

The
Strathallian

2011-2012





*Traditionally full of waffle...
no, I mean offal.*



I did it my way



*"Ya beauty! This is one event
Simpson might not win!"*



*"I've told you before, my dad says
you're not to wear these on the grass."*



*Right Said Fred reunion tour
gets under way.*

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Captains of School

My time at Strathallan started pretty badly, not because of the people, they were lovely, just in how I represented myself... On my first day I introduced myself as "Wood. Alasdair Wood" James Bond-style to a huge number of sniggers from the year group. Shortly afterwards I went swimming at the Hermitage at Dunkeld whilst on Ruthven retreat in just a pair of white y-fronts, which earned me the not-too-flattering nick-name "Tighty Whitey" from Niv and Charmin', my then Upper VI, for the first two weeks. When I think back on my first year it was a miracle that I managed to fit in and was accepted by everyone, and I think that in itself says a lot about the school.

The five years I spent at Strathallan are collection of memories that I will take with me wherever I go. The time flew by, although I didn't always know it at the time, it was a lot of fun. Sometimes life was hectic; always something to do, people to talk to, something to organise, dealing with your own stress and that of those around you, and other times it seemed like I had all the time in the world, chatting with the lads in House, going and seeing friends about the school or even just passing a rugby ball about.

All these feelings, emotions, memories are streamed into one surreal torrent that comprises some of the most important years of my life. 3rd Form seems to have stretched an age, yet Upper 6th was gone in a flash. I went to Strathallan at 13, I left at 18, a completely different individual. I can safely say that had I not gone to Strathallan I would, in no way, be the person I am today. Strathallan can't make you do things; an institution itself can't force you to change as a person, but it can provide the opportunity and the means to do so. I feel comfortable looking back over my time at Strathallan and thinking that there are few opportunities I didn't take. Through trying as many different things as possible I was able to find things that I was good at, and things that I was not so good at, but above all the most important thing I learnt at Strathallan was not to be afraid to try things.

I'm sure Mhairi and all the other Heads of Houses from this year are feeling the same, it is so hard to get everything down on paper. Having spent so much time at one place, it seems a huge injustice to try and distil all that information but what I would like to say is thank you to all the people who supported me during my time at Strathallan. To those in Ruthven House, the tutors, but especially Mr and Mrs Watt, thank you both for being the best House Parents I could have asked for. Outside of that, thanks to all my teachers, both sporting and academic, without you I wouldn't be sitting here typing this in Germany, member of a Bundesliga Hockey Club with a unconditional to Edinburgh next year, so although I may not have always appreciated it at the time, thank you for pushing me in the classroom, on the pitch and in the gym.

I want to mention a few of my favourite memories from the five exceptional years I had at Strathallan; the feel of camaraderie standing on stage with more than sixty of the lads from House in the Perth Concert Hall before breaking into our

although I may not have always appreciated it at the time, thank you for pushing me in the classroom, on the pitch and in the gym...

version of *Sweet Caroline*; Kettles' look of disgust and screech of horror when he pulled his sock off at Pre-Season Rugby training and saw that the slimy thing that had just touched his foot was in fact a frog... whoever that mastermind was, I salute you; lastly, one trip I made to the Bio department doors on a sunny afternoon in May will always be burnt into my memory. I could go on and on about the times I had at Strathallan; it's the fact that I have so many good memories from the school that astounds me.

To all those still at the school. I hope that Mhairi and I managed to get across in our speech how important it is to use the time you spend at Strathallan. Involve yourself in as much as you can, it's much easier to do less as you get older, but much harder to start to do more!

To James Spalding and Millie Galashan, good luck, enjoy it, but above all make sure your academics come first.

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen." Michael Jordan

Alli Wood
UVI Ruthven



Ali Wood UVI Ruthven
Mhairi Bannerman UVI Glenbrae

I must have been a bit of a strange child. At the age of eleven, fuelled by having read all the Harry Potter novels, I was looking up boarding schools on the internet and asking my parents if I could go. This was because we were moving from Paris to Burma, where there was no British school. However, my dad visited the International School of Yangon (ISY) and deemed that it was perfectly suitable for both my brother and me to attend - and so my attempts to go to boarding school were temporarily thwarted.

But a year later we were on the move again, and although I very much enjoyed Burma and ISY, I still wanted to go to boarding school. This time our destination was Pau, a small town in the south west of France. Having already attended French school a number of years back, my brother and I weren't keen to repeat the experience, as 'redoublement' would have been very likely since our level of French had decreased dramatically.

And so, finally, my wish was granted, and my dad was worried I would be let down and that it wouldn't quite be like Hogwarts, as I had imagined. But he was absolutely wrong. Strathallan lived up to all my expectations - even exceeded them.

I was warmly welcomed into 2nd Form in Riley House by Mr and Mrs Bush and immediately became part of the school, participating in many of the activities on offer, including my favourite; hockey. It has to be said, there were a few tears on the first couple of nights, but after that I never looked back. I will always remember Gill, our matron, who made me feel so at home. The highlight of Riley was definitely 2nd Form camp, even though the 2-man tent with four of us in it, did unfortunately mean we had a rather wet couple of nights.

Moving into Thornbank House was an exciting time, leaving us with so much more freedom compared to Riley. THE VILLAGE SHOP?! PREP IN OUR ROOMS? It was a new and exciting experience. I had such a great two years in Thornbank under the care of the famous Flemings. My memories include Mr

Fleming's 'great' jokes and stories of how he now has half a pinky, and Mrs Fleming's hilarious laughter. I mustn't forget to mention Miss Wilkinson who was the in-house tutor at the time, and with whom we spent many a Saturday night playing board games.

However, all good things must come to an end, but the decision, for me, to move to the new girls' house, Glenbrae, was a very tricky one. All the girls were given a form to fill out: 'stay', 'don't mind', or 'move'. All three boxes had been ticked numerous times before I decided to bite the bullet and go for it. I ticked 'move' and handed it in before I could change my mind again. Despite my love of Thornbank at the time, moving to Glenbrae was a good decision. Starting off with a crisp, fresh, new building, over the last three years, the house has become more and more homely and full of character, with the addition of photos on the walls, and, needless to say, the occasional marks on the walls as well. In-House tutors Mrs Duncan and Miss Robertson have proved to be a great asset, especially for those struggling with Maths. Mr and Mrs MacBain have done a great job in starting the legacy of Glenbrae House. 1st trophy won: Inter House Debating. Most famous win: Inter-House Music, featuring *Barbie Girl*. I'm sure Glenbrae will continue to thrive and prosper under the reign of... Nell.

It is not without regret that I leave Strathallan behind, but rather than dwell on the past, I look forward to the future, and consider myself lucky to have participated in all that Strathallan has to offer. I plan to continue to play hockey at university and one thing I know I will miss is Miss Sime's smiling face and encouraging comments on the hockey pitch. "Fantastic!"

I'd like to wish Millie Galashan and James Spalding good luck as Captains of School for the 2012/13 school year, and also wish all teachers and pupils the very best for the future

As one door closes another one opens.

Mhairi Bannerman
UVI Glenbrae

I was actually going to boarding school! I was so excited at the prospect of it...

Headmaster's report



the key, is to ensure that everything we do is as good as it can be...



The theme of this year's Speech Day was a quotation borrowed from a well-known Director of Rugby "We do not have a philosophy; we just try to be good at everything". The creative work of the Marketing Department has seen the School's name featured at Murrayfield and in a variety of other locations and publications and their work is very important; the key, however, is to ensure that everything we do is as good as it can be. The success achieved by the School is reflected in the pages of *The Strathallian* but it seems appropriate also to highlight a few aspects here.

Over all the academic results achieved in the four sets of external examinations were the best recorded in the School's history. We again rose above the 80% mark at A level A* to B, with A* at 21% - more results at that level than any other Scottish School. At Higher we achieved a significant increase in the percentage at A and at B. Importantly, pupils got into top UK universities either through the A level route or the Higher route. This year rather more students went to Scottish universities - perhaps not surprisingly - but our pupils continue to win acceptance in a wide variety of institutions including Russell Group universities, Oxford and Cambridge, and this year a number of universities abroad including Barcelona, Hong Kong, California, Romania and Madrid.

We also aim to challenge our students beyond the confines of the external examinations. Maths Challenges this year saw a total of twenty-one Gold awards and our senior team coming third out of twenty-seven entrants in Scotland in the Scottish Maths Challenge. Tony Tong was in the top three hundred

out of 250,000 individual entrants. Charlie Rutherford gained silver in the National Biology Olympiad; Adeeb Naasan, Highly Commended. Frances Myatt again won the Guardian Children's Fiction Critic Prize and added to that the first place in the Fitzwilliam College Cambridge Ancient World and Classics Essay Prize. Frances was also joined by Millie Galashan in advancing to the later stages of the ESU Mace Debating competition. Our Young Enterprise Scotland Dragon's Den group gained funds from a presentation to local businessmen to sell soap and Eco-friendly bags.

Sporting success both individual and team continues to be remarkable with twenty nine of our students representing Scotland during the past academic year. In addition we had two Great Britain representatives, thirty-three Scottish championship winners, and eleven British championship winners. The sports in which we achieved national success were rugby, skiing, equestrianism, tennis, swimming, hockey, canoeing, cycling, gymnastics, cricket, clay pigeon shooting, netball, basketball, fencing, biathlon, cross country, orienteering and chess. In addition, large numbers of pupils took part in the regular team sports. Almost all of the sports mentioned above fielded teams in local and national competitions. Particular highlights were the Girls' Hockey team winning nine tournaments across the age groups and our skiers who picked up several team competitions at British and at Scottish level. There were five individual national champions also. Nine musicians were in national choirs/orchestras and the Conservatoire and piping is enjoying a resurgence with individuals winning first and second in the Intermediate Solo competition out of thirty six entrants at the Glasgow Highland Club.

Charity initiatives continue to be very important and there were major events as a focus for fundraising with a variety show and a high-class fashion show at Gleneagles. Pupils again went to Kenya to give of their time to help the orphans and the pupils in the primary school in Kibera and also raised considerable sums of money to provide material help there.

This year we bade farewell to one member of staff who retired and two others who were promoted to positions as Heads of Department. Alasdair McMorris was Head of Art for the past eighteen years and established a department which is recognized throughout the country as an area of genuine excellence. Alasdair always set himself and his students the highest standards and we all enjoyed his final exhibition. We wish him every success in a retirement which will be far from idle as I know that he intends to use the time to paint far more than he has been able to do whilst helping the pupils here. This year again Strathallan continued its acts of charity to other HMC schools by providing another one with a Head of Geography. Kate Wilkinson left us to take on the department at Loretto. She was a classic example of the all-round school teacher equally at home in the Geography department, on a rugby pitch, on the tennis court and in Thornbank House all of which areas are hugely indebted to her. Clare Flanagan was appointed to be Head of Modern Languages at Lochaber High School. Her commitment in the classroom and genuine academic quality were appreciated

by many students of French and German. Uliana Nastashchuk also threw herself into the life of the School supporting pupils whose first language is not English and helping in any area she could. As this publication arrives on the doorstep Richard Fitzsimmons will be completing his final term; in addition to heading up the History Department which has seen a recent significant increase in pupil numbers, Richard has coached the 1st XI Cricket team which has achieved some fine results and supported the development of a number of outstanding individual cricketers over the last few years. A long time Resident Tutor in Nicol House and indefatigable umpire of hockey Richard also established football at Strathallan.

Joining the staff in September are a small number of new colleagues. Lacey Joy has swapped her position as Head of Faculty of Art and Design Technology at Rickmansworth School, Hertfordshire for the beauty of rural Perthshire and takes over from Alasdair McMorris in the Art Department. Lacey was educated in the United States and at the American International University London before taking a PGCE in Art and Design at the Institute of Education London and brings considerable experience not only of supporting students in high standards in Art but also as Gifted and Talent Co-ordinator for Hertfordshire. Making the rather shorter trip from Edinburgh is Michael Joiner who worked as a Graduate Assistant at the Edinburgh Academy while completing his Masters in Secondary Education in Geography. In addition to working in our Geography Department Michael will be Resident Tutor in Freeland House. He has already become fully involved in rugby coaching and his contribution to a variety of sports will be significant. John Nolan spent well over thirty years teaching German as a Principal Teacher in Fife until the education authority there decided that German should not continue. Since this point he has continued to teach German and French in more enlightened areas and we are delighted that the Modern Language Department will have the benefit of his experience for the forthcoming academic year prior to Cliona Gatenby's taking over in September 2013. Cliona is currently working in Edinburgh; she has completed her probationary year, is a graduate of Aberdeen University in French and German and also brings experience of top level club hockey. And we welcome Olena Tantsiura our HMC Exchange Teacher who will support pupils whose first language is not English.

This year there has been something of a turnaround in assistants with the loss of Sandra Thompson who has supported Chemistry for 23 years, Jayne Gunn, Physics for 13 years, and Hannah Jassim Art who goes on to undertake a teaching qualification inspired by her work here. All of have contributed significantly to the support of the pupils. We are delighted to welcome Nicola Forbes, Eilish McGhee and Douglas Stewart to replace them.

The academic session 2012-13 has begun with 561 pupils, the highest September total in the School's history and we look forward to their all contributing further success in the year.

BKT

*twenty nine
of our students
represented
Scotland
during the past
academic year..*

Salvete

Surname	Name	Init'ls	YG	House	Ad date
Abdul Aziz	Mohammad	A	S5	Nicol	05/09/2012
Abernethy	Amy		S2	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Adams	Gabriela	K	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Al-Asadi	Ali	M	S5	Nicol	05/09/2012
Alexander	Jed		P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Bauer	Alexander	D	S4	Freeland	05/09/2012
Bayne	Georgia	K	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Beveridge	Lochlan	G	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Brierton	Finlay	A	S3	Nicol	05/09/2012
Brown	Victoria	L	S2	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Bulkeley	Emma	L	S3	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Burnett	Emma		S2	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Cameron	Struthan	M	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Campbell	Sarah	N	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Clegg-Butt	Samantha		S5	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Collins	Lewis	D M	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Cooke	Nikita	H A	S2	Glenbrae	09/01/2012
Crockart	Thomas		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Cui	Xuan		S5	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Culley	George	J	P6	Riley	09/01/2012
Darby	Abigail	C L	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Dawson	Fraser	C	S2	Nicol	05/09/2012
Dayab	Nora		S3	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Dokmaipum	Thanyaporn		S3	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Donnelly	Jessica		S1	Riley	09/01/2012
Duncan	Archie	J	S3	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Dundee	Niall	J M	P5	Riley	19/04/2012
Dutton	Courtney		S5	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Dye	Rebecca	G E	S2	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Eedle	James	A	S5	Simpson	05/09/2012
Emslie	Harry		S2	Nicol	05/09/2012
England	Isabella	J	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Erhahon	Aiseosa		P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Fagerson	Matthew	J	S3	Nicol	05/09/2012
Ferguson	James	A A	S1	Riley	05/09/2012

Surname	Name	Init'ls	YG	House	Ad date
Fernandes	Abraham		S6	Nicol	09/01/2012
Fotheringham	Angus		P6	Riley	20/02/2012
Fowlie	Brianna		S4	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Fowlie	Kieran		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Garcia Serrano	Elena		S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Gloag	Matthew	A	S2	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Goddard	Shannah	G	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Gray	James	E	S3	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Grieve	Ross	M	S2	Freeland	05/09/2012
Halkett	Lisle	C	S2	Simpson	19/04/2012
Hall	Emily	L R	S2	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Hallifax	Calum		S2	Simpson	05/09/2012
Hallifax	Euan		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Hamilton	Rachel	A	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Hardie	William	W	S2	Freeland	05/09/2012
Hay	Philippa	J	S2	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Howard-Vyse	Gemma	H J	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Howell	Archie	F	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Howell	Georgina	G A	S5	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Ireland	Nicholas	R	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Isianov	Rafael	I	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Ivanov	Vladimir	E	S1	Riley	19/04/2012
Johnstone	Sophie		S2	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Jones	Stephanie		S5	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Keir	Amy		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Kirasirov	Suleiman	I	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Knowles	Aimee	M	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Komolafe	Fortune	O	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Koutstaal	Roselinde	J	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Laird	Finlay	B	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Laird	Josh	M L	S5	Freeland	05/09/2012
Laird	Rowan	P	P6	Riley	05/09/2012
Lapslie	Henry	R K	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Lavrova	Alisa		P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Lightbody	Polly	R	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012

Surname	Name	Init'ls	YG	House	Ad date
Lindsay	Abbie	C	S2	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Linton	Amanda	J	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Lochhead	Hannah		S5	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Lorimer	George	J	S3	Simpson	05/09/2012
Mackenzie	Kelly	L	S3	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Macmillan	Ross	F	S2	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Marden	Angus		S1	Riley	09/01/2012
Martinez	Cristina		S3	Woodlands	05/09/2012
McCallum	Murray		S5	Ruthven	05/09/2012
McClure	Jessica	R	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
McGrath	Harriet	M	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
McGuire	Jennifer	J	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
McMillan	Romayne	T	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Messenger	Blair	H	S2	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Miller	Jamie	G P	S2	Nicol	05/09/2012
Milne	Holly	R	S5	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Mohammed	Ibrahim		S5	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Molnar	Tom	F	S2	Simpson	05/09/2012
Neagu	Ioan-Liviu		S5	Freeland	05/09/2012
Otte	Cornelius	M	S5	Nicol	05/09/2012
Ottley	Phoebe	M	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Patterson	Morgan		P5	Riley	05/09/2012
Pettinger	Atholl	J	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Piamjariyakul	Jaypat		S2	Freeland	05/09/2012
Piamjariyakul	Pimkanok		S5	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Pottinger	Natasha	L	S2	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Ramos	Laura		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Reid	Arran	R	S3	Freeland	05/09/2012
Reid	Myles	P	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Robertson	Cameron	G	S3	Ruthven	09/01/2012
Robertson	Fraser	H	S2	Ruthven	09/01/2012
Robertson	Heather	E	P7	Riley	09/01/2012
Robson	Kitty	J K	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Rumble	Patrick		S5	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Rutherford	Jonathan	A D	S4	Ruthven	09/01/2012

Surname	Name	Init'ls	YG	House	Ad date
Rutherford	Katherine	F G	S6	Glenbrae	09/01/2012
Salvesen	Emma	B C	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Samuel	Emmanuel	J	S2	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Sangster	Aimee	L	S4	Thornbank	09/01/2012
Sangster	Hannah	L	S4	Thornbank	09/01/2012
Savkin	Boris	B	S3	Freeland	05/09/2012
Scott	Brendan	J	S5	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Sierra	Carlos	A	S2	Simpson	05/09/2012
Sit	Alvan		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Smith	Andrew		S2	Ruthven	05/09/2012
Smith	Rachel		S2	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Smoljanitski	Pjotr	A	S5	Simpson	05/09/2012
Snowie	Fergus	J	P5	Riley	05/09/2012
Stewart	Jemma	L	S2	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Sutherland	Zara	L L	P5	Riley	05/09/2012
Tandanand	Ruj		S2	Simpson	05/09/2012
Taylor	Georgia	C	S2	Thornbank	05/09/2012
Thompson	Jack	L	S5	Simpson	05/09/2012
Thomson	Christian	GS	S2	Nicol	05/09/2012
Thomson	Matthew	P	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Turner	Matthew	J	S6	Freeland	05/09/2012
Tyson	Harry		S5	Freeland	05/09/2012
Walker	Adam	R	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Walker	Ross	D	P7	Riley	05/09/2012
Waller	Alexander	J	S2	Nicol	05/09/2012
Wand	Claudia		S5	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Watt	Danielle	A	S3	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Webster	Lewis		S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Welsh	Blair	R I	S1	Riley	05/09/2012
Westphalen	Heinrich		S4	Freeland	05/09/2012
Wilson	Forbes	R A	P5	Riley	20/04/2012
Wolff	Verena	J I	S5	Glenbrae	05/09/2012
Young	Anna	M	S2	Woodlands	05/09/2012
Young	Harrison	AR	S4	Ruthven	09/01/2012
Yu	Chun Kiu		S5	Nicol	05/09/2012

Speech Day

It is surely with a genuine sense of anticipation that even the longest-standing members of the Strathallan Common Room both see and hear the erection of the marquees in the run-up to Speech Day. The sounds of hammering and shouting (not just in DT) and the sight of slightly besmirched canvas racing up masts of HMS Indefatigable dimensions mean that, yes, another half-term holiday is fast approaching.

The parents turn up in droves and monstrous 4WDs, the marines polish their gaiters (*are you sure about this? Ed*), the pipe band quite literally huff and puff and the proceedings once again get under way. Where would we be without PK's comedy tie, Dr D's Caped Crusader outfit, Mrs MacFarlane's paparazzi shots (q.v.), one of Mr Vallot's stunning range of 'casual daywear' kilts or the Headmaster's attempts to get competitive sports into every single section of his speech? It is true that this year he did, according to his own account, make a sincere attempt to cut down the number of times he mentioned success in one sporting field or another; but it is equally true that he failed dismally. All was forgiven, however, when he managed to shoe-horn both "messianic zeal" and "Doga" into the one sentence.

Professor Sue Black, of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee, didn't appear to have any difficulty with the fine specimens who had assembled in order to receive prizes from hands that had been to places that many of us might have preferred not to know about but, as the forensic anatomist almost exclusively responsible for tracing the identities and precise fates of possibly thousands of victims of Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic's attempts at genocide in Bosnia and for the murderers' subsequently being brought to justice, Professor Black had every right to let us know just exactly what her work consisted in and was, in fact, remarkably gentle with us. She has many stories, not all of them laden with tragedy, and was a welcome relief from the financial spreadsheet of the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Speeches done, we burst forth into the Central Scottish sunshine which was, at the time, lightly obscured by some Central Scottish rainfall, and milled about enjoying the cultural, artistic and educational treats on offer; oh, yes, and the vols-au-vents and miniature sausage rolls that are the standby of any occasion of the sort. Cue intense chat, warm embraces and the increasingly forlorn looks of youngsters wondering how long they have to wait before they can wrinkle the aged P away from their teachers for another year.

EGK





Riley House

The Autumn term began with our new pupils' and parents' tea on Wednesday 5th September. We welcomed thirty new children to join our fifty-five 'old hands' and by the Summer term we had ninety-seven pupils in Riley. We also welcomed two new Riley members of staff - Mr John Fleming as tutor in charge of Dupplin and Mr Steven Glass as a resident tutor.

Once again on our first Saturday of term there were no lessons for Riley as we headed off for four hours of fun at the Forest Theme Park at Carrbridge near Aviemore. This bonding exercise proved to be a great day out with plenty of exciting activities for all to try.

Our activity programme proved popular with most of our children during the course of the year. Many were involved in the canoe club, table tennis and the Perth League, Riley swim team and in the Summer term tennis and orienteering. Music also continued to involve more pupils in our choir, orchestra, Riley Rocks and a 2nd Form 'Supergroup'.

Good progress was made by our sports' teams during the year. In particular our U13A rugby side had an excellent season - only losing one match and playing most attractive rugby.

At the end of the Autumn term we said goodbye and thank you to Annabelle Gillroy and Hamish Whittle our Australian Gap Year students. They were replaced in January by Mike Kourpanidis and Clancey O'Brien also from 'Down Under'.

Unfortunately the Spring term brought less than an hour's worth of snow - we had more snow flurries at the beginning of the Summer term - and so there were no House outings to the ski slopes of Glenshee this year.

The Summer term was cold and very wet with the exception of 10 days at the end of May which coincided with the 2nd Form Camp when we had not a cloud in the sky and temperatures of 28° centigrade. The wet weather meant a number of sporting cancellations including our Sports' Day which we managed to complete at the second attempt. We were, however, blessed with a dry Sunday afternoon for our Charity fancy dress fun run and cake and candy stalls for Mary's Meals. By the end of term £2000 had been raised for this charity and fifty school bags had been filled with useful children's items for developing countries.

In the divisional competition Balmanno tended to dominate throughout the year but the Summer term competition was very close indeed with all four divisions having a chance to win the term



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at the final event, softball, on the last morning of term. The result of the Summer competitions was Balmanno and Glenearn 1st = with 31 points and Dron and Dupplin 3rd = with 29 points. The divisional shield, for all three terms, went to Balmanno.

Other highlights during the year included Non Uniform Days for charity, Strathallan's Musical Showcase in the Perth Concert Hall, informal concerts in the Riley Common Room, Divisional Plays and Music Competitions, Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime in the Perth Theatre, Scotland v France rugby at Murrayfield, 2nd Form history outing to 'old' Edinburgh, 2nd Form Camp on the shores of Loch Lomond, Strathallian and Family Day and our colourful House production of The Jungle Book performed to parents and friends in the School Theatre before our end-of-year Prize Giving. Well done, Riley!

PB

The following were presented with prizes on Friday 1st July

Academic

Best Form Orders - Effort Totals

1JJ	Peter Wallwork Finlay Wiseman
1J	Maggie English
1st	Caitlin Donald Ailsa Macgregor
2nd	Chris Blair Emily Watt Angus Lapslie Becky Ward

Most Progress

Connor Collins

Distinctions

Struan Griffiths
Ellen McDonald
Sarah Clayton
Josh Philpott
Murphy Walker
Carrie Mack
Ruaridh Clarke
Dylan Patterson
Kirsty Bell

Music

Chris Blair & Emily Watt

Drama

Jonny Carswell & Lucy Orr

Games

Cammy Griffiths &
Imogen Robertson-
Barnett

Art

Allan Fernandez &
Nikita Cooke

DT

Gavin Stewart &
Kirsty Bell

Reading Champion

Carrie Mack

Cups and Trophies

Div Plays

Balmanno

Chess Master

Fraser Robertson

Div Music

Best soloist Sam Steele

Best Div Dron

Div Swimming

The Simpson Cup
Dupplin

Football - World Cup

Glenearn

Riley Sports' Day

Victrix Ludorum Imogen Robertson-Barnett

Victor Ludorum Rory Arthur

Mixed Doubles Tennis

Douglas Tait &
Isla Patterson

Hewson Cup

Cameron Griffiths and
Becky Ward

Divisional Shield

Balmanno



*by the end of term
£2000 had been
raised for Mary's
Meals*





Freeland House

...Freelanders like to get into the spirit of social activities, going to some trouble to dress for events...

It has been another interesting and enjoyable year in Freeland. The third form brought with them plenty of life and energy while the care, experience and dedication of Mrs Howett and Mr Giles significantly bolstered our tutoring ranks. The arrival of people from overseas like Pablo and Gorka from Barcelona, Tom from Cairo, Matty from Muscat, Martin from Bannenburg, Tom from Beijing and our exchange, Oli from Canberra, helped to further enrich our already interesting lives.

The first half-term saw the House choir preparing enthusiastically for one song, only to do a backflip at the 11th hour and sing a completely different one. Our effort with *What Makes You Beautiful* showed great promise but proved a little under-done. The ensemble of Ryan Hornby, Scott Haldane, Andrew Blair, Martin Marshall, Colin Gordon, Kinson Cheung and Liam Kennedy produced a rousing effort with *Let Me Entertain You* while John Dew's bagpipe repertoire was tremendous.

Our best effort on the sporting front came early in the new year with the inter-House cross country races. The junior team won their section by occupying five of the first six places while intermediate team were placed second. James Burdett and Duncan Cook made up two thirds of the record breaking triathlon team while a very strong senior football team was pipped at the post by the wizardry of Simpson's star player. Our table tennis players, Tony Tong, Matthew Patterson, John Dew and Liam Kennedy were ranked amongst the best in Perthshire while Gorka Torras Lauzirika was named the most improved member of the school golf team with some outstanding performances. Matthew Hyde was the highest ranked fencer in his age division in Scotland while Callum Fletcher represented Great Britain in pentathlon.

Our trophy cabinet did get a boost with a win in the Academic Challenge. The team of Sandy Cook, Daniel Adams, James Burdett and Cameron Jenkins were in devastating form as they demolished Simpson in the final.

Freeland was again well represented in Drama productions with Sandy Cook, Alex McLeod, Michael Milford and Scott Haldane taking on leading roles in *Cinderella* and Scott, Alex and Martin Marshall singing in *Chess*. Again, Freeland boys have made a significant contribution make up and quality of the chapel choir.

Freelanders like to get into the spirit of social activities, going to some trouble to dress for events. They enjoyed frequent Sunday afternoon barbecues and made sure the only warm week of the year was not missed by purchasing a pool online for all to enjoy.

This year brought to an end Freeland's long association with the King family as we said goodbye to Chris as our thoughtful and hard-working head of House. We thank Chris, Jamie, Allan, Jenny and Duncan for their generous contribution over the years and wish them all the best for the future.

Freeland is fortunate to have a wonderful team of tutors and domestic staff to support the boys. They genuinely care for the boys and work hard to meet their needs and encourage them to do their best. It is appropriate here to congratulate our longest serving tutor, Mr Walmsley, who became a father to Elizabeth this year. Let me close by commending all of the boys on the way in which they have worked to make Freeland a thoughtful and caring community and thanking them for their contribution in so many aspects of House and school life.

BH







As another unforgettable year passes and another group of lads move into their new post-Strathallan lives, we are reminded of the spirit and enthusiasm that fuels the boys of Nicol House in their various accomplishments. For many of us, Nicol is the proof that with constant support, genuine motivation and a vibrant red and yellow colour-scheme, anything is possible. What we think sets Nicol apart is that it's a community within which, literally, *everyone* feels valued. Whatever our skills, we know that effort is key – and we're not afraid to show it.

In our first half term House Music arrived and Steven Segaud & co, long the backbone of the Nicol music tradition, proved once again that our talents lie in many differing areas and instruments. We sang a song that nobody knew for House Choir; either a clever gamble or a foolish choice. The performance would suggest the former, the adjudication the latter. Who has ever heard of The Pigeon Detectives anyway? (*Er, me, actually. Ed*) Steve Segaud gave us some romance on the violin as a solo and then led the ensemble together with Robbie Blackburn and Charlie Mearns. The quality of Steven's performances have always been superb and we also had fun too. Winner!

Chronologically speaking (that means kind of in time order), Rugby was the other area of Strath life dominating our first term. Zander Fagerson, Vova Sadovyich and Murdo McAndrew all played for the XV, Vova and Zander beefing up the pack somewhat and Murdo providing the silky skills of a scrum half, when he could drag himself away from his bromance with Will Lyburn. Murdo has achieved some pretty amazing things over the last twelve months and since coming into Nicol. He has trained hard. He has played for and captained Scotland U18. He has remained as modest as any of us and a great example to the rest of the boys. And finally... he has been signed by the French club Clermont Auvergne and has now moved to the Massif Central (that's the massive central bit in France, that is) to become a professional rugby player. Good luck Murdo – we are right behind you (metaphorically of course, but literally, if a large French prop is running in your direction). A special mention must also go to Nicol's Mr 'I can do everything because I have just learned how to run', Fraser Doig, who captained the 2nd XV, and to his brother Grant who was also captain of the U16 squad. House Rugby was a sea of red and yellow, as always. With big banners and our heads held very high, we once again won the competition for the most supporters packed onto a touchline. A Kevin McAlister-led Badminton team competed in the House Badders comp and another McAlister-led team, this time the B'ball posse, also played really well, coming second in both tournaments.

As the Autumn term progressed, we turned our attention to the dreaded UCAS and all that it meant for our bright red and yellow futures. Four of our number made early applications, three to Oxbridge (all three getting interviews) as well our Head of House Adeeb Naasan, who applied to study Medicine (and got in with flying colours taking the Dux in the process). In Nicol we take our academic progress pretty seriously, really, and as a result we are really proud of the fact that of those members of the Upper Sixth making January applications, every one of us got in to the universities of our choice. Hooray! Of particular note was Lewis Watson's successful application to Cambridge to study Economics. The rest of us have gone to other great places like Loughborough, Glasgow, Warwick, LSE and are now grateful that we did some work.

The year continued with an impressive show in both junior, and senior, House hockey. Although we may have come second, it was clear that we were the most spirited and the best-supported team in the competition... again! With the sidelines coated in masses of Nicol support it was hard to hear anything over the cheers of our fans. Despite not winning, all the boys walked away from the pitch happy with the knowledge that they had put in a solid effort for their House. In hockey, Charlie Mearns represented the 1st XI and the 2nd XI was virtually a Nicol team, captained by Fraser Doig (who else?!). Both the 4th Form and 3rd Form teams were also captained and vice-captained by Nicolites, Jack Waller, Javi Uriach and Ewan Doig. There must be something in the red and yellow air that churns out great leaders. And then came Inter-House Cross Country and cue... Abe Fernandes, the long-distance genius who stole the show and took first place in the whole school. Nice one, Abe! We also won Inter-House Debating with a strong performance from Robbie Blackburn and Adeeb Naasan, continuing our success in this competition from last year's double victory. House Football saw incoming Head of House Murdo MacIver miss a crucial penalty that would have won us the match. Murdo has not been reminded about that since, honest. Special mention must go to Chuck Mearns who proved he can run very fast in extremely bright shorts and to the massive Nicol crowd who enjoyed the early summer sunshine relaxing in Mr Billing's garden chairs whilst supporting the team. Once again we counted at least twenty-three more supporters than any other House, not that we were, er, counting (there should be a House 'House support' competition shouldn't there?).

Following the scorching and meteorologically bizarre yet welcome pre-Easter holiday heat-wave, we descended into the usual drizzle and

plummeting temperatures for the start of the cricket season. Despite the inclemency and the precipitation however, we loved House cricket. We would have won everything if the senior competition hadn't been cancelled due to the weather and the junior comp hadn't been decided by a ridiculous, nay, a farcical 'bowl-off'. There is cause for celebration, however, because we beat Simpson by scoring over 200 runs (Waller scored a century and was retired) to their meagre 20. Pretty resounding don't you think readers? Five of the cricket 1st XI were Nicolites this year, Fraser Doig (of course), Charlie Mearns, Kevin McAlister, Grant Doig and Jack Waller. The Strath tennis team was also captained by a Nicolite, this time 'Mr tennis' himself William Lyburn. Will, Lewis Watson, Connor Ovenglove, Angus Watson and Will Dallas led us to victory, yes another one (!) in House tennis too, beating Freeland and Simpson in some style, to clinch the title. We were also victorious for the fourth year in a row in Inter House Athletics, the ultimate test of determination (actually it was cancelled this year, so we retained the trophy by default) and in the House Mile Challenge which saw sixteen of our number sprint a mile in less than six minutes. A good effort! We also won House Golf too with Jonathan Dunn and Fraser Doig (yes, him again) both proving unbeatable over 18 holes. What a summer term of successes!! We came a respectable third on Sports Day and second in the tug-of-war, which was hotly contested this year between the body building crews of Nicol and some other House who have clearly devoured slightly more protein than us. Finally, or almost finally, a Speech Day style non-exhaustive list of our National Honours: Murdo McAndrew (U18 Scotland Rugby), Will Lyburn (U18 Scotland Tennis), Zander Fagerson (U16 Scotland Rugby), Charlie Mearns (U16 Scotland Hockey), Ovie Iroro (GT3 World Championships) and Fraser Buchan (British Alpine Ski Team '12).

Thanks this year as always go to all the tutors, for helping contain our various shenanigans; Davina and co. (aka 'The Ladies'), for keeping us in a tip-top tidy state all year and for looking out for us; Mrs. Billing, for regularly allowing small and smelly canine visitors to stay and keeping the House mascots barking mad; Mr. Maclean, for being the best, and only, Assistant Housemaster we've ever had; and finally, to Mr. Billing, for keeping the fires of the Nicol train fully stoked and having us moving full steam ahead (and for the choice of our new, arguably retina-scalding, paint job). We leave Nicol very proud indeed of being a part of this House. Each year it just gets stronger. Goodbye from the class of 11/12, good luck to the class of 12/13; raise your head high – you are a Nicolite!

Adeeb Naasan, Jamie Dinsmore and DEB



Nicol is the proof that with constant support, genuine motivation and a vibrant red and yellow colour-scheme, anything is possible





Ruthven House

Another successful year has come and gone in Ruthven House and, as always, it has brought many special moments to reflect back on and definitely a year in which most of the boys will have memories which they will carry with them for a long time.

The start of the winter term kicked off in the House with many new faces and time was spent by everyone getting to know the new guys and very quickly everyone had settled down. Inter-House rugby was one of the first competitions and with the help from our Aussie, Sean Cross, the seniors came a respectable second in a very tight final against Simpson. This was also the start of many inter House sporting competitions where Simpson would come first and Ruthven second. Sean didn't just contribute in rugby though, he was a great guy to have around the House and his excitement at almost anything and everything affected many of the boys in the House and he has been greatly missed. However, surprisingly it was off the sports field where Ruthven possibly had their greatest victory and that was in inter-House music, something which we didn't have any record in it must be said. We won not only the House choir but the ensemble, solo and the best conductor awards. House music was an opportunity for all of the boys in the House to get involved and along with some expertise from Eddie and a lot of time spent from some U6th ensuring practices went to plan the effort we all put in paid off and we were given the opportunity to repeat our performance of *Sweet Caroline* at Headmaster's Music in the Perth Concert Hall in front of thousands of people... At the end of the winter term we had our annual Christmas outing to Jimmy Chung's in Dundee with a slight change this year we (6th Form) decided we should all go in fancy dress for the outing and even some of the tutors got involved (Mr Vallot was not in fancy dress, Nick. That's his kilt. Ed); a great way to end what was a very successful first term in Ruthven.

Spring term came along quickly and further success came to the senior boys winning inter-House hockey. The big event in the spring term was the "Strathallan Variety Show" organised and run by the charity man Doga. Doga was also the star performer in the show with what only can be described as an incredible and somewhat deranged dance performance. Doga also continued his strenuous efforts in raising money and awareness throughout the year for charities and disasters caused by the earthquake and tsunami which devastated Japan.

Next came summer term and from a promisingly hot and sunny start soon came what has turned



There are many aspects to Ruthven which make it unique...

out to be one of the wettest summers on record. This may, in fact, have benefited a lot of the boys as the main concentration, especially for the seniors, in this term was exams so the weather outside did not provide too much of a distraction from the work. Ruthven has continued to achieve in academics with the highlight having to be Will Bradley being offered a conditional place at Oxford University. I wish him along with the rest of the Upper 6th all the best with life after school and I am sure we will all remember our time in Ruthven. In the summer term we were also joined by exchange student Nic Everett who fitted into the House and his year group very quickly and brought with him a classic lively Australian attitude. He also played an important role in the 1st X1 cricket team and I hope he enjoyed his stay in Ruthven despite the weather.

Callum Kettles has also left his mark in Ruthven by designing the new House badge although we are still waiting to hear from him on the design for the new House rugby tops...

In the House we have many people who have achieved fantastic results on a personal level across the board and represented at both district and international level and I would like to congratulate them on all of the hard work although I am not going to try and mention them all because I would hate to miss someone out.

There are many aspects to Ruthven which make it unique some of which are hard to explain but the main aspects for me which I have seen not only this year but in the five years I have been in the House are the relationships between all of the

boys not only within year groups but throughout the House. The respect the junior boys have for the seniors and vice versa is clearly shown and this leads to a relaxed and friendly environment within the House which makes living alongside all the boys throughout the year far easier and more enjoyable. The end of term BBQ is something that Ruthven does like no other House; all parents, friends and family of the boys are invited along with all new pupils for the following year and this gives a great opportunity to not only bid farewell to all of the leavers but also welcome all new pupils into the House and give them a short taste of the House and meet some of the boys who they will be sharing the House with. This year and along with all other years the BBQ was carried out to the highest standard by Mr Watt and I think we are all aware that the BBQ is definitely his forte.

At the end of this year we are not only saying good bye to all of the Upper 6th but also to Christian who has undeniably left his mark during his short stay in Ruthven and I know many of the boys including himself are very upset at the thought he won't be returning at the start of next year. Christian is known by most as the nicest guy in House and you know you have really done something wrong if you have annoyed him. He also played a major role in the 1st X1 hockey team and will be greatly missed on the hockey pitch as well.

Finally a few thank yous, firstly to the House prefects who have all helped in the smooth running of the House. To Matron, Julie, Anne and Charlotte who have all put a huge effort into the House, keeping it as clean as possible and of course Julie providing her "quality banter" also to Ashleigh who stepped in to help out during the year we say thank you. To all of the Tutors for their continuous help throughout the year with their respective year groups and on duty during the week. To Dr D for the many weekends and nights on duty and constant help within the House, what a guy!

The biggest thank you, of course, must go to Mr Watt and the Watt family; this has been Mr Watt's 12th year as Housemaster of Ruthven and his care and non-stop effort into making Ruthven as pleasant a place to live in, along with helping the boys with any problems that arise during the year. He goes out of his way for the boys giving up so much of his free time with everything from trips to Perth to birthday BBQs to hot chocolate and doughnuts in the evenings, all of which are not part of his "job description" as it were. So, on behalf of all the Ruthven boys I would like to say a huge thank you for all your effort this year.

Nick Farrar





Simpson House



the Simpson boys all share a unity and a family-like bond that makes it a place that we want to be.

When you join a House in the Third Form you have the opportunity to see many different Upper Sixths come and go. I often thought what would it be like to finally be the eldest member of the House and finally get to say that this was “my last year”. As I write this report that time is now fast approaching. My peers and I are leaving Strath and Simpson forever. Although we will all be moving on with our lives I would like to take time out now to reflect on merely a handful of experiences. From the ‘fullest’ trophy cabinet the House has seen for a while to the ‘Battle of the Madras’ at the Christmas night out.

Upper Sixth has been, undoubtedly, the fastest moving of my seven here at Strath. Although it has flown by it only seems like yesterday that I was in Mr B’s office accepting the offer to be Head of House. There is no doubt that it has been the most enjoyable year for me and the other lads in the Upper Sixth. The collection of characters that is Simpson made it harder and harder (as the exams got closer and closer) to get back to the books on those dreaded Sunday night prep times. You could always rely on some ‘ridiculous’ chat from the tag team that is Gavin (Snowflake) Tulloch and Hamish (Orque) Johnstone. From Third form all the way up the Upper Sixth the Simpson boys all share a unity and a family-like bond that makes it a place that we want to be. The Third Form’s pursuit of the historical “Gauntlet” providing hours of entertainment for all involved.

Simpson as a House take pride in our success on the sports field (notably the Herculean effort that literally ‘tugged’ the Tug o’ War trophy from the Ruthven grip) both individually and as members of a team. We also had several nationally-recognised players in a variety of sports. All the boys put in the hard work, day in and day out; whether it was hockey, rugby, swimming, dressage or chess (D-rock...we couldn’t leave you out now could we?). One young gentlemen was quite an underdog in his field but his effort, on that Thursday night in The Loft, is one that should be printed on the National Honours Board and be remembered forever. To win you must be prepared to lose and although we were successful in many areas Santi’s face after losing Inter-House music is one that sticks in the memory. Our Opera-esque harmonies of *Build me up Buttercup* falling

short of the mark for musical excellence. What it lacked in the music department it more than made up for in entertainment value. Who can forget as the crowd parted and the third form Buttercups were line-out lifted ten feet into the air.

Possibly the most anticipated competition was the heavyweight ‘scrap’ between Mr Gardiner and Matt Ross at the Christmas All You Can Eatathon, bragging rights were put firmly on the line. Mr Gardiner having easily seen off the previous challengers, 2008-2010. The final score is still debated between the two contestants as to who managed more plates of the taste-bud searing Jalfrezi (not by me, it was clearly a GNG win... again...Mr B).

The break time banter in the foyer is one thing that will be missed dearly by all leavers. Nicknames were created and good friends were made, giving us hours of laughter and fun within that small space. The ‘Stingpong’, the wrestling, the corridor cricket and the notorious pranks involving Santi, Cosmo and a bin are all highlights of the past year. Sixth Form events saw some of the wildest costumes in recent times with Jack (Sergeant Sensitive) Somerville and Blair (Calves Mc-Gee) Sangster never missing out on an opportunity to ‘wap’ out the bi’s and tri’s in their tightest vests.

All in all, I feel that this academic year has been one of success for Simpson as a House, winning several trophies (Rugby-Jnr & Snr, Sports Day, Swimming-Standards & Gala, Cross Country-Snr & Overall, Badminton, Basketball – Snr & Jnr, Football, Clay Pigeon, Tug O War, Chess) and performing well in all others. This despite Sports Rep Charlie (The Nibbler) Hall’s ‘convo- killing’ one liners.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Batterham (who led us into every situation with confidence and a childish joke), all of the visiting House tutors, Anne and Linda for putting up with our nonsense for so long, the gorgeous duo Michelle and Allison (good luck in reception), and my fellow Simpson lads in Upper Sixth. It has been a fabulous few years and this year would not have been so special if it wasn’t for you boys (and Amy). I leave wishing Cosmo (Upper Upper Sixth) Galashan and the rest of the House all the best for next year. I’m sure that Simpson’s trophies will stay nice and cosy in our “all too small” cabinets.

Ru Hunter





Thornbank House



There are countless memories and things I am going to miss about Thornbank when I leave

As ever this year feels like it has flown by. It was the start of a new era for Thornbank House as we welcomed our new House parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, new Residential Tutor Miss Mackie, our new matron, Jane and Turvy the dog.

As I read the article written by the Flemings last year I noticed a list of things they had learnt from their time in Thornbank. I can safely say that the Stuarts have fully settled in by "owning a cute dog", "always shouting really loudly and embarrassingly at inter-House competitions", "throwing lots of parties" and "spending lots of time with the girls".

Throughout the year Thornbank has held a number of events and parties, the first of which was Halloween; a chance for the House to dress up and take part in a number activities organised by the Upper 6th. The Christmas party is always a highlight of Thornbank's calendar and this year was no exception with the usual hilarious Lower 6th take on the life and ways of the Upper 6th. The Easter egg hunt then followed with a quiz orchestrated by the Lower 6th where we found out who does and doesn't have a shocking lack of general knowledge.

The House also enjoyed two outings to The Edinburgh Playhouse to see Sister Act and Olivier. An Art Day was also organised this year where our artistic ability was put to the test. This has greatly animated and personalised the corridors and walls of Thornbank. Big thanks to Emma He for all her efforts with organising this. In addition to this each year group has enjoyed dinner, cake, and BBQ's with the Stuarts. Finally, we celebrated the diamond jubilee in style with a House tea party where everyone ate too much cake, pinned the crown on the Queen, and Kirsty was knighted (her words, not mine).

Contrary to the words of Mhairi Bannerman on speech day we by no means lost every inter-House sporting competition this year. Thornbank's sporting highlights included winning junior netball, senior tennis, senior hockey, junior and senior basketball

and junior rounders with the support of Turvy, wearing the House colours all the way.

As well as House sporting success Thornbank's talent goes further with individuals' achievements, to name a few this past year;

Hanna and Emma Cheape's success in equestrian events continued with Hanna being selected to trial for the Scottish games squad and making it into the final 12. Emma was successful at the one day Scone event by winning the dressage and coming 2nd overall. Emma also won the Working Hunter and overall Supreme Champion at Fife Summer Show.

Charlotte Stephenson won the Gleneagles intermediate combined training, show jumping and dressage, came 2nd at Balcarres international horse trials team show jumping and is currently doing British eventing.

Anni Arthur and Megan Inch have been selected to join the under 16 Scotland hockey performance squads and Rachael Campbell into the under 18 squad. Rachael also set a new school record by scoring a total of 79 goals throughout this season. Emily Barnes was selected for the midlands under 16's squad.

Kirsty Mack and Nicole Skinner have been key members of the newly-established canoeing club this year, Kirsty winning the Div 3 K1 kayaking title and Nicole coming 2nd.

Four members of the Lower 6th, Camilla Irvine-Fortescue, Séverine Thompson, Hannah Pitts and Kirsty Muir were successful in getting a place on the school trip to Kenya this summer where we wish them the very best.

On a musical note (excuse the pun) (No. Ed) Ellie Kemp and Hannah Johnstone were accepted into The National Youth Choir of Great Britain Training Choir and Ellie also gained a place in The National Youth Choir of Scotland. Isla and Josie took part in the Gordon Duncan Experience, a traditional music band, and played a number of gigs around Perth.



Frances Myatt has had another successful year, winning the Fitzwilliam College Classics essay prize for Lower 6th pupils and one of the ten Guardian Children's Fiction Young Critics prizes.

Thornbank's enthusiasm in House music this year was as strong as ever, maybe in the House choir's case not always tuneful enthusiasm but enthusiasm all the same. However, our ensemble's version of *Make You Feel My Love* arranged by Hannah Johnstone and our solo by Ellie Kemp definitely raised the bar for Thornbank. Big thanks go to Hannah and all of the Upper 6th for their efforts here as this is not always an easy task.

This year we say farewell to Ms Wilkinson who has been a tutor in Thornbank for seven years. She has been a real asset to the House, adding plenty of laughter on Monday and Wednesday nights and we wish her the best of luck for this coming year as she gets married, moves house and settles into her new job.

Although at times school life can get pretty hard, Thornbank has always been that caring and supportive home away from home and without which life at Strathallan for seventy-three girls would not be the same. There are countless memories and things I am going to miss about Thornbank when I leave but here are a few that have happened in this last year;

The Lower 6th kitchen where many an hour was spent squirting the 3rd Formers with water as they returned from lessons.

The mature 5th Form who thought it would be funny to dye the milk pink, to the shock of the 3rd Form at break time.

The 4th Form's stash of Special K which they managed to accumulate in their kitchen and which could feed an army.

The 3rd Form who, when work got too much and you needed a break, would always bring you back down to earth in a very loud and crazy fashion. I would just like to congratulate Lauren for living and putting up with our mad and very noisy 3rd Formers this last year...seriously I am not quite sure how you managed it.

Along with her classic quotes, "James, darling" and "Mummy loves you Turvy, yes she does" which would be heard at least 5 times a day, Mrs Stuart also brought to Thornbank the new House motto; "Keep calm and carry on" as well as her passion for anything British.

Thursday nights which always bring the entertaining "Moz and Nige Night"

And of course Turvy, the House dog, who would regularly be seen racing up and down the corridors to the special amusement of Miss Morrison. The love for Turvy, a cute brown spaniel, in a House of seventy-three girls is evident but it has been wondered whether Mrs. Stuart's love for Turvy is just a bit too much.

This year would not have been as enjoyable for me without the constant and well-appreciated support of Yazzy, Ellie and the rest of the Upper 6th. Big thanks must go to the tutors, Ros, and Dorothy who all play a major part in the smooth running of the House. Also a huge thank you to Jane who, along with her many other jobs, manages to keep seventy-three rooms tidy and presentable, with the exception of Celine's. Best wishes to the Upper 6th next year and head of House Linda, who I know, along with the support of Siobhan and Rachael, will do a great job.

As new people come and go through Thornbank it remains a solid and sociable place that I am really grateful to have been part of. I have learnt a huge amount from my time in Thornbank and have really gained a lot from the atmosphere created by pupil and teacher interaction. It is fair to say that with new hands at the helm we have held onto our reputation as a friendly and lively House which I'm sure will continue long into the future.

Clare Sterritt





Woodlands House

To try and sum up last year in Woodlands, I have discovered, is almost impossible. To condense memories of friends, fun, laughter, sport and academic achievements onto a single page is not doing life in such a 'keen' House justice.

It has been another successful year for Woodlands, with our biggest win in House Music. Gaining two titles; the best girls' House choir, singing Tina Turner's 'Proud Mary', and best solo with Sacha Taylor singing Christina Perri's 'Jar of Hearts'. We have also won several sporting events including girls' swimming, rounders, girls' athletics and senior House netball (where some incredibly keen members managed to slap on some fake tan before the match- always helps). To try and mention every individual sporting achievement would result in me writing a small novel, and it is impossible to mention only a few as they are all so fantastic - so, girls, well done, you know who you are. The school plays and musicals have starred the Woodlands girls this year. Morgen Thompson and Amelia Inglis took the lead roles in the musical 'Chess' along with Sophie Arnot once again showing she has great acting skills in the school play 'Cinderella'. There was also a lot of help behind the scenes from Molly Barnes and Flawia Muziewicz who took charge of the set and props.

When all the serious academic and sporting events are completed in the school day, Woodlands has many fun nights with all year groups involved. Some classic House events this year include chocolate night with all the Sixth Form; the main emphasis on eating as much food as is physically possible along with having a great giggle with your friends, and the highlight this year: Maya Taylor putting her whole face into a full bowl of melted chocolate. We had a quiz night in the first term, where some severe competition arose among the teams with 'Team Henry Hoover' winning best dressed and 'Scooby Doo and the Mystery Crew' winning overall. We had the classic Christmas party, with old-style party games, and of course, more food... a recurring theme with every event in Woodlands!

Speaking from all the Woodlands Upper Sixth who left in 2012, I know that our time at Strathallan wouldn't have been as amazing without certain people there to help us along. Our matron Janet will never be forgotten, she is always up for some classic banter with the girls, and of course, she has the key to tuck shop! The House staff, Dora, June and Mary are also very friendly and their work is highly appreciated. The Tods are fantastic House parents that are very willing to be there for you in any situation- be it a moment when the stress of school life gets too much or when someone turns 18 years old; they were ready and waiting with champagne and chocolate. The support they provided us along with all the House tutors (we are particularly sad to have to say goodbye to Dr Flanagan this year but wish her well "up North") was irreplaceable and we all fully appreciate the time and effort they put in to making Woodlands the happy and welcoming place it always was and will continue to be for many years.

Molly Seed

the older girls have been the best big sisters imaginable

Coming into 3rd Form for us was a huge change. Coming from Riley to Woodlands was a big shock in every way possible. As soon as you step through the doors information but also a welcoming homely atmosphere surround you. However clichéd it may sound, Woodlands really is a huge family. From buddy nights and film nights to just the general everyday laughing and joking, Woodlands has made our first year full of comfort, laughter and memories that will be unforgettable.

As well as making friends for life the older girls have been the best big sisters imaginable and the girls in my year and I only hope we can make future 3rd Form feel so welcome. Altogether we are looking forward to our future years in Woodlands with impossible excitement.

The Third Form (yes, all of us)



...so, girls, well done,
you know who you are...





Glenbrae House

Obviously, Glenbrae is by far the best House structurally but it has taken more than a new building fitted out with lovely soft furnishings to make it the best House to live in. The girls and staff have all played a part in making Glenbrae such an amazing place to live.

As we entered our third year in Glenbrae, the House became closer than ever before and there was never a quiet day; you either had the 3rd Formers running around, dressing up in their endless costumes such as Jedward, gangsters, animals and many more; the 4th Form all gossiping about who was their boyfriend that week, (or maybe that's just Frankie?) ;the 5th Form tearing about the House playing tag and really getting to know each other. Leaving the 6th Form to have endless banter in the Foyer.

We were sorry to see Mrs Duncan leave as resident tutor (think she had a enough of our weekend antics) but we were delighted to welcome Miss Robertson to the Glenbrae family. We weren't sure if Miss Robertson could fill the Duncanator's shoes but she quickly grasped the Glenbrae way of life by entertaining the House with spontaneous barbecues, baking afternoons and, of course, 'Just Dance' on the Wii.

Various outings and House parties gave the girls the opportunity to really get to know each other well. We started the year with an exciting trip to the ten-pin bowling alley, where we discovered Ellie Campbell's true talent with 3 strikes in a row, or was it 4? Either way I think I can say on behalf of everyone, we were in shock.

Another highlight of the year was the annual Christmas Party (best party in Glenbrae history?) (*erm, maybe, Nicky- there isn't very much of it after all. Ed*), arranged by the Upper 6th. This included pin the red nose on Rudolph, pass the orange with no hands, taste test and the fizzy juice challenge. Team Rudolph came out on top in the fancy dress competition.

The creativity of the House came to light at the Easter party where everyone decorated their own egg. We had eggs as frogs, pigs, bunnies, Barbies and even Spanish styled eggs thanks to Euge. The fact that the Easter hunt did not quite go to plan was completely my fault. I definitely need a lesson on how to set an Easter egg hunt up.

The last term this year was my favourite ever, with my exams finished by half term (school is so much more fun with no lessons and prep) and the sun shining, well maybe not but it did mean we made use of our new posh marquee. Mr MacBain was in his element with not just one but TWO barbecues on the go keeping us well fed. We had all our new summer toys for entertainment including frisbees and, of course, the space hoppers as well as several games of quick cricket. The 3rd Form had even managed to win themselves a bouncy castle. Glenbrae definitely was rivalling the Queen's garden parties.

As always when there was an inter-House competition, the House all came together by making posters and going along to support whatever team was playing with the usual



"Glen what? Glenbrae." chants. The support of the House this year definitely put off the other girls' Houses, especially Thornbank where their pots and pans were hardly ever heard over our screams. This year we dominated in Junior Hockey with Emma Walker scoring the winner in the tight game against Thornbank. We were victorious in Junior Tennis thanks to our superstar tennis player, Amber Patterson. For the third year in a row we retained our Clay Pigeon title. In House Music although we did not scale the heights of our brilliant and well-deserved win last year, we still participated enthusiastically under the expert guidance of Kirsty Glasgow and proved that you can still have a huge amount of fun even if you don't win.

A few members of the House were selected to compete nationally. Eilidh Gibson represented Scotland in canoeing and this summer qualified to compete in America for Great Britain; a fantastic achievement. Christina Farrar and I represented Scottish Hockey, Sophie Curran trialled for Scottish Gymnastics whilst Amber Patterson is involved with Scottish Tennis.

Much of the superb atmosphere is down to our lovable House Parents, the MacBizzles and of course my best friend Nell. They do a brilliant job keeping all the girls in order but at the same time make life in Glenbrae a truly magical place. We really can't thank you enough. A big thanks also to Miss Robertson, Mrs Salisbury, Dr Blackie and Mrs Duncan, our tutors. Of course for a House to run so smoothly we need a good Housekeeping team including Lynn our Matron, Linda who loved all the ex-Thornbank girls so much she moved over to Glenbrae with us and thank goodness she did, ably assisted by Morag and Una .

I am really sorry that my time in Glenbrae has come to an end, though I am sure that the Cleaners are jumping for joy. Will there ever be a messier bedroom in the history of Glenbrae House?? I will always remember the wonderful few years that I was privileged to live there. It really has been so much fun living with such a brilliant bunch of girls. Thanks to Ellie Campbell and Lucy Garvie who have been very supportive deputies and also thank you to the rest of the Glenbrae Upper 6th who have made the past years so special. It's been such an honour to be Head of House and I wish Julia all the best as she takes over the reins next year. I know she will do a splendid job. When I asked Julia whilst writing this article "How would you describe living in Glenbrae?" she replied "It's like living the dream". I think that pretty much sums up life in Glenbrae.

Nicki Cochrane

"It's like living the dream". I think that pretty much sums up life in Glenbrae.



Obviously, Glenbrae is by far the best house...



The Chaplain



It has been a pleasure to take over the Chaplaincy at Strathallan this year, having been chaplain and Head of R.E. at a school in Surrey since 1997. As a family we are very grateful for the warm welcome we have received here.

It has been good to come to a school where 'Chapel' is an important part of the week. As the school has grown in recent years it was clear when I arrived that the main Wednesday chapel service was becoming uncomfortably full. After discussion it was decided to separate off Riley house, who now have their own chapel service on a Thursday morning. This not only creates much needed space on a Wednesday but also allows me to design a more appropriate service for the younger age group of Riley. The whole school still comes together for the Headmaster's Assembly on a Friday and all the boarding community on a Sunday morning.

Chapel services are also now themed on a half-termly basis. Since January we have looked at 'People who met Jesus', characters from the Gospels who were changed by Christ; 'Signposts', Jesus' miracles in John's Gospel; 'Life as a Journey', looking at Abraham, Joshua and others and how God led them; 'Lent and Easter', Jesus' journey to the cross and what that means for us, and 'Amazing people and God' some great Old Testament heroes.

Chapel services continue to mark significant times during the year; the Founder's Day service at the beginning of June, to honour our founder Harry Riley, included the laying of wreaths under the plaque dedicated to him in Chapel and on his grave in Forgandenny Kirk yard. We also held the annual Valedictory Service for our Leavers in June, as well as the Remembrance service and Carol services. I am very grateful to RHF for running Chapel so ably before my arrival, and to Hannah Johnstone and Steven Segaud for acting as chapel prefects. I am also grateful to RCAW and the Chapel Choir for leading our singing so well, and to GAB and James Pak for playing the organ for us.

New since January this year is the Senior Christian Union – Explore. This group meets on a Wednesday before prep to encourage each other in their Christian faith and to learn from the bible together. Any pupil in 3rd Form and above is very welcome to come along.

Pastoral care continues to be a priority at the school and it has been a privilege, alongside the house staff, to be involved with a number of pupils and their families through the year. If you have any queries about chapel services, the Christian Union or any pastoral concerns do contact me at the school.

DR

Lectures

The world of broadcast media was pretty well represented in this year's series of lectures as masterminded by PMV; in addition to the stately gravitas of the German Consul, Wolfgang Mössinger, we enjoyed the musings of sports journalist, radio broadcaster and Strathallian Heather Dewar, medieval historian, honorary research fellow and TV broadcaster Fiona Watson and even that stellar and surely universally recognisable figure Neil Oliver, presenter of, amongst other things, BBC television's series *Coast*.

Herr Mössinger gave us an insight into the joint rôle of the UK and his own native Germany in economic development and was a firm supporter of the UK's remaining as a member of the European Union. He didn't treat us to his view of Nigel Farage. Ms Dewar provided a very close-up view of the particular challenges for women working in journalism. Professor Watson neatly combined a lecture about the lessons of history in the run-up to possible independence for Scotland with a timely advert for her recently-published analysis of Robert the Bruce. Finally, the highly engaging Neil Oliver came and not only delivered a lecture to the VI Form on his specialist topic, Scottish history, but didn't hesitate to get down and dirty with a series of workshops expertly aimed at the younger pupils leaving no doubt as to just why he is such a successful media phenomenon.

EGK



Speech & Drama

After receiving distinctions all round in LAMDA medal exams in October...

...our pupils continued their successes, when eleven took part in the verse speaking classes in this year's Perth Burns Club's Schools Festival in November. Four trophies were achieved. Rosie Beech won the Archibald Morrison Memorial Cup with *Saint Dod*, a poem by Perth poet, William Soutar. Also reciting a Soutar poem (*The Auld Man o Muckhart*) was Izzy Spence. For this, she achieved the splendid Unicorn Trophy, presented for the first time by the Friends of William Soutar. Nick Drummond-Hay achieved a double, winning, for his recitation of *Scots wha Hae*, The Grampian Cup, and the President's Award, for the best overall performance of a work by Burns.

In early March every year we take part in the speech and drama classes at the Perth (Perform in Perth) and Edinburgh Competition Festivals. In Edinburgh, Isla Patterson won the Bible Reading medal, and Izzy Spence, the Prose Reading class. Isla was on form a week later in Perth, winning the Soutar class in her age group. Caitlin Donald came first in two extremely large classes, including gaining Honours (90% and over) for Prepared Reading. There was Honours also for Lucy Orr in English Poem recitation, as well as first for Burns Recitation. Eilidh Ross achieved first and Honours for Prepared Reading in her age group. In the senior classes, there was first and Honours for Katharine Griffiths for her performance of *The Village Schoolmaster* by Goldsmith. Frances Myatt won both the Bible Reading and Public Speaking and Rosie Beech, the Soutar Class. Other firsts, in their respective age groups, went to Ellen McDonald (Burns), Lucy Crabb (Prepared Reading), Ian Macey (Scots poem) and to Form 1J in the Choral Speaking class.

The LAMDA exams in October are reserved for pupils in Forms 5 and 6 who, after years of working up through the lower grades, have reached the medal levels (i.e. Grades 6 (Bronze), 7 (Silver) and 8 (Gold)). This October, every one of our acting medallists gained Distinction (80% and over): Lucy Garvie and Flora Hay (Gold); Katharine Griffiths, Philippa Kemp, Katie Jones, Sophie-Anne Ross and Rosie Beech (Bronze); in Reading for Performance (Bronze), Frances Myatt achieved Distinction.

The exams taken in May are for younger pupils. Acting exams brought Distinctions to Megan



Crawford, Laura Haldane, Caitlin Donald, Ailsa MacGregor, Ella McKay, Abbie MacNaughton, Sam Steele, Izzy Spence, Iona Wilson and Rebecca Ward. The Speaking of Verse and Prose Distinctions went to Caitlin Donald, Niall Dundee, Forbes Wilson, Fraser Robertson and Lauren Dundee. Our third overall highest mark awarded to our pupils went to Lucy Orr for Verse and Prose, the second highest to Gavin Stewart (Devising) and the top mark to Amber Paterson (Verse and Prose).

IIMcF

Summer Headmaster's Music



The now traditional summer concert in the Chapel set off at a lively pace as we all jumped on board the *Steam Train to Mallaig* in the company of the pipe band. This energetic introduction lead us into a Scottish section of the concert where, in the next item, Kirsty Glasgow changed the mood with a beautifully poignant fiddle piece, written by her grandfather. This was followed by the exquisitely blended voices of the Chamber Choir with *The Banks of Inverurie*. Cameron Drummond and Harry Richards ended that section with a bright and lively Scottish set on the border and small pipes.

The quality of solo singing and variety of the repertoire have improved steadily in recent years, with a number of our singers taking part in national choirs. One such is Katie Rutherford, who performed at this year's Proms in London. Her mature soprano voice was as clear as the waters of the trout stream in Schubert's *Die Forelle*. As crystal clear is the beautiful soprano voice of Ellie Kemp, who delighted us with Roger Quilter's *Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal*. Ellie has enriched music at Stathallan for a number of years and will be sorely missed, as will Steven Segaud and Hannah Johnstone, fellow members of the Choral Scholars. Hannah sang the solo contralto role at St Ninian's in Handel's *Messiah*, and, from that, she gave us, in her wonderfully rich voice, *He was Despised*. In his equally rich bass voice, Steven performed *Of Isis and Osiris* from *The Magic Flute*.

Also much improved in recent years are the contributions from Riley House. The number of performers (a large percentage of the pupils in Riley) and the quality of performance would be the envy of many

a senior school. We had Riley Rocks with *Wipeout*; the 2nd Form Supergroup with confident soloists, Johnny Carswell and Gavin Stewart, with *Hazy Shade of Winter*; and, in addition, the excellent Riley orchestra with *Singin' in the Rain*.

Charlie Rutherford on guitar, in *Prelude No1* by Villa-Lobos, and Andrew Blair on the piano, with the jazz piece, *King for a Day* by Dave Brubeck, revealed the high standard of solo instrumental performance at Strathallan.

No less impressive is the choral singing. Like Russian dolls, each of our choirs is supported and enriched by the experience of the smaller groups contained within. The Chapel Choir sang *The Spirit of the Lord* by Elgar; the Chamber Choir, as mentioned above, *The Banks of Inverurie*; and at the core of these two fine choirs are the Choral Scholars, who weekly support worship at St Ninian's Cathedral. With their immaculate blend of voices, they gave us *Crux Fidelis*.

Strathallan's large instrumental groups brought our evening to its close. Very popular with the audience were *Highlights from Harry Potter* played by the Chamber Orchestra. The lively mood of our first item returned with toe-tapping *Glee Showstoppers* from the Wind Band, and the last item of the evening, *Sir Duke* performed by the Big Band, whose soloist Hannah Johnstone, having taken over the role from Ollie Wale, now moves on as well. We are sure that, like Ollie, Hannah will continue to delight and thrill audiences with her singing.

The applause at the end of the evening was a measure of everybody's immense enjoyment; audience and performers alike.

IIMcF

Senior Music



Last year's Music report challenged the musicians for 2011-12 to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by the successes of the previous cohort; I am delighted to report that they have done just that!

In our Informal concert series, pupils get the chance to play repertoire they have been working towards, or to give a piece a trial-run before performing it for an exam or other musical event. Many pupils took this opportunity, and several took the opportunity to perform as a soloist either for the first time, or simply to build their confidence as performers; my particular congratulations and thanks go to Tony Tong (3F), Liam Kennedy (5F) and Victoria Morrison-Low (5W) for doing precisely this.

In our Form concert series members of II and IV, V and VI Forms progressively attempted to outdo each other in their respective recitals. From Isla Gordon's (3T) sensitive interpretation of Lefèvre's first movement of his *Clarinet Sonata No. 1*, through Caroline Seaman's (5T) delightful quasi *coloratura* rendition of Vivaldi's *Vieni o mio diletto* to Flora Hay's (7G) sultry performance of Granados' *Andaluza* from his *Spanish Dances, Op. 5*, the quality of Strathallan musicians was evident to anyone who attended these concerts. Equally, the recital of our Music Scholars was a genuine treat for all who made up the audience, and demonstrated even more Strathallan's rich musical depth. Particular mention must go to Ellie Kemp (7T) and Hannah Johnstone (7T) for their wonderful duet in Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet* from *Come ye sons of art*, and also to Christopher Blair (Ri2) who performed Chris Norton's *Set Piece* after only four weeks of learning the alto saxophone!

As a consequence of our internal successes, Strathallan musicians are frequently invited to perform in venues around Scotland. In September, our Choral Scholars and members of our Chamber Choir were invited to perform once again for Her Majesty The Queen in Crathie Kirk, Royal Deeside. This was a tremendous privilege, and gave our pupils the opportunity to perform in a unique setting, not least in Her Majesty's Jubilee year. We are immensely grateful to Rev Ken McKenzie, Queen's Chaplain, his family and the elders of Crathie Kirk for their invitation and hosting of us. Immediately following this in November, a quartet of performers from the VI and V Form were invited to close the concert series of Holy Trinity Church, Pitlochry. A packed Church was treated to a programme that included Handel's *Sonata in Bb for Descant Recorder*, Wolf's *Der verlassene Mägdlein*, Hadley's carol

I sing of a maiden and Joanna MacGregor's *Lowside Blues* for solo piano. Our thanks go to former Strathallan Chaplain Rev. Roger Quick and the vestry of Holy Trinity Church for their invitation, and my own thanks go to Andrew Blair (7F), Isla Cameron (5T), Hannah Johnstone (7T) and Ellie Kemp (7T) for their performances. Also in April Strathallan was invited to provide musicians for the Scottish Motor Trade Annual Dinner at Gleneagles Hotel. Because of the proximity to the exam season, the Upper VI A-level Music class willingly volunteered to perform a selection from their A-level recitals to a thoroughly appreciative and satisfied audience. Finally, in May, our musicians were invited to perform in the newly renovated St John's Kirk, Perth, as part of the Perth Festival of the Arts lunchtime concert series. Due to the imminent arrival of my self-appointed department mascot-elect, tensions may have been a little fraught in the preparation and execution of the concert; however I needn't have worried. With performances including the Chamber Choir's rendition of Ken Johnson's *On the banks of Inverurie*, Handel's *Lascia chio pianga* by Katie Rutherford (6G), Stamitz's *Duetto III* for flutes by Josie Dibnah (5W) and Amelia Inglis (5W), and the Big Band's performance of Stevie Wonder's amazing *Sir Duke* with Hannah Johnstone on vocals, Strathallans musicians made a significant impression on the Festival faithful.

All of this work is in addition to our showpiece events, namely, the House Music Competition, the Musical Showcase in Perth Concert Hall, Carols in the City in Perth Cathedral, the Strathallan Musical and Headmaster's Music, and the quality of these events is a genuine testament to the potential and diligence of our musicians. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our leavers for their incredible contribution to the musical life of Strathallan over their time here: Mhairi Bannerman, Robbie Blackburn, Andrew Blair, Justin Chan, Santi Garcia Serrano, Kirsty Glasgow, Flora Hay, Amelia Inglis, Hannah Johnstone, Ellie Kemp, Hamish Mitchell, James Pak, Charlie Rutherford, Steven Segaud and Clare Sterritt. I am grateful also to the music department staff, the instrumental tutors, and especially to Cameron Drummond, Neil Hamilton, Anne Holland and Carole Sim-Sayce for their support, encouragement and guidance to all the pupils as well as to me personally. We are, I believe, a department that punches above our weight, and I shall look forward immensely to seeing how hard we can hit next year.

RCAW



House Music



Controversy, Vilification, Recrimination and Unalloyed Delight; no, not NTHDuB's nags on the race-card at Lingfield, just the customary stand-bys of the House Music Competition. And this year, with one proviso, they were up and running once again. Adjudicated by the terrifyingly prestigious James Lowe, Artistic Director of the New Bristol Sinfonia, Principal Conductor of the Edinburgh Contemporary Music Ensemble and Principal Guest Conductor of Music for Everyone; his Herculean task to separate the wheat from the not-quite-so-righteous wheat (the musicians at Strathallan don't do chaff) in an evening of simply delightful performances with one particularly resplendent gem dug from the steaming midden of the Augean Stables (*I think you're taking this metaphor too far. Ed*).

First up, then, not Stymphalian Birds but, instead, the engaging, and engagingly musical, girls of Glenbrae. Their Ensemble shone, their Choir sang their hearts out and the highlight was Kirsty Glasgow's lovely fiddle rendition of *Alasdair's Tune* by Charlie McKerron.

Now I'm not sure how many blushing maidens the Nemean Lion that is Santi Garcia has dragged to his blood-soaked cave recently, but there were not a few that would have been on their way voluntarily via his affecting performance of John Williams' *Cavatina* from the film, *The Deer Hunter*, on solo guitar for Simpson House. I know that he wasn't particularly happy with his own performance on the night, but he prevailed in the end, ably backed by his colleagues.

Soloist	Sacha Taylor
Ensemble	Ruthven
Boys' Choir	Ruthven
Girls' Choir	Woodlands
Overall prize	Ruthven

I don't wish to 'talk up' the soloists beyond their hard-striving and co-operative helpers, but it did seem that, so far, it was they who were stamping their identity most firmly upon the event; and later there will be more to come. That veritable Hydra that is the multi-talented Steven Segaud decided to dust off the maligned viola for this particular contest and his splendidly and appropriately romantic version of Bruch's op 85 for Nicol was a real highlight.

Let Mr Lowe relax for a breath of time in his task, the merest demi-semi-well-whatever, because here come the Mares, not, in this instance the ones belonging to Diomedes, but instead those in the charge of Morc and Abi Tod of Woodlands. Expertly corralled by Millie Galashan and Claire Mendelson, the girls produced splendid performances that would still be knocked into a cocked hat by, yes, yet another soloist. Sacha Taylor's genuinely affecting performance of Christina Perri's *Jar of Hearts* quite simply brought the house down.

Freeland House's Cretan Bulls were sexy and they knew it, it just wasn't entirely clear to what extent the adjudicator agreed with them. A creditable performance from both Choir and Ensemble were once again ever-so-slightly outshone by a truly dazzling display of expertise upon the pipes from John Dew.

I skip merrily forward at this point to introduce, out of sequence, those glistening, perfect Apples of the Hesperides as represented by the girls of Thornbank. A daring arrangement and execution of a Bob Dylan song proved a highly suitable challenge for their ensemble and, once again, a magnificently steamy version of Kern and Hammerstein's *Ain't Lovin' dat Man* allowed soloist Ellie Kemp to take flight.

And now we finally come to the kind of point of the evening; it is, after all, a competition, and one that is unquestionably fiercely contested. So who won? To answer this we must finally fling wide the doors of Augeus' stables, home to the immortals that are the boys of Ruthven House. It is true that the boys' Houses have sometimes fallen prey to the notion that singing is actually something akin to shouting, that an ensemble must necessarily 'rock' and that the soloist's task is to entertain everyone with that dreadful thing, an 'improvisation'. Step forward Edward Lau. Under Edward's iron-fisted tutelage we discovered that the Ruthven House Choir really could sing; in tune, in harmony and in parts! It only then remained for those twin powerhouses of musical and dramatic talent Ali Wood and Hamish Mitchell to produce a truly fantastic performance of Jason Mraz' *If it kills me* and to rejoin their immensely talented colleagues Kettles, Charlie and Shaks for a terrific rendition of the Kooks' *Sway*. Cue not only a sweeping of the stables but a sweeping of the board into the bargain.

EGK



Pipe band

The Strathallan Pipe Band has enjoyed a fulfilling year. We have performed at our regular events such as Speech Day and The Musical Showcase in Perth with new material that the band has worked hard to perfect. Some new compositions, such as Il Paco Grande from Roddy MacDonald of Queensland Australia have provided interest for our players and something new for our audiences to listen to.

We competed again at the Hutcheson Grammar school Pipe Band Competition in Glasgow run by the Glasgow Highland Club. This was a great night for us as we saw two of our players John Dew and Harry Richards take first and second prizes respectively for their category in the solo piping events. They showed they are on top, at the moment, of a field of around thirty players; a great achievement.

They both took that confidence onto our main competition of the year, the Scottish Schools Championships, held this year at Dollar Academy. It was Harry's turn to take the glory as he won first place while John put in another steady performance to take third. The Band was somewhat smaller than we would have liked but still put on a respectable performance that we were all happy with and agreed was a serious improvement on the previous year. It was a good chance for us all to listen to what the others school piping and drumming programmes were producing and reflect on a hard year of work.

Adding to Harry's success, he auditioned for and gained entry to the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland. This project has been running for many years now and grows in strength and success every year with the help of its leader Alastair MacLaren. The band has a waiting list for auditions and only holds them around twice a year. These places are highly sought after and as a result only the most talented of players is given the chance to join. The age limit is twenty five years so Harry has a bright future with them. Hopefully we will see Harry in a National Youth Pipe Band Concert very soon.

Next year should be exciting. We have a new drumming instructor on board here; Mr David Ross from Fife joins me on the teaching team. He is a world renowned drummer and currently plays the snare drum with one of the best drum corps in the World today and probably the best in history (*don't be mealy-mouthed, here, Mr Drummond. Ed*). The Shotts and Dykehead drum corps has been home to many of the top solo drummers and leading drummers from around

the World, Mr Ross also fits in another band to his busy schedule as a leading percussionist for the RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS yet another world-famous outfit. He has already made a huge impact on our drum corps and now is definitely a great time to get involved with drumming at Strathallan. And not just drumming, piping too. Over the Summer we have seen an influx of talented players to both the band and the learners' section. This year you will hopefully see some major changes within the band and I look forward to your support when you see and hear us.

If you are interested in learning to play the bagpipes or drums, joining the band or even our former pupils alumni band, please contact me at staffcrd@strathallan.co.uk

CRD





*...now is definitely
a great time to
get involved with
drumming at
Strathallan...*

Musical Showcase



The Strathallan Musical Showcase is the largest event of the musical calendar every year and the remarkable array of talent on show was enough to warm up the dampest of November evenings. The familiar and impressive home of this Showcase in the Perth Concert Hall ensured that the audience and performers could enjoy the astonishing mix of music from the traditional through to the modern offered by pupils involved with the Music Department. The evening was emceed by Richard Walmsley, and supported by all of the Music staff; Neil Hamilton, Carol Sim-Sayce and Cameron Drummond, all of whom ensured the smooth running of the evening.

This year saw the evening open with the Pipe Band who played a wonderful combination of slow airs and livelier jigs which got the evening off to a toe-tapping, head-bobbing, ear-deafening start. The band were ably led by Pipe Sergeants Hermes Manos and Cameron Hirst and ensured an enthralling opening to the evenings entertainment. Hannah Johnstone and Eleanor Kemp then treated the audience to a beautiful performance of Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet* and they demonstrated their incredible talent which Strathallan audiences have enjoyed throughout their time at the school. As the evening progressed, Charlie Rutherford's performance of Villa-Lobos *Prelude No. 2* on the guitar was a beautiful prelude to stylish performances by the flute ensemble playing Bizet, and Martin Marshall on the Clarsach whose music could draw an emotional tear from even the burliest of First XV players. One could not help but be impressed by the performances from the youngest members of the school in the form of the Riley Choir and Riley Orchestra who performed Whittaker's *The Water of Tyne* and Frazer's *El Condor Pasa* respectively. These polished performances made clear that the future of the Music Department is in very safe hands! The senior pupils then demonstrated that practice does indeed make perfect with a beautiful recital of *O, for a closer walk with God* by the Choral

Scholars, and a stunning performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* by the Strathallan Orchestra who once again impressed with their musical prowess. Amelia Inglis and the Chapel Choir then performed two pieces from this year's Senior Musical, *Chess* which you can read more about later in the Strathallian. Amelia's performance of *Someone Else's Story* showed her impressive theatrical gift and the Chapel Choir's rendition of Merano transported the Perthshire audience to the sleepy mountains of the 1980s Italy. Another piece that transported the audience to warmer climes was Santiago Garcia Serrano's interpretation of the classic *Cavatina* from the film *The Deer Hunter*. His precision on the Guitar was only equalled by the remarkable moustache he was sporting while raising money for Movember. The evening then took a turn for the modern with a number of pieces including the Chapel Choir's MJ classic *Man in the Mirror*, Alasdair Wood and Hamish Mitchell's magnificent cover of Jason Mraz's *If It Kills Me* and the Wind Band's interpretation of a Coldplay Medley which demonstrated the outstanding talent of Strathallan's wind instrumentalists. The evening was topped off with two final performances, the first by the inimitable Ruthven House, winners of the 2011 House Music Competition, who performed *Sway* with their house ensemble and then sang *Sweet Caroline* with their House Choir. Edward Lau's musical direction has to be credited and this was easily one of the highlights of the entire evening (and this is coming from a Nicolite!) The final item of what was a wonderful evening's entertainment came from the Strathallan Big Band with Hannah Johnstone on lead vocals as they performed the classic *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. It was impossible not to be drawn into this captivating and swingin' climax to what was a thrilling end to the evening (their were even rumours of NTHDuB dancing in the aisles).

The Musical Showcase clearly demonstrates that Strathallan has a wealth of musical talent and the audience left the Concert Hall warmed, amused and impressed at all that the Strathallan Music Department had to offer. Congratulations and thanks to all involved!

JAM

This exceptional year of music making in Riley certainly demonstrated that there is indeed a "right" instrument for everyone. Over the nine major public performances and in the numerous class concerts that Riley presented, the quality, ease and joy in performing was delightfully clear. As well as established performers, there were children who had successfully changed instruments, those forging ahead on two instruments, those who had taken up an instrument they had discovered in music class and a large body of confident singers.

Several Riley pupils have already established the right instrument for them as demonstrated in the high level of attainment in public music exams. Indeed, Christopher Blair (II Form, grade 5 sax), Caitlin Donald (I Form grade 5 sax) and Lauren Dundee (1J, grade 4 flute) are already performing at the standard required for V Form GCSE Music, all achieving Merits. Angus Lapslie, Ruaridh Clark, Sam Steele and Maggie English achieved Distinctions in their grade 2 exams whilst Emily Watt achieved a merit at this grade – once more performing above their age and stage. Arthur Morris clearly wowed his examiner in the very last week of term when he achieved a distinction for his grade 1 Music Theatre in the same week as performing Mowgli in "The Jungle Book".

Multi Instrumentalists

Many Riley children have lessons in more than one instrument- usually because they really do like the sound and want to develop the skill to produce it. Where a child expresses interest in an instrument, it is always best to let them have a trial and get it out of their system (or begin a hobby for life). Such pupils are usually motivated to practice which is, of course, the guarantor of success. This session's Informal Concerts gave a platform for many such musicians to show their first steps in mastering their chosen instrument. Euan Clayton (II Form piano), Murphy Walker (I Form drum-kit), Peter Wallwork (1J drum-kit) and Heather Robertson (1J piano) all performed with confidence to a rapturous Riley reception.

The Place of Class Music Lessons

Each session, many children are motivated by the work done in class music lessons to think about an instrument which would suit them. Every child learns to play the keyboard in order to access music technology and develop key concepts transferrable to all instruments. In 1J and 1J, the first term is given over to "Taster" lessons where each child tries guitar, bass guitar, drum-kit, tuned percussion and singing. Often, pupils feel completely at ease when they encounter one of these instruments, or are simply desperate to play one. Although drum-kit appeals to all initially,

most children quickly realize whether they have the requisite co-ordination to keep going. In 1J this year, Peter Wallwork started Percussion lessons in this way and went on to be placed second in his competition in Perform in Perth after only a few lessons.

1J produced four guitarists (Morgan Russell, Murray Ritchie, Shannon Pook and Ayrton de Cecco), one piper (Maggie English, already a capable grade 2 pianist), one bass guitarist (Sarah Clayton) and one percussionist (Ellen Macdonald).

The second term allows all these instrumentalists and singers to put their skills into practice as each class forms a band in order produce a performable version of a piece in which every single member of the class takes part. Performing for an audience is a major part of being a musician and a great boost to a child's self-esteem and confidence. This was a highlight of the session with all classes producing first rate work to show invited teachers or present at an Informal Concert. Feedback was generally of the flabbergasted sort which buoyed the young musicians no end.

Making Music Together

Something amazing happens when a piece of music emerges from cacophony and it is a delight to see the expressions on pupils' faces when this occurs. All rehearsals, be they Riley Orchestra, Riley Rocks, II Form Supergroup, divisional ensemble or choir, started off in a messy, big bang sort of way. But each of these groups had the confidence and trust in themselves and each other to stick with it. Through the dark evenings of winter rehearsals, it was a moment of immense satisfaction as members of a group exclaimed "That sounds good!" The feeling of pulling together and pulling it off in as a musical ensemble cannot be overstated. When Mr Barnes was invited to hear II set 3 perform *A Hazy Shade of Winter* he declared that he could see and hear and sense that it was even better than playing rugby well (though he probably didn't expect to be quoted).

What to Choose

Sometimes when children see a classmate playing an orchestral or band instrument they feel inspired but aren't sure what to choose. What instrument is right for them?

The renowned music educationalist Atarah Ben Tovim wrote a book entitled "The Right Instrument for Your Child" in order to offer some insight into this process. She made the point that some stereotypes work – energetic boys do tend to make good brass players. She suggested that sensitive, caring children might like the feel of "hugging a cello". Balletic, well-co-ordinated children might thrive as string players where the bowing arm is always on the move.

It has been well established that asthmatic children improve their breathing when learning a woodwind or brass instrument. Children with dyspraxia can cope with the small scale movement of valved brass instruments. Those on the autistic spectrum can be spectacularly precise drummers.

Instrumental teachers will advise as to the physical opportunities or restrictions of an instrument. The size and shape of lips is an important factor when selecting the correct brass instrument. Wearing dental braces can affect woodwind players. String players and pianists always need short nails. Size of body and hands is crucial to becoming a viola or double bass player.

For the undecided, there is always the lure of the unloved, less common instrument. This is as true at Strathallan as it is nationally. The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music recently analysed their public exam entries and discovered that there is indeed a paucity of trombonists, bassoonists and double bass players. Any child opting to learn such an instrument would quickly find a spot in the orchestra or band whilst the flautists and saxophonists slug it out.

Free and Portable

No, not the mouth organ or penny whistle but The Voice. Several Riley children are completely sure of their musical identity as singers.

Each class in Riley was blessed with a group of good singers making harmony vocals in class singing a possibility as I Form showed in their class ensemble *Ruby* at the March Informal Concert. The Jungle Book could have been cast three times over given the swell of talent and enthusiasm from Riley House. Indeed we could have had an all-male or all-female cast. How many schools would revel in such choice? Anyone fortunate enough to hear the performances by Sam Steele, Arthur Morris, Jonny Carswell, Dylan Patterson, Gavin Stewart, Angus Lapslie or Tom Morris in this show could not deny that these boys are gifted and charismatic singers.

The Wrong Instrument

When a child is making very limited progress on an instrument, he may be on the wrong instrument. It is always difficult to make the break but it may be worth seeking a trial in another discipline. Strathallan offers woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, harp, strings, pipes, pipe band drumming and voice. It is not uncommon for a musical child to try several instruments. A love of the sound of their chosen instrument and, of course, the self discipline to practise then opens up a lifetime of wonder and magic.

CASS

Jungle Book



The spectacle provided by the props and costumes was amazing.

The year in Riley swung its way to a glorious finale with this year's musical production of *The Jungle Book*. Weeks of singing and acting rehearsals, combined with craft club where costumes and props were made, resulted in a colourful and rousing performance.

Arthur Morris took the central role of Mowgli with Sam Steele as his mentor Bagheera. The larger-than-life role of Baloo was aptly played by the larger-than-life Jonny Carswell and together these three guided us through some of the well known Disney adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's tale.

On his perilous journey through the jungle as he is pursued by the dangerous tiger Shere Khan, played with ferocious menace by Caitlin Donald, Mowgli meets some very well known characters.

Among the highlights were the elephants and their leader, Colonel Hathi played with wonderful aplomb by Angus Lapslie who took on the role of stuffy Sergeant Major as if it had been written for him.

Kaa the rock-python was as mesmerising as we had hoped he would be, but for Kirsty, Lianna, the two Sarahs, Maggie, Heather, Georgia, Catriona and Caitlin, the real challenge was manoeuvring their enormous creation!

The spectacle provided by the props and costumes was amazing. Olivia Streatfeild-James and Sara Caves designed and worked closely with Riley to make the production such a visual success. A particular highlight were the vultures who even choreographed their own dance. Who knew that Connor, Michael, Will and Archie were so talented?



But when it came to pulling singing and dancing together, the monkeys proved to be worthy Kings of the Swingers. They had worked enthusiastically with Mrs Stewart on their dance and with Mr Maclean on their movement. They gave Gavin's King Louis everything he needed for his central number to be a memorable highlight of the show.

The Jungle chorus provided colour and song for the whole production, giving Marina's Shanti a lovely group to work with before her character surprises Mowgli at the end.

Sophie Arnot had worked closely with Mrs Sim-Sayce, Mrs Howett, Mrs Streatfeild-James and Mrs R-B on all aspects of the production. She had bought with her years of experience in senior school productions and enjoyed, as we all did, the energy and enthusiasm Riley bought to their performance.

CGH



Cinderella



The audience expect a great deal from drama at Strathallan. We get serious, well-crafted classics. We get observational comedy. We get farce. And (lucky people that we are) we get fairy tales! As the darkness casts its gloomy wing across our northern fastness in December what more could we want to cheer us but a bunch of talented, beautiful and enthusiastic young people conjured by the wand of that practised Fairy Godmother Irene McFarlane in a performance of the immensely serious folk tale Cinderella, as re-envisioned (*is that an actual word? Ed*) by Stuart Paterson?

Take centre stage seasoned thespis Sophie Arnot and Millie Galashan as the fascinating pivot of the piece (oh, but there's even more fascination to come). This thoroughly professional depiction of the oppressed-rescued-by-the-misguided was a tribute to the talent of a couple of young women who appear able to turn their attention unerringly to a variety of types of dramatic role without faltering or even pausing for breath. Strathallan is lucky to have talent of that sort, and I think we know just how lucky we are.



If you had taken anything for granted in approaching this production of a classic, well, you shouldn't have

Could Scott Haldane have been any more kingly? I don't think so. Rosie Beech captured the role of the queen with a visibly regal disdain. Woodland Spirit Frances Myatt pirouetted superbly in the role of Fairy Godmother in perfect counterpoint to Sandy Cook's shouty, nasty portrayal of , erm, Father (whose father was he again, exactly? What? Whose?)

No stage or screen version of the venerable French folk tale of which the most popular translation into English both confuses and glorifies a glass slipper with a fur could possibly be even considered without the stock characters of the Ugly Sisters. Neither playwright Stuart Paterson nor *directrice* Irene McFarlane, however, can be accused of doing 'stock' under any circumstances. Step forward (and they certainly did) Edward Lau and Nick Drummond-Hay as Cinders' chief oppressors. Put them together with the seriously scary miniature tempest that is the immensely talented Katharine Griffiths and you have a comic/musical combination that could happily occupy any stage under the sun or stars. Now include a splendidly talented big Puff, with a track record on the Strathallan stage, Jack Collins, and the formula is almost complete.



who could possibly fail to notice the sheer glamour of Stacy Belova and Lisa Menshikova

Guard, Michael Milford, expertly played himself and what would we have done without the canine talents of frisky Joe Docherty? More sheer animal talent turned up in the shape of Pasha Konkina, a dancing, of course Russian, bear. And who could possibly fail to notice the sheer glamour of Stacy Belova and Lisa Menshikova as drifting attendants at the Balls.

Now, here's the rest of the fascination I mentioned earlier because, my goodness, there was plenty of it in this production. Nothing more fascinating for this reviewer, however, than the performance of Hannah Pitts in the role of Callum. This was a young woman who inhabited the stage as though born to the task. Author Stuart Paterson's re-working takes the opportunity to examine gender by playing with power relationships amongst stock characters perhaps taken for granted by many consumers of the product that is pantomime. If you had taken anything for granted in approaching this production of a classic, well, you shouldn't have. Hannah took the role of Callum (Buttons) and, apparently effortlessly, made it her own with a genuinely affecting portrayal of the aspirant lover. Hannah, as an actor, is in terrifically good company here and, nonetheless, stood out, garnering the sympathies of the audience with a beautifully measured performance that expertly captured the true seriousness of this frequently misunderstood story of love lost and found.

ECK



MUSICAL

Chess



...director, John MacLean, expertly moved his pieces, the characters who peopled this tale of rivalry, in both chess and in love

Anyone visiting the School in March and having a look at the theatre would not have to take a second guess at what was to be Strathallan's annual musical. The thrust stage, of which the floor was entirely a black and white chequered board, would tell them that the show was going to be *Chess*, Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus' musical, first performed in the West End in 1986, and inspired by the world famous rivalries between a number of great chess players, such as Bobby Fischer, Victor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov. The unusual and very appropriate set was designed by Nicky Rintoul.

Across the "chessboard" stage, Director, John MacLean, expertly moved his pieces, the characters who peopled this tale of rivalry, in both chess and in love. A complicated game follows where the chess pieces were skilfully manipulated on each of the rival sides by the plots of such characters as Molohov, sung by the richly deep voice of Steven Segaud, and by that of the Arbiter, performed by Andrina Dew, who displayed a confident stage presence.

Edward Lau and Justin Chan confidently portrayed the two great chess players whose lives were made more complex by the presence of Florence, who is the manager of one, but falls in love with the other. Florence was beautifully sung by Morgen Thomson, as was Svetlana, played by Amelia Inglis. Their famous duet, "I Know Him So Well", was one of the highlights of the show.

This was a show where a large number of the performers had never previously taken part in a musical at Strathallan. It gives an indication of the increasing popularity of the genre. Alex McLeod, in the role of the mayor, was another "newbie" who displayed confidence in his role.

This was an entirely sung show. As well as the main characters, there were also songs for the reporters and chorus. That, and the 17-piece orchestra, were under the capable musical direction of Neil Hamilton.

Strathallians, Oliver Beetschen and Andrew Glover managed the lighting with the enthusiastic assistance of Liam Kennedy, and operated the sound programme (provided by Apex Acoustics). Kate Streatfeild-James was Wardrobe Mistress, and the Stage Manager, Jim Salisbury. Molly Barnes, Flavia Muziewitz and Adeeb Nasaan headed up the team of stage crew, set-builders and painters. The cast make-up was in the capable hands of Sophie Arnot, Becky Vallot and Sophie Lightbody.

The main characters were ably supported by the dancers, trained by Kimberley Stewart.

IIMcF



Art



Maggie Luck

A2



Sandie Smillie

GCSE



Connor Ovenstone

GCSE



Katherine Jones

GCSE



Sophie Arnot

AS



Colin Gordon

GCSE



Robyn Somerville

GCSE



Josie Dibnah

GCSE



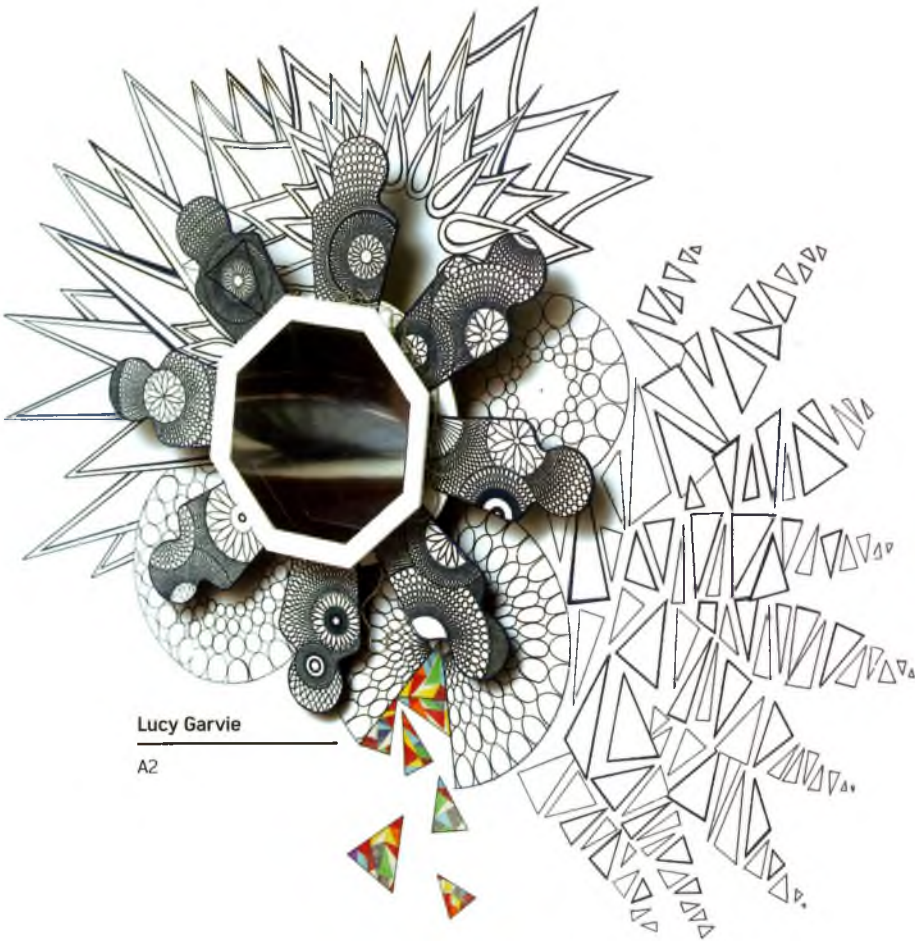
Jessica Brown

GCSE



Savanna Gill

GCSE



Lucy Garvie

A2



Motoko Otomo

GCSE



Amye Dolby

A2



Callum Todd

AS



Camilla Irvine-Fortescue

AS



Séverine Thompson

AS



Sophie-Anne Ross

GCSE



Anna McNeill

A2



Tasha Jaworski

A2



Amye Dolby

A2



Julia Leng

GCSE



Philippa Kemp

GCSE



Katie Rutherford

AS



Freya Kinloch

III Form



Sarah Salvesen

III Form



Pip Stirrat

III Form

Design + Technology



Javier García Serrano

Guitar stand
GCSE Resistant Materials



Callum Kettles

Solar powered garden lights
A2 Product Design



Sophie-Anne Ross

Coffee table
GCSE Resistant Materials



Mhairi Bannerman

Coffee table for Headmaster's study
A2 Product Design



Justin Tsang

Laptop speakers
A2 Product Design



Toby Schofield

Desktop speakers
A2 Product Design



Hannah Pitts

Bedside unit
AS Product Design



Adam Shakor

Wine rack
AS Product Design



Maggie Luck

Hallway console unit
A2 Product Design



Agata Guz

Coffee table
AS Product Design



Gaydeliya Talipova

Storage for art materials
AS Product Design



Jordan Curtis

Coffee table
GCSE Resistant Materials



Emma He

Home office desk
A2 Product Design



Eugenia Ramos Alonso

Book shelves for Glenbrae
A2 Product Design



Conor McCarthy

Coffee table
A2 Product Design



Will Lyburn

Coffee table
A2 Product Design



Alex Chu

Laptop heat dissipation unit
A2 Product Design



Lisa Davidson

Guitar holder
GCSE Resistant Materials



Anna McNeill

Shoe storage unit
A2 Product Design



Nick Farrar

Fish tank coffee table
A2 Product Design

Cricket

...it took a fiery and crucial last over from Nick Everett, in which he took two wickets, to bowl the Academy out...

1st XI

On one level, the story of the 2012 season has been one of frustration at the terrible weather that plagued the weekend fixture list, and on another level this season was the end of an era. We hardly lost a practice day after pre-season and the first week of term, but we ended up losing the majority of our weekend fixtures to the weather, despite the use of covers. Matches against Perth Doo'Cot, Grange IIs, MCC, Merchiston, Glenalmond, High School of Glasgow and Watson's were rained off. The match against the Caledonian Academy XI in the last week of term at least had a first innings before being rained off, and we had to start after lunch in truncated matches against both Fettes and Loretto. It sort of seems that it was by pure luck that we managed to fit any matches in at all, such were the deluge of the summer and the far from summery temperatures.

In the end we managed a 20-20 match against Dollar which we won convincingly to progress through to the semi-finals of the new HMC Scotland T20 competition. In this game we batted slowly to post just over 120 in the 20 overs but we bowled tightly and with focus, limiting Dollar to well short of our total with Nick Farrar and Fraser Doig bowling well in their four overs. Eventually [8 weeks later!] we would play the semi and win easily against the High School of Dundee, with Nick Farrar playing a captain's hand of 45 not out as we triumphed by 8 wickets chasing 120 in 19 overs. The following week against The Edinburgh Academy, new boy Sam Culham notched up an impressive not-out 80 and with Nick Farrar scoring a classy 80, we totalled 225-4 in our overs. We then tried desperately to throw the match away in the field with some very ordinary fielding and bowling, before it took a fiery and crucial last over from Nick Everett, in which he took two wickets, to bowl the Academy out. We won by 2 runs.

The next two matches were home against two teams who have had the wood over us in recent times – Fettes and Loretto. Both saw delayed starts until after lunch on account of the terrible weather and both of them resulted in disappointing draws as, batting second on both occasions, we were unable to make a concerted charge for either opposition total. Apart from Nick Farrar's 60 against Fettes we never really went for their eminently attainable total, and only Fraser Doig made any runs of note in the game we almost lost to Loretto. This inability to score sufficient runs, mainly due to the very slow

surfaces we were playing on, almost cost us dear in the only other two matches we managed to complete at home.

Against Stenhousemuir, a club for whom Ian Philip and the club professional played, we played something close to our best on the only warm and sunny day of the home season. Having restricted them to 220 in forty overs, with excellent bowling spells from Nick Everett (4-24) and Fraser Doig (1-8), we chased down the runs easily in the end as Fraser Doig made 50, Nick Farrar made 50 and Jack Waller made a very promising 35. Then against the XL Club we totalled only 170 which, after the start that we had had, was most disappointing. That we drew the match was due only to some very good bowling in the last hour when we had rather expected victory to fall into our laps rather than going out to grasp it. The fact that captain Nick Farrar could not bowl deprived us of some much needed experience.

And so that was that. The 2012 season was over, apart from the end of term Festival at Pocklington to which we had to send down a much reduced 1st XI with a large number of untried fourth and third formers. Nick Farrar was missing with the Scottish U19s, one or two seniors decided to leave school, Jack Waller was with the Caledonian U15s at Fettes in a Festival where, ironically, not a single ball was bowled. We unfortunately lost the Scottish HMC final against Stewart's-Melville College at the festival, and we lost narrowly to Hymers College and more convincingly to the host team. However, the performances of some of the juniors such as James Burdett, Rhys Connah and the younger Doigs, were evidence of promise for the future.

When one has been in charge of the 1st XI for fifteen seasons, and Master ic/ Cricket since 1996, one inevitably accumulates multiple debts. Chief amongst these is owing to the staff with whom one has worked on the 1st XI. So, to Nick Du Boulay and Ian Philip go many heartfelt thanks for their advice and the many long hours they have both spent coaching individuals and dispensing advice to me on team selection, motivation, technique and above all on how to be a better person. Without them I am not sure what I would have done. To the now retired Robert Proctor, from whom I took over in 1998, I owe an instillation of a passion for the game and for the School which, even though I am now departing, will not easily be left behind. To those other staff with whom I have worked over the years on developing and improving our cricket so that, immodestly, I think we consistently punch well above our weight on the circuit, I thank them





for their hard work and forbearance. Finally, to Graeme Robertson I owe a huge debt of thanks for taking over the onerous task of directing all the cricket, organising the fixtures, transport, meals ... the list goes on. We may not always have seen eye to eye but, there is no doubt, he has Strathallan running through his veins and a more passionate advocate of the School has not been seen by me.

Finally, if I may indulge myself a little longer, to the captains that I worked with – Robin Dicke, Andrew Moodie, James Philips, William Bowry, Ross Anders, the brothers Cachia (Jamie, Michael, Robbie), to Johnny Dickson, Freddie Coleman and Nick Farrar, it was a pleasure to work with you all. Oh, and... so long and thanks for all the fish.

RHF



2nd XI

In the summer of oh twelve the 2nd XI boys' cricket adopted a Scottish Rock band as their mascots: Wet Wet Wet (Erm, I think you'll find that these chaps were a tad more pop than rock, Nigel. Ed). Of our seven organised fixtures three were rained off. Fortunately love was not all around and we won two of the three matches we did play.

Our opening match was a real wake-up against Merchiston at home. We were put in to bat and made a decent 106 for 8 in 25 overs, Captain Callum Kettles hitting a splendid 50. Sadly, we quickly found out that 106 was not a decent total on that wicket as MCS raced to 108-2 inside 17 overs. The only bowler to make an impact was Chris McCarthy with 2-20. Our final game of the season should have been the climax, at home against Glenalmond, but for many complicated reasons most players were unavailable and so a combined 1st/2nd and under-15s team was fielded which proved too strong for Glenalmond. On a sunny day we elected to bat and made 144-6 off 60 overs with Kevin McAllister 51 n.o. They were all out for 66 in 22 overs, Cameron Roberston taking 3 and Monty Peeters 2 wickets.

Our third completed match was the one that showed the real character and potential of this year's 2nd XI, it was at home against Edinburgh Academy. On an overcast day we elected to bat but were 12-2 after 3 overs: Greg Meiklem and Finlay Kettles receiving superb, unplayable deliveries from the same quick bowler. We then made a steady recovery to 143 all out after 27 overs, Colin Gordon having made 28 and Ross Buchanan left stranded on 23 n.o. The Edinburgh quickies lost accuracy after their opening spell and racked up 35 extras. This was going to be a tough match, we would have to bowl and field very well. We did. Finlay Kettles kept wicket like a seasoned professional, Colin Gordon, Ross Buchanan and Cammy Mack were tigers in the field, Callum Kettles skippered well and Angus Roberston, Chris McCarthy and James Cockburn took 3 wickets each. They were all out for 131 in the 29th over and we had won by 13 runs.

NG



Senior Colts A

The Senior Colts A team had a mixed season this year. There was a disappointing start against Dollar, a match we should have won had it not been for our poor performance with the bat. However, encouraged by efforts made in practice sessions we grouped together and with good batting from most of the team, managed to post a run total that a strong bowling attack would be capable of defending against the Edinburgh Academy batsmen. This was our first win of the season and spurred us on to captivating victories over Glenalmond for example, in which Jack Waller posted a season's best 88 not out.

Throughout the rest of the season, there were many other good individual feats from Curtis

Taylor, John Ambrose and Fraser Buchan who consistently put runs on the board, and with the back-up of a strong bowling attack led by James Burdett and Will Dallas many good team performances were brought about. A special mention also must go to Alfonso Ramos who after only a few weeks of playing in the position was plunged into the deep end and kept wicket from the first game of the season until the last.

Despite the close defeats, all the team benefitted; whether it was Will Dallas's batting, John Ambrose's fielding or Curtis Taylor's bowling and chat in the field. Finally, thanks must go to Mr Billing for coaching us during the term, and also to the family members who came out to support us throughout our season.

Cameron Jenkins
IV Form Freeland

Junior Colts A

It was a very frustrating season, having started off in warm sunshine but ending in days of rain after rain.

In all we only managed to play six matches, winning three and losing the same number. Our first match was the highlight of the season, needing three to win off the last ball. Cammy Robertson managed it in style with a mighty six to seal a really good game of cricket. Against Dollar, John Dew was equally impressive with a very quickfire 40 from his bat, which set Dollar a hard target to chase. The bowlers stuck to the task and supported by some good fielding, bowled out the opposition well short of this score. John again scored well against Lathallan (50 not out) which helped post a score that Lathallan could not chase.

The momentum which should have followed these wins was hampered by the weather, which prevented the team from playing any match for nearly four weeks. In between these rain-interrupted days, the team trained with a great deal of enthusiasm and hope that we could build on our early victories but, sadly, match after match was cancelled as the summer got wetter.

I would like to thank our coaches Mr Robertson, Mr Goddard and Mr Henderson for their time and effort throughout the season and for keeping our spirits up when it was wet and cold.

Rhys Connah (Captain)
III Form Simpson



© Scottish Rugby

Rugby

From past experience we knew it was going to be a tough game and that's exactly how it turned out...

This season has been one of highs and lows as any season would be with such a new team and a fresh mix of players, but as always pre-season came before we knew it, summer was over and the Bursar's painful drills hit us all with a rude awakening.

Our first few matches were at the Madras tournament posing as a warm-up until the term time games properly started. With several comfortable wins we took back the silverware and our season had begun on a high, with a few injuries in the squad for the likes of George Horne. We knew we had a lot more to bring to the table. Next up was Robert Gordon's College at home. From past experience we knew it was going to be a tough game and that's exactly how it turned out, with lots of big hits and great hands from Jack Somerville we just lost out by the time the final whistle came round (14-12).

Losing what was our first home fixture I think had a considerable effect on the squad but we didn't let our heads stay down for too long as we had a cup game against Merchiston mid-week in Edinburgh. We had just enough time to dust ourselves off and get back on our feet by the time we were back on the playing field. We knew how important this game was and so early in the tournament it was an anxious time. Although the game started well for us with an early penalty kick and a lot of pressure in their half it quickly fell away, with the end whistle blowing and the score disappointingly sitting at 35-3, our cup dreams were over before they had even started.

Fortunately we had another fixture with the Edinburgh side later in the calendar giving opportunity to avenge the

previous score line. Our next game was a Development squad being made up of both 1st XV players and 2nd XV players against North Berwick High School.

After a long journey down the bus ride didn't help as it seemed as though we were half asleep for the first twenty minutes. With good scrum and lineout work, however, we were dominant for the majority of the game but some too-easily scored tries left the score-line (14-17) in their favour.

Our next fixture was away to Dundee High School, always a highly-anticipated match which turned out to be a very successful one for us showing dominance in all areas of the game. Special mention from that Saturday was Zander Fagerson's typical crushing tackle on the High School's winger with the score ending at 27-12 in our favour.

Our next fixture was Fettes College at home and after the victory away at Dundee the team was in high spirits reflected in the high quality line-break from Angus Guthrie cutting the Fettes back line in half and right under the posts to open the scoring. Fettes pressed for another try and after some weak 5-metre defence they got over the whitewash. Strath were back in their 22 with force and as the pressure built the Fettes defence couldn't cope and a break away try came near the end to make it 12-5 at the finish.

After a few impressive wins on the back of a shaky start we couldn't have been on a better high going into the old Perthshire derby against Glenalmond. As always, nerves and apprehension were apparent on the bus journey to the game. With George Horne's first return back after injury we were all interested to see what he could bring to our team, and what a return he made. His Pirlo-esque conducting of



...we were in a remote school in the Perthshire hills and George Horne had just put us in the lead with a kick from half way!!

the Strathallan orchestra was clearly the missing piece as we went all guns blazing into game with heavy hits and smooth hands down the backline to secure James Wordie crashing over the try-line in the corner to open the scoring. It wasn't long until Glenalmond returned the heat and were in our 22 with a scrum in front of our posts and after a big surge their scrum half picked up and went straight under the posts bringing the score to 7 apiece. Just as the match was closing for half time Strath received a penalty and George Horne stepped up to give it a go... (bearing in mind this was on the halfway line). The next 30 seconds of play went into almost slow-mo as the ball left the tee and soared through the air. It was as if we were playing in Johannesburg with the aid of altitude securing the kick over...but we weren't we were in a remote school in the Perthshire hills and George Horne had just put us in the lead with a kick from half way!! The whole team was stunned but as we grouped up for halftime there was no let-up and we all had to concentrate.

The second half was a lot like the first, with big collisions and lots of physicality. With no surprises the Glenalmond XV matched our hunger in the rucks and breakdown areas and as the penalties rolled in George Horne stepped up and saw them away, with the final whistle going and the score line 16-7 it really was an incredible feeling. As the troops walked through the man-made tunnel of Strath support the adrenaline was through the roof, a true highlight of our season.

Next up, Merchiston away and all the lads were driven and determined to redeem our poor efforts earlier in the season. After a brutal first half the score lines were close and deep in the second half we lost a player to a yellow card and playing with fourteen men all the guys upped their performance and a special mention to the forwards and the young gun Jamie Ritchie who really fronted up when we went one man down. This really was an end-to-end match with tries on both sides of the park, and fair play to Merchiston who really threw everything at us. The Strath



XV kept their cool and played smart rugby with tries from Cameron Fenton and Jack Somerville bringing the score to 26-26 as the final whistle went.

Next up we had Edinburgh Academy at home and based on their past success in the cup over the last few years we knew it was going to be a big task but everyone knew what we could do looking at the past games and the next 70 minutes really were as tense as any. With EA scoring early on the Strath XV knew we had quite a task on our hands and soon after we had returned the pressure with some great 5-metre defence from the forwards keeping out the Edinburgh Academy pack. Before we knew it, Murdo McAndrew had brought us back with a quick dash over the EA line to bring it to 7-7. Half-time came around with a reasonable score-line and as soon as the whistle went they were back at us securing two more tries. The game was fading away but George Horne slotted a penalty to try to get us back and a great team manoeuvre landed Craig Rintoul in the corner for a well worked try. Although we left it a bit late, the boys really brought it together in the second half with Cammy Fenton crashing over the line to keep the fire going, unfortunately a high quality backs' move from the Edinburgh team sent their man through to score leaving the score at 20-22 when the final whistle went. Howe of Fife next up and a few familiar faces from our friends in Cupar made the game even more enjoyable. Thankfully, we managed to seize the bragging rights this year with tries from Blair Sangster, Craig Rintoul, DJ Innes, Jack Somerville, two tries coming from Torquil Curran, and a hat-trick from Murdo McAndrew against his old club to seal the deal. Leaving the score at 54-7.

Hutchesons' Grammar has always been a big game to finish the season with and this was no different with great maul work from the forwards giving the back-line enough space to work their magic out wide to put Jack Somerville over to score. The Hutchie boys as always fought back

over the line to tie it up at 7-7. After half time Murdo nipped over the line and George Horne got two more tries to put the season to rest at 20-7. Ending on a high was all we wanted and we really proved our potential come the end of the season.

Our Rugby' lads and dads' dinner at the end of the season hosted by Mr Glasgow, Mr Vallot and Mr Henderson turned out to be a great success and with Mr Glasgow starting off the evening with his hilarious set of jokes, we all knew we were in for a big night. After a fantastic dinner and great company we heard the speeches from Hendo, Mr Vallot and the Captains' speeches from Jack and Fraser. The speeches came to a close with Peter Horne our guest speaker' and I would like to thank Mr Horne on behalf of the team for coming up and speaking on what really was a great night. Murdo McAndrew brought the entire evening to an end with his rugby video that had us all crying in laughter the whole way through, a true masterpiece of film, not to mention leaving Angus Guthrie nowhere to hide after his legendary New Year efforts.

We've had a truly remarkable number of international age grade performances from Strathallan pupils this year and I would like to take the opportunity now to congratulate all the lads who got selected for those squads. We had Murdo McAndrew who is now at Clermont Auvergne (in case the headmaster hasn't reminded you enough already) with several Under 18 performances, including selection for their trip to Spain for the European championships, we wish him all the best in France. Craig Rintoul, Cameron Fenton and George Horne were selected for the Scotland Under 17 squad with Cameron even being brought up to join Murdo for a few matches in Spain at under 18 level. Zander Fagerson and Jamie Ritchie both being selected for the Scotland under 16 squad. A great achievement for all the boys involved. For myself I just want to say that it has been an honour to play beside the fourteen other guys on the 1st XV this year, and to be a part of it all. I want to wish

George Horne all the best for next season as I am sure that he will captain the team extremely well and to finally thank Mr Henderson and Mr Glasgow for their efforts this season with the team on and off the pitch. I wish the 1st XV team of 2012-2013 all the best and remember, love your teammates.

Ruairidh Hunter

Captain of Club 1st XV

2nd XV

This year saw many players come in from the U16 side from the year before with many of the 'old boys' either gaining a promotion to the 1st XV or leaving the school. This meant that coming into our first game against a strong Robert Gordon's side we were not sure what to expect of ourselves and what result to expect from the game. This was evident in our give-it-all approach and we dominated the game winning comfortably 28-0. Following what was a rather surprising victory against a notorious rugby school our confidence grew and became evident over the next couple of weeks as we became stronger in all areas of the field. Impressive victories against Dundee High and QVS set us up nicely for the run of games we had against the Edinburgh schools and Glenalmond.

Unfortunately, in the game against Fettes, due to some rather late position-switching due to absentees and injuries we couldn't get the result we perhaps deserved after some great attacking play and lost by the narrowest of margins, 10-8. Tasting defeat for the first time in the year was a sour blow for the team and with the biggest game of the season to follow it was something we were determined not to experience again. The game against Glenalmond is always a special one and the game nobody wants to lose; and fortunately for us from the word go Glenalmond were never really in the game. It was a rather one-sided contest and had some of the finishing been better the score line would have reflected that. Glenalmond managed to hold us out on several occasions but we came through to win the game 12-5.

After half term we headed down to Merchiston. This game has a history for being rather one sided as well but the team showed great determination and physicality that the Merchiston side could not compete with and we ended up winning by a 50-point margin. Next came the biggest team on the 2XV rugby circuit, Edinburgh Academy. They were, as expected, physical and well-drilled and had the fitness to last the entire game at a pace at which we couldn't quite compete.

It has been a great pleasure being captain of such a competitive 2nd XV. The strength and depth was shown throughout the term as with injuries throughout, players were able to move position, sometimes every week, and still pull out a result at the end of it. A huge thank you must go to Mr Vallot and Mr Higginbottom for their efforts throughout the term and making sure that we kept improving from start to finish.

Fraser Doig

UVI Nicol

Under 16 Rugby

After a long summer holiday the selected pre-season squad (and Josh Anderson) arrived at Nicol house where we were met by a series of fitness tests to begin the work-hard mind-set for the rest of the season. This proved worthwhile after a strong team performance and some individual excellence from Javier Garcia at scrum half led us to a win over Madras 34-26 in the first game.

After a close game in the previous season we came up against an Edinburgh Academy XV expecting to give us another very close match. However, the bad weather gave our forwards, led by Charlie Mearns, a chance to show their strength and dominance, which they did, leading us to a very comfortable win 33-0. Merchiston came up next in another game we knew would be tough. The game started and remained very close throughout, with a strong run-in try from Ross Buchanan keeping us in it at half time. Unfortunately in the second half, despite a having a degree of dominance, little slip-ups near the line cost us. It was a game we may not have expected to win before but ended in a game we felt we should have. After that disappointment, we were determined to redeem ourselves in our next challenge which came as the XV of Howe of Fife came to Strathallan. This proved to be a game where both our skills and temperament were tested to the full. However after an even first half a good all-round team performance saw us edge ahead and finally come out on top as comprehensive winners. We also played in the Under 16 Scottish Cup where we travelled to Galashiels for our first match and, with the addition of 1st XV player Zander Fagerson we delivered a strong performance which took us into the second round where we played one of the favourites, George Watsons', at home, a game we went into as underdogs. However, we were determined to give ourselves the best chance and led for the majority of the first half, showing the

massive efforts and improvement our team has made this year. Nonetheless, the game ended in their favour, but we went out of the cup with our heads held high. The team highlight, however, came in the match against Glenalmond where, after a great win last year, we didn't want to disappoint. Also with our Captain Jamie Ritchie missing due to his promotion to the 1st XV we had it all to prove. The game started very well with the forwards showing their strength and after a sharp penalty take by Javier Garcia we scored very quickly. The early try however made our confidence rise and our quality of play fall resulting in a comeback that made our lead shaky. We quickly woke up though and with two great tries by Ross McDonald we secured a narrow but deserved 21-14 victory. Over the past two years the team has improved a lot and this can be shown by looking at the results. This is both due to the efforts of the team and the efforts of Mr Billing as we can safely say the season would not have been so successful or enjoyable without him.

Grant Doig

IV Form Nicol

Under-16 Rugby Captain.



Football



This past season the school football team narrowly missed getting into the quarter finals of the Scottish Independent Schools FA Cup, coming third in our group. The team should perhaps have taken the opportunity to work harder at the start of the season, concentrating on our fitness and doing more ball work and possession games so everyone is comfortable on the ball in tight areas. We'll know in future.

Throughout the season we had some very mixed results and lacked consistency in the squad. The results showed this clearly as we drew 2-2 against Dollar, by far the best team we played all year because they passed the ball about and worked for each other. At Gordonstoun we were beaten 3-1. That said, we did have some very good results against Glenalmond and Robert Gordon's. Away we beat Glenalmond quite convincingly, never a bad thing, and put in a really good performance against Robert Gordon's just narrowly missing out 2-1.

A stock response to a poor season would be to blame the training-régime and it certainly didn't

help that we had players turning up to training late on dark evenings. As a result we were very slow starters in matches and were often behind at half time. However, as football is a game of two halves we found a way to get back into matches. Against Dollar, for example we were 2-0 down at half time and came back to draw with them, a very good result as I have already mentioned. Knowing how to keep our defensive shape and cut off options to the opposition when they are in our final third will make a big difference as well.

However, the season was not all negatives. Ross Macdonald was by far our best player and became part of the team motto for the year as 'Ross..... yeah', courtesy of Coach Mike Bussey. Also the team had two very good captains who led from the front (well, the back, actually, in one case, DJ Innis(C) and Santi García (VC)). Much to Ando's disappointment DJ finished top goal-scorer for the season despite not having the advantage of starting every match up-front. The back four, Ross Macdonald, Chris King, Murdo MacIver and Nick Bradley, were well drilled all season but we just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net. The season's best goal was Abraham Fernandez's 35-yard left-foot screamer into the bottom corner.





Over all there will be a lot to build on during a season in which Ando needs to find his shooting boots and someone, probably Kettles, needs to fill the void that has been left by the guitar-hero goalie's taking up a university place back home in Spain. A management re-shuffle reminiscent of Heart of Midlothian has meant that we will be welcoming back the ever-reliable Blades' man Mr Batterham and saying goodbye to Mr Bussey. Who knows, we might even get an opportunity for a pop at one of the Glasgow Giants currently languishing in Scotland's fourth tier... Queen's Park.

Murdo MacIver
LVI Nicol



The season's best goal was Abraham Fernandez's 35-yard left-foot screamer into the bottom corner.

Boys' hockey



The First XI's 2011-2012 season was promising, a good omen since a large number of players have come new into the squad from V Form. The season started with our first cup fixture of the year in the U18 Scottish cup against Cala, Edinburgh; with two goals from new striker Jack Burton we finished up on top two goals to nil. Bouncing off this successful win right at the start, the team's hopes were high and expectations likewise. So we were pretty shocked to lose 1-2 to Inverleith. Following the disappointing loss, a hard week at training drilling the basics and teamwork we felt reformed coming into the next fixture against Hillhead where we duly delivered, firing seven past them to win 7-1. Sadly for the rest of the first half of term a lot of fixtures were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions both home and away.

Moving fresh into the second half of term, we travelled the short distance to Glenalmond but hampered by a lack of match practice we went down 3-0 to a good side. Moving back and forth each week afterwards a win 5-4 against Gordonstoun was followed by a 2-3 loss to George Watson's then followed by a 7-2 win against Loretto. We were moving in and out of form each week, which was frustrating for both coaches and players, as we couldn't find the

consistency we were looking for. The Scottish schools U18 cup followed with a 1-1 draw the match was to be decided by penalty flicks. Unfortunately we went down 5-4 with a strong performance from Aberdeen Grammar.

The season then finished with the George Watson's Sevens tournament, in which we beat Edinburgh Academy and Robert Gordon's and lost to the hosts in the group meaning that we would move into the semi-final. After finishing 2nd in the group we played Fettes the winner of the other group. With a good 3-0 win over Fettes, we would play against George Watson's whom we had lost to earlier in the day. With an incredibly tight final in the last match for all the Upper VI in the squad, we played well right up until the end when we lost an easy goal and couldn't make it up in the final minutes.

I feel this tournament provides a good summary of the overall season, with on-and-off performances in the early part of the season it was looking promising but we just were not able to link together the key wins that were required, and just falling short of our potential towards the end of the season. The season has, however, provided very promising signs of the young talent, of which the majority will be retained next season when we look to build on this season and work on consistency of results and performances in Cup fixtures.

Daniel Adams
LVI Freeland

Strathallan Seal Victory in U18 Scottish Indoor Final

A second half goal from Alasdair Wood gave Strathallan a 2-1 victory over Watsonians in the final of the boys' U18 Indoor Scottish Cup at Bell's Sports Centre in Perth. Jack Burton gave Strathallan the lead in 15 minutes but Watsonians quickly equalised.

Strathallan just shaded their semi-final 4-3 against VWS Dundee Wanderers, the scorers were Erik Wand, Tom Elder, Christian Goldkulhe and Ali Wood again.

Both Strathallan and Watsonians had emerged as the top two from pool B with the former taking the head to head by 2-0, Alasdair Wood and Jack Burton on target. Thereafter Strathallan beat Greaves Clydesdale 2-1 only to lose by a single goal to Aberdeen Grammar School.

2XI hockey

Many of the players who were involved with the 2XI hockey this year had been involved in at least one of the last two national cup victories. This meant that we were always confident that we would be extremely competitive against any side we came up against throughout the term and with so much talent in the squad we knew we could adapt and players could fit into positions they were not normally used to without any recognisable change in our play.

The term began with a trip up to Aberdeen to play Robert Gordon's. They were a young side but had plenty of ability and it soon became apparent that our physical advantage wouldn't benefit us in the game. It also became obvious by half time that we maybe had the skills and talent to match any other 2nd XI but we didn't have the fitness. It took a big effort from the team but we managed to win in the end rather comfortably, 3-0. Matches followed in quick succession with Gordonstoun, Glenalmond and Fettes all coming up before half term. With a fantastic 14-0 victory against Gordonstoun our confidence was growing and we started to appreciate each other's strengths and weaknesses. Glenalmond was up next and after a few early chances for each side we took the lead. From there we never looked back winning emphatically, 5-0. The story was to be different at Fettes, however, as for the first half we failed to get off the bus and found ourselves 2-0 down at half time. From there it was going to be difficult but we never got ourselves into the game and lost 4-0.

After such a disappointing defeat we were focused on not repeating it which we knew would be difficult with two challenging games coming up. First was George Watson's, a very strong hockey school. Since the Fettes defeat we had worked hard on the areas that let us down and saw huge improvements, dominating from push back to win 8-0. Off the back of such a big win our confidence had returned but not forgetting the defeat in Edinburgh as our motivation. Loretto have proved to be one of our toughest opponents over the last couple of years and we knew that they would test us on the physical side of the game. Determined to end the term on a high we started the game very well and found ourselves 2-0 up at half time. Knowing it probably should have been more was frustrating but we had to focus as Loretto are known for their strong finishes against us. We were not proved wrong as we went 3-0 up early in the second half but within 5 minutes found ourselves back to a one goal lead. Great credit was due to the team for not panicking as we fought back scoring a further two to win 5-2.

I have had a lot of fun with the 2nd XI this year and it has been fantastic captaining such a good squad. A personal highlight has to be the team's football-like celebration after scoring the opening goal against the 1st XI in a training session. A huge thank you to Mr Vallot and Steven for their time and effort and for joining in with the banter now and again.

Fraser Doig
UVI Nicol

U16 Boys' Hockey

Once again Strathallan entered the U16 Scottish Youth Cup competition. It began with the Midlands District tournament in early March.

Although we had already qualified as winners in 2011 for the Finals we were determined to win the district tournament again. We were up against a number of Midlands teams including Perthshire, Dundee Wanderers and Harris Academy. Having won all our games we were winners of the District tournament for a third consecutive year.

The team went on to represent the Districts in the Youth Finals that were held at Strathallan this year. Teams from Perthshire, Cala Edinburgh and Clydesdale represented the various district. Match results were as follows:

Perthshire **won 3-0**

Cala Edinburgh **won 4-1**

And in the Final against Clydesdale we pulled off a 2-1 victory. Well done to Charlie Mearns and the rest of the team for winning a third consecutive Youth U16 Final.

The team for both tournaments included Ewan Campbell and Rhys Connah in goal along with Gareth Watt, Rory Wood, Jack Waller, Grant Doig, Javier Uriach Dasca, Colin Gordon, Connor Holborn, Rory Barnes, Ross Buchanan, Harry Thomson, Cameron Hirst and Will Dallas.

The U16 team also managed a second place at the annual Chameleons Hockey tournament held in February this year.

AW



4th Form Boys' Hockey

The season got off to a good start as far as the weather was concerned. We managed two games before the cold and frost set in before half term in early February.

In the first encounter of the year we lost at home to a determined Glenalmond team 2-4. After some hard work and training the team were determined to bounce back and that they did. We travelled to Aberdeen and beat RGC 8-0. It was a good team effort with goals coming from a number of different players. The cold then set in and no further games were played until after half-term. In the second half of the term we managed three wins, two very good draws and one loss. Captain Connor Holborn led by example, scoring a number of goals, and was supported by a team who could all score. Over the course of the season seven members of the team were able to put the ball in the back of the goal. This is a fine achievement and testament to the team.

GR

Girls' hockey

Midland District U15 Outdoor Tournament WINNERS
Midland District U15 Indoor Tournament WINNERS
Midland District U16 KO Cup WINNERS
Midland 1st XI Tournament WINNERS
Midland U18 Indoor tournament WINNERS
Midland District Senior Schools KO Cup WINNERS
High School of Glasgow 7s WINNERS

1st XI

The summer holiday flew by and we were suddenly back at school for the start of pre-season, with the annual dreaded fitness testing of "doggies". The whole team suffered from stiff muscles, not helped by the nightmare morning runs. As pre-season came to an end, everyone was anxious to begin the season and see how well we could do.

We didn't have long to wait as the Madras tournament was around the corner. With a very young squad, no practice sessions on grass and temporary baggy white tops provided by Mr Giles, we were ready. Our first match against St Leonard's ended 0-0. We knew our next two group games were key, if we wanted a chance to play in the final. We flew through them both beating Kinross HS 7-0 and Perth Ac 5-0, setting up the final against a strong squad from the High School of Dundee. After a well fought game drawing 0-0, it would be decided on penalties. We managed to clinch the victory with Rachael, Christina and Mhairi all slotting their penalties in with none conceded. With a trophy in the bag we had set the bar high for the rest of the season.

Fired up after our first tournament win, we were raring to go in the 1st XI Midland Tournament, against some of the top schools from our district. Our first game was against Glenalmond and we knew we had to give it everything if we wanted a result. It was a very tight game but we were the side that took our chance, winning the game 1-0. We continued through the group stages beating Kilgraston 2-0 and Madras 5-0. We moved into the semi final against St Leonard's, winning confidently 2-0, allowing us to advance into the final against Dollar. Everyone was focused and knew what we needed to do. Dollar fought hard creating chances but we got an early goal and then worked hard as a team, which paid off as we won the game 1-0, adding another trophy to the cabinet, much to our delight.

When we weren't playing in tournaments, we had a school fixture weekly against schools from all over Scotland. Against Gordonstoun we had a goal rush, beating them 8-0. However, George Watson's who had won Scottish Schools the year before, was going to be an incredibly hard game. We managed to take the lead at half time with a solid 2-0 but we knew they were going to come back out with a strong attacking play to try and steal the game back. The final score was 2-2 but we were delighted to draw with one of the top schools. We were on a good streak but it didn't last long as we came up against Fettes, where we

lost 2-1 but as a team we took the ups and downs together.

The third tournament of the season was The Independent Schools' and our first game was against Fettes, who had beaten us the previous day. Working hard in defence, we kept the scoreline equal. We won the next games 4-0, 5-1, 1-0, 3-0 and our last game was yet again against Dollar. A win here would give us more silverware and that's exactly what we did once again.

One of our aims of the season was to win the Midland KO Cup. After a confident 3-0 win against the High School of Dundee, we were through to the final, to set up another clash against Dollar. Although we had previously beaten them to win the other tournaments, we knew they were going to give it everything so we had to play better than we had before. With busloads (maybe minibusloads would be more exact!) of supporters, we headed to Kilgraston. Nerves fluttered through the team but on hearing the crowd chanting "Go Strath", we just wanted the game to begin. Ella Coleman put us on the score-sheet but Dollar pulled one back. Working hard as a team, we scored again and with Hope Whitelaw having a terrific game in defence, the scoreline remained at 2-1. Not only had we won another cup but we had qualified for the Scottish Schools Finals!! Unfortunately, playing against the top Scottish schools at the finals proved too much for us and we didn't get beyond the group stages.

In the first game of the U18 Midland Indoor Tournament, Eugenia Ramos took a head clash and was out for the rest of the day, leaving the team with no UVI players. The youngsters proved how good they were, winning all their games, giving us our first indoor tournament trophy and qualification into the National Indoor finals. The first game at Nationals was against Hutchesons' resulting in a thrilling draw. Unfortunately we went down 3-1 in our final group game putting us in the 5th/6th play off against Kelso, which we convincingly won 4-1, securing us 5th place.

Sevens tournaments have always been a lot of fun but this year we achieved something special at the High School of Glasgows Sevens. We strolled through the group stage and then dominated our semi final against Kelburne, winning 3-0 which meant we were into the final, something we had not expected at the start of the day. We were up against the home side and, after a tough match, it ended 0-0, thanks to Anni Arthur and Christina Farrar who throughout the season have been our wall in defence, making my life so much easier as a GK. Once again we were in a final which was decided on penalties and I am delighted to say we won 2-1. We were over the

At our Hockey Dinner, awards were presented to the following:

Top Goal-scorer with 79 (school record) and
Player of the Year - Rachael Campbell

Indoor Player of the Year - Christina Farrar

Most Improved Player of the Year -
Anni Arthur

moon because it was the first time Miss Sime had ever won this tournament.

It has been an absolute honour being Captain of this squad. The effort and enthusiasm all the girls have shown has been incredible, resulting in a very successful season. I also want to thank Mhairi Bannerman (Vice Captain) and Eugenia Ramos (Club Captain) for all their support. Last, but not least, I don't think I can thank our coaches enough. Miss Carroll, Steven (oops I mean Mr Glass), Fitz, Mr Giles and of course Miss Sime; without you we would not have won all these trophies and we would not have had nearly as much fun! I will always be extremely grateful to Strathallan for inspiring me to play hockey, which is now a huge part of my life. I wish Rachael Campbell and Lucy Coleman and the rest of the team good luck for next season. Mhairi, Euge and I will miss the Strath hockey family so much.

Nicki Cochrane,

1st XI Captain, UVI Glenbrae

2nd XI

This year was another strong season for the 2nd XI. We had a very good team; once again with a mixture of age groups from V Form and VI Form. Everyone worked hard during training with enthusiasm and self-belief.

Reflecting over matches we won against Queen Victoria School, St George's, Gordonston, Kilgraston, Glenalmond, St Leonard's and Morrison's. The team played well against our strongest competitors drawing with Fettes, Mary Erskine's and Dollar. Unfortunately, we lost against Robert Gordon's and George Watson's College.

Over all however, the successes were greater than the losses with 7 wins and 2 losses.

Yasmine Forbes

2nd XI Captain

3rd XI

This hockey season has been very eventful. We played our first match against Mary Erskine's and unfortunately lost 2-1. After some good training and hard work by everyone, the team's spirit and skills significantly improved.

This was shown in our victorious match against St. Leonard's where Sarah Cheape scored a hat-trick and the final score was 8-1. At our match against Dollar, we were met by heavy rain and a grass pitch. By the end, half the team had fallen over and our hair looked a state but we came out with two goals. The season ended on a high with another brilliant 9-0 win against Loretto and a draw against Hutchesons'. On behalf of the team we would like to thank the parents and family who came to support us and Dr. Blackie and Mr. Glass who trained and supported us throughout the season.

Linda Gordon & Flora Hay,
3rd XI Captains

Scotland Senior Cap

Congratulations to our 1st XI Captain, Nicki Cochrane who made her full senior Scotland debut in the victory against Russia, at the EuroHockey Indoor Championships II in Slagelse, Denmark in January.

She was only eighteen years of age. She also achieved her first full outdoor cap against Olympic side South Africa this year. Nicki went on to play with the U21 Scotland Squad in the European Junior Nations Championships II in Aleksin, Russia in July.



District and National Representation

Midland U15	Midland U16	Midland U18
Megan Inch	Anni Arthur	Rachael Campbell
Raina Dalrymple	Raina Dalrymple	Ella Coleman
Nina Mearns (Captain)	Christina Farrar (Captain)	Lucy Coleman
Emma Walker	Megan Inch	Laura Glasgow
Pippa Wood	Nina Mearns	Eugenia Ramos
Scotland U16	Scotland U18 Training Squad	Scotland U21
Christina Farrar	Rachael Campbell	Nicki Cochrane
Megan Inch		
Anni Arthur		



Cross country & athletics



Cross Country

The house cross country competition was able to take place this year, with Simpson winning the boys' competition, and Glenbrae victorious in the girls'. Meets were held at Glenalmond and Strathallan before the visit to Fettes for the relays. In this the girls won the Open event, and the Open and Under 17 boys ran very well for second place.

For Scottish schools we had high hopes for success in a number of age groups: the Over 17 girls ran very well, with Olwyn Jenkins finishing in 6th place, and secured a silver medal. Other teams ran well, but could only graze the podium with 4th, 5th and 6th places. The medals will certainly be in reach in the coming years if we can fulfil our potential.

Athletics

The Athletics club spent many of its competitive afternoons at Pitreavie all weather track in Dunfermline, where some of our more talented athletes train with Pitreavie AAC.

Access to a track and indoor facilities was particularly important this Summer! There were four meets at Pitreavie, one a match against Fettes and Glenalmond and the other three open invitation events with QVS, Fettes and Glenalmond. These events are designed to cope with the examinations starting very early in the term, and mean that we can still hold competitions without necessarily needing to field a full team.

Being able to guarantee fixtures is also very important in our fickle climate, and many athletes were able to set and improve on personal best performances throughout the season.

The second half of the term saw lower age matches against QVS and Dollar, and Lathallan. These were very successful and involved large numbers of Riley and third form pupils. Exciting competitive races bode well for the future of Athletics in the school.

Sports Day

Sports day was surprisingly sunny this year, but a chill wind kept competitors on their toes. In the boys' house competition Simpson quickly built on the lead they had established in the pre-Sports Day events, and were very soon in an impregnable position. The girls' competition was much more open, until finally Woodlands managed to pull away in the last few events.

Anni Arthur and Jack Bruce sprinted their way to the junior Victor Ludorum prizes, and Ross Macdonald won the middle boys' trophy with three first places. The senior prizes were won by Jack Somerville with a sprint double and Amelia Inglis who combined wins in the high and long jump with victory in the 100m.

DMH



Netball



***everyone
has worked
hard as a
team***

The Strathallan 1st VII netball team started another season with some new faces, Roxanne Tabourel, Annabel Wilson, Robyn Somerville, Sacha Taylor, Lexi McLellan, and Sandie Smillie joining the team. It has been a tough season, but everyone has worked hard as a team. With training constantly week after week we gained the title of the bronze medal in the Scottish Schools competition.

We came close to winning the Independent schools cup but were beaten by Fettes in the finals with a close score of 15-13. The team played really well, for which we can hold our heads up high. Also throughout the season the team made a commitment every Wednesday night to attend Bell's sports centre, where the girls played in the Perth Ladies' league. Even though we won few games, we had our trusty mascot George Horne supporting us every week.

Maia Magumba was voted 'most promising junior player'. She has trained with the 1st team on several occasions showing her commitment to the sport as well as being in the U15 district team along with Celine Skinner, Hannah Ottley, Megan Inch and Tabitha Robertson-Barnett.

At the end of the season the team celebrated with a meal at Pizza Express. The team voted Tasha Jaworski as our 'players' player' of the year and commented that she was an extremely

reliable and flexible player. The team also voted Lexi McLellan as 'most improved player' as she has made phenomenal progress throughout a very successful season, her shooting skills consistently achieving the points for the team

Over all we would like to acknowledge our dedicated coach, Miss Laurie, who has given up her time, and has stepped up when the team needed her most; with her jokes always keeping us in good spirits. Also Mrs Tod, who has also given up her time and shared her netball skills to help the team out; taking us to our matches and always giving us encouraging feedback. I would like to give a big thanks to Mrs Ingram-Forde who has coached me for four years, making me feel part of team from the very beginning; making me love netball in the way that she loves it, and making me believe in myself again - which I wouldn't have been able to if it had not been for her.

Netball this year has had its ups and downs with many of the team beset by injury, however in the end the team came together as one and remained positive through wins and losses. Although the team will say goodbye to three of its Upper Sixth teammates, we have high hopes for the future and know that the team will be successful and in the very best of hands next year. Good luck!

**Tasha Jaworski, UVI Woodlands
Captain 2011-2012**

Badminton

Badminton continues to thrive at Strathallan. Training three times a week is having an increasingly noticeable effect on performances in local competitions. As a squad we are beginning to increase the range of shots played and improving our tactics in doubles matches. Finally, and equally importantly, we are raising the quality of our karaoke in the school minibus on the drive to our fixtures.

Our two best players were our captains: Angel Yau and Ryan Kong. Angel has looked our most promising girl for the last few years. She has all the strokes, including the difficult cross-court drop shots, and can beat all but the strongest male players in the school. In individual competition this year she won the U19 singles trophy at the Tayside Championships in Dundee, and made the semi-final of the Perth and Kinross Schools Championship. Angel formed a useful doubles partnership with Ina Drouven, winning the U19 doubles final in Dundee.

Ryan has natural ability and will be very good as he gets stronger and improves his movement about the court. Local competition is fierce in the boys' division, but Ryan gave his best, gaining valuable experience and managing to win one or two games. Importantly, Ryan has helped to elevate the standard of numerous other players in the school, and will be back as Boys' captain again next year.

In school matches the girls went down narrowly to St George's (7-5), lost heavily at Fettes (8-1) first time round, but then miraculously reversed this score-line to record our first and only win in the return fixture. The girls team consisted of Angel, Ina, Lynn Zeng, Syaz Kuan, Lynn Lin, Jess Brown, Rinko Shen and OG Erhahon. The boys team consisting of Ryan, Brian Chen, Justin Chan, Cyrus Ng, Bogdan Marcu, Derek Lai, Christian Livadaru, Chris McCarthy, Kevin Mc Allister and Liam Kennedy, lost both matches against Fettes 9-0 then 8-1.

There was the Perth League nearly every Wednesday night at Bell's in Perth in the first two terms of the year. Angel, Ryan, Cyrus, Ina and Brian were the main players in these matches. The team strode through the early rounds of the Campus Trophy to reach the final, but went down 11-7 in a hard fought contest.

In the Inter-House Championship Woodlands took the girls' trophy, Angel, Abby Cowe and Lucy Ambrose being too strong for the rest. In the boys event Simpson led by Ryan and starring Brian Chen and Jack Burton recorded an easy win.

My thanks go to Angel for organising and leading the team alongside Ryan. I am also indebted to Miss McLean and Ms Toye for their input into games afternoons. It has been a pleasure to work with all the squad this year, their good humour and work ethic has been impressive.

BC
UVI Woodlands

Table tennis

Strathallan takes part in a weekly Tuesday night Perth League playing table tennis against a number of different schools and table tennis clubs in the Perth area. The Strathallan side comprises three teams, the Strathllan 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and the League is played out in Perth's Bell's Centre from which Strathallan regularly returns with good results. Last year's Strathallan table tennis team was very successful with the Strathallan Firsts winning the Perth League with the help of Matt Patterson, Tony Tong and John Dew. The Firsts secured both the League trophy and the player of the league award thanks to Matt Patterson. The seconds and thirds also did well, achieving mid table positions.

Strathallan table tennis also includes an evening after-school club every week and players are coached by an ex-Scottish professional player. The club's players vary in ages and skill from seasoned players in the first squad to newer Rileys trying out the sport and the atmosphere is unique every week because of the increase in new, younger players. Coaching falls into the category of everything from advising a player on what equipment he or she should be using depending on their style of play to helping their technique with drills and shot practices. Players are also free to come and cross paddles with their friends to see if they really have become the new Lord of the Ping!

Adam Bush
III Form Nicol

Equestrianism



What a year! The Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams have all won classes in school competitions and it is clear the sport is going from strength to strength at Strathallan. My thanks go to all the riders and their parents - the hard work has really paid off and the results have been fantastic.

Gleneagles Team Showjumping - Dec 2011

The snow fell on the morning of this team Showjumping event in December, and we were very lucky not to have any transport problems. Our Junior team had a great day - everyone jumped the course with ease and they were delighted to win the class.

Junior Team Members :

Logie Walker (Captain), Murphy Walker, Lisa Garrett, Georgia Laird

Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships

Strathallan equestrian teams achieved a double success at the annual Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships on 22nd April at Gleneagles. Since 2007 Strathallan riders have produced winning performances at these championships, but to win both trophies for the best teams in Dressage and Showjumping at the same event was a first - many congratulations to the Senior and Intermediate teams.

Senior Team members :

Olivia Woodes Rogers (Captain of Riding) Emma Cheape, Rosie Williams, Connie Snowie

Olivia and Connie completed excellent rounds in the dressage to come away with the awards for "Best Riders"

in their respective arenas. Emma and Rosie also rode really well so it was no surprise that the Senior team won the "Team Dressage". All the riders performed successfully in the showjumping, with our best result coming from Rosie who completed three excellent fast clears, finishing in 2nd place individually. Connie was 2nd overall and Olivia 3rd (combined dressage/showjumping). The Senior team can be extremely pleased with their results and there were smiles all round when the trophy was presented to them at the prizegiving.

Intermediate Team members :

Hanna Cheape (Captain), Jessica England, Charlotte Stephenson, Iona Wilson

All the riders completed most successful rounds in both dressage and showjumping. It was a pleasure to see them achieving a first place in the "Team Showjumping" and a second in the "Team Dressage". Winning the trophy for the best overall team completed a fantastic day. Jessica's excellent performance in both dressage and show jumping rewarded her with first places in show jumping, and combined training(dressage/showjumping). She also came second in the individual dressage, only one point from the first place score. An impressive set of results all round - well done Jessica!





Success all round for Strathallan Equestrian teams

News of riders competing in other events:

Olivia Woodes Rogers

Dressage/Eventing: Olivia was a member of the winning Open area Pony Club Dressage team, and was individually placed 5th. The team qualified for the National championships in which they achieved a creditable 9th place. She was also 5th in the Intermediate area Eventing championships.

Callum Fletcher

Pentathlon: Callum won the Scotland area competition and qualified for the British Championships in which he finished in the top 15. He achieved a third place competing for the Scottish team in the UK championships.

Rosie Williams

Eventing: Rosie gained an award from British Eventing for being the "Best Young Event Rider". She won the U18 class at Floors Castle and has been selected to ride for Scotland at Weston Park International.

Emma Cheape

Dressage/Eventing : Emma won the "Working Hunter" and "Dressage", and was overall "Supreme Champion" at Fife Summer Show. She was best "Fife" member at Scone One Day event, winning the Dressage section and coming 2nd overall. .

Gareth Watt

Dressage/Working Hunter: Gareth was selected for the Scottish Dressage team and came 2nd in 2 classes at the Scottish Championships making him the highest placed U25 rider. He won the Central Scotland Highland Working Hunter Pony Championship and competed at Blair Castle Highland Show .

Annabel Wilson

Games/Cross country: Annabel competed at the Horse of the Year Show as part of the victorious Strathearn Pony Club Games Team and she was first in the 90cm class at Hallyburton Hunter Trials.

Connie Snowie

Eventing/Showing : Connie was first and Reserve Champion at White Rose County Show. She has qualified

for the Royal International Horse Show and the Horse of the Year Show, and she won the area Pony Club Novice Eventing competition which qualified her for the National Championships.

Sarah Cheape

Eventing: Sarah came 6th at Scone One Day Event

Hanna Cheape

Eventing/Games : Hanna competed at the Pony Club area Intermediate Eventing championships in which her team came fifth. She trialed for the Scottish Games Team, narrowly missing selection.

Jessica England

Eventing: Jessica won the British Event at Hendersyde. She was 1st in the area Dressage, 3rd in the team Showjumping and she qualified for the Pony Club National Championships. She was 5th in the 1m class at Scone ODE.

Charlotte Stephenson

Cross Country : Charlotte qualified for the Knockhill Scottish cross country championships.

Logie Walker

Polo: Logie won the Pony Club polo "Lyrawa Bay Trophy"

Murphy Walker

Polo/Showjumping : Murphy won the Pony Club polo "Milton Cup" and the Inchcoonans Pony of the Year showjumping trophy.

Phoebe Arnot

Games : Phoebe qualified for the Horse of the Year Show as part of the Strathearn Pony Club Games team.

Iona Wilson

Games/Cross country : Iona qualified for the Horse of the Year Show as part of the Strathearn Pony Club Games team. She was placed 4th in the 90cm classes at both Hallyburton and Gleneagles Hunter Trials.

Lisa Garrett

Eventing: Lisa came 4th in the 75cm class at Scone One Day Event.

JAS

Golf



Girls' interhouse golf

The inaugural girls' inter-House golf tournament was played on a bright and breezy afternoon in May. The glory went to Glenbrae over six holes of Strathallan's links with a combined total of only 102 shots played. Glenbrae's team was captained by the inspirational Ina Drouven and featured two IV Formers, Ailsa Clifford and Emma Morris. Both Ina and Ailsa have an improving short game, and Emma, clearly a strong all-round golfer, made a birdie 3 on the challenging dog-leg 17th to add a touch of class to the victory. Woodlands captained by Katie-Anne McIvor were a close second with 108 shots. Thornbank captained by OG Erhahon had a combined total of 172 shots.

BC

The golf season began with the school championships at Auchterarder Golf Club. David Schuldes triumphed in a close-run competition with Johnathon Dunn only two shots back. In the same freezing week in April the Pitlochry Cup was played, a VI Form handicap event won by Cameron Taylor-Smith.

A new better ball tournament began this year. The trophy was keenly fought for, and was taken to Ruthven in its inaugural year by Josh Martin and Cedrik Timmel, winning by only two strokes from Josh Johnstone and Gorka Torras. The final all Strathallan tournament to report on is interhouse golf which was snatched from Ruthven's grasp for the first time in fourteen years by an accomplished Nicol team of David Schuldes, Fraser Doig and Johnathon Dunn. In second place was a Ruthven side consisting of Josh Martin, Hamish Mitchell, and Cedrik Timmel, third was Simpson with James Wordie, Charlie Hall and Charles Beamish.

In school matches this year we won two and lost two. Glenalmond and Beaconsfield both proved too strong for us this time round as we went down 4-0 and 3-1 respectively. However, we beat both Morrison's (3-1) and Fettes (3.5-0.5). In the three school matches he played Gorka Torras was the only member of our team to remain unbeaten. Gorka is therefore the worthy winner of most improved golfer for his cool head in match-play situations.

Other stalwarts of the school team were Charles Beamish who continued to play some splendid golf in matches and competitions, reducing his handicap to single figures in the process. I hope Charles will return to captain the team next season. Johnathon Dunn, our Auchterarder expert,

is steadily improving his formidable game, and Cedrik Timmel also acquitted himself well. Cedrik is a powerful hitter and needs only to better his accuracy from the tee to witness significant improvement in his game. An experienced golfer, but new addition to the squad, was Declan O'Brien who played well in all his matches this year and should return next year stronger and wiser.

We say goodbye to our current captain, James Wordie, who has given his best for the golf team these last four years. Exams curtailed his participation in school matches this year, but he has led by example and will be missed by all the golfing staff and players. I hope he finds the time for the occasional round as he embarks on his university career.

The accompanying photographs show our golf team enjoying Kingarrock Golf Club on a glorious day in May. Hickory golf is played at Kingarrock and the boys were given a wonderful introduction to this forerunner of the modern game by former pupil David Anderson. We played twelve holes of hickory golf and learned about the history of golf over ginger beer and shortbread in the clubhouse.

I am indebted to Mr Price who joined the golf staff this year and brought his unique style of play to the school (*I suppose he did have the opportunity to play underwater, his preferred medium, quite often. Ed*). I would also like to thank Nigel Smith as all golfers continue to benefit from his coaching skills and enthusiasm for the game. As always credit must go to Mr Bussey and his team for the preparation and maintenance of the school course. Players of all ages and abilities thoroughly enjoyed golf in the summer term. The course is a real asset to the school.

BC

Canoe club



Over the last three years since the refurbishment of Strathallan's pond, the canoe club has soared to success. The club encourages children to experience canoeing and to progress into the sport of canoe slalom. Beginners start in the pool to learn the basics and progress to the pond where they start to learn slalom. From then paddlers have the opportunity to compete in slalom competitions throughout the year. Every year Strathallan hosts its own slalom competition in Alva in Stirling. This is where many of the canoeists do their first competition and is a friendly environment in which to get used to the idea of racing. In the summer term Stathallan Canoe Club are regular attendees

of the Scottish Schools competition where we have won the best secondary school trophy for the last three years.

The club is the fastest growing in Scotland and is the third largest slalom club. After starting out in the first few slaloms paddlers can progress through the divisions and are ranked in the British National Rankings. The canoe club have many division 4 paddlers, around ten division 3 paddlers and some higher up the divisions. Four of our athletes, Eilidh Gibson, Angus Gibson, Fraser Glasgow and Crawford Niven are in the Scottish team and regularly compete for Scotland in the Pan Celtic competitions against the UK home nations. These paddlers are in the National Performance and National Development squads.

Along with results, one of the great things about the club is making friends and talking to people from different years. Along with meeting different people at school the club works closely with Perth Canoe Club and have regular training sessions together. This has allowed pupils to meet different people and make new friends.

Eilidh Gibson

LVI Glenbrae
Canoe Club Captain

Canoe Club Captain, Eilidh Gibson was selected for the Junior British Team who competed in the Junior World Championships in Wisconsin in the USA and also the Junior European Championships in Slovenia in Summer 2012. Eilidh achieved a team bronze medal at the Worlds in the U23 category and another at the European competition, again for the team event. She finished 7th in the individual event in Slovenia; a fantastic achievement.



Ski racing



This ski season has been exceptionally eventful, starting with the Scottish Schools Dry Slope Championships at the Midlothian Snowsports Centre, Hillend, Edinburgh. Our under-14 girls won their event ahead of nine other teams, with Kirsty Guest winner of the overall girls' race, and encouraging runs from Amber Garvie, Jessica England and Pippa Wood. Our under-14 boys took a creditable 5th place with strong runs from Christopher Guest, Hamish Johnston, Angus Gibson and Arthur Morris. Our Senior Girls excelled and came home with Gold Team medals, ahead of nine other teams, with Charlie Guest coming third, and impressive runs from Hope Whitelaw, Katie Guest and Lucy Garvie. Our Senior boys (Scott Garvie, Seb Brazier and James Cockburn) raced well but did not feature in the medals table.

Beyond the School scene, Katie Guest received an invitation to the GB Youth Olympic Ski Trials. Brothers Fraser and Scott Buchan had a fantastic start to the season winning the Scottish Dry Slope Championships in their respective age categories at Hillend. Shortly afterwards, at the

British Dry Slope Championships, Scott won his age group and Fraser was runner up in his.

Both won at the Scottish Indoor Championships at Braehead in mid November and gained selection for the British Children's Ski Team in their age groups.

The snow season in Scotland was hardly noticeable and in spite of the Scottish Schools Ski Association's endeavours to schedule a series of dates, the Minors and Seniors Schools Championships never took place. This did not deter our racers from training and racing wherever snow was to be found on the continent, where much was achieved by many.

The Buchan brothers, Fraser (14) and Scott (12), took part in the Anglo-Scottish races in January where Fraser became overall Champion. After finishing 4th and 10th respectively when representing Great Britain in some notoriously fierce international races, the boys took part in the English Championships in Borno, Italy, where they both won the Slalom and the Super G in their respective age groups.

At the British Schoolgirls Championships in Flaine, France, Charlie Guest came first and second in the Slalom and Giant Slalom respectively, and

with the impressive performance of sister Katie and Hope Whitelaw, the team won the Parallel Slalom and came top School over all (with Charlie placing second in the Combined event).

Fraser Buchan, Hope Whitelaw as well as Katie and Kirsty Guest achieved selection for, and took part in, what is perhaps the most prestigious event in the ski calendar: the World Schools Championships, which took place in Gressoney, Italy.

Another significant meeting saw our team excel again. At the Interschools Ski Challenges in Les Houches, France, our nine racers did Strathallan proud. All maintained focus and stamina over a total of 26 runs between them to win this year again the overall event ahead of 28 other schools. With individual medals for Fraser and Scott Buchan, as well as Kirsty and Chris Guest, and solid performances from team-mates Hope Whitelaw, Katie Guest, Amber Garvie, Hamish Johnston and Lyle Ross, there was much talk about Strathallan on the British Ski scene in the French Alps. Indeed, we had five boys in the top twenty finishers.

Success continued for Fraser Buchan who won silver medal in the Giant Slalom at the Scottish

there was much talk about Strathallan on the British Ski scene in the French Alps.

Championships in Courchevel, France, in addition to being awarded the Scottish GS Trophy. Staying in France, he then went on to Méribel, to compete in the British Championships where he won the Gold medal in the Slalom and a Silver medal in the Super G, coming runner up in the Combined Championships.

At the same events, younger brother Scott won Bronze medal in his age group in the Slalom in the Scottish Championships and was awarded the Scottish Slalom Champion Trophy of his age group. At the British Championships Scott won Bronze in the Giant Slalom and he was the age-group winner of the Slalom.

Both Buchan brothers have been reselected for the GB Team.

Katie Guest (17) won a much-envied four Gold medals for Downhill and Giant Slalom in both the Senior and Junior Sections at the British Championships as well as a Bronze medal in the Junior Super G. Katie has been selected to train with the GB Team for the coming season.

Her big sister Charlie (18) won a Bronze medal in the Giant Slalom at the Scottish Championships and excelled at the British Championships where she won seven titles in three disciplines: Super G, Giant Slalom and Slalom at both Senior and Junior level. Charlie was also the winner of the Junior Downhill event and of the Combined Junior event.

Lyle Ross (13) won the U14 Giant Slalom at the Scottish Championships, gained a Silver medal at the Scottish Indoor Championships and a Bronze medal at the European Indoor Championships.

Hamish Johnston (14) came third in the U16 Slalom at the Scottish Championships

Charlie Guest was one of the three nominees in the final for the Perth and Kinross Sports Awards. Our Girls' Team (Charlie and Katie Guest, Hope Whitelaw and Lucy Garvie) won the School Team of the Year Award for their tremendous achievement over the entire year 2011.

Some of the biggest names in Scottish Alpine Skiing were invited to come together during a parliamentary reception to honour the incredible success of Scotland's skiers. Amongst them, Charlie Guest, who currently represents Scotland and Great Britain and Scottish Team Racers, Katie, Kirsty and Chris Guest as well as Hope Whitelaw, Fraser and Scott Buchan. Photos, with those able to attend, were taken with Annabelle Ewing – S.N.P. M.S.P. for Mid Scotland and Fife and Murdo Fraser Conservative candidate for Mid Scotland and Fife.



At the end of the Summer Term, a select bunch (including Fraser and Scott Buchan, Katie and Kirsty Guest, Hope Whitelaw and Lyle Ross) took part in the Scottish Schools Dual Slalom Championships at Hillend. An unfortunate series of thunder, heavy rain and thick fog saw the event interrupted several times. All was going well for Strathallan. We would like to think that our six youngsters were on their way to victory but with time running out, the event had to be cancelled and results were awarded on the merit of what had been achieved up to then and our team came home with the Bronze medal.

The dedication and stamina of our top racers has been an inspiration to our racers at Scottish schools' level. Let's hope that the coming season sees a generous delivery of the snow we deserve so that more successful action can take place on Scottish and continental grounds.

Fabienne Thompson

Cycling



The weather enjoyed us more than we enjoyed it

This was the season the cycling group finally got totally hardcore as we took delivery of... dedicated transport. OK, so the fact that it was still apparently dedicated to painting and decorating was a bit of an obstacle but we definitely got round it on a couple of occasions up Kinnoull Hill's gnarly singletrack (*What does that mean? Ed*).

Schism in the group had threatened to sow the seeds of dissent and even revolt as DJB volunteered to get covered in mud and moss (and that was just inside the minibus) in the company of the true professionals in the shape of Zander, Findlay and Rory while the hardened uphill sloggers continued to pace-make for the increasingly flagging EGK on regular sports afternoon rides. The weather enjoyed us more than we enjoyed it but at least that meant that Conor (Mr Downhill) only managed to whinge his way around the route about once while Charlie, Andrew, Calumn and Justin were mud-splattered regulars. Dinsmore made a valiant effort to join us on at least one occasion but quickly discovered the truth of the maxim, "Always check the brakes first." The unchurned mud of the Earn valley is safe for a few months yet.

EGK

Mark McGuire

Meanwhile, that very busy member of the Scottish Mountain Bike Elite under-16 squad, Mark McGuire, has been stacking up places and trophies. A member of the winning North of Scotland team in the inter-regional championships, placing third in the Scottish Time Trial championships, second in the Scottish Mountain Bike under-16 championships and coming first in the under-16 Scottish Criterium Mark has upped his game considerably and, sensible young man that he is, frequently stuck with the tarmac.

Boys' tennis

Tennis at Strathallan continues to grow

Tennis Academy

Tennis at Strathallan continues to grow and develop as we continue to invest in the talented players we have.

The year got off to a good start with some strong performances at the P & D singles tournament in September 2011. William Lyburn won the Boys U18 competition with Lewis Watson runner up. Tom Eller (U16) and Gavin Stewart (U12) were both Runners up in their respective age groups. The girls also performed well with Jayne Thoms and Vanessa Stewart winning their respective age groups.

We once again competed in a variety of National Competitions, the juniors winning the U14 Perth & District League. The U15 Boys reached the Semi-Finals of the Scottish competition and the senior boys lost to Merchiston in the National Glanvil Cup Competition.

The Academy programme allows for the most talented players to train and play all year round in the various competitions. By the time we got to the Summer term the Boys teams were well prepared to take on their opposition. The summer term turned out to be rather wet, on match days, resulting in the weather winning a number of fixtures. Along with the regular fixtures and good wins our Junior team also won the Junior Section of the Glenalmond Mixed Doubles competition. Captain, William Lyburn, was again selected to represent a Scottish Schools team against a touring South African. This was the second year he had been selected for this team along with Amber Paterson, in the girls team.

Boys' Tennis and Tennis in general continue to thrive and grow. Tommy Ogilvie provides vital support to our players and without his dedication to our Academy programme we would not be in such a strong position. We say farewell to a number of senior players but we have a healthy number of juniors coming through the Academy programme. The years ahead will see the juniors developing and growing into the senior team.

AW



Results

Gordonstoun	1st VI	W 8 - 4
	2nd VI	W 8 - 1
Morrison's Academy	U15's	W 7 - 2
Glenalmond College	1st VI	W 6 - 3
	U15 VI	W 6 - 3
Loretto School	1st VI	W 9 - 0
	2nd VI	W 9 - 0
Stewarts Melville School	1st VI	W 8 - 1
Perth & District U14 League	Won	
Singles Champion	William Lyburn	
Riley Mixed Doubles Winners	Douglas Tait Isla Patterson	
House Competition	Nicol	



Girls' tennis

Well done to all the girls who played tennis for the school this year. The seniors have had an outstanding year. Amber Paterson and Eugenia Ramos proved to be a winning partnership playing at 1st couple for the 1st VI team. Francesca Blair & Vanessa Stewart played at 2nd couple, whilst Rachael Campbell & Mhairi Bannerman were an excellent 3rd couple for the team. It was great to see so many girls wanting to play tennis this year and this had made the selection for teams really competitive. There is no doubt that this has raised the standard of play and has led to the above very impressive set of results. Well done to Vanessa (U14) and Jayne Thoms (U16) who won their respective tournaments at the Perth & District Tournament at the very start of the year.

Aberdare Cup

The 1st IV of Amber, Vanessa, Frankie and Eugenia beat Casterton School in the Scotland and North England semi final of the Aberdare Cup (Singles 4 – 0 and Doubles 2 – 0). Next up was Durham HS and a victory here meant that Strathallan qualified for the National Finals for the first time. Playing on our own courts we had the home advantage and the girls did not hang around. Eugenia was replaced by Rachael Campbell due to exams. All the girls won their singles and only one doubles match was played. We now had to get a team to go to Sheffield in July. Vanessa and Francesca changed holiday plans to make the trip and they were joined by Mhairi Bannerman and Rachael Campbell. It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to compete against the top tennis schools in Britain and although we did not win any matches it was a great learning experience for our young players. We were the only Scottish School to qualify for the finals.



Senior Results

	1st VI	2nd VI	3rd VI	4th VI	5th VI
Fettes	8-1 W	5-4 W	2-7 L	2-1 W	2-1 W
Kilgraston	8-1 W	8-1 W	-----	-----	-----
Gordonstoun	12-0 W	10-2 W	-----	-----	-----
Loretto	9-0 W	9-0 W	9-0 W	-----	-----
Glenalmond	8-1 W	7-2 W	7-2 W	-----	-----
Morrison's	-----	8-1 W	-----	-----	-----



Scottish Schools Competition

Quarter Final v Robert Gordons College	12 – 0			
Singles	8 – 0			
	Amber Paterson	6 – 0	6 – 0	
	Francesca Blair	6 – 0	6 – 1	
	Vanessa Stewart	6 – 0	6 – 0	
	Eugenia Ramos	6 – 1	6 – 0	
Doubles	4 – 0			
	Amber Paterson/Francesca Blair	6 – 0	6 – 0	
	Vanessa Stewart/Eugenia Ramos	6 – 0	6 – 0	

Unfortunately the team then went out to a very strong side from Royal High, Edinburgh in the next round of the competition.

National U15 Competition

The U15 team of Amber Paterson, Francesca Blair, Vanessa Stewart and Anni Arthur defeated Madras College (6 – 0) and Glenalmond College (6 – 0) in the Scottish round of the National U15 Competition. In the semi final Nina Mearns replaced Anni due to exams and we proved to be too strong for the visiting George Heriots team (5 – 1). The girls have now qualified for the Scottish final of the competition which will be held in September.

Kilgraston Tournament

WINNERS in U16 AND SENIOR Groups

Well done to all the girls who played in the Kilgraston Tournament. In the U14 group Darcy Watson & Raina Dalrymple finished 2nd in their group whilst Paula Penas & Isla Gordon won their group. Unfortunately they both then met in the quarter final with Darcy & Raina winning 6 – 4. They then lost in the semi final 3 – 6.



In the U16 and Senior groups all 3 Strathallan couples qualified from the group stages to the ¼ finals which was very exciting. Christina Farrar & Nina Mearns defeated Anni Arthur & Robyn Somerville whilst Vanessa Stewart & Francesca Blair beat Kilgraston 6 – 1. Vanessa & Francesca then defeated Christina & Nina to qualify for the final against High School of Dundee. They were definitely the on form couple and went on to win the U16 group (6 – 0). In the Senior group Kirsty Muir & Jayne Thoms lost to Dollar Ac in the quarters whilst Eugenia Ramos & Amber Paterson defeated Mhairi Bannerman & Rachael Campbell to reach the semi finals stage. Amber & Eugenia then beat Kilgraston and St Margarets to win the Senior Trophy.

National Selection

Congratulations to Amber Paterson who was selected for Scotland Schools to play against South Africa Schools. She won her singles match and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This is definitely a name to watch for the future – she is still so young and such a terrific tennis player.

Inter House Matches

Well done to Thornbank who won the Senior competition and to Glenbrae, who proved too strong and won the junior competition.

Finally a huge thank you to Tommy Ogilvie for all his coaching throughout the year. He is a great coach and deserves a lot of credit for the amazing results we had this year. Thanks also to all the coaches for all their help and enthusiasm, to the parents for all their support and also the catering staff for providing us with the match teas.

Eugenia Ramos

Tennis Captain
UVI Glenbrae



Orienteering



Orienteering is a fairly new activity to Strathallan and although we have our own map on site we have not ventured out to external events for some time. Mr Robertson decided that we should take part in some of the evening events held by Tay Orienteering club and Forth Valley Orienteers.

We took part in a number of different events with varying levels of success. At the start the students would follow each other which meant that they all went in the wrong direction. Towards the end of the summer some people were getting the hang of things. We had four runners compete for Tay in the Jamie Stevenson Trophy and we also held our own Tay evening event on the grounds of Strathallan. Some students even got to run around the woods surrounding the Wallace Monument.

We will try to enter the odd weekend event over the winter months but the summer evening series would appear to be the best opportunity for us to take part in external events. It is an ideal time of year to encourage beginners to take on the challenge of running with a map and compass

We did have some successes this year with Fraser Robertson winning the 14B class at the Scottish Orienteering Championships in May.

This is a fantastic family sport and many of the students thoroughly enjoyed their summer evening outing, even though it usually involved them getting lost.

SR

Clays

The year started with the usual rush to get back in training for the Scottish Championships. The Club took great pleasure in welcoming Millfield to visit prior to the competition and were very proud to show off our new range... "I want one" was the comment from the member of staff leading the Millfield team.

The competition saw the Girls (Anna Younger, Jo Barrack and Eleanor Allingham) retain their trophy.

The A team of James Wordie, Torquil Curran, Alex Falconer & Cosmo Galashan finished 2nd, while the junior teams finished 1st in the B team Competition (Cammy Fenton, Blair Forbes, Charlie Beamish and Sam Culham, while we also finished 1st in the junior Competition (Ben Addison-Scott, James Barrack and Jamie Morrison-Lowe).

George Digweed opened the new range in October and we had a guest-list of sponsors and friends taking on the school team, the Strathallians and a team from the Governors. The teams shot a compact sporting layout for the Bertie De Cecco trophy before lunch, with the Strathallian team of Nick Schneburger, Ben Kass, Grant Davidson, Benno Rawlinson and Dan McBride.

The House competitions were won by Glenbrae and Simpson and the Strathallians team beat the school in the annual shoot-off on Strathallian Day.

The British Championships were very positive, but we didn't reach the heights of last year where we finished 2nd. We look forward to making good use of the new range and planning for the future.

My thanks to John MacBain, Neil Hamilton, Ben Kass and Ian Smith for their continued support and James Wordie for his excellent organisation and captaincy.

PMV



We look forward to making good use of the new range

Girls' Clay Pigeon Team

Last year was a successful year for the Strathallan Girls Team. The team of Eleanor Allingham, Anna Younger and Jo Barrack started the year well by coming first in the Scottish Schools Championships.

With regular practice at the shooting academy we were all quickly progressing to becoming better shots. But above all we were practising so we could do well in the British Championships down in High Wycombe. With the last few frantic sessions at the academy we felt we were ready to take on the other British Schools.

With this we travelled down on the 27th April to High Wycombe where we stayed and prepared for competition day. When championship day came we got there early so we could shoot first. The weather didn't play to our advantage, but we didn't let this dampen our spirits.

At the British Nationals Schools Championships the girls team performed the best it has ever done coming 6th out of 15 teams.

This year we are hoping to get an even better result down at High Wycombe so we can prove that Clay Pigeon shooting is by no means just a boys' sport.

Eleanor Allingham and Jo Barrack
V Form Glenbrae

*we can prove
that Clay Pigeon
shooting is by
no means just a
boys' sport*



Triathlon

Well done to all the pupils who took part in the annual triathlon in June, in particular to the individual participants. It is a tough course consisting of rowing, swimming and running.

Our individual winners were:

Riley Boys

1st Connor Collins 20 mins 01 sec

Riley Girls

1st Sarah Cameron Sutcliffe 25 mins 51 sec

3/4 Form Girls

1st Nicole Skinner 51 mins 03 sec

Senior Girls

1st Abi Evans 60 mins 10 sec

Senior Boys

1st Jamie Dinsmore 66 mins 53 sec

In the Team event the 3rd/4th Form boys set a new record and with 11 teams taking part it was a very competitive competition. Well done to the following team winners.

Riley Boys

1st Bradley Clements, Thomas Holloway, Cameron Griffiths 18.05

3/4 Form Boys

1st James Burdett, Duncan Scott, Duncan Cook (NEW RECORD) 37.07

3/4 Form Girls

1st Kate Spalding, Celine Skinner, Hannah Sangster 45.19

Senior Boys

1st Ying Lun Huang, Zander Fagerson, Abraham Fernandes 60.10

AS

Swim team

Swimming at Strathallan continued to thrive in 2011-2012 with a number of swimmers reaching levels that have never before been achieved here. The school training programme continues to develop each year to allow the swimmers throughout the school to strive to attain their goals. It was a busy year locally and nationally and the swimmers excelled in everything they did which is down to their hard work in the pool and the gym. Well done to everyone who was involved.

Midlands Schools Swimming Championships

As always the school swimming year commences with the Midlands Schools event during October. Strathallan were represented in both the boys' and girls' events. Abi Evans had an exceptional swim to win the Nancy Riach Trophy, Sandie Smillie taking Silver in the same event. In the boys' event Duncan Scott won the Bronze medal with Connor MacNeil and Jordan Curtis also competing. Mark McGuire joined the boys to compete in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay and they won the bronze medal.

Tayside Schools Swimming Championships

A number of swimmers represented Strathallan at the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships which are the qualifiers for the Scottish Schools finals which are held in January.

GOLD MEDALS

Duncan Scott (2), Sandie Smillie, Abi Evans (2), Maggie Luck (2), Calumn Twaddle

SILVER MEDALS

15/16 Girls F/C relay
15/16 Boys F/C relay
17/19 Girls F/C Relay

Sandie Smillie, Connor MacNeil, James Pak, Calumn Twaddle, Jayne Thoms, Callum Fletcher, Eilidh Gibson

BRONZE MEDALS

12 & Under Girls F/C Relay
13/14 Boys F/C Relay
17/19 Boys F/C Relay

Eilidh Gibson, Callum Fletcher, Jayne Thoms



Swimmers competed over a whole range of distances and strokes and recorded a number of excellent personal best times in the process.

Scottish Schools Swimming Finals

As a result of excellent performances at Tayside Schools Maggie Luck, Duncan Scott, Connor MacNeil, Sandie Smillie and Abi Evans all qualified to swim at the national schools finals in East Kilbride in January 2012. Duncan Scott won a Silver medal in the 200 IM and 100 Fly.

UK School Games

Duncan Scott was Selected to compete at the UK School Games which took place in the new Olympic Pool in London in May, a great opportunity and experience for him and with performances good enough to win a Gold (200IM) and Silver (400 IM) medal he was then invited to attend the actual Olympic Trials as part of Youth Development programme for up- and-coming talented swimmers.

Strathallan swimmers continued to swim at National Championships under the banner of their local swimming clubs. Duncan Scott had an outstanding number of meets with highlights of his season being excellent personal best performances at Scottish National Age-Groups in Sunderland in March 2012 where he won 4 gold medals, 2 Silvers and 1 Bronze. Duncan Qualified for the British Age-Groups held in Sheffield in

August where he won a Bronze Medal in the 400m setting a new Scottish Age-Group Record in the process.

Riley Swimming

U13 Girls Team of Caitlin Donald, Imogen Robertson- Barnet, Caitlin Andrew, Sarah Hollingsworth and Sarah Cameron-Sutcliffe attended the Kilgraston Invitational Meet in February 2012. Despite only having an U13 Team and no U11 Team the girls did exceptionally well and won the U13 trophy and drew with Kilgraston as overall points winners. A great result.

Inter-House Competitions

Swimming Standards 2011 - 2012

Swimming standards this year saw a Simpson dominate proceedings with a convincing win but it was a much closer competition this year than previously.

1st SIMPSON



Inter-House Swimming Gala 2012

As always the Inter-House Gala always provides very close and interesting races. As the general standard of swimming at Strathallan has risen this event becomes more intense and competitive.

Girls' Championship

1st Woodlands	61
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Boys' Championship

1st Simpson	72
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Riley Inter-Div Swimming 2012

Once again this year's event was full of fast competitive swimming and lots of noisy support. It was an extremely close competition, with the final result resting on the last race of the day. Dupplin were the overall winners.

End Of An Era

2012 saw the final year of Strathallan for Swim Team Captain Maggie Luck. Maggie has been an invaluable member of the swim team since joining Strathallan in 2nd Form and had represented Strathallan locally and nationally throughout her school career.

Personally, I would like to congratulate the swimmers on another successful year and thank Maggie for her help as Captain .

Elaine Johnston
Swim Team Coach

*the swimmers excelled
in everything they did
which is down to their
hard work*

Army Section

The Army Section's raison d'être is to assist its members in gaining an understanding of the value of teamwork and leadership, and to provide opportunities for them to develop their own leadership and team-working skills. An experienced soldier once outlined the measures of evolution of teamwork as: coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success. By such a yardstick we have had a most successful year, and have achieved that success under the added, but welcome, burden of a significant increase in cadet numbers. Our recruit section has come together, our V Formers have kept together, and our senior cadets have worked together. We could not have achieved success without our senior cadets working together effectively and making a substantial contribution as assistant trainers to the adult members. It is therefore fitting that I start this report by giving huge and heartfelt thanks to: Robbie Bussey, Dan Adams, Sophie Burdett, Calum Dodd, Siobhain Forbes, Elsa Hofland, Olwyn Jenkins, Chris McCarthy, Kirsty Muir, Adeeb Naasan, and Molly Seed. I keep my fingers crossed that many of them will help us again next year.

September was busy and challenging as we set about inducting and providing basic training to forty-five recruits – twenty more than last year. We were most fortunate to have an additional club in the bag: Mrs Stuart brought her experience to bear and produced a very wide range of enjoyable and enlightening fieldcraft training. This proved to be the jam that accompanied perfectly the bread and butter training in navigation, weapon training and drill provided by our stalwarts: Señorita de Celis, Mr Higginbottom and Mr Lindsay. *(I've a feeling that last metaphor was ever so slightly strained. Ed)*

The main effort in the first part of the year is put together a team of cadets to compete against other army sections in the Scottish School Military Skills Competition. This tough competition took place in the exacting environment of Garelochhead Training Area at the very end of September. Of the team of nine cadets, eight had competed at last year's competition, so we were anticipating a better overall result. The newcomer was the ever-enthusiastic Sophie-Anne Ross whose shooting

skills were most welcome. In the end we did indeed achieve an improved overall result coming 5th compared to 8th last year. We did particularly well in the Command Task and Scenario Test and quite well in the Target Indication, Air Rifle, and First Aid Tests. Although we fared less well in the Night Navigation Test I was pleased to award a commendation for excellence to Calum Dodd. He has become an established navigation ninja and so it was perplexing to me whilst shadowing the team on the course to find them a touch astray at the start. I later discovered that Calum had been given an incorrect grid reference. To be given an incorrect grid reference but then to navigate accurately to the correct location is a rare skill not many possess; Calum does. Among many highlights of the weekend were Kirsty Muir's cheerful determination in base camp and during the section attack, Olwyn Jenkins' razor-sharp analysis of the command task aim, and Chris McCarthy's all round excellent skills and fitness.

For the V Form cadets our emphasis is leadership training using a wide variety of command tasks: a typical scenario is that you have to lead a team across a crocodile infested river utilizing equipment such as very short planks and a rubber tyre. Sophie Burdett, Elsa Hofland, and Olwyn Jenkins became adept at providing the V Formers with SMEAC briefings and then guiding them through effective execution of the tasks. Many different styles of leadership emerged: gung-ho and straight at 'em (Colin Gordon and Ross Buchanan), reserved and considered (Robbie McDiarmid and Finlay Kettles), not really sure what I'm doing but we'll give it go (Cammy Mack and Monty Peeters), thoughtful and determined (Abigail Tulloch and Gareth Watt). All the cadets developed a greater understanding of the theory and practice of leading a team, something that will assist them in whatever their chosen field. We were reinforced during the training year by the arrival of Lt Robertson whose infectious enthusiasm for Command Tasks was soon caught by the entire Section.

Meanwhile back in the recruits' section our seniors were really earning their leadership spurs: Dan Adams teaching drill, Siobhain Forbes field craft, Chris McCarthy weapon handling, Kirsty Muir individual skills, and Calum Dodd navigation. The recruits were soon ready for the ultimate test of their individual skills: two days in the field at Barry Buddon, including a night sleeping in an improvised shelter, cooking their own food whilst undergoing advanced training. The attitude of all recruits during the weekend was positive, determined and enthusiastic. The cold weather, lack of sleep, and deliberate harassment by the

Many different styles of leadership emerged: gung-ho and straight at 'em, not really sure what I'm doing but we'll give it go...

DS did not dampen their spirits at all. The crop of 2011-12 has the potential to be a vintage one.

The Army Dinner is another highlight of the year. It is part of our training programme and attendance helps to develop poise, manners, the art of conversation, cutlery management and an appreciation of catering organisation. It is a formal but most enjoyable affair and ends up with impromptu speeches concerning recalled amusing events during training. With an attendance of almost eighty the venue had to be the dining hall, even then we only just fitted in on one long table. Olwyn Jenkins successfully juggled with the puzzle known as a seating plan and Sophie Burdett ensured that the menu and lighting were conducive to an enthralling evening. It was pleasing to have the Headmaster and both School Captains as guests.

Thirty-seven cadets came to CCF Central Camp at Warcop; very much the climax of the training year. There was a most varied programme including: raft building, assault-boat driving, obstacle course, paint-ball team attack, a first aid exercise, climbing, kayaking, hill-walking, survival shelter building, observation training, a camouflage and concealment exercise, map reading, drill and a platoon attack range. Once again our young cadets proved to be resilient, cheerful and determined. Even under constant haranguing about accommodation cleanliness and personal equipment organisation they remained positive. All of them improved their personal skills considerably throughout the week. Every cadet who went to Camp came back better organised, more capable, more self reliant, more effective as a team member, and better informed. All the cadets attended and passed a course in emergency life support and learned simple skills that could save lives. Aurélie Thompson led a team of lady cadets to victory over other schools in a casualty treatment exercise. Rob Muir led a scratch team of cadets in a navigation exercise and beat the 'dream team' by almost 10 minutes over a 3km course. Fraser Buchan and Connor Holborn won much praise for their performances as platoon commander and sergeant during the attack exercise, even though neither had any relevant experience. Tabitha Robertson-Barnett turned out to be an excellent shot. Lewis Steele bounded mountain goat style up Blencathra. Matt Patterson smiled, smiled, smiled, smiled and then smiled. Seb Brazier showed that he could march. Kate Spalding showed scarily aggressive special forces ninja skills. Declan O'Brien hid his tall body so well in the grass that an expert surveillance team could not find him. Josh Andrew, and many others, learned, eventually, how to put stuff into a



small rucksack and still have it all at the end of the day. Nobody learned how to clean a rifle correctly – according to Mr Lindsay. The outstanding memory from Camp, however, was when all the other schools learned about the pride and style of Strathallan: when we marched three abreast onto the square at the end of Camp, red hackles brightly resplendent in Tam O'Shanter's, accompanied by the bagpipes of Cameron Hirst, all with straight backs and square shoulders and swelling chests, and then halted immaculately in time, all the other contingents sighed a collective 'wow'.

NG

Royal Marines Section

The Royal Marines Cadet year pivots around the Pringle Trophy, held at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines. The section came back from Lymptstone in 2011 empty handed and we can only improve on the position we achieved in 2012. This year has seen many changes within the Royal Marines section and we look forward to a period of stability and preparation to make a fresh assault on the Pringle Trophy in 2013. During the

autumn term the section continued their training under the direction of Captain Richard Walmsley. The Section Colour Sergeant was Steven Segaud and he was ably assisted by Sergeants Torii Douglas-Song and Justin Tsang.

The Easter term saw the arrival of Lieutenant Commander Robertson RNR, who had been appointed as a Computing/Business Studies Teacher, who would be running the outdoor education and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He is a Diver within the Royal Naval Reserve and a former Royal Engineer who had six years experience of working within 3 Commando Brigade. He was soon commissioned into the CCF as a Royal Marines Major. The handover of Command took place at the end of the Easter term and Major Robertson took control of the section. During the Easter term training continued in tactics, in preparation for the next Pringle Trophy.

In the summer term Major Robertson continued with the instruction but most lessons were broken by a cup of tea, in the field; his desire to teach the cadets about the importance of remaining fed and hydrated clearly the motivation behind the numerous 'wet' stops. The summer term is also the term for the Royal Marines dinner. The cadets really enjoy this event as it enables them to invite a guest and get dressed up in their Blues Uniform. It was at this dinner that we

formally said goodbye to Captain Walmsley and he was given a presentation from the section towards the end of the summer term. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the meal and a number of after-dinner speeches.

The end of term marks the time for annual camps. The Gairloch Camp was early this year which precluded some cadets from taking part because of external examinations. Leonhard Von Hof attended the first week of the camp and Justin Tsang the second. Both thoroughly enjoyed the experience and Justin used the course for his D of E Gold residential. Next year the Gairloch camp will be followed by two week long military skills camps which provide a camp for cadets under 16 years of age.

The Royal Marine sections are being encouraged to take on specialisms to differentiate themselves from the Army Sections. With the focus of the training year being the Pringle Trophy, it is difficult to move away from the need to maintain the military skills and tactical training that is required for that event. Next year we will make a concerted assault on the Pringle Trophy and travel with a team selected to take on the challenges that they will face. We look forward to Pringle 2013 and hope to bring back some silverware to the only Royal Marines CCF section in Scotland.

SWR

Debating



The Strathallan Debating Society has had a busy and successful two years. In 2010-2011, Debating members, captained by Adeeb Naasan and Kirsty Glasgow, competed in all of the major schools' debating competitions - such as the Donald Dewar Mace; ESU and Cambridge and Oxford University Debates - with some notable success and worthy performances. Adeeb and Millie Galashan represented the school at the Cambridge University Debating Union competition with the topical motion of 'This House would ban music that glorifies crime' – a motion in which Millie had previously produced an original and entertaining rap performance. Both gave strong performances and finished individually eleventh and ninth over all. Millie gave another strong performance at the Donald Dewar competition, this time with her partner James McAllister and they progressed to the quarter-finals giving another powerful argument on 'The internet does more harm than good', before being knocked out.

In the Junior competitions Frances Myatt and Rosie Beech fought their way through three heats of fierce debating, on motions on the benefits of teaching Gaelic in Scottish schools and the abolition of state funding in the arts, to earn themselves a place in the regional final of the East of Scotland Juniors competition – well done to both on some exceptional and entertaining performances.

This year's inter-House competition was one of the best to date and is testament to the increasingly competitive nature of the event and the preparedness of the teams. The winners of the junior competition were Nicol House with Charlie Mearns and Connor Ovenstone giving confident and convincing arguments against random drug testing in schools. Nicol House also triumphed in the Senior competition, this time represented by Adeeb Naasan and Robbie Blackburn. Adeeb also won the 'best speaker'



prize for his powerful arguments on 'terrorism sometimes being justified'.

This year also saw the first Riley inter-Divisional competition and some promising future talent was clear. Lucy Crabb spoke eloquently and with poise to win the best speaker prize, although, this was not enough to prevent the Dupplin team of Rhona Campbell and Gavin Tulloch triumphing with their arguments on 'money being more important than happiness'.

The Society also welcomed visits from Gordon Peterson and his brother Andrew both hugely successful and experienced debaters with Andrew being an ex-winner of the Observer Mace and the British and Irish Universities Champion. Both gave lots of encouragement and advice and their input certainly contributed to a successful 2011-2012 season which saw Adeeb return to his role as Captain and he must be thanked for his time, commitment and support.

In season 2011-12 the long-term partnership between Millie Galashan and Frances Myatt saw early success in the ESU Mace with a well-thought-out and well argued case proposing the motion 'This House would make it compulsory for doctors to report suspected cases of abuse'. They went on to win their semi-final in style arguing that trial by jury should be abolished before coming a close second in the final held in the St Andrew University debating chamber after failing to convince the judges that prisons should not be privatised.

Adeeb and Robbie Blackburn represented the school at the Cambridge University Schools' Competition acquitting themselves admirably during five intense rounds against some of the

country's top debaters and Lucy Crabb and Cameron Maurin made their debating debut in the Donald Dewar Mace competition with Lucy being commended for her powerful and confident performance against much older and more experienced competitors.

Whilst the competition may have been fierce in these national events perhaps the most staunchly fought contests was those of the Junior and Senior Inter-House competitions. The Junior Final this year saw teams from Ruthven, Nicol, Thornbank and Glenbrae argue over the topical motion 'This house believes that public figures should have greater protection from the media'. Ruthven House represented by Cedrik Timmel and Finlay Stewart finally triumphed whilst Adeeb Naasan and Robbie Blackburn held onto their title as Senior debating champions for a second year running defeating the motion that 'Religion does more harm than good'. Whilst the boys may have dominated the House competition the best speaker prize went to Kirsty Muir of Woodlands who both impressed the judges with her quick rebuttal and amused them with her dry wit.

Not only does the Society continue to play a prominent and regular role in the national circuit but it also meets weekly and is attended and supported by a wide array of pupils who regularly participate in balloon debates; improvisation activities and topical floor debates. Anyone interested should contact Mrs Billing and all are invited and welcome to attend. Monday evenings 6.30pm The Fiction Library.

DB

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a worldwide awards programme for young people which requires them to reach certain standards in four main areas. These are volunteering, skills, physical and expedition. At Gold level there is also a requirement to attend a week-long residential course with other young people.

The award is well-recognised and the Gold award is a fantastic addition to any young person's CV. At the start of the year the School appointed Mr Stuart Robertson to run the award.

In January Mr Robertson arrived and took over the running of the scheme. A number of pupils were enrolled from the IV Form and training started for the Lower VI Gold candidates. Mr Robertson's main aim is to make the award accessible to all and to also introduce volunteering projects into the expedition programme. There was also a desire to increase the ways in which the expedition could be completed. A move away from walking everywhere to a position where, bikes, boats, canoes, kayaks and horses could be used was very much an aspiration.

Numbers of young people achieving Bronze and Gold Award is increasing and we fully expect to have our own enclosure at the Gold Award Presentation at Holyrood Palace in July 2013. The IV Form have enrolled this year and training has started for them and will run throughout the year. They will complete their Bronze Award at the beginning of the summer term. There is also a desire to start the III Form in 2013 and they should all have achieved their Bronze award in the autumn term of IV Form. They would then have time to progress on to Silver which would make the completion of the Gold Award a great deal easier.

Expeditions this year have seen pupils undertake a number of volunteer projects. We have had pupils assisting the National Trust for Scotland clearing areas at Falkland Palace, we have helped with woodlands management on the McRobert trust estate in Tarland and we have also cut back shrubs for Her Majesty the Queen on the Balmoral estate. These projects build up strong relationship with the local community and also allow the pupils to contribute in a positive way. At Gold level we try to build in some wild camping, as well as giving the pupils the luxury of a campsite and a shower at some point in their adventure. The campsite at Ballater has fantastic showers and the pupils seem to spend hours soaking after a hard day on the hill.



This year has seen our numbers swell to over three hundred pupils on the scheme. We have found some new and exciting expedition locations and we have purchased some new equipment to deal with this increase in numbers. Next year will see a gold expedition depart to British Columbia to undertake sea kayaking in the Johnstone Strait, a world famous whale-watching area. We will be undertaking some leader training before the next expedition season, delivered by an outdoor professional, to keep us current and competent. Community work next year may well extend to putting in a composting toilet at a wild campsite which will provide a service for all those who will use that location.

The contribution of the staff is immense and many give up their time to allow pupils to achieve success through the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Particular thanks must go to two people who

are parents of former pupils. Sam and Beena Rawlinson have been fantastic this year and have contributed a significant amount; without them the number of pupils achieving their qualifying expedition would have been considerably reduced. Dr Stephen Ferguson also deserves thanks for the guidance and assistance he has given Mr Robertson during this transitional period and for his work with the scheme over the last few years.

Those wishing to know more about the award at Strathallan should contact Mr Stuart Robertson on 01738 812546 or by e mail at staffswr@strathallan.co.uk.

SWR

Five days in Antibes



...by the end of the week we could all communicate fluently - although at times requiring confused gesticulation, sideways looks and the occasional whisper in English...

Formidable! Époustouflant! Passionnant! The French trip of 2012 took us to the very south of France to the majestic coastline of Antibes where thirteen pupils, accompanied by Madame Crane and the fluent Mr Heaney, spent an action-packed five days. We were treated to a variety of experiences; for example, visiting the rustic village of Eze, exploring the perfumery in Grasse and four mornings of lessons at a French school. Dis-donc.....qu'est-ce que nous avons fait?

We arrived on the Newcastle - Nice flight at 10pm on Saturday where we were greeted by the six families who were to be our hosts for the trip, and said 'à bientôt' to the rest of the group.

The next morning we re-assembled at the Place de Gaulle where, surrounded by elegant fountains, each of us shared stories about our first exhilarating night in Antibes - of which there were many. Our 'animatrice', Margaux, took us on a tour of the town which we also explored ourselves. French cuisine was top of our agenda - we visited the bustling fresh fruit market, numerous ice cream shops and crêperies as well as small pâtisseries. After our taste buds were adequately satisfied, we were treated to a visit to AntibesLand - for most of us our first experience of a French theme park. Many rides later, taken at great risk on full stomachs, we returned to central Antibes and walked to back to our apartments, and for the lucky few, back to our villas.

Throughout the trip we visited many exciting and special places for example, people-watching on the beach at



Antibes, the perfumery in Grasse where we learnt how perfume was made and also a very ancient village called Eze that is perched on rock 1,400 metres above sea level. Whilst walking through the labyrinthine streets and admiring the view of the glittering Mediterranean, Mr Heaney briefly managed to lose seven of us (it was not looking good for next year's school roll). His plan was "to head to the top" when in fact the rest of the group had sensibly decided to head back down.

Day two involved an early assembly at 8am where we took the bus to our first day of school. We were all very excited and were anticipating l'école française. Upon arrival we met students from all over the world including Spain, Russia, Canada and Cairo, whom we soon befriended as our French improved. We were then introduced to our teachers - Charlotte and Beatriz. And so followed our French lesson! Our teachers spoke to us only in French and we also had to communicate to others within our class in French. For many of us it was challenging, but by the end of the week we could all communicate fluently - although at times requiring confused gesticulation, sideways looks and the occasional whisper in English.

The last night was definitely the most memorable and enjoyed thoroughly by all. After a picnic tea on the shore in Antibes, with the Mediterranean waves rolling onto the shingle beach, we were urgently called to order by Mr Heaney. With a furrowed brow, he announced himself to be the judge and jury of the Strathallan Court of Antibes. We were all convicted of crimes committed during the trip and given the chance to defend ourselves. Some crimes were more memorable than others. For example, Jessica and Rosalind parading through central Antibes in their beach gear each with a colourful, inflatable rubber ring seated securely around their waist. Guilty. However, the judge was eventually himself held to be unjust and thrown into the sea.

The trip was truly amazing and everyone had a very memorable five days. It was a fabulous start to the summer holidays, the experience was once in a lifetime and huge thanks must go to Madame Crane and the even more fluent Mr Heaney for taking us and organising (Ahem, Ed) such a successful and exciting trip - merci beaucoup!

Zoë Morris
III Form Glenbrae

Ski Trip to Morzine



On Saturday 11th February a group of thirty-four pupils converged on Edinburgh Airport to start their journey to the snow-covered peaks of Morzine in the French Alps. The trip involved six full days of skiing and snowboarding in what turned out to be beautiful conditions with some wonderful fresh powder!

The pupils enjoyed four hours of lessons from enthusiastic snow sports' instructors every morning in which they either perfected their snow-plough turns, worked on carving up the mountain, or – for the more adventurous – spent time in the snow parks completing 360° flips and turns with perfect dismounts. For the rest of the day, the pupils were allowed to free-ski in groups, or spend time skiing and boarding with Miss Wilkinson, Miss Carroll and Mr MacLean down the more sensible pistes offered in 107km of skiable area (and of course enjoying a chocolat chaud and the incredible mountain views). By the end of the first day we only had one broken wrist and so everything was (almost) going to plan.

The evenings were filled with activities including ice-skating, watching an ice-hockey match, a film night, a quiz night and a couple of lazy evenings of relaxation in the chalet. By the end of the week, everybody had made some excellent progress towards selection for the 2014 winter Olympics and were exhausted (although praying that the flight would be cancelled so they could stay a little longer).

Overall, the trip was a resounding success and everyone enjoyed their time both on and off the slopes. Bring on the 2014 Strathallan Ski Trip!

JAM



Young enterprise

Ecovation

At the beginning we were looking for some ideas for our business. The global warming and the level of CO2 in the atmosphere brought us to an eco idea. But we didn't want to simply sell the bags - we wanted to raise the awareness and the ways of reducing our wastage especially the number of plastic bags used.

We have started a workshop with children from Riley, talking to them about recycling materials, facts about our planet and what we, as a community can do to help our planet. After the talk they had a chance to use their creativity on the jute bags which were generously supplied by Jutexpo.

These bags designed by children in our school were sold at various big events in school and one externally at a Dundee shopping mall where we went as part of our Young Enterprise plan.

Working in a real business, with real customers and making our own decisions was very challenging but with a good team of Linda Gordon, Siobhain Forbes, Daniel Adams, Craig Rintoul, Julia Wilson, Scott Middleton, Jamie Dinsmore, Lisa Lee, Lynn Lin, Derek Lai, Odelia Chen and support from our teachers we managed to make a reasonable profit which will be donated to The Royal British Legion. We hope that we reached our aim of letting people know about re-cycling and supplied them with a solution to a plastic bag problem.

With only the name of our business, a draft of the business plan and passion in our eyes we successfully managed a real business and learned so many things as we went along that only a real life experience like this could have taught us.

Managing director:

Gaydeliya Talipova
LVI Thornbank



A2 Biology Fieldwork to the Isle of Cumbrae

September 2012

From Monday 17th September to Wednesday 19th September, a group of A2 Biology students, accompanied by Mr Goddard and Mrs Raeside, visited the Isle of Cumbrae for a fieldwork investigation. We were privileged to be based at the University Marine Biology Station just outside Millport. From here we set out everyday to conduct a variety of experiments which included studying lichen distributions, transecting shore lines and analysing dog whelk populations. We also had a few evening sessions in the labs which were used to cover a wide range of statistical tests required for A2 Biology including Chi Squared, Standard Error and Spearman Rank Correlation. However, we were also able to conduct a few experiments in the evenings, including one studying barnacle cirri movement which was actually far more enjoyable than I originally anticipated.

On Tuesday afternoon, a break in the weather enabled us to go on a boat-trip along the coast of the Isle of Cumbrae which involved fishermen casting weighted nets into the sea. I am not sure any of us could have predicted the variety of marine wildlife we managed to haul on board when bringing in the nets - from 12-legged starfish to sea urchins, and of course plenty of crabs and other crustaceans. The crabs in particular became a particular hit with Callum Todd who took to either balancing them on his head, or throwing them back into the sea 'making them fly'. Additionally for those people like me, who are not overly keen on picking up squidgy, slimy things from the sea, the gannets nose-diving into the water around us while hunting for fish also proved to be thoroughly entertaining.

Personally I feel that my knowledge of marine biology has increased massively since attending the trip. Whether that be due to my general exposure to wildlife on the seashore whilst on the Isle of Cumbrae, or having several organisms from the sea, including sea squirts, starfish and sea slugs being captured and placed on the desk next me courtesy of Edward Lau. However the trip wasn't all work – but play too. On the final day we were given the afternoon off to enjoy an 11 mile bike ride around the island – with a pit stop halfway for ice cream, of course! This bike ride for some, including me, turned out to be slightly more challenging than anticipated as we decided to attempt riding a tandem - much to everyone else's enjoyment as they watched us wobbling about. Thankfully the roads are quiet enough on the Isle of Cumbrae, so it wasn't long before we were whizzing along. However, despite the fact most of us had a speedy journey around the



...gannets nose-diving into the water around us while hunting for fish...



island, the more-or-less single-track road proved a little too difficult for some to navigate. Our departure was delayed slightly by a group of boys who decided it would make more sense to take a shortcut back to Millport through the hills of the island. After discovering that their new route was far more difficult than the flat loop around the island everyone else took, they shortly regretted their decision to explore. Meanwhile in their absence, the rest of us decided to enjoy ourselves

on the shore in Millport – a few people even braving the freezing waters of the Firth of Clyde!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team at UMBS Millport, and of course Mr Goddard and Mrs Raeside; without their thorough organisation this fantastic trip would not have been possible.

Olwyn Jenkins
LVI Woodlands

Strathallian Olympic Experiences



The Olympic Flame

Joe Lipworth

(Nicol 2011)

Joe was honoured to be picked as one of the Olympic Torchbearers this year. He ran through the village of Hillside near Montrose with the Olympic Torch, helping to start the nations celebrations for the 2012 London Olympics.

Born with Nephrotic Syndrome, a rare and debilitating kidney disorder, Joe spent the first ten years of his life in and out of hospitals receiving critical treatment. However, he refused to allow his condition to control his life. When he was young Jonah Lomu took the time to write to Joe and told him to do all that he was told and not let his illness get to him. Joe was inspired by Jonah Lomu's achievements on the rugby pitch, despite his nephrotic syndrome, and although he has never met him, he has watched him play several times. It was suggested he might like to join a swimming club - he did, and found that this was something he could shine at. Joe has gone from strength to strength not only in his sport, but in the confidence that this has given him. He holds two age group records for swimming in Scotland, winning the UK school games in his event two years ago. This year, he has got a sport scholarship to university in Washington to continue his swim training.



Eventing Manager

Alec Lochore

(Freeland 1990)

The Olympics were two years and two months away when Alec got the job as the eventing manager for the London 2012 Olympic Games working with the London Organising Committee equestrian manager Tim Hadaway to deliver the event at Greenwich Park.

Alec commented "It was a great honour to be involved in your home Olympics. I was never going to manage to be an athlete at them so it's the next best thing"

He received the phone call whilst standing in the middle of a field. Surprise was quickly replaced by the realisation of the scale of the task he had been given. A completely green field site to organise something... that's never happened before. His efforts were showcased to over 700 million people across the world on the 26th July 2012. With the added pressure of the world's media, it was so important everything was just right.

In his role as eventing manager, Alec was responsible for the day-to-day project management and operational planning for the discipline of eventing within the equestrian programme. This includes dressage, jumping and cross country.

He also managed the planning and development of the cross country course, working closely with course designer Sue Benson and builders London Eventing.

Locating the equestrian events in such a key central part of the Games was a real bonus, often they are located well outside the Olympic city and in London to be just 12 or 15 minutes away from the Olympic Stadium and

the athletes village was a real factor in giving lots of people exposure to the sport. He described the location of Greenwich Park as being "spectacular, as you really felt you were part of the Games, as from Greenwich I could see the Olympic Stadium, Canary Wharf, St Paul's Cathedral and the North Greenwich Arena".

Alec commented "It has also been an amazing experience to work in a setting such as Greenwich Park, with its unique history, setting and undulations."

"We had our difficulties during the design process because of the huge slopes there and the archaeological, environmental and ecological challenges". No digging was allowed on the site at all meaning all of the equestrian events you viewed on television were in an arena built on free standing stilts!

Looking at computer screens and plans on A2, A1 and A0 pieces of paper over two years through to the actual build was a long process. This was not helped by the Great British summer weather, practically non-stop rain up to the start of the event giving the design team, huge mudbaths and headaches to match to contend with.

The event turned out to be a triumph, with more front pages world wide devoted to equestrian events than any other discipline in the whole Olympics, around 50,000 spectators attracted to watch the Cross Country and of course the success of Team GB. Alec can certainly be proud of the contribution he made to a wonderful Olympics for both the Equestrian events and showcasing to the world what a wonderful event Great Britain can put on.

Gareth Watt
LVI Simpson



Games Maker

Gordon Caldwell

(Simpson 1960)

I volunteered to help at the Olympics and at my interview to be a games maker I provided the information that I had been finance director of a listed PLC and more importantly had been a Captain of Chislehurst Golf Club. With this information they decided that I was obviously well qualified to be a taxi driver in the Transport Section. Although I would have much preferred a different role, I have always enjoyed driving and was not too unhappy. I went on three full days of training to practise driving a manual BMW and to learn how to use the specialised Satnav, which incidentally did not work on those days, and the walkie-talkie which did work and on which we had to advise Control every time we arrived at, or departed from a destination. I also attended a large meeting at Wembley Arena, hosted by John Inverdale where we received advanced training in how to smile, shout and cheer (at least that's what it felt like).

During the Olympics, I was given ten shifts of ten hours each, which on the basis of a thirty five hour working week, equates to nearly three weeks normal work, and, although I did a lot of driving, only on five occasions did I actually have passengers in the car. I was instructed to go to a number of Olympic venues and to Heathrow a couple of times, where I waited for two to three hours before being instructed to return to base. I would guess that they overestimated the required number of drivers (and indeed cars), by a factor of perhaps three. However, I was able to use the Olympic lanes and thereby upset a lot of other road users. The photograph was taken whilst waiting for passengers in Curzon Street (along with many other Olympic cars).

Having said all that I enjoyed the camaraderie with the other drivers and don't regret having volunteered and been part of these magnificent Olympics.



Olympian Parent

Chalmers Caldwell

(Simpson 1965)

My contemporaries at Strathallan will, I am sure, remember my winning the middle backstroke event in the inter-House swimming competition in, I believe, 1963. Then again perhaps not. Nevertheless, that not-so-famous victory proved prescient in that almost 50 years later I had the absolute thrill of seeing my daughter Hilary swim the 200m backstroke at the Olympic Games. It was the culmination of a dream that, for me, began on the day in 2005 when the Olympics were awarded to London. I had gone to medical school at the University of London and continued to live there until I emigrated to Canada in 1974 so the Olympic decision definitely resonated with me. I recall at dinner that night suggesting to my two daughters, then aged fourteen and eleven and both competitive swimmers, that it would make their dear old dad really happy if he would be able to return to London in 2012 to watch one or both competing at those Games, and could they please see to it that that occurred. As fantasies go it was way out there, but this April Hilary did exactly that, her 2:09.14 at the Canadian Olympic Trials making her the second fastest Canadian ever and securing her place on the team.

Living in B.C. my wife and I had already enjoyed something of the atmosphere that the Olympic Games bring. It was uncanny being in London and watching initial scepticism and negativity evolve into enthusiasm and pride as the Games progressed, very much mirroring Vancouver two years ago. Our day at the magnificent Aquatic Centre went by in a flash and my memories are blurred. Nevertheless, seeing Hilary walk onto the pool deck was certainly one of the most emotional moments of my life. My brother Gordon (Simpson House, 1955-60) and his family became honorary Canadians for the day and were also present for Hilary's swim. She was disappointed with her performance. She was not as fast as in the Trials and missed the semi-finals by 0.15 seconds but her overall experience at the Games was overwhelmingly positive, indeed I am surprised she didn't have to be evicted from the Village. One of her major goals is to return to the U.K. in 2014 for the Commonwealth Games and with Glasgow being the venue that would be another very special occasion for me.



Paralympics Games Maker

Lucy Ambrose

(Woodlands 2012)

When I was fortunate enough to learn I was going to be a Games Maker at the London 2012 Paralympic Games after a two year wait, and numerous interviews, the reaction from most people was this; "That's a shame you didn't get the Olympics, but the Paralympics will still be good, I suppose." How wrong they were. I can honestly say that working at the Athletics stadium for the opening ceremony and Paralympic competition surpassed not just my own expectations, but the nation's. Every single day, every single venue was full and the Olympic park was heaving with spectators, a first for any Paralympic Games in history. School parties, families and couples of all ages and nationalities would be arriving in Stratford from 7.30am every morning, just so they could say "I was there".

My day started at 5.15am when I got the tube from where I was staying to Stratford, we had to report into work at 6.30am. Despite waking up two hours earlier than I would have at school (and on my holiday!) the early mornings were never a chore, as just as the sun was rising, London was buzzing with people in our distinctive purple and red uniforms. The tubes were full, but instead of moaning about not getting a seat, I would often end up talking to the person next to me, who was almost always a Games Maker, about what we had on that day, and who was competing. Working at the stadium was the golden ticket, I was one of the lucky few. Every day I would be in a different team, either ticket-scanning, directing people in the seating bowl, staffing the lifts, working on crowd control or in charge of the Pushchair Stores; all of which sound extremely boring but were quite the opposite. Being able to see Gold medal moments involving athletes who have now become household names such as David Weir, Richard Whitehead and Oscar Pistorius to name just a few was indescribable. Seeing the Queen and all the royal family at the Opening Ceremony was also a bonus!

Looking back, I am so proud to say I was not just a Games Maker, but a Games Maker at the Paralympics. To see the athletes visibly moved every time the crowd acknowledged them was so

inspiring, as previously their disciplines would not attract such crowds. It was so satisfying to hear at the end of the day spectators saying how their Games experience had surpassed their wildest expectations and changed their perception of sport and disability. At the Paralympic closing ceremony, the Games Makers received the longest, and loudest applause of the night. This was humbling, but also surprising as I gained so much from the experience, it didn't feel like a chore. Put simply, if I could bottle the atmosphere in London in July and August of 2012, I would be a millionaire.



The Closing Ceremony

Rory Mudie

(1991)

I play for the Reading Scottish Pipe Band and after auditioning against six other bands, we won the honour of performing in the Olympics Closing Ceremony.

My day started at at 7.30am when we all met at the Uxbridge Tube station before travelling across London to arrive at the stadium at 8.30am. It took an hour to get all our kit through security and we settled at 10am for the build up to the closing of the 2012 Games.

Every performer who worked on the night filtered into the holding bays. The tempo was crazy, everyone rushing around practising; singing, dancing, building the set, making the opening sequence. It was total controlled mayhem! We were allowed to walk around everywhere and meet whoever we wanted.

Our part of the evening was called "The Bright Side" and we were pretty much the last act. We sat with the Spice Girls and Eric Idle, who was so funny and did a lot to calm everyone's nerves. As it began to get dark the thousands of people started to flood in, the atmosphere was intense and the Olympics Closing Ceremony was about to begin.

We were able to watch everything that was going on and when we received our 20 minute call it was terrifying - but also fantastically exciting. Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) was whizzing round the place like a mad thing getting everyone bursting with excitement.

Having tuned up during the day, we were then

brought to the tunnels. It was pitch black when we marched on into the stadium.

Words can not explain the feeling when I entered that place, the noise, sound, smell and size of the stadium were really humbling and stunning. We had to march round the whole stadium then begin playing *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* on the pipes. We did it and it was over in seconds but really did feel like a lot longer.

When the announcements were made to thank all the volunteers, we piped everyone on to the stage. The fireworks then went off and we were standing right in the centre of the stadium - just fantastic really.

By now it was around 11pm and we went back to the holding bays and had a well-deserved beer. It had been arranged that we would have our kit bussed out of the stadium and we would be collected by the bus at 12.30. However, there were still too many people in the stadium so we had to wait.

By 2.30am we had tuned up again and piped the last remaining revellers out of the stadium. In fact we marched for an hour back to the bus, we played past army and party goers; everyone was on such a high. By 3.30am we eventually got back to our bus, then travelled across London and got to the tube at 4.30am. We jumped in our cars and I got home just before 6am. The sun was coming up and I had just had one of the most special days of my life.

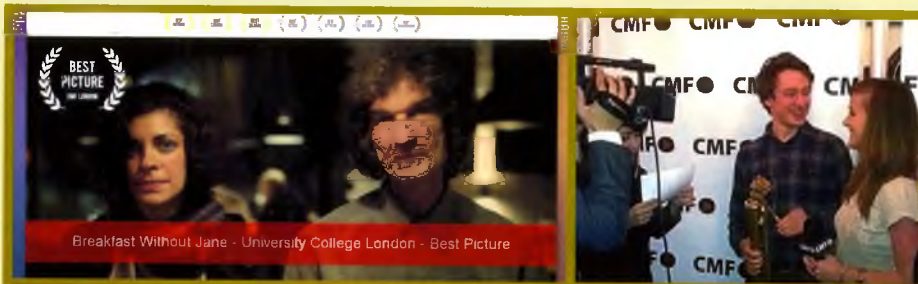
I am so proud of the pipe band; many of the thirty-one pipes and drummers are over seventy and they really did the Band proud.

Just a once in a life time experience and then to get the letter from David Cameron just topped it all off.

I thank Pipe Major Henderson for teaching me the pipes so many years ago at Strath, I think I did him proud.



Strathallian updates



Josh Lipworth

(Nicol 2008)

Josh Lipworth has recently become an award-winning film producer having won two awards in the last twelve months. He and colleague Megan Laws were delighted to win "Best Film" in the Campus Movie Fest UK competition resulting in their film "Breakfast without Jane" going on to be shown in Cannes and Hollywood (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/anthropology-news/campus_movie_fest) (<http://www.campusmoviefest.com/uk/awardwinners>) As a result of this success, they were taken to Hollywood for masterclasses in film making and invited to compete in the Global Lenovo "Seize the Night" competition in which participants were challenged to film an alternative ending to a short film. Josh and Megan chose to use the "Critical Mass" cycle ride through London as the basis for their ending. They were delighted to be successful in winning this competition too, receiving \$15,000 in prize money. Their film clip has already had over 60,000 views (<http://www.campusmoviefest.com/dfn/lenovo>)

Andrew Nairn

(Freeland 1962)

Andrew retired in 2004 having been a partner in a top ten firm of Chartered Accountants, in London, from 1970. One of his partners was his brother W.M.Nairn, also a Strathallian.

In the course of his career Andrew had the pleasure of working for two Strathallians. John d'Angibau at his Company in Suffolk and Julian Brind, whose life and career were remembered in last year's Strathallian, when he was Chair of The Institute of Masters of Wine.

Andrew will shortly be moving to Lancashire to be near his grandchildren.

Andrew Elliot

(Nicol 1986)

Andrew is completing his twelfth year in Lima and has enjoyed every single year in this fabulous part of the world. He is Managing Partner of London Consulting Group for the region Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and Chile. In March he and his wife Paula had a baby boy, Ryan, who completes his wonderful family with sisters Leah and Sofia. Any Strathallians coming though this part of the world are very welcome to get in contact.



Paul Johnston

(Freeland 1994)

Paul is happily married living and working in Financial Services in Edinburgh. He and his wife Caroline are enjoying their new arrival of Guy Robert Mitchell Johnston, born 21st Sept 2012, a brother for Sadie (5yrs) and Tess (3yrs). He runs the Strathallians Golf Section, is involved in the Centenary celebrations committee at the School and sits on the Strathallian Club Committee. He is in touch with lots of Strathallians and is always keen to connect with more.

Euan Matheson

(Ruthven 2000) and

Donald Matheson

(Ruthven 1997)

Euan and Donald both completed the Zurich Ironman in July this year. Ironman involves a 3.8k Swim, 180k cycling and then finishing with a marathon.

Euan completed in 12 hours 35 mins, and Donald completed in 11 hours 44 mins.

Euan and Donald are now both married and living in London. Donald works as a Supply Chain Manager for Sainsbury's, and Euan works in Product risk for Barclays bank.

Their sister, Johanna (Thornbank 1996), is married, lives in Connecticut and is due to have her first child in late October.

Iain Ross

(Ruthven 1964)

Iain Ross has retired from BAE Systems in Saudi Arabia, after what was supposed to be a two-year contract. He stayed twenty so must have enjoyed it.

Philip Price

(Ruthven 1997)

Philip is running photography workshops on beavers, and is the first person in Scotland to offer such, as these animals have been extinct for four hundred years. They were reintroduced to Scotland three years ago and now are doing so well that the Wildlife Trust has given Philip exclusive access to come and photograph and run workshops. You can find out more from Philip's website

http://www.lochvisions.co.uk/wildlife_photography_news.htm

http://www.lochvisions.co.uk/wildlife_photography_weekend_experience.htm



James Smith

(Freeland 1940)

James recently celebrated his 90th birthday at Pollok Golf Club with thirty-six family and friends. You will see from the attached snap that James was sporting his new Strath tie as was son-in-law Alasdair Nicol. The other photo, uncovered during birthday celebration preparations shows James throwing a cricket ball; straightforward, you might think, but why are the spectators in dressing gowns?



Murdo McAndrew

(Nicol 2012)

Murdo has been in France now for three months, in Clermont Ferrand, and is sharing a flat with a fellow player at the ASM Clermont Rugby Academy. Murdo's colleagues in the Academy range in age from 18 to 23 and while most of the guys are French there are also Georgians, Argentines and Canadians.



The main aim for the Academy players is to play in the big-time as soon as possible. They train every day, working hard in the gym and on position-specific skills. Murdo is really enjoying the coaching out there, apart from the first three weeks where they were "absolutely destroyed physically, hardly touched a rugby ball just brutal physical training, but helped get 'post exam' body back in shape. In one weekend we ran/cycled 35 kilometres up a mountain! I'm happy with how it has gone so far, and feel like I have settled in well and made a decent impression; got in the "hot shots" part of the paper, which was certainly confidence-boosting."

However, it has not been the easiest of starts for Murdo due to a freak training incident which resulted in fractured ribs and sternum and an emergency operation due to a collapsed lung. He spent a week in hospital with a pipe in his lung, although he got the benefits of chocolate and morphine.

All in all Murdo is really enjoying life out in France, the language barrier is hard but he is starting to pick things up, loving getting paid and many other benefits for playing the sport. No complaints to be made.

Ewan O'Donnell

(Nicol 2003)

Ewan was married on the 3rd of December 2011 to Allison and they now live in the USA.

Allison is a 4th-grade teacher at a school in Milwaukee, and Ewan has recently moved jobs and is now an Account Supervisor on the Pepsico account with a Marketing Agency in New Berlin, Wisconsin in the USA.

Robin Dow

(Nicol 1962)

Robin has been elected as Captain Norninate of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers (HCEG). HCEG is the oldest golf club in the world (records go back to 1744) - it is commonly known as Muirfield, and it is here that The Open Championship will be played next July. His captaincy will be effective from April next year following the HCEG AGM, and will be for a two year period.

Class of 1992, 20th Anniversary Reunion

On the evening of Saturday 29th September, just under half of the leavers from 1992 congregated at the Corinthian in Glasgow. For all it had been twenty years since leaving Strathallan, and for many it was a continuation of ongoing friendships. The significance of the number attending, together with the good wishes of those unable to make the journey to Glasgow, was testament to the depth of the friendships forged all those years ago.

Thanks to PMV for bringing along his selection of photos, provoking hilarity and memories of an awful lot of mischief. Thanks also to Malcolm Dippie, Graham MacLennan and Ky Kay for such good organisation, maintaining the tradition of the previous ten and fifteen-year anniversaries.



Hugh Fitzpatrick

(Ruthven, 1987)

Hugh is now Chief Credit Officer of GE Capital UK (including the new GE Capital Direct Bank launched in 2012), managing a team of 240 people across UK and offices in France, Germany and the Nordic countries. He is married to Kirsty and they have two girls and one dog and live in Pulborough, West Sussex. His sister, Gail Fitzpatrick, who was one of the very first girls to attend Strathallan School is still working at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

David Macleod

(Ruthven 1996)

David married Kaye in January this year (2012). They are currently based in Aberdeen where he is a GP and Kaye is doing a post-graduate Diploma in social work.

Douglas R. P. Wallace

(Nicol 1967)

Douglas graduated from Surrey University in 1972 with a degree in Hotel Management. He worked briefly in London, and since 1978, in numerous countries as Assistant and General Manager. Over the last seven years Douglas has developed two luxury villa resort businesses in Bali, currently with eighty-four rooms - www.gendingkedis.com and www.kanishkavillas.com where Strathallians are most welcome. Douglas has one daughter, Morag (17) who lives in Helsinki.

Gordon G. Wallace

(Nicol 1966)

Gordon qualified as a Chartered Architect in 1973 and has worked abroad (Libya) and in the UK. He is now looking forward to retirement. Gordon has maintained a life-long hobby playing the bagpipes and has been actively involved in piping activities with other Strathallians both now and in the past. In 1993 Gordon also started and currently runs a Scottish Country Dancing Club in Broughty Ferry. He has one daughter, Iona (13) currently at Dundee High School.

Charles Adam

(Freeland 1994)

Charles (Charlie or Chaz Adam for those who know me) is now living in São Paulo, Brazil with his wife and two boys, Oliver who is two and a half and Nicholas who is two months old. Nicholas was born in August of this year. Charlie is now running his own Consultancy business and anyone involved in business in relation to Brazil is welcome to contact him at charles@adamconsultancyuk.com



Any Strathallians travelling through South America or coming to São Paulo on business are welcome to get in touch.

Matthew Brebner

(Ruthven 2005)

After leaving School, Matthew attended a furniture school in Gifford where he learnt a number of professional cabinet-making skills. He then decided to set up a business for himself and has been making bespoke furniture for the last four years. He makes kitchens, tables, chairs, beds, oak gates, doors, and all sorts of small things like boxes, bowls and picture frames all using Scottish hardwoods. Matthew also specialises in furniture restorations, outdoor furniture and built-in units to fit into those unique areas of the home. Examples of all these beautiful items can be seen on his website at www.msbfurniture.com



Kirsty Guthrie

(Thornbank 1991)

Rory Mudie celebrated his 40th birthday with celebrations at his home outside Newbury, Hampshire, where a few



Strathallians were able to join him (Kirsty Guthrie (née Wood), Julie Bodger (née Clark), Cameron Philip and Rory Mudie pictured). A haggis was piped in by a pipe band (Rory played) on a lovely balmy summer's evening and everyone had great fun.

Chen Jin

(Woodlands 2004)

Chen has successfully completed an AA Diploma RIBA Part II (Architecture) in 2011 and MSc Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management from Imperial College London 2012. Moreover, she has constructed her own portfolio website Chenoiserie.com.

Will Farmer

(Simpson 2009)

Having graduated from Royal Holloway University, Will is now working in a theatrical agency in Covent Garden and loving it - theatre pretty much every night. 'Have to say the work we did on the School Charity fashion show all that time ago really boosted my CV for getting the job!'



Isobel Morris-Eyton

(Thornbank 2008)

After leaving Strathallan Isobel completed a BSc Hons. Degree at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester in Food Production and Supply Management, after which she went home to her family farm. Isobel realised that most of the jobs which related to her degree would take her far from her home in Cumbria, so instead she decided to start her own food related business from home. Exclusively Cumbrian is Isobel's new online business, specialising in luxury food and gift hampers of Cumbrian products for all occasions, delivered throughout the country. The business launched at the end of September and is now taking orders for Christmas. The website is www.exclusivelycumbrian.co.uk or for more information please contact Isobel by email info@exclusivelycumbrian.co.uk



Carolyn Macintosh

(Thornbank 1994) nee Wilson

Carolyn has been living in the Taunus area near Frankfurt for five years with her husband Tom and her two children Ollie and Edward.

Carolyn works as a photographer under the name of Picsology, taking shots for businesses, homes and family photo-shoots as well as selling prints of her images that she has captured on her travels all over the world.

The business is only in its first year but is going from strength to strength.

Carolyn has had four images published in the World of Photography bookazine (Volumes I and II) and has two shortlisted for Volume III of the same publication. Examples of her work can be seen at www.facebook/PicsologyCM.

As well as her photography Carolyn also works as an assistant/teacher at Frankfurt International School on a supply basis.



Back row from left: David Bird, David Mather, Sean Murray, Craig Forster, Jeff Lewis, Malcolm Heggie, Ken McLeod, Iain Whittaker, Nick Yates, Pete Seymour

Seated: Matthew Brebner, Paul Johnston, Douglas Montgomerie

Absent: David Graham, Donald Turner, Graham Johnston, Graham Duncan, Phillip Anderson, Bruce McClure and Peter Reynolds.

Prestwick Outing - Sunday 9th September 2012

This year the annual outing returned to Prestwick Golf Club for a splendid 36 holes of golf either side of a princely lunch.

I am delighted to report that fair weather was enjoyed by 20 former pupils, 18 of whom braved stiff winds to tackle the beautiful Prestwick links. The stroke play round was won with a superb scratch 72 (par 71) by Craig Forster, whose declared handicap of 6 was chopped after he also took away the handicap trophy. Congratulations to Craig, whose name will be added to the Reid Salver for his scratch victory and the Johnston Trophy for his best net score.

The afternoon round was more keenly contested, as a combination of course knowledge and kummel allied to the more forgiving stableford format, saw several golfers return points scores in their thirties. In the end Douglas Montgomerie, was awarded the David Bogie Cup. Well done to all.

Next year's event will be one of the very first in the Centenary calendar and will be held on the weekend of the 7th/8th September again on the Ayrshire coast. Early interest suggests that the format will be changed into a weekend affair including an evening dinner and rounds on the Saturday and the Sunday. I hope to make this an event befitting the School's Centenary, so your support is encouraged.

Strathallian Golf Club Update 2012

This year has been one of the most successful in many years for the Strathallian Golf Club. I am pleased to report that interest in outings is on the increase and the team results have surpassed expectations. Here's what happened in the year....

Scottish Wayfarers - 17th/18th March 2012

This annual round-robin event at the Golf House Club, Elie, takes place every March and involves former pupils from Strathallan, Glenalmond, Edinburgh Academy, Fettes, Loretto and Merchiston playing foursomes, off scratch.

This year for the first time in many a year we were successful in recording victories over Glenalmond, Loretto and Fettes, finishing 3rd, a change from our usual 6th. The successful team was headed by the Honorary President of the Scottish Wayfarers (2011-2012) Doug Montgomerie ably supported by Robbie Stewart, Jeff Lewis, Robin Johnston, Alistair Mather, Jason Low, Annabel Niven, David Mather, Steve Harrod and me.

Next year's event is scheduled for the weekend of 16th/ 17th March where we aim to improve on this year's result before launching a challenge for the Stenhouse Quaich in our Centenary Year 2013/2014.

Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy September 2012

The annual knockout foursomes competition took place at the usual host venue of The Royal Burgess Golfing Society, Edinburgh on 22nd-25th September. Schools from across the country sent teams to compete for this prestigious trophy, and this year's event was particularly important given it is the Jubilee year.

Our first round opponents were from Paisley Grammar and they proved too strong for our team of Annabel Niven, Sean Murray, Jason Low, David Mather, Fergus MacMillan and me. Nevertheless, the weather was fantastic and the course a joy to play.

London Section

My focus until now has been on rejuvenating the Scottish side of the OS Golf Club, but my database is developing strong links to London and the South East. As such I will be active over the coming months gathering details of Strathallians in the South who would like to take part in more southerly outings.

We have links with the London Scottish Schools Golfing Society and in the next update I hope to report entries into this year's St Andrew's Day Foursomes event at Royal Wimbledon and further outings arranged for 2013.

The Centenary Year 2013/14

As well as the annual outing and regular fixtures, I hope to reinstate the annual match between the Club and the School. I hope to hold an annual match starting in April/May 2013, establishing a valuable link between present and former pupils.

Seniors Section

Those golfers over 50 are invited to contact Andrew McInroy for details of outings and team matches against the Scottish Wayfarers. andrewmcinroy@denbrae.fslife.co.uk

If you would like more information about the Old Strathallian Golf Club, please contact Paul Johnston on strathgolf@gmail.com or on twitter @strathgolfer.

Paul Johnston

Nan Chen

(Woodland 2003)

After graduation from Newcastle University with a Masters degree in Medical & Molecular Biosciences in 2007, Nan worked at a small investment firm in London until 2009. She then went back to China and worked at a Hong Kong listed biotechnology company in Beijing for a year. In 2010, she was offered a job by her current employer in Shenzhen, China, so she moved back there, also a brilliant chance for her to go back and live with her family in Shenzhen.

The company Nan is working for at present is the largest Genome Research Centre in the world. They work with top-notch Universities and Institutes and with multinational pharmaceutical companies. In March 2011, she transferred to the Europe team and is mainly in charge of looking for collaborative projects in UK and Ireland. Nan normally spends six months in the UK and six months in China. Frequent visits to cities such as Manchester, Birmingham, London, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Liverpool to meet with Professors is her current main role.

Hamish Steedman

(Freeland 1976)

Hamish attended the Ryder Cup in Medinah and was delighted when the Silver Putter manufactured by his company St Andrews Golf Company was featured in the Closing Ceremony with our First Minister proudly showing it to the World by waving it above his head! He also thought fellow Strathallian Colin Montgomerie did an excellent job in the commentary box and looks forward to catching up with him at Gleneagles in 2014.



Emma Hepplewhite

Nee Readman (Woodlands '98)

Emma and her husband Duncan are delighted to report the birth of Alexander John Hepplewhite on 18th August, weighing a very healthy 7lbs 8oz. Emma recently caught up with David Nesbitt (Freeland 1998) who is married to Kathi, with 2 children and living out in Germany. They have set up a company called Boo Poo (<http://www.facebook.com/boo.poo.baby.changing>) selling baby change bags. Emma says "Having been given one by my mother, I can confirm they're brilliant for when you're out and about! I'll stop plugging David's business, but he was doing well when I saw him, and they'll be bringing out the second collection soon."

**Peter Watson**

(Freeland 1995)

Peter has moved schools after 12 years at Gresham's School in Holt (where he was Head of Spanish and Master i/c Cricket) to Malvern College in Worcestershire, where he is again Head of Spanish. Peter is also the lead author of the companion website to the Pearson Education Spanish IB textbook. The site is called Exclusiva, and it has just been launched at the IBAEM conference in Madrid, and will be available for schools to subscribe to globally.

Robin Taylor

[Nicol 1965]

Robin is General Manger of the New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust which operates the New Zealand Government's Ecolabelling Programme [www.environmentalchoice.org.nz]



He is currently the Chair of GEN – the Global Ecolabelling Network which represents Ecolabelling programmes in 57 countries around the world. He is hoping to be re-elected at the AGM 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.

He transferred to New Zealand with his company on a three year secondment in 1982 and has never returned!

Alastair Macmillan

(Freeland 2000)

Alastair and Lucy Macmillan are delighted to announce the birth of their son William John Macmillan – born on the 23th June 2012. Pictured here on a champagne tour in France this year.

**Richard Williams**

(Simpson 1986)

Richard's son Matt has successfully made the England U11 XV Barbarians Squad (The "Lambs"). He was just one of sixteen who made it through from an already preselected squad of four hundred. They undertook a tour to Ireland winning all four games including at the infamous Willow Park from which internationalist Brian O'Driscoll originated.

Richard also managed to meet up with Peter Maclean who was travelling into the UK from Melbourne when he dropped into Bath. (with a splash? Ed) "It was great to catch up and we had a fabulous evening together."

Richard is also a Director of The Bath and County Club which offers fabulous opportunities for club usage all over the UK including some very swanky ones in Edinburgh and in London. Richard would be delighted to hear from prospective members and would be able to offer significant discounts in the first year's membership to anyone who wishes to join and make use of such facilities.

**Deceased**

Robert Gordon	Freeland 1957	1985
Robin Common	Freeland 1942	August 2010
Thomas A Baxter	Ruthven 1946	2011
Walter Paton	Nicol 1972	February 2011
Sister Isabel Sharp	San Nurse 1978 - 1982	November 2011
Alan C Millar	Simpson 1954	November 2011
Peter Spurgin	Housemaster Riley and Freeland	November 2011
William Dunlop	1935	November 2011
James S Lowden	Nicol 1942	December 2011
Thomas Fleming	Freeland 1970	January 2021
A J Gordon Armstrong	Nicol 1969	January 2012
Keith Frost	Ruthven 1950	February 2012
Mike Barratt	Housemaster Freeland	March 2012
Frederick Bell	Simpson 1964	May 2012
William A MacMillan	Nicol 1964	May 2012
David Downes	Nicol 1990	August 2012
Eben Dawson	Nicol 1944	September 2012
Horace Thomson	Freeland 1939	October 2012

History Dept.

Over the course of the year the History Department has been busy organising a series of subject-enriching activities designed to supplement the excellent work being done in the classroom. From First Form right through to the Upper Sixth the activities have ranged from lectures to workshops, collapsed curriculum days to hands-on re-enactment, from local trips to trips much further afield, an Empire dining-in night to an evening devoted to the Crusades. The aim of this was to encourage historians at all levels to think about their craft, to re-introduce that much misunderstood and abused historical skill – empathy – and, at worst, to have a jolly enjoyable time as well.

The biggest commitment the Department has made in recent times is to organise trips, to Berlin for the GCSE pupils, and to the Battlefields of the Great War with Edinburgh's Mercat Tours for the Third and Fourth Forms. The Strathallian Pals' Battalions numbers 5 and 6 journeyed to Belgium and France in the course of the year, visiting the northern and southern lips of the Ypres salient, in addition to a full day exploring the Somme Battlefield. The awe-inspiring monuments of the Somme – at Thiepval, Vimy Ridge, and to the members of the Newfoundland Regiment and 51st Highland Division, and the smaller tribute to the Accrington Pals – produced some emotional reactions amongst the Pals, reinforced in their respective diary entries at the end of the day. The Pals walked through the preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood, climbed Hill 60, took in the Pool of Peace, marched from Passchendaele Ridge to the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in the World at Tyne Cot, and finished off with a poignant Strathallian ceremony at the Menin Gate on the last evening of the trip. The guide informed us at the start of the trip that we would all be changed, and never were truer words spoken as the Pals, tired and emotional, retreated to Blighty. Many thanks go to Mrs Billing for organising the trips, to Messrs MacLean and Fitzsimmons for keeping discipline amongst the ranks, and to Mrs Fleming whose baptism of fire was with Pals' Battalion number 6.

In the early part of 2012 the Department was very busy, not only with the inevitable Trial Examinations but also with a couple of dining-in nights for the Sixth Form Historians. The AS and A2 pupils enjoyed an Indian evening, coinciding with their own study of the British Raj and the struggle for Indian Independence, food courtesy of the Manzil Restaurant in Perth, quizzes, music and entertainment supplied by the pupils. A week



later was the turn of the Higher candidates whose Crusades evening was organised by an industrious Mr MacLean and the pupils themselves. The Higher candidates had previously been taken by Mr MacLean to his alma mater, Stewart's Melville College, to hear a number of eminent historians give lectures relevant to their study of the Scottish Wars of Independence, the Higher Paper Two topic. This gave the pupils chances to question leading historians and to mingle with pupils from other schools studying the same topics at Higher.

All of this story, thus far, gives the impression that the examination classes had all the fun, but the rest of the year held a number of activities expressly aimed at the Junior classes. Chief amongst the activities aimed at Riley was a visit for the whole of 2nd Form on a cold and dark February night to the haunted streets and closes of the Old Town of Edinburgh. They were in search of tales about Burke and Hare, the notorious murderers and traders in dead bodies, and places associated with them. Guided by a number of Mercat Tours storytellers, the groups wandered the backstreets and closes, accompanied by shrieks and bloodcurdling noises, finishing up in the Edinburgh Vaults. These atmospheric underground rooms, complete with resident ghost,

provided a fitting end to the pupils' study of dark and dangerous Edinburgh.

In March, the main focus was on the Great War and the Third Form. To bring to life some aspects of this momentous conflict for them, Great War re-enactor Dave Clark and his partner, dressed in full uniform as officer and nursing sister respectively, gave an impassioned and spell-binding performance. After a physical warm-up, practising bayonetting the Boche, and treating wounds, pupils were given the chance to handle and examine genuine WW1 weapons and uniforms. Having just studied the conditions in the trenches and some of the initial engagements of the War, this was an excellent way to bring an end to the Spring term's activities.

In October, the first Riley curriculum day was held, based on a study of themes associated with Black History Month. This was a follow-up to a day that Mrs Ingram-Forde had arranged earlier in the year for pupils. On this occasion a series of activities, coordinated by Mrs Lalani, included a joint History and Drama exploration of slavery and life on a slave ship, dance and movement, print-making and art, music and science. The day was held to be a great success by all concerned.

The highlight of the year had to be the visit, in March, of TV historian and archaeologist Neil Oliver. Neil first came to prominence in *Two Men and a Trench*, then in BBC2's *Coast*. Latterly he has made acclaimed TV series on a History of Scotland, *Ancient Britain* and the Vikings. He was invited to Strathallan primarily to speak to the Sixth Form later in the day, but very kindly offered to come to do workshops for the Junior historians in the morning, and a Q & A session for the seniors. Not many of the First Formers can have ever filmed their own little documentary with a TV historian before, and the most impressive thing about the exercise was not only the enthusiasm and inventiveness of the Riley pupils, but the relaxed and involved contribution of Mr Oliver. The lecture he then gave in the late afternoon to the entire Sixth Form was enthralling. Mr Oliver is a gifted storyteller as any viewer of his programmes would attest but, intertwining History and Archaeology tales with the moral of never knowing where life will take you, whether it be to the top of a Great Sequoia tree in South America, or knee deep in mud in Greenock, this was an unforgettable lecture and we are very grateful to him for taking time out of his busy schedule to spend the day with us.

All of this activity and enjoyment of History is evidence of the increased enthusiasm and interest for the subject in the School. The Department's recent emphasis has been on enjoyment and, at the same time, hard work. In the classroom impressive work has been done at the Junior end of the curriculum which has been the subject of recent exhibitions on Speech Days. But the examination classes' results, which are an important yardstick by which to judge a Department's success and effectiveness, were shown once again to be improving at A Level and GCSE. At A2, all candidates scored at least a grade C, 33.3% a grade A. At AS, with a record entry of nineteen candidates, 89.5% scored at least a C grade with 64% scoring either A or B. The pass rate at A Level overall was 100%. And at GCSE level, 38.1% of grades were at A* or A, with the A*-C rate at 92.9%.

None of this can be achieved without the hard work of the staff and it falls to me, at the end of my tenure as Head of Department, to thank them for their enthusiasm and support over my nearly twenty years at Strathallan. I know I am leaving the Department in safe hands as Mrs Billing takes over and I wish her, and the rest of the staff, much enjoyment and success in the years to come.

RHF

Obituaries



Peter W Y Bullard

Simpson '83
1965 – 2011

As a result of a tragic climbing accident Peter died on Wednesday 25th May 2011 at the Denali Pass on Mount McKinley, Alaska. He died doing, with friends, what he loved, having just summited the 20,320ft peak earlier that day.

Born in Edinburgh on 30 April 1965, his early years were spent in Australia where at the age of 7 he boarded at Scotch College, Adelaide. Returning to the UK he was brought up in Dumfriesshire and Dollar, before arriving at Forgandenny and Strathallan in 1979.

Peter thoroughly enjoyed his time at Strathallan making the most of what school had to offer and where he made a number of close lifelong friends. He represented the school Firsts at Rugby, Cricket, Golf, and Tennis. It was no surprise that this love of all sports and adventurous activities was ultimately to influence his career, the rest of his life and, ironically, be the cause of his death.

Following his education at Strathallan, Peter studied at Dundee College then spent a few years working for the Civil Service in London where his continued passion for rugby found him playing for London Scottish and taking part in their 1989 tour of South America. This trip opened his eyes to travelling such that on his return to London he soon handed in his notice and embarked on an open-ended world tour, taking in North and South America, Australasia,

He died doing, with friends, what he loved...

South East Asia and, two years later, Hong Kong; a place that was to become his home.

Once in Hong Kong he naturally gravitated towards sports management, and for the next twenty years worked for a number of well-known sporting companies; Sportathlon, Fitness First, and then Multisport. With a good grasp of how business in Asia was done, he was charged with setting up Fitness First in Shanghai, later using this experience to set up his own company 'Multisport Shanghai' in 2004. A charming and trusted businessman his company went from strength to strength, recently expanding into Beijing.

Throughout his life his passion for adventurous activities continued; climbing Kilimanjaro, Mont Blanc, Puncak Jaya in Indonesia, Mt Aconcagua in the Andes, the New Zealand Alps and Mt McKinley, Alaska. He also became an accomplished marathon runner and for 15 years with his team competed in the annual MACILHOSE 100km Hong Kong Trail Walker race.

Peter was a modest, private man who will be remembered for his charismatic and likeable character and as a dependable and trusted friend to many.

Michael Bullard

Isabel Sharp

When I heard that the local minister's wife was to become the new nurse in the sanatorium I was not impressed: I imagined a very starchy and strict individual. I could not have been more wrong. Sister Sharp was a very warm and funny person who also had common sense in buckets.

One of my friends said of her "That she did not have a bad bone in her body": When I told her this she laughed out loud – it was not a view she had of herself at all. Her husband also once had to tell her off for describing one of their very caring friends as a "deeply Christian man" because he was in fact a Muslim. This was nothing to do with political correctness or joking about it but that she saw him as a very kind caring neighbourly man and saw these as Christian principles. She was not someone who was hung-up about 'respectability' and indeed this had not endeared her to some of her husband's parishioners because she stood up for what she felt was correct and moral and not what was necessarily accepted dogma.

I remained friends with Isabel throughout her life and when I saw her she would relate stories of bumping into former pupils. She said she always knew instantly if it was a Strathallan boy as she would be greeted as Sister Sharp. I think she was very flattered to be remembered and reminded of her time in Perthshire when her husband Stewart had been alive who she continued to miss profoundly.

Sister Sharp was at Strathallan from 1978 – 1982. She died in November 2011 aged 85. I for one will miss her many kindnesses and often, very naughty, sense of humour.

Quentin C Livingston

E. S. Dawson

Nicol 1944
(1927-2012)

Died peacefully on 10th September 2012 at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. A Service of Thanksgiving for Eben was held at Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Parish Church, Pollokshields, on 20th September.

Andrew E Dawson

Dr (David) Neil Paterson

Simpson and Nicol 1947

14/10/29 Kilmarnock - 10/10/12 Edinburgh

David Neil Paterson was a celebrated forester, tree breeder, saw-miller, furniture producer and social entrepreneur.

Son of Robert Thomas Paterson, and Grace Kirkpatrick, David Neil Paterson was the original 'wild swimmer' and almost born in the sea. His mother had taken the family swimming in Ayr in October 1929 while 8 months pregnant and the shock had started contractions. Very shortly thereafter Neil was born in Kilmarnock.

His father was an agricultural academic, breeding cotton and building irrigation schemes in Sudan who also translated Arabic and local languages for General Wingate while fighting with the Sudanese camel corps in Ethiopia. He returned to Scotland playing a leading role in the establishment of the West of Scotland Agricultural School.

Pre-school trips to the Sudan during the '30s inspired in Neil a sense of adventure and were to define much of his career. He spoke fondly of the times he and his brother disappeared on their donkeys into the Sudanese desert as the sun went down without a thought of their poor petrified parents.

He was educated at Strathallan School in Perthshire where he was Head of Nicol - he was moved from Simpson to do the job, making the point that staff were in short supply during the war so the boys had to help run the school. Neil remembered communal baths with affection and thought of his school days as some of the happiest of his life. He then moved on to Edinburgh University. Having turned up on the wrong day for the entrance exams for his intended career choice - dentistry, he looked to see what other exams were on that day and tried his hand at forestry, bumping thereby into a wonderfully fulfilling career to which he was ideally suited and in which, very successful. He graduated from Edinburgh in 1952.

Building on his undergraduate success as a prize-winning student he was made an Associate of the Institute of Wood Science and given an honorary diploma from British Columbia. In 1967 he was also one of the first to receive a PHD from the University of East Africa in Nairobi in Forestry Genetics, catapulting him onto the international conference stage. Latterly he had spent time at Keble College, Oxford, with which he had a long association.

It was while he was in Edinburgh that the Stone of Scone disappeared from Westminster Abbey and was transported by a series of Morris Minors back to Scotland. Neil alluded to involvement in this campaign, but had taken a vow of secrecy and the exact knowledge of the whereabouts of that historic stone has gone to the grave with him. Gavin Vernon - a fellow Strathallian who was with Neil at school was also famously involved.



After a two year stint in national service (the Royal Air Force put his ability to good use peeling potatoes), Neil headed off to see the world arriving on the east coast of Canada in 1954 with little more than his saddle, with the intention of buying a horse and riding across the nation to find work. He found work in British Columbia where he surveyed a huge area of forest wilderness in the remote Yukon. He was flown in on ski boats, and lived with a gang of men for months on end living off porridge and elk. Here he learned over the long winter nights to play the mouth organ, a source of entertainment for years to come.

From Canada to Kenya in 1959, where as a British Government employee Neil served as District and then Regional Forest Officer for the Aberdare and Kinnangop regions. A fluent Swahili and Kikuyu speaker, Neil oversaw thousands of acres of forest, protecting species for the people of Kenya and breeding bigger and better building materials for them (the subject of his PhD). He managed over a thousand men and was responsible for hundreds of thousands of villagers. He also encountered the end of the Mau Mau uprising and had horrific tales to tell. However, he embraced the idea of decolonisation, unlike many of his former colonial administration colleagues, wearing the tie of the newly independent country with pride and doing his best to build the capacity of his young African colleagues.

In 1969 he moved from Kenya to Malawi where he ran a research station in forestry genetics and was in charge of the forest workers' training school, but eventually the call of Scotland was too strong. Neil decided he wanted his family to belong to Thornhill in Dumfriesshire and turned down positions in South Africa, Rhodesia and Oxford to return to the place where his heart resided.

By the age of 40 Neil had achieved more than most people do in a lifetime.. but in the absence of a forestry research station or university in Thornhill, Neil set about creating his own employment.

He quite literally built a little sawmill from wood, with the help and expertise of his foreman, Jimmy Sutherland. Along with a 1950's bandmill from Belgium and at one point, Dobbin the Clydesdale horse, Neil turned a small business into the leading hardwood sawmill in Scotland, exporting to the USA and Holland.

In part as an outlet for his wood he developed Queensbury furniture, reproducing Rennie Macintosh furniture, the plans for which he sketched at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall Museum or Hunterian Gallery when the museum guards weren't looking. To house the business, and save the building from ruin, he bought and renovated the Queensbury Rooms (the old family factory canteen) in Thornhill which he then sold back to the village as the community centre. Similarly he renovated the historic Thornhill Parish Hall. This was unsuitable for his needs in many ways, but he wanted to renovate buildings as going concerns and that building is now once again central to the village social life as an art gallery, coffee shop and retail outlet.

It was for Thornhill that he became a real social entrepreneur. There was always a project on the go. He founded the Thornhill squash club, converting a small church into a vibrant one-court club where he played until his late 70s. He founded the Abbeyfield Home in Thornhill Society and campaigned for its building, as chairman of the community council he organised clean-ups of the woods and built paths through them.

Perhaps the most ambitious of his social entrepreneurship projects was the founding of the Crichton University along with a number of other retired academics.

For Neil everything was possible - "Can't afford bricks and a builder? Build the sawmill from wood.", "Can't afford a tractor? - Use an old horse", "Don't want a building to go to ruin? Find some money, do it up and pass it on". "Need more academic study in SW Scotland? - Get some people together and build a university" Neil often said- 'You can do anything if you put your mind to it' and it was certainly true for him.

Neil founded the British Hardwoods Project to replenish our indigenous deciduous stocks. To that end, he outlined a plan at Oxford University to garner the necessary support of significant landowners but afforded no genuflection to the privileged.

When one prominent Lord made the journey from his estate in Northern England to Neil's house in Thornhill he sat in the same seat in Neil's study as his sawmillers who'd drop round for their wage packet once a week. The saw dust was flicked to the floor and he stayed for soup at the kitchen table. Neil valued home brew with the boys at the mill every bit as much as whisky with the Duke discussing planting oak trees.

What motivates social entrepreneurs varies, for Neil it was his love of people. At Christmas, he always wanted to have to dinner the lonely and the infirm.

(David) Neil Paterson was the last generation of cravat-wearers, he was a real gentleman with a big heart. He died after a typically valiant fight following a ruptured oesophagus in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary aged 82. He is survived by his wife Judy and sons Rob and Dirk.

Rob Paterson
Simpson (86)

Dirk Paterson
Simpson (89)

Strathallan & The Great War 1914-1918



hundreds of thousands of young British men took the King's shilling, never more to return to Blake's 'green and pleasant land'...

Strathallan was less than a year old as an academic institution when the Great War broke out at the end of the 1914 summer. The heady August bank holiday, with much of Britain enjoying a heat-wave, saw a declaration of war on Germany who had invaded Belgium as part of the Schlieffen Plan, a plan designed to end the war with France in a bare six weeks. Britain, as a signatory of the Treaty of London in 1839, designed to guarantee Belgian neutrality in the event of a European war, declared war on Germany and hastily assembled its Expeditionary Force to France's aid. Amidst a flood of volunteers and heady jingoism, hundreds of thousands of young British men, from all over the British Isles and Empire, took the King's shilling, never more to return to Blake's 'green and pleasant land'.

Strathallan, like so many schools in those days, was affected by the war in a variety of practical and inconvenient ways. By the end of 1915 the male staff, such as Mr Wilson and Mr Fretwell, were called up to serve in the army to be replaced by female teachers and refugees such as Mlle Fougainy and Monsieur Claes from north-eastern France and Belgium respectively. According to one Strathallian of the period, R B Lumsden, there were shortages of sugar and

meat, and potatoes were often replaced by rice. Harry Riley himself was called before military tribunals on several occasions to plead exemption from military service, ultimately granted on medical grounds – he was notoriously colour-blind and he had a knee injury from previous football-playing days. Both had prevented him from pursuing his original career choice, the Royal Navy.

According to our best source for these years, Stewart Gowans writing in 1948, Riley's mood for the day was often governed by the fluctuating fortunes of Allied troops on the battlefields of northern France – he hung a large map of Europe in the dining-room and moved the little flags backwards and forwards. It is said that the boys gave sighs of relief on the days the flags moved forward. And it is a little known tale that Riley was alleged to have been imprisoned briefly in Belgium in the summer of 1914. It is said that he was suspected of being a British spy – shades of a similar and perhaps apocryphal story from 1939.

Despite the shortage of male staff Strathallan flourished during the War years. The School's early expansion was impressive: in 1914 there were twenty-three boys on the roll, in 1915 thirty-two, and by 1916 there were sixty-five boys necessitating a preparatory department under the control of a Mrs. Holmes. 1917 saw a roll of ninety-six boys and by the end of the War in 1918 one hundred and twelve boys were enrolled at Strathallan. All of this meant, of course, that





further buildings would have to be leased or bought in order to create dorms, a dining room, classrooms and accommodation for staff. The lack of male teachers meant that Riley had to rely increasingly on his prefects to maintain discipline, the more so as the School's various houses were distributed all along Abercrombie drive in Bridge of Allan.

Much of the early success of Strathallan, as prefects, sporting giants and academic leaders, came from three particular pupils, all of whom were to give their lives during the Great War. James Gowans, George Mollison and Allan Harley are our only known fatalities of the First World War. All three were amongst the first boarding pupils when Harry Riley opened Strathallan School at Glenbrae, Sunnyside, Bridge of Allan in September 1913. All of them were Captains of School – James Gowans 1913-14, George Mollison 1914-15, Allan Harley 1916-17. All of them were sporting icons in the early history of the School at Bridge of Allan, but they were not in isolation in joining up. A number of fellow original Strathallians also joined up in their turn, surviving the war. The list we have is certainly not exhaustive but has been reconstructed as best can be done nearly a hundred years later.

In the later 1990s, the then archivists wrote to all the surviving Strathallians from the 1913-1945 period, receiving a terrific response to the request for information about their time at Strathallan. As, at the time, the history of the early school days relied to a very great extent on the information included in the Strathallian Magazine [begun 1926], they were concerned to recover as much as possible of the early history of the school. From this collection of reminiscences, together with scattered references throughout the 1920s and 1930s, we have been able to reconstruct with some certainty information for another eight Strathallians who fought in and survived the Great War. The tendency is for us to remember only those who died but the sacrifices of those others who took the King's shilling during the Great War deserve equal mention, and we are pleased now to put the record straight.

Name	Information
Charles B Binnie	One of Strathallan's initial day pupils at Bridge of Allan, he served in the Royal Marine Labour Corps, being discharged on account of his wounds on the thirtieth of May 1917. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were returned wounded. Labour Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods.
Tom Dalrymple	Like so many others, one of the original Day pupils at Bridge of Allan, he joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, as part of the 9th Battalion's Dumbartonshire Territorials, rising to the rank of Lieutenant.
Tom Ferguson	Amongst the first pupils, along with his brothers, at Bridge of Allan, he was the first to score a 50 for the Cricket XI. He served initially as a wireless operator, training along with another Strathallian, James Wotherspoon, at the Crystal Palace in London. Later he was said to have played rugby for the British Army against the Australian Army. He may have reached the rank of 2nd Lieutenant [Temp] in the Highland Light Infantry.
R H B Haldane	Renton Haldane, an original day pupil from 1913 entered the 6th (Renfrewshire) Battalion [Territorial] rising to the rank of Major.
Charles P Mollison	Younger brother of George Gilchrist Mollison [Died 1917], he reached the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Scots Fusiliers. After the war he went on to play cricket and rugby for the Army at the age of nineteen, whilst also winning the regimental boxing Championship.
Arthur B Terriss	One of the original day boys at Bridge of Allan, he became a Temporary Lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders.
Alexander Thomson	One of Strathallan's initial day pupils, he reached the rank of Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders and was reported for distinguished service which may have earned him a Military Cross.
James Wotherspoon	One of the early pupils at Bridge of Allan, he trained as a wireless operator, along with Tom Ferguson, at the Crystal Palace in London. He was attached to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.



Valuable as the contributions of these gentlemen were in their own way, it is entirely right and proper that we should honour the memory of those who gave the supreme gift of their own lives during the War. And so, each year on Armistice Day, the names of James Gowans, Allan Langlands Harley and George Mollison are read out along with those who died during the Second World War. These men, each unique in their talents and their contributions to the early history of Strathallan were ultimately responsible for fostering and engendering the spirit of duty and faithfulness that helped Strathallan grow from such small beginnings to a major public school.



James Gowans

**Lance-Corporal
Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
S9869**

That we know anything about these early years of Strathallan School is almost entirely due to James' brother Stewart who wrote an account of their time in Bridge of Allan. James had been educated first at Perth Academy, alongside Allan Langlands Harley, but had moved with him and his brother Stewart to Strathallan in September 1913. We know that James was a slow-left arm bowler in the earliest cricket side, not to mention the first Captain of School, but he distinguished himself in passing the Cambridge Senior Examination with Honours in December 1913, going on to finish second in Britain in the London Matric in early 1914.

Bolstered by this impressive academic background he went up to King's College London in the autumn of 1914, entering the Engineering Faculty, and improving his burgeoning academic standing by winning the Tennant Prize for Geology in his first year. According to his obituary in the King's College Review, 'his modesty of disposition gained the affection of both Staff and Students'.

At the end of the university year in 1915 he joined up as a private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He served with the Battalion in France, being shot through the knee. According to accounts he lay in no-man's land for over fifteen hours before being rescued, subsequently contracting pneumonia. Repatriated to recover from his wounds, he died at Tooting Military hospital on the 6th of June 1917, aged twenty. His body was returned to Perth and buried in the Wellshill Cemetery.





George Gilchrist Mollison

Gunner, Royal Field Artillery
S126292

Another of the original boarding pupils in Bridge of Allan days he, together with his younger brother Charles, was a member of the victorious cricket and football sides of 1913-15. He was wicketkeeper in the Cricket XI and was appointed Captain of School in 1914-15. He became a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery, probably in 1916, seeing action in the Ypres area where he died, probably in the Passchendaele offensive, on the 24th of September 1917. He is buried in the Klein Vierstraat British Cemetery, 6 kilometres south-west of Ypres on the southern part of the Salient. He was only twenty when he died.



Allan Langlands Harley

Private
Seaforth Highlanders
S/42003

That we know a little more about Allan Harley, is almost entirely due to an article that appeared in the Perthshire Advertiser in 1918.

Educated firstly at Perth Academy, he later attended Strathallan as one of the original boarders in 1913, becoming Captain of School in 1916-17, with a distinguished academic and sporting record. He had passed the Junior Cambridge Examination in 1915, finishing second in the British Empire at his branch of study, then passed the Senior Cambridge in the first rank, at 16, the following year. During his last year the School eleven won every match during the cricket and football seasons. He was a great favourite with the boys in the School, especially the younger ones, and on going up to the 'Varsity' he was 'chaired' to the station by his admiring School fellows.

In 1917 he was due to go up to Edinburgh University to study medicine but was instead called up for war service at age 18. Enrolling as a private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, after training he was seconded to the Seaforth Highlanders who saw action in the area near Arras and the Somme in the latter years of the war. Barely three days after landing in France Allan was listed as missing in action. His death is registered as 9th May 1918. He was buried in the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery near Souchez in France. He was only 18.

RHF



These men were ultimately responsible for fostering and engendering the spirit of duty and faithfulness that helped Strathallan grow from such small beginnings to a major public school.

Burns Supper

Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware.....

So wrote Robert Burns in his *Address to the Haggis*. And nothing “skinking” – either literally or metaphorically – was served up at the Annual Sixth Form Burns Supper. (“Skinking”, I should say, means “thinly diluted, weak, wishy-washy”.)

The Burns Supper, initiated by the Headmaster in the year of his arrival at Strathallan, is now one of the highlights on the Sixth Form's social calendar. For many attending, it may well be their first experience of such an event, so it is important for the Chairman to put each separate item on the programme into its cultural and historical context.

The guests rose to welcome the “top table”, then Chairman, Mrs Irene McFarlane explained the significance of the welcoming of the haggis, which was duly “piped in” by Harry Richards.

Mr Anthony Glasgow addressed the haggis with such dramatic flourish that even those guests not familiar with the poem would have no doubt as to its meaning. After the Selkirk Grace, delivered by the Chaplain, the traditional Bill o' Fare was served.

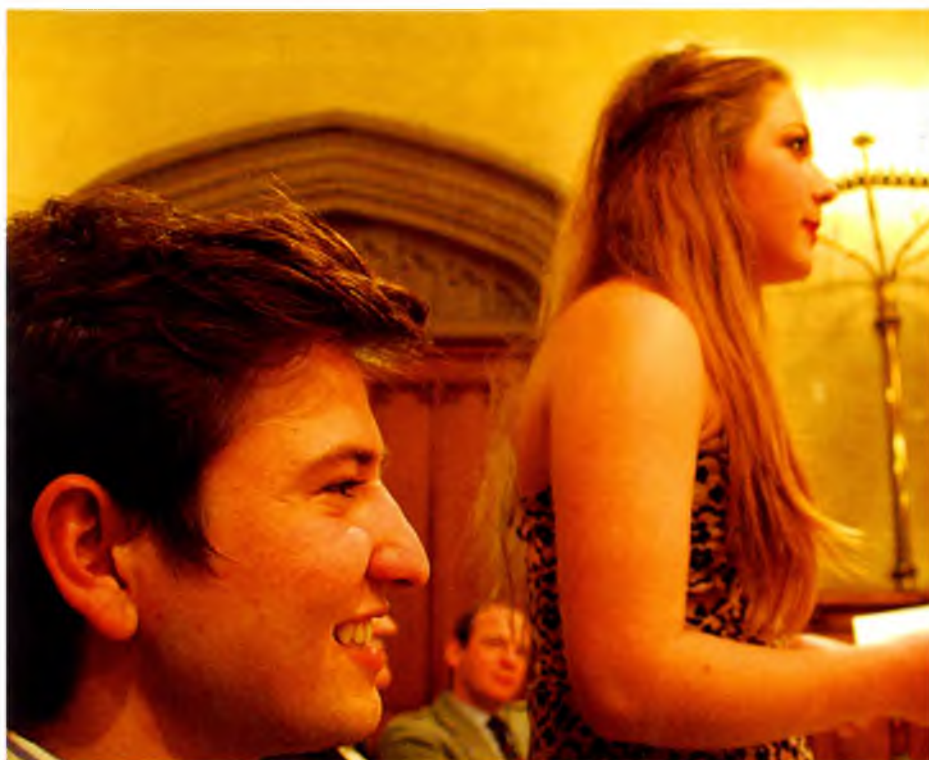
“The Nicht's Ongauns” began with the *Immortal Memory*, the traditional speech which should give either an overview of the life and works of the poet or could concentrate on a specific aspect. Adeeb Naasan chose to explore the inclusiveness of Burns' work, highlighting the bard's view of all men as being equal; this Adeeb brought up to the present day by drawing a contrast with countries where there is discrimination and torture for those whose views do not fit in with the “party line”.

The following speeches are almost invariably of a more informal, lighter and more humorous nature. Ours fitted the bill perfectly. While including ample allusion to the poet, they added “local references”, anecdotes from the life and characters at Strathallan. Sandy Cook gave the Toast to the Lassies to which Millie Galashan replied. Alasdair Wood delivered the Toast to Strathallan, to which Mr David Barnes replied.

Interspersed throughout the evening, there were instrumental selections, and a song from Edward Lau.

After a Vote of Thanks from Mhairi Bannerman, the evening concluded in the traditional fashion with what must be Burns' most famous creation – *Auld Lang Syne*.

IIMcF



Prizewinners

Dux	Tim Heaney
"The Smith Cup for Head Boy, The Houston Prize for All Round Merit, UVI A Level Geography, UVI A Level German	Alasdair Wood
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl, The Scanlan Cup for Merit, UVI A Level Design & Technology, UVI A Level French	Mhairi Bannerman
The Draper Cup for Deputy Head Boy	Jack Somerville
The Draper Cup for Deputy Head Girl	Yasmine Forbes
The Thomson Salver for Achievement, UVI Higher Biology	Torii Douglas Song
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution	Santiago Garcia Serrano
The Hayward Award for Citizenship	Scott Haldane
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman	Nicholas Farrar
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman	Olivia Woodes Rogers
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Anna McNeill
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	Lewis Watson
The Lord Kincaid Prize for English, The Haviston Broadsword Prize, UVI A Level Art	Lucy Garvie
The University of Dundee English as an Additional Language Prize	Brian Chen
The Richard Moffat Prize for History, UVI A Level Classics	Alexander Falconer
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics, UVI A Level Physics	William Bradley
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize, The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings, Quaich CCF Prize	Steven Segaud
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	Lucy Crabb
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music, Strathallan Travelling Scholarship (Music)	Eleanor Kemp
The Rick Trophy Army Prize	Robbie Bussey
Strathallan Travelling Scholarship (Modern Languages)	Amy Grant
The William Pasfield Salver for Music, UVI A Level Music	Andrew Blair
Royal Navy Section Prize, UVI A Level Biology, UVI A Level Chemistry	Flora Hay
The Choir Prize	Hannah Johnstone
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	None
Young Enterprise	Gaydelia Talipova

UVI Form Prizes

UVI A Level Business Studies	Robbie Blackburn
UVI A Level Computing	Sophie Fraser
UVI A Level Latin	James Gray
UVI A Level Spanish	Fraser Doig
UVI Higher Business Management	Ruairidh Hunter
UVI Higher Chemistry	Calum MacDonald
UVI Higher Design and Technology	Matt Hunter
UVI Higher Economics	Douglas Stephenson
UVI Higher English	Nicki Cochrane
UVI Higher French	Alex Bougrov
UVI Higher Geography	Clare Sterritt
UVI Higher History	Murdo McAndrew
UVI Higher Mathematics	Alex Murray
UVI Higher Music	Kirsty Glasgow
UVI Higher Physical Education	David John Innes
UVI Higher RMPS	Hannah Dibnah
UVI Higher Spanish	Christopher King

Lower Sixth Prizes

LVI Art	Callum Tod
LVI Biology	Sophie Burdett
LVI Business Studies	Craig Rintoul
LVI Chemistry, LVI Geography	Olwyn Jenkins
LVI Computing	Daniel Adams
LVI Design Technology	Adam Shakor
LVI Economics, LVI French	Ina Drouven
LVI English, LVI History, LVI Latin	Frances Myatt
LVI German	Calum Dodd
LVI Mathematics	Edward Lau
LVI Music	Katie Rutherford
LVI Physical Education	George Horne
LVI Physics	Stoyan Dimitrov
LVI RMPS	Kirsty Muir
LVI Spanish	Zoe Macnaughton

Fifth Form Prizes

Vth Form Art, Vth Form Music	Sarah Nicol
Vth Form Biology	Motoko Otomo
Vth Form Business Studies, Vth Form Computing, Vth Form Mathematics, Vth Form Physics, Vth Form Spanish	Robbie MacDiarmid
Vth Form Chemistry	Finlay Kettles
Vth Form Design Technology	Rory Wood
Vth Form English, Vth Form French, Vth Form History, Vth Form Latin	Josie Dibnah
Vth Form Geography	Robyn Somerville
Vth Form German	Katharine Griffiths

Fourth Form Prizes

IVth Form Art	Lewis Coutts
IVth Form Biology, IVth Form Design & Technology, IVth Form History	James Burdett
IVth Form Business Studies, IVth Form Chemistry	Tony Tong
IVth Form Computing, IVth Form Mathematics, IVth Form Physics, IVth Form Spanish	Finlay Stewart
IVth Form English	Caitlin Beveridge
IVth Form French	Katharine Spalding
IVth Form Geography	Nicholas Heaney
IVth Form German	Alexandra Stasovskaya
IVth Form Latin	Hermes Manos
IVth Form Music	Katharina Weyde

Third Form Academic Prize

Adam Bush
Delphine Mahos
Eilidh Ross
Josh Sweeney
Melissa Davy-Ericson
Pip Stirrat
Zoë Morris

Charities

This has been an incredibly busy year for the Charities Committee with a huge range of fund-raising activities taking place in the school organised by, or suggested by, a wide range of pupils.

The Kenya Committee also fund-raise for their visit to Kenya; raising money to buy stationery and sports equipment, they have a representative on the Charities Committee.

Every so often a group of pupils arrive at a Charities Committee Meeting full of enthusiastic plans for a charity event. This year two such groups appeared; Doga Makiura had plans for a Variety Show to raise funds for ASHA for Education and Lucy Garvie, Adeeb Nasaan and Flora Hay arrived with plans for a Fashion Show to raise money for Rachel House near Kinross. Both events were timed to take place in the Spring term. Both teams had their committees and enthusiastic supporters.

During the Autumn term money was raised for three different charities. At House Music the collection at the end of the performances was in aid of DebRA, a charity for children with Butterfly Skin. It was suggested by Izzy Spence (Ri2). We were able to send a cheque for £750.46 to the charity. Non-Uniform Day was dedicated to the work of Samu Social, a charity chosen by Adeeb Nasaan. Adeeb had spent a few weeks of his summer holiday working with this charity in Egypt. £782.60 was sent to this charity; a humanitarian emergency service supporting homeless people in desperate need. The annual St Andrew's Kilt and Rugby Shirt Day raised money for two charities. Every year we donate money to The Sandpiper Trust, this year £305 was raised. The other half of the money raised and the collection at the Junior Carol Service was donated to PKAVS. In February Helen MacKinnon came to give a talk about the work of PKAVS in Perth and to be presented with a cheque for £650.

The Fashion Show committee paid a visit to Rachel House to meet the dedicated team of people who run the hospice. It was a very moving visit and really brought home to us all how important Rachel House is for parents of sick children and the children themselves. Work on a room dedicated to teenagers was in the process of completion when we visited. The committee decided to focus their money raising on funding a teenagers' weekend at Rachel House. Their fund raising got off to a good start with a collection of £1591.74 at the end of the Musical Showcase Concert in Perth Concert Hall.



The SVS committee organised some very popular doughnut days in school, selling doughnuts from Fisher and Donaldson to jump start their fundraising. The Strathallan Variety Show took place at half term in the Spring Term. A full house watched a range of acts perform: from solo singers such as Rosie Beech, Justin Chan and Edward Lau to a pupil band singing Jonny Be Good and John Dew playing pipes. The highlight of the evening for many was Mr Kitson performing his magic shirt removing trick. He successfully removed Jack Somerville's shirt in one go. Mr Maclean then suggested he should try it on the Headmaster. This didn't quite go to plan! Mr Kitson is still working here, much to the surprise of the Riley pupils who were quite certain he would be in a lot of trouble... In total just over £800 was raised for ASHA.

The Fashion Show was held at Gleneagles Hotel in March and was a hugely successful event. Along with the sale of tickets, the silent auction and the craft stalls an amazing £14,000 was raised for CHAS and Rachel House in particular. The event was a credit to the pupils involved but would not have happened without the support of Mrs Aileen Wilson during the year and the help of Mrs Lisa Leslie in the run up to the event.

In May Riley House held a sponsored run in aid of Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals works to provide children in poverty with a midday meal at school; many of these children would otherwise go without. On a lovely sunny afternoon about 50 pupils appeared, many in fancy dress, to run round the PE run as many times as they could in the time allowed. The cake stall was overwhelmed with baking and was a big hit with the pupils, many thanks to all those who contributed! There were raffle prizes aplenty; the iPod shuffle being the item most wanted to win. George Culley ran the most laps overall; a total of 11 laps of the course. Riley raised over £2000 for this charity. They also collected and filled 40 school bags for this charity. These will go to children in poor countries where ordinary things such as jotters and pencils will be prized possessions. On the 27th June David Johnston, a representative from Mary's Meals, came to talk to





The Fashion Show was held at Gleneagles Hotel in March and was a hugely successful event.

Riley House and to be presented with a cheque. The collection at the end of the Riley Show was also donated to Mary's Meals.

Adeeb Nasaan gave a presentation in Assembly on the work of the charity Scotland4Syria; a charity working with refugees from this war torn country. Adeeb spent part of the summer of 2012 working with this charity on the Jordan Syria border. He raised £118 selling wrist bands at lunch and tea.

A Non-uniform Day, with the theme of Red, White and Blue, was held on June 8th in aid of Blind Veterans UK. Cameron Hirst's (R4) father and group of service men walked the 100km from London to Brighton in aid of this charity and Cameron asked if we could help his father raise money. The charity raises money to support ex-servicemen and women blinded in action. A cheque for £700 was handed over to Staff Sergeant Hirst when he gave a talk in Assembly and presented the school with a framed photograph of the team.

A big thank you goes not only to the pupils and staff whose hard work has enabled these events to take place but also to the pupils who have paid to dress up, wear their kilts, run laps of the PE run or watch their peers perform on stage. A great many charities have benefited from their generosity and the generosity of parents this year.

KS-J



Staff Valete



R.H.F

1992-2012

Fitz', resplendent in a brand new pair of boots, slid helplessly but with an air of pained majesty into a mud-filled trench.

"One up to us, I think" remarked Michael Chaussy, a pupil from Germany

The place- the Somme

Time – October half term.

Typical. Once again RHF was giving up his holiday time.

Throughout his career at Strathallan Fitz has given unstintingly of his time. Twenty years in the History Department, ten as head of it; twenty years as a Nicol tutor, most of them as senior and resident; fifteen years running First XI cricket; countless hours refereeing soccer and rugby, umpiring hockey and cricket. Sporting tours, academic trips..... the list is endless. He has even presided from the pulpit.

His approach may, at times, have been a trifle confrontational (he is, after all, an Ulsterman). His use of the whistle may have been a touch stentorian, but always combined with knowledge and scrupulous fairness. His supervision of nets may have had just a sensation of the proprietorial but perfection was ever the aim. In the classroom or on the games field he could be hard on those he felt had under-performed, but never as hard as he was on himself.

Fine writer, serious academic and talented musician, there has always been an air of permanence about Fitz (he has always been about forty. Can anyone think of him as a child?). Now, new opportunities beckon and a monumental presence moves on. His will be a hard act to follow.

Robert Proctor



Kate Wilkinson

We were very fortunate that Kate Wilkinson chose to come to teach at Strathallan and equally so that we managed to hang on to her for seven years.

'Wilko' is the type of staff member every Headmaster would wish to recruit. Totally dedicated, thoroughly professional, possessing a genuine passion for her subject (who wouldn't, it is Geography!), Kate felt it completely natural that she should support and encourage the young people with whom she worked in every aspect of their development.

An outstanding Resident Tutor in Thornbank, she coached the U14 Rugby Team, Netball and Tennis throughout her time with us. Who will ever forget the time she was playing Touch Rugby with the Senior boys in preparation for the 2006 Australia Tour. Not at all competitive, Wilko temporarily 'forgot' that it was touch and dropped the shoulder on one of the more high profile players. As he lay dazed on the hallowed turf of 'Big Acre', the silence was deafening. Needless to say, from that moment on, Kate was very much an integral part of the fabric of Strathallan. Whether it was organising Ski Trips, working on the Strathallan Kenya Project, running the Icelandic Adventures, organising the Staff Socials or going that extra mile to ensure that her class members and tutees had all the support they required, Kate could be relied upon to give it her all.

Woe betide anyone who tried to challenge her at 'Articulate' or 'Jungle Jam'. Many wear the scars of defeat.

Above all, we have enjoyed Kate's humanity, energy and wonderful sense of enjoyment of life. Stewart's gain as Ms. Wilkinson becomes Mrs McMillan – Wilkinson (or is it Wilkinson – McMillan? Now there's a discussion it would be best not to be involved in) is our great loss. We know Kate will be a regular visitor and she is always assured of a warm welcome.

DJB



Clare Flanagan

2007-2012

Clare Flanagan came to Strathallan in 2007 and being responsible for German immediately made an impact in the Modern Languages department. A consummate professional with superb language skills and a strict yet kind, no-nonsense approach, she brought out the best in her pupils who achieved great results year after year. Clare was very popular with pupils because underneath the calm and unruffled exterior they sensed real concern for their progress and welfare. Her one time outburst, "I just love my 4th Form" caused bewilderment among the more jaded of our colleagues, who were genuinely worried about her, clearly waning, sanity. Passionate about her subjects and German culture in particular, she sacrificed many a holiday week to run the German exchange with our partner school in Trier.

As a colleague, you could always count on her for support and a good chat. She coached Tennis and Curling, did Public Service and regularly helped out with the country dancing. During her last two years, she took on additional responsibility as Assistant Examinations Officer.

In Woodlands, Clare tutored L6 and Third Form groups, and during her evening duties she was there to help the girls with any difficulties they might have had. Always patient and encouraging, she was a very good listener and gently helped the girls to arrive at the right solution themselves. If you were competitive, you definitely wanted to be in Clare's team during Friday Quiz Night because she knew an awful lot about virtually everything.

Clare had an amazing breadth of talents and interests outside school as well: playing the piano, curling, golf and skiing, reading and travelling, all wrapped up in an elegantly-dressed, slender figure (when I think about it, I should have hated her, really!), but the thing I liked most about her was her wicked sense of humour. Having asked colleagues for anecdotes of Clare, I have been reliably informed that there are plenty but that they are unfortunately not suitable for publication in a venerable institution like the Strathallian Magazine (*Shame. Ed*).

We wish Clare all the best for her new life as Head of Modern Languages among the bonny hills of Fort William where she will enjoy evenings and weekends off (who wants them anyway???) but, we hope, also miss the friends she has left behind at Strathallan.

TA



Alasdair McMorrine

My first memory of Alasdair was within the first week of his arrival. An eager pupil asked him confidently what he thought of his drawing. He replied "Simply a travesty." I sensed then that work might become interesting and indeed it did. His passion for his subject was infectious, for staff, pupils and visitors alike. He had an outstanding ability to encourage and gently coax work from us all, which exceeded our expectations. His mastery of a wide range of media was and remains impressive and in keeping with a talented artist. In addition to contributing to innumerable prestigious exhibitions throughout the course of his career, Alasdair took his academic engagement with both the subject the school with an intense and high-browed seriousness and held down a post as Moderator for both GCSE and A-level Art.

Imperfection quite simply was not tolerated and the editor of this magazine can well remember receiving articles purportedly from V Formers giving their nascent impressions of European architecture after one of the department's many trips to classical Italy. As analyses they could easily have been written by Paddy Leigh Fermor and it rapidly dawned upon him that, prior to submission, they had been fed mercilessly through the McMorrine shredder to re-emerge as something which was, in his view, fit for publication.

His knowledge of his subject was extensive but he also had other interests, His enthusiasm for and knowledge of Scottish history and culture, music, poetry, mythology, fishing, sailing, film, travel, Gothic architecture, an intriguing variety of dance, cooking and an irritating habit of remaining immaculate in the midst of chaos will never be forgotten by anyone who, even momentarily, passed through the department. But most of all, his outrageous sense of humour was addictive and is greatly missed.

So, after eighteen years of hard work and dedication, the drawing at Strathallan did indeed cease to be "a travesty". Many young artists flourished and will hold the memory of his teaching in great affection. We all eagerly await the output from L'Atelier McMorrine on the banks of Loch Laggan.

DSH

Valete

Forename (Firstname)	Init's	Surname	Boarding House	Leaving Year Group	Enrolment Date	Leaving Date
Hollie	K	Ainslie	Woodlands	S4	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Lucy	A	Ambrose	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Mhairi	C	Bannerman	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Molly	R	Barnes	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2005	01/07/2012
Robbie	M	Blackburn	Nicol	S6	19/04/2007	01/07/2012
Andrew	A	Blair	Freeland	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Alexandre		Bougrov	Simpson	S6	19/02/2008	01/07/2012
Nicholas	A	Bradley	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
William	R	Bradley	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Robert	C J	Bussey	Simpson	S6	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
Jessica	B K	Bussey	Thornbank	S2	01/09/2009	21/04/2012
Ellie	E M	Campbell	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Lisa	J	Carmichael	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Hui Hong		Chan	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Kim		Chan	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Pak Heng		Chan	Nicol	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Jun Hao		Chen	Simpson	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
King Wang	K	Cheung	Freeland	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Chun Kwan		Chu	Freeland	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Nicola	S	Cochrane	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Jack	C	Collins	Nicol	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Abigail	J	Cowe	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Torquil	J	Curran	Freeland	S6	22/04/2004	01/07/2012
Hannah		Dibnah	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Fraser	W A	Doig	Nicol	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Amye	R	Dolby	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Thomas		Donnelly	Nicol	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Torii	P	Douglas -Song	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Nicole	S	Drechsler	Glenbrae	S4	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
Tom	V	Eller	Simpson	S5	07/09/2011	30/03/2012
Alexander	E R	Falconer	Simpson	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Nicholas	A G	Farrar	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Blair	U	Forbes	Freeland	S6	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
Yasmine	A	Forbes	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Sophie	J	Fraser	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012

Forename (Firstname)	Init's	Surname	Boarding House	Leaving Year Group	Enrolment Date	Leaving Date
Santiago		Garcia Serrano	Simpson	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Lucy	A	Garvie	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Pablo		Gil	Freeland	S3	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Euan	B	Gilbert	Simpson	S5	01/09/2009	02/09/2011
Savanna	E	Gill	Glenbrae	S4	20/04/2010	01/07/2012
Kirsty	A	Glasgow	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Darryl	J	Goldie	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Christian		Goldkuhle	Ruthven	S5	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Angus	F	Gray	Freeland	S3	27/09/2011	01/07/2012
George	J	Gray	Simpson	S6	01/09/2005	01/07/2012
Jasper	B H	Gray	Freeland	S6	01/09/2004	04/11/2011
Charlotte	M G	Guest	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Angus	D	Guthrie	Ruthven	S6	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Charlie	J D	Hall	Simpson	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Reece		Hay	Ruthven	S5	01/09/2008	03/07/2011
Flora	M R	Hay	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Qian Wei		He	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Ryan	A R	Hornby	Freeland	S4	15/03/2010	23/11/2011
Matthew		Hunter	Ruthven	S6	07/09/2005	01/07/2012
Ruairidh		Hunter	Simpson	S6	07/09/2005	01/07/2012
Amelia	L	Inglis	Woodlands	S4	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
David John		Innes	Freeland	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Natasha	M	Jaworski	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Lauren		Johnson	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Jake	A	Johnston	Ruthven	S2	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Hannah	S	Johnstone	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Eleanor	B	Kemp	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Callum	J	Kettles	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Christopher	J	King	Freeland	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Liam	R H	Kitchin	Freeland	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Martin	J	Kreilinger	Freeland	S3	07/09/2011	30/03/2012
Siu Sum		Lee	Nicol	S6	01/09/2003	01/07/2012
Dominik		Liedtke	Nicol	S4	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Cristian		Livadaru	Simpson	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Maggie	C	Luck	Woodlands	S6	08/01/2007	01/07/2012

Forename (Firstname)	Init'ls	Surname	Boarding House	Leaving Year Group	Enrolment Date	Leaving Date
William	A	Lyburn	Nicol	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Calum	R	Macdonald	Ruthven	S6	21/04/2009	01/07/2012
Emily	C	MacLachlan	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Ashleigh	L G	Macmillan	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Abigail	A	Macnaughton	Thornbank	S2	19/04/2011	01/07/2012
Zoe		Macnaughton	Thornbank	S5	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Doga		Makiura	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Ka Nam		Man	Nicol	S6	07/09/2005	01/07/2012
Bogdan	D	Marcu	Nicol	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Cameron	D	Maurin	Nicol	S6	07/09/2011	01/09/2012
Murdo	L	McAndrew	Nicol	S6	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Conor	P	McCarthy	Nicol	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Callum	W	McLean	Freeland	S3	01/09/2006	13/12/2011
Anna	C	McNeill	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Hamish		Mitchell	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Joshua	B	Morris	Simpson	S5	01/09/2005	01/07/2012
Alexander	M	Murray	Freeland	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Flawia	A	Muziewicz	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Adeeb	P	Naasan	Nicol	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Marina		Otano Gonzalez	Riley	P7	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Ming Long		Pak	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Paula		Penas	Glenbrae	S2	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Ewan	M	Pirrie	Freeland	S6	05/01/2009	01/07/2012
Eugenia		Ramos	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Jack	A	Rathborne	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2007	02/05/2012
Matthew	M S	Ross	Simpson	S6	31/10/2010	01/07/2012
Charles	A	Rutherford	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2004	01/07/2012
Blair	M	Sangster	Simpson	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Julia		Schmitt	Thornbank	S4	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Toby	N	Schofield	Ruthven	S6	07/09/2005	01/07/2012
David		Schuldes	Nicol	S5	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Rachel	M	Seed	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Steven	J C	Segaud	Nicol	S6	19/04/2007	01/07/2012
Hao		Shi	Simpson	S6	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
Sandie	E T	Smillie	Glenbrae	S4	01/09/2007	01/09/2012

Forename (Firstname)	Init'ls	Surname	Boarding House	Leaving Year Group	Enrolment Date	Leaving Date
Jack	I	Somerville	Simpson	S6	07/09/2005	01/07/2012
Douglas	F	Stephenson	Freeland	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Clare	M	Sterritt	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2006	01/07/2012
Stefaniya		Strizhova	Glenbrae	S4	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Roxanne	D S	Tabourel	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Maya	L	Taylor	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Cameron	J	Taylor- Smith	Simpson	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Mairi	P	Topham	Thornbank	S4	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
Gorka		Torras Lauzirika	Freeland	S2	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Justin	P M	Tsang	Freeland	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Abigail	L	Tulloch	Thornbank	S4	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Calumn	R	Twaddle	Simpson	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Javier		Uriach Dasca	Nicol	S2	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Rebecca	N	Vallot	Glenbrae	S4	17/04/2008	01/07/2012
Alexander	J	Vine	Freeland	S6	01/09/2005	01/07/2012
Leonhard		von Hof	Freeland	S5	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Erik		Wand	Simpson	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Jiayi		Wang	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Lewis	R	Watson	Nicol	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Sarah		Weyde	Thornbank	S3	07/09/2011	01/07/2012
Rosie	D	Williams	Woodlands	S4	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Georgia	E	Wilson	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2010	01/07/2012
Alasdair	R T	Wood	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
Olivia	D	Wodes Rogers	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
James	T	Wordie	Simpson	S6	01/09/2007	01/07/2012
James	F	Wright	Ruthven	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Xueting		Xiao	Thornbank	S6	01/09/2009	01/07/2012
Wen Lan		Yau	Woodlands	S6	01/09/2008	01/07/2012
Yuling		Zeng	Glenbrae	S6	01/09/2009	01/07/2012

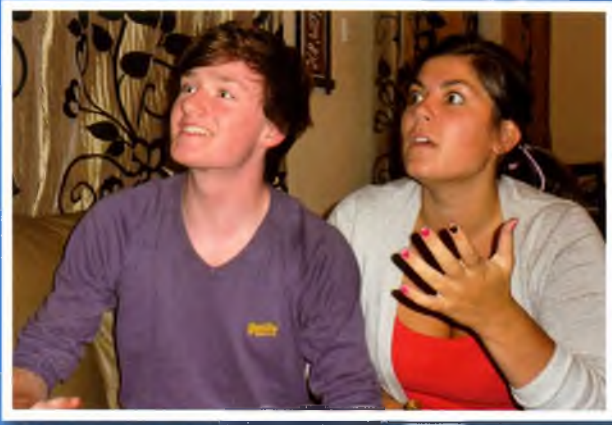
The Ball



Throughout the year, the Leavers' Ball had been eagerly anticipated, nobody knew what to expect, but we were far from disappointed on the night. The 'revamp' of the Ball was a huge success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils, parents and teachers alike, though naturally, this had nothing to do with the cash bar! Tom Fleming and PK's efforts on this front were greatly appreciated.

Everything, from the marquee to the dresses, was stunning, but was still put in the shade by Adeeb's white suit! We found the iron discipline and icy reserve of the Sodexo team of waiters admirable and the food was even more impressive. The meal was followed by some Celidh dancing, many thanks go to the fantastic band. We loved the Motown style band, The Drifters, in particular their impressive rendition of the Love Train.

We cannot thank the Ball Committee, Mr Barnes and the Strathallian Club enough for making the 2012 Leavers' Ball such a special occasion; it was a lovely send-off.



"OMG, you mean they're sending you to Kenya as well, Robbie!"



Manc Gangnam Style



"Sorry, can you speak up a bit?"



Mrs MacBain tries out her Stevie Wonder impression.



Adam punches above his weight.



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