



Hockey
Winners



The Royal Bank
of Scotland
Art Awards



Merchiston
Community
Project

Reporting on Watson's Sabbatical Programme

WATSON'S SABBATICAL programme has been running now since 1996 and has provided many colleagues with diverse opportunities to pursue their interests. Projects have been varied: from research and writing about specific learning difficulties, developing language skills programmes to literary research. All have had direct relevance to the classroom at Watson's, with the added bonus of re-energising those lucky enough to have sabbaticals. The benefits are not just for those who have had such an opportunity: ideas, intellectual or otherwise, are shared with colleagues, and thus benefiting a wide range of people. Colleagues who have had sabbaticals hope that the programme continues for many years: it is regarded with envy by many institutions, both educational and other.

Mrs Susan Dick, who teaches in the Upper Primary, has been on sabbatical in Tuni, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, South East India since February. She has been working with 200 destitute Dalit children. The Dalit people are ostracised from the rest of society – they are considered as 'disposable' and denied basic human rights.

She is working with the charity Scottish Love in Action, a charity which originated from the Q11 Youth Group from Greenbank Parish Church. In 1999 they ventured into Tuni and helped the Dalit people build a



Three of Mrs Dick's pupils in Tuni.

home and school for the children. On their return to Scotland the group realised this venture was a far bigger commitment than they first thought and felt they could not leave it unsupported. The project developed into a Scottish Registered Trust, thus becoming an ongoing commitment. The work of raising funds to keep children fed, clothed and given a basic education is continuous and somewhat daunting. Any support you can give will be much appreciated.

Mrs Libby Wylie, APT Physics, writes below about her plans for a sabbatical this spring.

On 4 April I leave Scotland on my summer term sabbatical. I have been offered a voluntary position at The Australian Institute of Marine Science, which is situated on the North East coast of Australia near Townsville. The Institute is a prestigious government funded research centre which has a lively programme of visiting academics and politicians from around the world. It is at the forefront of research into the factors affecting the deterioration of the world's marine ecosystems.

While there I will participate in their scientific research programme and help in the Institute's Science Communication Section. My research will involve the monitoring and analysis of changes in the life systems of the Great Barrier Reef. My post with the Communication Section will entail improving the public's awareness and understanding of science and the environment. The Centre could become a useful link for Watson's pupils who are organising a Gap year.

While there I hope to organise a meeting with Watsonians who have moved to Queensland. Through the Development Office I have already been in touch with one Watsonian who lives in Townsville.



Philip Paterson, Head Boy, and Morag Rennie, Head Girl, are pictured above with Founder's Day speaker Martha Kearney.

MERCHISTON COMMUNITY PROJECT

ON 14 JANUARY, the Senior School was host to two local artists as part of Merchiston Community Council's Environmental Arts Initiative. Karen Clulow, an artist and sculptor whose own works are constructed from recycled billboard hoardings, enthused S1 pupils with a workshop based around the concept of the creation of a sculpture or artwork from waste materials. Objects on loan from the National Museum of Scotland and slides of her own works stimulated a frenzy of creative construction among the pupils. Ron Butlin, a poet and writer whose work featured recently at the



A frenzy of creative construction

winning an art commendation for their sculpture 'Someone who drops rubbish is rubbish' and to Becci Crook for winning a poetry prize for her riddles 'Cloud', 'Tree' and 'Ozone'.

Twenty-two Junior School pupils from P6 and P7 took part in this project involving local schools. The children were fortunate to attend two workshops – one run by Ron Butlin and Karen Clulow.

Following the workshops the children wrote poems. They also did some art work using clean rubbish. They made a variety of objects ranging from a handbag made from drink cans with a paperclip handle, a kilt made from Capri-Sun cartons and jewellery.

The children attended a reception at Fountainpark where the local councillors and MSP Mike Pringle encouraged recycling of litter. All participants were commended for their efforts but special mention was given to Catriona McIntyre and Jack Ambrose for their writing, and to Craig Fairfoull, Jonathan Watson, David Thornon, Matthew Rankin, Fiona Trew and Jessica Ouston for their art work.



MSP Mike Pringle pictured with Becci Crook, Cassie Steven, Camila Perna and Imogen Clark

Edinburgh International Book Festival, ran a workshop for another group of S1. He teased and tormented the pupils' brains with a series of riddles written by children of various ages before challenging the students to create their own riddles with an environmental angle. Finished pieces were forwarded along with entries from other schools within Merchiston. Congratulations to Cassie Steven, Imogen Clark, and Camila Perna (all S1) for

Rencontres Théâtrales

by Mr R M Slater

ONCE AGAIN, record numbers of Watson's pupils participated in the annual French Drama Competition organised by the Institut Français d'Ecosse: six plays from S1, S2, S3 and S5 with 70 pupils. Mostly the plays were made up of a series of sketches based on the pupils' own ideas: magic shows, French rap, dance, poetry, games-shows, quizzes, audience participation, and even some classical 17th century drama (*Molière's Bourgeois Gentilhomme* from S5) – a real festival of talent, which was rewarded with lots of prizes. Particular thanks to Caroline Brunner, our Swiss assistant, who was involved in all of the plays: indeed she even had to act in one when one of the key participants fell ill at the last minute! Caroline is hoping to make a career in the theatre. When she's rich and famous we'll look back and say, "We worked with her!"



Photograph Courtesy of Paul Dodds

Lydia McDonald (S5) won second prize in the senior section of The Royal Bank of Scotland Art Awards for her painting 'Still Life With Plant Forms'

**Check out our
Virtual Tour at**
www.gwc.org.uk/virtualtour

Development Matters

Foundation Day

Wednesday 17 March was Foundation Day at Watson's. Senior School pupils had the opportunity to 'dress down' and contribute to the George Watson's Family Foundation. Graham Unwin (S6), Julia Graham (S4) and Lyndsey McGhee (S2), the pupils who helped us to launch the Foundation in 1997, were joined on the stage at morning assembly by Fergus Todd (P7). Fergus will continue to help us communicate the work of the Foundation to pupils after Graham leaves School.

Spring Fling Ceilidh

The Spring Fling Ceilidh in aid of the Enablement Fund took place on Saturday 13 March. The Fund is dedicated to giving physically disabled children the opportunity of a Watson's education. It could provide equipment, for example a motorised wheelchair, staff support or any other facility which would enable a disabled child to be educated here. To date, £24,289.75 has been raised for the fund and this will grow to over £33,000 with the proceeds from the Ceilidh. If you know of anyone who may have siblings or friends who may benefit from the fund, please ask the family to contact the School Admissions Secretary. We would like to say a big thank you to the organisers, whose volunteer efforts have been outstanding, and also thank everyone who supported the event.

House Points

	Junior School	Senior School
Cockburn Greyfriars	799	204
Lauriston	839	166
Melville Ogilvie	859	191
Preston Falconhall	864	149

Whether you want to develop skills in rugby or hockey, or simply join in and have fun at the Multi-Activity Camp, check out the Galleon programme for summer 2004. Book now for:

Multi-Activity – weeks commencing 28 June, 5 July and 12 July (for P1 upwards)

Hockey – week commencing 9 August (Junior School) and 16 August (Senior School)

Rugby – week commencing 16 August (Junior School and Senior School).

For further information, please contact the Galleon staff on 0131 446 6066 or visit www.gwc.org.uk for details of the full range of Galleon activities.



Congratulations

Art

Lydia McDonald (S5) won second prize in the senior section of The Royal Bank of Scotland Art Awards for her painting 'Still Life With Plant Forms'.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The following pupils gained Awards in the second half of the Autumn Term. **Silver Award:** Matthew Pinnons, Andrew Robertson, Morag Rennie (all S6), Sarah Welch, Lindsey Wilkojc, Alison Forbes, Andrew Preston, Malcolm Duncan, Nicholas Boonman, Simon Murray, Sam Volans (all S5). **Bronze Award:** Jessica M Brown (S5), Mairi Cameron, Jenny Chambers, Alice Tarbuck, Louise Mathison, Lara Green, Catriona Ross, Louise Anderson, Felicity Turnbull (all S4).

Music

Eilidh Clark (S2) (Viola) has been successful in gaining a place with the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland.

Sailing

Michael Gorzkowski (S3) has been selected for the Scottish National Sailing Squad for 2004 and will be representing Scotland at both National and International level.

Skiing

Watson's Girls' Ski Team of Jenny Renton (Captain) (S4), Eilidh Macleod, Lyndsey McGhee and Catriona Macfie (all S2) took part in the British Schoolgirls' Races recently in Flaine, France. Eilidh was awarded silver in her age category. The team was awarded bronze for being the third fastest team in the Slalom. The team was placed 4th overall.

At the Scottish Schools' Seniors' Championships the Girls' team of Gilly Storrie, Kirsty Clydesdale, Lyndsay Blair (all S6) and Jenny Renton (S4) and the boys' team of Craig Macfie (S6), Alastair Macfie (S4), Ross Jardine (S3) and Jonathan Mitchell (S5) also won gold in the team event at the Lecht.

At the Scottish Schools' Minors' Championships the Girls' team of Catriona Macfie, Lyndsey McGhee and Eilidh Macleod (all S2) and Mairi Drummond (P6) won gold and the boys' team of David Renton and Cameron Gunn (P7), Blair Drummond (S1) and Maurice Griffin (S2) won silver in the team event at the Lecht.

Fencing

In the Scottish Secondary Schools Team Championships the Open Girls Epee team were second to Fettes. Team: Katie Murray (S5), Amber Jackson and Alison Dow (both S2).

Boys' Hockey

The boys 1st XI finished runners up to Grove Academy in this year's Scottish Schools Tournament. They were beaten 1-0 in a very tight and entertaining game played at Peffermill. The side had played excellent

hockey throughout the competition and had beaten Loretto, Gordonstoun and Stewart's Melville on the way to the final. The boys first team won the Hutcheson's 7's tournament beating Glasgow Academy, Glasgow High School and Hutcheson's 'A' and 'B' teams. The boys U15 indoor team won the Fettes Indoor Invitational Tournament beating Loretto 4-0 in the final.

Girls' Hockey

The following girls have been selected for the East U15 Hockey Squad: Fiona Ray, Sarah Nivern, Sarah Myles, Lindsey Hunter, Heather Tait and Sophie Orłowski (all S3). The S1 Girls' Hockey won the Cargilfield Hockey Festival.

Rugby

The U14 Rugby team won the Stewart's Melville Tournament and were runners up in the Merchiston event.

Rowing

Watson's had a large entry for the Scottish Schools Head of the River Race on 6 February. Andrew Fullarton (S6) rowed in a composite crew with Heriots and was the fastest crew of the day. The U14 quad of Jonathan Rankin (S2), Murray Wilkojc (S3), Rishi Ramaesh (S3), Sean Dixon (S2) and cox Ruth McKellar (P7) had an excellent row finishing 3rd overall beating all the U15 and U16 crews as well as some U18 crews. The U15 four of George Porter, Scott Robertson, and cox Caroline McPherson (all S4), Michael Gorzkowski and Tommy Watson (both S3) won the under 15 event. The boys U14 quad of Sean Dixon, Jonathan Rankin, Murray Wilkojc, Rishi Ramaesh and cox Rachael Falla (S6) finished 1st in their age group out of 27 crews from schools all over Britain.

Swimming

In the Primary swimming galas the following won gold: Primary 4 Girls: Ailsa Small; Boys: Stuart Nimmo; Primary 5 Girls: Alice Renton; Boys: Zachery Courtney; Primary 6 Girls: Mairi Drummond; Boys: Euan Kerr; Primary 7 Girls: Victoria Hemmingway; Boys: Andrew Chalmers.

Lawn Bowling

David Armstrong, John Wright (both S5) and Murray Baillie (S2) won bronze at the recent Lothian Schools Bowling Championships. This is the first year of the Watson's Bowling Club.

Football

Lindsey Hunter (S3) has been selected for the Scottish U15 Girls Football Team.

Athletics

Pablo De La Peña (S5) and Carina Kanbi (S2) have been selected for a Scottish Schools Athletics Training Day.



S3 Hockey

The 3rd Year Girls' Hockey Team won the East District 3rd Year Tournament beating George Heriot's 1-0 in the semi final and Mary Erskine School 3-1 in the final.

The squad are Fiona Ray (Captain) Hazel McBrierty, Heather Tait, Hannah Rainey Cooper, Alison Hunter, Jo Hemingway, Lindsey Hunter, Sarah Myles, Sarah Nivern, Kate Shannon, Fiona Watson, Gemma Lawrence and Claire Hoyda.

Letters Online

Does your bagmail lie at the bottom of your child's schoolbag? Ever get the message too late or wonder if you might have missed something? Then why not register for our email alert service? Each time a letter is sent to you bagmail, we will email you to let you know that it is also accessible online. For more details of this new service, please visit www.gwc.org.uk/Parents.

Staff News

Congratulations and best wishes to the following new parents: Louise Black and her partner Peter Whitson on the birth of her baby son Euan on 16 January; Jo and Bill Frain-Bell on the birth of their daughter Tilly on 22 January; Trish and David Johnson on the birth of their baby daughter Emma on 7 February 2004.

