and a distressingly loud cattle grid before following the road onward to Backhills Farm. This part of the journey was the most difficult, as no clear footpath existed and, after the midweek rain, the ground had abandoned sponginess in favour of an enveloping mud. We eventually reached our campsite, just south of the convergence of the Grodwell and Broich burns, and pitched our tents upon a patch of flat (but distressingly soggy) ground.

Dinner was the priority. Some had brought instant 'Mac n' Cheese' (which looked, smelled and, I assume, tasted like baby-sick), whilst I enjoyed a plate of couscous with pieces of smoked sausage. Delicious. Trangia-toasted marshmallows completed the feast. We slept well that night, despite the open tent door which led to us being woken up, besieged by an army of spiders.

In the morning, we set off up the ridge behind our campsite toward the summit of Skythorn Hill. The weather deteriorated rather catastrophically, and we were soon caught in mist, broken only by violent rain showers. We chose to take our wet weather route back to Dollar, following the Burn of Sorrow back to town. The terrain was slippery, muddy and boggy, and our previously amicable team dynamic soon perished, leaving behind an atmosphere of rain-soaked desperation and frustration. In this regard, Gracie was a crucial member of the group: her happy-go-lucky, supportive brand of friendliness helped to bind the group together as we ~~slid~~walked together down the glen.

We reached Dollar, and civilisation, at about noon and parted ways after having endured one another's company for roughly 24 hours. The trowel remains unused.

*Dominic McGinley (Form IV)*







## FROM THE ARCHIVES: MEMORIES FROM A GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION (1970)

Jim Mitchell, our Geography teacher, recruited me into the DofE scheme in third year with a question: ‘When things seem to be going well, shouldn’t you have a plan B?’ The best teachers encourage you to work out answers for yourself. He also told me to do the scheme not to fill out a CV, but because I might get something worthwhile out of it.

Jim Duck (our leader), Berdon Robertson, Matt Durcan, two Glasgow apprentices (Ian Sampson and Jimmy McCaig) and I made up the team for a DofE Gold Award expedition organised under the auspices of Army HQ Highland Area. They provided transport and radio operators, along with assessors from the Award Scheme. We met up at Cultybraggan Army Camp on Sunday 5 April 1970 for a pre-expedition briefing and kit inspection. The Army sergeant passed our kit as ‘adequate but far from perfect’, shaking his head and muttering some swear words as he moved on to the next group.

On Day One the army transported us to the end of Loch Laggan. From there, we headed out towards Loch Ossian, testing pace, and then forded a river to cut a corner, before turning eastward to head up Glen Labhair. We decided to gain height more gradually by climbing a ridge on the south side of the glen, avoiding a steep climb over the pass by Beinn a’Chumhain. One of our group, however, had become unwell with symptoms of hypothermia and exhaustion. We reported this and an assessor came back to observe us dealing with a real emergency. The man and his pack were carried down to the relative shelter of the valley using an improvised stretcher. We quickly learnt that moving an inert body and



pack is not easy. A camp was established, three Primus stoves pumped up and hot food and drinks were served well into the night for our victim, a further victim from another group, our assessors and our own team. It was cold, snowing and the burn had begun to freeze along the banks—these weather conditions persisted for the duration of the hike.

On Day Two, the assessors and two hypothermia casualties were able to walk down the glen to pick up Army transport. We headed over the mountains down to Ben Alder Cottage and Loch Ericht and then onto Bridge of Gaur, passing some beautiful, rugged, wild countryside on the way. We had fallen behind the other groups by now, causing logistical problems. After discussion with the chief assessor, Mr Stewart, it was decided we should hitch a ride with an Army Land Rover for some 12 miles in order to catch up. Jim Duck, as leader, was required to navigate the route, and we were quickly well on our way into Rannoch Moor. We were soon walking along the railway line, a Highland blizzard in our faces, dodging the odd train until we reached camp late that evening.

On Day Three we headed up and over towards Loch Lyon. The scenery was still stunning, but both body and equipment came under real strain. A rucksack shoulder strap required an improvised repair. Boots, loosely fastened to ease blisters, failed to provide adequate support. Glasgow humour came to the fore—and shared Kendal Mint Cake. At one point, we had to drag one member out of a chest-deep bog. Later, we chatted with Army radio operators (‘Don’t even think about giving up. There’s no reception here, mate!’) and assessors for other groups, including Christopher Wilson, a Dollar FP who joined us for the long haul down the glen to the campsite at Auchtertyre.

On Day Four we rose early, forgetting the pain of the previous day and completed the final five-mile leg along

From L-R: Matthew Durcan, Jim Duck, Jimmy McCaig, Iain Allan



Jim Duck, Berdon Robertson, Jimmy McCaig, Matthew Durcan and Iain Allan



the railway line to Crianlarich. After walking a total of 65 miles we were the first group in when we met at the Benmore Café near Crianlarich. We travelled back to Cultybraggan for a post-expedition meal and debrief. The colonel doing the debrief cracked a joke about having found pink, floral-patterned toilet paper on the hill, eliciting a voluntary confession from the culprits. He promptly failed that entire group (who were amongst the best-equipped) for not respecting the environment.

For me the DofE expedition was not easy. It raised simple questions. When tired, hungry and hurting, what sort of person am I? Could I be a better person? Who and what inspires me? Am I properly equipped for the challenge in hand? What raises my spirits? What is the role of companionship? What lies round the next corner?

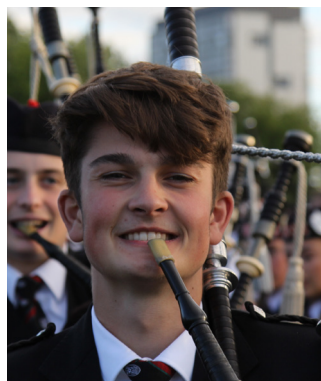
Some 47 years later, the same questions remain. If anything, the passing of time and gaining of knowledge increases the uncertainties. I have never had any difficulty naming people who have inspired me, and I always remember the guys on that DofE hike...

My wife wants me to sign up for an over-60s DofE revision scheme. She also considers that I can be a tad too focused, determined and driven (and that's doing housework), which she attributes to the DofE scheme. Long after the rugby boots were hung up, we continue to walk. Earlier this year, we stood on top of Stromboli, in Sicily, at night. I told her I was thinking about my Geography teacher and the guys on my 1970 DofE hike. So thank you Jim, Berdon, Matt, Ian and Jimmy for sharing your patience, courage and curiosity. That is a very good, enduring memory.

*Iain Allan (FP 1972)*

From L-R: Matthew Durcan, Jim Duck, Jimmy McCaig, Iain Allan





## FROM THE WESTERN ISLES TO THE 'WORLDS'

Dollar Academy Pipe Band has been, for us, probably *the* most memorable and rewarding part of school life at Dollar Academy. As Pipe Major and Pipe Sergeant, we have experienced many pipe band competitions and engagements, and know well the nervousness and excitement they stimulate. Although we are only in our third year in the Juvenile Band, we have already become many things thanks to our involvement: leaders, team players, confident band members and World Pipe Band Champions. This is the short story of our journey from a couple of small islands off the west coast of Scotland to the World Championships...

Blair is from the Isle of Arran and Katie is from Barra. Between us, we have always had a strong connection to piping; our tuition began as young children. Over the years, we each excelled in different areas: Blair in pipe band and Katie in solos. Moving to Dollar Academy broadened our horizons, and we became familiar with both the solo and the pipe band world. We love DAPB and look forward to each event with huge enthusiasm, especially as we approach the competition season.

Having worked extremely hard last year, the Pipe Band simply excelled, winning all five major championships: Scottish, British, UK, European and World. Our Novice 'A' Juvenile Band also did extremely well last season, placing 1<sup>st</sup> at the British Championships, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the European and World Championships and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the UK and Scottish Championships.

The Pipe Band were also triumphant in local competitions, winning both the Glasgow Highland Club and the CCF Scottish Schools Competition. We do win a great many competitions, but it is not easy. Each win is only possible because of the immense commitment and enthusiasm shown by each band member. And now, of course, we must follow up on last season's performance. We are already practising, working hard and learning new material. The task of perpetuating such an astounding tradition of Dollar Pipe



Band commitment and success is a challenging one, but we hope to continue this into our final competition season as members of the DAPB.

*Katie MacDonald  
and Blair Dickinson (both Form VI)*

# BRITANNIA ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

During the summer I was fortunate enough to attend the Royal Navy CCF Summer Camp at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. This senior camp offers all manner of courses, such as dinghy sailing, power boating, yachting, paddle sports, lifeguarding, senior leadership and band. The camp concludes with a mess dinner and formal parade.

It was a privilege to stay at the impressive Naval College, built on a steep hill overlooking the town of Dartmouth, where the Royal Navy has trained its officers since 1863. Each morning after breakfast we had 'divisions', where we practiced the drill for the parade in front of the college, accompanied by the band (once they were good enough to be let loose). Then we would head off to our various activities; we dinghy sailors faced a steep walk down to the water (187 steps to be precise). Since I had sailed a few times before, I was put in the more advanced group where we sailed in pairs in Bosuns—old navy dinghies that were sturdy, if not exactly speedboats—and on our own in the nifty little Laser Picos.

Over the week I became notorious for my love of the water (I capsized a lot), although most of my swims *were* intentional. Whilst sailing a Pico, a sudden gust of wind tipped the boat unexpectedly; I was too light to use my weight to recover it. The boat capsized, but I was determined to dry capsize (right the boat without getting in the water). Unfortunately, as I climbed up onto the side of the boat, another gust of wind caused it to fully invert. Having plunged into the water, I suddenly realised that my upturned boat was drifting closer and closer to the yacht belonging to the head of the Navy CCF! Luckily I managed to smartly right the boat and sail away, looking for someone I could brag to about my recovery skills. The weather was particularly good that week, allowing for a day sail up the River Dart in search of delicious ice cream.

On the penultimate night, we attended a proper Navy mess dinner—one of the highlights of the week. Everyone looked lovely in formal dress, and the band played throughout as we enjoyed an excellent meal. We were assigned our seats at the long trestle tables in the grand hall, and I ended up at the top table, sitting diagonally across from the Vice-Admiral. At the end of the meal we sang traditional sea shanties and 'Rule Britannia', which was accompanied by some vigorous and mighty table banging.

The final full day was the parade and inspection. Despite the onset of rain, we pulled it off in style under the watchful eye of the Vice-Admiral. All of the people I met made this enjoyable course one of my favourites, and staying in the superbly unique environment of Britannia Royal Naval College was an honour and a privilege.

*Catriona Laing (Form VI)*



## RAF SUMMER CAMP

As we approach the centenary year of the Royal Air Force, it was fitting that the 2017 RAF Summer Camp took place at RAF Cranwell. RAF Cranwell began as the naval base, HMS Daedalus, and was used as an airship station during World War I. Regarded by many as the spiritual home of the Royal Air Force, its College Hall Officers' Mess (CHOM) has seen every RAF officer, from past to present, graduate in front of its iconic pillars. In fact, in July, two Dollar RAF cadets, Rebecca Manson and Eduin Aitchison (FPs 2017), graduated from the Air Cadet Leadership Course and paraded in front of that very building in order to be presented with their gold leadership badges. To parade in front of the beautiful neo-Classical CHOM is often the pinnacle of an RAF cadet's career.

Only days after Rebecca and Eduin had paraded there, Dollar Academy RAF cadets enjoyed a tour of CHOM. They learned about the history of RAF Cranwell and about legendary RAF figures such as Sir Hugh Trenchard, the founder of the RAF; Frank Whittle, the inventor of the turbojet engine and Douglas Bader, the legendary Spitfire ace who survived the war despite losing both legs in an air training accident.

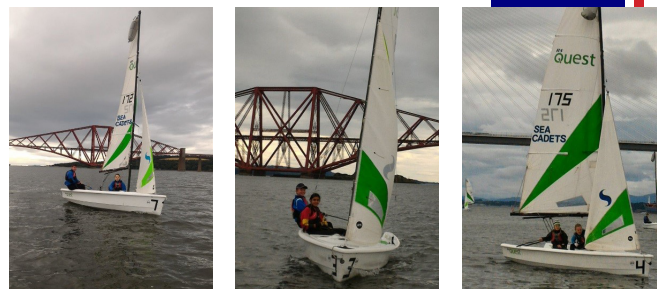
RAF history was a theme in the camp; we visited the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre at RAF Coningsby, where the last remaining airworthy World War II Lancaster plane is displayed. As Caitlin Dow (Form IV) wrote, 'This gave us insight into the conditions that the pilots and other crew members had to endure. The centre houses a Lancaster Bomber, a Dakota, six Spitfires, two Hurricanes and two Chipmunks, which are used in training pilots. There can be no margin of error when flying these priceless historic relics. It was an excellent opportunity to learn about these rare and influential aircraft.'

Later, the group listened to a remarkable talk from Mr Len Allston, who flew Spitfires and P51 Mustangs during the Battle of Britain. Now 92, he recalled his flying sorties, the time he made an emergency landing at a US Air Force base and his camaraderie with the USAF pilots. As Rebecca Manson (Form VI) said, 'Speaking to a World War II veteran was very moving; hearing his stories about flying Spitfires was truly inspiring to everyone there, whether they were budding pilots or not. This was an experience that those of us present that day will never forget.'

We were also cognisant of the fact that the number of World War II war veterans grows smaller every year. As we approach the centenary of the RAF, we must never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down their lives for their countries.

*Simon Cochrane*





## CCF SUMMER CAMP 2017

Summer Camp 2017, one of the main events on the CCF calendar, was held at Warcop Training Area in Cumbria, England. On the week-long camp, cadets learned exciting and adventurous skills: how to survive in the wilderness, alone and with limited resources; how to effectively react to enemy fire in woods, forests, and buildings; how to suppress an enemy in close-quarter combat and much, much more.

Cadets also took part in raft building and powerboat driving with Army commandos, and they learned about the weaponry possessed by armies across the world, both past and present. Cadets were tested in platoon attacks, and they excelled in suppressing the enemy as a large group of three sections, at the same time learning how to fire rifles safely and develop their cooperative skills. Cadets also improved their drill and turnout standards by competing in a drill competition, unveiling their most creative sequences of drill movements.

Many young cadets attended the camp alongside older, more senior cadets. This allowed the younger participants to emulate their older peers, thus the camp was inclusive of all. The cadet training team at the camp were superb, enthusiastically offering their knowledge and experience to the cadets. Overall, the CCF Summer Camp 2017 was, as it always has been, an enormous success in teaching cadets new skills. It is still one of the best camps on offer in the CCF.

*Alasdair Jardine (Form VI)  
Photographs courtesy of Chris Cairns*

## THE ROYAL NAVY SCOTTISH REGATTA

On Saturday 16 September, schools from all over Scotland met under the three Forth Bridges at Port Edgar to compete in the CCF Royal Navy Scottish Sailing Regatta. Dollar entered a team of five pupils: Bente Kieckhöfel, Claire Jack, Zoë Price (all Form V), Anisha Burgul (Form IV) and me.

The experience was helpful because I do not usually sail boats of that size very well in light winds; the day boosted our confidence tremendously. Anyone who competed that day would agree that we all did well just to get the boats moving in the conditions.

In boat Number 7 was Zoë Price who ended up sailing with a boy from another school. Anisha and I were in boat Number 3, and we were delighted to come in second place. Bente and Claire did very well indeed, coming in first place and winning the trophy.

It was a brilliant day of sailing; the sea cadets had put on a superb regatta, supplying us with all the equipment we needed. There were also many examples of fine sportsmanship on display from across the field of competitors. And the day simply could not have happened without the tremendous efforts of our excellent race officer, James.

Scotland has many talented Navy sailors who know how to put up some healthy competition, and Dollar sailors are putting themselves out there, claiming all the victories they can.

*Stuart Farmer (Form III)*



## SCOTTISH MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION 2017

In September, Dollar's team of ten cadets (and five reserves) travelled to the Barry Buddon Training Camp in Carnoustie to compete in the 2017 Scottish Military Skills Competition. Led by Sandy Steele and Georgia Robertson (both Form VI), the team included Huw Sherrard, James Taylor (both Form VI), Katie Robertson, Toby Douglas, Katie Leslie, Runa Jarjour, Euan Bremner (all Form V) and Clara McHardy (Form IV).

The team competed in stands that tested physical ability, endurance, military knowledge, teamwork, marksmanship and leadership. Each stand was scored out of 10, and the scores were added up to decide which team had won the Combined Cadet Force (or Army Cadet Force) Trophy and the Piper Laidlaw VC Commemorative Trophy for the Best Cadet Unit.

Dollar won both the CCF and Piper Laidlaw Trophies last year, and so the pressure mounted as we waited on the parade square for the results. Finally those tensely anticipated words came...Dollar Academy had won both trophies yet again. We marched out to collect our awards.

This victory was significant not only because we retained our unchallenged record of wins at this competition, but also because it marked an important milestone. This was the first time a team led by females had won the competition in its entire 15-year history. Our team had faced up to all-male and majority-male teams and, led by two females, had defeated them all. Our younger cadets will progress still further, knowing that we are the ones who challenge the status-quo, and win.

*CSM Sandy Steele (Form VI)  
Photographs courtesy of Chris Cairns*



## NATIONAL FIRST AID COMPETITION 2017

Tension in the air. Adrenaline rushing. Expectations high.

For even the best first aiders, competing in the National and Inter-Services First Aid Competition is a tremendous challenge. A cadet team of Nicola Henson (Form VI), Katie Robertson and Beth Logan, (both Form V), Clara McHardy (Form IV) and travelled to Northampton over the weekend of 7 - 8 October to compete in this prestigious competition.

On the first day, the team faced fractures, asthma, angina, and sprains in their individual tests, followed by a road incident involving a broken arm, multiple head injuries and a spinal injury in the team test. After a very long wait in isolation, Dollar were awarded first place in the day's events.

On the second and final day of the competition, the intensity of the tests increased. The individual scenarios included a heart attack, hypoglycaemia, a seizure and a severe arterial bleed. Then, the final team test was upon us. The injuries were more severe and in greater numbers: an open fracture with severe bleeding, a broken arm, a grazed jaw and a victim in severe shock.

When the final parade was brought to attention, everyone waited, tense and eager, for the results of the overall competition. At last, for the second year in a row, the Dollar team were crowned first place, making them the best cadet first aid team in the UK once again.

Both the team's and SMI Tracy Scott's hard work had paid off, perpetuating Dollar's long-standing legacy of excellence in first aid care.

*Beth Logan (Form V)*



## CCF INSPECTION DAY

Dollar Academy CCF hosted this year's Inspection Day on Friday 29 September. This involved all sections of the Combined Cadet Force, including Pipes and Drums, Army Section, RAF, Navy and our new recruits.

The first job was to complete the very difficult task of getting a contingent photo, as well as individual section photos. As tricky as it always is to position everyone, it went well and, thankfully, the weather was on our side.

At 10.30am we welcomed our two Inspecting Officers, Dr Martin Hendry and Captain Robbie Walker (RAMC and FP 2009). Dr Hendry had been the previous Contingent Commander of Dollar Academy CCF and Captain Walker had been, in 2009, the last cadet RSM under Dr Hendry's command. It was fascinating to hear about their different experiences with Dollar Academy CCF, and also about the traditions that have been carried on over the years.

After a meeting with the Rector, Dr Hendry, Captain Walker and Lt Col Stewart carried out a formal inspection of

the contingent on the West Approach. They were very pleased with the turnout, which was a great compliment to our CCF.

The Inspecting Officers, as well as school staff and sixth-form cadets, were invited to a lunch in the Captain's Room, where there was opportunity to talk further with the Officers.

In the afternoon, each section taught a series of lessons and activities to demonstrate the variety of opportunities available to CCF pupils. Both Inspecting Officers commented on the levels of enthusiasm shown by the cadets and the impressive professionalism shown by the senior cadets.

The day finished with a final parade where Dr Hendry presented various promotions and awards. The most notable of these was the awarding of the Cadet Force Medal to Staff Sergeant Chris Cairns, in recognition of his 12 years of service to the CCF.

*Georgia Robertson (Form VI)  
Photographs courtesy of Chris Cairns*



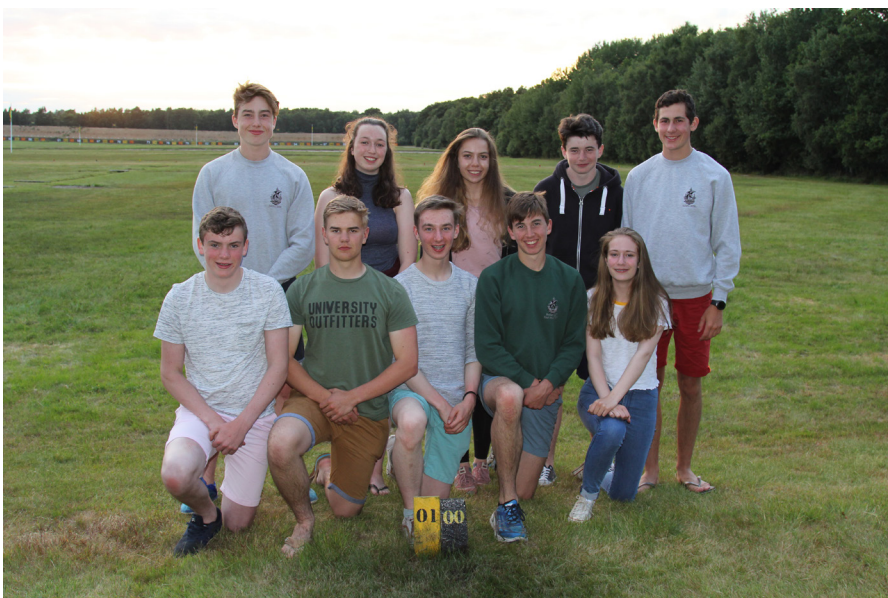
## Success at Bisley

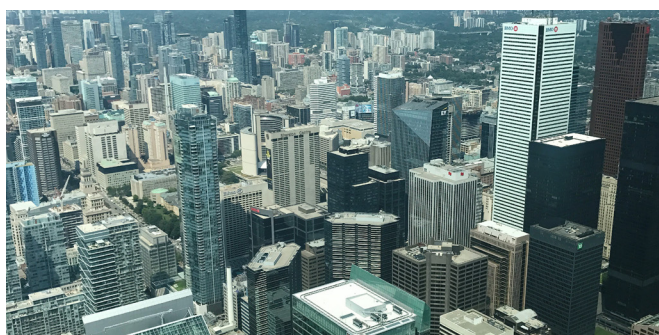
The Dollar Academy Rifle Team marched on to a successful Bisley Schools Week. The team of 18 cadets produced excellent scores at all distances, and their efforts ensured the school trophy cabinet was, once again, full to bursting.

The team came a very respectable 4<sup>th</sup> with 747 points and .47 V Bulls in the Ashburton after a nail-biting countback. They won the London Scottish Cup, awarded to the highest-placed Scottish school team, for a record 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. In addition nine cadets were placed in the Top 100 in the Schools' Meeting: a considerable achievement when you consider Schools Week attracts entries of around 700 cadets from 50 schools.

Our Athelings, James Barlow (FP 2017) and Alex McConnell (Form VI), had a particularly successful week, winning a number of competitions between them. James secured top place in the Cadet Rifle Aggregate after a very exciting tie shoot that was watched by every competitor and spectator on the range. Many of our cadets stayed on to shoot the world-famous Imperial Meeting, and Alex and James continued their competition season with the British Cadet Rifle Team (BCRT) in Canada (see following articles).

*Craig Stewart*





## ATHELINGS 2017

My Dollar shooting career culminated with one month in Canada, where I was fortunate enough (alongside Alex McConnell) to represent the UK as a member of the British Cadet Rifle Team. We had time for some sightseeing too; and we visited the Canadian parliament in Ottawa and Toronto's CN Tower; we attended a Blue Jays' game and gazed in awe at Niagara Falls. We celebrated Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Parliament Hill and watched a fireworks show from the decks of the Hornblower below Niagara Falls. The level of planning and energy that the trip organisers dedicate to making the journey worthwhile was impressive.

We also visited some profoundly picturesque sites: Kingston, Port Hope and Gatineau were just a few. We stayed overnight in Kingston in Fort Henry, a nineteenth-century, cliff-top military installation overlooking the city. For me, watching from the battlements as the lights of Kingston came on in the evening was far more memorable than the Niagara light show. That said, Niagara Falls was captivating—not because of the waterfalls (obviously they were impressive), but because I have never been somewhere quite so commercialised. Niagara is a city-sized shrine to hollow opulence, seemingly constructed out of diamante and neon and gift shops. We found bottles of Niagara Falls water, containing no more than a few drops, selling for the equivalent of £30. The sheer bizarreness of the place was fascinating.

And the shooting? The group competed in two main events: NCFC and the DCRA open. The NCFC involved putting together a team to shoot the main Athelings competition,



called the Rex Goddard; the DCRA had more of an individual focus. The Rex Goddard is a two-stage match (half is shot in the UK and the other half in Canada) against the National Rifle Team of Canada. Alex was on the team as a shooter, due to his very successful week of NCFC over the summer, and I acted as match captain because I had previous experience of doing so with the school. We won the Rex Goddard—no easy feat as the opposition were just as talented and driven as we were. We were presented with our trophy at a public prize giving (one benefit of shooting is the silverware: the trophies are typically huge).

The latter stages of shooting consisted of a series of small, daily competitions of varied distances. Once again, the team performed tremendously. While listing the achievements of the team here would be easy, it would be more expressive to say this: it was the most successful major team I have ever been in. And the people were amongst the friendliest and the most competitive I have ever encountered. Joining the Athelings and winning the Rex Goddard trophy have been two goals of mine since I started shooting in Form II. I can say with confidence that shooting has provided a rewarding return on the effort Alex and I, and everyone else on the team, have put in over the years.

*James Barlow (FP 2017)*



# IN CANADA WITH THE ATHELINGS:

An interview with Alex McConnell (Form VI)

## You've enjoyed a very action-packed and successful summer. What you were doing?

I was selected to be a member of the British Cadet Rifle Team, nicknamed the 'Athelings' (essentially the GB U18 rifle team). The team was composed of 18 cadets from all over the country—Dollar, in fact, sent two pupils: James Barlow (FP 2017) and me. As a team, we travelled to Connaught Range, in Ottawa, Canada, to partake in various team competitions and as individuals in two competitions. One of these was the NCFC, the National Cadet Full-Bore Championships. This is the Canadian cadet version of the UK Schools' Week that takes place at Bisley, at which Dollar cadets compete every summer. We also competed in the DCRA (Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Meeting—the main Canadian civilian full-bore meeting, their version of our NRA Imperial Meeting event). We spent two of the weeks competing and the other two touring around Canada.

## How would you describe your achievements there?

As an individual, I achieved the highest aggregate score out of all UK cadets during the NCFC, and I won the Clem Trebly 500-yard competition. As a team, the Athelings won the overall Rex Goddard competition (the first stage was shot in England, the second in Canada). I was also shooting as a part of the UK team for the Michael Faraday competition. In addition, I was a member of the U25 GB team that won the U25 long-range match against the Canadian U25 team.

## How did you first get started in shooting?

I first began shooting as a recruit in Form II on the small-bore range. In Form III, I progressed onto full-bore and was selected for the Dollar Bisley team. Form III also provided me with my first taste of uncoached shooting, as I was lucky enough to be allowed to shoot the NRA Imperial Meeting that year, too. Over the next year my skills progressed further. I was selected for various team matches, including, during my second year at Bisley, shooting for the Scotland team in a match. I also competed in Blair Atholl at the start of Form V, earning my second Scotland cap.

## Who have been your main influences?

My main influences in the sport have been the teachers who run shooting here at Dollar. They are some of the very best in the whole shooting community. Without the help and advice of Mrs Barlow, Mrs Adamson and, of course, Mr Stewart, I would not have progressed nearly as far as I have. Special mention also goes to my brother, Ewan (2009 Atheling, and FP 2009). He is the main reason I began shooting in the first place.



## Would you recommend other young shooters to apply for this tour?

This tour was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had. I would recommend it to any Dollar shooter. For anyone thinking about taking up the sport of shooting, especially those in Form II: don't hesitate. Do it. And stick at it. The doors it can open (both in terms of tours and the friends you will make), offer invaluable opportunities, and you will learn some tremendous life skills along the way.

Alex McConnell (Form VI)



**Each year Cadets Branch HQ Army Regional Command, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Army Cadet organisation, manages an international cadet exchange. After a rigorous selection process, CCF cadets from across the UK travel to three Canadian cadet camps in New Brunswick (Argonaut) Yukon Territory (Whitehorse) and Alberta (Rocky Mountain). In 2017, no less than three Dollar cadets were amongst them.**

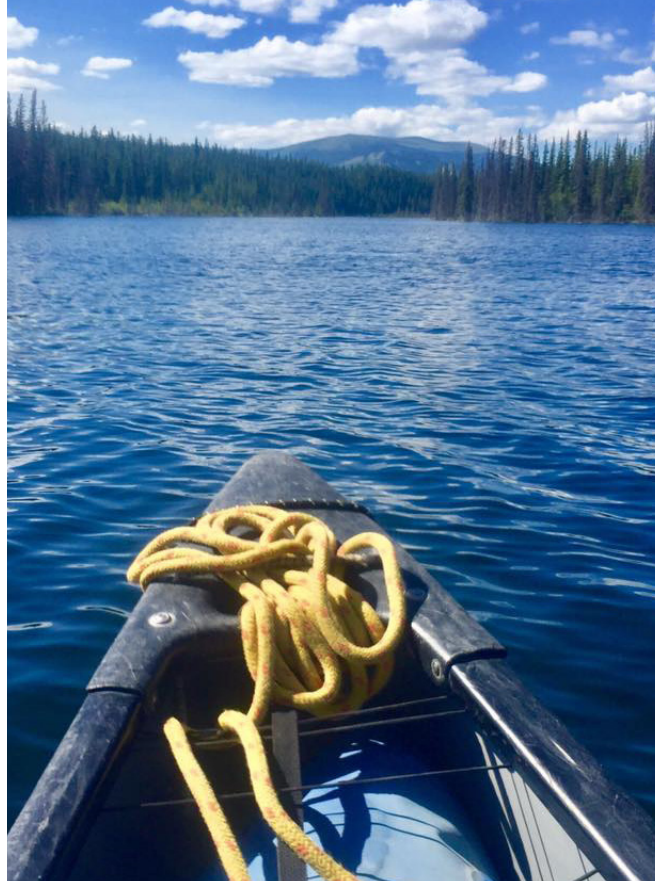
## ARGONAUT

After boarding the plane and finding our seats, we felt an overwhelming sense of achievement. We'd made it.

The nation-wide selection process for the Cadet Expedition Instructor Course in New Brunswick, Canada had started nearly a year beforehand, and after each selection event it came as a surprise to find out that I'd got through to the next stage. But now there were no more selection stages. We, the 12 Brits on the plane, were it. Many of us were now more nervous about proving that we did indeed deserve our places on the exchange than we were about being so far away from home for so long. I guess this helped.

We were picked up by the Canadians at the airport and their friendliness and the genuine warmth of their welcome made every one of us feel ready for the adventure. For me, the biggest selling point of the Argonaut course was the 23-day expedition that would include a 24-hour solo experience. Unfortunately, the solo experience was called off when a bear cub took an interest in some of our food supplies, but the six weeks spent in eastern Canada made the entire trip worthwhile. The scenery was stunning and the weather incredible; an exhilarating programme of activities forged strong friendships amongst us. The whole experience was a tremendous opportunity; I'm so glad I had the courage to apply.

*Euan Bremner (Form V)*



## WHITEHORSE

It's difficult to know where to begin when reflecting on the six weeks I spent in Whitehorse, in Canada's far-flung Yukon Territory. Maybe I should write about the daily routine on base. Or perhaps I should talk about the nights spent on the beach with my teammates, eating bannocks we had cooked on the fire. Or maybe I should touch on the Canadian cadets, and the other British exchange cadets, amongst whom were some of the most amazing people I have ever met. It's hard to know where to start...

The Expedition Instructor Course consisted of leadership training and adventure training, including rock climbing and abseiling. Our final adventure, the 18-day expedition, consisted of three five-day phases, spent mountain biking, canoeing and hiking. Truly, there can be no more magnificent place to undertake such an expedition than in the Yukon Territory. It did not matter what we were doing, the scenery was simply spectacular.

There were challenging times, of course. It poured every hour of the five-day bike phase. That 300-kilometre road was endless. Thankfully, my team's good humour and motivation somehow made it less cold and miserable. We certainly succumbed to a well-deserved sense of achievement at the end of it all.

Best of all was meeting the Canadian cadets (most of whom were eager to announce their Scottish heritage) and seeing how the cadet force operates on the other side of the world. It was truly an eye-opening experience—one I know I will never forget.

*Runa Jarjour (Form V)*



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

From climbing 130-metre cliff faces and white-water canoeing in huge rapids, to trekking up a glacier at 6am to watch the sun rise—my summer taking part in the Rocky Mountain Cadet Leadership and Challenge Course (RMCLCC) in the Canada's Rocky Mountains was as full-on, as action-packed as you can get.

The tough selection process included a series of interviews, fitness tests and a weekend in Wales to test our teamwork and social skills. Ultimately, only 12 cadets would be selected. Of these 12, I was the only Scottish cadet, and also the only female selected for the Rocky Mountain course. This was only the beginning...

Upon arrival we were divided into six platoons that would rotate through six cycles over the weeks ahead. I was in Cascade Platoon, named for Cascade Mountain just outside of Banff. Rock climbing was first. There was a new cliff every day, with beautiful views from every climb. I was selected for the multi-pitch, too, and 130 metres up in the air, hanging off a small ledge, you really do wonder where your long-dormant fear of heights had been all those years. But it was magnificent.

Our second cycle was glacier, giving me the opportunity to do something I never dreamed of doing. Early starts were crucial in order to get out on the glacier before the snow melted. I received training in crevasse rescue and self-rescue. We reached the summit of Mount Olive that straddles the provincial border between Alberta and British Columbia, and we joked that we could stand in two provinces at once.



The next cycle was mountain biking. We rode around the Nordic Centre, where professional athletes train for skiing in winter and biking in summer. This week was certainly one of the most adrenaline-fuelled, and nobody escaped without at least a few bruises—all part of the experience.

The fourth week was, for me, one of the most difficult. Speeding down white-water rapids in a tippy canoe is hard enough; you also have to communicate with your partner! My patience and surprising, newfound ability to stay calm in a fast-flowing, near-freezing glacial river served me well. I was proud to win top cadet for this cycle.

Alpine trekking was next and, for the second time that summer, I was the only female in my group. You get used to constantly holding conversations with those around you, and there was undoubtedly a slight sense of loneliness when I clambered alone into my tent. But the trekking was simply spectacular, the views stunning. We even encountered a large, overly curious grizzly bear—difficult to say if that particular meeting was more thrilling or terrifying.

The final cycle was horse riding and wilderness first aid; each of us gained a first aid qualification and enjoyed a two-day trek on horseback. Despite being thrown off my clumsy horse, it was one of my favourite weeks and I learned a great deal.

The cycles were broken up by the weekends' outings. The Calgary Stampede was an unforgettable experience, as was the Calgary Zoo. The adventures were brilliant, but mostly I will remember the people I met. I made friends I will keep for life and established connections to Canada that I will never lose. This was all thanks to the Dollar Academy CCF that manages, through providing tremendous support and teaching, to send at least one of its cadets to the courses on offer in Canada every year. I would urge anyone who can to apply because, clichéd or not, it really was the summer of a lifetime.

*Georgia Robertson (Form VI)*



# TAIWAN EXCHANGE

It is said that 24 hours is a long time in politics; take it from me that it is even longer in an airline seat, on the way to Taipei, for the second Dollar Academy exchange with our newest partner school, Zhongping Middle School. But, from this stiff start onwards, our time in Taiwan gave us experiences—from drinking tea in a hotel built for world leaders (with underground tunnels to match), to looking out over the sprawling metropolis of Taipei from its eponymous 101-floored skyscraper, to bidding farewell to our partners while the dulcet tones of Headmaster Lin's harmonica solo filled the air—which we will never forget. To our rather bucolic dispositions, the hustle and bustle of Taipei was simultaneously thrilling and transforming and, while sitting down to a soup composed of oysters and pig intestines (delicious, in case you're wondering), it dawned on many of us just how exhilarating it was to be so far from home, both physically and culturally.

In June, our Taiwanese partners were, in turn, welcomed to Dollar where they enjoyed absorbing Scotland's culture, walking around the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, and dancing around the Captain's Room doing the Gay Gordons. All of this served to cement what has shaped up to be a long and fruitful partnership in the Far East. The effect of such an experience on our learning has been immeasurable. It is impossible to define all of the benefits in such a short article as this but, put simply, the speaking and listening skills of all those who participated in the exchange have improved dramatically, and friendships have been made which span the globe and, we hope, will span the decades.

And so, eight months on, we look fondly back at those eclectic ten days, and look eagerly forward to returning to Taiwan—and to the Rector trying out his mouth-organ skills in morning Assembly. We live in hope.

*Dominic McGinley (Form IV)*





## LEARNING THROUGH REAL LANDSCAPES

Fieldwork is an integral and essential element of geographical study; it is also, of course, enjoyable, challenging, thought-provoking and informative. Fieldwork at Dollar Academy can range all the way from a one-off introduction to a skill or technique within the school grounds, to extended trips to some of the world's most exotic locations. Our Department has travelled as far afield as the American Southwest, Morocco, the French Alps and Iceland.

The goal of all fieldwork activities is to introduce our pupils to skills, techniques and experiences which they can use to pursue their own individual research at Dollar—whether at National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher level—and take with them into the future.

Our core curricular fieldtrips are a mainstay of the Department, and pupils both current and former often reflect upon their experiences and things they learned on these trips.

Every year the Malham Field Studies Centre in the Yorkshire Dales is the May-time destination for our Form III National 5 pupils. The week is spent investigating and experiencing the unique upland carboniferous limestone landscapes of the area and collecting data for their Assignment write up. Highlights include having to use three different trains to reach the area, driving around the very Postman Pat-like roads, going underground into Ingleborough Cave, getting right down inside a working millstone grit quarry and, of course, sampling the homemade ice cream in Malham and/or Settle. It helps that the setting of the field centre overlooking Malham Tarn is stunning and atmospheric.

Higher Environmental Science pupils spend a fieldwork day at Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve in northeast Fife in September. Thankfully the weather was kind to us again this year, and we were able to enjoy a dry, sunny day collecting data to show changes across the sand dune succession system. The Reserve manager gave us up-to-date information about the current management issues and the innovative plans for a visitor centre on the dunes. Ice cream on the way back to school completed a successful day.

Our Advanced Higher geographers spend a very busy and worthwhile three full days based at a bunkhouse outside Aberfeldy near the end of September. The focus is to give them hands-on experience whilst learning about the different physical and human geographical methods and sampling techniques they could use in their own research and study. Part of the emphasis of the trip is to introduce them to new fieldwork scenarios.

The week begins with a cooking session in Home Economics to prepare the main courses, which we take with us. The bunkhouse offers a wonderful, peaceful setting up on the hill overlooking the Tay Valley. Everyone joins in and does their share of preparing, cooking and clearing, as well as being involved in the fieldwork tasks we set for them. In the evenings, they undertake lab work and write up their findings. There is also time for relaxing and playing games. Our treat on the final afternoon is another team-building activity—rafting down the River Tay from Aberfeldy to Grandtully. Oh, and another ice cream treat as well.

We are all looking forward to our next return trip to Malham with the current Form III geographers in May 2018.

*Shiona Scott*

*White water rafting photograph courtesy of Splash Rafting*







## MILLPORT

From Sunday 17 September to Wednesday 20 September, the Advanced Higher biologists of Dollar Academy embarked on an adventure that would enlighten and inspire us, and contribute 25% to our overall grade.

We were transported to Largs by bus, where stomachs were filled and wallets were emptied before taking a ferry ride (that lasted about as long as the 30-second safety briefing that accompanied it) to the Isle of Cumbrae. Upon our arrival, another bus drove us to Millport (the cannier scientists in the group paid for a kids' ticket, as opposed to the pricey adult ticket).

The staff at Millport greeted us with smiles, kindness and a two-minute lecture on the sensitivity of the smoke alarms on site. We familiarised ourselves with the various labs and wet rooms in the area. The girls settled into their rooms, which were a stone's throw away from everything, while the boys had to take a minibus to their rooms further up the road, which were a stone's throw away from nothing. With accommodation sorted, we began visiting field sites scattered across the island to collect necessary specimens/samples. Some project aims were hugely altered at this point ('some' meaning 'my') for a variety of reasons. In the evening, pilot studies were conducted to identify potential flaws for the main project, and there were tutorials on shore profiles, sampling and exposure. If you were a biologist, you'd understand.

On Monday pilot studies were completed, plans were refined and modified procedures were written for our investigations. The young biologists moved on to the main data collection for their respective projects, making notes on each of the areas they collected data from to ensure they could discuss any further improvements to their methodology. Our pilot studies were signed off by Dollar staff, and the day was brought to an end with tutorials on data presentation and analysis.

Tuesday saw many of the students carrying out a repeat of one aspect of their investigation, allowing them to comment on the reliability of their data. Once they



had sufficient data, they continued to document their methodology, draw appropriate graphs, carry out statistical tests and draw conclusions on their data. After having successfully completed all aspects of their data collection and started their write-ups, the students had an opportunity to evaluate their investigations while these were still fresh in their minds.

Meanwhile I was watching barnacles in a cold, damp and empty room for 16 hours, feeling my sanity slip away.

During our final day on the island, the young scientists continued their data collections and write-ups before departing at 12pm, having said misty-eyed farewells to the Millport staff. Back on Largs, a coin too many was wasted on the coin pusher at the local arcade and I learned that while money can't buy happiness, it can buy a keychain with a novelty pair of lips attached to it and that's close enough.

But, on a serious note, and on behalf of everyone who attended this trip, I would like to thank both the accompanying Dollar staff and the FSC tutors on Millport for their patience and advice throughout the trip.

*Connor Philip (Form VI)*

# VOLUNTEERING IN LITTLE JOHN'S HOUSE

On the 15 July 2017, 14 Dollar Academy pupils set out on what we knew would be a challenging but fulfilling two-week experience of living and working in Little John's House, a home for disadvantaged children with special needs in Cisnadioara, a town in central Romania. What was not emphasised enough, however, was how transformative this experience was going to be.

The journey there was nerve-racking—we didn't know how many children would turn up, how we would handle different situations, how they would react to us. We needn't have worried. The morning after our arrival we were immediately greeted by one of the many smiling faces we would grow to love over the next two weeks.

The best part of each day was the Summer School; whether the children were enthusiastic artists, natural musicians or fantastic dancers, they never failed to impress us and make us smile. Most inspiring, however, was the exuberant and friendly manner of every child we met, despite the difficult circumstances many of them faced. It was amazing to get the chance to know so many different people, each with their own incredible story of how they came to visit Little John's. Each person taught us something different, and they certainly kept us on our toes.

Our afternoons were spent doing various activities outside of Little John's and we were given a taste of Romanian culture by travelling around the region. We visited salt lakes, tried out a high ropes course and took a trip to the nearby Transylvanian city of Sibiu. The water-based activities were much appreciated as they also provided our principal means of bathing. The facilities and surroundings where we lived and worked with the children were basic, highlighting how lucky we are both in terms of the homes we live in and the families who look after us.

In the evenings, after a delicious home-cooked Romanian meal, we had some free time to play basketball, play games and quizzes or dance with the residents of Little John's. One night we sang and performed for them. Another night we had a water fight to celebrate Iulia and Andrada's birthdays. This went down exceptionally well, and it was amazing to see how such simple fun could bring the residents such profound happiness.

The poignant stories of the children, as well as our visits to other orphanages, brought home to us how very privileged we all are at Dollar. It also demonstrated how resilient and strong the kids we met were. The hardest part of this trip was leaving Little John's and the children there behind. In those two short weeks we had eaten our body weight in Joes (a particularly delicious Romanian biscuit), grown closer as a team and made lifelong memories with the kids. In Jen's words, 'It is fair to say Little John's will always have a place in my heart.'

*Iona Peterson and Kirsty Dunsire (both Form VI)*



# FELLBACH EXCHANGE



Guten Tag! Fellbach is a small town situated on the outskirts of Stuttgart in the south of Germany; Dollar Academy has enjoyed links with its Gustave-Stresemann-Gymnasium for many years. Towards the end of June, 33 pupils visited Fellbach for what was Dollar's 26<sup>th</sup> exchange with Gymnasium. Nineteen members of our group participated in a straightforward school exchange, while the 14 older pupils undertook some form of work experience.

After a fairly smooth journey from Edinburgh to Stuttgart the moment we were all waiting for had, at last, arrived: meeting our host families. Despite email communication with our exchange partners beforehand, there was still something daunting about living in a stranger's house. My biggest concern was doing something wrong—disliking the food or showering at the wrong time. The small things always seem to worry people the most. Fortunately everyone settled in quickly. Our host families were generally easy-going and happy to lend a hand with anything.

On our first full day, we split into our groups and the work experience people headed straight to their jobs at nurseries, sports clubs, car repair workshops, swimming pools and a newspaper firm. Hearing the German language spoken all day, every day played a huge part in improving our German language skills. The work was challenging, but really rewarding. As 16- and 17-year-olds we were given responsibility and learned many new skills (I had to cycle to work). And I gradually found the confidence to speak some German.

While we were busy getting to grips with work in a foreign country, the younger pupils were enjoying day trips to the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, a local theme park and

shopping excursions. They were practising their German, too, but in a more relaxed way.

During the week our days were very structured. In Fellbach, you start work very early but have the afternoon free. It was great to come back after work and meet friends to compare work experiences. The evenings and weekends were much more relaxed and much of our socialising was done at the local outdoor pool. The weather was lovely, and we enjoyed having more time to mix with the Gymnasium pupils.

All too soon it was time to leave. It was sad leaving Fellbach, as my host family had been so welcoming, but I knew I would see everyone again in September for the return leg of the exchange.

Fast forward to September... now there were no nerves—just the excitement of seeing old friends.

We had a full ten-day itinerary planned for our visitors, which included trips to Edinburgh, St Andrews, Glasgow and Stirling as well as custom-tailored lessons within school. Edinburgh and Stirling Castles proved a big hit (as did shopping in Glasgow), but the highlight of the trip, according to the Germans, was the school ceilidh. My exchange partner, Debbie, declared that the very best thing about Scotland was its ceilidhs! The German boys wore kilts that the school had provided, making for a very authentic experience—they looked wonderful. They had also taken Scottish country dance lessons earlier in their visit, so no one had any difficulty participating in the dancing.

The evening ended with a very loud rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne', a fitting tribute to memories and friendship. This time saying goodbye was harder. But I know I will keep in touch with my partner, and many are already making plans for the 27<sup>th</sup> Fellbach Exchange!

*Megan Hunter (Form VI)*



into Scottish culture and history was garnered from the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, not to mention the must-do shopping up the Style Mile of Buchanan and Argyle Streets, which led to some happy faces on the bus back to Dollar.

The evenings allowed for the host families and pupils to spend time getting to know their Italian guests. A *Braveheart* film night, complete with popcorn and fizz, was much enjoyed, as was a hearty meal at the Muckhart Inn the following evening.

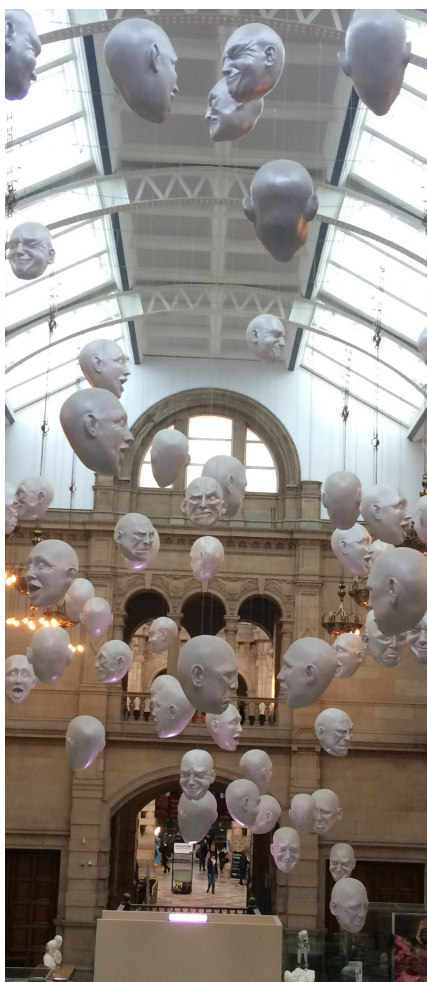
The final night featured a farewell ceilidh, to which all our Italian guests (and the German ones, too, as the Fellbach Exchange happened to coincide), their teachers, host families and Dollar pupils were invited for a rousing evening of Scottish country dancing. Despite the 3am start the next morning, our group of Italians embodied the 'Forza Italia' spirit by wanting to continue on dancing into the night. Our plan to tire them out for their flight back had backfired spectacularly!

Special mention must go to Cath Kelly for her support and assistance throughout the exchange and to David Delaney, Head of Modern Languages, whose vast experience and knowledge of such projects was invaluable.

Last to be recognised, but most important, was the contribution made by our host families. Welcomes like those shown by our host families underline the very best of the Dollar community; our Italian guests were bowled over by the warmth extended to them during their stay here. The food, conversation and time spent was very much appreciated, and our sincere thanks goes to those families who gave so much of their time to create a special first cultural exchange with our partner school in Florence.

Dollar pupils are very excited about their return visit in March, and we look forward to offering you news of how they got on in the city that lays claim to being 'The Heart of the Renaissance'.

Fraser Muirhead



## THE ART AND DESIGN ITALIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE

September saw the culmination of several months of planning when our first-ever Italian Art and Design cultural exchange took place, with L'Istituto Tecnico per il Turismo (ITT), 'Marco Polo', in Florence. Late on a Saturday evening, 12 Italian students (aged 15 and 16) arrived in Edinburgh to begin 6 days of touring in Scotland. They were accompanied by Professora Carla Primieri and Professora Marialuisa Tripodo, who were both very enthusiastic.

A busy programme of events was planned, including day trips to Edinburgh and Stirling Castle where the group learned about Scottish medieval history and the Wars of Independence. A broader insight



# VALBONNE FRENCH EXCHANGE

Near the end of the summer term, a group of Form III and IV pupils participated in the inaugural 2017 French Exchange with partner school, Centre International de Valbonne, on the French Riviera.

Our pupils were fully immersed in the French language and culture as they attended the French school and stayed with their host families. The successful programme included lessons in the French school, a paper chase around Antibes, a guided tour and workshop in a perfumery in the pretty town of Grasse, a fun-packed day visiting Monaco (where we even got to touch the sea creatures in the Oceanographic Museum) and a guided tour of the highlights of Nice.

We are very grateful to the host families and the staff of Centre International de Valbonne for their kind hospitality and for making our stay so memorable.

The return leg of the exchange took place 14 June to 21 June, and the French pupils enjoyed a packed programme of events at Dollar Academy and beyond, undertaking many sightseeing excursions and tours that gave them a fine flavour for life in Scotland. This newest addition to the Modern Languages calendar of trips proved a very delightful, fruitful exchange.

*Heather Moore*





### THE CAMERON TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

*The Cameron Travel Scholarship Trust helps to fund Dollar pupils on trips overseas in order to partake in some voluntary activity. Angus Cooper and Isla Banerji (FPs 2017) were two of this year's recipients. Their stories are printed here.*

## VOLUNTEERING AT THE COMUNIDAD INTI WARA YASSI

Once it was buried deep in the Amazon jungle, now it is surrounded by coca farms, rice plantations and only smatterings of jungle—the Wildlife Custody Centre Ambue Ari near Santa Cruz, Bolivia, one of three parks run by the Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY). A widely recognised environmental movement, the organisation works to expose the illegal trade of wild animal species; it also cares for the victims, offering them a second opportunity in life. The Wildlife Custody Centre looks after over 20 different species of animals—all of them victims of maltreatment or discovered on the Peruvian or Bolivian black market.

Over the summer, I was fortunate to have an incredible opportunity to work at this park, coming face-to-face with so many beautiful and highly intelligent animals. I spent the first week working with a tremendous variety of species and felt overwhelmed at being able to play with

and care for pumas, ocelots, jaguars and even a baby squirrel monkey whose sole ambition in life was to orchestrate ever more elaborate escape attempts. Eventually, I moved beyond the sheer amazement of each moment and reached a point where I could begin to think more deeply about this experience as a whole.

The smells of the park hit me first. Undeniably clean, the place smelled fresh and warm and alive: it was filled to the brim with more living things than you could imagine. Next, the sounds. I had never realised that silence should feel *unnatural*. At night the jungle came alive with cricket symphonies, whining mosquitos (oh, how I hate mosquitos) and the occasional jaguar mating call. This constant, raucous accompaniment unnerved me at first, but eventually it became as soothing as my dog's night-time snores. And then there were the views. Day in and day out we saw and interacted with vines thicker than my torso; watched wild macaws with their vibrant yellows, blues and reds fly overhead; gaped at the wild capuchin monkeys capering in the surrounding forests and avoided the snakes that threatened our every step when we were out walking the great cats.

After seven weeks, the realisation that I had to leave struck. The park with its isolation, its lack of electricity, internet and flushing toilets brought the volunteers together in a very real way. An array of interesting, engaging people cared for those animals fiercely; you could see it in the way their eyes would light up as they spoke about their cats. The relationships that I formed with 'my' cats was also something I never expected. I am, without doubt, a 'dog person', so I did not expect to be taken in as completely as I was. The cats at the Centre were trusting, affectionate and brave, even after the horrendous treatment they had endured before their arrival. This resonates with me even now. I remember a jaguar named Juancho who had been kept in a Peruvian zoo. One day his cage was being cleaned with a flame thrower—whilst he was still inside it. The flames seared his face badly, and his left eye became so infected that he was considered 'too ugly' to be on show anymore. He was brought to Ambue for treatment and, though he lost sight in both eyes, he was saved. Even after this ordeal, Juancho's favourite things are being brushed and playing with food packages provided by the volunteers. He's a loving and impressive animal, and just one of the 25 cats that live in the park.

I came away from this experience with a much greater respect for the world around me and how we interact with it. I also feel much more confident in myself. The funding and support provided by the Cameron Trust Travel Scholarship programme made my South American adventure a reality, giving me the opportunity to see a part of the world I would never otherwise have been able to visit. I will never forget visiting Ambue Ari, and I certainly hope to return.

*Isla Banerji*

*Friends of Inti Wara Yassi (FIWY) is the UK branch of the organisation and a first port of call should any reader be interested in contacting them about opportunities at the parks.*





# LIFE IN MYANMAR'S YOUNG AND FLEDGLING DEMOCRACY

So I'm in the centre of Mandalay sitting in a 'tea shop', the agreed-upon name for a cafe that predominantly serves dodgy noodles and a sickly-sweet drink that tastes almost—but not quite—like milky tea. Whilst sipping a tepid cup of this anomaly, I wonder what angle to adopt in this article. I could go down the line of 'This time on my gap yah...' and share some anecdotes about how the inadequacy of the Clydesdale Bank customer service team required me to eat a peanut butter KitKat Chunky, obliterating a solid two days of my healthy eating regime. Or I could go down a different route and tell you the story of how I was cornered by a drunk, possibly drugged, policeman armed with a nifty, 2-in-1 taser-torch device. (Don't worry, Mum—it's ok now...)

At that second (and just as I was surprised to be told that the heinous attempt at a brew sitting in front of me would be free because I was a foreigner), my topic for this article came to me in a fairly boring epiphany—soundtracked, of course, by the incessant Justin Bieber playing on the radio. I want to tell you about the Burmese/Myanmar people's astounding hospitality.

As I sip my free tea, I reflect again on how much the people here pride themselves on treating visitors—no matter if they are meeting for the first time or are close friends. When I first arrived, I had to turn down food several times simply because such overwhelming quantities were being offered to me. Even in households where the daily income is less than \$2 (USD) a day, I have been ushered to tables laden with a wide array of fried treats, snacks and my favourite, tea-leaf salad (which thankfully tastes nothing like the related beverage). While, in my broken Burmese, I try to exchange pleasantries, my hosts hurry about to make sure I am comfortable: not too hot, well-fed, that my clothes are freshly washed. Once some fellow teachers and I accidentally stumbled into a monastery on a trek up a hill; sweating and cursing the horrendous heat, we suddenly burst into a courtyard full of monks and novices. We were hastily welcomed, fed and watered by monks who possess no form of income and survive purely upon donations. After we recovered and made the decision to carry on up the hill, our new friends then surprised us by rejecting our offer of a small donation to cover the costs—we were their guests, after all. Several times now, monks, locals and fellow teachers have gone out of their way to ensure my comfort.

But, as amazing as the hospitality here is, I can almost guarantee I would have quite a different experience if I were a Rohingya Muslim.

Anyone who keeps up with international news will have read of the crisis facing the Muslim minority in the western Rakhine state of Myanmar. The conflict is complex, and the BBC website will have done a much better, more thorough job of explaining it, but I will summarise. The conflict stems from the issue of the identity of the Rohingya ethnic group, brought to Myanmar from Bangladesh as a cheap source of labour during the colonial era by none other than the occupying British force. When the 'mighty' empire withdrew from the country in the 1960s, a political and social mess was left behind. A military junta assumed power, and it began to steadily restrict and reduce the rights of the Rohingya people whom they saw (and continue to see) as Bangladeshi citizens. This is despite the fact that many of them have now been born in Myanmar. Even now, in the supposed glory days of the new 'democracy' lead by Aung San Suu Kyi (who has effectively no power in this issue since internal affairs are still controlled by the army), the Rohingya people are refused citizenship; they are massively oppressed; and neither Bangladesh nor Myanmar wants them—just because they are Muslim.

While taking to people and scrolling through Burmese Facebook, between the stories and the selfies, it is surprisingly easy to spot the anti-Muslim rhetoric stemming from all sources and being widely shared; young and old, male and female are guilty of it. As I write, I sit a mere ten minutes from the home monastery of the notorious hate preacher, U Wirathu, generally held to be responsible for inciting the past 20 years' worth of uprisings and protests against Rohingya Muslims, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

As always, however, there are two sides to the story—though the media here (and perhaps even western media) definitely forget to cover both sides. Increasing tension led to violent retaliation from the ARSA movement, a Rohingya militia, which has been responsible for attacking police stations and allegedly engaging in the murder and sexual assault of non-Muslim peoples. As a result, government forces moved into the area, initiating the mass exodus of the Rohingya people. Terrorists, it is claimed, are hiding within the droves of the innocent, and so government forces target everyone. They have been accused of severe human rights abuses on many occasions, including burning villages to the ground in what many think look like attempts at ethnic cleansing. Recently a blockade of Buddhist Rakhine inhabitants attacked a convoy of Red Cross relief workers who were delivering aid to the besieged Rohingyas trapped in



their village. This attracted the attention of the international community, which has stepped up efforts to provide aid. Unfortunately a solution to the crisis seems distant, and continued violence and an increase in protests have set the entire country on edge.

I'm not pretending to be an expert on the subject; I can only write from my experiences and the conversations I've had during my time here. But this conflict is extremely worrying, albeit certainly interesting. And as the year goes on, I will endeavour to learn more about it. It has come as a surprise to me that a country full of peace-loving, welcoming Buddhists can also harbour an extreme underlying xenophobia. As we read the news and judge the Burmese people, we must also remember (to paraphrase Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's words) that Myanmar is a young, fledgling democracy; it is a place still clearly suffering from the aftershocks of colonialism. It remains a fragile, tense, yet at the same time vibrant and wonderful place to live and work.

This country is an amazing place and, while I'm not here to change the world, I feel somehow obliged to provide some kind of analysis of the situation from within, to share the details of this confrontation, and not just dwell on my personal gap-year experiences as if this were a typical year

out. We must remember that Myanmar's troubles comes as a result of British interference, much like the Pakistan-India issue or Palestine-Israel crisis. Therefore, it must also be our duty to do what we can at home, to voice discontent and outrage at our government's visiting envoys (such as Boris Johnson) who make a mockery of the conflict here, refusing to take any responsibility for the devastating, ongoing consequences of Britain's imperialist influence in this part of the world.

As I finish this article, I also finally finish my tea, and I open my senses to the space around me. Between the roar of motorbikes and the babble of people chatting in Burmese, the person in charge of the music has put on an acoustic version of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. It is October, and this is a predominantly Buddhist country. This place continues to surprise me...

*Angus Cooper (FP 2017)*



## DUBAI GOLF TOUR 2017

In October, the school's Golf Club travelled nearly 5000 miles to play in Dubai. Among the many superlatives used, the trip was described as unforgettable, amazing and inspiring. These are all accurate. We left Glasgow in cool, fair weather and (having exhausted the multiplayer trivia quiz on the flight) we arrived in the middle of the night to a sultry 32°C. As Jamie Fulton (Form IV) put it, 'If it's this hot now, what's it going to be like playing golf in the middle of the day?'

After a few hours' sleep, the first day was spent at the Wild Wadi Water Park before an evening of golf under the Emirates Golf Club's floodlit Faldo course. Playing golf in the dark does not come naturally to us Scots, and it was a very strange experience to see one's ball disappear into the black of night only to see it reappear under the floodlights a few hundred yards later.

The following day was spent at the newly opened Trump Dubai, where we played a match against an eclectic team of FPs, parents, staff and Academy associates. Golf was given a back seat on the third day when we enjoyed a memorable visit to Jebel Ali School, followed by a desert safari. Max Dixon (Form III) said of the school visit, 'I'll be honest—I had my reservations about visiting the school, but I'm so glad we did. To see how teachers do their job and how pupils learn in this environment has really given me a different perspective on how we learn at Dollar.'

Then it was back to golf: we played at Emirates Golf Club again, firstly on the Par 3 course then on the iconic Majlis course: often hailed as the best course in the Middle East, it regularly features in the top ten courses in the world. The signature 8<sup>th</sup> hole has amazing views from tee to green.

We stopped off at a mall to admire the impressive Dubai Aquarium before going on to Dubai Creek to play a match against their Golf Youth Academy. We had acclimatised well to the conditions by that point, and this was reflected in our standard of play. The final day was rounded off with a visit to the Dubai Fort and Museum, often referred to as the best value tourist attraction in Dubai (60p to get in!).

The golf courses in Dubai are very different from the ones in Scotland and all the boys were taken aback by the quality of the courses, the level of customer service and the various activities. We have planted our Dollar flag in the sand, and we hope very much to visit Dubai again. It was an amazing trip that will linger long in the memory.

*Neil Blezard*

### Results

Dollar Academy v Emirates Golf Club Youth Academy

Loss 5-0

Dollar Academy v FPs, Parents & Associates

Win 3-2

Dollar Academy v Dubai Creek Golf Youth Academy

Win 4-1

**Overall: Played 3, Won 2, Lost 1**

Throughout the trip the boys also logged their scores with prizes to play for.

Scratch winner: Toby Smith (Form III)

Stableford winner: Gavin Hay (Form VI)

Blezard Trophy: Robbie Disborough (Form III)

Longest drive: Ryan Brown (Form VI), 358 yards



## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF: LYNSEY ALLAN

I was destined, from the moment of my birth, to play sport. Scotland were playing New Zealand in the football World Cup. Dad was watching—until my appearance interrupted things during the second half. My extended family is all boys so, when I appeared (eyes open and fists clenched, ready for battle), it was a complete surprise. No girl's name had been decided upon. During early labour Mum had been reading about Linsey Macdonald, the former Scottish sprinter. My parents loved the name, so Lynsey I am, and no less competitive than my namesake. I've been competing with my brother, Stuart, since I took my first steps and every day since. Whether playing rugby, fighting, wrestling, climbing, running, jumping, tennis, cricket, swimming, diving, I thrived on competition. When I began Primary 1, my sister, Laurie, arrived—another girl! She is now the 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey coach at George Watson's, and the sibling rivalry is alive and well.

Both my parents have sporting backgrounds. My dad was a junior internationalist in the triple jump and played district rugby for Edinburgh. Mum grew up in South Africa, playing swimming and tennis. Back in Scotland, she swam competitively at top club level. From a very young age, however, I was desperate to be a vet. I spent holidays lambing on my uncle's farm, working at the local dog boarding kennels. I kept budgies, ferrets, rabbits, Guinea pigs, hamsters and five dogs, including a 15-stone St Bernard.

Throughout primary school and early secondary I was involved in swimming, athletics, tennis, rugby and more. Sports Day used to be the highlight of the year and winning the Kinross Primary Sports Champion prize meant everything to me. At Kinross High School I finally decided that veterinary medicine was not for



me. I wasn't a bad kid, but I couldn't stop talking. Or sit still in class. I once spent an entire Standard Grade Chemistry lesson hiding in the Fume Cupboard. Worryingly, the teacher didn't even notice I was missing. My French teacher and I never quite gelled either—the only phrase I remember is 'Allez le porte!' But I still loved sport.

What I really wanted to do, I decided, was teach PE. Following poor results in fifth year, I realised

my attitude toward academics had to change. I knuckled down and won a conditional place on Moray House's B.Ed. Hons in Physical Education. Mine was not the typical laid-back sixth year. I was appointed Head Girl and selected for the Scotland U18 training squad, so I was working hard. After my disastrous fifth-year exams, I remember Mum saying, 'Failing at something teaches you to re-think your priorities, making success all the sweeter.' She was right,

and I've always been grateful for my parents' support.

Though children today sometimes begin playing at age five or six, I only began playing hockey when I was fourteen. Technically, I was quite poor but I made up for it with being quick (I was also competing for Pitreavie Athletics club). In third year I was selected for the Midland U16 hockey squad—then, in fourth year, for U18. Eventually I had to choose between hockey and athletics. I loved the team element, and the social side, of hockey, so it was an easy choice.

I soon found myself at Edinburgh University where I was also an athlete for **sportscotland's** institute of sport, benefiting from individual pitch sessions, weight and running training, nutrition and physio support. Of course, my flatmates would be out partying whilst I was training or away at international residential camps. It was not always easy. University hockey was not particularly strong at that time, but I was also a member of the Scotland U21 squad and had to be playing my best. I also played for Grange Edinburgh Ladies and most of that squad were senior players or U21 internationalists. We won the Scottish Cup two years in a row and the League title three times. At the Club Europeans in Rotterdam, we were the underdogs, facing tournament favourites, Slough, in the first game. Kate Walsh, the Olympic gold medallist, was playing centre back. We played out of our skins and somehow conquered Slough 1-0. Hard work and never giving up: success is built on those things.

My first senior international cap came against France in the Celtic Cup in 2006. Lining up beside close friends to sing the national anthem was a profoundly moving experience—and I scored in my debut international game. By then, I had a full-time teaching position at St George's School in Edinburgh, but they were very supportive, allowing me time to train and compete during term time. A training camp in South Africa came next: 3 sessions a day in 30-degree heat for 14 days. One day, we were sitting in the ice bath after training and Kelly Holmes joined us. She could not believe the volume of training we did, unpaid, and on top of a full-time job.

There were disappointments, too, of course. I was in the squad for the Melbourne Commonwealth Games but failed to make the final cut though my three best friends did. My response: work harder. Over the past 17 years, I have played National 1 hockey for Grange, Giffnock and Grove Menzieshill. I have played in eight Club European Championships. I have earned seven full senior international caps and played in the GB Super League. Hockey has allowed me to travel all over the world and make lifelong friends, too. With your teammates you share all the highs, but equally you support each other through the lows—and there are many in international sport.

I am currently a UKCC Level 2 coach and am working towards the GB Advanced Coaching qualification. I have been coaching 1<sup>st</sup> XI school squads for 13 years, though I enjoy coaching younger players too. When I couldn't compete for a time due to injury, I became head coach of my club's 2<sup>nd</sup> team,

coaching adults—which presents a whole range of different challenges. I have been heavily involved in District hockey and have led U14, U16 and U18 programmes, and I have assisted at National U16 and U18 level. I hope to lead one of the junior National sides one day.

I always had strong links with Dollar Academy and, in 2009, I joined Dollar's Physical Education Department. Four years later I was delighted to be appointed Director of Hockey. I aim to create an environment for every individual to be the best they can be—whether that is a potential senior internationalist or a child who simply enjoys the game. When working with young people in sport it is every bit as important to instil the core values of discipline, honesty, and respect as it is to improve their physical, technical and tactical ability.

I felt it would take five years to establish a hockey program at Dollar that would be one of the best in the country. We are steadily moving towards that. We have won the Scottish S3 title for the last three years but, more importantly, we field on average 19 teams every week. I would love for one of our girls to go on to represent Scotland at senior level and several of the current 1<sup>st</sup> XI have the talent and attitude to do so.

In March 2018, I am going to Stellenbosch in South Africa for two months. There, I will work in two of the top hockey schools and assist at the High Performance Centre at the Coetzenberg Sports Complex, working with the junior internationalists and the university side. I look forward to learning a great deal that will benefit Dollar Academy's hockey programme.

People often ask me 'What next?' My honest answer is, 'I don't know.' Dollar is an amazing place to work with fantastic kids; I love it here. Through all my life experiences to date, the best thing has always been to give of your best and live in the moment. So that's what I'll continue to do.

*Lynsey Allan (Director of Hockey)*





## CRICKET 2017

With three Kwik Cricket tournaments and numerous after-school practices, the **Junior 1** squad, numbering over 20 boys and girls, reached the end of the season ready for the challenges of hardball cricket. Mr Arnold and Mr Florence put the pupils through their paces and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hone their skills.

The **Junior 2** team, captained by Henry Daniels and coached by Mr Hose, saw steady improvement. Our team effort was dented with the early-season loss of wicket-keeper/batsman William Timney to a broken wrist. Our bowling attack was particularly effective with William Silcock knocking off wickets in every match. Henry Daniel's impressive cricket knowledge enabled him to select bowlers, place fielders appropriately and score runs off the bat.

We suffered our first loss against a talented Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools side in early season, but this would certainly have been a closer result if we had played later in the summer term. Our only other loss was during a tournament at Glasgow Academy where the boys could not score runs quickly enough to progress in the condensed match format. Our most exciting game of the year was our final hit-out against George Watson's College where the opposition managed to catch our 110 total, but failed to find that extra run off the final ball to force a win. It is not very often that Prep 7 boys cannot be separated after 40 overs

of cricket. Both teams certainly enjoyed this cliffhanger of a final over, but I'm not sure the parent supporters' blood pressure benefited. Well done to all the 2017 Junior 2 players; the future is bright if these boys continue to develop and demonstrate the same enthusiasm. The results speak for themselves: we won five, lost two and drew one.

One of the big strengths of the **Form 1** squad last season was its depth and variety. Twenty-five different pupils represented the team at various points, and critical wickets were taken by the third, fourth and even fifth bowlers. There were some very tight matches, too: remember beating George Heriot's School by one wicket or the winning run that came against Stewart's Melville College on the last ball with no more wickets in hand. Under the expert guidance of Mr JP Ward, the squad ended the season with six wins, two losses and three cancelled matches.

Will Reid had an outstanding season behind the stumps, taking some important catches and run-outs, but also being very quick to stumpings, keeping the opposition batsmen on their toes. Our batting attack was very strong; high scores were posted regularly by Daniel Pearson, Jamie Walker and Alex Tilsley. Our bowling attack was even better, and Alex Turlik caused particular difficulty for the opposition batsmen. Charlie Saunders, Tom Milling Smith and Joshie Matthews provided very capable support with both bat and ball.



The 2017 season was a very successful and enjoyable one for the **Form II** cricket team, ably coached and umpired by Mr Gallagher and 'Mr Buck' (Adam Buchanan-Smith). They boast an unbeaten record, winning all five games played; unfortunately, a further five games had to be cancelled. Twenty boys turned out regularly; effort and enthusiasm were, undoubtedly, contributing factors to the boys' excellent season, and every member of the Form II Cricket Club played a part in the overall success. Two highlights, which back this statement up, require special mention: the first was a victory over Merchiston Castle which saw Jamie Cairns and Craig Sharpe produce an excellent partnership after a poor start, enabling Dollar to finish on an impressive 161 for 5. Tight and tidy bowling by Fraser Laing unsettled the Merchiston batsmen early on, and this was backed up by excellent work in the field and a very impressive run-out by Ollie Brown. Merchiston finished on 120 for 7, Dollar recording a 41-run victory. The second highlight was the partnership between Ben Buchanan-Smith and Nicholas Mitchell against George Heriot's. The look on Nicholas' face as he hit the winning runs in that match will remain in Mr Gallagher's memory for years to come.

Last season was almost an excellent one for the **Form III Colts**, with four wins and two very close defeats that could easily have been wins. Helped by the excellent coaching of Mr Shaw in the nets and running fielding drills, every pupil's cricket skills improved. Away wins against The High School of Dundee and Strathallan School were followed by further wins against The High School of Glasgow and George Watson's College; these were sandwiched by close matches against Stewart's Melville and Merchiston Castle School which were lost by only a dozen runs or so.

Individual highlights of the season included, without doubt, Umar Rasul's bowling against George Watson's: 4 overs bowled, 6 wickets for only 9 runs; this included a hat-trick in his first over. Another bonus was being able to attend the Scotland v Namibia match at the Grange CC in Edinburgh in May. Euan Smith has taken a large number of wickets with his accuracy. Jamie Cairns has also played a major part in several good performances with both his spin and his quick hitting. The most runs were scored at the top of the order by Ewan Moore, and the best catching was by Alex 'Safe Hands' Mair. Alexei Schellenberg's wicket-keeping has made a difference to the fielding performance, ably supported by Ruari Scott. The team, when short of numbers, was supported by very capable Form II players. At the end of the season, the side took part in the ESMS 10's Tournament in Edinburgh. They enjoyed a good win against Edinburgh Academy and, despite losing, they fought hard in a match against hosts, Stewart's Melville College.

*Jamie Frost*





## SENIOR CRICKET SEASON 2017: A CAPTAIN'S PERSPECTIVE

It was with much anticipation that the **1<sup>st</sup> XI** embarked on the 2017 season. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side, and matches against Edinburgh Academy and Glenalmond in May and Tayside and Fife and Glasgow Academy in June were all cancelled.

We saw a good result against The High School of Dundee in our first match; we won easily by ten wickets. This was followed up with one of our best wins of the summer: we beat Strathallan by 63 runs in a midweek match. The next Saturday, however, ended in a disappointing loss to Strathallan, this time in the 20-20 competition. The Strathallan batsmen were better that day; we needed more runs and we lost vital wickets at certain moments in the game. The side held a team meeting afterward to talk through the stats from the game. We made decisions that would improve

things: rotating the strike to relieve perceived pressure to hit big shots; getting into better body positions for making vital stops on the boundary; and remembering to bowl to the field.

The mixed game against Dollar Cricket Club in early May was a huge success. The match went down to the last over; everyone enjoyed the experience. In the final encounter between the teams, the Academy side bowled the Dollar CC out for 68 and achieved this total for just 3 wickets.

A strong MCC side arrived mid-May and scored 220 for 4 before declaring after lunch. The boys found batting against the opening fast bowler, Greaves, a real challenge but it was the MCC captain, Ryan Watson, who did the damage, taking 6 for 11 in seven overs. The lunch and tea were delightful, and the whole day was a great experience.

There were further wins against the XL Club, George



## GIRLS' CRICKET

In recent years, the girls' Cricket Club has focused on developing younger players coming through the school, and with more than 20 girls from the Prep and Junior School playing cricket regularly in the summer term, the future development of the club is looking good.

A team of Junior 1 and 2 girls took part in The Mary Erskine School's U12 Kwik Cricket Tournament on Saturday 10 June. After a damp start, the girls played very well in all their games, comfortably winning their first two matches against teams from Mary Erskine with the help of some excellent batting and bowling. In the first game, the Dollar girls scored 59 runs in their 8 overs without losing any wickets and, in the second game, they scored 78 runs with only two wickets lost. In the final pool match, they faced a strong team from George Watson's College. The Dollar team bowled and fielded well to restrict the Watson's team to a mere 35 runs with no wickets lost, but some very accurate bowling and a superb catch from Watson's enabled them to emerge victorious. Once the results of the games in both pools were combined, the Dollar team ended up in a very creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

A strong group of players now exists in Form I. They should be able to further develop the skills they have learned through Kwik Cricket, and begin to enter senior school tournaments next season.

*Catherine Childs*

Heriot's and The High School of Glasgow over the summer term, with some terrific bowling displays from Ben Pearson (then Form VI), who took a hat trick in the XL Club game, and from Lewis McLaren (then Form V), who became the first bowler for several years to take five wickets in a game during The High School of Glasgow match.

The Rector's XI match saw the return of a number of FPs, including the Weir brothers and five 1<sup>st</sup> XI captains: Nick Alston (FP 2006), George Buchanan Smith (FP 2011), Rory Weir (FP 2013), Harry Warr (FP 2016) and Michael Adamson (FP 2002). The match was played in excellent spirit with the Rector's side winning by 17 runs after some very accurate off-spin bowling from Nick Alston (then Form VI) and Gus Warr (then Form V).

Overall, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI season was a success despite the disappointment of losing the cup to Strathallan when we had beaten them previously. The team showed great character and commitment throughout the season. I never believed we were ever going to lose a game. It has been a pleasure playing alongside the boys who represented the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Special mention must go to Toby Douglas (then Form VI), who won the batting prize; Lewis McLaren, who won the bowling prize and Cameron Moore (then Form VI) who won the fielding prize. I will miss playing with all of them, but especially last season's sixth-years with whom I have played since Junior 2. I wish them the best of luck and hope they keep on playing. To the younger pupils coming up into senior cricket, I wish you all the best in the years ahead. I hope you derive as much enjoyment from cricket at Dollar as I did during my time at the Academy.

*Lachlan Peterson (2016/2017 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain, then Form VI)*



## DOLLAR PLAYERS SELECTED FOR THE WEST SQUADS

After some pulsating regional games, seven Dollar players were selected in their respective age groups to play for the West in an East v West rugby contest, thereby moving one step closer to national recognition.

Four U16 players: Michael Gray, Ross McKnight, Dougal Sands and Max Williamson (all Form IV) played well for Caledonia at the BT Sport Academy Finals Day on 13 August where, at the home of Scottish Rugby, Scotland's top young rugby talent went head-to-head. Caledonia came out on top, winning the regional final 64-31 against Glasgow and the West.

'Winger Ross McKnight scored five of his side's ten tries to help bring the curtain down on a fine night for the region that saw his efforts accompanied by a further score from centre Michael Gray,' according to the Scottish Rugby website article about the match. At the time of writing, the four Dollar boys are looking forward to the U16 East v West games scheduled for 15 and 22 October.

Following in the U16 players' footsteps, three Dollar U18 players also moved closer toward selection into the national squad. Tom Morris, Lachlan Kelly and Jordan Miller (all Form VI) were selected for the West U18 squad after very strong performances in the regional finals.

Winger Jordan Miller (called a 'powerhouse' by the SRU) was very pleased with his performance. He registered a hat-trick as Caledonia won the BT Sport Academy U18 Final with a convincing seven-try win over Glasgow and the West



(49-20). The U18 East v West showdown also took place in October, after this article was written.

We look forward to hearing about the results of both U16 and U18 contests in *Fortunas* 41.

Don Caskie  
Photographs courtesy of SNSPix/Scottish Rugby



## PROGRESS TO THE U18 SCOTTISH SCHOOLS NATIONAL CUP

### Dollar Academy 1<sup>st</sup> XV v Musselburgh Grammar School, 76-0

Twelve unanswered tries separated the two sides in a rather one-sided, third-round U18 Scottish Schools National Cup encounter against a very spirited Musselburgh Grammar School side. The match took place on Wednesday 27 September in Musselburgh.

Early mistakes and a lack of urgency meant that it was a good 20 minutes before Jordan Miller settled the nerves, crossing the whitewash for the first try of the game, duly converted by Lachlan Kelly (both Form VI).

From here on it was one-way traffic with a steady stream of tries, taking Dollar into a 45-0 half-time lead. Finn McIlwraith (Form V) led the charge with another fine hat-trick, whilst Amo Citro, Reece McAllister (both Form VI) and Rob Alexander (Form V) all bagged one apiece before the half-time whistle.

This was the cue to empty the Dollar bench and give as many players as possible valuable game time. Amo Citro darted through for his second try, quickly followed by Calum Busby and Zak McMorran (both Form V). Jordan Miller finished his afternoon's work with a fine brace of tries, and Captain Gus Warr (Form VI) brought the game to a close with a final try of his own resulting in an emphatic 76-0 victory in this third round of the National Cup.

### Dollar Academy 1<sup>st</sup> XV v Loretto School, 45-3

Then, on Tuesday 10 October, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV made it safely through to the quarter-finals of the National Cup with a comprehensive 7-try victory over Loretto School.

Despite the flattering score line, Dollar made early hard work of it against a spirited and adventurous Loretto outfit. Indeed, it was Loretto that looked the more impressive in the initial exchanges and camped themselves in the Dollar twenty-two after some sloppy and inaccurate play from the Dollar boys. Nerves and lethargy combined saw Dollar on the wrong side of the referee as the penalty count mounted and a yellow card looked almost inevitable.

Suddenly the threat of being reduced to 14 men galvanised the Dollar team into action, forcing Loretto to make their first mistake. Dollar capitalised cruelly upon this error, taking the ball the length of the pitch and allowing Reece McAllister to dive over near to the posts. Lachlan Kelly made no mistake with the extras, taking the score to 7-0.

Loretto's resolve did not waver, but Dollar's next two scores were carbon copies of the first. Dollar pounced ruthlessly on two more Loretto mistakes, scoring at the other end through the deadly finisher, Finn McIlwraith. Lachlan Kelly stroked the ball over both times, and a shell-shocked Loretto found themselves 21-0 down having thrown everything at Dollar to no avail.

Finn McIlwraith had not finished his first half-try fest and cleverly rounded off the try of the game: a flowing, multi-phase team effort that completely outfoxed the desperate Loretto defence. His hat-trick try could not be converted, and Dollar went into the half-time break 26-3 ahead.

Dollar were now well and truly in control and, despite the valiant attempts of Loretto to run things, the Dollar defence was just too strong.

Dollar emptied the bench to give valuable playing time to everyone and continued to score tries. Finn McIlwraith scored a fourth, capping off a fine display of clinical finishing, and Amo Citro bagged a brace. Lachlan Kelly and Gus Warr added a conversion each, taking the final score to 45-3.

Although the final outcome was comprehensive enough, the Dollar players know that they will have to up their levels of concentration and performance going into the next round.

We wish them well and look forward to offering the results of this Scottish Schools National Cup run in the next edition.

*Don Caskie*

*Photographs courtesy of Mike Robins*





## FORM 3A SQUAD WIN MIDLAND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AGAIN

Congratulations to Mr McLeod and the Form 3A squad that won the Midland District Tournament on Tuesday 12 September for the fourth year in a row. The tournament was hosted by The High School of Dundee.

'I am delighted for Mr McLeod and the girls,' said Miss Allan (Director of Hockey). 'They work extremely hard and have had a great start to the season. They are unbeaten so far with wins against some tough opposition including Hutchesons' Grammar School. This victory will give them a huge boost in confidence for the rest of the season, including the league and Scottish Cup games.'

### Midland District Tournament Scores:

- Won 2-0 v St Leonards School
- Won 1-0 v Strathallan School
- Won 1-0 v The High School of Dundee
- Won 2-1 v Glenalmond College
- Won 4-0 v Morrison's Academy
- Won 2-0 v Kilgraston School

### Squad (all Form III):

- Rebecca Hogg (Captain)
- Virginia Carman
- Joni Dalrymple
- Elizabeth Deekae
- Emma Dunsire
- Milly Hamilton
- Emma Leslie
- Olivia Litster
- Ruby Martyn
- Poppi Roberts
- Rachel Stewart
- Rosie Stewart
- Hannah Taylor
- Eleanor Trace
- Rachel Leslie



## MIDLAND U18 WIN NATIONAL INTER-DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Midland U18 won the national Inter-District Tournament held at the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow over the weekend of 30 September - 1 October 2017. Dollar players played a huge part in this success; an impressive six members of the Dollar Academy 1<sup>st</sup> XI play for the Midland squad.

Jenny Walls (1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain, Form VI), Georgia Smith and Erin Stevens (1<sup>st</sup> XI Vice Captains, both Form VI) played as well as Susie Green (Form VI), Eve Pearson (Form V) and goalkeeper, Sam Robertson (Form VI). The squad were unbeaten all weekend and congratulations must go to Erin Stevens who was Midland's top goal scorer. The results of that weekend's matches speak for themselves:

Won 5-0, Midland v South West  
 Won 5-0, Midland v North  
 Won 2-0, Midland v West  
 Draw 1-1, Midland v East  
 Won 3-0, Midland v South

Dollar also had three squad members selected for the Midland U16 squad that finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the same tournament. Congratulations to Lucy Smith, Rhiannon Carr and Amy Salmon (all Form IV). Lucy Smith was selected to captain the Midland district squad, a fantastic and well-deserved achievement. Rachel Leslie (Form III) was selected for the Midland/East/West combined squad. All the girls acted as excellent representatives of the school throughout the District programme.





## FUTURES CUP

On 23 August the Scottish Caledonian Cougars arrived in St Albans for the English Futures Cup. This competition brings together teams across different regions in England, as well as a Welsh and a Scottish team. Remarkably, seven Dollar pupils were there representing Scotland across all age groups from U15 to U17: Lucy Smith (From IV), Eve Pearson (Form V), Jenny Walls, Georgia Smith, Erin Stevens (all Form VI), Daniel Pearson (Form II) and Alex Wilson (Form IV). Ben Pearson (FP 2017) also represented the boys' U17 side.

In the U17 age group the girls started solidly when they drew 4-4 against the English Wessex Leopards, putting them in a good position in their pool. On the second day, they went up against the Welsh Celtic Jaguars. To come top of their pool, they had to either win or draw with a score higher than 1-1. After a tense game, the girls pulled off a 2-0 victory to put them safely through to the finals on the last day.

The final took place on the 27 August at 7pm, and the Cougars faced the English Saxon Tigers. It was another tense game with many shots on goal for both teams, but at full time the score was 0-0, which meant it had to go to a shoot-out. This finished dramatically and the match went to the Saxon Tigers 4-3, resulting in well-earned silver medals for the Scottish girls.

Lucy Smith captained her U15 squad, and they started off with a 0-0 draw against the Mercia Lynx. The team then played the Saxon Tigers, a strong team throughout the age groups in both the girls' and the boys' squads. The girls, unfortunately, lost 6-0 to this very successful team. This meant that the girls dropped into the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place play-off on the final day. They faced the Welsh Celtic Jaguars and pulled off an impressive 3-0 victory at the end of the tournament, all quite pleased with their 5<sup>th</sup> place. This was a good result against the organised English teams, who had played and trained together far longer than the Scottish girls had been able to.

The boys' U15 squad included two Dollar boys: Daniel Pearson and Alex Wilson. Alex Wilson was also captain of his Scotland side. The boys started the tournament

against the well-organised Wessex Leopards, suffering an unlucky 8-0 loss. Their second match was against another strong team, the Mercia Lynx, who beat the Scottish boys convincingly 5-1. This meant that the Scotland boys also went on to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place play-off where they faced the Welsh Celtic Jaguars. The boys were extremely unlucky in losing that match, 4-3; the teams were very well matched and either team could have won. The scoreline does not reflect the hard work or the fine hockey played that day against the more experienced, and often older, English boys. With the help of Ben Pearson, the Scotland U17 boys finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place with an impressive 5-2 win over the Welsh side.

*Jenny Walls (Captain 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Form VI)*

## ON THE HOCKEY PITCH AT THE UK SCHOOL GAMES

Scotland's U18 hockey squad competed in the UK School Games at Loughborough University. There were five teams in the pool: Ulster, Scotland and three England teams (England Blue, Red and White), and I was delighted to play for Scotland.

The environment at Loughborough was brilliant; the facilities were amazing and everything—whether the opening ceremony, the athletes' lounge or the '100% Me' talk—was well organised, informative and fun.

We made good progress over each game and we all improved each day, despite playing against very tough opposition. Unfortunately we did not manage to win any of our games, but we learned a great deal over the course of the tournament, developing skills which will be important in the coming season. It was an invaluable experience and I had a brilliant time playing for the team.

*Erin Stevens*





## DOLLAR AT THE UK SCHOOL GAMES

The UK School Games are a much-anticipated, annual, four-day multisport series of events that bring together elite-level school athletes competing across 12 separate sports. The Games too place at Loughborough University from 31 August to 3 September, and the state-of-the-art sports venue allowed the organisers, Youth Sport Trust, to create ‘an inspirational and motivational setting which helps accustom the country’s most promising young athletes to a high-quality, high- pressure environment.’ This year, Dollar sent a large number of young athletes to the Games, and they put in some exceptional performances.

Kirstin Lawrie (Form V, pictured on right in photo opposite) represented Scotland in swimming. After a very powerful performance, she walked away with a gold medal in the 4 x 200m freestyle relay team. Kirstin swims in Falkirk for FIRST, and trains every day. Her talent has long been in evidence, and so it was no surprise that she swam the opening leg and reached the wall first, allowing her team to go on to win the event. Her team was crowned the UK School Games Champion in a new Scottish Junior record time. Kirstin also won joint bronze in the 100m butterfly. Keir Edgar (Form V), another talented and committed Dollar swimmer, also competed well. He came away with a bronze in the boys’ 4 x 100m medley relay and a silver medal in the mixed 4 x 100m medley relay.

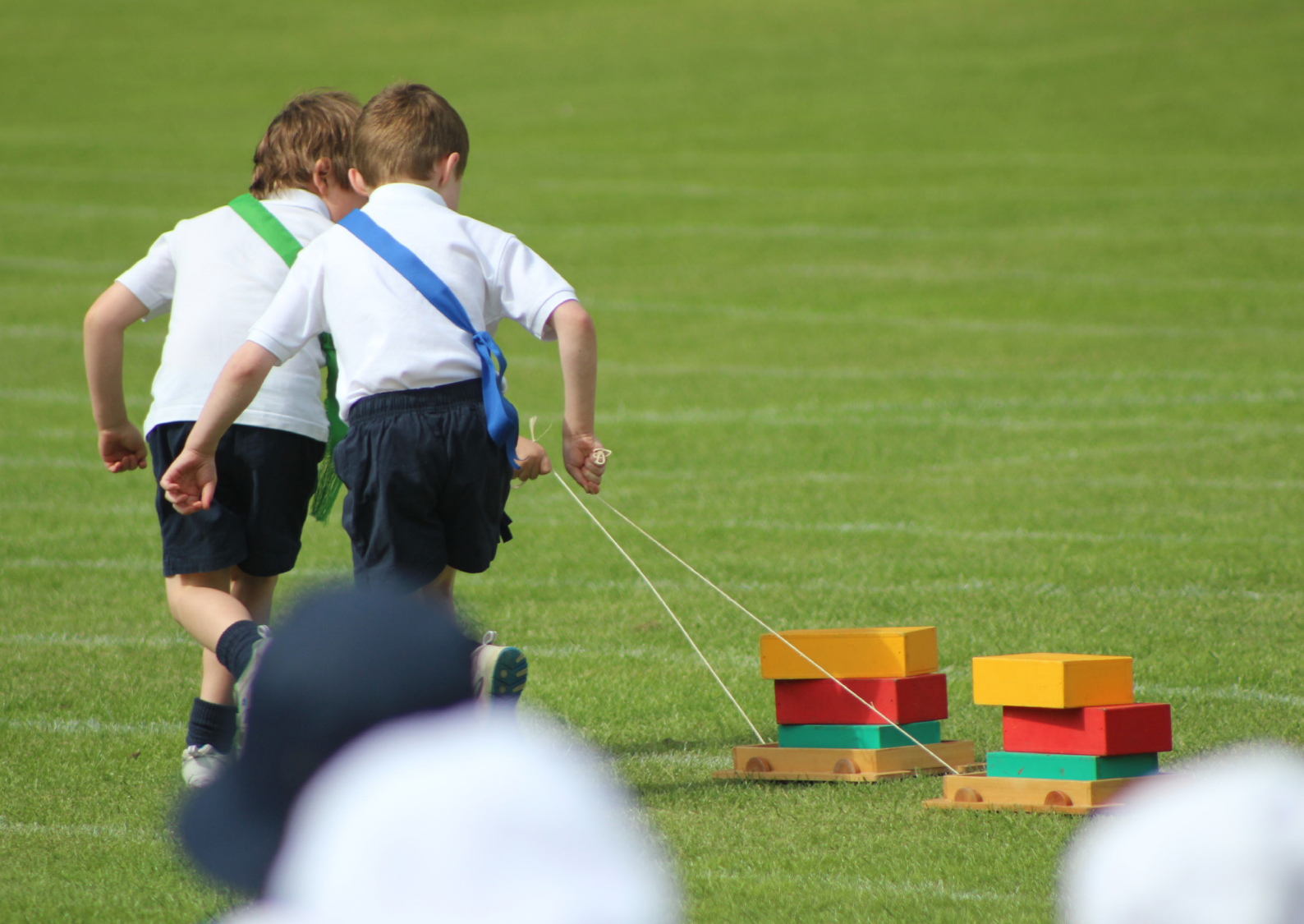
Emma Mailer (Form IV), who achieved so much in the Celtic Games international event in Dublin, added to her season’s medal tally. She raced away to a bronze in the 300m hurdles and an impressive silver medal in the 4 x 300m relay.

Cameron Reid-Thomas (Form V, pictured second from left in photo opposite) competed very well indeed against older opposition in judo, finishing with a gold medal in the Under-81 kg category. He also competed in the team event (representing Scotland), and his team only narrowly lost to England in the final.

Erin Stevens (Form VI) also competed at the event, representing Scotland on the hockey pitch (see article on opposite page).

*Heather Moore*





# Dollar Sports Day

The Dollar Sports Days, culminating in Senior School Sports Day at Sports Weekend, are a highlight of the year for pupils, staff and parents alike. This year, the three events once again offered some tremendous displays of athletic prowess. The weather was kind; the audience, vociferous in their appreciation of the pupils' efforts. The events ran smoothly, and staff were always on hand to direct, record, encourage, cheer and celebrate.

Prep School Sports Day took place on Thursday 22 June and featured the usual races, both serious and fun. The original Dollar trolley race, the egg-and-spoon race, and the flower race offered some very endearing and light-hearted competition, whilst the running races gave spectators a glimpse of the girls and boys who will, no doubt, claim podium positions on Senior School Sports Days to come.

Junior School Sports Day took place on Friday 23 June, and pupils and parents joined in the hearty celebration of the many battles and triumphs that took place on the

itches. Paige Stevens (then Junior 2) was one of the stars of the day, breaking the school records for both Girls' Hurdles and Shot. Scott Huntly (then Junior 2) also broke the record for Boys' Hurdles.

Senior School Sports Day took place on the Saturday of Sports Weekend, 24 June. There were some furiously fought contests, shows of forceful and raw determination and countless illustrations of the sheer grace and power of trained physical movement. Here, too, school records fell. In the Intermediate Girls Shot, Deborah Deekae (then Form III) broke the school record, and this was immediately followed by Lucy Smith (then Form III) who broke Deborah's new record. And the Pipe Band, of course, provided a fittingly glorious backdrop of sound and visual splendour.

'But the highlight of the weekend,' said Mr Newton, 'was probably in the Senior Boys' Javelin, where Micah Shepherd (then Form VI) broke a 60-year old record, setting a remarkable new mark of 61.48 metres. He was the very deserving winner of the Waters Trophy as a result—the very trophy donated by Mr John T. Waters, who himself had held that record since 1957.'

*Heather Moore*

*Photographs by Chris Cairns and Heather Moore*

**Junior School Sports Day Champions**

- Junior 1 Girls (Reece McAllister Cup)  
Riley Thomson
- Junior 1 Boys (Reece McAllister Cup)  
Archie Dayman
- Junior 2 Girls (Wilson Cup)  
Paige Stevens
- Junior 2 Boys (Cameron Quaich)  
Scott Huntly

**Sports Weekend Champions**

- Form I Girls (Williamson Cup)  
Hannah Young
- Form I Boys (Sweet Cup)  
Lyle Hunter
- Intermediate Girls (Scott Cup)  
Lucy Smith (then Form III)
- Intermediate Boys (NCB Trophy)  
Euan Smith (then Form III)
- Senior Girls (Heyworth Cup)  
Erin Stevens (then Form V)
- Senior Boys (Edina Trophy)  
Charlie Dineen (then Form VI)





## RUNNING IS...

Running. It is the most universal sport in the world. As Mr Johns puts it, ‘You get out what you put in.’ Running Club is not just an after-school activity attended to complete the physical section of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. Running is an experience. The feeling of gulping down a fresh breath of air, swinging your arms and legs in the sun (or, more often, in the rain) and trying to control your breathing so that you don’t get a stitch: these are the things that runners live for. It can be a struggle to go out there for the first time and test your fitness but, as Nike so aptly puts it, you have to ‘just do it’. Once your lungs start pumping and your blood starts to flow, a sense of euphoria comes over you. After every run, you feel inspired to achieve more, become still fitter and eat healthier—or so they say.

Running is indeed one of the most physically beneficial sports that you can do. You would have to be crazy if you didn’t go for a run at least once in the beautiful scenery on offer in Scotland—no less in Dollar. When I want to give up, when I have no more energy left in me, when all I want to do is start walking, I just keep pushing. I keep pushing myself to run further, run faster, climb steeper hills, beat personal bests, or even to just make it home without stopping to walk. Running to me is the reminder that I really can keep going, which, during exams, is a great motivator. The simple feeling of accomplishment I get from running that last mile, or sprinting those last 100 meters, or even climbing that final hill, is rewarding beyond any extent imaginable.

Running is dedication, motivation, and most importantly, the ability to just get out there. It is said that the hardest part of running is taking the first step for a reason. With a strong team behind you, a team that includes the many teachers at Dollar who regularly run with the club every week, there should be no reason, if you are physically able, not to give running a try—even if it is just the one time.

*Alasdair Jardine (Form VI)*



## ON THE SLOPES

On 28 September Dollar’s young skiers competed in the SSSA Autumn Dual Slalom Firpark Qualifier, organised by Snowsport Scotland, at Firpark Ski Centre in Tillicoultry. Dollar finished in first and second place in the Primary race, and so the pressure was on for the other teams.

After some excellent racing, the Dollar A and B teams finished level on points and faced a ski-off to decide the gold medal. Having already raced against each other twice (with one win each), the Dollar B team finished just ahead of the Dollar A team in a very close race. The B team consisted of Lauren Rae, Ruairidh Blyth, Freddie Horn (all Form I) and Imogen Patchett (Form II), whilst the A team included Archie Kelly (Form II), Emma Howat, Max Dixon and Archie MacKechnie (all Form III).

Both teams qualified for the Dual Slalom Finals that took place at the Snow Factor, in Glasgow, after the time of writing. We look forward to hearing the results of that final competition.

*Milo MacDermot*



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Data protection laws are changing and this will significantly change the way we communicate with you.

When you receive further information from us later this year, you must reply, giving consent, to ensure that you continue to receive communications from us.

*Kirsty Molnar  
(FP Registrar)*

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## **‘THE SEDUCTIVE AND THE UNSETTLING...’ RACHEL MACLEAN (FP 2005) TAKES THE ART WORLD BY STORM**

Rachel Maclean (FP 2005) is one of Scotland’s most talked-about young artists, having recently received attention and acclaim (and ever more commissions) from all quarters for her compelling, eye-catching and provocative work.

Following a BA in Drawing and Painting at Edinburgh College of Art, she moved to Glasgow where she now uses green-screen technology to produce digital videos. Her films combine an eclectic and colourful mixture of references to popular culture, children’s television programmes, horror movies, British comedy, video games, reality TV and YouTube videos. The Tate Gallery writes that her ‘work is defined by a constant back and forth between the seductive and the unsettling, revealing behind her candy-coloured, fantastical fictions a much darker reality.’

In recent months Rachel represented Scotland at the 57<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, the Venice Biennale, which opened on 13 May and ran until 26 November. Her film commission, *Spite Your Face*, ran as a large-scale portrait projection at the altar of a deconsecrated church in Venice, the Chiesa di Santa Caterina. The ‘dark Venetian fairy tale’ runs in a continuous loop in a space where the windows have been blacked out, light extinguished and the altar replaced with a huge vertical screen on which the video plays. ‘Entering is a moment of wonder,’ reads a review in *The Skinny*, ‘stepping into the darkness as the sound of one of Maclean’s signature twisted musical soundtracks suffuses the space.’

Rachel was also one of three top Scottish artists commissioned to produce grand-scale murals of Billy Connolly in celebration of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Each more than



16m high, the murals are displayed in locations around Glasgow; Rachel’s can be seen in Gallowgate. A BBC One Scotland programme, ‘Billy Connolly: Portrait of a Lifetime’, aired in June and featured clips of his conversations with Rachel and the other artists. Rachel’s mural is a digital print of Billy Connolly in a specially-created outfit, replete with motifs from his career such as ‘mini bike parked in bum’ epaulettes, a sporran with an ‘aged’ nose sprouting hair and make-up reflecting his famous ‘pale blue Scotsman’ joke. Rachel commented that, ‘There is a kind of responsibility representing Billy because he is so well-known. He is this kind of national treasure within Scotland.’ The original artworks are on exhibition at the People’s Palace, alongside excerpts from the documentary.

This autumn, Rachel very kindly took time out from her intensely busy schedule to speak at length with Carena Dickens and Iona Peterson—both Form VI pupils who plan to go on to study Art themselves. Having the opportunity to interview Rachel Maclean was a tremendous pleasure and a privilege for these aspiring young artists; their interview is printed here.

Heather Moore  
Photograph courtesy of Patrick Rafferty  
(Scotland+Venice 2017)



## RACHEL MACLEAN: INTERVIEW WITH AN ARTIST

**Looking back at your school days, what memories do you have from your time at Dollar?**

I was taught by Cath Kelly and Tamsen Croft [now Livingstone]—they were really great, really supportive and had so much energy. I remember Art begin so much fun; we did so many different things. There was always this sense of learning so much, being supported and pushed along with your ideas. That was the best thing about school for me.

**When you left Dollar you began studying painting and drawing at university. What made you move toward using film as a medium?**

I was always into filming stuff when I was wee. I filmed on home video cameras and was obsessive about the magic of video and film before I got more into painting. Then, at Art College, I discovered green screen. The frustration I always had with film was about how banal it looked, but green screen allowed me to take some of the ideas I had and cut them up and work them into what felt like moving-image collages.

**Who has been the most significant influence on you as an artist?**

When I was at school I really liked Cubism, Surrealism. I was obsessed with Giorgio de Chirico. When I left school, I got into performance art and American video artists such as Paul McCarthy, Mike Kelley and Cindy Sherman—I liked that exploration of identity, and often childhood, in popular culture. I've been influenced by a lot of quite surrealist, British comedy—*League of Gentlemen*, *The Mighty Boosh*—and I went to lots of the Edinburgh Festival comedy shows. My work references many different genres and media.

**What particular obstacles did you face in your journey toward becoming a professional artist, and how did you overcome these?**

It's not that easy to be an artist. There is no easy model to follow in terms of how to actually make money—and making money is the real problem. I was lucky when I graduated to get opportunities to do expressions and commissions, but very often these came without pay or with very little pay. That's been the hardest thing—and probably still is to a certain extent. But I've been lucky recently to get commissions where I'm paid a bit better; there's a better culture in the arts now, reflecting the fact that artists need to be paid.

**The imagery in your work is very saturated; what draws you toward this rather than a more minimalist approach?**

I am naturally attracted to things that are complex: imagery that is seductively full of stuff, but also complexly full of stuff. When I first got to Art College, they told me to reduce everything down to its essence so as to discover some pure, essential idea or form. I gradually found that, actually, you couldn't reduce things down to their essence because the essence of your idea wasn't one thing. In a sense your idea was in the complexity and in the relationship between all these complex bits and pieces. Scotland has a Protestant culture—a very iconoclastic, visual culture—and often people's response to imagery that feels baroque or over-the-top is one of resistance or repulsion or disgust. I quite like that response. I like the fact that you can create imagery that can be read to be seductive or over-the-top or repulsive—imagery that often tips over from being purely visually attractive and seductive to something more uncomfortable.

**Why, in most of your work, do you play all of the different characters?**

It started with my interest in performance art and that tradition of performing yourself, of being in your work. Then I gradually got into dressing up—this ability to change yourself into different people. I was reading a lot about gender being a masquerade, our sense of identity being a quite slippery thing. It was also just good fun. I enjoyed being able to perform these kind of grotesque characters. I like the absurdity of it. I like when people realise that it's all me and hadn't notice before. I like that the film takes place in this quite self-enclosed world that couldn't be re-created in reality. I want to talk about the idea that we live in a culture which has begun to celebrate narcissism and obsessive self-reflection. We all (now that Facebook and social media exist) edit our identities so much. We have an identity in real life, and we also have this highly edited, constructed alter-ego that exists online, that we carefully place to represent the best parts of us and hide the worst parts. This sense of identity being fractured and complex is something we all live with now.

**What was your favourite film to make and why?**

They're always a mixture of being really fun and really stressful. I liked making *The Lion and the Unicorn* because we shot it in Traquair House in the Borders, a beautiful historical home. It was a peaceful and beautiful environment to be in, and I remember it fondly. When you get to go somewhere and shoot, it's always fun. The shoots I've done on green screen have been good fun, too, but the stress can overwhelm the fun—when you're trying to get through so much and you're running out of money. I love it when you have an idea—you've got it on paper and you've got it in your head— and then you see it coming together onscreen. It suddenly feels like all the stuff you've been working on for so many months has been brought together and realised. Every project is fun when you get to the end.



*'Spite Your Face', 2017*  
Still from Digital video courtesy of the artist, Rachel Maclean.  
Commissioned by Alchemy Film & Arts for Scotland + Venice at the 57th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia 2017.  
The Scotland + Venice exhibition was curated by Alchemy Film & Arts in partnership with Talbot Rice Gallery and the University of Edinburgh.

**What was it like to exhibit at the Tate Modern and show your film at the Venice Biennale?**

We once went to the Tate on a school trip, so it was quite surreal to be showing there. Interesting, because they do have quite a big audience, and I'm always excited by more people seeing my work and hearing the responses. Venice was the same; it was just such an amazing thing to do. It was great to be able to write a script based on the experience of Venice. I got to select the venue for the work to be shown there. And it got some nice responses too; a very wide international audience attends the Biennale. It was a lot of work, but really exciting.





### What was it about Venice that influenced your latest piece?

There was kind of a mixture of influences. I wrote the script shortly after Brexit and after Donald Trump became president: it felt a kind of scary moment. Politics had shifted very dramatically, and I was partly thinking through that. I am also interested in the luxury tourism in Venice. It's a place that rich people go on holiday—it's full of Guccis and Pradas. I wanted to use imagery that related to a kind of Renaissance or Baroque Venice, but also images that related to the city's luxury tourism market—and also partly to do with the Venice Biennale. It is, in itself, an event that attracts a lot of incredibly rich people. So it was interesting to talk about that concentration of wealth, whilst also talking about some ideas that were manifesting themselves in a wider way, politically, in Europe and in America.

### How do you think your work might change or impact upon its audience? Do you think your work attracts a particular audience?

When a work of art affects you, it's often something that you don't realise until later. You see something—maybe an object from an exhibition—and then a couple of weeks later you see that object or idea reflected back at you from real life, and suddenly you see real life slightly differently. That's what I hope my work can do. I take things from popular culture—very recognisable imagery and scenes—and then I do something with it that shifts or talks about or reflects on it somehow. And, hopefully, when someone goes back to, say, watching *Britain's Got Talent* or reading *Pinocchio*, they'll see some reference point in the back of their mind—there's perhaps still some remnant of your work or your film that makes them reflect on it differently.

### What comes next in your career?

I'm working on a new film. I've started writing the script just now; it's going to be shot in November and will be out the middle of next year. It's going to be partly shot on location, and I'm going to work with actors. It's going to be on a slightly bigger scale, in terms of the production, than what I've done before. I'm looking forward to getting started on it! I am also showing the film I made for Venice, *Spite your Face*, at Talbot Rice Gallery (part of Edinburgh University). [This exhibition, the film's UK premiere, will run from 24 February - 5 May 2018]

### What do you think is the importance of art in the world is today?

Art's really important and it's not given enough credit. So much of our experience of visual culture is through advertising—platforms like Facebook, pretty much a massive advertising company. So much visual information is fed to us with the objective of tricking us into buying something. The value of art is that it's a space you can use to reflect upon visual culture and think intelligently about images and image-making. Hopefully, it lets us critique and examine this visual culture we live in—a culture where you can't see or believe a news report without seeing an image that substantiates it. We live in a very visual culture, and we need art as a way to reflect upon and critique that.

### What advice or words of inspiration would you give to young people like ourselves who are applying to art school and thinking of becoming artists?

To be an artist you've got to love making art. You have to hang onto that and not be too influenced or pushed into making or doing things that are not what you want to do. Going to Art College is about finding what it is that you really care about, what you're interested in, what it is that you're angry about and then starting to make work about that. That almost insatiable desire to express something is what keeps you going. It's always trying to think of new things to do, always trying to change what you're doing, always experimenting and not getting too stuck in one way of working. Art College is great fun because of the teaching and the support, but it is even more exciting because of all the people you meet who've come from different places, with different experiences and ideas. You get so much from the social experience of Art College: working with other people, finding out what their ideas are, and getting involved with those people. These are the people you'll be working with ten years down the line, the ones who'll be supporting you. Finding that network is important.

*Iona Peterson and Carezza Dickens (both Form VI)*

*'Feed Me', 2013*

*Still from Digital video courtesy of the artist, Rachel Maclean  
 Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella and British Art Show 8  
 with support from Creative Scotland.*





## EXCERPTS FROM ‘BEGINNINGS’ FROM WALKING THE SONG

*Hamish Brown (FP 1953) is a legendary climber, walker, traveller and also an author. The first person to complete an uninterrupted round of Scotland’s Munros, his Hamish’s Mountain Walk is a classic of Scottish mountain literature. He is the author or editor of many books including The Mountains Look on Marrakech and the mountain poetry anthologies Speak to the Hills and Poems of the Scottish Hills. In recognition of his services to literature, he received an honorary DLitt from St Andrews University in 1997 and a DUni in 2007, and he was made an MBE in 2001. In 2015, Hamish Brown was awarded an OWPG Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to outdoor writing/ photography. In 2017, he received the Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture. His latest book, Walking the Song, was published in 2016 and features new, autobiographical writing, including a chapter (‘Beginnings’) that describes his childhood in Dollar and his schooling at Dollar Academy. Extracts from that chapter are published here, prefaced by a foreword Mr Brown wrote for Fortunas:*

What does one remember from one’s schooldays? The good and the bad generally—and some of the boredom in between. Dollar gave more of the good whatever the following might suggest. Dancing on Friday evenings became a lifelong pleasure, the world of art (inspired by Iain Campbell) an ever-growing interest, involvement with dramatics likewise, while English teaching and the world of books would become a major part of my life (over 30 titles written or edited, from travels to stories and poems). Dollar was a landscape above all and I regret the passing of the names of the then boys’ quints, for they embrace that world: Hill, Castle, Glen, Devon. Visiting today, the landscape is much the same (the trees much bigger), but one is amazed at the new buildings and the ever-greater opportunities of anyone lucky enough to attend Dollar Academy.



## STARTING IN THE OCHILS

When we eventually won back to Scotland it was to Dollar—in the Stirling area—with the Ochils rising above the small town with its big school. I did not particularly like my schooling: I found my peers dull conformists and most teachers hidebound and insincere. With hindsight this was an educational nadir, the staff were oldies brought out of retirement and others were war wounded, so I wasn't entirely at fault. I stubbornly followed my own interests rather than the curriculum, which led to some of my troubles. The cross-country, for example, was a sacred cow for which everyone had to put in five practice runs. I was soon banned from taking my dog and when I insisted on wanting to know why was belted by the sports master as I wouldn't accept 'Because you're told'. After all I knew every farmer on the route and they never objected to the dog. On one run a hill farmer's wife asked if I'd take an armful of daffodils down to the church for her. I prayed I'd run into the sports master to see what he'd say about that.

From my bed I could see the steep southern scarp of the Ochils dip to the roofs of the town or tilt back to the clouds easing off King's Seat. A 'piece' shoved in an ex-WD haversack, a whistle for the dog and I could be away to those tawny slopes, up by the Glen and Castle Campbell and Burn

of Sorrow to Maddy Moss and Andrew Gannel and Ben Cleuch, names worthy of John Buchan, sometimes right over to Blackford or Auchterarder or, restrained by the curving cleavage of the infant Devon, descending to Tilly, Alva or Menstrie, the delightfully ungrammatical 'Hillfoots'...In the Ochils I never got *lost*; however, often I became *mislaidd*...

The nearest cinema (bug house) was at Tillicoultry, three miles away and we often had to walk home afterwards in the dark, along a twisty road with monstrous, threatening trees which groaned and shivered, and Tait's Tomb, an abandoned, overgrown, circular graveyard, passing which we felt we could relax like Tam o' Shanter once across the bridge and safe.

If this sounds an idyllic picture then, from today's perspective, I reckon it was. Life was both spartan and cosy. We grew vegetables, kept bees and hens (the eggs laid down in a crock of waterglass), knew the discipline of ration coupons, learned how to sew and make do and mend. I wore big brother's hand-me-downs. We were satisfied with needs, not unhappy with wants. Rationing ensured a sensible diet with issues of orange juice and cod liver oil and school milk in bottles of a third of a pint with cardboard tops (which were never resistant to attacks by blue tits). Nobody had cars. The



post-war years had an earnestness to them. Life was not easy but the future was surely good.

The paths and bridges of the glen had decayed during the war years so were out of bounds officially but I knew every cranny, every pool, where what flowers grew and what birds nested. I absorbed, rather than consciously learned, about the natural world...The whinstone quarry of Gloom Hill was out of bounds too but there I took six inch nails for pitons and applied some novel aspects of climbing. Years later I took other youngsters there to teach them to climb...

Some of us used to walk through Glendevon to help with building the youth hostel (now closed, alas) or to go to church, feeling very like drovers or religious sectarians who in the past would do so as a matter of course. I recall a chilly bivouac with a friend, climbing to meet the sun and then, chapter about, reading right through the Gospel of St John. In the burns of the lesser Ochils beyond Glendevon we learned to guddle trout.

Dollar's golf course lay on the steep lower slopes of Dollar Hill. I preferred the golf course in winter when various sledging runs were named after the holes (we never went on

the greens). The Eighteenth I recall was brutally steep and likely to land one in the Dollar Burn. Years on, my second day on skis was up 2000ft White Wisp, which sounded appropriate. We had snow in those days...

The Ochils taught a great deal about snow conditions, their polished steep slopes perfect for avalanches. In summer the best footwear I found were my studded cricket boots which were green-marked beyond redemption to the annoyance of cricket captains or coaches. I enjoyed both cricket and rugger (and swimming and cross-country running) but they could not compete with the lure of the outdoors. I slept out on the hills. I learned their intricacies as a shepherd does. I roamed them at night with a Tilley lamp until asked to desist. Leg movement made it look like 'rescuing' me!... Nobody was interested in using the Ochils as part of school activities and I happily roamed alone till able to beguile others to come along as well. What a waste, I felt, even then. It was only years later that I found the head was a life member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club (SMC). He must have known of my Ochil ramblings, so why never a bit of encouragement then?

Eventually I reached the dizzy heights of playing hooker for the Second Fifteen who, of course, were always at the receiving end of the First Fifteen thugs. When pitches were frozen we were sometimes made to run up King's Seat (over 2000ft) and on one such occasion the mist came down with some lads marooned on top. The gods of the First Fifteen grabbed me with a, 'You know your way about these effin hills, Brown, so tell us how to get back to Dollar'. I gave them clear instructions which led them to Blackford on the other side of the range! I knew I'd be hammered at our next Tuesday afternoon meeting but it was worth it, imagining the shavers, in rugger kit, moneyless, going to the police and being loaned money to bus first to Stirling and then to Dollar, missing lunch and being very unpopular...

There was a school CCF (Combined Cadet Force) and I was in the RAF section which was fun: at camps all we seemed to do was swim, shoot and fly—and this also ensured National Service in that cushie number rather than the army. One broiling summer's day, however, we were sent on an Ochils exercise with a radio set which was like an enormous heavy backpack. We had to check in from various six figure references and describe what we saw. I doubted if the teacher/officer i/c had been on top of the Ochils so we headed instead for the Out-of-Bounds glen and spent the afternoon in its cool pools. At appropriate moments

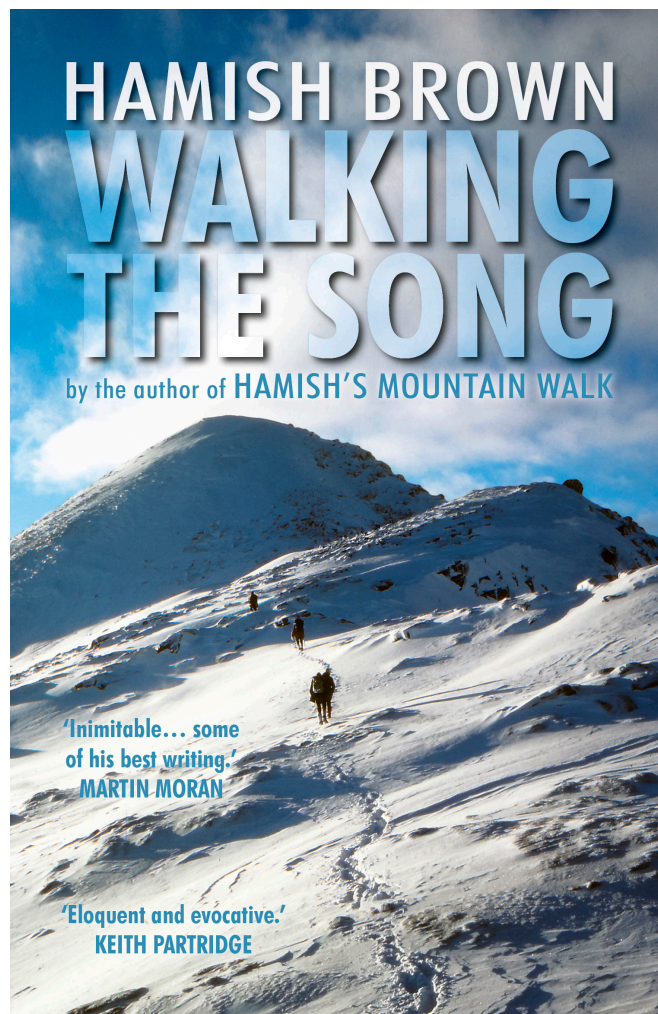
I climbed up to the edge of the woods and would report in about our mythical movements—and of course could describe everything supposedly in sight. (I could do so still, I reckon.) After reporting back to base and being dismissed I heard our mentor, noting our wet hair, comment on the lines, 'My, did you see the way we made them sweat'.

Sending my mates over the Ochils as recorded would be an impossible trick today for the good path they would have followed down the Broich Burn for the Kinpauch Glen and Blackford is now cut by a reservoir, one of two flooding the upper, eastern flow, of the River Devon. And there's another reservoir in Glendevon itself, edged by the road through to Glen Eagles and Crieff. If I needed any conviction about global warming I might take it from how Maddy Moss, drained by the Burn of Sorrow, has changed from being a dangerous 'moss' (bog) in those days into what is now firm rough grazing, where skylarks dance up and down the sky...

An ambition which we eventually fulfilled was to traverse the Ochils end-to-end over all their 2000 foot summits. There must have been about ten tops and the hike began on Sherrifmuir if a lift was arranged, or by slogging up Dumyat (*Dumb-eye-at*—the Spyglass Hill of *Treasure Island* some say) from the Hillfoots at Menstrie if left to our own devices. Blairdennon, Ben Ever, Ben Cleuch (the Ochils' highest), Andrew Gannel, King's Seat, Tarmangie, Whitewisp and Innerdownie are some I remember (I'm writing in the Atlas) and the day ended at or in the old Tormaukin Inn in Glendevon. If all the tops are done this is still a twenty-mile tramp on the mainly firm Ochils grass with a few slaistery bits for good measure. Note Ochil Hills is tautology. Even the OS sin.

Academically I was a failure but I took out of schooling the things I wanted and, somehow, they have been the foundation stones of the years since. Youth is a time of both hope and despair but, when one could lift eyes to the Ochils so easily, then there was great 'cumulence of comfort on high hills' (G W Young). Little did I know how I would carry their benediction with me wherever I travelled.

*Hamish Brown (FP 1953)*





## FROM ABERDEEN OIL AND GAS TO ICELANDIC MOSS AND SHEEP SORREL

*Su Black (FP 1980) is Head Distiller at Beinn an Tuirc Distillery located on the 1200-acre Torrisdale Castle Estate on the Mull of Kintyre, Scotland. A long-time whisky and craft beer enthusiast, Su enjoyed a successful career in the oil and gas industry, before going back to university to complete a master's degree in Brewing and Distilling at Heriot-Watt University. She brought tremendous botanical know-how to the family business as well as a wealth of business experience. Her role involved procuring equipment and botanicals, and the commission of a 230L pot still. She has had a central role in finalising the distillery fit-out and delivering the commercial production of the Kintyre Gin.*

*In Su's words, 'We are creating a truly hand crafted product using 12 sustainably sourced botanicals in our core expression, Kintyre Gin. The gin consists of 10 commonly used botanicals, with the addition of two which are totally exclusive to Beinn an Tuirc, Icelandic moss and sheep sorrel. This unique combination produces a gin with earthy and spicy characteristics, deep in flavour, with a very pleasant floral aroma.'*

During my school days, three members of the Dollar Academy staff, in particular, had a positive influence on me. Mrs Rae, who taught Secretarial Studies, was unfaltering in her encouragement; Mr Mitchell, who taught Geography, had a huge enthusiasm for life, the subject he taught and a great passion for his beloved football team even in defeat; and Miss Francis, a PE teacher, taught me that it's not what you know, it's knowing where to find out that is most important.

My career began in the hospitality industry after studying at Napier University in Edinburgh. Using transferable skills, I moved into an operational role in food manufacturing making porridge oats. A life-changing accident to an employee in the factory highlighted the importance of health and safety in the workplace, which led me to study for a Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety whilst continuing to work. My next position was with a French company (primary school French and a translation dictionary got me through many meetings and reports!) which supplied gases and chemicals to large semiconductor factories. My role was to provide quality, safety and environmental management at the customer interface of joint operations. During this time, with my manager's encouragement, I studied for an MBA in order to broaden my skill set. When demand for the semiconductor industry in the UK shrank, I moved to Aberdeen to take up a senior role in a major oil and gas service company where I was responsible for the company's safety, quality and environmental management systems throughout their global operations.



After 12 years working in the oil industry, I was really ready for a change. On paper my job sounded glamorous and exciting—lots of travel to far-flung corners of the world, close contact with powerful CEOs and the chance to work with multinational companies. However, in reality, the constant travel became quite tiring and monotonous; it made it difficult to sustain a ‘normal lifestyle’. I craved a better work/life balance and a more satisfying career. The downturn in the oil industry, and the insecurity that came with it, heightened the sense that I was ready for new challenges in a completely different sector. I realised I missed the satisfaction of actually making something tangible and hankered back to one of my first jobs making porridge in a small family-run business in the Scottish Borders.

I had read about the MSc Brewing and Distilling course at Heriot-Watt University and decided this would be a fantastic opportunity to re-focus, learn new skills and potentially find work in a dynamic sector that had always interested me. I am a malt whisky and craft beer enthusiast so was very excited to gain hands-on experience of the science, the production and the business aspects of this growing industry.

Returning to further education was an amazing experience. The postgraduates on the course comprised a great mix of ages and a good gender ratio, which was particularly refreshing after spending so long in the male-dominated oil industry. I have long suspected that university is wasted on some school leavers (of which I was one!), and



I definitely gained much more out of this Master’s course in comparison with my undergraduate degree. It was great fun, hard work and very, very rewarding.

I heard about Kintyre Gin through a Heriot-Watt classmate who had developed their original recipe. They were looking for a distiller for their brand-new, family-run distillery on the east coast of the Kintyre Peninsula. I had happy memories of holidaying in that area as a child, but I hadn’t been anywhere near there since. So, it was with some trepidation that I travelled the long and winding road down to Kintyre to meet the family.

They live on the Torrisdale Castle Estate which has been in the Macalister Hall family for five generations. The gin distillery is the latest innovative plan to diversify the estate so that it can be maintained and replenished and hopefully kept in the family for many future generations. I was very impressed by their commitment to sustainability and to the local community. The still is powered by the estate’s hydroelectric scheme which has been producing power for a couple of years. The family plant trees on the estate to regenerate the forests, thereby offsetting any carbon footprint. They also plan to use a percentage of annual profits to support community-based projects and local start-ups.

If I was having any doubts about uprooting myself to move to the middle of nowhere on the other side of the country, they were soon put to rest by Crumble, the family’s very loveable black labrador who glued herself to my side the moment I arrived and showered me with unconditional love throughout that first visit. Who can refuse puppy-dog eyes?

That was over a year ago. It has now been ten months since I took the plunge and moved west. I haven’t looked back. It is fantastic to be a part of a brand-new business and amazing to use all the expertise I gained from the master’s degree. We started production in June, and Kintyre Gin has been flying off the shelves ever since. In October, it won the Best Classic Gin award at the 2017 Distilling Expo in London, beating out nearly 80 gins from 8 countries across Europe. In personal terms, I have the work/life balance that eluded me in Aberdeen, and I’m thoroughly enjoying being part of a small community. I have even taken the plunge in other ways, too, immersing myself in wild swimming! Carradale Wild Swimmers have a dook in the sea twice a week and there is no better way to start one’s day.

Su Black (FP 1980)

Photographs above courtesy of Highlands and Islands Enterprise

# AN EMPTY BASKET *A Full Life*



A Memoir—Cuba to Scotland  
to Burma to the U.S.

BY DAVID L. CHALMERS

## EXCERPTS FROM 'EXCITEMENT' FROM AN EMPTY BASKET: A FULL LIFE

*David Chalmers (FP 1938) released his memoir, An Empty Basket: A Full Life, on 6 October, his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, in St Augustine, Florida, where he lives. Born on the Isle of Pines (now Isla de la Juventud), Cuba, in 1920 to a Scots father and a German-American mother, Chalmers is the grandson of Sir David and Lady Alice (Lorimer) Chalmers and a cousin of famed sculptor Hew Lorimer, the creator of 'Our Lady of the Isles' (South Uist). His Scottish roots played an important part in his life. At age 13, Chalmers came to Scotland to attend Dollar Academy. After school, he worked the docks at Thurso, joined The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), received officer training at Sandhurst, survived two Burma campaigns and duty in India in World War II, trained Jamaican troops after the war and finally settled in the US. There he met and married Kitsy Doe, an officer in the US Navy, and began a lifetime full of friendship, travel, golf and a career with Geico. Chalmers is donating his royalties from the sale of the memoir to the Dollar Academy Golf Club.*

There were a lot of rules to learn about living in the boarding house. There were twenty-four boys in two dormitory rooms, twelve boys each. With one bathroom for 24 boys, everything was by assignment—you showered once a week at your assigned time. I'd been introduced to all the other boys. They immediately picked up on the fact that I had a broad American accent, and they tried to insult me in any way they possibly could. They wanted to know where I came from and when I told them, I was immediately nicknamed Cuba. That name lasted me all my time in school and after school. (Years later, someone who'd been in school with me would refer to David Chalmers, and others would say, well, he wasn't there when we were there, was he? Finally someone would say I was called Cuba. Oh, Cuba, that's different, I knew him; sure, he was one of our buddies...)

So on that first night, the boys started picking on me. Now you have to remember that I had come from a working farm, and I had been working on this farm for several years now. I was pretty well filled out: five feet, six inches and I weighed 150 pounds or so, and pretty fit. Some of these boys who were doing all the talking were not as well equipped as I was. I wanted to go to sleep, but they kept ragging me about my accent. Finally I said I'd had enough, and picked up one of these boys and threw him down on the bed. Unfortunately the bed was an old-fashioned cast-iron type that relied upon two rails, one down each side, and the whole thing collapsed. Of course that created quite a clatter, and the housemaster came dashing in to find out what had happened. So there I am, standing over a bed in pieces. When I think of it now it is very funny. The janitor brought in another bed and fixed it up, and I went to bed. I was left in relative peace after that...

Each subject had a different master, so there was a Latin teacher, an English teacher, a French teacher, an Art teacher. These teachers, masters they're known as, were all very highly trained, excellent in what they did. Some of them you liked, some you didn't find so easy. The Math teacher was a very tough guy. You didn't whisper to the guy at the next desk. You worked very hard while you were in any one of these classrooms. No talking, nothing.

Unfortunately, my education at American Central School was not adequate for what I had to undertake at Dollar. I had a tremendous amount of catching up to do. Those years were fascinating, but difficult in many ways.

Dollar Academy was famous, and still is to this day, famous for having children from abroad. When I was there, it was at the height of the British Empire which had citizens all over the world. Many of the places they lived were not suitable for bringing up children, so they were sent home to school, as I was. Some of my good friends came from Ceylon, Rio de Janeiro, Argentina, Chile, places like that. There were no Chinese, but we had students from Thailand—places like that had been just names on a map to me. It was very educational in its way because you compared notes with fellow students who had the same kind of upheaval that you did leaving home and coming to school. It was nice to talk to them about their homes, their lives.

As soon as the cold weather started I got a cold. Mrs Wilson [Tait Housematron] decided that, oh, this poor boy



from the West Indies and the tropics, we must pamper him. So I'd get cod liver oil. Dollar doesn't get much in the way of snow, but I saw my first snow that winter. Dollar Hill was always covered with snow in the winter time, and having come from the tropics I couldn't wait to get up there and slog around in the snow—in my shorts.

The first year at Dollar I wrote off because they put me in bed half the time because I was 'sickly'. The way the Scots normally deal with sickly people, normal if they're Scots, is they take them out in the snow—I didn't get that treatment until the following year.

As time went on, I got more and more involved in extra-curricular activities. There was an Officer Training Corps at Dollar, and the head of the English Department was the senior officer. Although he didn't think much of me academically, he did like me on the field. I reacted well to discipline. As time went on I continued to be promoted and ended up being the head boy quartermaster [he was Company Quarter Master Sergeant, or CQMS]. Three stripes and this kind of crown. I had it in the back of my mind that I wanted to go to Sandhurst, which is the equivalent of West Point, so anything I could learn there at Dollar would be helpful. We had parades once a week. In the summertime, when school closed down, there was one solid week of camp, usually held on the west coast of Scotland. At Dollar, on one of the hillsides, two or three miles from school, was a firing range where we did rifle shooting. [An interesting article about this old firing range can be found on p. 148 of *Fortunas* 39.] There was real discipline involved with range work. I had never shot a gun—my father never had firearms—but I was a very good shot.

I made a lot of good friends at that time. Some of them lasted all my life. The four years I was at Dollar Academy were four of the best years of my life. I think of that place with enormous affection.

David Chalmers (FP 1938)

*An Empty Basket; A Full Life* is available at [penbaypress.me](http://penbaypress.me). It is published by Penobscot Books, a division of Penobscot Bay Press Community Information Services in Stonington, Maine, USA



David Chalmers, 2017



Teddy Allsop, 'Cuba' Chalmers and Bobby Grant in *As You Like It* (1937)



Dollar Academy friends (L-R): Arne Arnesen, Blyth Ritchie and David Chalmers, 1937



The '100 Pipers' event of 2003

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Saturday 24 March 2018

**North of England FP Club Annual Dinner & AGM at The White Swan, Pickering**

### Wednesday 25 April 2018

**Captain John McNabb Society Lunch in the Captain's Room at Dollar Academy**

### Saturday 23 June 2018

#### **Class of 1998, 20-Year Reunion**

A 20-year reunion is planned for the Class of 1998. Please contact Claudia Stewart for more information on [cafe.toast@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cafe.toast@yahoo.co.uk).

#### **Class of 1978, 40-Year Reunion**

If you would like to be included, please contact the organisers, Sally Sutcliffe (*née* Reeves) on [sallyfiona@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyfiona@btinternet.com) or Jill Westwater on [jill.westwater@googlemail.com](mailto:jill.westwater@googlemail.com). A Facebook page will keep you updated as details of the reunion are confirmed.

#### **Class of 1968, 50-Year Reunion**

Plans are underway for the 50-year reunion for the Class of 1968. If you would like to be included, and have not already been in contact, please get in touch with Keith Warburton on [pca.keith@gmail.com](mailto:pca.keith@gmail.com).

### Sunday 24 June 2018

#### **200 Pipers for 200 Years**

Details have been circulated via the FP e-newsletter and in Fortunas 39. If you would like to be included, and have not already been in touch, please email [200pipers@dollaracademy.org.uk](mailto:200pipers@dollaracademy.org.uk).

### Friday 7 June 2019

#### **London Dollar Academy Club - House of Lords Canapé Reception**

To celebrate the school's bicentenary, the LDAC will be holding a canapé reception hosted by the Rt Hon. the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Howe on Friday 7 June 2019 in the Cholmondeley Room, which has access to the terrace. All FPs and parents are welcome to attend. The invitation, including pricing and timings, will be published at a future date.

## CONSULS

### Australia

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001480 284 8244  
001 480 389 8692



*Standing: Andy Whatmore, Stewart McFarlane, Ellie Cochran, Rob Kew, Roger Robertson, Colin Jack, Jock (David) Flett, Felicity Scott, Alistair Scott*

*Seated: Liz (née Sim) Whatmore, Maggie Ramage, Liz (née Barrie) Hansen, Mike Horsman, Linda (née Schoolar) Thom*

*Missing: Marjory (née Hughes) Fernie, Donnie Scott, George Menzies, Ian Carrick and several husbands/wives/partners*



*Felicity Scott presenting a bouquet of flowers to Liz Hansen as a thank you for arranging the weekend*

## CLASS OF 1967 REUNION

On the weekend of 24 - 25 June, 15 members of the Class of 1967 met at the Dunblane Hydro along with a supporting cast of husbands, wives and partners. The group also visited the Academy on Sports Day, took a tour of the school and were addressed by the Rector whilst enjoying the kind hospitality of the Dollar FP Club at their sherry party.

The 1967 group had undertaken an astonishingly wide range of careers in the 50 years since they had departed Dollar, including an airline pilot, the master of an Esso supertanker, a Whitehall civil servant, an aeronautical designer, a farmer, artists, lawyers, architects, IT managers, teachers, property developers and many more.

All agreed that in half a century much had changed, mostly for the better. Current Dollar pupils we spoke with hardly believed our tales (all perfectly true) of 'the strap', of terrifying masters, and of learning in a school that had been devastated by the 1961 fire. Everyone had very different memories of what school was like in the 1960s, and the reunion was very enjoyable. Everyone was very grateful to Liz Hansen (*née Barrie*), whose hard work had made our reunion possible, and to George Menzies and his wife, whose hospitality in Alloa provided a fitting finale.

It is inevitable that, over 50 years' time, chance had taken away some members of our class, and at dinner we all raised our glasses to the seven 'absent friends'. The 1967 group departed having recalled and shared memories of their schooldays, having made contact with many fellow pupils not seen for many years and having learned a great deal about how the school has developed over the past decades. It was a most pleasurable weekend.

*Mike Horsman (FP 1967)*



## CLASS OF 1977 REUNION

Thanks to persistent and determined organisation by Jane van der Merwe (*née* Beaton), aided ably by the magic of modern social media, the Class of 1977 met during Sports Weekend 2017 for its 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. Jane managed to track down almost everyone from our class, hence over 50 FPs, and their partners, turned up. Not surprisingly, some had far to travel: Ivor Barber, Susan Kavanagh Zionts, Karen Macdonald and Malcolm Clark from the USA, Simon Parkes from Monaco, John McAree from Namibia and, of course, Jane herself from South Africa.

The reunion kicked off on Friday night at the Tormaukin Hotel. We had last convened 16 years ago, so there was a lot of catching up to do. Despite some understandable early nerves, the evening soon flowed and by the time Tom Lewin belted out some tunes on his bagpipes (in the pub), everyone was smiling. (Even Owen Passey's dogs seemed happy.) The discussion included reminiscing about some of our teachers: Jock Milne, Cocky Strachan, Bruce Baillie, Jennifer Campbell and Adam Robson were amongst those mentioned...with varying degrees of affection!

The following day Malcolm Clark reported an enjoyable lunch with Lorna Milne, Nigel Scott and Tom Lewin. In the evening the group met again, together with partners—all suitably attired in our 'smart casual' chinos and summer dresses—for drinks in the library.

Tom Lewin piped us down to the marquee in style. Richard Smith entertained us with tales of his project to perform the UK's first womb transplant; Roddy Styles, his exploits as a lawyer in Dumfries; Willie Jack reminded us of his high jinks at school; Nigel Scott had reports of his son

Duncan, the Olympic medallist, and both Kenny Lamb and Karen Humphries spoke of their careers as anaesthetists. The evening finished with us strutting our stuff on the dance floor (not to be outdone by the many younger FPs present), with particular enjoyment of any 1970s glam rock tunes.

A big thank you is due to Jane for her organisation, which was impeccable; to Tom Lewin, for his piping and to Ivor Barber for some truly professional photography. We left agreeing that it had been a great event and promising to meet up again in another ten years.

*Ian McAteer (FP 1977)*

### *Attendees over the weekend:*

*Jane Beaton, Agnes Barrowman, Margaret Cameron, Sheena Campbell, Sheila Cavin, Catriona Forth, Bridget Gamble, Jane Harrison, Carolyn Hoyle, Karen Humphries, Susan Kavanagh, Lorna Lambert, Alison Leonard, Fiona Martin, Eleanor Maxwell, Karen Macdonald, Catriona McKelvie, Pamela McLaughlin, Morag McNair, Lorna Milne, Frances Orr, Susan Rae, Jane Ritchie, Jacqui Thomson, Catriona Sutherland, Gillian Watson.*

*Ivor Barber, Malcolm Clark, Sandy Cruikshank, Fergus Gilmour, Richard Gow, Steve Illingworth, Willie Jack, Kenny Lamb, George Law, Tom Lewin, John McAree, Ian McAteer, Alasdair McEwan, Gordon McEachern, Robin MacKenzie, Johnny McIntyre, Neil Nicholson, Simon Parkes, Owen Passey, Charles Ross, Nigel Scott, Rod Styles, Chris Travis, Gregor Westwater.*





# Old Skirl Days

While attending the 2017 Sports Weekend (which also happened to be the occasion of my 30-year reunion), I fell into conversation with one of my old mates on the subject of the Dollar Academy Pipe Band. Fresh from their win at Forres, they were the subject of many conversations that day. However, for my friend Ruaraidh (Rory, as he was in those days before the SNP did much in politics apart from lose their deposit), the topic held special significance: he had been a drummer in the DAPB. He is, as are we all, quite overwhelmed with pride at the Band's many recent successes. Budding Old Fogey's that we are though, the conversation (and our erratic minds) soon drifted into rosy reminiscence. At this point I passed a comment which appeared to take my old friend quite aback...

Before I disclose the peculiar sentiment that so surprised my companion, I should like (as the old are wont to do) to digress for a moment on the topic of old school days.

School days, it is often said (by actual Old Fogey's) to the chagrin of those currently condemned, are the best days of one's life. Well, I should like to say that it turns out to be, despite all reason and logic, quite true. No matter how hard, tedious or embarrassing the time may have been (and almost certainly was), there will come a time (after uni but before complete senility) when all that is forgotten. What then remains, after the mental chaff has been blown away by the winds of time, are the memories of The Happy Times. And it will transpire that there were more of them than you will have expected.

In my day (a common expression amongst Old Fogey's that I am learning to incorporate into my everyday speech), Dollar was different: boys were required to wear short trousers and open collars right the way through Form II; the Europeans had not yet found corporal punishment to be excessively character-building; and the detonation (by Chemistry masters, mind) of bin bags filled with explosive gas mixtures could still be heard (from quite far

away, as it happens), HSE having yet to determine that such activities might stimulate unhealthy levels of excitement and/or interest in science. In short, those were darker, wilder, and earlier times.

Nevertheless, 30 years on, any unpleasantness is forgotten. No more memories of winter evenings waiting for the bus whilst icy winds slashed at numb, bare knees as you struggled to get your scarf to perform any useful function while snow drifted in through your open shirt collar. No more memories of the somnolent heat and stifling humidity of the classroom on rainy days, as thirty pairs of wet, woollen knee-socks dried itchily inside wet shoes. No more memories of the sinking stomach as the teacher's eye alighted upon you (and the prep you hadn't done). The slow slog of 50 lines or the swift sting on soft skin? All forgotten. Obviously.

But what of the good memories? Here, at long last, we return to the point. For it was on the subject of my fondest memory that I had commented to my old friend Ruairidh, and it was that which had rendered him nearly speechless (I say 'nearly'—the actual rendering being next to impossible).

What I had said was this: my fondest memory of my years at Dollar was of walking up to the school from the High Street on crisp spring mornings, after shirt-sleeve orders had been given, while the sun burned away the mist from the hills, to the rousing skirl of pipes and beat of drums. Even now, I cannot hear a pipe band, but I am instantly transported back to those days at Dollar. And I know that I am not alone.



For my friend, it seems, all spring had meant was damned early mornings and extra work (a lot more marching up and down in those days, for one). He had never considered that any of his schoolmates had much cared about what the Band were up to. I think my revelation pleased him. I hope so. The Pipe Band is the soundtrack to all my best Dollar memories, as I'm sure it will be for today's pupils in years to come.

With this in mind, I would like to offer my hearty congratulations to all the pupils and staff who have

worked so hard to earn the title Champion of Champions. And, to my old friend Ruairidh and all his fellow Pipe Band members from the '80s, I would like to say: thanks for the memories.

*H. Alan Wyatt (FP 1986)  
Photographs courtesy of H. Alan Wyatt*

# THREE DAYS OF MAGIC IN THE WILDS OF SUTHER- LAND

I left Dollar in the summer of 1977. As it happens I left in rather inauspicious circumstances. On my last day I was due to collect the Form VI Art Prize—the only prize or honour I had ever achieved in my six years at school—however, due to my unruly and inexcusably crass behaviour on leavers' night I was told by my Housemaster, Mike Haywood, not to turn up for Speech Day.

I have embellished this story over the years, telling my three children that I was 'expelled' on my last day in an attempt to gain some form of street credibility. I'm not sure they are impressed. Still, I like to feel that I am in an exclusive club of FPs who were thrown out on their last day. Can't be many of us. (Maybe one day we'll get a special tie?)

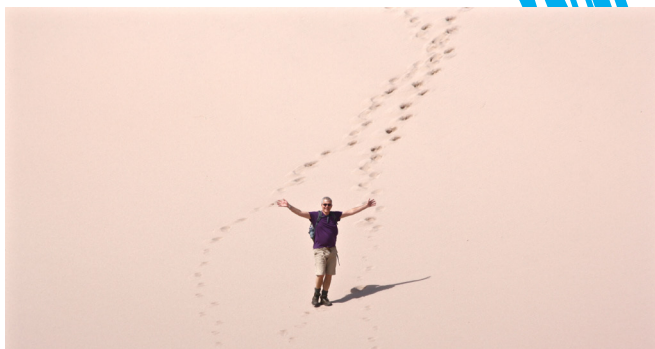
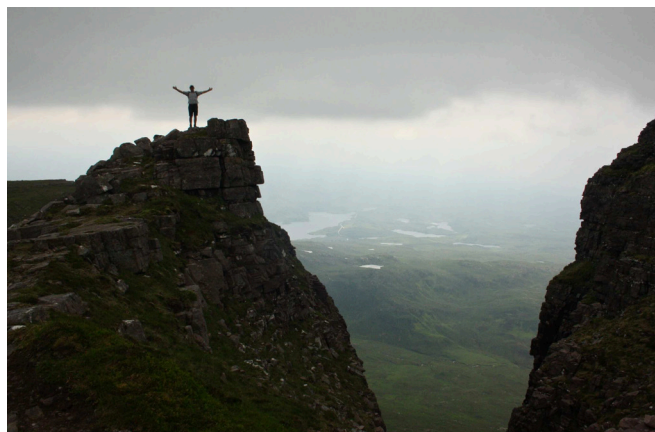
So when Jane van der Merwe (*née* Beaton) instigated a reunion for the Class of 1977 earlier this year, I have to confess that I was not initially enthusiastic. We had all gathered in 2001, but the years had slipped by and my time at Dollar seemed a very long time ago. Indeed, 40 years is a very long time. I didn't immediately see the benefit of gathering with a large number of people I had so little contact with. However, as it turned out, and as I have reported in another article, it turned out to be a very enjoyable experience.

But there was a significant ramification of the reunion that I feel compelled to relate, in the hope that it might inspire other FPs of differing vintages.

On the first news of the reunion, Simon Parkes emailed Willie Jack, Malcolm Clark and me, suggesting we make the most of the occasion by taking a few days off in order to spend some time together. We were soon joined by Richard Gow. Willie Jack kindly invited us all to his lovely new house in Stoer, north of Lochinver, in Sutherland. (A mere five-hour drive from Edinburgh.)

And thus the plan was hatched—and the plan turned into a reality. And the reality was a magical three days spent with old school friends. Given the location, we spent a lot of time outdoors. Simon and Richard braved the open sea on the summer solstice at Clachtoll Beach. The weather was kind, and we climbed the majestic Quinag. We walked the 12-mile round trip to Sandwood Bay, and we also went to pay our respects to the Old Man of Stoer. He was kissed by sunlight in between the inevitable rain showers.

We talked, laughed and reminisced about our school days; we renewed and reinforced our friendship and, as the days went by, our anticipation for the forthcoming class reunion grew.



But the really significant thing about the experience—apart from it being an extraordinarily happy time—was that it made me feel extraordinarily privileged and fortunate. Fortunate to have four friends, who, despite the years, were able to slip into just 'being' together as easily as one might put on a pair of well-worn slippers. Fortunate that we all had our health and good humour as we hurtle towards 60. Fortunate that the time we spent bonding in our youth was still such a powerful force. Fortunate that, fundamentally, we hadn't changed who we are. And, of course, fortunate for the opportunity Dollar gave us to be together.

Ian McAteer (FP 1977)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I read the article about Adam Robson and the memories came flooding back. Adam was our neighbour when we lived on Dewar Street. He was also my rugby coach and Art teacher. He had this very distinct deep voice, soothing to me, and he was always so polite and friendly. I remember having a tough time with some of my subjects, not getting good marks in some of them, and Adam somehow sensed something was wrong with me. He sat down and talked rugby with me and then deftly talked about study and classes and how, if I took what I did in rugby training and adapt those principles to study and exams, there would be a good change. He told me about concentration, dedication, never giving up going for the try line—all of which I could see was what I had to do to improve my studies and my marks.

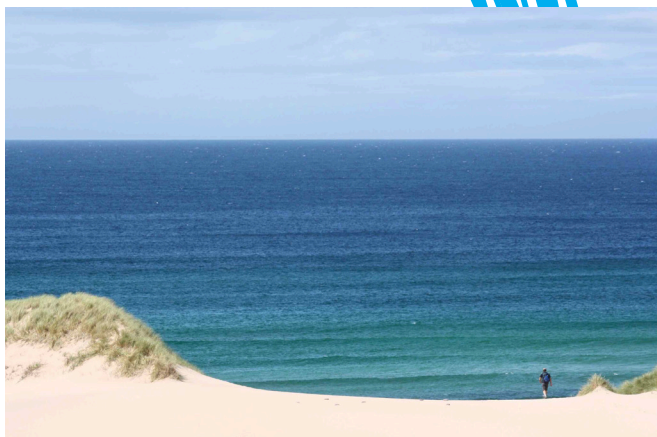
It worked, and I will always remember Adam—not only for that, but for being a friend, mentor and a great neighbour who would always wave and say hello every time he saw me in and around my house on Dewar Street.

Like Adam, I am a poet. I have written for over 40 years and I write about all our emotions, about happiness, sadness, relationships, love, breakups, nature and all the things that one can see and hear. I am also an avid photographer and in Adam's paintings, some of which I have, I see exactly the same scene that I would photograph. Peace, tranquillity, colours, buildings, expressions on people's faces...all the things that I see through my camera lens.

It was a sad day when I read of Adam's passing and, I admit, I was choked up. But his memory is forever etched in my brain and that is a good thing.

He was one of the nicest men I have ever met: my favourite teacher, of course, and somebody who had a profound impact on me. He will never be forgotten.

*Colin Mackenzie (FP 1963)*



## FP NEWS

### KATHLEEN MACGREGOR (née SCOTT, FP 1983)

Kate was named RCGP Scotland GP of the Year 2017 in April. She works at a rural practice in Argyll and Bute and was nominated for the award by the family of a patient who suffered with multiple system atrophy (MSA).

### JAYNE STIRLING (FP 2012)

In October, Jayne and her partner won the Scottish Mixed Doubles Curling Championship and now go to the World Championships in Sweden in April as part of Team Scotland.



### JOANNE ECCLES (FP 2006)

At St. James's Palace, London on 17 June 2017, Joanne was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2017 Birthday Honours for services to equestrian vaulting. She also featured in a *Horse and Hound* article after her marriage to Fraser Littlejohn (FP 2006).



Veronica Suttie, Bert Suttie (FP), Barry Fisher (FP), Ian Carrick (FP), Colette Carrick, Allan Kenny (FP), Adrian Grant (FP), Marilyn Kenny, Carol Stubbins, Ewen Wright (FP), Eileen Birrell, Alicia Grant, Elspeth Russell (née Douglas and FP), Sandy Goodall (FP), Claire Fulton (FP), Tim Russell, Bob Birrell (FP), Liz Hansen (née Barrie, FP) and Peter Hansen (FP)

## NORTH OF ENGLAND FP CLUB

Nineteen of us met up in the café of the Discovery Centre at Jodrell Bank on 24 September. The approach is dominated by the telescope itself, and signs on the drive warn you to switch off your mobile and limit your speed to 11 mph. For some reason, it seemed a bit Harry Potter...After we sorted out the payment (minimal for most of us because of our maturity) and worked out how to put on the wrist band, we set off for the Education Centre. There, we were treated to an illustrated lecture which covered not only the history of the establishment of the site and the telescope, but also educated us about black holes, dark matter and other mysteries in simple terms that we could all fathom.

Then on to The Crown at Goostrey. We had space to ourselves in the conservatory, so were able to chat at increased volume over an excellent lunch and we were joined mid-lunch by Stuart Passey, who had been detained on earlier business but soon made himself known to most of us.

Next year's autumn event is likely to be a tour of the prisons and courts at Lancaster Castle.

*Adrian Grant*



### **JONTY HAYWOOD (FP 2017)**

Jonty Haywood was awarded the Royal Historical Society's Beazley Prize for his performance in the 2017 Advanced Higher History examinations. The prize is awarded for the best performance in the History examinations across all the examining boards in the United Kingdom.

An essay co-authored by Jonty, Freddie McFadyean, Keir Fairley, Caitlyn Ryan and Robert Mair (all now FPs 2017) was published in an e-book entitled, *If I Ruled Scotland*. The result of a Scotland-wide competition sponsored in part by The Hunter Foundation, the e-book was published to mark the occasion (on 26 May 2017) that President Barack Obama visited Scotland. Pupils from over 200 secondary schools from across Scotland submitted their thoughts, outlining what their priorities would be if they had the opportunity to rule Scotland. Read the book by visiting: <http://www.thehunterfoundation.co.uk/if-i-ruled-scotland/> The essay from Dollar Academy can be found on pp 288-289.



## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **JOHN CAMERON**

Former Dollar Academy Chair of Governors John Cameron was awarded an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Law) by the University of St Andrews on 21 June 2017. The university gives honorary degrees in recognition of significant achievement, and Dr Cameron received his primarily for his services to education, for his long involvement with Dollar Academy, and also for his important contributions to agriculture and transport in the UK.

## **UNIVERSITY NEWS**

The following Former Pupils are to be congratulated on their recent achievements:

### **University of Edinburgh**

Emma Watson (FP 2009)  
*International Law (LLM) 2016*

### **University of Glasgow**

Kerry Gibson (FP 2012)  
*City Planning and Regeneration (MSc with merit)*

### **University of Strathclyde**

Jayne Stirling (FP 2012)  
*Mathematics with Teaching (BSc) (2017)*  
(Now teaching at Edinburgh Academy)

Emma Watson (FP 2009)  
*Law (LLB) 2015*

### **Heriot-Watt University**

Calum MacPherson (FP 2013)  
*Economics and Finance (MA) 2017*  
(Now working for Black Rock Capital Investments in their Edinburgh office)

### **North East Scotland College**

Samantha Crabb (FP 2016)  
*Acting and Performance (HNC)*

**We are delighted to include any submissions from Former Pupils or parents of FPs.**

## BIRTHS

We are delighted to welcome these new additions to the extended Dollar family:

### MUKOMBA

Janey (*née* Menzies, FP 1994) and Evans are happy to announce the birth of their twins on 26 June 2017. Daniel Lewis and Kimberly Jennifer were born at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. The family have now returned to Lusaka, Zambia where Janey and Evans work as missionaries.

### HENDRY

Samuel and Alison (*née* Begg, FP 2000) were delighted to welcome a second daughter, Zara Jean, born in Singapore on 12 December 2016. Adored by her big sister, Lillian.

## STAFF

### DEAN

Gill Dean (Geography Department) and Chris Morrish welcomed a baby son, Corran Dean, on 5 October, weighing 7lbs, 7ozs.

### MILLARD

Jennifer (Modern Languages Department) and Josefa Millard are happy to announce the safe arrival of their son, Erik, born on 25 September weighing 8lbs, 3.5oz.

## ENGAGEMENTS

### ROSS - WATSON

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Abbi Watson of Uphall, West Lothian and James J. Ross of Kinross (FP 2009).

## MARRIAGES



### ECCLES – LITTLEJOHN

Joanne Eccles (FP 2006) MBE married Fraser Littlejohn (FP 2006) at Caputh Parish Church on Saturday 12 August 2017. The reception was held at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry. The wedding party included Stephen Duncan (FP 2006), Sam Filsell (FP 2006) and Hannah Eccles (FP 2009). Wedding photographs courtesy of Stephen Dougan.



### REID - KING

In April, Robyn Reid (FP 2008) and Andrew King were married in Banchory. It was a brilliant day and evening, shared with close friends and family.

## DEATHS

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of the following Former Pupils:

### BOYLE

Douglas Boyle (FP 1960 - 1966) died in Brazil on 16 August 2017. He is survived by his wife, two sons and his sister. See obituary in this edition.

### BROCKLEHURST

Cicely Mary Arnoll Davis (*née* Brocklehurst, FP c1930 - c1940) sadly died on Wednesday 27 September 2017, aged 93, after a long illness.

### CAMERON

Alex Cameron (FP 1941 - 1946) died in Ontario, Canada in his 87<sup>th</sup> year.

### CHRISTIE

Jim Christie (FP 1958 - 1966) died on 3 August 2017 in York. His father was the greenkeeper at Dollar Golf Club.

### DODDS

Dr Colin James Dodds (FP 1953 - 1959) died unexpectedly and peacefully at home in Altrincham on 20 August 2017. Much loved husband of Eileen, father of Iain, brother of Marlyn (FP 1958 - 1965) and 'Pops' to Eileen's six grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends as well as his many colleagues overseas who benefited greatly from his mentoring and expertise in automotive test methodology.

### DUCK

Jim Duck (FP 1964 - 1970) died suddenly on 27 July 2017. Obituary to follow in next edition.

### GILFILLAN

Sheila Gilfillan (*née* Aish, FP 1959 - 1965) died suddenly at home in Stirling on 24 May 2017.

### HENDRY

Mary Hendry (*née* McGregor, FP 1939 - 1944), daughter of former school janitor, Bob McGregor, died peacefully on 16 April 2017. Obituary to follow in next edition.

### HARROWER

Tom Harrower (FP 1942 - 1948), passed away at 82 years and nine months young (as Tom would have said) in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, his home country since 1948. He passed away four weeks after his wife, Joan. They had been married for 58 years. Tom enjoyed a successful career with the South African electricity utility, Eskom. He retired in 1993 and took Joan on a trip to Scotland to show her his heritage and the place he spent his early years—including, of course, a visit to the school. He was very proud of his school, and cherished getting *Fortunas*. Tom wrote an article about his friendship with Iskander (Dick) Desta, which featured in the December 2008 edition of *Fortunas*. His family, and his many friends, will miss him. RIP Tom.

### McLELLAN

Sheila McLellan (FP 1939 - 1944) on 17 September 2017. See obituary in this edition.

### MITCHELL

Agnes Mitchell (*née* Chalmers, FP c1940 - c1946) died on 26 January 2017 peacefully in Menstrie House, Menstrie, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Her ashes are buried alongside her husband in Dollar Cemetery.

### MULL

Anne Elspeth Mull (*née* Hedderwick, FP 1934 - 1941) died on 21 July 2017. See obituary in this edition.

### RITCHIE

William (Bill) Ritchie OBE (FP 1942 - 1946) died on 14 August 2017. Obituary to follow in next edition.

### STARK

John Corbett Stark (FP 1945 - 1953) died on 18 August 2017. See obituary in this edition.

### SWANN

Ruth Swann (*née* Adams, FP 1957 - 1962) died on 3 June 2017. See obituary in this edition.

### FORMER STAFF

#### BARBER

Helen Janet Barber died on 29 August 2017. She was a Houseparent in Rathmore/Argyll House from 1978 - 1988. Obituary to follow in next edition.

#### BARBER

Ivor Bramford Barber died on 2 November 2017. He was a teacher and Head of Department of Craft and Design/Technology from 1960 - 1988, and also a Housemaster in Rathmore/Argyll House from 1978 - 1988. Helen and Ivor's two children, Ivor and Carol, are both Former Pupils. Obituary to follow in next edition.

#### CAMPBELL

Eric Campbell, former Maths teacher at the school, died on 6 October 2017.

#### SMITH

Bill Smith, former janitor from 1982 - 1997, died peacefully in a care home in Forfar on Saturday 23 September in his 86<sup>th</sup> year. He was predeceased by his wife, Muriel.



## DOUGLAS BOYLE

FP 1960 - 1966

1948 - 2017

Douglas McKenzie Boyle was born in Aberdeen on 2 November 1948, son of the late William and Helen Boyle who were living in Montrose at the time. He began his education at Montrose Academy Primary School in 1953 and left in 1956 to attend Lathallan Preparatory School before finally moving to Dollar Academy for his senior schooling. Douglas loved his time there, boarding in Rathmore House. He had a wide circle of friends and, during the holidays, spent hours recounting his experiences to his little sister Maureen. He enjoyed playing rugby, golf and cricket, was a member of a very successful orienteering team, loved his time in the CCF and its camps at Cultybraggan but, above all, he treasured his experiences gained through participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. He was extremely proud to have been presented with his Gold Award by the Duke at Holyrood. Many of the skills he learned through that scheme served him well in his later life, in bush camps throughout the world.

In 1965 he obtained a Royal Navy scholarship to Aberdeen University to study Geology where he spent four very happy years. Through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, he had developed a passion for climbing and, whenever he could escape the city, he would head for the Cairngorms or the Grampians, camping out even in the coldest of weathers; he spent several Hogmanays camping in Aviemore. During term time he was also a member of the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue and took part in several call-outs, including a very sad one on Lochnagar.

After graduation he had a brief spell with the Navy, gaining his pilot's licence before he could drive a car. He headed to Australia where he worked on mineral exploration, then to Angola during the ferocious civil war. When the fighting made it too dangerous for his geological work to continue, the British Embassy instructed Douglas and his fellow workers to quit their camp as enemy troops had surrounded it. Knowing that his local Angolan workers in the camp would face certain death if protection did not come, Douglas stayed put—despite several instructions from the embassy to leave. Eventually they were all escorted out of camp to safety, and he travelled home on the very last plane to leave the country at that time.

His next posting was to Brazil to undertake diamond prospecting. There, he met with great success—not only in locating precious stones, but in finding his very own diamond, Ozenir. The couple married in 1977 and they enjoyed 40 years of devoted love and commitment together, celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary in March 2017. They lived in compounds and camps in Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and Ghana before finally settling in Crieff where they brought up their two sons, Alexander and Sergio. During that time his work took him to Sudan, Turkey and Greenland.

Douglas returned to university at Stirling where, with a passion for composting and recycling, he studied for an MSc in Conservation Sciences. He set up his company, Scottish Organic Services, in the early 1990s and set about convincing the Scottish government and councils throughout Central Scotland to place a far greater emphasis on recycling. He had success in Argyll and Bute—but he was ahead of his time, and many councils struggled to foresee how important such activities would become. In Crieff he coached mini rugby, sang in the church choir and was a highly committed member of Crieff in Leaf; he was also an enthusiastic member of the Harriers Running Club (a throwback from his Hash House Harriers days in Saudi).

Six years ago Douglas and Ozenir decided to retire to Brazil where they settled in Umuarama. Douglas continued to engage the community in his recycling interests, speaking at meetings in his locality and at various universities in Brazil. They returned to the UK three times and visited many of their family and friends; they also met their grandchildren, Rio and Jaxon, and attending Sergio and Eilidh's wedding.

Sadly Douglas's health deteriorated from May of this year, and despite Ozenir's devoted care and that of the doctors in their local hospital, he died following a cardiac arrest on Wednesday 16 August. His funeral was held in Brazil, but many friends and family attended a memorial service in Crieff in September. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Douglas's time at Dollar gave him many attributes—his detailed focus upon any project he undertook, his loyalty to those around him and his highly ethical work code, his love of the outdoors, his commitment to all the communities in which he lived and his highly practical scientific approach throughout his career. He remembered Dollar Academy with great affection and felt enormous pride in all that it stands for.

*Maureen Harrison*



## **SHEILA JEAN MACNAIR McLELLAN**

**FP 1939 - 1944**

**1929 - 2017**

Auntie Sheila, born in Devonside, was an only child and lived with her mother, Jean McLellan (*née* McNair and FP), in Mount Forbes in the High Street in Dollar. She attended Dollar Board School and then started at Dunfermline High School. However, the war intervened and Sheila was sent back to Dollar to stay with her MacMillan cousins, (including my mother) and attend Dollar Academy.

After leaving the Academy at 14, she worked at the telephone exchanges in Dollar and Alloa, attended Sterlini Commercial College in Stirling, worked for Paton & Baldwin and the National Coal Board in Alloa and then spent 20 years in Edinburgh as a staffing officer at the Department of Education for Edinburgh City Council. She took early retirement at 55 and purchased a bungalow on Hillfoot Road in Dollar.

Sheila was well known to many in Dollar as their Sunday school teacher, and she was also active in the church choir and Guild. She was a member, from the outset, of Dollar Museum; she also attended the WRI and country dancing and the Seniors' Lunch Club. She loved her golf and was given honorary membership of Dollar Golf Club after 50 years' membership, many of them as secretary. She was also a member of Muckhart Golf Club for 34 years and served as captain from 1990 to 1991.

For the last ten years, Sheila's mobility was very restricted and she moved to Trust Housing in Tillicoultry; she spent her last year in Orchard House in Tullibody. Sheila was extremely generous and was always helping friends and family. Auntie Sheila was also, above all, good fun! She enjoyed her food and her whisky, and there was always a laugh to be had in her company. She will be missed.

*Anne Sutherland (FP 1971)*



## ANNE MULL (née HEDDERWICK)

FP 1934 - 1941

1925 - 2017

Anne Mull was born in 1925 in Barcelona, leaving Spain when the troubles with Mussolini began. She attended Dollar Academy with her siblings, Gilbert and Jean, from 1934 - 1941. On leaving school she joined the ATS as a Kine-Theodolite operator and was based in Wales. After the war she trained at Domestic Science College in Edinburgh and became a cookery demonstrator for the Electricity Board.

She met her husband, John, at a Dollar Academy alumni dance. John joined the Colonial Service's Education Department. Soon, the couple were travelling by flying boat to Tanganyika (now Tanzania) to start 20 years' teaching service in several different locations. Whilst there they climbed Mt Kilimanjaro and enjoyed living beside Lake Victoria and also in the seaside capital, Dar-es-Salaam. They also welcomed two daughters, Anita and Virginia.

Anne was always good at maths and English, as well as being gifted in dance and theatre. She frequently took part in amateur musical shows and pantomime—performing and making costumes. She also read the news and presented programmes for the TBS (Tanganyika Broadcasting Service), such as *A Book at Bedtime*.

In 1970 Anne and John left Africa and settled in Henley-on-Thames, where Anne worked for the local library and the publishers Routledge & Keagan Paul. Her love of travel was fed by trips to exotic destinations including Europe, Australasia, India, USA, Canada, Russia, the Orient and Antarctica; she travelled with John until his death in 1995. Happy and chatty to the end, Anne sadly passed away on 21 July 2017.

*Virginia Mull*



## ESTHER ISOBEL SEARLES (née DUNCAN)

FP 1939 - 1948

1931 - 2017

Isobel arrived to take up a place in Class Four of the Dollar Academy Prep School in 1939 and she left in 1948. Born on 11 March 1931, she was the youngest of the three daughters of Robert and Esther Duncan and followed her middle sister, Margaret, to Dollar. Her years at the Academy were busy and happy; she excelled at tennis and at hockey, where she played for the East of Scotland and had a trial for the Scottish team. She left school with a very respectable set of Highers—and a place in history as the shortest-lived prefect ever, having gained the badge one day and lost it the next for some misdemeanour which (with a grin) she preferred not to recall.

From Dollar she progressed to Edinburgh and a career in physiotherapy at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital where she made lifelong friends and met her future husband, Ted Searles, who, as adjutant of the Lothians and Border Horse, was stationed at Edinburgh Castle. They were married in 1956 in Pitlochry and spent several years with the regiment in Germany before returning to civilian life in Essex where Isobel had her three children: Peter, Tim and Jenny. Once they were old enough, she returned to physiotherapy—this time with physically and mentally handicapped children, work she dearly loved. From Essex, she and her children made many happy journeys north to visit grandparents in Pitlochry and, although Isobel lived for 25 years in the south, her heart was always Scottish. When her marriage ended, she headed back to Edinburgh. There she bought a house, took up the care of children at the Royal Blind School and made a very full life for herself with a wide circle of friends at home and in her travels overseas.

She enrolled as a driver for the Edinburgh Jazz Festival and spent happy weeks every year driving internationally known jazz musicians from venue to venue and very often home to her own kitchen for late suppers, 'craic' and a dram. She was elected president of the Edinburgh FP Club and was a regular spectator at rugby matches whenever Dollar played the Edinburgh schools. She never missed an opportunity to indulge her love of sailing, including a trip on a tall ship where (in defiance of her then 70 years) she made it to the crow's nest. Edinburgh also gave



her many opportunities to indulge her love of the cinema and theatre which came to the fore at Festival time when, thanks to her actor son Peter, her house was often filled with poor thespians and musicians in need of a bed and sustenance.

Shortly before her death, she brought together her love of both children and her old school when she endowed a building (to be called the Isobel Duncan Library in her memory), which will rise alongside the McNabb Building already transforming a primary school serving an educationally deprived area in the foothills of Uganda's Ruwenzori Mountains.

She was a wonderful, fun mother who was loved dearly by her children and grandchildren: Jessica, Vicky, Tristan and Sandy. The Christmas bread sauce will never taste the same! Isobel's life was a rich one, full of love, family and friends, all of whom will miss her greatly.

*Jenny, Peter & Tim Searles.*



## JOHN CORBETT STARK

FP 1945 - 1953  
1934 - 2017

John was born in Corbett Place in Baillieston, on the outskirts of Glasgow, and was named after his paternal grandfather, in the Scottish tradition. He later became an older brother to Jimmy.

His school days were spent as a boarder at Dollar Academy. One of John's accomplishments at school was his prowess as a cross country runner—maybe not so unexpected as his mother was a gym teacher. He also had great talent in Woodworking and Art. His technical teacher said that John was the best Woodworking pupil that he had ever had and that 'as long as John had his hands he would never starve.'

After leaving school, John went on to study Art and Design at the Glasgow School of Art and he was quite rightly proud to have studied at this prestigious art college. John's love of boats was reflected in his choice of 'motor yachts' as the topic for his thesis for his degree in Decorative Art and Industrial Design.

Then came national service and John joined the HMS Newfoundland in August 1957. He served for 20 months before the ship was decommissioned after a tour in the Far East. John considered a career in the Merchant Navy, but he had also inherited an interest in cars from his father and grandfather, who had set up a road haulage business. After national service, John went to find employment in the automotive industry in England. His long and accomplished career began, in 1961, in Ford's design studio near Dagenham, where he worked on interior colour and trim.

John's colleagues have commented on his business acumen, creative flair and craftsmanship, all of which were extraordinary. He was an expert in paint technology, a master in the bespoke idea and had a willingness to listen to input from others.

John retired in 1998 after 38 years in the automotive industry, and he viewed this with mixed feelings. Opportunities arose for consultancy work, however, and he was able to focus on the particularly creative part of his work. He returned to full-time work with MG Rover in 2000, thinking it would be for a short period of six months or so. But that wasn't to be the case for someone with John's talent. He did not abandon his alarm clock for another decade or so.

John was involved in the development and interior design of the MGX V8 sports car. He couldn't think of anyone less likely to be involved in developing a vehicle that could approach speeds of 200mph. John always drove at 50mph on the inside lane of motorways.

Throughout his life, John was fascinated by the sea and all things nautical. As John's mother used to say—somewhere, somehow, John inherited some salt water in his blood. He loved his wooden boats, and they were labours of love. John got as much satisfaction from restoring them as he did from sailing. 'Varnishing is good exercise,' he said, 'just as cost effective

as a gym membership.'

His yachting days began with his father; in 1953, they sailed the *Mingulay 11* (a motor yacht) on the River Clyde. Six yachts then passed through John's hands. *Havelda* was his favourite. She was the one boat that he regretted selling—in fact, he bought her back when the opportunity arose and enjoyed owning her up till the end of last year.

John was a gentleman—with a soft Scottish accent (that always offered a cheerful greeting) and a great singing voice. He was passionate about music, particularly opera, and he loved the theatrical aspects of live performances: the costume, the staging, the glitz and the glamour.

His integrity, wisdom and gentle humour were second to none. A friend and colleague recalls a time when working on the prototype Austin Metro with John: 'In those days we would paint out the interior plastic parts using emulsion paint which had been colour matched. It was very effective, but it was painstaking work requiring precise brushwork. When I asked John why we needed to paint the inside of plastic door bins, which nobody would actually see, John answered—after a long pause and a fixed gaze—"Because God sees them!" I didn't question his reasoning after that!'

John is survived by his younger brother, Jimmy, who is also a Dollar FP and lives in New Zealand.

*John's family and friends*



## RUTH BROOK SWANN (née ADAMS)

FP 1957 - 1962

1946 - 2017



Ruth was born in Leeds in 1946, to parents whose family home was Perth. Her father was a teacher, and Leeds was just one stop in the family's nomadic existence, gaining experience, while he developed his career in a variety of school types. Ruth attended seven schools before Dollar and exhibited high intelligence from an early age, passing her 11-plus exam when she was nine years old. But she was precluded from entering secondary school as, at that time, there was no structure for gifted younger children to receive the stimulation needed to reach their full potential. She had an IQ of 156, but languished in a stream two or three years below her ability.

When her father eventually acquired a position in Alloa, Ruth became a pupil at Dollar but, sadly, not a model one. The lack of an educational challenge had always been a problem and her attendance in lessons was at best sporadic, but with text books and a little revision, she achieved her Ordinary Certificates in 1962. Another move followed, to Perth Academy, where she converted these to the four Highers she needed to get into teacher training college in Dundee.

She did, however, love Dollar Academy: its ethos, history and structure, and the lasting friendships she made there. She was devastated when, on arrival one day, she found such devastation after the fire. All her life she remembered

the smell of the Library that day and the sadness she felt about the destruction of all those beloved books. She always played a full part in the sporting side of school life: athletics, swimming and tennis, in particular, whilst drama and reading were lifelong favourites. The print of the façade of the Playfair Building hangs above her computer desk to this day.

Ruth dedicated her working life to the education of children, particularly in a nursery setting, and she specialised in those who had special educational needs. She felt it was her role to teach these little ones how to learn, giving them a structure that would last them a lifetime. Her final role, was to lead Birmingham City's team, teaching nursery nurses how to develop their SEN charges.

Her proudest achievement was to bear two lovely daughters, Samantha and Emma, with David Shaw, her first husband. She went on to become a proud grandmother to James, Sophie and Abbey. She finally became Mrs Swann in 2006.

*Philip Swann*



*Bayonet exercise in front of Dollar Academy during World War I*

## BAYONET PRACTICE AT DOLLAR ACADEMY

The very unusual photo above was recently acquired for the school archives. It shows members of the school's Officer Training Corps demonstrating the use of bayonets, watched by a large crowd of pupils, parents and staff.

It appears to be a warm summer day and the pupils are wearing their best clothes—girls in white dresses and boys in Eton collars. The school flag is flying, so perhaps it is Exhibition Day\*. The date is likely to be early in World War I, as this reminiscence by a girl pupil (probably in the photograph) indicates:

*'One awful thing in those days was the dummies which were strung up at the front of the Academy—for bayonet charges—they were just sacks—the boys had to charge at them and aim for the belly button as part of the O.T.C. training. After a while the ladies made a fuss and the dummies were shifted.*

*The younger chaps used to discuss what they would do when it came to the real thing. So we talked it out—how it would be their pals that would suffer if they didn't.*

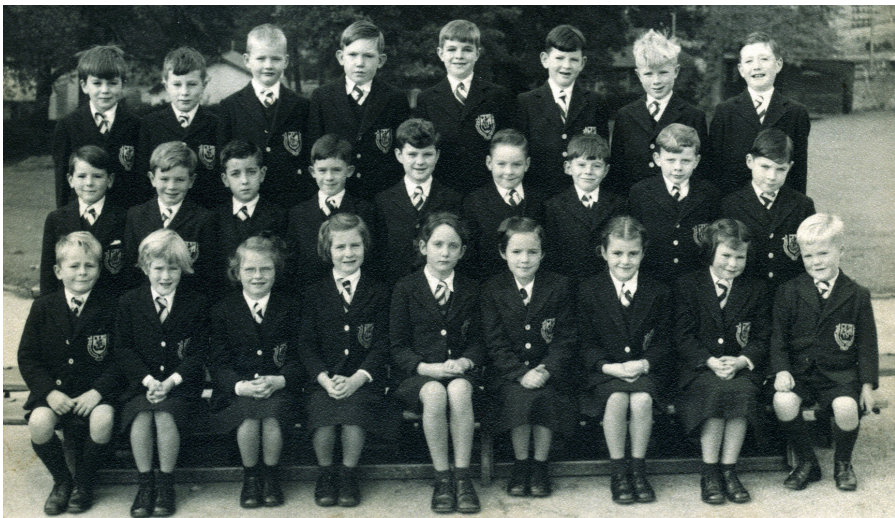
*But you can't realise now what it was like, just watching*

*the boys, your friends, going to the war. And then you saw them coming back, some of them wounded and others suffering from gas. What we don't understand now is that during the War people were just waiting for their boys to grow to be the age to be sent to the trenches. It was such a worrying time.'*

These words are taken from a conversation between Marjorie Bryson (*née* Hayter, an FP born in 1905), and the school archivist that took place in 2004 (see *Fortunas* 8). The photo was taken by Alexander Drysdale, FP, Milne Medallist, photographer and writer of many articles on historical topics for the *Dollar Magazine*.

\* 'Session 1914-15 closed on 30th June with the usual exhibition...but instead of the gymnastic display, which has been so prominent a feature in past exhibitions, there was a parade of the O.T.C., which included every eligible boy, and an inspection of the Corps by the Chairman of Governors.' (*Dollar Magazine* 1915)

*Janet Carolan (Archivist)*



### *Prep 5 1958 - 1959*

*Back row: Alan Elmhirst, Ian Murchie, Sandy Bell, Stuart Smith, Ian Petrie, Brian Dawson, Brian Anderson, David Donaldson*

*Middle row: George Smith (?), Michael Smith, Nicol Hodge, Sandy Campbell, Alistair Hadden, Stuart Thomson, Michael Hamilton, Alan Kenny, Donald Scott (?)*

*Front row: Iain Grant, Deirdre Campbell, Wendy Murphy, Catriona Wilson, Lorna Turner, Anne Braithwaite, Susan Nicol, Sheila Smythe. Hamish Galloway*

## **PREP 5 IN 1959**

Ian Petrie (FP 1967) sent this photograph of Prep 5 in 1959 to the school archivist and wonders if readers of *Fortunas* would like to check and complete the names of the pupils. He has fond memories of the Prep School:

*'I remember sledging down the Prep School brae to the main school on snow and ice in the winter after classes and at the weekend. I also remember playing football during lunchtime at the side of the Prep School. My teachers included Miss Thomson and Miss MacPhee. Miss Skinner was Head of the Prep School.'*

# THE SANDY BELL PRIZEBOOK

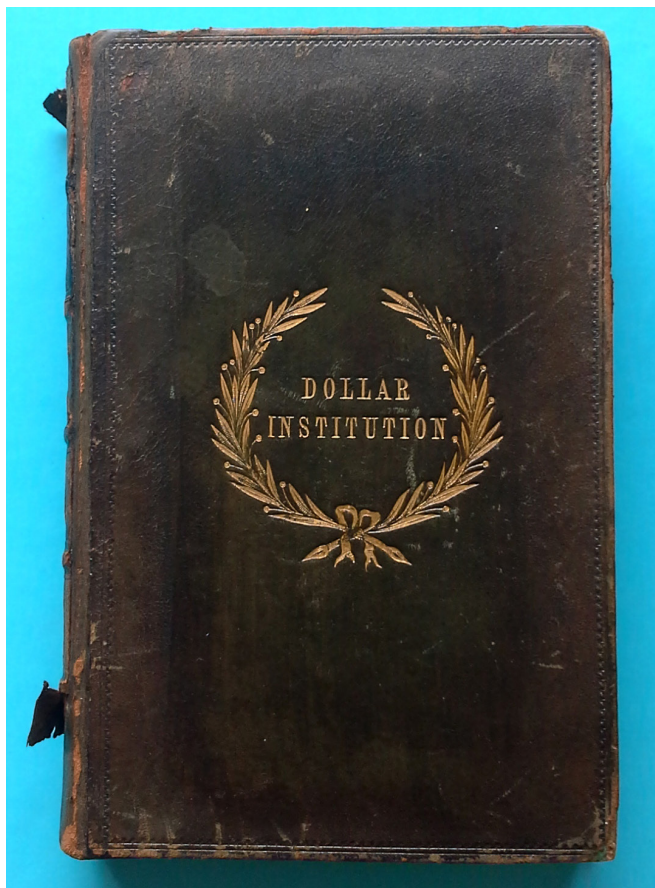
Having always enjoyed reading history, it is always a delight to receive a new item of interest from an FP or friend of the school, often passed to me by our archivist, Janet Carolan. We were pleased, recently, to receive an 1853 second-edition version of Edward Sullivan's 1852 work *Rambles and Scrambles through North and South America*, a book which was reprinted in 2007. It was originally presented to George Mackay for Excellence in History and Geography at the Dollar Prizegiving of 1856. The book had been bound in leather especially for the occasion, and it bears the name Dollar Institution (as Dollar Academy was then known) on the front in gold lettering. It was subsequently presented to Headmaster Harry Bell by George's son-in-law, JD-Rutherford, at the North of England FP Club annual dinner (their ninth Club dinner) in 1936—the year that Harry Bell first arrived in Dollar as Rector, a position he held until 1960.

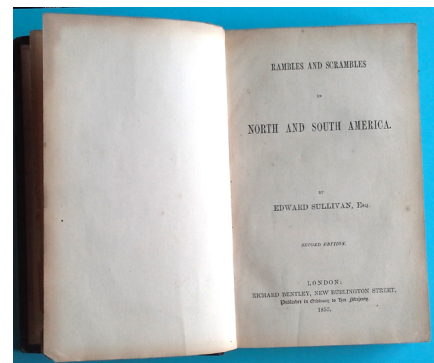
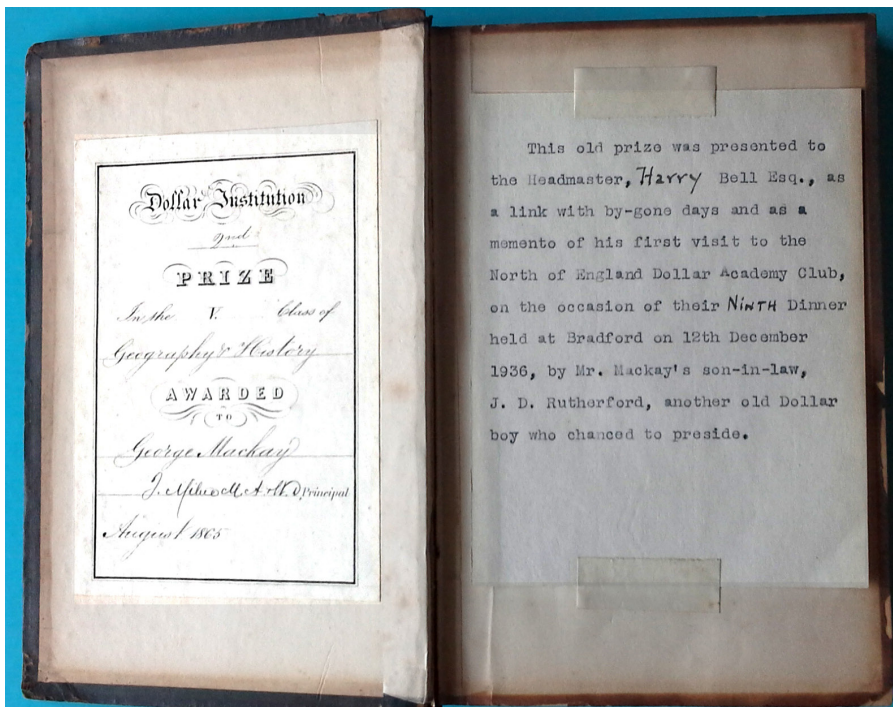
The book makes entertaining reading as the intrepid author undertakes dangerous expeditions across the Great Lakes and then into Indian country before traveling down the Mississippi. He lives with the Sioux tribe for several weeks—they had never met a tourist before and made him reasonably welcome—before heading for St Louis. From the title, I assume he is next bound for the south, but I am considerably less than halfway through. Although Sullivan is clearly a wealthy and educated man who writes elegantly and reflects thoughtfully on much of what he sees (and he is categorical about the corruption of the American government in its dealings with the American Indian tribes), the inevitable deprivations and hardships (he nearly dies on several occasions) mean that his journey is closer to a backpacking gap year than an Americanized version of the Grand Tour.

Some of his prejudices are dated and insupportable, but he is thoughtful and often far-seeing, and there are some passages that contain touches of Bryson-style humour, such as the one offered below:

*'It is in the Western states that all the peculiarities of slang and twang are most remarkable, more especially the "guessing". An American addressed an Englishman, who was not in a very amiable mood, on board one of the steamers. "I guess you're a stranger." "Yes," said the Englishman, "I am." "I guess you're a Britisher." "Right again." "Well I guess..." "Stop," said the Englishman; "you've guessed often enough: it's my turn to guess now. I guess you're an inquisitive ass." This so took the American by surprise, that he did not know what to say.'*

David Knapman





*John Douglas Rutherford during a visit to Dollar Academy with his sister, Annie, and his brother, Tom (both also FPs), sitting on the wall at the south entrance to the school in 1937*



*Harry Bell with his wife, Sophie, and young family in the Rector's garden around 1939. L-R: John, Rector Harry Bell, Mrs Sophie Bell, Patricia, Sandy (who sent us the prize book)*



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