



# Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2005

## Rector's Note

Seasonal greetings to you all at the dusk of an interesting term and the eve of another one probably even more challenging. The reference is to the Fife Review of the school just completed and the simultaneous announcement that Her Majesty's Inspectors will be visiting Madras in January. While we are assured that there is no connection between the overlapping timings of these separate processes it does mean that we will have, by the end of January, been under almost constant scrutiny since the start of October. So, at least we should 'know the score' when it is all over.

Some of you (about a third) have completed questionnaires for the Fife Review. Thank you for that. Others (and in some cases the same people, since the selection has to be random) will be receiving requests to do a similar exercise for HMI. This exercise is an important part of the inspection so I can only ask you to find the time to complete and return the form in the envelope provided. I understand that there are to be meetings of all interest groups with the inspectors as part of the programme in January. The main inspection period is the week beginning 23rd January, but there will

also be several important parts of the process during the preceding week.

Meantime school life goes on at its usual relentless pace, as you all know and as this newsletter illustrates. The annual Christmas Concert last Wednesday got us all in the right spirit, as will the various parties and Christmas assemblies taking place this week.

May I on behalf of all staff at Madras thank you for your continuing support to the life of the school and wish you an excellent Christmas and New Year.

## Fireworks Galore

Last session, Joanne McCormick (S5) won a special prize for Madras – a firework display! Now that has to be a first!!

Over 200 S5/6 pupils turned up in magnificent fancy dress for the occasion: this was a record attendance for a senior activity outwith the Christmas dance. We had pirates galore, cowgirls by the dozen, sumo wrestlers, musical artists, Halloween guests trying out their costumes for later that month . . . the list is endless.

As a climax we had a fireworks display that would equal the quality of any St Andrews display in recent times and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking 1st Galaxy Fireworks (Scotland) based in Peterhead for their amazing show. The audience, with support from the surrounding community, numbered well over 300 people.

Add to that the request that profits (over £500) from the event should go to supporting communities in South East India (where Scottish International Relief are working) and a small community in Africa.



L to R Nikki Ward (S6), Sarah Gillespie (S5) and Susannah Stark (S6) posing for the camera

## Exam Help Needed!

Every year, a large team of paid invigilators, readers and scribes is required to ensure that the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) exams run smoothly for the pupils of Madras College.

We are always looking for new recruits to join this team.

If any parent, friend of the school would be interested in this very important job, please contact Mrs Adamson, Depute Rector and SQA Co-ordinator, either by letter or telephone.



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### SCHOOL BEGINS

for Pupils

Tuesday 10th January 2006

## Staffing Update

Once again there has been much happening on the staffing front in various categories. This is the sequence of events. From the start of session Mrs Thomson has been acting Principal Teacher of Geography. At the same time Mr Walker joined the Design and Technology department as a permanent member, and Mrs Burton did likewise in the school office. Two probationers started with us in August, Mr Aitken in Geography and Mr Cowieson in Drama. Miss McCulloch joined Modern Studies in place of Mrs McNeill who had been seconded to a promoted post at Kirkland High. Mrs Eccher joined the Maths department on a temporary basis partly to cover Mr Urquhart's national secondment to work on a feasibility study for a 'Continental Day' at Madras. Mr Urquhart's Depute Rector role was taken over by Dr Waterston, Head of Maths, whose post was covered by Mr Nisbet, the second PT in Maths. To complete this particular sequence, his post was covered by Mr Gray as second PT. After the October holiday Mr Latona took up a regional secondment to work on a programme to encourage girls to develop an interest in computing. At the same time Mrs Soares began her maternity leave and was replaced by Mrs Molife in Mathematics. In late October Mr Kowbel joined the PE department, and Mrs Nicholson joined the school as a Support for Learning Auxiliary. Miss Macrosson was seconded to a promoted post at Viewforth High in November.

At the end of this term we say farewell to Anne McGrory in the school office. There are few people who say as little as Mrs McGrory yet have such influence and respect. Immediate colleagues in the office say that they will miss her dry humour and amazing knowledge of them all. Many parents will know her as the warm welcoming face of the Kilrymont Reception, others as the calm voice on the telephone that made the particular crisis you were calling about just that little bit more bearable. Mrs McGrory's association with the school began in 1992 and she has been on the permanent staff since 1995. While her departure will leave a vital role to be filled she does leave behind (in the Kilrymont foyer) some of her most recent artwork, a new hobby that she will no doubt develop in

her retirement. We thank her for her excellent service to pupils, parents and staff and we wish her happiness and fulfilment in the years ahead.

We also bid farewell to Margaret Gourley of Learning Support, who joined the department in 1984. Hardworking, conscientious and well-organised Mrs Gourley has brought a special human touch to her work in Madras. Soon after her appointment she took the Special Education Needs Diploma Course to be able to make maximum impact in her work with pupils. She was appointed Senior Teacher in Learning Support in 1990, and in the years that followed made a particular contribution in her liaison work with our 15 associated primaries. In session 2001-02 she became acting Principal Teacher of Learning Support, leading colleagues with energy and organisation. Throughout her career (which began in 1963) those who have worked alongside Mrs Gourley have been impressed by her constant focus on the needs of the child, her excellent way with pupils, colleagues and parents, and her interest in fresh approaches to improving learning. We thank her for a splendid contribution to Madras College and we wish her good health and happiness in retirement.

## School Board

The new Board has just formed. Its Chair is Professor Peter McKiernan.

### Parent Members

Mr Adam Alexander    Mr John Flegg  
Mrs Catherine Dunn    Mrs Heather Marriage  
Mr Archie Liggatt      Mr Ian Robertson

### Teacher Members

Mrs Lyn McCartney  
Mr Graeme Murray  
Mrs Sandra Thomson

### Pupil Representatives

Laura Anderson  
Andrew Baxter

### Clerk

Jade Neilson (S6)

The Rector acts as adviser to the Board. Simplest contacts are via the Clerk or the Rector at school, or via the Board website <[www.madrasboard.org.uk](http://www.madrasboard.org.uk)>.

## Poetry

### National Poetry Day

Madras College celebrated National Poetry Day in the honoured fashion by writing poetry. S1 to S6 engaged with the topics this year loosely titled 'The Future' while staff were encouraged to decide which poem would be sent into space for 'The Future'. In a small attempt to bridge the campuses, poems were sent to South Street by junior pupils while seniors sent some to Kilrymont Road.



Towards the end of term two of Fife's own famous local poets Anna Crowe and Brian Johnstone visited the S5/6 creative writing class to not only share this poetry but to spark creative ideas for our own budding writers.

As StAnza (Scotland's only National Poetry Festival) approaches it is hoped that Madras College pupils will be ready for the creative challenges of this year.

*Theme:* Land and Ecology

### Poetry Prize Winners

Michael Storrie and Jonathan Smart (S4) were 1st and 2nd respectively in the University of St Andrews Library Poetry Competition. Both pupils were awarded their prizes at a ceremony in the university library. The winners had to read out their works to the assembled audience including professors, doctors of letters and poets – quite an experience!



by Flora Mackinnon-Pryde

(S6)

# Fairtrade Christmas Fair

On 6th December Madras College was the venue for a Fairtrade Christmas Fair. The Fair run by Madras Business Enterprise exceeded the pupils' expectations. With initial funding from the school enterprise allowance it was the pupils who had to decide on a name, logo and focus for their enterprise activity.

The MBE was founded with the aim of promoting Fairtrade products from Traidcraft. These are products that guarantee a fair price being paid to the producers in the developing world. This allows them to improve their production as well as their quality of life through improved schooling, fresh water and health care.

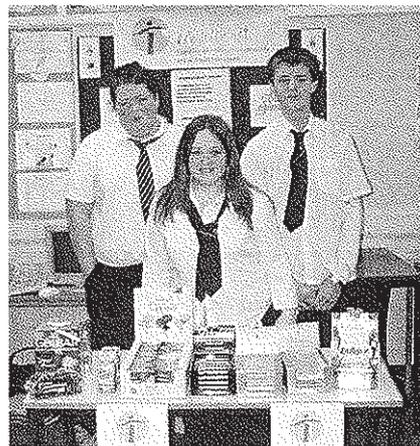
The MBE signed up as a Traidcraft Young Co-operative and then enlisted the help of all the pupils and staff in the Special Education Department to produce a range of Christmas decorations, cards and gifts. The members were responsible for finances, advertising, and event organisation. Parents of pupils involved, teachers and other pupils, attended the day itself. The whole day was a great success and over £600 has been raised so far.

The MBE intend to offer staff the opportunity to order Fairtrade products on a monthly basis and perhaps to set up a weekly tuck shop for pupils. Another Fair in the summer term is also a possibility.



Products on offer at the Fair

Founder Members  
of Madras Business Enterprise



L to R Michael Dumycz, Siobhan Taylor  
and John Robertson

## Drama Nights Out

Recent theatre visits have included a trip to the MacRoberts Art Centre, Stirling to see a production of Ena Lamont Stewart's 'Men Should Weep'. This play is an important text for Higher Drama pupils and deals with life in Glasgow during the 1930s.

Senior pupils have also recently visited Dundee Rep to see David Greig's translation of 'Ubu The King', a play based on Alfred Jarry's controversial original production which resulted in riots and people walking out of the 1896 performance. Needless to say today's

audience are not so easily shocked. Dundee Rep Education Officer Stephen Leitch will be visiting the school to run a follow-up workshop on the text with Advanced Higher and Higher pupils.

A group of S4 Standard Grade Drama pupils travelled to Dundee Rep this term to see an excellent production of 'Gypsy'. Josh Keirman (S4) successfully auditioned for one of the junior dancing roles and gave an impressive performance on the night we visited. A good time was had by all!

## Burns Supper Entertainment

Pupils in Kilrymont Road and South Street are collaborating to produce some entertainment for this year's Burns Supper on Thursday 26th January. Verse speakers and dancers are rehearsing together to produce a performance for which a new sound track has been composed. . . watch this space.

## Splashes of Art

- The school had 4 winners in the recent St Andrews Community Council Art and Photographic Competition. Prizes were awarded to:

### Art

- 1st Pia Wild (S3)
- 2nd Sarah Loftus (S4)
- 3rd Charlotte Pugh (S6)

### Photography

- 1st Claire Owen (S5)

- Senior pupils visited Duncan of Jordanstone Open Day organised by the Art Department.
- Brodie Sim (S5) was awarded 2nd prize in the prestigious 'Focus 2005, Environment/Chevron Texaco' secondary schools' photographic competition this November. Brodie's photograph is featured in Chevron Texaco 2006's calendar.

## STOP PRESS

Eden McLeod (S3) has won either 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in this year's prestigious Royal Bank of Scotland, Friends of the Royals Scottish Academy Art Award. The ceremony takes place in February 2006 where the prize-winning order will be announced.

## Cabaret!

Next term in the Quad Theatre singing, dancing (all types – tap, can-can and jazz) and mime; scenes from Noel Coward and Dorothy Parker in a glittery black tie event. Tickets will become available at the beginning of next term. Enquiries to the Drama Department.



# Saint Andrew – *Whose Saint is He Anyway?*

‘Saint Andrew – Patron Saint of Scotland, Russia and Greece’

One might suppose that, if one were to repeat this statement to various citizens of St Andrews, (particularly elderly pipers named Jock) one might run the potential risk of being lynched or, at the very least, reprimanded or challenged in no uncertain terms. This theory of mine may account for Mrs Esler’s decision to stage our short drama regarding the *true* curriculum vitae of our patron saint in the sanctuary of the Holy Trinity Church, where her actors are relatively safe. In reality, however, the performance was very well received and nobody was lynched.

The drama, entitled, ‘St Andrew – Whose Saint is He Anyway?’ and written and directed by Mrs Esler herself, depicted the crisis confronting an elderly St Andrews piper (named Jock, as it happens) who is busking when his national pride and identity is challenged by two respective tourists from Russia and Greece, both claiming to be looking for the bones of St Andrew, their patron saint. Despairing, Jock (characteristic of all true Scotsmen) decides to resolve the matter by going to the pub. There he consults the advice of a university professor (one of those academics who is a known expert on absolutely everything) who recounts to Jock the life of Saint Andrew from his meeting with Jesus, to his pilgrimage to Greece, to his death at the hands of the Romans on the ‘decussate’ cross and finally to the journey of St Regulus to Scotland, bringing with him the bones of Saint Andrew. Jock also adds an anecdote regarding the legend of Angus McFergus’ victory over the Angles which he accredited to the cross of Saint Andrew shining above his troops in a miraculous vision. Having heard this story, narrated by the professor and enacted before him, Jock concludes that it doesn’t really matter whose saint Saint Andrew is or where his bones lie and goes back out to resume his busking when a man looking suspiciously like the Andrew we have just seen drops some money into his hat . . .

On this particular occasion I found myself (uncharacteristically, some would say) as Jock the narrow-minded piper with kilt, scarf, hip-flask (at Mrs Esler’s discretion) and all. Having walked up the nave in the first scene and delivered a brief blast on my slightly temperamental set of bagpipes my confidence was greatly bolstered by the vividly humorous antics of Rowena McIntosh and Lorna Gray as the Russian and Greek

tourists respectively. Both Rowena and Lorna doubled up in the roles. Rowena, (as well as the endearing and vivacious Russian tourist who dances to assert her nationality) also played one of the merciless centurions later seen binding (not nailing) Saint Andrew to the cross. Lorna, in a striking contrast from the

“ . . . it doesn’t really matter whose saint Saint Andrew is . . . ”

naïve but assertive Greek tourist determinedly convincing Jock that ‘Andrew’ is a Greek name (not a Scottish one) also played the slightly sinister but merry Bishop of Acca, later seen with her head in a sack informing us in a broad Fife accent that contained within are the not-so-substantial remains of Andrew consisting of ‘three fingers, a kneecap and a tooth’.

The other actors gave equally interesting performances. Dylan Read was the archetypal university don (apparently modelled on his own father and CS Lewis), sporting tweeds, Oxford vowels and debonairly daring Jock to ask him a hard question. In many ways, I feel that Dylan had a particularly hefty responsibility in the drama, having the most lines and being entrusted with the narration of the main story. Stuart Fitzpatrick also deserves accolades, both for his suitability of the role as summarised by Jock’s line: ‘Aye . . . he’ll do’ as well as the fact that half of Stuart’s lines were in Aramaic and Greek. Both languages, however, were delivered with conviction and passion. The prominent designer stubble gracing Stuart’s visage at the time also contributed to a satisfying portrayal of St Andrew. Thomas Kennedy did exceptionally well, especially at such short notice in playing three roles. First, the effeminate and ‘mincing’ individual in the pub whom Jock confirms is definitely *not* suitable for a proper portrayal of Andrew. Thomas also played a Roman Centurion (whose

marching was immaculate) and Saint Regulus himself, whose distaste for Kilymont city as the proposed site for Saint Andrew’s bones was visibly evident in his performance. The overall fluency of the drama would not have been so were it not for the practised timing of Rebecca Parry as Sound Operator, who delivered the correct cues with precision accuracy.

As has been said, Mrs Esler was responsible for both the direction of the drama and the writing of the script. Interestingly, she was approached after the performance by a member of the audience who, much impressed by the quality of the script, asked for the name of the author. Perhaps this short drama, as well as awakening members of the public and of sixth year to the true patronage of Saint Andrew, has also opened up a new line of employment for her. If she might consider sharing her royalties amongst her actors, some thought may be given towards establishing a Madras Theatre Troupe for future occasions . . . ‘Madras . . . Whose Name is it Anyway?’

*Thomas Barbour (S6)*

## UK Senior Maths Challenge

This year’s UK Maths Challenge attracted entries from 75,200 students from 1,811 schools and colleges throughout the UK.

Madras College entered 84 students from S5/6 who, for 90 minutes on 8th November, wrestled with 25 challenging Maths problems. The results from their great efforts were again impressive: 5 Gold, 12 Silver and 26 Bronze certificates were achieved. Well done to all who participated.

The Intermediate Challenge will take place on Thursday 2nd February 2006.

## It's Fashionable to be Charitable

Pupils at Madras have proved a seemingly effortless way to raise money for charity is fashion.

A whole school non-uniform raised nearly £1,600 for Children in Need in a single day, a record for this event in Madras College. This event was given added interest since two S1 pupils, Claudette Day and Megan Chase were

invited to the Scottish show in Glasgow and were seen on television!

Donning poppies for the Poppy Appeal and ribbons for Aids Day raised £129.13 and £130 respectively.

Even the fashion 'atrocities' at the fancy dress disco and firework display raised £512!

### Children's Panel Training Scheme

The Drama Department continues its partnership with the Children's Panel Training Scheme. Two S4 pupils will be assisting with mock hearings in January to enhance the training of new panel members. Pupils who were involved in last session's performance of 'It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright' which was used by the Children's Panel as a training tool have been asked to adapt the production so that it can be filmed as a training video/DVD on child protection issues.

### Byre Theatre Link

Drama pupils continue to reap the benefits of their links with the Byre Theatre.

Steve Wrentmore (Artistic Director of the Byre Theatre) has been back in, continuing his workshops with Higher and Advanced Higher. It is a tremendous benefit to have his down-to-earth, humorous approach to our course work.

### Shell Connections Scheme

The Drama Activities Team have just started work on a new venture for the school. They are participating in the Shell Connections Scheme which is organised in conjunction with the National Theatre. Schools and Youth Theatres can choose one production from a choice of 10 written by playwrights for young adults. They then perform at a local venue and have the opportunity to perform at the Regional Festival. The Scottish Regional Festival will be at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh in June. The local performance will be in March. One production of each play will then be chosen to appear at the National Theatre in July. Principal Teacher Mr Dewar is directing the production and he enjoyed a weekend Directors' Workshop in Bath along with the other 300 youth theatre/school directors participating in the scheme.

Activities included a masterclass led by Sir Richard Eyre and workshops with Gregory Burke, the writer of the school's play 'Liar'.

## Debating

Madras has had a busy debating season this year.

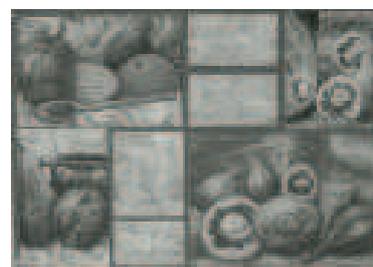
On the 13th October 15 senior pupils gamely participated in the 20th annual Senior Inter-House Debate, providing spectators with a typically intelligent, witty and spirited night out. Three very interesting and topical motions were thrashed out by the eloquent speakers: This House would End the Split Site; This House would Diet; This House would Support Private Healthcare. The all-star Priory team - Stuart Fitzpatrick and Charles Oliver (S6), David Watson, Rebecca Malek and Ruth Campbell (S5) were the overall winners at the expense of the Blackfriars team comprising of many brave individuals who had been induced to debate for the first time - Alison Colvin, Laura Anderson and Christina Lochhead (S6), Grace Carradice and Claire Jarvis (S5), and the Castle team - Cara Hamilton, Rosie Paterson and Nicky Ward (S6), Claire Field and Noreen Masud (S5). Everyone's performance was noteworthy!

Next up was the first round of the English Speaking Union National Debate. Madras' team of Rosie Paterson and Noreen Masud beat off competition in the form of St Saviour's High School, St John's High School and Dundee High to win through to the next round. This will be held after the Christmas break. The girls then successfully participated in the Law Society Debate, also getting to the second round. The other Madras team of David Watson and Rebecca Malek, gave fantastic performances, but unfortunately weren't chosen to go through. The next round for this debate will be at the end of January. Some of our new debaters gained valuable experience from the St Andrews and Dundee Universities' Debates, and from 'Debating Matters'. Good luck to all those involved in future debates.

## UCAS

### *An Insider's Opinion by Rowena McIntosh (S6)*

After the endless Soc Ed talks on UCAS most sixth years were tired of the whole system before they even logged on! However, although I hate to admit it UCAS turned out to be worth all its hype. Its course search section helped applicants to discover their desired courses at universities they'd never considered. Its direct links to university websites allowed pupils to access all the information without accumulating endless useless prospectuses. Abandoning all modesty we struggled through our personal statements and finally sent the applications. However the best aspect of the UCAS system is 'Track' where you can literally track what stage your application is at. Now all we have to do is wait for all those *unconditionals* to appear in the offer column - hopefully!



by Sarah Vernon (S6)

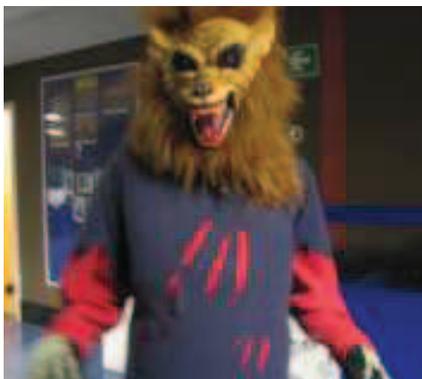
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## More Charity Events

Congratulations to all S1 pupils who attended the S1 Games Night at Kilrymont Road. They have managed to raise £55 for charity and all had a good time. They were able to play games like table tennis, street dancing, football practice, computer games and target golf as well as having a good time in the disco.

On St Andrews Day S2 Guidance held a 'Tartan Disco' that all second years were invited along to and they all wore something tartan for the occasion. Well done to everyone who contributed to making it happen and well done for raising £120 for charity.

An additional total of £185 was raised through the proceeds of the S3 Halloween Disco, the DSE Maths Challenge and the Tuck Shop profits from the Open Litter Squads. A cheque has been sent to the South Asia Earthquake Emergency Appeal.



'Wolf'  
at the S3 Halloween Disco

## Glen Tilt Practical Skills Project

In mid September, a Working Party of pupils and staff spent 3 days transforming the school bothy in Glen Tilt.

This fine exercise in group bonding, collective catering and communal living involved 7 third year pupils from the Design and Technology Department's Practical Skills course, 4 sixth year volunteer pupil helpers, Mr W Kay and Mr D Walker of the Design and Technology Department and Mrs C Easingwood, Depute Rector.

They faced a challenging assignment, since facilities are basic: 3 small rooms, one tap, a chemical toilet . . . and bunk beds which are not 5 star! The cheerfulness and enthusiasm of all did them credit, as practical skills were applied in plenty: inside clearing, cleaning, repairing and painting and outside collecting and chopping wood and doing window maintenance. Supported by fine, breezy weather, work continued at a great pace until Friday lunchtime, when the party drove to Aberfeldy for their reward: a white water rafting experience on the upper reaches of the Tay.

Most of the third year pupils in the Working Party had never encountered the Glens and such basic isolated living conditions before. Their cheerful stoicism, washing in the icy waters of the Tilt and living largely out of doors, did them credit. Indeed, they quickly acclimatised and took pleasure in exploring the river banks and woods, racing up the steep hillside to be stunned by the view from the plateau behind the

bothy and playing out in the dusk. Fires and barbecues led to relaxed campfire chats and, of course, toasting marshmallows. All kept daily journals, logging their experiences – which make uplifting reading!

It was particularly good to be able to make curricular, weekday use of the unique resource we have in the Glen Tilt bothy. This was an experience which was educational in the best and broadest sense of the word. We hope, if circumstances allow, to continue our work with another party in the spring.

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## Tsunami Appeal Update

You may remember that we informed you in previous newsletters that the school had set a target of raising £10,000 for our support of a community in South East India through Scottish International Relief.

So far we have raised over £8,000 in this calendar year over and above all the monies that go to our local, national and international charity organisations. The Charities Committee would like the school to continue until the total is reached. Therefore, we shall be informing you of our intentions through the Madras College Diary in the St Andrews Citizen and future newsletters.

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## Shakespeare at Madras

### Macbeth - A Pupil's Perspective by Calum Normand (S6)

The Madras College Quad Theatre production of Macbeth was a showcase for Madras' aspiring actors. Richard Gadd excelled in the title role. He delivered a wonderfully physical performance in which he was perfectly prepared to smash his head off the set when the role demanded it! Equally committed was Rowena McIntosh. She made the role of Lady Macbeth her own; displaying her character's deterioration with such wide-eyed innocence that you could not help but feel sorry for this most manipulative woman. The support cast were no less impressive. Tom Barbour consolidated his reputation as Madras' leading Shakespearean actor with a superb performance as Malcolm while other notable performances came from Duncan McLachlan

as Macduff and Lorna Gray, Kirsty Cuthbertson and Joanna Samson as the Three Witches. The pupils are indebted to Mrs Esler who surpassed herself in directing this dark and moody interpretation of one of Shakespeare's great plays. It is clear, that for many of her cast this will not be the last time they grace the stage.

### Hamlet Through the Ages

Rebecca Brown formerly of The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust delivered an interesting and informative talk on *Hamlet Through The Ages* – as presented at the RSC. Senior pupils were fascinated by her extensive knowledge of the play, as well as her slides on the various RSC productions.

# A Slice of Science

## TUSLIP

In Advanced Physics this year the class attended the TUSLIP (Tayside University Schools Liaison In Physics) lecture, which was held by the University of St Andrews. The lecture included an experiment involving smoke rings and a lecture normally given to first year university students to give them a taste of Physics at university.

## (Fe)(cubed)

Mr Harkins (Head of Physics) has decided to celebrate Michael Faraday with a competition this Christmas. Faraday is Mr Harkins' 'hero' due to his many inventions. These include the electric field model, the electric motor and the Farad. The competition involves getting a picture of Faraday and then

dressing him up appropriately in a Christmas outfit. Let's see what weird and wonderful designs the pupils come up with!

## Christmas Lecture

This year we once again see a Chemistry Christmas lecture at the University of St Andrews. The lecture is entitled 'Cardboard Cows and Chips' and will be presented by Dr Kilcoyne. Some of you may recognise Dr Kilcoyne from the programme 'Brainiac'.

## PTA Perspective

### *Better Behaviour, Better Learning*

The PTA held its first event of the academic year on Tuesday 15th November. Recognising how profoundly behaviour can affect the learning experience of pupils and teachers, we asked staff to give a presentation covering behaviour issues. The evening took the form of 2 interactive sessions.

At one, staff from the Pupil Support faculty created a mock Case Conference about 'Sammy' – a pupil struggling with academic achievement and self-esteem, and heading towards becoming a school refuser. The staff discussed the help and support being offered to 'Sammy', encouraging the audience to put themselves in the place of 'Sammy's' parents and join in the discussion about appropriate action.

The second session was presented by staff from the Classical Studies and Music Departments, and parents experienced a 'lesson' delivered in two different ways. The importance of mutual respect between pupil and teacher was highlighted and the school Ground Rules were discussed in this context.

Although there was not a high attendance at this event, everyone seemed to feel it was an interesting and enlightening experience, enjoying informal discussions with staff afterwards over coffee.

## The Stratford Report

by Dylan Read (S6)

In early October the Drama and English departments joined forces and organised their annual excursion for fifth and sixth year pupils to Stratford-upon-Avon (*aka* 'Shakeworld').

As expected, the trip proved to be both informative and enjoyable to all involved, the few days we spent there being packed with culture; visits to the Bard's birthplace along with his mother's and wife's houses provided us with invaluable Shakespearean trivia and our appreciation of 16th century theatre was greatly developed by outings to see the RSC's version of 'As You Like It' and Ben Johnson's 'Sejanus: his Fall'.

On top of all this we also had the privilege of being given a backstage tour of both the Swan Theatre and RSC main stage where we realised just how much unseen work goes into the finished production of a play.

## Rotary Partnership

Madras is fortunate to have strong links with all three Rotary Clubs in the catchment area. The five pupils sponsored to go on Camp RYLA have spoken well at dinners to Rotarians. The Challenge Enterprise weekend participant also thanked Rotary for her sponsorship. The North Fife Rotary Club conducted mock interviews with S6 pupils and offered useful feedback and tips for improvement. Members of the Interact Club organised the shoebox appeal and returned 100 boxes to the St Andrews Kilrymont Club to send to Eastern Europe. Interactors helped the St Andrews Club put up the Christmas tree outside Holy Trinity Church. The Inter-House Debate was judged by the St Andrews Club and prizes provided. Euroscola interviews have just taken place with the winner sponsored to go to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

by  
Morven Leenhouts  
(S6 2004-05)



# Musical Notes

As Monty's buggy bounced down the 18th fairway of the Old Course after his Dunhill win, he overtook the (retreating) Madras College Pipe Band whose honour it was to play out the competition. This put the seal on an incredible season for the band involving school events, conferences, university events, an appearance for charity at the Anstruther Lifeboat Gala (worth going just for the brilliant kipper rolls, but what about the aquanautics, aerobatics and bungee jumping too?), a bandstand event, a high profile birthday party and, by the way, a tour to foreign parts too. Now preparations are well under way for the forthcoming Burns Supper to be held on 26th January.

Singers had the opportunity to receive coaching at National level when the Music Department organised a 'Test Drive NYCoS' day. Accuracy and strict attention to detail underlined and reinforced many of the lessons taught in school – lessons which at once demonstrate the high expectations of staff and the ability and desire of pupils to match and exceed these same expectations. Later in the term the school was also fortunate enough to host a visit of the Scottish Ensemble as pupils from across the region gathered for a day of intensive but highly enjoyable string workshops.

The Christmas Concert - A sell out involving 245 talented pupils (how can the numbers keep increasing?) with two wind bands, two orchestras, two choirs, three soloists, two chamber groups – 'Blackfriars Quartet' which has truly come of age, the nascent 'Class Brass' and nearly, but not quite, 'a partridge in a pear tree' sums up the level of involvement and commitment of staff and pupils alike. In the words of one singer who showed signs of stage fright a few weeks earlier: 'I thought I would be scared but I got such a buzz. I'd like to do a solo next time, please!'. Parental feedback was strong too although there have been no offers of solos so far.

Seasonal extras also involved a concert for Fife Society for the Blind and an appearance of 'Class Brass' at a local supermarket as old folks sat down to enjoy festive cheer. As I write bands are active bagpacking and playing to raise much-needed funds for their next venture. It never stops.

The summer seems such a long time ago, so much has been packed in to the last sixteen weeks, but it is enjoyable to look back on the mixture of sun, rain and experiences we encountered on the third amazing Music Department tour organised and led by Ruth Craib. Involving eighty pupils and ten staff this was a superb tour – again – and will be remembered for the things we did and the people we met along the way. The people of Strasbourg deserve a special mention for their kindnesses and instant empathy on the occasion of our visit – on 7th July. That meant a lot to us and underscored the value of maintaining and further developing international accord through music. Something to ponder at this season of the year.

## How Good is That!

Just a sample of a response to work in S1 Science.

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## The Daily Kinetic

17/11/45  
£1.50

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**  
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### THREE MORE COUNTRIES LOSE PETROL

Today, the end of petrol sales brought chaos to three more countries. The closing down of on-road petrol stations has meant the loss of hundreds of jobs all over France, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Philippe Fill-opp, France's president was heard to have said "This is an outrage. How are people meant to travel without the use of cars, buses, trains and planes?" Thousands of cars have run out of petrol and are

stranded on the roads causing hours of delays. The British are advised not to travel to the effected countries, not only the three aforementioned, but Germany, Greece, Eire, Poland and Italy all of which lost the use of petrol over the last year. Scotland and Belgium are due see the end of petrol sales around February next year. Car owners have been advised not to drive unless really necessary. Five minute drives should not be

done. Walk instead. It saves petrol, it stops pollution and it keeps us healthy.

**Save petrol!  
Don't drive if you don't need to.**



Car owners advised not to drive unless necessary

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**  

- More countries lose petrol
- Road users questionnaire
- Power cuts, the full story
- Lots, lots more

### New wind farm outside St Andrews

A new wind farm has been built on a hill just outside St Andrews. This is part of the governments plan to save energy. Many

locals disapproved of the idea calling it "A disgusting misuse of the land" and "A blockage of the beautiful scenery

around the town" How successful the wind farm will be is a question yet to be answered

Article by Ann Philpott

PAGE 1

### Fife zapped by power cuts

The kingdom of Fife has yet again been hit by a number of major power cuts. Household and businesses have both been affected. Council leader, Ann Philpott said "This is really terrible and brings such hardship to Fife's vulnerable groups".

Power chief, Eddie Smith, says "We have to make cuts so that we have enough energy to supply local hospitals and essential businesses.

People with concerns should e-mail: [kingdompower@fife.co.uk](mailto:kingdompower@fife.co.uk).



Fife has to make cuts in energy supply

Are you a regular road user?  
A brief questionnaire to find out about Britain's road users

How long does it take for you to drive to work?	How old are you?	Comments:
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 mins	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-25 years old	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-30 mins	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 years old	
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 mins +	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 years old+	
How often do you drive a car?	How many cars are there in your household?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 car	
<input type="checkbox"/> Once a day	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 cars	
<input type="checkbox"/> More than once a day	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 cars +	

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Energy shortage causes chaos**



**AMP Publishing's**

by Ann Philpott (IG)

# SPORT SNIPPETS

## **Badminton**

Congratulations to Ross Lamond (S1) who has been selected for the Fife Schools' Junior Team and performed very well. We look forward to Fife Schools' Championships in February.

## **Football**

Fife Schools' U18 beat Aberdeenshire 5-4 at University of St Andrews. Riki Smith (S5) scored. Also representing Fife was Sam Morris (S4) and Andrew Reid (S6).

## **Gymnastics**

Fife Schools' Gymnastics Competition was held on Sunday 27th November at Kirkcaldy High School. Team 'A' – Seonaid Robertson, Laura Millar and Suzanne Dillon. Team 'B' – Chiara Kirkcaldy, Sophie Millar and Nicolle Graham.

Although the girls returned without a medal, they had gained a lot of experience taking part in the competition, which was of a very high standard.

## **Hockey**

The Senior Girls' 1st XI have had a fantastic season winning not only the Fife Tournament Cup but also The Midlands Cup. Another brace of excellent achievements! Good luck in qualifying for the Scottish Cup!

Congratulations to Susan Nicoll (S6) and Lindsay Forbes (S5) who have been selected for the Midlands U18 Hockey Team and to Jenny Dillon (S5), Jenny Gilbertson and Jade Milne (S4) who have made it into the U16 team. All took part in the recent Scottish Inter-District Tournament.

Good luck to Rob Tyler, Jonathon Marks and Elliott Husband Powton who have been invited for Midlands team trials for the senior boys' hockey. This is a great achievement and lets hope you all get picked!

## **Roller Hockey**

Congratulations to Joseph Anderson (S4) who has been chosen for the U16 Scottish Roller Hockey Team. The first matches were on Saturday 3rd December at the SECC, with games against Northern England, Midlands, Wales and Southern England. The Scottish team came out joint top in this competition.

Joseph is a forward with St Andrews Roller Hockey Club and is looking forward to playing for Scotland again in the New Year.

## **Rugby**

The S2 rugby team continue to build on the successes of last season and, at the time of printing, they remain unbeaten in all regular fixtures. In one 'Golden Week' in November the squad participated in the S2 Midlands Midi Tournament and the Fife Schools' 10-a-side Tournament, winning both. The Midi Tournament took the side to a level higher than last year as they beat the champions Stirling County in the group stages and won all the rest of their games to lift the trophy. The next round will be against a team from the North then hopefully they will progress to the National competition. The team were also in great form in the Fife Tournament and the boys are proud of the Dates Ties they received as reward for their efforts. The extensive squad continue to provide great competition for places and the numbers participating are to be commended. Congratulations also to the senior rugby team who have

reached the Quarter Finals of the Bell Lawrie White Scottish Schools' Shield. This is a great achievement and let's hope you can make it right to the top!

## **Fife Schools' Swimming Championships Finalist and Medal Winners**

### **12/13 Years**

*Boys* Ewan Gray (Backstroke - 4th, Breaststroke - 3rd), Alan Wighton (Breaststroke - 1st, Freestyle - 5th), Matthew Charnley (Butterfly - 3rd). Relay team - 1st: Ewan Gray, Alan Wighton, Matthew Charnley, Iain Ronaldson.

*Girls* Fiona Kinnear (Breaststroke - 5th), Charlotte Sloan (Breaststroke - 6th). Relay team - 5th: Charlotte Sloan, Alice Borchers, Seonaid Robertson, Fiona Kinnear.

### **14/15 Years**

*Boys* Grahame Niven (Backstroke - 6th), Scott Ronaldson (Breaststroke - 3rd, Butterfly - 3rd), Fraser Clark (Breaststroke - 2nd, 200 m Individual Medley - 1st). Relay team - 1st: Scott Ronaldson, Grahame Niven, Fraser Clark, Kyle Graham.

*Girls* Claire Simpson (Butterfly - 5th, Freestyle - 6th). Relay team - 3rd: Karen Cairns, Sarah Watters, Jennifer Humphreys, Claire Simpson.

### **16+ Years**

*Girls* Jenna Macfarlane (Backstroke - 3rd), Victoria White (Breaststroke - 3rd, Freestyle - 6th). Relay team - 4th: Jenna Macfarlane, Victoria White, Ellen Henretty, Catriona Scott.

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## ***Running for Softies***

A group of 15 non-runners have been turning themselves into 'charity runners' aiming to be able to run 3 miles by next spring. Following a 30-minute training schedule starting from walk/run/walk for one minute, they are currently up to running for 6 minutes before the minute's walk to recover. (Repeating this twice more in the week for their 'running homework' has been variable . . . but most have been trying to keep it up.)

Wednesday's jog down to the East Sands in summer sunshine has now been varied by other routes round the parks etc and a track session at the university (to find our mile times!). The commitment has been tremendous: come darkness, rain, ice . . . they set off laughing and joking – returning with 'just as much hilarity, only redder faces'. If your New Year resolution is to get fitter, join us on Wednesdays at 3.45 pm, South Street.

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## **Tesco Sport Vouchers**

Over the past 14 years Tesco have provided 'Computers for Schools', thanks to the effort and commitment in collecting vouchers. Tesco listened to the views of schools and in September launched the Tesco 'Sport for Schools and Clubs'. We have collected a massive 16,140 vouchers. A big thank you to everyone who has supported the scheme. The Tesco Schools and Clubs initiative will provide the school with new equipment and kit, and in turn inspire all pupils to be actively involved in sport.