



theStrathallian05/06





Killer moves in (again)



Point of information, please.



Who's the Daddy?



Strathallan Munchkin Society meet  
8pm Tuesdays



I know I left peace and goodwill around  
here somewhere...

another fine year...

School captains	2	Girls' hockey	56
Staff notes	3	Boys' hockey	58
Salvete & Valete	4	Equestrianism	60
Speech day	6	Boys' tennis	62
House reports		Netball	63
Riley	8	Football	64
Freeland	10	Clay pigeon shooting	66
Nicol	12	Small bore shooting	67
Ruthven	14	Golf	68
Simpson	16	Cycling	68
Thornbank	18	Girls' tennis	69
Woodlands	20	Basketball	69
Chaplain's report	22	Swimming	70
Headmaster's autumn music	23	CCF	72
Music	24	CCF Anglesey	74
Choral scholars	26	History: Simpson House	75
Senior house drama	27	Biology field trip	80
House music	28	Second Form exchange	82
Speech and drama	29	Kinross concert	82
Pipe band	30	Burns Supper	83
A Christmas Carol	32	Reels nights	84
Grease	34	St Andrew's Night ceilidh	85
Junior House drama	36	Romeo and Juliet	85
Stage crew report	36	Sixth Form ball	86
Art & Design	38	Strathaid: The Strath Factor	87
Design & Technology	43	Charities Committee	88
Cricket	46	Examination results	90
Rugby	50	Prizes	90
Rugby tour	52	Six months in India	92
Badminton	53	Obituaries	93
Athletics and Cross Country	54	VI Form common room	96
Ski racing season	55		

Art photography:  
Alaisdair Smith

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## House reports

## Contents



Speech day >>p6



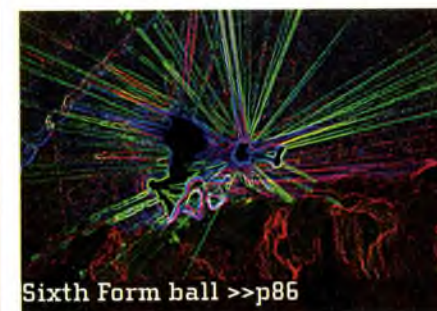
House reports >>p8



House music >>p28



Sports reports >>p46



Sixth Form ball >>p86



## School captains



**'School is like  
a lollipop; it sucks  
until it's gone'**



**We've all been there: cursing the day when we decided it would be a great idea to promise to go to breakfast at 7.15 in the middle of winter; taking five subjects at AS level and being stuck with just one spare. School is full of, well, tests, varying like our very own Crystal Maze, between 'Physical, Mental, Mystery and Skill'.**

Recently, however, I was looking at photos from various Events, The Sixth Form Balls, and Random Occasions when we had a camera. If the most discussed things in school are that breakfast is too early, I have to play netball in a skirt in the rain and lessons are cutting into Neighbours time, why is it that we don't record them? Isn't the fact that we have decided to photograph groups of us in an array of costumes and generally being silly testament to the fact that these moments are the ones we will remember? Being the geek that I am, I enjoyed school. Most importantly because of the people: the creation of friendships that we know will last a lifetime,

and the memories that go with them. But I also loved my time at Strath because I got to know myself; I was given the environment and the opportunity to grow as a person. The rôle of Head Girl was the icing on the cake, and it was with great joy that I accepted the post. In the end, it's a job: the organising of various events and meetings was, especially during exam periods, testing, but as I look back I would never have wanted it any other way.

Speech Day was one of the biggest highlights; as terrifying and nerve-wracking as the build up may be, it was one the best experiences of my life: a day that everyone has warned you about from your first day in the job, and one that I certainly will look back on with an immense feeling of pride. And as if the memory wasn't enough, I even have the photo to remind me of what it was like up there.

As important as the role of the individual is at Strath, what is more important is one's place in the team: and this year our team was no exception. Upper Sixth 2006 was special, because we worked so well together, and I feel so lucky that I was part of it with you all. A huge thank you to the Prefect team this year, you guys have been amazing and thanks for all the support, especially for the ushering. To JJ, thanks for everything, especially the Dining Room Rotas.

To all the teachers who have guided and assisted over the years, your teaching has not gone to waste. It's been a pleasure. A special thank you to Mr. Smith: dancing the Dashing White Sergeant with you was a definite highlight. And thank you to the whole school community for making Strath the place it is.

At the risk of making this sound like an Oscar Speech, I would really like to thank my family; porque sin ustedes, no iba a ser la persona que soy.

And now as I look towards University and stepping into that big wide world, it's reassuring to know that I have something like Strath behind me: a safety net of people and experiences that you can be sure will always be there for you.

Good luck to the new Captains of School Catriona and Oli; you will do a great job. Get the Prefects' Dinner Invitations out early, remember to make the most of it, and good luck to all the prefects and Upper Sixth for the coming year.

And finally, a message for the Upper Sixth 2006: you have been fantastic and I will miss you all. Thank you for all the good times, crazy times and support, and I hope to see you all soon.

It's been a good five years. I hope that in my time here, I have been able to give something back to Strathallan, a community which has always offered me so much.

**Pamela Garratt UVI Woodlands**

**J J Watters UVI Nicol**





**Strathallan traditionally has a comparatively low turnover of staff and this year saw hardly any changes. In fact, only two members of the Common Room left at the end of 2006 both of whom had been with us for only one year.**

Mihaela Ardenleanu returns to Romania having been with us on the HMC programme. Her contribution has been much appreciated both in helping pupils whose first language is not English and also as a Tutor in Woodlands House. Rob Hilliard decided to return to his studies to take an MPhil at Cambridge University. In a short time Rob made a significant mark as an innovative and inspiring teacher of Geography, coach of rugby and cricket and as Tutor in Simpson House. This year, we welcome Zoltan Biro from Romania who will take on Mihaela's EAL programme and also help in the Geography Department. He will be a resident tutor in Nicol House. Nida Batchelder joins the Geography Department; she has just completed an MSc at Manchester University and brings experience not only of Geography but also of hockey, OTC and rugby. She will be resident in Woodlands House.



**'Welcome to  
the new staff members...'**



**Salvete**

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Khairul	Abdullah	S6	Ruthven	1/9/05
Gordon T	Abercrombie	S2	Ruthven	1/9/05
Cameron W S	Adam	S4	Ruthven	20/4/06
Euan C	Adam	S2	Ruthven	20/4/06
Daniel T	Adams	1	Riley	1/9/05
Marcus S	Adams	S2	Freeland	1/9/05
James M	Addison-Scott	S2	Nicol	1/9/05
James M	Aitcheson	S2	Freeland	31/10/05
William J	Aitken	S3	Simpson	20/4/06
Walter R	Alexander	S4	Nicol	1/9/05
Daniel J	Anderson	S4	Simpson	7/9/05
Domagoj	Baresic	S6	Nicol	7/9/05
Molly R	Barnes	S1	Riley	1/9/05
Sophie E	Beamish	S3	Woodlands	1/9/05
Rosie L	Beetschen	S2	Thornbank	7/9/05
Josiah J F	Bircham	S2	Freeland	1/9/05
Rebekah K	Brine	S3	Thornbank	1/9/05
Alistair J	Brown	S4	Nicol	1/9/05
Charlotte H	Brown	S2	Thornbank	1/9/05
Michael C	Brown	S3	Freeland	1/9/05
Lauren M	Burns	S2	Woodlands	5/10/05
Jamie S T	Carragher	S3	Ruthven	7/9/05
Pang Y	Chan	S6	Freeland	1/9/05
Christopher D	Charles	S6	Ruthven	7/9/05
Emma C	Cheape	1	Riley	1/9/05
Yu T	Chiu	S6	Simpson	9/1/06
Zi L S	Choo	S6	Simpson	1/9/05
Ruairidh C	Clark	S3	Simpson	1/9/05
Rebecca M	Clephan	S3	Woodlands	7/9/05
Katherine G	Cockburn	S3	Thornbank	1/9/05
Frederick R J	Coleman	S3	Nicol	7/9/05
Carla M	Crossan	S3	Thornbank	7/9/05
Lisa K	Crossan	S2	Thornbank	7/9/05
Michele	Delpippo	S3	Simpson	1/9/05
Greig W	Dempster	S6	Freeland	7/9/05
James Andrew	Dodd	S3	Nicol	1/9/05
Callum D R	Donald	S3	Ruthven	7/9/05
Christopher	Dove	S2	Freeland	1/9/05
Rachael J M	Duncan	S3	Thornbank	7/9/05
Morag A	Elwis	S4	Woodlands	1/9/05
William	Farquhar	S3	Ruthven	7/9/05
Peter John	Farrar	S3	Woodlands	1/9/05
Alice O N	Ferry	S3	Ruthven	1/9/05
Declan J	Ferry	S3	Ruthven	1/9/05
Sean J B	Garrett	S3	Freeland	1/9/05
Charles P M	Gifford	1	Riley	7/9/05
Kerry	Gillespie	1	Riley	7/9/05
Stuart	Gillespie	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Laura S A	Glasgow	1	Riley	1/9/05
Andrew C	Glover	S3	Freeland	20/4/06
George J	Gray	S1	Riley	1/9/05
Isobel L	Hale	S5	Woodlands	1/9/05
Murray R A	Hall	S3	Simpson	1/9/05
Syazana N	Hassan	S6	Woodlands	1/9/05
Andrew J	Heaney	S4	Ruthven	1/9/05
Timothy G	Heaney	S2	Nicol	1/9/05
Sarah M E	Hellewell	S2	Thornbank	1/9/05

Kirsten J	Henderson	S6	Woodlands	7/9/05
Mohammad H	Hj Jaidi	S6	Freeland	1/9/05
Siti A	Hj Md Anas	S6	Thornbank	1/9/05
Amalina D	Hj Mohd Daud	S6	Woodlands	1/9/05
Matthew	Hunter	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Ruairidh	Hunter	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Harry M	Iroegbu	S5	Nicol	1/9/05
Christopher L	Jaworski	S3	Ruthven	7/9/05
Abbey O	Kemp	S3	Thornbank	7/9/05
Lynsey M	Knowles	S3	Woodlands	1/9/05
Gemma-Rose	Lansdown	S6	Thornbank	7/9/05
R P	Lansdown	S6	Thornbank	7/9/05
Kenn A	Lau	S6	Simpson	7/9/05
Ben T	Lewis	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Joseph L R	Lipworth	S2	Nicol	7/9/05
Shen S	Liu	S5	Nicol	30/1/06
Hugh D	Lungmuss	S4	Nicol	23/11/05
Sally M	Lungmuss	S2	Thornbank	9/1/06
Andrew P	Lyons	S3	Simpson	7/9/05
Yiu H	Ma	S6	Freeland	9/1/06
Kirsty F	Macdonald	S4	Woodlands	30/10/05
Ruairidh I L	MacKenzie	S2	Freeland	1/9/05
Sarah E	MacLachlan	S3	Thornbank	7/9/05
Ilona C M	McLaren	S3	Woodlands	7/9/05
Stefan J	McClean Toremor	S3	Simpson	7/9/05
Victoria C E	McLellan	S3	Thornbank	1/9/05
Victoria G	MacLellan	S6	Woodlands	1/9/05
Elizabeth A	McMorrine	S3	Thornbank	1/9/05
Ka N	Man	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Hannah J	Mather	S3	Thornbank	7/9/05
Thomas N	Mawtus	S6	Simpson	7/9/05
Michael P K	Milford	1	Riley	7/9/05
Ian A	Mitchell	S1	Riley	30/10/05
Joshua	Morris	1	Riley	1/9/05
Benedict	Morris	1	Riley	1/9/05
Grant J	Murdoch	S4	Freeland	7/9/05
Lucy J	Murdoch	S2	Thornbank	7/9/05
Eleanor G	Parkinson	S2	Woodlands	1/9/05
Dominic B	Pitts	S3	Simpson	1/9/05
Andrew D B	Pyle	S5	Freeland	1/9/05
Alison M	Ramsay	0	Riley	7/9/05
Mazveen K	Saggu	S6	Thornbank	1/9/05
Toby N	Schofield	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Margarita Y	Shevchenko	S5	Thornbank	7/9/05
Mark F	Slorach	S3	Freeland	20/4/06
Jack I	Somerville	S1	Riley	7/9/05
Corrie G I	Stewart	S2	Thornbank	1/9/05
Jennifer Anne	Summersgill	1	Riley	1/9/05
Jack A	Thomson	S3	Simpson	7/9/05
Gordon D	Tweedie	S5	Freeland	1/9/05
Marco	Velasquez	S3	Freeland	31/5/06
Alexander J	Vine	S1	Riley	1/9/05
Steven M	Watson	S2	Nicol	7/9/05
Evan L	Williams	S4	Freeland	7/9/05
Harry B	Williamson	S6	Ruthven	7/9/05
Jennifer L	Wood	S3	Thornbank	1/9/05
Chuiming	Yao	S5	Nicol	7/9/05
Tsun F	Yeung	S2	Simpson	7/9/05
Alan G	Young	S3	Simpson	7/9/05



## Salvete &amp; Valete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Bethany	Lindsay	0	RI	1/9/05	1/7/06
Nick	McArthur	S5	N	1/9/05	15/12/05
Christina	Weinrich	S5	T	1/9/05	16/2/06
Christopher J	Wilson	S5	R	1/9/05	21/12/05
Seth	Barnum	S6	S	7/9/05	30/6/07
Carina L	Buchanan	S6	W	7/9/05	30/6/07
Marcus H	Freeman	S2	F	7/9/05	23/3/06
Julius	Luttge	S5	S	7/9/05	1/7/06
Thies	Teegen	S5	R	7/9/05	15/12/05
Jannik	Stuhlmann	S4	F	18/9/05	1/7/06
Jascha F C	Ell	S5	R	9/1/06	1/7/06
Victoria	Wilson	S5	T	9/1/06	16/2/06
Mairina	Guthrie-James	S3	T	21/2/06	27/5/06
Angus	Pfahl	S5	S	20/4/06	1/7/06

## Valete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Iain W	Aitken	S6	N	2/9/98	30/6/07
Euan S	Allardyce	S6	R	2/9/98	30/6/07
Peter J	Burgess	S6	F	2/9/98	30/6/07
Martin F	Jones	S6	S	2/9/98	30/6/07
Stuart W	McDonald	S6	R	2/9/98	30/6/07
Andrew T R	Peattie	S6	R	2/9/98	30/6/07
Rory J M	Philip	S6	N	2/9/98	30/6/07
Emily A	Roy	S6	T	2/9/98	30/6/07
Cameron R	Terrell	S6	R	2/9/98	30/6/07
Liam P A	Carragher	S6	R	9/11/98	30/6/07
Andrew E	Carmichael	S6	R	1/9/99	30/6/07
Euan G D	Davey	S6	R	1/9/99	30/6/07
Sarah E	Fleming	S6	W	1/9/99	30/6/07
Alastair M L	Melville	S6	S	1/9/99	30/6/07
Matthew S	Smith	S6	R	1/9/99	30/6/07
Ewen A	Wardman	S6	N	1/9/99	30/6/07
Lindsay E	Whitelaw	S6	R	1/9/99	30/6/07
Emily R	Beetschen	S6	T	1/9/00	30/6/07
Elizabeth C	Bush	S6	T	1/9/00	30/6/07
Rebecca R S	Chalmers	S6	W	1/9/00	30/6/07
Jean M	Jardine	S6	W	1/9/00	30/6/07
Robert J A	McCulloch	S6	F	1/9/00	30/6/07
Douglas	McCusker	S6	F	1/9/00	30/6/07
Rachel A	Miller	S6	T	1/9/00	30/6/07
Jamie S D	Morrison	S6	F	1/9/00	30/6/07
Bradley	Ward	S5	R	1/9/00	1/7/06
Gael F	Welstead	S6	W	1/9/00	30/6/07
Kirsty F	Niven	S4	W	8/1/01	1/7/06
Kim P P	Scobie	S6	T	19/4/01	30/6/07
Duncan A	Brown	S6	F	5/9/01	30/6/07
Kirsty-Anne	Brown	S6	W	5/9/01	30/6/07
James Douglas	Cachia	S6	N	5/9/01	30/6/07
Jane	Cargill	S6	T	5/9/01	30/6/07
Richie G R	Duncan	S6	S	5/9/01	30/6/07
Derek S	Elder	S6	S	5/9/01	30/6/07
Andrew J	Fyfe	S6	N	5/9/01	30/6/07
Pamela	Garratt	S6	W	5/9/01	30/6/07
Karina M	McLean	S6	T	5/9/01	30/6/07
Caroline S	Melloy	S6	W	5/9/01	30/6/07
Geoffrey C	Melloy	S6	S	5/9/01	30/6/07

James					
John Edward	Pugh	S6	N	5/9/01	30/6/07
Charles B	Robertson	S6	S	5/9/01	30/6/07
Michael C C	Segaud	S6	N	5/9/01	30/6/07
Nicola	Turnbull	S6	T	5/9/01	30/6/07
Felix D	Velay	S6	N	1/9/05	30/6/07
Craig S	Wallace	S6	N	5/9/01	30/6/07
Finlay	Wallace	S6	N	5/9/01	30/6/07
Sze-chung	Chiu	S6	R	4/9/02	30/6/07
Clement J	Ip	S6	N	4/9/02	30/6/07
Mauricio	Keiserie	S5	R	4/9/02	2/12/05
John J	McBride	S6	R	4/9/02	16/2/06
David R	Mather	S6	S	4/9/02	30/6/07
Min	Ou	S6	W	4/9/02	30/6/07
Antonio	Pellicci	S6	S	4/9/02	30/6/07
Mark	Richards	S5	R	4/9/02	2/12/05
Angus P M	Stephenson	S6	F	4/9/02	30/6/07
Bryan P	Tsang	S6	F	4/9/02	30/6/07
John-Joseph R	Watters	S6	N	4/9/02	30/6/07
Ben	Whitaker	S6	N	6/1/03	30/6/07
Stephen C	Howarth	S6	F	24/4/03	30/6/07
Emmanuelle	Bonham	S3	T	1/9/03	2/12/05
James E	Bonham	S4	R	1/9/03	1/7/06
Gillian R T	Brown	S4	T	1/9/03	1/7/06
Fangjing	Chen	S6	T	1/9/03	30/6/07
Qiqi	Chen	S6	T	1/9/03	30/6/07
Chuang-Jiunn	Chiu	S6	F	1/9/03	30/6/07
Yu	Jin	S6	S	1/9/03	30/6/07
Zhibai	Li	S6	R	1/9/03	30/6/07
Chloe	Lindsay	S1	RI	1/9/03	1/7/06
Shuhua	Luo	S6	T	1/9/03	30/6/07
Wei	Ren	S5	S	1/9/03	23/3/06
Zhimeng	Yang	S6	T	1/9/03	30/6/07
Shawn Y S	Ng	S6	F	30/9/03	30/6/07
Skye G	Johnston	1	RI	22/4/04	1/7/06
Rosanna M S	Innes	S6	T	1/9/04	30/6/07
Matej	Janecek	S6	F	1/9/04	30/6/07
Justin N	Javier	S6	R	1/9/04	30/6/07
Yue Fai	Lau	S6	N	1/9/04	30/6/07
Kizzy	Lindsay	S2	T	1/9/04	24/4/06
Mardi M M	MacGregor	S6	W	1/9/04	30/6/07
Isabell J	Mastall	S6	T	1/9/04	30/6/07
Joanne R	Peek	S6	T	1/9/04	30/6/07
Rafael S	Plesmann	S6	F	1/9/04	30/6/07
Josephine C	Roscoe	S6	W	1/9/04	30/6/07
Catherine E	Rutherford	S6	T	1/9/04	30/6/07
Mark S	Walker	S6	N	1/9/04	30/6/07
James F	Wright	1	RI	1/9/04	1/7/06
Di	Zhu	S6	N	1/9/04	30/6/07
Scott A	Marshall	S4	S	29/9/04	16/1/06
Malcolm G	Smith	S6	F	8/11/04	30/6/07
Brendon J	Neill	S2	N	19/4/05	27/5/06
Gains K	Murdoch	S6	S	6/6/05	30/6/07



## Speech day

In terms of presentation, Strathallan never fails to deliver.

**Speech Day at boarding school; the premise is, to say the least, not promising. From the descriptions offered me by my fellow pupils, I expected a long and tedious set of lectures and award ceremonies. All in a sprung-floor gym hall. On chairs that squeak. Or on the cricket lawn. In a tent. In the rain.**

Mercifully, such clichés concerning the 'social' side of a boarding school are, for the most part, untrue. Yes, speech day took place in a tent, on the cricket lawn. Yes, we had to wear kilts. These things, alas, cannot be avoided. However, a lot of thought and effort goes into the event, and I will attempt to convey my interpretation as to why.

A large portion of speech day is given over to the awarding of school prizes. I can't say that it's an overwhelmingly exciting experience (except, perhaps, for those receiving prizes), but it's not quite so tedious as you might expect. Strathallan has many ways of recognising pupils who 'achieve high academic standards etc. etc.' but it is always vaguely amusing to see a hitherto unheard of pupil snatch a much sought-after trophy.

The formality of speech day is broken up by the Strathallan tradition of inviting a guest speaker. This year, the speaker was Alistair Moffat, best known as a T.V. writer and producer, and for his work with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He arrived in a helicopter (allegedly), and gave a speech that was entertaining – long, but entertaining – and seemingly, largely improvised. In the manner of a true professional, he made improvisation the subject of his speech, and tied in anecdotal tales of his work with certain T.V. celebrities who excel in the art.

One could argue that this was a somewhat controversial speech given the context in which it was delivered. The staff of Strathallan would probably say that the school stands for hard work and preparation – Labor Omnia Vincit – and not just winging it on the day. However, his message, namely to expect the unexpected and to think on your feet, was well put across, and the overall reaction was positive.

For me, though, Speech Day acted as a chance to see the families of the pupils in a social setting – after all, what kind of parents really do send their children to an educational institution in the middle of

nowhere? When I arrived at Strathallan last September, I expected to find myself amongst only the very wealthy or the academically prodigious who reside in the surrounding area. To my surprise, the majority of pupils were much like me – average teenagers, many of them from other countries. The ones that are gifted, either by lineage or talent (or both), turned out to be some of the most amicable people I have ever met. Many of my childish misconceptions were swept aside upon arrival (including, I must say, ice cold showers, five mile morning jogs, and owls). Besides, who was I to stereotype – I turned up in a Volvo Estate, with suitably eccentric parents, and a black Labrador in the back seat. I can't say I was out of place.

As with most private school things, the ceremony of the whole affair is very important. The pupils are arrayed in kilt dress, the parents turn up in immaculate suits, and the teachers likewise. In terms of presentation, Strathallan never fails to deliver. Yes, we do wear kilts to chapel on a Sunday. Only a year and a half ago, such things would have been inconceivable to me. But, indeed, what better excuse, and what better setting, to experience these traditions? The pupils of Strathallan have a respect (or, at the very least, a tolerance) for tradition which simply cannot be found outside such an institution. Even if the Bonnie Prince Charlie and the 51st Division Reel disappear into the void that is History, the respect for cultural identity and diversity has been captured, something which can only help pupils later on when they come into contact with other cultures and ways of life.

So, in the end, what is the purpose of events such as Speech Day? I believe that they act as an opportunity for the parents of the pupils, as diverse as they are, to interact en masse with the school itself, and take part not only in the down to earth 'please-send-more-food-and-clothes-and-money' sense, but also in the traditions which the pupils experience on a weekly basis. It is not, though, merely pretentious talk; real achievements are highlighted in the prize-giving, and the values of the school which affect us all are reinforced in the speeches, as if we had somehow forgotten (I think it's more for the benefit of the parents). At the very least, it only happens once a year...

**Chris Charles Ruthven Lower VI**









## Riley House



**With 76 pupils in Riley this year we were pretty full and the noise levels were up. As usual we welcomed our new pupils and parents for tea on Wednesday 7th September. We also had a new matron, Gill Ogilvie, starting and she and our new arrivals soon began to settle into the Riley routine.**

This year Mrs Bush and I decided it would be a good idea to have a weekly newsletter to improve communication between the House and parents but also to highlight pupils achievements and activities. So on the 19th October, just before half term, Issue No. 1 was printed off ready for the children to take home with them the next day. Since then there have been 24 publications which are now emailed on a Sunday evening giving a report on the week just completed and looking ahead to the week about to start. Apart from the first six weeks of the Autumn term the 'Riley Rag' has given a very full account of what our children have been up to and what they have achieved throughout the school year. Here are extracts from some of the Riley Rags.

### Well done Riley Swim Team

Congratulations to all swimmers who took part in the St Leonard's Prep Schools Swimming Championships on Thursday 3rd November. There were 9 other schools taking part and given that this was our first time at the event the swimmers did extremely well. The U13 boys team won the trophy for the best U13 boys team and the U13 girls were runners-up in their section.

### Divisional plays

Congratulations to the children for all their hard work over the past 3 weeks in preparation for this most enjoyable event. Special mention must go to the divisional directors who were responsible for writing, directing and performing in these plays. They are: Olivia Quick Chloe Lindsay, Heather Larson, Ciara Elwis, Graham Ramsay, Jonny McCashin, Marcus Adams and Keith Wigley.

### Cross-country

Mr Fleming selected a team of boys and girls to take part in the Loretto Cross Country Meeting on Friday 20th January. The children travelled down to Musselburgh just outside Edinburgh to compete in this 1st event of the term. The teams performed very well indeed with the boys' team coming 1st out of 5 schools and the girls were placed 2nd out of 4 schools. Ciara Elwis came first in her race.

### Book reviews

Miss Val McKay, our School librarian, was approached last term by the Sunday Herald newspaper to see if some of our Riley pupils would be interested in writing reviews of books about to be published. Quite a number of our children were keen and left for the Christmas break with the task of reading a new book and writing a review. To date two reviews, one by Josh Bircham and another by Heather Larson have been published in the Herald.



## Divisional music

<b>Best Soloist</b>	Ciara Elwis
<b>Highly Commended</b>	Tom Esparon
<b>Best Ensemble</b>	Glenearn
<b>Best Choir</b>	Dupplin
<b>Overall Winner</b>	Glenearn

Congratulations to everyone who took part and a big thank you to Mr Walmsley, Mr Metcalfe, Becky Chalmers, Alex Beetschen and Michael Segaud for all their hard work in preparing the children for a very successful competition.

## Perform in Perth

45 Riley pupils took part in the Speech section on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March. Well done to the following who were placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their section.

The sections included Shakespeare, Burns, English Verse, Soutar poems, Bible and Prepared Reading :

<b>Josiah Bircham</b>	<b>Bethany Lindsay</b>
<b>Sarah Hellewell</b>	<b>Corrie Stewart</b>
<b>Ciara Elwis</b>	<b>Michael Milford</b>
<b>Heather Larson</b>	<b>Graham Ramsay</b>
<b>Chloe Lindsay</b>	<b>Laura Glasgow</b>

Particular congratulations to Josh Bircham who came 1st in 3 sections.

Well done to all the performers and thank you to Mrs McFarlane for her organisation.

## Riding

The Junior Equestrian Team had a very successful time at the Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships held at Gleneagles on 23rd April. Congratulations go to Heather Larson (Captain), Corrie Stewart, Emma Cheape and Jenny Summersgill for gaining excellent results in the team showjumping section which they WON (beating 16 other teams). Heather also achieved the team's best dressage score which placed her 3rd in her arena, and Jenny was 3rd out of 65 in the individual showjumping.

## Table tennis

Congratulations to Daniel Adams (10 years old) who won the U13 Perth Table Tennis Championships at the Bells Sports' Centre during the Easter holidays. He also made it to the Semi-Finals in the U15 competition.

## Penpals from France

A group of French children from Bordeaux arrived on the 30th April for a 10 day visit to Scotland. Riley will be hosting the visitors during their time here. They will join in some of our lessons and activities but will also be away on day trips. Thanks to parents and staff who have offered to accommodate these children during their stay. Thanks also go to Mr Kennedy who has been instrumental in the organisation and arrangements.

This has certainly been a year to remember for many good things. The atmosphere within the House has been most positive. Well done to all! **PB**



## 2ND FORM CAMP

**All 40 2nd Formers had a great 3 days camping at Blair Castle. They experienced putting up tents, driving rain, sub-zero temperatures, freezing water, cooking and washing up and still came out smiling having had a super time. They were a pleasure to be with and we had many compliments on their behaviour and manners. Read Ciara's account below.**

## RILEY CAMP – MAY 2006

**By Ciara Elwis – 2 set 1**

Sooooo much fun and sooooo many folk to thank.

### DAY 1: We get there

The school minibuses whisked us up the A9, heading for Blair Atholl Campsite and soon(ish) we'd pitched our tents, unpacked and were able to relax a bit. In the evening we dined on barbecued burgers, and then played rounders in the park.

### DAY 2: We get wet

Today was great fun. One group did white water rafting on the River Tay with Free Spirit whilst the others did a Nature Discovery walk with Blair

Atholl rangers, following a trail of clues through the woods – and then we swapped over. In the evening it was burgers again (yummy) and then Mr Barnes entertained us all with his famous 'cups of water' game (say no more) and a spooky ghost story...

### DAY 3: We get ice cream.

After another chilly night in the tents (for everyone apart from PK...), we packed up the camping gear, had breakfast and then packed up everything else. Mr Higginbottom joined us for the day's expedition and walked with us from Killiekrankie to Pitlochry. While we waited for the bus to collect us, we played in the local park (which was great) and then Mr Barnes treated us all to an ice-cream (which was even better).

The camp was a total success and we all had a brill time. So thanks galore to everyone who made our trip possible: Mr and Mrs Bush, Mrs Duncan, Mr Giles, Mr 'ghostie' Barnes, PK, Mr Higginbottom plus the great staff from Free Spirit, Blair Atholl Estates and the campsite. We'll be back.

**Ciara Elwis**



## Freeland House

**There were a number of knocks on the door during our first days in Freeland House; children of staff wanting check out the new arrivals from Australia and to show us around the campus, a student seeking a lot of cash to pay a taxi fare from Edinburgh, the next door neighbours offering to lend us their car and the deputy head of house stopping by to introduce himself while out on a training run. Each in their own way was saying 'welcome to Strathallan School' and to the very special community that lives beyond its impressive entrance.**

The knocks on the door have not dried up of course and each knock brings with it an opportunity to get to know someone in Freeland House a little better. The interactions can vary from very pleasant to a little awkward but hopefully, in any situation, the ultimate outcome is a more aware and considerate individual and a stronger House.

Freeland has had much to be proud of and much to celebrate in 2005-2006. Academic excellence has been complemented by wonderful endeavour in the arts and enthusiastic participation on the sports fields.

The year started with the awarding of full academic colours to Bryan Tsang, Matej Janeček, Jamie Morrison and Peter Burgess and half colours to Sam Smith and Malcolm Fraser. This was followed in January with the exciting news that Bryan Tsang and Matej Janeček had been offered places at Cambridge to read Architecture and Biology respectively. There is no doubt these great mates will make as big a mark on Pembroke College as they have on Freeland House. At speech day Freeland boys were well represented in the prize list with the most notable achievements being six subject awards to Sam Lipworth in Form IV, The Houston Prize for All Round Merit won by Matej Janeček and The Thomson Salver for Achievement awarded to Maurits Hartgerink. Bryan Tsang received the ultimate accolade recently when he was announced as dux for the 2005-6 academic year, due recognition for someone who worked extremely hard while still finding time for others and enjoyment in all that he did.



Freeland has a strong music tradition and our strength in this area was evident during the House music competition. Our performance of Queen's *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* demonstrated both our ability to sing in tune and to nearly move in unison. Oliver Wale's theatrical transformation from small boy to cabaret star brought a standing ovation while our band, led by Steven Howarth, gave a convincing rendition of Jimmy Eat World's *Work*. We have been fortunate to be particularly well-represented in the Chapel Choir this year. Oliver Beetschen, Oliver Wale, William Campbell-Gibson, Alex Beetschen, Sam Lipworth, Malcolm Fraser, Peter Burgess and our resident tutor Richard Walmsley have regularly enhanced our worship in chapel. Adam Michie has piped at all the big ceremonial occasions and enjoyed wonderful success in competition.

On the stage, our charge in the senior House drama was led by the irrepressible Bob McCulloch playing a not unfamiliar role in *Dodgeball*. On the broader front we saw many of the lead roles in School productions of *A Christmas Carol* and *Grease* filled by the very talented Alex Beetschen, William Campbell Gibson and Oliver Beetschen. Struan Gordon, Oliver Wale and Sam Lipworth sang and danced in the chorus, Sam Smith played bass guitar while Dougie McCusker, Malcolm Fraser and Chris Milford worked behind the scenes. Oliver Wale stole the show with an energetic performance in *Strath Factor* and walked away with an armful of trophies from the Perth Festival. Head of House, Duncan Brown, his brother Michael, Bob McCulloch, Greg Guthrie and Steve Howarth also made the final of *Strath Factor*, tantalising the audience with their magnificent torsos and tightly choreographed dance steps.

In debating Sam Lipworth reached great heights at the national level in his first season in the activity while Jamie Morrison continued to excel in this field while acting as mentor for the next generation. On the inter-House front Peter Burgess, Jamie Morrison, Malcolm Fraser, Rafael Plesmann, Sam Lipworth, William Campbell-Gibson, Oliver Wale and Oliver Beetschen all represented the House with distinction.

The highlight of inter-House sport was a win in the Swimming Gala. Sam Smith did a great job organising the team while Sam, Matej Janeček, Bryan Tsang, Nick Millar, Rory Gibson, Peter Vine, Allan King, Marcus Freeman and Jamie Parker made determined contributions in the pool. Our senior boys were magnificent in winning the senior cross-country, Greg Guthrie coming in second overall. Our third position in Athletics Standards reflected our commitment to give our best in all events while the highlight on Sports Day was Greg Guthrie's splendid win in the open 100metres. Other notable performances included Jannik Stuhlmann's second place in the high jump and Rory Gibson's second place in the javelin. Freeland House was disproportionately represented in the school triathlon. Matej Janeček broke his existing record and was closely followed by Peter Burgess and the Headmaster. Other people who successfully completed the course were Shawn Ng, Peter Vine and Angus Stephenson. Maurits Hartgerink out-rowed some fancied opponents, Sam Smith burned up the opposition in the pool and Alasdair Bisset ran well to produce an





The boys brought to the House standards of excellence in so many areas – academic, languages, music, art, sport and a strong sense of mateship and loyalty.

impressive senior relay team effort. Our junior relay team made up of Michael Brown, Sam Lipworth and Ian Tourney also performed creditably. We won the junior basketball with Jamie King displaying nerves of steel to land the championship winning basket from the stripe and our indoor senior hockey team were runners up.

Beyond the school Ian McKenzie, Jonny Dickson, Jamie King, Felix Keene and Allan King all represented at the regional level in hockey while Adam Piper was one of the best Schoolboy skiers in Scotland. Rory Gibson has been chosen to be part of a special development programme in shooting.

We said goodbye to a wonderful group in Upper Sixth late in May with a dinner at the Kirkstyle Inn. The boys brought to the House standards of excellence in so many areas – academic, languages, music, art, sport and a strong sense of mateship and loyalty. They found time for each other while never forgetting their academic priorities. They have set a fine example to the rest of the House in terms of getting the balance right and their influence on the tone of the House will be a lasting legacy.

We also said farewell to three of our unsung heroes from the House staff this year. Elaine moved to a new position

in the first term while Alison moved on in June. Sally, our matron, left us at the end of September to be closer to her grandchildren after nine years of loyal service. She brought to the House a wonderful combination of tough love and high standards to our boys; timeless qualities that will long be remembered and appreciated by those in her care. We take this opportunity to thank them and the other House staff, Jeanette, Maureen and Diane for their cheerful contribution towards making this House a home.

Finally, this report would not be complete without mention of the tremendous contribution of our House tutors to the development of our young men. They all take the time to talk to our boys, join in their activities, help them with issues in their lives and assist them with their studies. I would personally like to thank Robert Proctor, Richard Walmsley, Angus Weir, Gavin Batterham and Jeff Goddard for their professional approach to the task and their guidance and support during my first year in the job.

Freeland is fortunate to have a wonderful combination of staff, students and parents working towards building a strong, happy and caring community. As we knock on each other's doors we open our mind's and lives to the rich tapestry of personalities that make our House such a rewarding place in which to live. **BH**



## Nicol House

**Another year has passed in Nicol history and as usual it has been a successful and exciting one with many memorable experiences to recount. From the many hours spent in JJ's room, to the heroic performances on the sports field and, of course, the very memorable edition of Romeo and Juliet in the House Drama Competition.**

Romeo and Juliet, directed by JJ and starring Ben Whitaker and Mark Walker, kept the Nicol tradition of not only being the funniest play, but also managing to include some quite artistic scenes. We were judged the eventual winners and Ben picked up best actor for a unique and unpredictable performance as Juliet (or was he an Irish Pirate?).

We also were treated to another great performance as Watters Productions produced a hilarious House Video which featured Felix 'the Don' Velay and Mr Giles in gang warfare. Again Ben featured heavily setting up a cheese mine and befriending Mr T. Andrew 'Pip' Fyfe also put in the customary impression of Fitz which kept everyone entertained.

House Music was again organised by Michael Segaud and as usual Nicol put on a breathtaking display. After an inspiring version of Eye of the Tiger, Clement returned to his former glories, with a mesmerising piece on the piano. The highlight, however, was our victorious House Ensemble which featured Jamie Cachia on the flute for the first time in an age, playing Le Onde. We came a close second over all, losing by the smallest of margins.

Nicol has always had high expectations on the sports field and this year both seniors and juniors did not disappoint. The juniors managed to win Cricket, Indoor and Outdoor hockey, losing narrowly in the rugby after injuries to key players. With no senior rugby, the seniors won both hockey competitions with little difficulty, and a combined senior and junior team, inspirationally led by Pip and with Michael Cachia and Nick Price unbeaten, were victorious in House Tennis. The badminton trophy remained in Nicol after what was a close competition of high-quality play; credit must go to Mr Kitson's hours of dedication. In athletics, not normally a strong area, we won all year group standards but one and therefore the overall trophy. Sports day however was the real glory and the sight of Mr Giles running the final leg of the 100 metre relay, along side Ewen Wardman, as we won the final race to clinch victory shows what a great achievement this was for the House.

So as you can see it has been an exciting and successful year in the inter-House competitions, we even nearly managed to keep up our record of never winning a round in House debating but unfortunately, the Junior team made the final. Otherwise the House has been its normal busy self; led by Jamie and Craig Wallace and with the honour of having the head boy JJ in the house, there was great leadership from the Upper Sixth.

JJ's room, now legendary in the house, holds many great memories from being entertained by Ben, to the Pro Evo tournament and the times seven people were crammed







**Outside of the House**  
Nicol boys performed well in all areas and were a very large part of most things happening in the school.

into JJ's bed. We also had the pleasure of an Australian exchange student, Nick, for a term who apart from being a key member of the 1st XV settled into the house quickly as did all the new pupils.

Outside of the House Nicol boys performed well in all areas and were a very large part of most things happening in the school. Over ten boys were in the 1st XV and there were a large number in the cricket, football and hockey teams. Individually there are star performers: Ryan Matthews made the U17 Scotland Rugby Squad, Jamie continued to progress with his hockey, Nick Lau and Freddie Coleman both played international cricket and Michael Segaud won a Music scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music.

So as you can see it has been a busy and exciting year and the Lower Sixth have big shoes to fill, however led by Lawrie Quibell, our new head of House the future looks very positive. Nicol has always had the reputation of a friendly atmosphere that allows everyone to thrive but at the same time demands success both as a house and individual, there is no doubt that this year has upheld this.

**Michael Cachia.**

**There is no doubt that this year has proved hugely successful for the House in all areas of School life.**

Great credit must go to the leadership shown by the Upper Sixth, from Jamie Cachia down. The year holds many memories and I am grateful to all the tutors and domestic staff for allowing the boys to thrive in the positive environment that is Nicol House. **DRG**





## Ruthven House

**This is always one of those reports that gets left to the very last minute when the editor is really getting anxious and actually starting to throw his toys out of the pram. The House, I believe, is now my own and the general feeling is that it is a pleasant place to be in and a very pleasant place to visit. The ethos in the House is relaxed but firm in the sense that the boys know what to expect of their tutors.**

Over the past few years we have enjoyed the stability of few changes to the tutor team and that goes a long way to ensuring consistency and allowing the boys to know exactly where they stand. Matron and her team have also remained much the same with one change over the year. To her and her team we say a big Thank you for without them the boys would be 'lost'. Liam and his team of prefects did a great job this year and much of the ethos in the House must be down to their attitude towards themselves and towards the juniors in the House. To Ann and my children I thank them for the patience and long spells of no Daddy or husband.

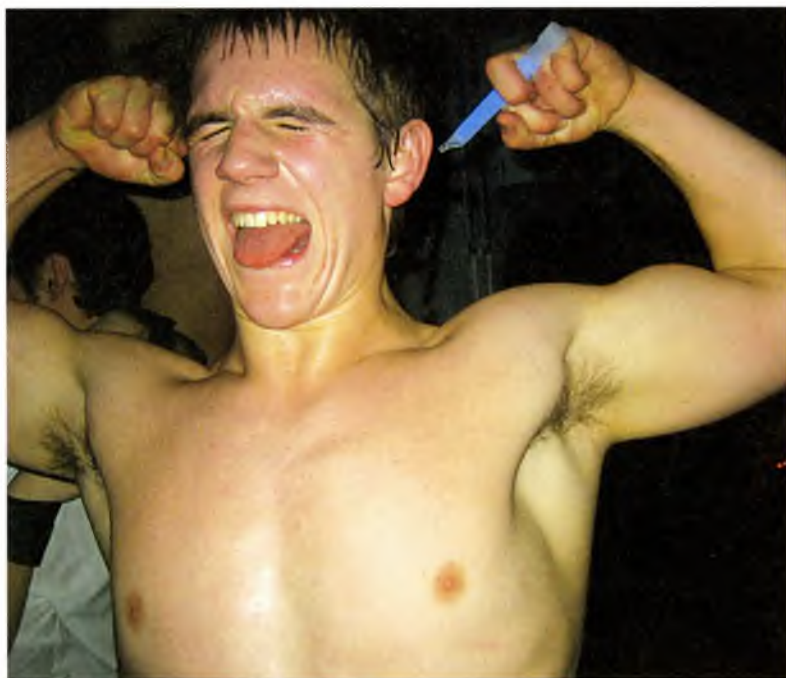
The success of a House is often judged by the number of competitions won over the year. Well, based on that criterion we have not had a good year at all. But with all things in life there are ups and downs and I guess we had a 'downer'. All too often we were second in the competitions but it is not always the winning that counts but rather the taking part and I have always felt that taking part and competing is important and if we win

along the way, well that's a bonus. Unfortunately, that feeling isn't always shared by all of the boys as for some of them winning is the 'be all and end all'. They will learn! AW

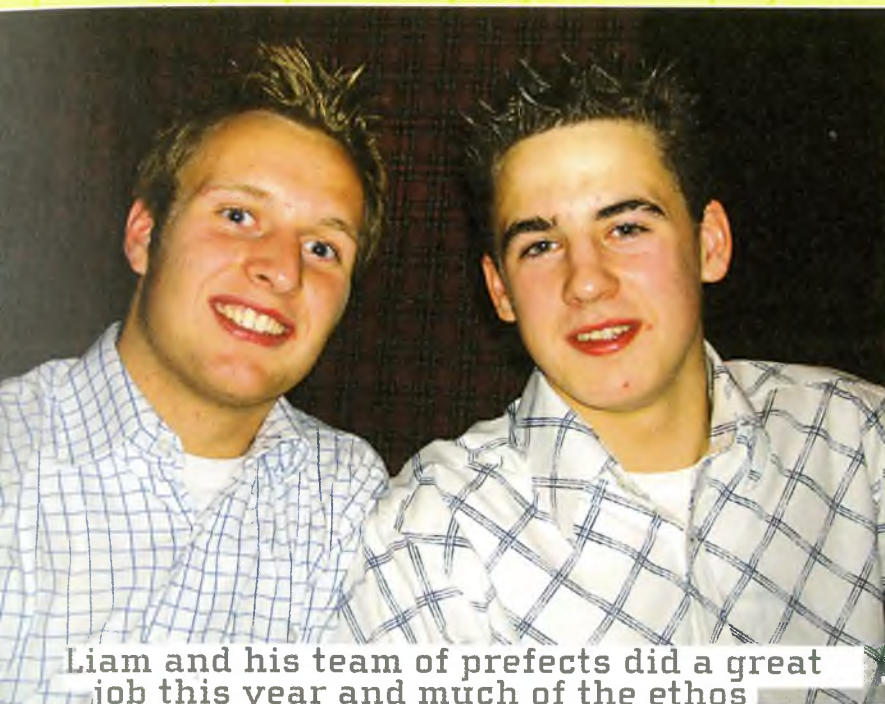
**The first point to mention is that the new III Form are a great bunch of guys. They settled well into the House and have a great variety of qualities to bring to it. Not to mention that my brother is in the group.**

We did well in the House Music competition with the choir's rendition of the Village People's song, YMCA; something different for Ruthven. The U6th really got stuck in with this first competition and this was to be the trend throughout the year, both in House and school competitions and fixtures. We had a large number of players in the 1st XV which had one of its most successful seasons. I captained the 1st XI hockey team and Stuart the athletics team to some impressive wins. Stuart also earned the Senior Victor Ludorum prize on Sports Day. Most of the Upper VI are off to university in the year ahead, however Andrew C is taking a year out and Liam is to travel the world on an Old Strathallian Scholarship. **Liam Carragher**

**This was the toughest of our time in the senior school thus far. We all did our bit in representing House and School in a variety of different teams. The GCSE exams were tough at the time but looking back we generally did well in them with most of us achieving results we deserved. We sadly said good bye to James B and Bradley but we look forward to the new guys arriving in the L6th next year. Social events were also great during the year. Ollie Stevenson**







Liam and his team of prefects did a great job this year and much of the ethos in the House must be down to their attitude towards themselves and towards the juniors in the House.



The year was successful for the House and school in a number of different areas, including rugby, hockey and cricket. Our academic year was important as we started the GCSE courses we had selected for ourselves. We all took part in the House music competition, which was great fun, and during the year we all played our part in other House teams. Joe, Henry and David all took part in the annual LAMDA exams and passed with flying colours. The end of year retreat with the III Form to Loch Morlich was great fun and enjoyed by all who went along. Sailing, mountain-biking, windsurfing and kayaking were all on offer even though the wind did not always allow for any speed sailing. During the year we welcomed Andrew and Cameron to the group and they have both settled well into boarding life at Strathallan. Tom Cargill

This was to be a new experience for us in the House. Some had come through the ranks from Riley and others of us had come from outwith the school; however we all got on well together and had a lot of fun during the year. Everyone made an A team during the course of the year; a fine achievement. CJ and Declan made an impact on the stage in the production of *GREASE* both in voice and acting skills. A few of us represented the school at a national shooting competition and Declan won the Junior Victor Ludorum prize on Sports Day. Will made his mark on the music front and in his ability to lure the 'fairer sex'. CJ and Jamie went on a trip to Wimbledon in the last week of term while the others were hard at work. We all ended the year with a fun trip to Loch Morlich for a day of outdoor activities – great fun had by all. Gregor Campbell

The move from 5th in to the L6th Form was always to be challenging for some of us. The group was joined by a few

new faces at the start of the year and the new guys settled quickly. Harry, Chris and Khairul proved to be great value, especially Chris on the music scene. Chris did well with the solo part for House music – a real baptism of fire for a new boy. Lower VI

Many thanks to the out going prefect body and the Upper VI who have kept the House together over the past year. They were my third group through the House and I feel we really understood each other most of the year. To the new V on the way in and, in particular, to Harry and his team good luck and best wishes for the year that lies ahead. Congratulations to Olly Corlett on his appointment as Head of School, our fourth in the past seven years; a Ruthven tradition by now. Long may this continue. Finally to the Upper VI well done and all the best for what lies ahead in your lives. You have certainly made your mark on the House and a positive one at that. AW





## Simpson House

**In order to do justice to the events and achievements in the Simpson house year this will be a work of précis rather than of prose. Notes handed to me by our Deputy Head of House go on for two pages of A4 and bear witness to the fact that as always Simpsonites have worked and played hard in the previous twelve months.**

The year's sport got off to a flying start with a win in the Junior House Rugby, the team ably captained by Etienne Melville, and continued in a similar vein. We were also victorious in the House Cricket with a team captained by Ben Braithwaite. Ben was also part of very successful school 1st XV Rugby team which also included Joss Beharrell, William Gibson and Richie Duncan. Richie went on to receive the ultimate accolade for his rugby skills by being chosen to represent Scotland at U19. Stefan McLean Toremar was our second international sportsman this year, achieving a very creditable 12th in his first international cross-country race, representing Scotland at U15 level.

In amongst all this sporting prowess Simpson was also able to shine in more academic pursuits with William Farmer and Ali Hunt victorious in a fiercely contested Junior House Debating Competition and Richard Parker and Bob McMorrine coming a creditable 2nd for the seniors. Ali Hunt and Richard Parker were again on trial and coupled with Duncan Clark and Etienne Melville proved to be an invincible team in the Academic Challenge.

In a moment of unbridled enthusiasm Mrs. Parker decided to instil some culinary skills into willing victims and The Simpson House Cookery Club was born. Several

successful dinner parties later, it seems to be a resounding success with a seemingly endless list of boys hoping to participate and no guests poisoned to date.

Back to sporting pursuits and Simpson boys carried the day in the inter-House Fly Fishing, with Charles Harrison, Bob McMorrine and Robbie Cooke, carrying off the trophy for the second year running. The House has also been well-represented in school dramatic productions both on stage and behind the scenes by Duncan Clark, Gains Murdoch, Jordan Raitt and the inimitable Toni Pellicci whose pop-idol-beating performances will be sorely missed.

The CCF has Simpsonites in every arm, with Crawford Paciej and William Gibson, making up part of the Successful Pringle Trophy-winning team for the Marines section. Derek Elder came away from the Spring Open Judo at Grangemouth with a silver medal. Alasdair Cameron carried off the St Columba's Golf Trophy and Sanny Choo continues to dazzle us with displays of international standard table-tennis.

We were briefly touched by greatness this year in the person of Mr. Hilliard, a fantastic Senior House Tutor who will be sorely missed. His relaxed Australian manner belied a fierce competitiveness on the rugby pitch and his ever-cheerful presence will be missed by staff and boys alike. Cambridge University is now benefiting from his presence as he studies for a Master's Degree.

I could go on but the report is in danger of becoming a list and failing to do justice to the many successes in every field that the boys of Simpson House have achieved this year. They can be justly proud. What dizzying heights can we reach next year?





...as always, Simpsonites have worked  
and played hard in the previous  
twelve months.





# THORNBURY





Academically, the girls were taking their studies seriously, a fact that was made crystal clear on the day that the headmaster arrived to give out 53 distinctions. Wow!

**'Mrs Fleming. When are we going get our hoodies?'**...

**Well now you can stop asking because after two years of deliberation and going through the whole colour spectrum we finally have our Thornbank hoodies and we all like them. Thank goodness.**

Along with its new girls Thornbank welcomed its very special new girl, Kate Wilkinson, who arrived fresh from teacher-training college to be faced with the prospect of living with us in Thornbank and becoming responsible for her very first tutor group. Affectionately known as Miss W she has quickly become a very important part of life here in Thornbank.

House music led by Emily B served its usual purpose of bonding the house together in a joint venture and yet again leading to victory with *Help Sam Burns* (one of our new shed girls) gave a beautiful winning solo performance of *Wind Beneath My Wings*.

Rosanna and Kim organised the now annual Halloween party but added their own twist with a Thornbank *Scary Movie* filmed here in the grounds of Strathallan. The makers of *The Blair Witch Project* had better watch out.

Miss Morrison and I had our own scary moment one night on duty as the IV Form tried to burn the house down by leaving some toast to cremate all alone. When I went to the room to switch off the appliances Miss Morrison couldn't actually see me, the smoke was so thick. Fire practice? Who needs a practice?

The House prefects, ably led by Nicola, entertained their III Form buddies with a pizza and games night, followed by the go kart challenge where Mr Fleming and Miss W battled it out with all the buddies to see who could inflict the most damage.

The Christmas party brought its usual batch of hilarious sketches, the star of the night being the prefects' version of a typical day in Thornbank. I still don't know why Emily performed on her knees when she was supposed to be me...

In the new year Abby Kemp and Natasha Porritt tried their hand at the junior debating while Cathy Rutherford and Jo Peek went on to hone their skills in the senior competition, leading to victory for Thornbank. Well done, girls.

Isabell, Jane, Kim and Emily B led the house by example by running (for the last time) in the Cross country competition and even though it was a draw there was a huge sense of achievement for all those who competed.

The VI Form Ball always lends a certain sense of excitement to the dark months of January and February. For weeks the talk is of nothing but dresses, hair, fake tan, etc. I do wish Mr Fleming wouldn't go on quite so much during roll call.

Aisha Anas and Emily McLaren performed well at this year's charity event, Strath Factor. It must have been very nerve-racking to have performed in front of such distinguished judges as Sharon, Louis and Simon.

At half term we said goodbye to Victoria Wilson who had been with us on exchange from New Zealand and Tina Weinrich who managed to extend her one term stay until February half term so that she could go to the ball with all her new friends.

Academically, the girls were taking their studies seriously, a fact that was made crystal clear on the day that the headmaster arrived to give out 53 distinctions. Wow!

In the swimming standards we managed to fill every single slot so that all the races were covered and even though we only came third we were very pleased with our whole House achievement.

Our House trip took us to Edinburgh Playhouse again to see *Grease*, a great night out and real preparation for all those in the House who were taking part in the school production

Abbey Kemp won the best actor in the Junior House drama competition and was directed by best director, Gemma Rose Lansdown...

Lizz Vine, Fiona Roy and Isabell Mastell pushed themselves to the limit again and broke the school triathlon record.

The year has been a good one, full of fun, work and play.

Relationships forged in Thornbank will take the girls far, lessons learned will stay with them and the memories can never be taken away.

Thanks go to Isabell and Jane for leading us through this time with your merry band of House prefects, Lizi for organising all the sports and Rachel all the socials.

Thanks to our merry bunch of tutors, Julia, Carol, Miriam, Audrey, Nigel, Kate and Audrey too who have ably lead the girls through the maze of new Form orders, tutor periods, choosing courses and more.

Thanks also to Morag, Linda, Jennifer and Ros who guided the girls through that foreign land of laundry, cleaning, sewing etc..

Well done Miss W for surviving your first year here in Thornbank. Please stay. We need you... **SF**





## Woodlands House



**Well, well what another busy year for the intrepid Woodlands House. So many parties, outings, sports...and inevitably work, of course.**

Some things never change: routines still seemed to form around our daily dose of Neighbours with stampedes into the Common Room to watch the drama unfold on Ramsay Street at 1.45, and then the 'rush' to get to lessons at 2.07 exactly. This phenomenon seemed to have captivated the whole school, including various teachers. It is hard to describe the junior years' horror when, lo and behold, *The World Cup* arrived and everyone's favourite Aussie soap was thrown to the bottom of the TV Priority Pile. Even then, certain members of the Upper Sixth delved deeper into their masculine side, watching every game for the skill and excitement...or was it just Cannavaro, Josie?

Senior and Junior House Dramas were once again huge successes, and Woodlands upheld its thespian history with a kaleidoscope of varying acting ability. Both the Senior *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and the Junior *Granny Project* were huge successes and once again saw Woodlands kicking some serious acting...ahem...derrière.

In House, parties and barbeques were a chance for everyone to get together from various year groups and have a good laugh. Not that this opportunity was lost at any time; the foyer was a great place to sit and have a blether with friends and tutors alike. Being the central point of the house, it was a venue for a whole host of activities, be it dance routines, games and even tarot readings (Lucy will never quite believe how accurate ours were). Many memories from House parties will stay with us for a long time, if not forever. Special mentions must go to Katy and Sara in III Form and their fondness for raw onions. Phoebe, for her dancing in the V Form Christmas video, which we must say was very special. And who can forget the Summer BBQ, when we were joined by the new 3rd Form: many a game of volleyball went hand-in-hand with the amazing treasure hunt (organised, of course, by

the Upper VI). This not only involved 'testing' riddles, but also dressing up, chocolate and laughter, which basically epitomises Woodlands life. We also had a chance to 'baptise' the Lower 6th who would soon take over our position. This involved many buckets of water...

We cannot even begin to finish this wee note without mentioning the amazing houses tutors. They are an eclectic bunch, all offering completely different qualities to the House, be it advice, magazines or invaluable Chemistry help. The House team, including Janet, Dora, and Denise also made a huge impact on the environment in-house, both physically and socially. Janet will forever be remembered for her infectious laugh and her treasure trove of toiletries, helping us to look beautiful all year round.

And so we turn to the Tods: What can we say; you have been amazing in all that you do for us. There are so many things that you have done for us girls over the year that we will never be able to account for them all. Sunday BBQ's, Hot Chocolate nights, Saturday evenings with cake/ice cream/popcorn etc. Wine for us oldies, with a generous side-order of good chat. I think a conversation involving 'fat names and thin names' from Lower VI will be a long lasting memory. Your care and thoughtfulness in all that you do for the House is invaluable.

And so the authority rolls over to another year: there will be challenges (7am bells are tough) and times of stress (Red Wine or White...ARRGGHH) but no doubt the overdose will be on good fun. Enjoy it and good luck to every Woodlands member. It has, as ever, been a blast. **Pamela Garratt and Gael Welstead**

Indebted to Gael and Pamela as we are for the report, we felt that we must add a little to celebrate the myriad successes and accomplishments of the girls in Woodlands throughout the year and also our thanks to our team of visiting tutors. Once again we wish to





express our gratitude to Janet, Dora and Denise for all their efforts towards maintaining the homely atmosphere prevalent in Woodlands. To live in a House that encompasses such a vast wealth of talents is a daily pleasure and there is never a dull moment whether it is in the laughter that fills the foyer or the wit and repartee that spills from the kitchens particularly when the joys of 'duties' are discovered. It is impossible to mention everything and every achievement; we are grateful to the girls who turn out to give of their best for the House in competitions; who work conscientiously towards their academic goals and who show compassion and regard for those amongst whom they live - simultaneously a noteworthy and fundamental achievement. We could list the silverware garnered throughout the year or we could emphasise the academic excellence of many of the results posted in the summer but it would take too long. Unfortunately we can only highlight a few, so we offer apologies now to any who felt that they deserve a mention...you are probably right.

International honours were gained in activities as diverse as rounders and for the first time this year by Mardi MacGregor in debating. Helen Summersgill and Sophie Workman were capped in Hockey and Netball respectively and we wish them well with their continued participation this year. To ensure that our debating prowess doesn't abate with Mardi's departure to Oxford, Morag Elwis proved she could maintain the mantle by reaching the final of the National Schools Courier Debating competition. The austerity of the surroundings of Parliament Hall at St Andrews University didn't faze the team and they achieved a highly creditable second place.

On various sporting fields and pitches the girls always gave an excellent account of themselves. Within the inter-House competitions they were winners in Junior Hockey, junior and senior Netball and both

the Swimming Standards and Gala and for the first time cross country. The annual cricket match was another lively affair with both teams fielding young squads which bode well for future encounters.

Music and Drama continue to be highly successful and popular elements of the House. Sara Chalmers, Katy Marshall and Elizabeth Cachia organised a charity concert with the aim of raising £200 but managed to surpass all expectations both in terms of an enjoyable evening's entertainment and the £1033 they donated to the African Child Education Programme. The Woodlands Music Evening continues to be a highlight of the school calendar with an eclectic mix ranging from the 'professional' musicians on show such as our choral scholar Gemma Chance and impresario in all things musical, Rebecca Chalmers, to the one off and unmissable Spice Girls. In addition to our success in winning the Junior House drama and stealing the show in the senior competition, both Pamela Garratt and Kirsty Niven participated in the Perth Youth Theatre this year performing a challenging range of pieces and entertaining those of the House who were able to attend.

Whilst there is so much more to mention we do wish to leave some room for those essential photos and it would be wrong to finish the report without special reference to the Upper Sixth. Marshalled, where necessary, by Gael's excellent leadership they were an efficient group of prefects and more importantly an interesting, fun, hardworking 'gaggle'. There were indeed many convivial evenings and we will miss them very much. We wish them all well and look forward to hearing of their many adventures and successes - they will be a hard act to follow but with Catriona as Head of School and Kirsty as Head of House we feel sure that the challenge can be met.

**AJT and MRAJET**





## Chaplain's report

If you were given a goat  
for Christmas, feel free  
to blame the Chaplain...

**If you were given a goat for Christmas, feel free to blame the Chaplain. Sponsoring PresentAid was just one of the activities for charity which have been presented in Chapel this year. Mark Walker, in his last year at the school, spoke movingly of his recovery from a serious road accident; Lauren Murray recounted the experience of family members in coping with ME/CFS; Harriet Page came back at the end of her gap year to tell us of her time working in Africa with the charity Bobbi Bear.**

Speaking to the whole school is a prospect known to frighten even experienced members of staff, and that even a group of second-formers were willing to take on such a challenge bespeaks a courageous level of commitment, for which all those who spoke are to be highly commended.

Part of the Chaplain's pleasant duty is to conduct services at other schools; this year he enjoyed visits to Fettes, to Craigclowan and to Cargilfield. We have ourselves benefited from visiting preachers; representatives of Gideon International presented bibles to all those who had not previously received them. The Revd Duncan Stenhouse, retiring minister of Forgandenny, gave us a valedictory sermon, and it was fitting that we should present him with an engraved quach as a small token of his much valued ministry to the school.

Chapel is one place where we consider the deepest aspects of our lives. Over the year we have held a series of interviews on Sunday evenings, where different members of the school community have been invited to talk about their beliefs. Mr Walmsley spoke of his lifelong Anglican faith, and how that impacted on his military duties. Mr Kennedy recounted his journey from Catholicism to unbelief, reminding us that religion does not hold a monopoly on moral and social welfare. Mohammed Abdo willingly agreed to speak as a devout Muslim, and proved, in this, an excellent ambassador for his faith.

Chapel choir constantly provides a very high musical standard, both inspirational and exemplary. We have in addition benefited greatly from the increasingly honed musical skill of those pupils who are now Choral Scholars at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. In addition, our services have exhibited a variety of music from Swing to Plainchant, from the singing of the Kol Nidrei to accordion Klezmer and Zulu traditional.

This variety serves to illustrate the universality of the presence of God in our lives, and encourages the living-out of all that is good, outwith our formal worship as within.

The year approached its climax with a visit from the Bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld & Dunblane: The Rt Revd David Chillingworth confirmed and presided over the public confession of faith of twelve candidates from the school. Bishop David's wisdom, gentleness and humour impressed all who met him on what was a truly memorable occasion.

Having wished God-speed to our leavers - amongst whom my especial thanks are due to the Chapel Prefects, Toni Pellicci, Cathy Rutherford, Mark Walker and Emily Beetschen - we were delighted to receive correspondence from one a few weeks later; it seems a fitting note on which to end:

*The idea of Chapel three times a week was not one I relished when I started Strath... but thank you so much for opening my mind and helping me to see that I don't need to believe in Jesus to have faith in something. A quote that sticks in my mind is, 'from the religious back to the spiritual,' and you have helped me understand what that means.*

To work in a community where such understanding becomes possible is a considerable privilege. *Ad maiorem Dei gloria. RAMTO*





## Headmaster's autumn music

**As is customary in these events, the Chapel was full to bursting with hardly room to swing a cat, never mind the odd double-bass or saxophone, for the first of the year's Headmaster's Music performances. Once again, Messrs Metcalfe and Walmsley had put together a varied and exciting programme to showcase some of the younger talent at the School's disposal, and those for whom it was their last year at Strathallan.**

The evening got off to a swinging start with the Chapel Choir's rendition of a traditional Spiritual – *Standing in the Need of Prayer* – followed by the Kyrie and Agnus Dei from Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, which the Choir performed to rave reviews later in the year at Perth's St. Ninian's Cathedral. With its haunting plain chant opening, blossoming out into closely tuned four-part harmony, the Jenkins movements displayed the burgeoning choral singing tradition of recent years.

Further evidence of this pleasing tradition surfaced with a superb rendition of Bob Chilcott's *Can you hear me?* by the Riley Choir and the Senior School's Chamber Choir. Here was some very pleasant part singing, combined with some powerful unison sections. This was an affecting performance, from the heart and with some good actions choreographed by the Assistant Director of Music, Richard Walmsley.

Instrumental music was well-represented on this varied and eclectic programme of music, put together by Director of Music, Neil Metcalfe. The School Orchestra under the leadership of Michael Segaud pulled off a rather difficult arrangement of the theme from *Mission Impossible*, by Lalo Schiffrin. The overall sound of the orchestra was well balanced between the strings and brass; not easy to pull off with such a young ensemble.

The performance here was more than matched by the two wind bands directed by Neil Hamilton. The Riley Band played the *Shrek Dance Party*, a delightful little piece from the well-known children's film. Many of these young performers had never played in public before, so their poise and assuredness was astonishing. The Senior School wind band then entertained us with a symphonic suite, written by Klaus Badelt, used in the smash-hit film *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Once again, the percussion and brass were the stars of the piece, with the clarinets and oboes a close second. The fast movements were exciting and rousing.

The final ensemble instrumental pieces were nicely contrasted. The Nicol House group, which had won a prize in House Music several weeks before, entertained us with the well-known piece *Le Onde* arranged from the original concept by our own Michael Segaud. And a Riley String Ensemble played three dances by Leo Hassler. These latter pieces were played very stylishly indeed by a group of young musicians whose average age was 12. Clearly there is some outstanding talent in the Junior School at the moment which can only bode well for Strathallan's musical future.

But this was also an evening to celebrate those who had been at Strathallan just a little longer. Of note here was Michael Segaud who, at the time of writing, has just won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in Manchester.



He arranged some of the evening's music, directed the Senior School's String Ensemble in their rendition of movements from Karl Jenkins' *Palladio*, and then entertained us all with his playing on the viola of the *Allegro* from Stamitz's *Concerto in D*. This piece is difficult, requiring great concentration and technical ability in the long runs, interspersed with trills and appoggiaturas, stretching Michael's technique to the full.

The very pleasant evening of music making was rounded off in rousing style by a reappearance of the Chamber Choir in their rendition of Westlife's *You Raise me Up*. A fitting end one might suppose to such an uplifting and spirited evening of music from some talented performers. **RHF**





**A visit to hear Mahler's 1st Symphony given by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in the newly-built Perth Concert Hall started the year off in full throttle and very much set the tone of things to come; new ventures with familiar things.**

A growing relationship with professionals outside school led to a collaboration between the actors Terry Wale and Lesley Mackie and the Chapel Choir, who came together for an evening of words and music to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Based on readings of contemporary poetry and extracts from letters sent home from the front line given by Mr Wale, Ms Mackie and Alex Beetschen (Form 5), the Chapel Choir added performances of popular songs from the period and excerpts from Fauré's *Requiem*. This was a splendid evening of thought-provoking material.

Musical Ensembles of all sorts play a very important role in the musical life of Strathallan giving, as they do, opportunities for many of the 250 pupils who take individual music lessons to perform together. Whether jazz, string quartet, orchestra, choral, wind or ceilidh music (to mention but a few) is your passion, there is something for every taste and level of proficiency. Headmaster's Music gives a format in which many of these groups can perform. So we were treated over the course of the year to many diverse and entertaining offerings. Of particular note are the many ensembles which are ably guided by our senior pupils and it would be remiss of me to pass up this opportunity to mention the work done by Michael Segaud in training and leading the String Ensemble, Junior and Senior Ceilidh Bands and the Junior String Quartet this year. Also, to Rebecca Chalmers who spent so much valuable time in training Riley Choir alongside Mr Walmsley and so ably conducted the Riley House Carol Service. As Leader of the Orchestra and Head of Choir respectively, they have done a great deal to enhance the quality of music in the department.

The Carol Services play a very particular and important role in the cycle of the school year and provide a focus of work for the 70

choristers involved at a time when most of us are relaxing after school exams and waiting for the Christmas holiday to begin. There were four services this year; *Carols in the City* given at St Ninian's Cathedral, the Riley House Carol Service and two Senior School services. Alex Beetschen's setting of *The Shepherd's Pipe Carol* was a highlight of the Riley Carol Service, as was Rebecca Chalmers' conducting; standing-in for Mr Walmsley who was directing the Choral Scholars at the Cathedral for the visit of HRH The Princess Royal. All went well with both these ventures and choristers and Mr Walmsley returned in the nick of time to take part in the two senior Carol Services.

Friday Lunchtime Concerts began in earnest at the start of Spring Term. These short recitals continue to give opportunities for all types of performers to play to an interested and enthusiastic audience in an informal setting and always yield the most interesting repertoire. Divided into various categories (voice, piano, strings, wind and brass), many pupils took the opportunity to give a first performance of something that was later to be included in a formal recital or an examination. Well done to all who took part.

As preparations for *Grease* got under way we played host to a group of musicians from St Hilda's College, Buenos Aires. These affable young people were a delight to host and gave us the opportunity for a joint venture: two concerts in which Strathallan, Kilgraston and St Hilda's would join forces for an evening of diverse offerings ranging from traditional Brazilian music to Gospel via Mozart. However the highlight of the events was undoubtedly the demonstration (with audience participation) of the *Tango*, given by St Hilda's. The success of these concerts also led to a joint venture between Kilgraston and Strathallan in giving a performance of the contemporary British composer Karl Jenkins' *Mass for the Armed Man*. This concert took place in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, towards the end of the Summer Term. Around 70 choristers came together to perform alongside an orchestra in a packed Cathedral. Fabulous solo movements (Sam Burns and Claire



# MUSIC



These fine young folk have given of their time and talents both in and out of school and have been impressive...



Price) and readings of poetry chosen from the recently-published anthology *Poems Against War*, were interspersed with overwhelmingly impassioned choral movements. The eerie silence from the audience at the conclusion of the performance, followed by a standing ovation for the performers, was well-merited.

Of all the concerts given this year (over fifty in number including Riley Informal concerts, Year Group concerts, concerts in the local community, musical theatre recitals, etc), it is perhaps unfair to single out any one particular event as 'special'. However, there was, to my mind, one such event. In the very last week of the Summer Term, two long-standing members of the department – Michael Segaud and Rebecca Chalmers – were invited to perform an evening of Concerto movements along with a professional ensemble of instrumentalists who would accompany them. It was the end of a busy day; the London College of Music Musical Theatre examinations had taken place that day (Michael having taken the Diploma exam) and there was little time for rehearsal. Nonetheless, musicians all came together in the evening and gave a quite magical concert which included Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No5*, Telemann's *Viola Concerto in G*, and John Rutter's *Suite Antique*. A fitting end to the school career of two outstanding individuals who served Strathallan well over their time here.

Alongside the usual 'traditional' aspects of the department's work, there continue to be adventures into new areas. Miss Boyd trains an incredible number of young singers for examinations in Musical Theatre and we were particularly pleased this year with many awards in this area being capped by three of our number gaining associateship of the college (ALCM); namely Mrs Irene McFarlane, Michael Segaud and (with an outstanding 98%) Sam Burns. Mr Hutchison has also pioneered work with Trinity College of Music in their Rock School examinations.

In our first diet of exams in this area even Mr Metcalfe managed to pass his Grade 1 Drum Kit exam.

The Music Scholars have worked hard over the course of the year to show us their mettle and I feel particular mention should be made of the Choral Scholars. These fine young folk have given of their time and talents both in and out of school and have been impressive both in their dedication to responsibilities at St Ninian's Cathedral and in the sheer volume and quality of music they have produced.

It is the nature of things that folk move on to new adventures. To Michael, Becky, Emily and Toni (all of whom have gone on to include music in some way in their undergraduate lives) we give our thanks. Also to Mr Andrew Jenkins who takes up the post of Director of Music at Kilgraston School in the new year. Mr Jenkins has been a stalwart member of the music staff these past few years and will be sorely missed – particularly in his amazing ability to make absolute sense of the wires and plugs of the 'sound system'.

I often reflect on just how lucky we are at Strathallan to have such a number of enthusiastic, talented and hard-working musicians across the school. In writing this music report many things have been left out. This is not to do anyone down, but just that so much of what is achieved in those fifty concerts a year has become a part of the day-to-day life of the school. Visits to Balmoral to sing for HRH The Prince of Wales to performances in the local Nursing Home are all a part of what goes on in the weekly programme of the department, and that is due to two things; the hard work of our Visiting Music Staff, and – most importantly – the hard work of you Strathallan pupils. You can be justly proud of what you have achieved this year; well done! **NRM**



## Choral scholars



On a Sunday in September eight intrepid choristers from Strathallan travelled to St Ninian's Episcopal Cathedral, Perth, in order to open their mouths and produce the wonderful sound that we've all come to recognise from the Chapel Choir's concerts. This was no concert, however. Instead, it was the first choral Sunday morning Eucharist of the year, and these were the new Choral Scholars of St Ninian's Cathedral.

These Choral Scholars are the vanguard of a unique and innovative partnership between Strathallan and St Ninian's. This partnership looks to award successful candidates choral scholarships at Strathallan and to promote and widen the scholars' experiences in Anglican choral repertoire, as well as to sustain the musical provision at the cathedral. It is hoped that, through this partnership, some of the scholars may subsequently pursue choral scholarships at university.

With this in mind, eight Choral Scholars willingly hit the ground running at the start of the year. With one service per week during each term they have had to learn brand new repertoire quickly, and so significantly improve their sight-singing skills as a result. The scholars' normal monthly routine during term is:

Monthly Services	Weekly rehearsals
<b>1st Sunday</b> – Sung Service (Scholars only)	Monday: 6.30pm-7.30pm
<b>2nd Sunday</b> – Sung Service	Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm
<b>3rd Sunday</b> – Sung Service (am)	Sunday: 10.00am-11.00am
<b>Choral Evensong (pm)</b>	
<b>4th Sunday</b>	Sung Service (No Scholars)
<b>5th Sunday</b>	Said Service (No Scholars)

In addition, the Scholars have been involved in other extraordinary services throughout the year. Highlights include returning to perform the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, performing at the new Bishop's enthronement, and being invited to perform for HRH The Princess Royal.

From this September it is hoped that this partnership will become permanent allowing for an increase in the number of choral scholarships, from eight to sixteen, and facilitating other projects such as tours, recordings and broadcasts. If you have any queries, or would like any further information on Strathallan Choral Scholarships, then please contact Mr Richard Walmsley at Strathallan School, or via email: [staffrcaw@strathallan.co.uk](mailto:staffrcaw@strathallan.co.uk) **RCAW**



**Let me take you on a short journey, here. It follows a twisty and darkened Autumn road from the innards of the Boarding Houses and leads into the bizarre, miraculous, magical realm that is the stage of Strathallan School Theatre. Into that chaotic realm in November irrupted the strange, ingenious and sometimes frankly disturbing imaginations and talents that produced Senior House Drama.**

Ruthven kicked off proceedings taking us to a Middle Earth where wizards rubbed shoulders with sharp-suited gangstas, Lindsay's Gandalf exuded a quiet dignity that was successfully and hilariously undermined by Bradley's gloriously fake American accent, Mauri's slapstick gangsta and Andrew's country bumpkin Sam Gamgee. Cammy T made his customary cameo appearance without much kit.

Ruthven were (eventually) followed by Freeland's re-creation of mid-America in a hideously convincing interpretation of hit movie *Dodgeball*. A be-lycra'd Fat Bob ran the proceedings, even managing to bounce the prop with some accuracy. It was a toss-up whether having to watch Bob get his considerable posterior leathered or the authentic manner in which he carried off the moustache was more disturbing. Sam's US accent was spot on and Alex's appearance as Captain Haddock inexplicable.

Nicol decided that the streets of Verona were a good destination for them and produced a full-blooded version of *Romeo and Juliet* which involved everything from mobsters to a salad-based consummation of the lovers' relationship. The formidable Ben produced one of his classier performances as Juliet and was not even upstaged by Craig's frankly dreadful attempt at what might have been an Irish accent.

Central casting went wild with Woodlands' production of *Harry Potter*. Would it be possible to find a geekier Ron Weasley than Pamela or a more splendidly evil Malfoy than Sarah? (Answer, 'No'). The shared beards and wigs were a highlight along with the sound effects for the nail-biting chess game.

Simpson took us to HM Prison Slade as the setting of their production of *Porridge*. Charlie's Fletch was a near-miracle of acting until the moment when the lines got the better of him. Duncan's Godber had a good deal of subtlety brutally offset by the magnificent hamminess of Richie's character who even managed to come on-stage at the wrong moment. I feel that quite a few of these low-security prisoners might have been better off being quietly released into the community.

Lastly, we travelled back to the 1950s with Thornbank's production of *Grease*. Lauren's Rizzo was terrifically convincing and well-acted and Emily's Sandy was suitably sweet when she needed to be. Highlights were Emily Beetschen as a decidedly unhinged TV advert and Emily Roy's negligee. This production distinguished itself from quite a few of the others in the respect that the cast all appeared to know their lines and from *all* of the others by having a musical score.

All in all another roller-coaster of an evening's drama from Strathallan's senior pupils. **EGX**





## House music



**It is difficult to imagine other circumstances in which water wings and snorkels are the precursor to a virtuoso performance of Bach, or indeed where the star of school rugby is lauded for his flute playing; such is the eternal joy, appeal and surprise of House Music. As the first half term of the year drew to a close the school gathered in anticipation of an occasion which, this year, boasted a programme of music from the aforementioned Bach to the Village People, and pretty much everything in between.**

Faced with a packed sports hall and not the best acoustics in the world, the quality of performance in the Solo Performance is often extraordinary and this year was no exception. Chris Charles, Becky Chalmers and Clement Ip all gave highly accomplished piano performances and Toni Pellicci's haunting rendition of *Goodbye, My Lover* was praised by the adjudicator, Mr Andrew Tippet. However, it was Sam Burns who deservedly took the Solo Performance prize for Thornbank with a stunning performance of *Wind Beneath My Wings*.

Of course no morning's entertainment at House Music would be complete without its full quota of enthusiastic fun and frivolity. While Thornbank had cheerleaders, Freeland exploded onto stage with party poppers and Rob and Greig looking like the Men in Black. Jean and Pamela introduced Woodlands with the snorkels and water-wings, whilst Gemma Chance managed to make the most of her floatation aids and bag herself the Conductor's Baton. But in Ruthven's performance there was a shocking revelation as the true House colours were nailed to the mast. Gone forever is the impression of a house dominated by balls of different shapes and sizes – their infectious performance of YMCA embraced the true spirit of the anthem and not surprisingly allowed Cammy T to get his kit off in public yet again.

Nicol, by comparison, had seemed almost tame as they entered the arena last, yet their final piece, the House Ensemble performance was simply beautiful. Their performance of *Le Onde* by Ludovico Einaudi was both uplifting and unusual, and gave Michael Segaud the Strathallan House Music Bowl. Moreover, they left the assembled audience with no doubt as to the extraordinary diversity of musical participation and accomplishment at Strathallan. **CH**





**'Hail, Caesar. Those who are about to die salute you.'**, in their Latin form, are the words beneath the bronze bust of the gladiator at the door into the fiction library. This is the rather depressing statement which faces every LAMDA candidate as he or she waits for the examiner to ring the bell which heralds the start of the exam. The gladiator's words, however, cannot have had too negative an effect on the candidates' performances, because, once again, the LAMDA results over the next 5 days of exams were outstandingly good with almost 100 achieving the top grade of distinction.

The Perth Burns Club's annual festival in November once again brought successes for our pupils. Three trophies were won, including one by Kirsty Glasgow in the fiddle section, for playing an air called *Achosnich* which was composed by her grandfather. Claire Price, with *The Fidgety Bairn*, came first overall in the singing classes and Jonathan McCashin, reciting Adam McNaughton's *The Jeely Piece Song* won the verse speaking trophy.

In *Perform in Perth* in March, our pupils won two verse-speaking trophies, gaining three honours (over 90%), forty five distinctions (over 85%) and thirteen Firsts.

The trophies went to Morag Elwis in the Burns Class and to David Cameron in the Bible reading. The honours marks went to Josiah Bircham and Ollie Wale who each won two. Other Firsts went to Alex Beetschen and Lucy Grieve and to I Set 2 in the choral verse-speaking. Special mention must be made of William Farmer who had completely forgotten until the morning of the Bible reading competition that he had actually entered for it, and still managed to come third.

In the music classes in *Perform in Perth* our pupils won almost every class which they had entered. Olivia Quick won her flute class. In singing classes Rosie Beetschen won two, and Sara Chalmers, one. Alex Beetschen and Chris Charles achieved Firsts in piano classes.

Once again, 2 buses containing every pupil in Riley and a large number of seniors and staff headed south in May for the Edinburgh Competition Festival at the Edinburgh Academy. There were awards galore for 'The Usual Suspects'. Josiah Bircham and Amyce Smith-Bannister achieved Honours and 2 Firsts, including, for Amyce the Bible reading Medal. Morag Elwis won the Jean Belfrage Medal for

verse speaking, reciting Coleridge's 'tuibla Khan', and 4 other classes, including winning the Mary Cameron Watson Medal for Shakespeare. Other solo winners were Ollie Wale, Ruairaidh MacKenzie and Rebecca Clephan. Triple winners in the choral verse speaking class were II set 2, II and I set 1. An old stager, Strathallian Ishbel McFarlane, won four of the adult classes and represented the festival's speech and drama day at the prize-winners' concert, reciting *Tam O'Shanter*.

Seventeen groups, each containing from two to eight performers, took part in the group acting class. This was not a competition, but a performance, followed by a workshop. Almost all of these groups went on to do LAMDA acting exams, so the event gave them the opportunity for a practice public performance. In this class, special mention must be made of Jonny McCashin who, as well as performing in his own duo with Chloe Lindsay, also filled in on an 'understanding' for two pupils from other groups who were ill.

In the last three years around 250 Strathallan pupils, more than half of the school's population, have taken part in at least one LAMDA exam. Some, in fact, in that time have taken eight or ten. All available subjects in the syllabus have been tackled, from entry level to grade 8 (Gold Medal). The fact that the higher grades are to have UCAS points awarded will help our senior pupils in university application.

Over the five days of exams during the session, the highest achievers once again included Riley choral verse speakers with the top mark going to II set 1 for their performance of Robert Garioch's *Fi'Baw in the street*, closely followed by I set 1. The highest mark awarded to an individual candidate went to William Campbell-Gibson in bronze medal acting. Close behind came Morag Elwis with spoken English and Josiah Bircham for acting. Jonny McCashin, Ollie Wale, Rosie Beetschen, Marcus Adams, Ben Giles, Yasmin Forbes and Kirsty Glasgow gained high distinction marks for acting.

Every member of Form V set 4 did Grade 4 Spoken English. Charlotte Tracey came top of that group, John Harrison, Fergus Baird and Suzanne Braithwaite also achieving distinction. Azlyn Edens and Henry Jones achieved distinction for mime.

Many other pupils also gained distinction in group acting classes.

**IIMcF**



## Pipe band 2004-2005



The pipe band has had another busy and successful year, winning a total of 17 prizes and awards. The award winning began during the school holidays with Adam Michie who won three prizes at The Halkirk Highland Games, including The Halkirk Highland Games Trophy for first prize in the Jig section.

Adam then took part in the Scottish Junior Piping Championships at Carnoustie where he won the Ian D. Millar Cup as second prize in the Intermediate March, Strathspey and Reel section, he also walked off with a medal and a leather wallet for his efforts.

Pipers Adam Michie and Etienne Melville played at the I.A.P.S Dinner in the Museum in Chambers Street, Edinburgh for a gathering of over 400 Headmasters from Prep Schools across Britain.

Pipe Sergeant Adam Michie made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day.

At Headmaster's Music in November, a 'Folk Band', consisting of Adam, JSRH on Scottish Small Pipes, with Etienne Melville on Bhoran and RAMTQ on Accordion, took to the stage for a rendition of *The Tay Boat Song* and *Crossing the Minch*, a deviation from our usual performance. It seemed to go down well. In January, nine prizes were won at The Vale of Atholl Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Adam Michie was named Overall Senior Champion Piper at his first attempt in the senior section. He achieved this by winning all his competitions, the Piobaireachd, the March, Strathspey and Reel and the Jig. Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming won The Erhard Penker Cup as first prize in the Senior Solo Drumming for the third year in a row. Nick Millar, following Tom's example, took fifth prize in the same event. Ian Tourney won second prize in both the Novice Drumming and Junior Drumming events. Oliver Stevenson, not to be out done, took third prize in the Senior Tenor Drumming section. Fergus Bell, Etienne Melville, Freddie Coleman, Bethany Lindsay, Olivia Quick and Skye Johnston were awarded Centenary Medals for their performances. Another good day's work.

February saw us take a trio of pipers to the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society schools' evening in Edinburgh. Everyone plays a number of tunes together with the hosts then each school in turn play a selection of music. The performance by Fergus Bell, Adam Michie and Etienne Melville was well received by the society's members and the other schools involved.







At the competition organised by George Watson's College, Strathallan School won the Junior Mini Band Competition, walking off with The Terris Shield as their prize.

Adam then supplied some Scottish flavour to the sixth form ball by playing as his seniors arrived for the evening. They all seemed to appreciate his efforts.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition this year, we were not in a position to put the band into the competition due to a lack of experienced pipers. We did have some soloists though who kept our name 'in the frame'. Adam again played very well to win third prize in the Senior Piping at his first attempt.

Other events attended by the band were the opening of Rossie House Gardens for the summer season. Again Adam and Etienne did the honours. The band then played at the opening of Oakbank Primary School Highland Games where they led the pupils to the games field, provided music for them to 'March Past' the Chieftain and then entertained the crowd with some selections.

The band was also invited to play at the 'FarmAfrica' Dinner at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh. A mini band played as the guests arrived and then were to play the guests in to Dinner. An extra session developed as the fire alarm went off, this saw everyone out on the pavement on George Street for about half an hour. The band kept them amused with selections as the fire brigade arrived and checked out the building. It is good to be adaptable.

Speech Day this year saw a good display from the band on the lawn. A group of new pipers marched on to show off their new skills, for a spirited rendition of *The Skye Boat Song* and *Loch Rannoch*. Our new drummers joined in to play some marches; they then played a *Drum Salute*. With lots of practice, we hope most of them will be able to play the whole display next year.



Our contribution to headmaster's Music in the summer term was a group of pipers playing our own version of the Dougie MacLean hit *Caledonia* with three part harmony, this was followed by *We're no' awa' tae bide awa'*. The audience appeared to enjoy our efforts.

Our last big competition of the year was The Scottish Schools' Championships held this year at Glenalmond College. The weather conditions were dreadful, resulting in the events being held indoors for the first time in many years. Piper Etienne Melville won the Scots Guards Trophy for Dress and Deportment in the Intermediate Piping Section. Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming took third prize in the Senior Drumming even for the second year running. Congratulations to both Etienne and Tom.

Our last event of the year was our solo piping and drumming event. The major winners were as follows:

**Most Improved Drummer** – Bethany Lindsay;

**Novice Drumming** – Skye Johnston;

**Junior Drumming** – Ian Tourney;

**Senior Drumming** – Tom Fleming;

**Bass and Tenor Drumming** – Oliver Stevenson;

**Most Improved Piper** – Katie Scobie;

**Most Improved Chanter Player** – Hercules Yeung;

**Chanter** – Justin Wong;

**Novice Piping** – Angus Stephenson;

**Junior Piping and Hornpipe & Jig** – Adam Michie;

**Senior Piping** – Fergus Bell;

**Piobaireachd** – Adam Michie;

**Best Contribution to the band** – Fergus Bell.

The solo contest finished with us saying goodbye Angus Stephenson, Bethany Lindsay and Skye Johnston. Angus is off to university while Bethany and Skye are changing schools. We wish them every success in the future.

We look forward to the challenges of next year. JSRH



Drama





## A Christmas Carol

**The production of A Christmas Carol at Strathallan was exceptionally fortunate in having had in its audience a contemporary of Dickens, who has provided us with this characteristic review.**

The true spirit of Christmas, the evocation by Mr Charles Dickens of all that most truly characterises the season, was admirably caught in the production at the Strathallan Theatre of Mr Bartlett's adaptation for stage, in regard of which may be noted that which the author himself had to say upon the subject of such undertakings, viz. 'Every writer of fiction, although he may not adopt the dramatic form, writes in effect for the stage'

Mr Beetschen's performance of Scrooge himself, (in which rôle, it may be remarked, he hardly departed the stage) was as sympathetic as it was characteristic, and thus invited all those fortunate enough to have witnessed it, fully to participate in willing the miser to throw aside his meanness, and rather to embrace that generosity successively urged upon him by his ghostly mentors. That this graduated transformation of spirit should so persuasively have been portrayed by one as yet hardly advanced in years, is no less remarkable than the depiction of geriatric decrepitude he presented to a justly appreciative audience. So believable was he, indeed, that one urchin was heard to cry out from the auditorium, 'Miserable old g-t!' Whilst we may not applaud wholeheartedly the manner of its expression, the sentiment surely was one with which we are bound to concur, so convincing was the actor's portrayal.

Nor should the impression be received that Mr Beetschen was the sole purveyor of excellence, for Miss Rutherford caught nicely the loneliness of the eponymous hero's boyhood, and in so doing excited the sympathy of all who saw her.

Miss Mackenzie delighted us, firstly by her most terrifying representation of the ghost of Marley, (which must surely have haunted the imaginations of many of her younger audience upon their retiring at length to the Nursery, such was its fury) and afterwards by her contrastingly gay rendition of Cratchit's wife, which epitomized that cheery spirit of blithe courage in the face of infelicity which is to be found in the better sort of the working-classes. Her accent enunciated to perfection such tones as might be heard upon any day in the rookeries about Covent Garden.

Regarding such matters, we were at first surprised to discern that the Spirit of Christmas Present evidently hailed from the Colonies; but in such times as these, when the whole vessel of festive enterprise is propelled by commercial gusts whose origins may be traced to the Americas, we are prompted to ask, what could be more appropriate? Far better this, than that Mr Elder should have regaled us in the sadly unconvincing Ameri-Cockney such as was achieved by his countryman Mr Van Dyke, whose original it may be remembered was barely to be divined in his otherwise accomplished portrayal of a Chimney-sweep. But Mr Elder is happily above such tricks.

Indeed, it is fair to say that the evening as a whole was characterized by a refusal to descend into buffoonery, and was thus notable for a most felicitous sense of style.

This was apparent from the first, when we were introduced to the character of Cratchit, a ledger-clerk. It may here be remarked that the production presented to us most admirably the stifling tedium of such an occupation, the actors expressing the same by giving due care to the maxim that 'Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech'. At this, Mr Campbell-Gibson is a past-master, and as such was

thoroughly believable in his portrayal of a good man never quite vanquished by adversity of circumstance.

A similarly fortitudinous character is given us in the person of Scrooge's nephew; Mr Murdoch was here well cast in a rôle to which he brought an attractive yet sensitive affability.

Miss Chance and Miss Smith-Bannister both supported well and characteristically; and it is worth remarking that with their emendation, the whole company has been named, for a total of fifty-one persons was represented on stage by a mere eight members of the cast. That they accomplished this without ever appearing to confuse the characteristics of one with another is much to be applauded: the alacrity with which changes of costume were managed is itself worthy of approbation.

Having thus paid due regard to those technical necessities which qualify as a prerequisite to the most basic success, we willingly pay tribute to a further aspect too often neglected, and here note that the Dramatic Set was one of an unusually high quality, effective without detracting attention from the narrative's necessary progression, and

catching entirely the domestic spirit of the time and place. The transformation of a Canopy-bed must be remarked as demonstrating a most singular ingenuity, upon which Mr Hume is to be congratulated.

The design of lighting by Mr Streatfeild-James (which by employing the most modern resources available, was itself

such as to transform that which is necessity into a delight) displayed a cornucopia of effects which by turns entranced and deceived the eye; even where, to those who recall with some fondness the gentler incandescence of true lime-light, the overall scheme might still have been improved had it been allowed on occasion to be simply less bright.

Not merely the ocular, but the auditory sense also was invited to participate in the evening's entertainment; for the novel effects of clock-chimes and nib-scratchings added an enchantment to the production which bespeaks a fine attention to detail without neglecting thereby the whole.

In conclusion, Mrs McFarlane may receive ample encouragement on the continuing success of her company: that she would be the first to applaud her worthy handmaidens, Mrs Robertson-Barnett and Mrs Howett, bears testimony at once to their significant accomplishments as to her own generosity of spirit, the possession of which happy virtue must surely the better have enabled so accomplished a producer perfectly to represent to us Mr Dickens' timely and eternal parable thereon. **RAMTQ**





# Grease



...from first furtive glances,  
to the rather more intimate scene  
at the drive-in movie...





### Oh, those summer nights, all choked up!

No, it's not an advert for some sort of hay-fever remedy, but it's Strathallan's latest musical extravaganza performed, with *élan*, by a cast of thousands – well 69 pupils and one member of staff (of which more later). A plethora of side-burns and well-greased quiffs were all the rage, along with gum-chewing molls, complimented by some shady looking T-Birds and battle-hardened Pink Ladies. There were those who said that Messrs. Salisbury and Metcalfe were taking a risk by casting a younger than normal group of singers, but the raucous applause which greeted the final curtain calls in the evening performances would seem to validate their decision. Grease was certainly the equal of the previous year's West Side Story.

As always the set was innovative and flexible, whether it was intended as a club dance floor, a gang warfare battlefield or drive-in movie lot. The staging of the set-piece dances and choreography was rather hampered by the small stage and by the huge numbers of 'extras', but they were always vibrant and exciting, though not detracting from the action of the principal singers and actors. It was especially good to see a large number of pupils, who would not normally be seen on stage by themselves, participating in a production that looked and sounded fun to be involved with. The small band under the direction of Neil Metcalfe was fully immersed in the idiom of 1950s rock and roll, belting out such favourites from the stage show and film as *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightning*, and *All Choked Up*. We also had Mr Kennedy moonlighting as a Teen Angel singing *Beauty School Dropout*. I'm not sure he's gotten the glitter out of his hair even now.

A school show like this is not only an opportunity for mass participation but also for committed acting and singing amongst the principals, not to mention some hilarious cameos. In the latter category special mention must be made of Mark Bonington as the geeky Eugene, butt of everyone's jokes, and also of Catherine Rutherford as the uptight teacher Miss Lynch. Both had an unerring sense of comic timing. Tony Pellici starred as Johnny Casino in the *Born to Hand-Jive* scene of Act Two, whilst Sam Burns wowed us with all the brassy cojones of Sandra Dee. Both were rather under the weather, but they behaved as true professionals, and showed some of the younger characters how to act their socks off. As already mentioned, the cast was rather younger than in previous shows. Of note here were Chris Jaworski as Doody, and the popular Oliver Beetschen as Roger, T-Birds both in their *Rock 'n Roll Party Queen* number in Act Two. Look out for both of them in the future.

The show, however, centres on the burgeoning relationship between Sandy, the rich, new rather inhibited young girl, and the rather rough and ready Danny, always on the edge of something dodgy. They were played by Gemma Chance and Alex Beetschen. Both are good vocal



actors, and have played significant roles in previous productions, but perhaps here they finally stood out on their own, stealing the show in the process. Their portrayal of the complex relationship was most convincing, from first furtive glances, to the rather more intimate scene at the drive-in movie, culminating in the final raunchy *All Choked Up*.

All in all, this was a very enjoyable way to end the Spring Term, and a fitting finale for all those weeks of choreography, singing, and acting supervised by Dr Salisbury, Mrs Robinson-Barnett, Mrs Howett, Mr Kennedy and Mr Metcalfe, and not forgetting Joanne and Cardine, the visiting choreographers. Roll on *Sweeney Todd* in 2007. **RHF**



## Junior House drama

Another remarkable night on the boards that Sir Noel Coward was, once again, delighted not to have been invited to.

May 2006 saw the field of dreams turned over to the temporary ownership of the juniors. William Campbell-Gibson set the scene for a variety of expositions on the theme of The Granny Project with a nicely-judged cod American intro in his very own on-the-edge-of-chaos-but-keeping-it-real style.

Simpson entered the arena first and a relaxed and natural introduction by Alan Young gave place to a dinner-party apparently scripted by Samuel Beckett. Jack Thomson played a surprisingly convincing East End bimbo and Stefan McLean a (rather forgetful) Russian Sean Connery.

Thornbank's production offered a granny-oriented version of Fight Club in which daffodils visibly wilted when confronted by some of the acting skills on display and Abbey Kemp expertly played herself.

Nicol's Rastafarian/Home Counties piece was pretty funny, in spite of itself, and a highlight was unquestionably Andrew Whitelaw's Jamaican accent, which placed Kingston as a suburb simultaneously of Moscow and Dundee.

Woodlands managed to showcase some genuine acting talent including Joanna MacLachlan as a faithful hound and Sara Chalmers as a frighteningly manic granny.

Freeland took the prize for having the smallest number of objects on display for their set (one, at the last count) and featured Ollie Wale as a cross between a demented chipmunk and the Queen Mother (prior to demise). Jamie King's broom was a definite highlight.

Finally Ruthven treated us to another minimalist set. David Cameron's extraordinary intro drew the biggest round of applause of the evening, though this wasn't really down to his acting.

Another remarkable night on the boards that Sir Noel Coward was, once again, delighted not to have been invited to. **EGK**

## Stage crew report



### One more year gone and, with it, another three productions.

The first of these was Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, performed at the end of term just before Christmas, surprisingly enough.

This production was relatively uneventful, the highlight being the face of Jacob Marley appearing through the door panel of Scrooge's house. However, the lasting memory of every stage crew member will be of the hours spent making snow, which we bought in the end anyway.

After Christmas, work began on the set for this year's musical *Grease*. Due to the flamboyant nature of the play, and directors, the theatre was transformed into a mass of bright purple and 'foxy' pink.

As per tradition, Plywood made his customary appearance, this year in Sandy's bedroom, tut tut. However, the theatre was not the only thing to be transformed for the 1950s extravaganza, and Plywood sported his own fantastic pink makeover.

This year, as always, we went one step better with the set and, thanks to Dave's ingenious ideas, we had revolving flats for the first time. Due to well-practised swivelling and under the watchful eye of The Master Swiveller, all the teen angels were delivered on time.





**Plywood made his customary appearance, this year in Sandy's bedroom, tut tut.**

Our final challenge for this year was to produce a set for the Riley House Play, *Around the World in a Thousand Years*.

Perhaps the biggest problem to be overcome for this production was getting rid of the ghastly pink paint. Many hours of painting later, and litres of black paint down, thankfully there was no pink in sight.

In typical stage crew spirit, most of the set was recycled, can you guess where the sundial came from?

Dave's outstanding painting skills were on show in the form of his fabulous fluffy clouds; so good they deserve a paragraph all to themselves.

Sadly, this year at backstage has come to an end and I would like to thank all the staff whose hard work and determination made everything we've done this year possible; Dr Salisbury, Mrs R-B, Mrs Howett, Mr T, and of course Dave.

Thanks to all those involved in stage crew this year, especially Jordan, Malcolm, Rachel Ennis and Dougie for making this year enjoyable.

Good luck to all those involved in next year, and remember to feed Plywood.

**Jo Peck Upper VI Thornbank**





# Art & Design



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Cara Duncan, GCSE
- 2 Ailsa Turnbull, GCSE
- 3 Annabel Farquharson, GCSE
- 4 Katherine Mitchell, GCSE
- 5 Charlotte Garven, GCSE
- 6 Emily McLaren, GCSE





1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Gemma Chance, GCSE
- 2 Becky Taylor, GCSE
- 3 Mairi McKenzie, GCSE
- 4 Phoebe Shaw-Stewart, GCSE
- 5 Emily McLaren, GCSE
- 6 Claire McDonald, GCSE



1



3



2



4



5



- 1 Alice Page, GCSE
- 2 Rachel McLean, GCSE
- 3 Oliver Corlett, AS
- 4 Charles Harrison, AS
- 5 Bryan Tsang, AS





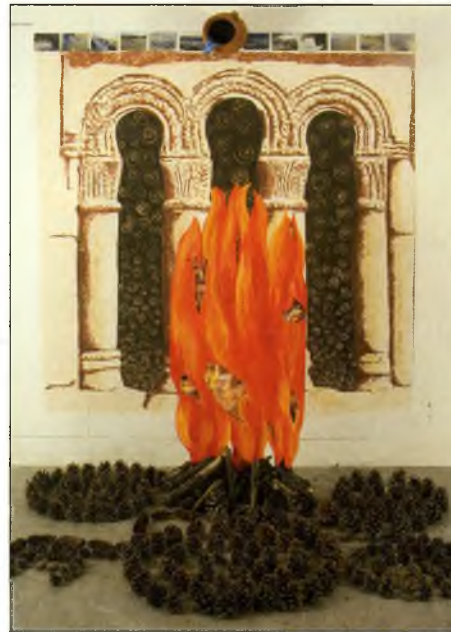
1



3



2



4



5

- 1 Robert McMorine, AS
- 2 Robert McMorine, AS
- 3 Jack Workman, AS
- 4 Catherine Rutherford, AS
- 5 Gael Welstead, AS





- 1 Josie Roscoe, A2
- 2 Fangjing Chen, A2
- 3 Lizi Bush, A2
- 4 Rachel Miller, A2



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



Gael Welstead, A2 Level, chaise longue





- 1 Gemma Lear, AS Level, *coffee table*
- 2 Michael Niven, GCSE, *wine rack*
- 3 Catriona Kelly, AS Level, *contemporary coffee table*
- 4 Malcolm Fraser, AS Level, *bedside table*
- 5 Charles Harrison, AS Level, *contemporary table*
- 6 Jack Workman, AS Level, *coffee table*





1



2



3



4



5

- 1 Andrew Carmichael, A2 Level, *garden table with seating*
- 2 Robert McMorris, AS Level, *side table*
- 3 Liam Carragher, A2 Level, *vanity unit*
- 4 Crawford Paciej, AS Level, *lighting system*
- 5 Euan Allardyce, A2 Level, *contemporary drinks cabinet*



## CRICKET



**Their involvement was crucial in that it demonstrated to some of the younger players what standards were demanded of them in order to play 1st XI cricket.**

**At last, a cricket season virtually uninterrupted by inclement weather, with only the Glenalmond match abandoned because of torrential rain. And some better results. Under the leadership of Michael Cachia the 1st XI managed 5 wins from 11 matches, with four losses and only two draws. Statistics, however, do not always give a true and plain picture of the season as, with just a little more luck, three further wins could have been recorded. To bowl out the all-conquering Fettes College XI for a paltry 117 was an opportunity our batsmen could not grab, we needed 4 runs off the last ball against the MCC only for Duncan Brown to be stumped off a quick bowler, and had we not dropped an Edinburgh Academy centurion when he had scored 9, then we might well have chased a less formidable total.**

The season began with a couple of days' pre-season training, twenty players in total being carefully scrutinised, including half a dozen from the Senior Colts A side. Their involvement was crucial in that it demonstrated to some of the younger players what standards were demanded of them in order to play 1st XI cricket, and it was pleasing to see both Jonny Dickson and Duncan O'Reilly make their debuts later in the season.

Our first match was a relatively safe warm-up with local side Perth Northern. Our fielding and bowling was somewhat rusty here, allowing Northern to score 144 all out, the best bowler being Joss Beharrel with 3-19, though Duncan Brown on debut took 3-32. In reply we lost both openers for 18 before Andrew Robb (30) and Michael Cachia (67 not out) put on 63, and then Cachia and Geoff Melloy (12 not out) added 64 to notch our first win by 7 wickets. An improvement was forthcoming against Dollar Academy who we dispatched for 132 in

a much sharper fielding effort. All the bowlers bowled tightly though Richie Duncan was the pick with 3-23. Struan Dewar's first day behind the stumps was also instrumental in our maintaining greater control in the field. We lost Angus Pfahl and Andrew Robb quickly but Jamie Cachia (33) and Nick Lau (50 not out) steadied the chase in time for Michael Cachia (33 not out) to deliver the final blows and a 6 wicket victory.

The first away match saw us at Edinburgh Academy in a 45 overs per side game. We picked the wrong day to display butterfingers, dropping Loudon on 9 and letting him then go on to score 135, thus enabling the Academy to post a formidable 254-6 on a decent track. In the final analysis this drop was to cost us dear as no one bowled to their potential apart from Joss Beharrel (3-34), and the total proved beyond our capabilities with the bat. Our total was based on 68 from Jamie Cachia and 48 from Nick Lau, but neither was able to force the pace early enough. Freddie Coleman on debut played a nice cameo of 22 but, as wickets tumbled in a vain pursuit of 254, we were bowled out in the penultimate over for 205.

Poor bowling was almost our undoing at home to Loretto. Against a side boasting four exchange pupils, we fielded and bowled appallingly to allow them to score 234 from 40 overs. No one distinguished himself with the ball. In reply we got off to a sprightly start before Jamie Cachia ran himself out. Thereafter, the innings revolved around Nick Lau who, in scoring an excellent 111 not out, put on 83 with 'Gus Pfahl (48) and 110 with Freddie Coleman (40). We romped home in 32 overs to win by 7 wickets on an excellent Strathallan track with fast outfield, going some way towards erasing the earlier memory of our time in the field.





In the remaining three matches before the half-term break we faced mixed fortunes. Having bowled the much vaunted Fettes line-up out for 117 in a much improved bowling and fielding display, with four wickets for Joss Beharrel and the rest shared amongst the seamers, our batsmen choked against a disciplined Fettes attack. After being 28-1 with our two best players in, we subsided to a paltry 69 all out, thanks to a controversial run-out of Nick Lau, and some millionaire shots from the rest of the order. We should have won this match. The long trip to Gordonstoun which followed the next week gave us the chance to regroup, but the hangover from the Fettes match was still evident as, sent in on a steamy and humid morning, we subsided to 52-6 just before lunch. Again, a series of injudicious shots from the top order had rather flattered the Gordonstoun bowlers and it was left to Michael Cachia and Geoff Melloy to rebuild the innings. This they did, albeit slowly, taking us to 104 before Michael lobbed a catch. The tail wagged sufficiently to get us to a reasonable 161 all out but, by now, the pitch and outfield had dried, the sun was out, and chasing our modest total was distinctly easier. Preston Mommsen, the Gordonstoun South African opener, played superbly for his not out 68, aided by another overseas player at 4 with an unbeaten 57. The good thing about our effort in the field is that, despite the inevitability of the result, no one ever gave up.

Our next three matches promised some relief, as all were against a series of club sides – the Scottish XL Club, Strathallians and the MCC. That we came away from these matches with two wins, and a very close draw with the MCC, considerably raised confidence and gave us the chance to blood a couple of younger players. In all three cases we bowled first, taking advantage of some helpful humid conditions, and leaving our batsmen with a consequently easier task to chase down totals. The XL Club was beaten by 9 wickets, almost single-handedly by Jamie Cachia – he took 4-19 with genuinely fast swing bowling, then knocked off an unbeaten 58, combining with Nick Lau (25 n.o.) to accelerate us over the finishing line. The Strathallians were indebted to an excellent partnership between Lawrence Court (55) and Neil

McIlwraith (26) which enabled them to post a respectable 169 all out. In reply Nick Lau scored 92 and the Cachia brothers both got into the 30s as we won by 7 wickets. Against the MCC we bowled tightly, despite playing two Senior Colts bowlers in Jonny Dickson and Duncan O'Reilly, limiting MCC to a declaration at 186-7. In reply Jamie Cachia scored 66 and Michael Cachia 32, with middle order players Struan Dewar (21) and Geoff Melloy (25) maintaining our momentum in the chase. In the crash for runs in the final overs we lost wickets steadily, but arrived at the last ball needing 4 to win, only for a hapless Duncan Brown to be stumped off the quick bowler leaving us tantalisingly close to a clean sweep of club matches.

The last two school matches of the term were against Merchiston Castle School and our near rivals Glenalmond College, both away from home. Against Merchiston we played a 50 overs per side match, and we could justifiably have been happy with the initial 20 overs, during which time we had reduced their much vaunted batting line-up to 91-5. Duncan Brown in particular bowled superbly capturing 4-20 off his 10 overs, though Merchiston's lower order batting fired effectively to enable them to score 252-8 in their allocation of overs. Most of our batsmen got going and established a base from which we could have made a go of the run chase, but when we should have been accelerating between overs 30-40 we actually slowed down, and in the end our 169-5 was a disappointing effort overall.

Disappointment was also the impression of the last match against Glenalmond. We put them in and although we bowled them out for 238, this was at least 60 runs too many as we could not finish off the Glenalmond lower order. Oh, for a genuinely quick bowler! The last two wickets added a very creditable 60 runs and none of our bowlers really covered himself in glory, though Jamie Cachia in his last match took 4-77 and Duncan Brown in his final appearance, 3-53. In reply, we scored quickly enough in the second wicket partnership between Jamie Cachia (55) and Nick Lau (29) against a defensive field, but in losing three quick wickets entering the last hour, our chances of a successful run chase were over. Just as a hapless Ryan Matthews was given out LBW, a torrential downpour flooded the ground prematurely ending the season.

In the course of a term one accumulates debts. To Sodexo and Earnside Coaches are owed thanks for their handling of last-minute catering and transport requests respectively. Thanks are also due to those cricket coaches of the less glamorous sides lower down the School. It has been pleasing to see so much activity in the main nets during the afternoons and post-tea. As many generations of Strathallians will know, most of our practice is done on a one to one basis, and here I should like to thank Nick Du Boulay for the time he puts in coaching and chucking balls at the batsmen. Although it is hard work, he never complains, and he also found time to relieve me of the burden of umpiring. I know the players appreciate his input and respect his contribution to the 1st XI. I also need to thank Robert Proctor who, despite coaching his own highly successful Senior Colts side, also found time to help out with the 1st XI. Both are men of the old school who have made enormous contributions to Strathallan Cricket over nearly 30 years, and whose expertise will be well-nigh impossible to replace easily. **RHF**



## Results 2006

Played 11   Won 5   Lost 4   Drawn 2

Perth Northern Strathallan	144 all out (J. Beharrel 3-19, D. Brown 3-32) 145-3 (M.Cachia 67 n.o., A. Robb 30)	Won by 7 wickets
Dollar Academy Strathallan	132 all out (R. Duncan 3-23, D. Brown 2-9) 133-4 (N. Lau 50 n.o., A. Pfahl 33, M. Cachia 33)	Won by 6 wickets
The Edinburgh Academy Strathallan	254-6 (45 overs) (J. Beharrel 3-34, J. Cachia 2-48) 205 all out (J. Cachia 68, N. Lau 48, F. Coleman 22)	Lost by 49 runs
Loretto School Strathallan	234-7 (40 overs) (D. Brown 3-53, R. Duncan 1-22) 237-3 (32 overs) (N. Lau 111 n.o., A. Pfahl 48, F. Coleman 40)	Won by 7 wickets
Fettes College Strathallan	117 all out (J. Beharrel 4-37, R. Duncan 2-15) 69 all out (N. Lau 14)	Lost by 48 runs
Gordonstoun School Strathallan	161 all out (M. Cachia 32, G. Melloy 26, S. Dewar 25) 163-2 (J. Beharrel 1-30)	Lost by 8 wickets
Scottish XL Club Strathallan	119 all out (J. Cachia 4-19, J. Dickson 2-23) 120-1 (J. Cachia 58 n.o., N. Lau 25 n.o.)	Won by 9 wickets
Strathallians Strathallan	169 all out (R. Duncan 3-58, D. Brown 2-17) 170-3 (N. Lau 92, J. Cachia 34, M. Cachia 29 n.o.)	Won by 7 wickets
MCC Strathallan	186-7 dec (J. Cachia 2-30, J. Beharrel 2-26) 183-9 (J. Cachia 66, M. Cachia 32, G. Melloy 25 n.o.)	Drawn
Merchiston Castle Strathallan	252-8 (50 overs) (D. Brown 4-20) 169-5 (50 overs) (N. Lau 37, J. Cachia 30, F. Coleman 28)	Lost by 83 runs
Glenalmond College Strathallan	238 all out (J. Cachia 4-77, D. Brown 3-53) 101-5 (J. Cachia 55, N. Lau 29)	Drawn - abandoned - rain



## 1st XI Batting averages 2006

Initials/surname	Inns	Not Outs	Runs	Highest Score	100s	Average
Y. F. Lau	10	3	416	111 n.o.	1	59.42
M. G. Cachia *	10	5	223	67 n.o.	-	44.60
J. D. Cachia	11	1	350	68	-	35.00
A. Pfahl	11	-	151	48	-	13.72

## 1st XI Bowling averages 2006

Initials/surname	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Best Bowling	Average
D. A. Brown	98	14	349	21	4-20	16.61
J. A. Beharrel	111.4	27	369	20	4-37	18.45
J. D. Cachia	120.4	25	450	17	4-19	26.47
R. G. J. Duncan	78	7	300	13	3-23	23.07





With six wins, three draws and a single defeat (in an overs game) this was the most successful season for a number of years. Well led by Jonny Dickson and with significant contributions from Andrew Whitelaw, Jamie King, Robbie Cachia, Henry Jones, Duncan O'Reilly and the captain himself, the team could always rely on someone to perform. In addition other players helped significantly with excellent fielding and a determined attitude. Indeed it was the positive and enthusiastic approach of the whole group which accounted for much of the success and useful contributions came from Ross Alexander, Alastair Hunt, Tom Cargill, Adam Michie, Etienne Melville. Ian McKenzie was sidelined through injury for most of the season. Many thanks go to PMV and RJP for looking after a positive Bs group and to the pupils themselves, in both sides, for their lively enthusiasm.  
RJWP

Indeed it was the positive and enthusiastic approach of the whole group which accounted for much of the success.

## Results 2006

Strathallan	171-5 (Whitelaw 39, Cachia 40)
Dollar	134-7 (O'Reilly 3/25, Cachia 4/16)
	Drawn
Merchiston	220-7 (Oliver 150)
Strathallan	158-7 (Dickson 46, Cachia 39)
	Lost by 78 runs.
Glenalmond	120 (O'Reilly 3/23, Dickson 3/15, King 3/28)
Strathallan	124-8 (Jones 49, Dickson 31)
	Won by 2 wickets
Edinburgh Academy	73 (Cachia 3/19, King 3/6)
Strathallan	74-3 (King 34*)
	Won by 7 wickets
Loretto	78 (Dickson 3/8)
Strathallan	80-1 (Whitelaw 44*)
	Won by 9 wickets
Fettes	79 (Cachia 4/25)
Strathallan	162 (Dickson 53, King 36)
	Won by 83 runs.
Gordonstoun	35 (Dickson 5/8)
Strathallan	36-0
	Won by 9 wickets.
Fettes	165 (O'Reilly 3/36, Dickson 3/39, Cachia 3/4)
Strathallan	167-2 (Whitelaw 79, Dickson 33*)
	Won by 8 wickets
Merchiston	189-9 (King 5/37)
Strathallan	103-6
	Drawn
Glenalmond	134-4
Strathallan	167 (King 34, O'Reilly 32*)
	Drawn

## Junior Colts A

It took a good deal of the summer for the team to begin performing consistently and gain the results that their efforts merited. Early season defeats against strong Dollar, Merchiston, and Fettes sides did not dampen team morale and allowed players to focus on sorting out their weaknesses. The bowling attack was led by Captain Ian Tourney who should be congratulated on collecting three five-wicket hauls against strong opposition, proving that bowling wicket to wicket is the key to applying pressure. He was ably supported by his Vice Captain, Calum Donald, who showed the virtues of bowling with discipline but often with less success. Michael Brown, Declan Ferry and Gregor Campbell all bowled with limited success and should work on accuracy during the winter to gain the attributes needed as bowlers. Ian Bonn shows real talent as a spinner managing to disguise his flight with a very useful change of pace, but again should concentrate on his accuracy in order to eliminate poor delivery.

Fielding improved as the side realized the need to concentrate throughout their opponents' batting innings. Andrew Lyons showed real enthusiasm, taking fine catches and demonstrating very good ground-fielding skills. This undoubtedly brought the best out of his teammates.

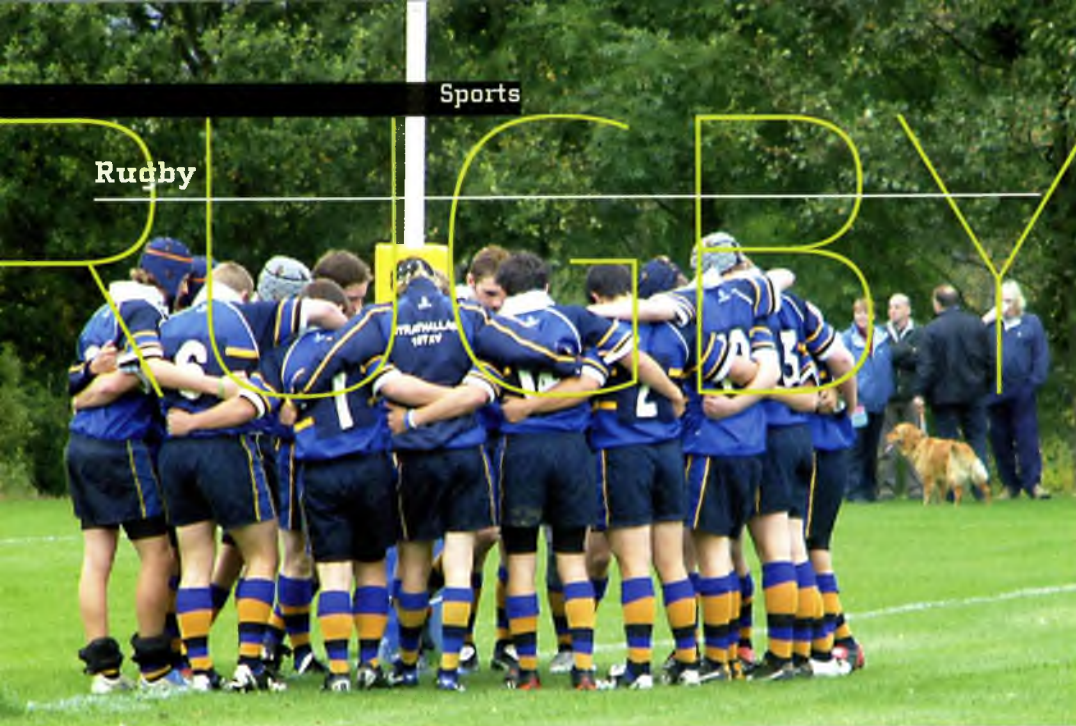
The batting too often showed inconsistency. Calum and Gregor shouldered the responsibility, each making valuable contributions but not going on to make the bigger score that was often needed. Elsewhere, useful runs were added by the other batsmen but with no one making a big innings. On the few occasions Freddie Coleman was not required to be on duty for the 1st XI, his talents were used to good effect to bolster the top order.

Indeed, the highlight of the season was the last match played against Merchiston who had comprehensively beaten us a month before. Electing to bowl first, Strathallan contained the Merchiston innings to 64 runs and proceeded to pass this score with seven wickets in hand – how far the team had come in a month!

My thanks go to those members of staff who have helped with the Junior Colts, namely Greg Ross with the A squad and both Jeff Goddard and Brian Heaney with the B team and others – your efforts are greatly appreciated. GSRR



## Rugby



**Maintaining a good working relationship with a Head Groundsman can often be a difficult balancing act. Coaches invariably forget to consider the effects of their drills and run-throughs on the manicured swathes of grass and it was with this in mind that I looked down at the impression of a circle on Big Acre with a feeling of slight trepidation. The first home game and already an area of the twenty-two that could need some restorative work. Thankfully, John Newall never came to ask about the origin of this imprint but it is the memory of those 15 players' boot marks on what is now one of the best playing surfaces in schools' rugby that sticks in the mind. That circle represented what this team was all about – a group of individuals who came together to train in all types of weather and then put all of it into practice in a season of games that started in September and for many, finished on the 20th of July in Sydney, Australia. It was this unity and the desire to keep working towards a common goal that typified the ethos of the squad. The boys often hark back to the 94-95 "Dream Team" and tales of achievement and tries scored that they themselves never witnessed and there has always been this feeling of awe towards a group that are now heading towards their thirties. How will this 2005-06 team be judged? In a very good light would be the coaches' recommendation. In simple terms this group of players played 21 games and lost just two and, on reflection, could have won even the ones that got away.**

During pre-season we were grateful once again to Colin Robertson for his session on defence; the words of the SRU Caledonia Academy Manager are always wise and to the point. As he observed a slightly heated difference in opinion over who should have tackled whom he quietly mentioned that this was a group with a bit of spark. They took this "spark" into every match bar one and came away from successive games with an increasing sense of pride and achievement. From a coaches' point of view they did every thing that was asked of them and, even when the ground was frozen, were able to find a 10 metre square under the canopy of a tree that permitted a good hour of contact and skills development.

The following are sections from the match reports that were posted in the Rugby display cases and I hope that they will provide the reader with an insight into this successful season.

### Strathallan 2 – Loretto 0

From the start both the pack and the backs harried and hustled the Loretto team and within the first five minutes the pressure applied in defence told with a charge-down try through Jamie Cachia. This was a very good team performance, many members of the squad raising their standard of play. The team must now remember to keep their feet firmly on the ground as the fixture list only gets harder.

### High School Dundee 0 – Strathallan 31

This is a result that will make several other teams on the circuit sit up and take notice but there is no room for complacency after today's performance. On the whole the pack provided good ball from the scrum and Liam Carragher had his best performance so far to give Michael Cachia time at fly half. The Dundee coaches felt that the Strathallan back row played their team off the park and special mention must be made of Cameron Terrell's tireless effort in both attack and defence.

### Strathallan 1st XV 17 – Fettes 6

After a rather mixed team run through on Friday evening the coaching staff were left with a feeling that the game on Tuesday may have taken more out of the squad than previously thought. On game day many players and coaches go through their own routine before the build up to the match and as the coaching staff sat down to breakfast it became apparent that the preparations for the biggest test of the season had been thrown into disarray due to a foolish injury. They often say that when one door closes another opens for someone else and it was a pleasure to inform Fraser Rawlinson of his first start for the 1st XV. Many described this as the best performance from a Strathallan 1st XV for many years and both Mr Barnes and Mr Tod were able to rank it with some superb games from the five years they have coached at this level.



### Strathallan 1st XV 14 – Glenalmond College 0

There was a real drive present in training this week and it was a difficult task to keep the squad from over working and tiring themselves out before this 'derby' encounter. The opening exchanges indicated that the team had the upper hand in most areas but it took time to exert control against the visitors who played with a great deal of passion and commitment. Jamie Cachia captained thoughtfully and the match was played in good spirit throughout.

### Merchiston Castle School 17 – Strathallan 1st XV 0

There was some reasonable defence and the variation in tactics employed by the home team did little to trouble us but we gave away too many penalties and as a result field position. Craig Wallace returned from injury to play most of the second half and his addition gave us more control at set piece. The whistle turned our way for a period towards the end and at last we were able to obtain some go forward ball but it was all a little too late. A reflective journey back north and a tough fixture looms against one of the form teams on the circuit.

### Hutcheson's Grammar 6 – Strathallan 1st XV 30

The squad had a desire to finish this season off in style and whilst one cannot fault their ambition they were involved in a rather scrappy and not particularly rewarding fixture down in Glasgow. The home team were stuffy at the breakdown and they tackled well throughout but we never really played with our heads. A combination of penalty awards against both teams and a run of injuries made for a stop start encounter and the game never really got going for either. That said we scored some good tries and passages of loose play by both backs and forwards were often impressive. The final whistle brought down the curtain for several of the players' rugby careers on the school circuit but most are down to tour and they can look forward to what has always been a month of experiences that few will forget.

This group of players were sum of their parts. Full of questions, keen to learn and above they played with passion and drive every time they pulled on the jersey. They were superbly captained by Jamie Cachia and Richie Duncan's role as vice captain cannot be understated. Both led by example and they will be a hard act to follow. The younger pupils looked up to this team but there was never an arrogance in the manner by which they conducted themselves either on the pitch or off. It was another highlight to see that we had representation in all of the international age grade squads this year and further news that Stephen Turnbull (04-05) gained the U19 player of the year in conjunction to his signing as a full time apprentice to the professional Edinburgh Gunners team

Michael Lynagh wrote 'Rugby' for me, is the most wonderful team sport. It brings together a group of people from different backgrounds, possessing different personalities all with different ideas, varying degrees of skills and capabilities trying to achieve a common goal. To have actually done this at the highest level, with friends, in wonderful countries, playing against the best is something that will never leave me! This quote typifies the feeling towards the game we chose to involve ourselves with. I hope that this group of players will look back on the matches and experiences with a sense of wonder and perhaps in years to come they may cast themselves back to that circle of players as kick off approached. Are they now the 'Dream Team' – I am not sure but for those who did not have the opportunity to see them play you certainly missed the best team I have seen in my 12 years at Strathallan.

In simple terms this group of players played 21 games and lost just two and, on reflection, could have won even the ones that got away. **MRAJBT**



There was a real drive present in training this week and it was a difficult task to keep the squad from over-working and tiring themselves.



## Rugby tour



**The Tour Party survived the 11,000km long haul flight to Singapore in remarkably good shape. This despite DJB's Geographical commentary about flying over Delhi, the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea and down the Malaysian peninsula, east of the Strait of Malacca (references to the Tsunami), over Kuala Lumpur and on to Singapore. In flight we enjoyed the end of James F's 18th and the beginning of JJ's! The baggage and checking in went without a hitch and the tourists were able to enjoy Saturday evening Singapore style - most of the locals were captivated by the England v Portugal World Cup match on the many big screens at Clarke Quay and Chimes Square.**

The Development team took on a mature and powerful Centaurs Team at the unusual venue of Turf City, the old Singapore Race Course, on Sunday afternoon. The early part of the game saw Centaurs dominating and the Strathallan boys trying to play a little too much from their own territory. In 34 degrees C and 85% humidity, the boys stuck in very well and came back in the second half to score two excellent tries in what ended as a 4 tries to two defeat. There was a great deal about which to be encouraged and several players came of age during the encounter.

Early morning training on Monday at the SCC was followed by a relaxing day in Singapore, one highlight being the arrival at the hotel of the Stonyhurst Girls Netball team! The evening saw the Senior Team playing at the Padang against a mature and powerful Singapore XV, coached by former England hooker and current England Sevens Coach Phil Greening. In the shadow of the colonial style pavilion and beside the City Hall and Supreme Court buildings, the Strathallan boys endured an impressive onslaught from the home players. Playing with character and purpose, the Strath boys began to assert themselves and put on an impressive display of 15 man rugby in emerging 45-5 victors. Post match speeches and reception followed courtesy of our excellent and generous hosts at the Singapore Cricket Club.

Adelaide saw an interesting encounter with one of the local Aboriginal people and Messrs Hilliard and Barnes took the opportunity to brief the tourists on Aboriginal Tribal issues, the 'stolen generation', the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese in 1942 and the recent exploitation of Natural Gas and Mineral Reserves off and onshore around Darwin.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be part of this tour. Thanks to our fantastic Australian hosts who showed us such kindness and hospitality. Thanks to my outstanding colleagues, without whom the experience would not have been possible, and to the players, who grew with the demands of the tour and whose energy and enthusiasm was unbounded. Thanks to you, the parents and supporters for making the tour possible; your support has been greatly appreciated.

*'It is the experiences, the memories, the great triumphant joy of living to the fullest extent in which real meaning is found.'* **DJB**





**Early signs were that this was going to be an excellent season, and that is exactly how it turned out to be. Badminton has fast become a very popular activity with thirty or more senior pupils playing every Friday night as well as every games session.**

The boys' team won its annual match against Edinburgh Academy, but this year the girls narrowly lost both their matches against St George's. There were some impressive performances in the Perth and Kinross Schools Championships. Min Ou and Elly Chen won the Under-18 Girls Doubles. Ali Smith and Elly won the Under-18 Mixed Doubles against Sanny Choo and Amalina Daud (we actually had Charlin Sun and Greg Stewart in the Semi-Finals as well.) Michael Boyd and Ali Smith made it to the Final of the Under-18 Boys Doubles, while Shawn Ng reached the Semi-Finals of the Under-18 Boys Singles. In the Ramada Jarvis Tournament, Amalina reached the Final of the Under-18 Girls Singles and Shawn again reached the Semi-Finals of the Boys Under-18 Singles. As a result of our excellent showing in the Perth and Kinross Schools event, Min, Elly, Ali, Shawn and Matej Janacek represented the District at the Scottish Schools Championships at Meadowbank, where they realised just how high the standard of junior badminton is in Scotland.

In the Perth League Division 2 this year we came much closer to winning some matches. Many of the individual games were hard-fought and several we managed to win. This bodes well for the future and the experience gained against senior opposition is most valuable.

This year's House Championships were keenly contested with Nicol again taking the Boys' Trophy by the narrowest of margins from Freeland. Thornbank beat Woodlands 5-4 in a thrilling contest to take the Girls' Trophy.

My thanks must go to Shawn and Min for captaining their respective teams so well and also to Nick Price for looking after the equipment and Madame Duncan, Mademoiselle Balent and Tao Zhou for their unstinting efforts on behalf of the School. Without them it would be very difficult to run the Badminton at Strathallan with any real success.

We are saying goodbye to some strong players this year and, as a consequence, will not have quite the strength in depth for the 2006-7 Season. However, I am sure that we will continue to have a lot of fun and make some real progress at the same time.

**Nick Price Nicol L VI and GCK**



**Early signs were that this was going to be an excellent season, and that is exactly how it turned out to be.**



## Athletics and Cross Country

After some lean years, the cross country season began to see some new talent developing, partly, no doubt, because of the new programme to identify talented youngsters early and give them the extra fitness and strength they need to compete at a high level. Tom Fleming, with several wins, had obviously benefited from a good winter's training, and for the under-13 boys and girls to win at the Fettes relays was tremendously encouraging. A second place for the under-15 boys in the same event is also a step in the right direction; Stefan Maclean Toremar's exceptional leg in this race indicated his tremendous talent, an ability soon reinforced by a 4th place at the Scottish schools, and an international vest. In the same event in the under-14 race Ciara Elwis was 7th, and in the under-17s, Tom Fleming was 27th.

The athletics season was, as has become the pattern, a mixed affair, with so many talented athletes equally adept on the cricket pitch, and we are, as ever, grateful to the cricket coaches that we were able to poach athletes from a wide range of teams. Some fine matches ensued. A tight competition against the Edinburgh Academy and Glenalmond saw our senior team second to the Academy by a point, while our under 17s ran well but struggled to compete in the field events. The return match at Glenalmond reversed this result, perhaps indicating the increasing difficulty of fielding full athletics teams for away matches in an exam-filled term. Ultimately, tremendous performances by both girls' teams were more than enough to make up for the narrow defeats of the two boys' teams. A further good win was recorded when QVS visited for a perfect afternoon for athletics. Our subsequent visit to Fettes stayed fair – just – but a half-strength team performed a long way under par to gift an easy win to the hosts, only the junior girls being successful. The last visit of the term, Merchiston, saw the beginning of Autumn, but a well-contested match which, again, would have been helped by greater depth in the field events.

Overall the season showed much more promise than we could have hoped. Tom Fleming ran very well in the middle distances and is beginning to look the part. Nick Harvey showed a natural talent at 800m and Ben Braithwaite showed a competitive edge in everything from 100 to 800m. Ben Whitaker suddenly revealed his ability to throw a javelin more than 45 metres; sadly he could not capture his best form at the Scottish Schools.

Among the girls, Lauren Giles and Jayne Carmichael were outstanding in the sprints, and Fiona Johnson and Ciara Elwis from Riley began to nip at the heels of Ailsa Turnbull and Katie Scobie in the 1500m.

Stuart Macdonald and Lauren Giles were awarded full colours, Ben Whitaker and Tom Fleming half colours.

All returning athletes now have the opportunity to continue their development this winter under the watchful eyes of Messrs Fleming and Gardiner, whose links to Pitreavie AAC have been able to give us specialist help and advice when most needed. Thanks must also go to the army of timekeepers and measurers who have endured one of our more testing seasons. The Riley match against Lathallan and Merchiston will leave many of us mentally scarred. Never has a request for an extra practice throw in a javelin competition been met with such an emphatic negative. **DMH**



### Scottish Schools Athletic Championships Results

#### Saturday 3rd June 2006

##### Over - 17 Girls

Jayne Carmichael	<b>4x100m Relay</b>	Silver Medals	<b>52.63s</b> school record
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Fiona Campbell

Emily Fraser

Lauren Giles

#### Friday and Saturday 9/10th June 2006

##### Under - 14 Girls

Ciara Elwis	1500m	9th place	5m 35s
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##### Under - 14 Boys

Marcus Adams	Triple Jump	Gold Medal	10m 68 (p.b.) school record
	Long Jump	Bronze Medal	4m 95
	200m	7th in final	27.29s (p.b.)

##### Under - 15 Boys

Stefan McL-Toremar	800m	5th in final	2m 16.7 s (p.b.)
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##### Under - 17 Girls

Jayne Carmichael	200m	7th in final	27.24s
	100m	2nd in heat	13.62s (8th fastest overall)
Ailsa Turnbull	3000m	12th place	14m 24s

##### Under - 17 Boys

Magnus Olafsson	Javelin	8th place	33.64 m
	400m hurdles	4th in final	63.65s (p.b.)
Tom Fleming	800m	4th in heat	2m 09 s
		(10th fastest overall)	(p.b.)

##### Over - 17 Girls

Lauren Giles	400m	4th in final	62.22s (p.b.)
	200m	6th in heat	28.03s (12th fastest overall)

##### Over - 17 Boys

Ben Whitaker	Discus	Bronze Medal	30m 77
	Javelin	Bronze Medal	40m 80





**Adam Piper was given A status with the Scottish part-time team.**

**The season started off in September 2005 when the Scottish Schools Dry Slopes Ski Championships took place in hours of relentless rain at the Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend. In the Girls' Race, Lucy DRUMMOND-HAY, Sophie WORKMAN, Jennifer WHITELAW and Abbey KEMP finished 10th. In spite of commendable respective performances by experienced racers Andrew WHITELAW and Fraser RAWLINSON, and the admirable effort of novices Jack THOMSON and Daniel ANDERSON on such a steep and technical course, our Boys' Team was disqualified.**

Postponing the Scottish Schools Ski Championships and waiting for the day when snow eventually arrives proved to be a worthwhile exercise. The event took place at the Lecht on Wednesday the 8th of March. For the second year running, Richie DUNCAN won the Gold Medal by a considerable margin and ahead of 83 racers, many of whom are used to racing on the international circuit. With excellent runs from Adam PIPER, Andrew WHITELAW and Fraser RAWLINSON, the Strathallan Boys' Team won the overall event for the second year, ahead of twenty other teams, a result never previously achieved in the history of Scottish Schools ski racing. The solid effort produced by our Girls' Team was rewarded by a 6th place overall, thanks to Lucy DRUMMOND-HAY, Jennifer WHITELAW, Katie BATTISON and Sophie WORKMAN.

A few days later, the Scottish Schools Minors Ski Championships took place for the under-14s. Our Girls' Team (Jenny WOOD, Kate Cockburn, Abbey KEMP and Alice FARRAR), unfazed by the thick fog, finished 11th.

Beyond the schools circuit, the following results deserve a mention:

Adam PIPER has spent some valuable weeks abroad, training in the summer, autumn and winter, rubbing shoulders with world famous Scottish heroes of the ski scene, such as Alain Baxter and Finlay Mickel. Adam was given A status with the Scottish part-time team and has recently achieved re-selection. He placed First in the Super G and Third in the Giant Slalom in the English Championships at Puy Saint-Vincent, France.

Richie DUNCAN finished 4th in the Scottish Championships in Méribel and succeeded, on many occasions, in closing the gap between himself and our national heroes. We are grateful to him for having acted as Ski Captain. Richie has impressed and inspired many with his level of fitness and high achievement in many fields of the sports spectrum. We will continue to follow his success beyond Strathallan as he keeps on competing. We wish him luck in his search for excellence.

Even though the actual racing season in Scotland has been the shortest for over twenty years, the snow we have been able to enjoy has been the best for some time, with the keen and the stubborn being able to ski well onto the month of May. We are getting used to this erratic weather with no obvious snowfall pattern. All our racers are asking is a few weeks of decent cover for the important and exhilarating events to take place. A proper season would, obviously, be a massive and most welcome bonus. **Fabienne Thompson**



## Girls' hockey



As a new season started everyone came back to pre-season with high spirits and lots of enthusiasm, soon tested by the early-morning runs.

### Pre-Season

As a new season started everyone came back to pre-season with high spirits and lots of enthusiasm, soon tested by the early-morning runs, fitness tests and hard pitch sessions, which made doing the simple tasks of walking up and down stairs a scary business. We were really excited to invite new players into the team and develop as a squad. By the end of pre-season it showed how closely we had bonded when everyone got involved in the karaoke night (special mention to Mr Bush, by the way)

### 1st XI

After an uncertain start to the season with a heavy loss against Dollar (6-0) it could only get better and it did. We had some great victories against Glenalmond, Fettes, Gordonstoun, Morrison's and High School of Dundee, and by the end of the first half of term we had qualified for the final of the Midlands Knock-Out cup against Dollar. We had lost to them this time last year and with the heavy defeat at the start of the season still in our minds the pressure was on. We headed up to Auchterarder for the final in very determined mood. The Dollar team fought hard and it was not an easy game. However, we raised our game; one thing the team had this season was determination. With everyone working for each other we won 2-1, Karina Mclean scoring the winning goal after her younger sister Rachel had put us ahead in the game. Mr Giles had a tear in his eye (hmmm) as he said it had been the best team performance he had seen in his time at Strathallan. This win took us through to the Scottish Schools National Finals in February where, as section winners, we qualified for the semi-finals. This was a great achievement and a mark of how much we had improved throughout the season.

### National Finals

At Peffermill on the 14th of February we drew against Berwick High School and defeated Robert Gordon's and Glasgow Academy. We were then defeated by George Watson's in the semi final but the whole team had performed at high level and we were very proud of our achievements. Sarah Fleming was voted player of the tournament by the coaches from the other teams and this was really well-deserved as she had put in a power of work throughout.

### Tournaments

The 1st XI squad also reached the Semi-final of the Scottish Cup having beaten Hillhead HC 3-1 in an exciting quarter final match after being 1-0 down. We went down to Edinburgh HC 1-2 in the semi after a hard fought match where Jessica Stewart was immense in goal. The season didn't stop there we had a few 7s tournaments, always a good way to wind down the season, with some wins and some losses and Rachel's new-found skirt fun. We headed off to Kirkham Grammar British Invitational tournament in March. We were first up against Kirkham and won 2-1, then Stockport were next and again a very good victory, 2-0. We drew against Bromsgrove 0-0 and lost to Millfield 2-0 and British Colleges 1-0. We came third over all and were very happy with our performances and results. The whole weekend was such a good time with plenty of memories.



A special mention must go to the 'Triangle of Death', which formed the defensive part of the team.





## District Champions at U18, U16 and U15 Level

The future of senior hockey looks highly promising with plenty of exciting junior players. The U15 team made up of 3rd and 4th formers and captained by Suzy Braithwaite brought back trophies from both the indoor and outdoor district tournaments. The results at the Outdoor tournament were

<b>v Madras</b>	<b>3 - 0</b>
<b>v QVS</b>	<b>1 - 0</b>
<b>v Glenalmond</b>	<b>0 - 0</b>
<b>v Dundee Wanderers</b>	<b>3 - 0</b>

The team finished as section winners and went through to the final v Dollar which ended 1-1 after extra time. The Strathallan girls went on to win 2-0 on penalties with Finola Lundgren making some great saves in the goal.

The Junior Indoor tournament was held in January and with convincing victories against Morrisons and Dollar and a closer match v High School of Dundee which ended in a 3-2 victory, the Strathallan girls lifted the trophy. Emma Howell scoring 8 of the 10 goals scored in all the matches.

The Midlands U16 Cup Final from last season was eventually played in November and the team were victorious against Morrison's, winning the game 2-0. This year we have reached the final again and this will be played in September against Madras. Good luck to the girls for this.

## District Selection

This year a number of girls played district hockey in 4 different age groups which shows the depth of talent in girls' hockey at Strathallan.

### District Outdoor

U15 District	Jayne Carmichael (Team finished in Silver medal position)
U16 District	Rachel Mclean, Helen Summersgill and Kirsty Niven
U18 District	Lizi Bush, Jess Stewart, Emily Fraser, Jennifer Whitelaw and Lauren Giles (Team finished in Silver medal position)
U21 District	Sarah Fleming playing U21 (Team finished 3rd)

### District Indoor

U18	Lizi Bush Captained the team, Jess Stewart, Lauren Giles, Rachel Mclean, Emily Fraser, and Jennifer Whitelaw
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The Inter district tournament is where the talent-spotting occurs. Helen Summersgill impressed the selectors and was selected for the Scotland U16 team. She will be playing International matches against North of England at Largs and travelling to Belgium for 3 matches in July. We wish her all the very best for her International matches.



## Riley Hockey

The Riley girls have had mixed results. In the first game of the season Bethany Lindsey made her debut as the new goal keeper and made a spectacular save off her helmet. The visiting school from Bristol commented on how good she was so this is a name to watch for the future. The Riley girls have worked extremely hard throughout the season and they had good victories against St George's, Craigclowan and St Leonard's New Park.

## Senior School

In the Senior School the 3rd XI, 4th Form and 3rd Form teams all competed well. The 3rd Form A team won 5 of their 8 matches and showed great promise. Five of this team were selected for the School U15 squad to play at a district tournament and all made a big contribution to the team. The 3rd XI was a young team, made up mostly of 5th Form so looking good for the future.

This season being in the 1st XI has been so enjoyable working with a group that bonded so well, spending time together on and off the pitch. The seasons' great achievements have been down to the team's will to win, we have pushed ourselves to work hard for each other and picked each other up when things were not going so well on the pitch. There really have been great friendships made this year through hockey, and we will all miss you guys - keep singing Lauren. J We couldn't have had such a successful and enjoyable season without Mr Giles, our very own Mr Motivator and Miss Sime our 'FANTASTIC!!' coach and tactician who has never let one head drop. Thanks for everything. **Captains Sarah Fleming and Lizi Bush**

## 2nd XI Hockey Report

This year, the 2nd XI bonded quickly to form a friendly, relaxed team. When it came to playing the matches we all put in a huge amount of effort and managed to record victories against teams including Loretto, St Margaret's, Gordonstoun, HSD and St. George's.

A special mention must go to the 'Triangle of Death', which formed the defensive part of the team, their enthusiastic approach and immense skill (finely tuned by our fantastic coach, Mr. Watt) meant that they performed outstandingly in our matches. Our top goal scorer Lucy Drummond-Hay managed to achieve two hat-tricks throughout the season, which helped enormously with our victories.

Congratulations go to our GK, Kirsty Niven, and to one of our key midfield players, Fiona Roy, who were asked to join the 1st XI Cup Squad. Thank you to all the juniors who took the time to come and play for us when we found ourselves short of a full team due to illness; your effort was really appreciated. Overall, it has been a really fun year and I will miss playing hockey with everyone.

**Gael Welstead 2nd XI Captain**



## Boys' hockey



Training was always fun, especially when Duncs didn't sleep through it.

### 1st X1

**At the start of the season the 1st X1 had high expectations that this would be one to remember, especially after having retained a large proportion of last year's squad and an encouraging run in the U18 Scottish Cup, even without Liam and Jamie. Having overcome Harris in the 3rd round 6-2 the side moved on to a tough quarter final against the eventual champions, Watson's, and lost 5-3 in an even contest.**

The regular season began in January with a friendly match against Perthshire which proved a great scare with the team 2-0 down at half time. However, the team showed great character, a trademark of our season, to turn the scoreboard around and win 3-2. The U18s then played Madras in the Schools Cup winning 3-0 in a relatively easy game. The school matches started with a crunch game at home to Glenalmond, after a slow start that saw us 2-0 down, goals from Cammy and Liam put us equal before half time. Then D-Unit's goal machine, Cammy, scored another to put us in the lead which we held until the last minute when Glenalmond equalised to draw the game 3-3.

We then welcomed Loretto, keen to put that sloppy draw behind us. This time we started well gaining an early 2-0 lead but again momentary lapses in concentration resulted in our going in 2-2 at half time. We came out all guns blazing in the second half and took an unassailable lead 6-2 with goals from Cammy, Liam, Bradley and Ryan. Again, however, we were sloppy towards the end and eventually won 6-4.

Fettes, normally one of the stronger teams on the circuit, were next. We knew it would be tough especially as Liam had picked up an injury, and although the team played courageously we eventually went down, Michael Segaud picking up a well-worked goal. Then our season fell apart as a flu bug spread round four members, Liam's injury became long-term and Ryan and Cammy had district rugby. We therefore didn't play Gordonstoun and our next game was against Glenalmond away.

This was the highlight of the season as having gone down 2-0 and pretty much dominated the first half. We, playing some great hockey, turned the score around to win 3-2 with goals from Duncan and Bradley (2). To win away from home against Glenalmond in this fashion is a day that I am sure the team will never forget. We finished off our season with a good win away to Loretto 3-2, goals from Wardman, Andrew and Duncan. The rest of our season was beaten by the frost apart from the Under 18 cup match which we lost 5-1 to Lochaber.

The season was enjoyable for the whole team and there were many memorable moments. Training was always fun, especially when Duncs didn't sleep through it, Chocky showed us how always to show up on time, and Cammy somehow managed to integrate Rugby into most games. Well done to Bear whose eagerness and argies kept the team going through all hardships.

The team would like to say big thank you to: Liam who captained the team admirably and even made a huge impact when he was injured, we will always remember his gruelling warm ups; Jamie who vice-captained the team both enthusiastically and loudly and congratulations to him on being awarded Player of the Season.

The other senior teams had mixed results with the 2nd XI getting off to an amazing start winning their first game of the season 5-1 and producing good performances throughout the season. The 3rd XI proved hard to beat and the 4th XI worked tirelessly under the guidance of Mr Proctor and Mr Court.

Finally, thanks to Mr Giles for all his coaching and the huge amount of time he invested in the 1st XI and to Mr Fitzsimmons for his impeccable umpiring. Also to all the hockey coaches, the caterers, umpires, the grounds staff and to Earnside Coaches, very many thanks for all your help throughout the season. **Michael Cachia**



## Representation

Jamie Cachia, the 1st XI GK was selected into the Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport after his outstanding performances with the Scotland U18 team the previous year. He has been selected to train with the Scotland U21 squad and with the help from the Institute he hopes eventually to gain a position in the full Scottish Squad. Well done to Jamie on this excellent achievement.

## Midlands District

The following boys were selected to represent Midlands at their respective age group tournaments.

### U15 Indoor

Freddie Coleman  
Iain McKenzie

### U16 Outdoor

Felix Keene

### U18 Outdoor

Michael Cachia  
Mark Brebner  
Andrew Robb  
Bradley Ward

## Colours

Half Colours were awarded to Andrew Robb, Joss Beharrell, Cameron Terrell, Michael Cachia, Ryan Mathews and Duncan Brown for their contributions throughout the season.

## Junior Report

The 4th Form A hockey team had a roller-coaster of a season, from many great victories to narrow defeats. Our opening match saw us up against St Leonard's (who we had never played before) the team played well and came away with a 10 goal victory. Not bad for the first run out. We took our momentum into matches against our stiffest opposition and suffered slightly from lapses in concentration. We worked hard to improve this and achieved success against Loretto and Gordonstoun, with special mention to one of our strikers, Bruce Campbell, who was fast becoming our top goal scorer. Throughout the season the team did not perform to its potential but we had a very enjoyable season and I would like to thank, on behalf of all the team, Mr Robertson for putting in all the time and effort in making the season both beneficial and, more importantly, so enjoyable.

The 4th Form B Team had a great season and remained the only team to have an unbeaten season. Well done to all of them – Mr Fleming was certainly very proud of them. **Jamie King & Iain McKenzie**

The 3rd Form Boys had a very successful hockey season. The A team started with an emphatic 4-1 win over Glenalmond College and, in the early days of the season, played well as a team. As it turned out over the course of the term this score line was one that was to be followed in future games. Against Loretto School Ian Tourney scored his first hat-trick in our 5-1 win, Captain Freddie Coleman scoring hat-tricks against Gordonstoun and Glenalmond in the re match. As the season progressed the team gelled well together losing only one game. Over the course of the term the team scored 25 goals and conceded only 6, the Captain leading by example and scoring 11. Members of the group also played in the Fettes Indoor tournament and the U16 Chameleons outdoor tournament. In this competition the team finished a commendable 3rd. Thank you to Mr Watt for all his time and commitment over the season.

**Freddie Coleman**

## 2nd XI boys' hockey

The team was young and enthusiastic, but lack of experience left us vulnerable and we were as likely to lose a silly goal as to defend well.

Mark Brebner and Andrew Fyfe were rocks at the back, but even they could not save us every time we slipped up. The mid-field was often in a state of flux due to both injury and giving a run to those who were on the fringes of the 1st XI; these guys added skill, but often took too much on themselves.

Rory Gibson & Laurie Quibell stood out as the lynch-pins of the centre of the park and tried valiantly to hold the line in attack and defence. The desire to succeed often resulted in the mid-fielders pushing up too far and thus we were exposed at the back.

Results were mixed, with some excellent performances, especially against Glenalmond and Gordonstoun at home.

Draws away to Loretto and Glenalmond helped balanced a season which included heavy losses to Fettes. **PMV**



**Finally, thanks to Mr Giles for all his coaching and the huge amount of time he invested in the 1st XI and to Mr Fitzsimmons for his impeccable umpiring.**





## Equestrianism

## EQUESTER

Fergus and Phoebe performed well in the Dressage, Fergus achieving the best score for the team.



### Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships 2006

Strathallan entered 3 teams in this annual event which combines Dressage and Showjumping. This year it took place on a beautiful day at Gleneagles, and the competition was intense with over 160 riders taking part.

#### Results

##### Class 1 : Seniors (11 teams took part)

**Team members :**  
Olivia Streatfeild-James  
Fergus Baird  
Phoebe Shaw-Stewart  
Helen Summersgill

Fergus and Phoebe performed well in the Dressage, Fergus achieving the best score for the team. Helen rode a fast double clear in the Showjumping which placed her 2nd out of 45 in this discipline. Fergus and Olivia both completed the Showjumping successfully which meant the team were able to finish on a 7th place score, unfortunately just out of the rosettes.

##### Class 2 : Intermediates (12 teams took part)

**Team Members :**  
Stephanie Lyon  
Katie Battison  
Sarah MacLachlan  
Andrew Glover

Stephanie, Andrew and Sarah completed good Dressage tests, Stephanie and Andrew getting the best team scores. Katie rode a confident double clear in the Showjumping which was the best result for the team. Stephanie and Andrew were also successful in the Showjumping so the team were able to finish in 6th place. It was a happy end to their day to see them receiving rosettes in the prize giving.

##### Class 3 : Juniors (16 teams took part)

**Team Members :**  
Heather Larson  
Corrie Stewart  
Emma Cheape  
Jenny Summersgill

Heather, Emma and Jenny all performed well in the Dressage, Heather gaining an excellent score which placed her 3rd in her arena.

Our highlight of the day came next in the Showjumping. Heather, Corrie and Jenny all jumped fast double clears, Jenny coming 3rd out of 65. Unfortunately an error occurred in assigning the places, and the Strathallan team were not called forward for the prize giving. It wasn't until later that we found out Strathallan had won the Showjumping section, so this was a shame as they missed their moment of glory in the line-up. However, all has been rectified now and the girls were delighted to discover they had beaten 15 other teams by a clear margin. They also came 7th overall. This is the first time a Strathallan team has received 1st place rosettes at these championships – Well done, Juniors!





## General news and Results

### Dressage

Congratulations go to Alice Page who has continued to achieve enormous success in top level competitions throughout the U.K. this year. She represented Scotland at the U25 Dressage International in Ireland in which she won the overall Medium Championship. She gained 4th and 5th places at Medium Level in the U25 British Championships and she was 7th in the Dressage to Music National Championships. She has qualified for the Scottish and British Regional Championships, and she won the Scottish heat of the British Dressage Talent Spotting Competition.

Alice is pictured here with her horse "Purple Oscar" at the British Dressage Championships.

Stephanie Lyon represented Strathearn Pony Club in their Open Inter-branch.

Dressage Team. The team came 5th in the regional competition, and she came 3rd in the individual Open test. She won the Gleneagles Winter Dressage League at Pre-Novice Level, and the trophy for the 'Best Junior'.

### Eventing

Fergus Baird represented Bennachie Pony Club in their highly successful Intermediate Eventing Team. Congratulations go to Fergus, who helped the team win the Inter-branch competition at Gleneagles which meant they qualified for the Pony Club National Championships in England.

One of our youngest riders, Emma Cheape, has achieved success in eventing at Pony Club level this year. She took 1st place for best Fife Hunt Pony Club member in a one day event, and she came 1st in Dressage and 1st overall in a Combined Training event.

### Showing

Heather Larson is our expert in the world of showing. She was placed in every class at 'Ponies UK', coming 1st in one class in front of several adults. She won the 13hh Working Hunter Pony Confined Novice, and was Champion in the Working Hunter Pony section at Dove Valley. At Pony Club level she won the 'Best Turned Out' shield, and the 'Best All-rounder' shield.

### Cross Country

Congratulations go to Stephanie Lyon who won the Andrew Drummond-Moray Cup for cross country at Gleneagles. Katie Battison and Heather Larson have both completed clear rounds and been placed in Hunter Trials this year.

### Showjumping

Helen Summersgill qualified for the British Festival of Showjumping and has enjoyed success at a number of BSJA events this year. She qualified for the second round in the National Newcomers Championship, and achieved a highly sought-after place in the 1.15m final at the Royal Highland Show. She has been placed in several BSJA competitions including winning two 1.10m classes, and coming 2nd in a 1.20m Open. She has competed regularly for Fife Hunt Pony Club and was part of their Open Inter-branch team which came 3rd in the regional competition. She was placed in classes of over 90 at 'Champions of Scotland', and in the 1.05m Grand Prix at the "Scottish Home Pony International".

Corrie Stewart qualified for the National Trailblazer 75cm and 85cm Finals at Stoneleigh Park in England. She was placed 5th in the first round of the 75cm Final, which is an excellent result since there were 105 other competitors. Her result in the overall championship was a highly respectable 37th. She has also achieved success on a regular basis at Dabbs' training nights, taking several first places.

Fergus Baird was selected for the Intermediate Interbranch team for Bennachie Pony Club. Stephanie Lyon won the Open class at Gleneagles in July, and Katie Battison was placed 1st in two of North Argyll Pony Club's winter league events. Katie has represented her pony club in various team competitions, and was selected for their Inter-branch squad. Olivia Streatfeild-James has performed well in local shows this summer, and has achieved places in several classes.

Jenny Summersgill started the year by beating a field of 35 riders to win the 10-and-unders in the 'Sprott Cup'. She won two cups in Fife Hunt Pony Club's winter showjumping league and has made encouraging progress with BSJA courses. She has achieved several good results, including winning a 90cm Open, and she was placed in classes of over 100 riders at 'Champions of Scotland' and the 'Scottish Home Pony International'. She was the youngest competitor in the Pony Club's Intermediate Interbranch regional competition, and was delighted to complete the challenging 1.05m track. **JAS**

**Stephanie and Andrew were also successful in the Showjumping so the team were able to finish in 6th place.**



## Boys' tennis

**Boys' tennis continues to be a popular sport at Strathallan some 35 boys having opted to play the game this term. Unfortunately, most of our competitor schools can only field one 6 man team so many of our players play few if any matches. The 1st Six recorded a season of varying degrees of success winning some matches convincingly and going on to lose others in a similar fashion.**

We are privileged to have the coaching expertise of Peter Darbyshire and Tommy Ogilvie who continue to serve tennis well. Peter has worked with some 30 pupils again this term coaching the basics to many beginners and would be tennis stars Tommy works with the seniors and, in particular, the team players.

For the first time at Strathallan we started the season off with a pre-season tennis camp at school. This was coached by Tommy and by Jane Morrison and proved most popular with the fifteen boys and girls who attended. Once again the boys were entered into the Glanvil Cup competition and we were fortunate to get to the semi-finals of its Scottish section. We were knocked out by a talented Madras College team. The boys had a varied term against our competitor schools, but we recorded noticeable wins against Fettes and Dollar, two schools we usually find hard to beat.

In the annual Mixed Doubles tournament we managed, along with some help from the girls, to secure a 3rd place overall, one couple achieving silver medals in the section competition.

### Regular 1st team players were:

David Mather (captain), Andrew Carmichael, James Balfour, Jamie Morrison, Alasdair Cameron, Nick Price

The highlight of the season was probably the trip to Wimbledon in the last week of term. Nine Boys and Mr Watt braved the coach trip to Victoria station on the Tuesday arriving ten hours after setting off from Perth. The evening was spent sight-seeing in London before a much-needed night's sleep. Wednesday morning saw us taking in some more London sights including the Houses of Parliament, London Eye and Buckingham Palace, before we headed to SW 19. We had Number 1 court tickets and we were not disappointed with the matches on court. We left Wimbledon at 9pm ready for the tube ride and then coach trip back to Perth, arriving exhausted, but having thoroughly enjoyed the experience, at 8.30 the next morning.

The team sees three Upper VI boys leave this year and we wish them success in their exam results and university careers. To the others returning we will continue with the Winter term tennis programme which will hopefully allow us to continue to build on the success of the last few years. **AW**



**We had Number 1 court tickets and we were not disappointed with the matches on court.**

## Boys' Tennis Summer Term 2006

### Match Results

Vs	Loretto	lost 2-7	
	James Young H S	won 4-2	Glanvil Cup 2nd Round
	Gordonstoun	lost 2-7	
	Fettes 1st	won 5-4	
	2nd	won 5-1	
	Merchiston	lost 0-9	
	Morrison's Academy	won 8-1	
	Glenalmond	lost 2-7	
	Dollar	won 5-4	
	Edinburgh Academy	won 5-4	
	St Leonard's	won 7-2	
	Madras College	lost 4-0	Glanvil Cup Scottish semi-finals



**Netball this year has shown some of the highest standards of play and produced the greatest amount of success that Strathallan has ever seen.**

It all commenced with 18 girls being selected for our two week tour of Barbados last July. For this opportunity we must thank Mrs I-F, Miss Laurie and Mrs Higginbottom without whom it would never have been possible. The prospect of playing teams from one of the best netballing nations was unbelievable but we were in no way disappointed. Not only did we enjoy all the island had to offer – with its beautiful beaches, culture and lively atmosphere – we played against teams which taught us a new faster style of netball. Sadly this experience had to come to an end along with the departure of several key players, but with optimism we looked forward to the year ahead. So . . .

The Firsts were unbeaten in all school matches and retained the Independent Schools' Cup for the third year running, beating strong teams from Glenalmond, Fettes, Kilgraston, Robert Gordon's and Gordonstoun. Not only did we bring home the trophy but also a £200 voucher from Kukri who had sponsored the event. The Seconds have also had a successful season, being unbeaten in all school matches. Victories even included the defeat of a boys' team from Morrisons Academy!

The future looks just as promising with a good set of results being generated by the junior teams. Their season was highlighted by the selection of Heather Mitchell, Natasha Potts, Vicky McLellan and Robynne Smith to the Perth & Kinross District U15 teams. Katherine Sutherland, Danina Ferry, Sophie Workman and Jasmine Morris were also selected to play for the Perth & Kinross U17 District Team and won all their matches bar one, which was against the U17 District A Team.

Playing in the Scottish Schools' Cup matches was an important feature of the season, and the intensity of training definitely increased to prepare us for success. The Firsts and Seconds also travelled around Scotland, playing against schools with very high standards. The Seconds' victories meant they achieved 3rd place in their group.

The Firsts also had convincing victories in their first round against strong Aberdeen teams, which allowed us to qualify at the top of the group. So, in the quarter final we played Castlehead As and after a tough one hour match we were triumphant, beating a team which included two Scotland players by a score of 57-23. This resounding win advanced us to the semi-finals which had to be played a day after the end of term. After a large early morning breakfast we were ready to face St. Ninian's at home, a team with five Scotland players. We won the match 59-39 and really appreciated the strong support of teachers, pupils and parents.

Our holiday felt well-earned and we left with fitness programs and the dates set for the first ever netball pre-season in readiness for the final. Pre-season came and went amidst a blur of breakfasts, giggles, games of Wally and of course hard-core training, including games against our secretly talented 'netball boys'. Friday 21st April arrived all too soon, and Mrs I-F took the team of Katie Scobie, Fiona Campbell, Emily Fraser, Catriona Kelly, Sophie Workman, Lizi Bush, and Jean Jardine and Caroline Melloy to the Linwood Complex Stadium in Glasgow to come face-to-face with Bishopbriggs, a team from Glasgow which is traditionally very strong in netball and which, unknown to us at the time, had six Scotland players including the captain of the U19 squad! It was an exciting game, giving both teams their most challenging match this season as shown by the total number of goals scored, and we lost by 11 goals, (53-42) – our only defeat this season.

The year ends with us holding Netball's second place throughout Scotland, and with the added bonus of the entire team's selection to Scotland trials on the 10th and 11th of June.

We would like to thank those who supported us and those who helped us achieve our successes throughout the year. Our supporters – at home matches and those who came to the final; Miss Sime for her motivational words of wisdom; Mrs Tod and Miss Laurie for their time and Mrs I-F for her persistence and coaching which has made this year possible. It has been a real pleasure playing this year and we are going to miss it.

Finally we wish all next season's teams the best of luck as we know 'you're simply da best'!

**Jean Jardine and Caroline Melloy Woodlands House Upper VI**

Perth League Players' Player of the Year –	Jean Jardine
Firsts Players of the year –	Catriona Kelly, Jean Jardine
Most Improved –	Fiona Campbell
Most Promising Junior –	Heather Mitchell



**It all commenced with 18 girls being selected for our two week tour of Barbados last July.**



## Football

**A win against Q.V.S. would cement Strath's place in the knock-out stages of the SISFA Cup. Two individual efforts from Richie Duncan edged the side ever closer to the victory.**

The Strath boys rocked up to the season's first training session only to find their captain, Geoff Melloy, out for two weeks with a dislocated shoulder. With the team having lost a number of key players from the previous season, this was yet another blow to the Strathallan camp. The added depth to the side following the arrival of "new faces" as well as a more tactical training approach seemed to be the only positive aspect of the campaign. Despite the dark cloud seemingly hanging over Little Acre, no one could have predicted the turn of events which were to shape Strathallan football forever.

### Strathallan 3 – St Leonard's 0

Vice-captain Stephen Howarth had to fill in for Geoff against St. Leonard's whilst also adopting a new holding position in midfield. Nothing less than a win would be sufficient if the team were to stand a chance of qualifying for the knockout stages of the SISFA Cup. Strathallan dominated from start to finish, with only rustiness up front holding the onslaught to 3-0. The sight of Struan Dewar leading the attack for the first time showed promise for the games to come and with new arrival Harry Williamson claiming man of the match, things were looking up for Strathallan.

### Gordonstoun 3 – Strathallan 3

An early start saw us head up north to face top of the table Gordonstoun. Signs were promising after the 3-0 win and return of Captain Geoff Melloy. This game was crucial and could potentially determine how the rest of the season would unfold. Despite taking the lead, the boys were then forced to come from behind twice, once in the last five minutes through a Struan Dewar penalty. With the midfield playing despite medical recommendation, a credited point was earned, making Strath the only team to take a point from Gordonstoun on their own ground; David Mather seemingly securing his spot at left back with an outstanding defensive performance. Unfortunately, for all of us, lightning doesn't strike twice.

### Glenalmond 1 – Strathallan 3

The Old Firm of the SISFA Cup: Strath vs. Glenalmond. Anxiety was evident as Glenalmond recorded the quickest ever goal in Scottish Schools' football history. 13 seconds was the official time. However, as the game progressed it was soon forgotten as Strathallan equalised through Struan Dewar and then gained the upper hand when Stephen Howarth scored a goal that Steven Gerrard would have been proud of. The second half turned the slaughter into a massacre as it became embarrassing for the away side. Strathallan punished the diabolical defending with an audacious lob from the danger man Struan and a cool finish from Greg Guthrie which sealed his position as man of the match.

### High School 0 – Strathallan 3

We travelled to second in the table Dundee needing a win to edge ever closer to a qualifying position in the league. The game was closely contested with Iain Aitken making some quality saves and earning, rightfully, man of the match. Despite 'eccentric' officiating, Strathallan claimed a deserved 3-0 victory. Qualification was now in their grasp.

### Strathallan 4 – Q.V.S. 1

A win against Q.V.S. would cement Strath's place in the knock-out stages of the SISFA Cup. Two individual efforts from Richie Duncan edged the side ever closer to the victory. However, at half-time the boys weren't showing the determination and hunger which had brought them this far, but a few strong words from the management soon changed that. Stephen Howarth and Greg Guthrie rising to the occasion and making an immediate mends for their sluggish first half performance. The dangerous Q.V.S. midfield soon had no idea how to cope and the Strathallan attack was in full flow. The pressure soon became too much as Michael Niven bagged his first goal for the side and Struan Dewar produced yet another moment of brilliance, lobbing the onrushing keeper. The score finished 4-1 sealing the side's place in the quarter final.

### Strathallan 2 – Dollar 7

The boys were brought back down to Earth and were given a rude awakening by Dollar. A 7-2 defeat at home devastated the boys but also prepared them for the next round. They were more determined than ever.

### Strathallan 1 – St. Aloysius 2

The season came to an undeserved halt as St. Aloysius travelled to Little Acre for the quarter finals of the SISFA Cup. The home side dominated the first half and went into the break 1-0. What seemed to be going well soon became a disaster as the St. Aloysius keeper was stretchered off, only to be replaced by a much more experienced keeper who kept the Strath attack at bay for the remainder of the game. The Glasgow side scored twice, once in the dying minutes to see them through to the semi-finals.

This season was without a doubt the best in recent years. We would like to thank the whole squad, the coaches, Mr. Batterham and Mr. Weir for all their hard work, and to all the staff who helped out in any way and made the games possible. We also wish all the players good luck in the future and hope they can yet again raise the standard of Strath football. **Steve-D and Geoff**







## Clay pigeon shooting



**The year started with the usual rush to prepare for the Scottish Schools championship. Matthew Smith was appointed captain and we set about shooting with gusto.**

Scottish School's & Young Shots Championship Sunday 25th Sept 2005 Cluny Clays.

Strathallan retained the Scottish School's Trophy, beating more than ten other teams from seven schools to the trophy. The A team of Matthew Smith (cpt), Fraser Rawlinson and Rory Gibson scored 126/150 and beat the next team by 10 clays. Matthew also came second in the High Gun competition scoring 44/50.

The B team of Struan Gordon(cpt), Robert Jardine & Iain Mackenzie scored 110/150 and finished 3rd overall.

The C team of James Bonham(cpt), Sam Lipworth & Nick Giesse scored 80/150 and took 8th place, while the D team of Jo Corlett(cpt), Ben Quick & Mohammed Abdo scored 81 and finished 7th.

The girls' team of Cara Duncan (cpt), Emmanuelle Bonham, Lizzie Sinclair & Natalie Hay finished well behind a much older and more experienced Millfield girls' team, but still finished 2nd overall and were the top girls' school team in Scotland.

Thanks to Robin, Drew and all at Cluny for their hard work.

Just before half term the club went on an outing while the CCF went on their Field Day. We headed back to Cluny where Robin set up a wonderful package of events and even served us a lovely lunch; the package included Clay Shooting, Archery, Air Rifle Shooting and Golf on the driving range. A big thanks to Robin and his staff for a fun day.

## British Championship.

PMV had set about trying to rescue this competition as a few of the schools from down south had complained about last year's competition format and setup. Initially, PMV invited all the other schools up to Scotland, but only three said they would make the journey. Strathallan (under advice from Iain MacGregor) suggested Doveridge SG in Derbyshire as a venue. Sue Bramley was very enthusiastic and the competition was set up over the 'phone. Thus, a Scottish School set up the UK competition in England; many thanks to all at Doveridge for their help.

## British Results

Fraser Rawlinson shot 43/50 and was only 4 off the high gun score, leaving him 4th out of 377 entries, Matthew Smith only one behind him.

The A team scored 211/300, leaving them 5th out of over twenty schools, and were only six clays off 2nd place and 11 behind the eventual winners, Bloxhams. Most of the team have been shooting for a few years now, and so it is easy to forget that 4 of the 6 are only in 5th form, while the Bloxham team were all 6th formers.

The B & C teams ended up 4th & 5th respectively in a slightly smaller field, Joe Corlett & Sam Lipworth both showing promise and scoring 30 and 29 respectively, leaving them 6th and 7th in their field out of over 560 entries.

Entering a girls' team for the first time into a small field was a welcome addition to the club's activities.

The girls were very inexperienced but the team shot well and ended up 3rd overall; a really good effort.



## Small bore shooting



Entering a girls' team for the first time into a small field was a welcome addition to the club's activities.

### Other fixtures

The House match was a close competition and the Freeland Team of Struan Gordon, Sam Lipworth & Iain MacKenzie saw off the challenge from the other houses to win the Inter-House shield for the first time.

The Grant Davidson Skeet Trophy was won by Rory Gibson who scored 24/25 several times in the year.

He and Fraser Rawlinson were selected as part of a group of younger shots for special training in Olympic Skeet by the SCTA. The idea was to help in the preparation of shots for the 2012 Olympics.

A Strathallian, Keith Brown, was also part of the team and went onto win a full cap for Scotland at Olympic Skeet, shooting against the other home nations in the home international series over the summer.

The Strathallians retained the OS vs School Shield, captained by Ben Kass, along with Craig Phillip and Michael Martin.

Finally, a big thanks as always to CNC for his tireless support and to KW who has taken up the mantle for the girls. Thanks, too, to Iain McGregor for his continued support and expertise. **PMV**



Who knows YOU might be a future Olympic Champion.

Small bore rifle target-shooting in Great Britain has a history dating back to the 1800's. Great Britain and the individual home countries have produced numerous World and Olympic champions over the years, the most recent being Scotland winning Gold medals at the Commonwealth Games this year.

The Strathallan small bore shooting section has been up and running within the school now for the past 18 months. In this time all the boys and girls who have attended have progressed from complete beginners to the stage where we have the nucleus of a strong section, some of the teams winning competitions and progressing to the stage now where within the British Schools Association the name of Strathallan School is being recognised as an up-and-coming force especially at the under-14 age level. The team won the British Schools Division 4 League.

This term our under-14 shooters have made even more progress, two of the team scoring a perfect 100 and being pushed hard by the others.

As the coach I am very excited about the competitions coming up next term and the prospect of all the teams improving even further. With the rate of improvement they are achieving I am hopeful of competing at the British Schools Championships at Bisley in the Spring 2007.

If there are any others especially those around 12 years old who would like to be part of a winning team and wish to learn how to shoot then speak to Miss Sime and come along.

Who knows YOU might be a future Olympic Champion.

**Mr Bill Long, Shooting Coach**



## Golf

**Despite a very encouraging start to the season which began with 3-1 victories against both Glenalmond and Breadalbane and a 4-0 walkover of Blairgowrie this early season success could not be maintained and as a result the team failed to qualify for the final after losing to Auchterarder. Heavy defeats were suffered to both Loretto and Merchiston although we had to field weakened teams because of exam commitments.**

Captain Liam Carragher faced some tough opponents playing at number 1 in the team, so it was often left to the other players to pick up the points. Tim Dickson, Alasdair Cameron and Euan Davey all managed 2 points each in their respective matches.

This year the St. Columba's Trophy was played for as the Strathallan School Golf Championship and was won by Alasdair while Liam produced rounds of 80 and 79 and finished 2 shots behind. This was a tightly-fought competition although the standard of golf probably was an early indication of the trouble we would have later in the season against stronger sides.

The school team finished a distant 4th to Crieff HS in the Perth and Kinross Team Championships played at Dunkeld and Birnam this year. The Crieff team won the event by an impressive 19 shots and it was no surprise to see that three of their four players were selected to represent the County side at the Scottish Schools Championships. Liam was unable to defend the title that he won last year at Kinross.

Tim was the highest placed Strathallan player in 8th place in the Individual event.

The Inter-House Trophy was won, as expected, by Ruthven who were able to field a very strong side on the day. Liam, at least, showed some of this better form with a 76 to have the best individual round of the day. Simpson finished a creditable second with three steady rounds from Cameron, Mather and Harrison. Andrew Marshall had the second best individual round of the day scoring a 78 and also won the prize for the lowest round of the season, a 75, at Auchterarder. If he works at his game then he is capable of becoming a low handicap golfer in the coming years.

Greg Dempster won the Pitlochry Cup with 38 points from Euan Davey and Jamie Pugh who tied for second on 36.

The staff v pupils match was won by the pupils this year 2-1, 'though the staff side was shorn of two of its stronger players.

Overall a busy but ultimately unsuccessful season if measured by match results against other schools, 'though there was plenty of golf on offer for those keen to take part. As ever I am indebted to GCK and ADW for all that they do in their respective ways for golf at Strathallan. Without their help and support we simply could not do anything like as much as we do. Also our thanks go to our groundsman, Mr John Newall, for the work that he does in developing and nurturing the school course. It continues to progress each year. **NS**



**This summer cycling was a popular games option with anything between three and eleven people participating (some people even tried cycling without a bike but it didn't catch on). To begin with we took a gentle pedal along to Dunning and back but as the term wore on and we became a more determined and athletic group we started tackling more adventurous, off-road trails. Our trips always took in the beautiful local countryside (in all weathers) an experience enhanced by Mr Kennedy's fund of local knowledge and Mrs MacBain's array of cycling outfits .**

Among the trails we took were: a visit to Elcho castle, a tour around the Earn valley and an off-road trek to the ruins of Castle Law at Culteuchar. One afternoon we also took a minibus along to Pitmedden Forrest where there are some fairly narrow tracks through the trees as well as some incredible views over the Tay valley. Generally there was something for everyone and even Rachel quite liked the nettles up Dunning Burn. **Malcolm Fraser**



## Girls' tennis

**For the first time we were invited back for joint boys' and girls' pre season tennis training. This was a huge success and gave us some well-needed practice before the season ahead. We had coaching from Tommy Ogilvie and felt ready for the first matches. To start us off we had the annual match, captain of girls against the captain of boys in which David Mather's team was defeated!**

The senior 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams this year have consisted of very young players with 4th former Ailie MacGeoch, who also plays district at U17 age group for the Highland and plays for Kinnoull tennis club in Perth, being selected to play along side Jane Cargill as 1st couple. This makes the team look very promising for the future. Throughout the term we have had some good wins but also some losses, one of the highlights winning 9-0 against Morrisons. The Junior teams have had a good season, in particular the 3rd Form, with convincing wins over Kilgraston and Loretto. Lynsey Knowles and Sophie Beamish have been particularly impressive winning seventeen of their twenty games.

In the British Schools Cup we were drawn against Glenalmond in the finals. After the singles matches it was 2-2 with Ailie MacGeoch and Lizi Bush putting in excellent performances to win their respective matches 2-0. Then onto the doubles where Ailie and I won the first set 6-1, lost the second 1-6 then lost the match on a tie break. It was a good performance by the team.

Glenalmond mixed doubles tournament was a successful one in which I, Lizi and Ailie partnered David, Jamie and Andrew respectively, the latter two couples finishing in 2nd place in their groups. Overall, the team finished in 3rd place.

At the Kilgraston tournament, Ailie MacGeoch, previous winner of the U14 age group with Rachel McLean and U16 age group with Kirsty MacGeoch, played up an age group in the U18 section with Jane Cargill but was knocked out after a very close match in the semi-finals. Helen Summersgill and Claire Price played in the U16 age group and finished top of their group with 16 points. They played a great final match against Dollar and won 6-0 before being defeated by a stronger Dollar couple in the semi finals. In the U14 age group Lynsey Knowles and Sophie Beamish continued their successful run by finishing 1st in their group with 22 points but unfortunately were defeated at the final stages.

The Junior Inter house competition gave the opportunity for 6 couples to compete against each other and the 1st VI was a very close match. Woodlands won 5-4 with Alice Farrar and Sara Chalmers winning all 3 of their matches and Woodlands going on to win overall. In the Senior Competition, although the MacGeoch sisters from Woodlands won all three of their games, Thornbank won all the other games and therefore were crowned Senior Champions. **Jane Cargill Captain of Girls' Tennis**



## Basketball

**Basketball has been quite successful this year for Strathallan under the great coaching of Mr.Heaney. The 1st team this year consisted of Tidus Wu, Julius Luttge, Jannik Stuhlmann, Dylan Li, Joe Zhou, Johnson Chiu, Chris Yao, Chris Chan, Di Zhu, Liu Shen Shan and Shawn Ng.**

Official training was done on Monday nights but games sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays were used to train as well. We started off the season with a match against Dollar from which we emerged victorious with a score of 30-22. With boosted morale and confidence, the team went on to beat our regular rivals, Fettes, 29-23. This was quite an achievement as we have never before beaten Fettes. The following match was against St. Leonard's and once again Strathallan came out victorious with a comfortable win of 37-19. We were on fire with a 3-game winning streak but unfortunately what goes up must come down and when we had to play Fettes again we lost 22-32. The Glenalmond fixture (which was the last game of the season!) was quite a disappointment for me as I only managed to play the 1st minute of the game due to a small accident. As I was getting hospital treatment, I received a phone call from Mr. Heaney saying the team had done extremely well but unfortunately lost 38-23.

A few months later we had a Staff vs. Pupils match which was truly a great match – full of laughter yet with a hint of seriousness coming from both sides. The pupils (obviously), managed to secure the match with a score of 39-22. Dr. Downhill was the highlight of the evening I must say, as he told me before the match 'You know Shawn, I came to practice the other day and I took fifty shots but I only managed to get one in!' He was able not only to sink one but five baskets for the Staff side which made him very happy. Everyone in the staff team performed extremely well that evening. Well done, chaps.

I am both thankful and proud to have been able to play and captain the Strathallan team this year. It has been truly an honour to play with extremely talented players and also to play under the coaching of Mr.Heaney. His relaxed style allows us to play under no pressure, which I think has been quite an influence on our playing. I would like to thank him for being a wonderful coach and also the rest of the team who have supported each other extremely well this year. Also, many thanks to Ms Ardeleanu who supervised our games' sessions. I wish next year's team all the best and hope that they will continue to build on the foundations that we have made this year. **Shawn Ng**



## Swimming



The year 2005-2006 proved to be another very successful year for Strathallan Swimmers. For the first time Sports Scholarships attracted a few new faces to the Strathallan Swim Team. The number of swimmers attending training on a regular basis increased significantly which was evident throughout the year in swimmers' performances.

### Fixtures

Strathallan swimmers excelled themselves with an unbeaten run this year at both Senior and junior level. The seniors had three Inter-School matches against Morrison's, Fettes and Glenalmond all of which they won convincingly. In the match against Glenalmond we won 26 out of 28 events.

The Riley swim team recorded their first victory in their first full year of existence against Craigclowan where the majority of events were fiercely contested but Riley were winners by 164-137.

For the first time the Junior Swimmers took part in the Scottish Prep Schools Swimming Championships. There were ten schools taking part and the swimmers came away with a clutch of medals and the Under-13 boys won the trophy for the best team in their section. The Under-13 Girls were runners up in their section.

### Medal winners were:

#### Gold:

Joe Lipworth	Butterfly and Backstroke
Alex Vine	Breaststroke
Azlyn Edens	Breaststroke

#### U13 boys Relays

Joe Lipworth, Alex Vine, Steven Watson & Luca Mann

#### Bronze:

Chloe Lindsay	Backstroke
Luca Mann	Freestyle
Yasmine Forbes	Freestyle

#### U 11 Girls Freestyle Relay:

Bethany Lindsay, Emma Cheape, Kerry Gillespie & Siobhan Forbes

#### U13 Girls Freestyle Relay:

Azlyn Edens, Chloe Lindsay, Lisa Crossan & Yasmine Forbes.





**Strathallan swimmers excelled themselves with an unbeaten run this year at both Senior and junior level.**

### Tayside Schools and Scottish Schools Swimming Championships

2005 saw Strathallan's largest entry yet into the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships which were held in November. In total we recorded thirty-two personal best times and won three Silver and six Bronze medals.

#### Silver:

Boys 13/14	200 IM	Joe Lipworth
Girls 17+	Relay	Kirsty MacGeoch, Jennifer Whitelaw, Isabell Mastal & Jean Jardine
Boys 17+	Relay A	Sam Smith, Dylan Li, Bryan Tsang & Matej Janecek

#### Bronze:

Boys 12 & under	Breaststroke	Alex Vine
Boys 13/14	Backstroke	Joe Lipworth
Girls 17+	Breaststroke	Kirsty MacGeoch
Boys 17+	Breaststroke	Dylan Li
Boys 17+	Relay B	Struan Dewar, Andrew Whitelaw, Stefan Toremar & Jack Workman
Girls 15/16	Relay	Elizabeth Vine, Heather Mitchell, Carla Crossan & Rachel McLean

As a result of their performances in the Tayside Schools event Joe Lipworth and Kirsty MacGeoch were selected to swim at the Scottish schools Swimming Finals in Glasgow in February. Kirsty improved her personal best time by over a second. The results across the board confirm the massive improvements made by our swimmers over the past few years under the coaching of Elaine Johnston.



### Inter – House Competition Swimming Standards 2005-2006

#### Results:

1st	Woodlands	371 points
2nd	Freeland	299 points
3rd	Thornbank	292 points
4th	Simpson	274 points
5th	Ruthven	262 points

### Inter – House Swimming Gala

The Inter-house Gala took place in March this year and once again proved to be an extremely exciting event with many very close races and 23 new records set. The results were:

<b>Girls' Championship:</b>	1st Woodlands	101 points
	2nd Thornbank	80 points

<b>Boys' Championship:</b>	1st Freeland	62 points
	2nd Nicol	50 points
	3rd Simpson	48 points
	4th Ruthven	35 points

A sprint event for a selection of Riley swimmers was included in the programme. The Riley Sprint for the boys was won by Joe Lipworth in a new record time and for the second year running Yasmine Forbes won the girls' event beating her record from last year. Well done to all those who took part.

As well as many Inter – School events, Riley swimmer Joe Lipworth also competed locally and nationally under the banner of City of Dundee Swimming Club and gained many medals, trophies and personal best times throughout the year. Joe recently took part in the District A grade event and was awarded best boy over all the age groups. He swam ten events over three days – winning gold in all of them – all in new PBs and 7 new district records and, to top it all, achieved three national qualifying times for British Championships in Sheffield in July. **TEAM CAPTAINS, Isabell Mastall and Matej Janecek**





**This has been one of the most successful and dynamic years in the recent history of the Contingent.**

## Army

**The Army Section was fortunate to have Mr. Hilliard's help this year - with a strong background in the cadet world from his own schooldays in Australia, he joined the Section with the intention of assuming command and it was a great blow to us when he decided to leave the School after only one year to pursue his studies at Cambridge.**

Over the year, training for the Army and the Recruits followed the traditional pattern of events:

Field Day was one of the largest I have been involved with. Sixty senior cadets tried their night navigation skills at Barry Buddon with varying degrees of success, severely testing several of the Lower Sixth NCOs (Jordan's interpretation of the route was particularly creative). The following day's Platoon Attack was carried out in persistent drizzle and a cutting wind, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all - while the Recruits went about their own programme of map reading, but were prevented from trying the Obstacle Course due to the rain.

We managed to get back into the habit of attending the competition formerly known as HCTC (the snappily-named 51 (Scottish) Brigade Military Skills Competition). Under the leadership of Iain Aitken and Ben Robertson the Team completed the course but, short on experience if heavy on commitment, came in last. We did rather better this year, but that must wait for the next issue of the Strathallian. I am sure that all those who attended will fondly remember the theme of environmental responsibility and the attendant need to account for the precise number of yoghurt pots, biscuit wrappers and so forth. That type of skill must be of great help to the modern Army in combating global terrorism.

The Recruits' Exercise, on the other hand, was a breath of fresh air. It gets very boring, frankly, to go to the same area and do roughly the same exercise each year, so we struck out for the Lighthouse at Barry Buddon rather than the woods. This gave us the basis for a fortified base camp (with toilets and other mod cons, which makes life easier) from which to confront the dastardly forces of whichever organisation we were pitted against. The relative comfort didn't last long - overnight the temperature dropped several degrees below zero. The Sunday morning put that right, with Mr. Lindsay using the Lighthouse Cottage to demonstrate house clearing (a.k.a Fighting in Other People's Houses), guaranteed to warm up the coldest Recruit.

The last gasp of the year was Central Camp - Barry Buddon again, we love the place so much - and a healthy number of Recruits and Seniors attended despite this being a Rugby Tour year.

I commented last year on the increase in numbers in the Contingent, and the trend has continued: from 58 in 2002 to 125 this year, the strength of the Contingent has almost doubled. One of the most gratifying developments underlying this trend is the recovery of the Royal Navy Section Threatened with closure only two years ago, they have risen from 6 Cadets in 2004 to 12 in 2005 and now at the start of 2006 they number 35 - a fitting tribute to the enthusiasm and commitment of Mrs. MacBain.

This has been one of the most successful and dynamic years in the recent history of the Contingent, and I must pass on thanks to the staff who put in so much time and effort to make the CCF an enjoyable experience for our Cadets: Capt. Walmsley successfully completed the Advanced CCF Course and has the distinction of coaching the Royal Marines Troop to their third victory in the Pringle Trophy Competition in 8 years. 2 Lt. de Celis Lucas completed the CCF Officers' Qualifying Course and has taken an important role in training our Recruits. 2 Lt Higginbottom (why not full Lt. ? - I still haven't found the answer to that) continues to give us his expertise in all



things adventurous, and along with Mr. Richard Caves, was responsible for making a success of our first Adventurous Training Camp in North Wales. Sub. Lt. MacBain, now with added Coastal Yachtmaster Qualification, has been so successful in building up the Royal Navy Section that they will soon be living on broth without any bread. And Mr. Lindsay has kept us all going, providing kit, advice and an exemplary commitment to all our Cadets. Thanks also to the Cadets themselves, particularly to RSM McCulloch whose boundless energy in CCF matters made a real difference to the Contingent, and to the other Upper Sixth Form cadets who led their own Sections with flair and commitment over the year. Congratulations also to Peter Burgess on his Distinction in the BTEC Award. **ACWS-J**

## RM Troop

**In the military the use of nicknames, monikers and mnemonics are practically compulsory. And 'Strath' Troop of the RMCCF is no different. And so it was that, in September, a group of Fifth Form 'nods' were rapidly introduced into the ways and mannerisms of the Corps!**

It is a steep learning curve for them; they must learn how not to behave like 'Pongos', how to wear their uniform, how to perform drill and how to speak like a 'bootneck'. Luckily they mastered these basics with great aplomb. However, for one lucky 'nod', the steepness of this curve was to be seriously tested.

The first weekend in October saw a motley crew of eight seasoned (and one not-so-seasoned) cadets, including one girl and led by cadet WO1 (RSM) Robert 'Fat Bob' McCulloch, depart very early on the Friday morning for an epic twelve hour journey to CTC Lymptone, Devon, for the Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy competition. This is a national military skills competition held over two days, competed in by all seventeen RMCCF units. After the initial briefing, the cadets settle down to a night in the gym (a home from home for a bootneck!) before setting out early on Saturday to begin the series of military stances held on Woodbury Common. The highlights for 'Strath' Troop are always the Camouflage & Concealment, Section Battle Drill and Battle Exercise stances and this year was no different; after the first day we were lying in second place.

The Endurance run is a two mile run across arduous terrain on the Common and involves tunnels, water tunnels and the infamous 'sheep dip'. Being big, burly Scots, we were never destined to score a winning time. So to contest for the Trophy, it would come down to the Drill competition, where every member of the team has to perform. The odds were not in our favour; two competitor schools are Naval schools, where all pupils perform drill on a daily basis. Each Troop was to be inspected and assessed by a Commando Training Centre Drill Leader (DL) – the most feared group in the Corps! However, Strath Troop had the added pressure of being observed by a group of VIPs; none other than the Commanding Officer of CTC Lymptone, the RSM of CTC Lymptone and Maj Gen The Duke of Westminster. Still, to Mr McCulloch and the rest of the team this was not a problem; it was a challenge; and one to which they rose. Ten minutes after they entered the drill shed (and after a lengthy string of superlatives by the Maj Gen.) they came out into glorious sunshine with chests puffed out and broad grins on their faces. The Troop had achieved the implausible; they'd won the Drill competition and, with it, the overall Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy. And for the first time in the history of the competition, the winning team included a girl. So to cadet Cpl Olivia Streatfeild-James, WO1 McCulloch, Mne Oliver 'Rookie' Corlett and the rest of the team, congratulations on a superb effort and result.

This set the Troop up for an immensely positive and exciting year. The nods all passed their fitness tests (eventually), earning the right to wear the Globe & Laurel and so join their sections for more advanced training. This was put into practice in the field, and also saw some of these new Marine cadets assume a more nurturing and

instructional role with the Basic Section recruits. At the end of the year several Marine cadets departed for CCF camps and courses across the country, from Frimley Park to Barry Buddon. Two cadets, Tom Fleming and Oli Stevenson, even braved the horror stories about the RM Summer Camp at Garelochhead to attend. Not only did they learn a vast amount, but also did themselves great credit; Tom won the Phil Guy Memorial race (a 6 mile run up Glen Nevis) in a time of 49mins 19secs, before proceeding to drop his (sterling silver) trophy on the floor.

Amongst the instructing staff too there were positive outcomes. Capt Streatfeild-James was promoted to Contingent Commander of the CCF, following the retirement of Capt Walker RD RNR (ret'd) and, following attendance at the 'death-by-powerpoint' Advanced Command Course. Lt Walmsley was promoted to take over as Troop Commander. Following his own promotion, Strath Troop bid a very fond farewell to their close friend Capt Iain Waddell RD RMR of the Royal Marines Youth Training Team (RMYTT). As an instructor with the RMYTT, primarily working with Strath Troop over the last three years, Iain has shared his knowledge, wisdom and 'dits' with the Troop on an almost weekly basis. He has also been a permanent fixture in the McCulloch household – a photo of him with WO1 McCulloch reportedly has pride of place in the hallway. Nevertheless, we are immensely grateful for his support and friendship. We wish him well in his new job.

The highlight of the Troop's social calendar, as always, is the Royal Marines Annual Mess Dinner. This is an evening where the Troop invites guests and hosts a formal military-style dinner to celebrate the achievements of the year and thank the contributors. It is a visual, aural and culinary feast. Thanks go to all the guests, the Bursar, the catering staff at Sodexho and the musicians for making the evening such a success.

Thanks must also go to all who have aided in the running of the Troop; Maj Streatfeild-James, 2Lt de Celis Lucas and WO2 'Tamagucci' Lindsay of the CCF instructors. Thanks also to WO2 Turner RM and Sgt Davie RM of the RMYTT. A massive vote of thanks must also be passed on to Capt Charlie Breach RM and his team from the Fleet Protection Group (FPGRM), as their assistance with particular training (and pre-Pringle drill) has been fantastic.

And so to the future. This year we say adieu to four pillars of our Troop, cadet Sgts Cameron Terrell & Stuart McDonald, WO2 Peter Burgess and WO1 (RSM) Robert McCulloch. The Troop extends thanks to them for all of their incredible efforts and best wishes for their futures, in particular to Bob, who is to sit his Potential Officer's Course for the Royal Marines in the Summer. The Troop also extends its congratulations and best wishes to former Strath Troop cadet JJ Chalmers (2004) who recently passed his Reserve Commando Course and is now a Reserve Royal Marine Commando.

For those who remain in the Strath Troop, stand by... **RCAW**





## RN

**This year we started with two senior cadets, four cadets and eight recruits. We spent the first two terms covering the basic seamanship skills including: navigation and chart interpretation, knot tying, team building and basic radio communication. During this time we also had a whole section field day on one of the Clyde-Fleet Tenders. Just before Easter all of our cadets took their AB tests which resulted in Lauren Murray and Jasmine Morris being promoted to the rank of Able Seaman.**

In the summer term we spent almost every Wednesday afternoon at Port Edgar (a marina just below the Forth Road Bridge) where all of the recruits and cadets got the

option of learning how to sail or drive powerboats.

The powerboat group gained experience in the school's own Dory and several varieties of RIBs. By the end of the term everyone in the group had achieved their RYA level 2 certificates which qualify them to drive a powerboat without being accompanied by an instructor. Of those who chose sailing, some had previous experience and some had none at all but they all had a good time in anything from Toppers to Bosons.

The popularity of the Navy section is rapidly increasing as the total head count at the start of the new term is 35. The cadets are still going down to Port Edgar where the sailors are carrying on from RYA level 1 to RYA level 2 and the Powerboaters are heading for their safety boat licence. Meanwhile, the recruits have begun drill training for the impending inspection. **Malcolm Fraser**



**When most people hear about a CCF trip, they automatically think of Army camp, in the cold wet and rainy weather, but this trip was completely different to that. (Thank goodness.)**

We began with a journey in the minibus to Anglesey and arrived later that day in our dry, warm accommodation. We discovered that the camp also had a swimming-pool that we were allowed to use, and a massive indoor climbing-centre. We put both to good use, of course.

Through the five days there, we were all kept extremely busy by Mr Caves who seemed to know everything there was to know about Wales. I could go on forever about all the wild and mad activities we did, climbing up Triven and Snowdon, abseiling, bouldering, but it would take too long, so I'll just talk about, I think, almost everyone's favourite part of the trip, THE HIGH ROPES COURSE. (Well, maybe it wasn't Mrs MacBain's favourite part.)

That day was amazing. We started off with a safety talk, of course, (Woh! Awesome! Ed) and proceeded to an immensely scary and intimidating structure.

Claire and I were, naturally, eager to go first, as the boys were too scared. So we began to climb and, once we were at the top, we were told to do an assault course that, let me remind you, was forty feet in the air! I must have been crazy, thinking about it now. It was quite terrifying. Even Tom was a tad scared. (Sorry, Tom.) So we proceeded to a Flying Fox to get back down, a method which Mrs MacBain, let's just say, found a little challenging. But the best part had to be the look on her face when she was hoisted up 40ft in the air, and then sharply dropped straight back down to the ground.

Everything on the trip was memorable, and everyone will always have the little jokes and reminders of the fun but it couldn't have been done without the staff.

Thanks to Mrs MacBain, the scaredy-cat, Mr Higginbottom, the red mountain-goat, Mr Caves, the tour guide and Mr S-J, the sweets supplier and entertainment provider.

**Jasmine Morris Woodlands V Form**









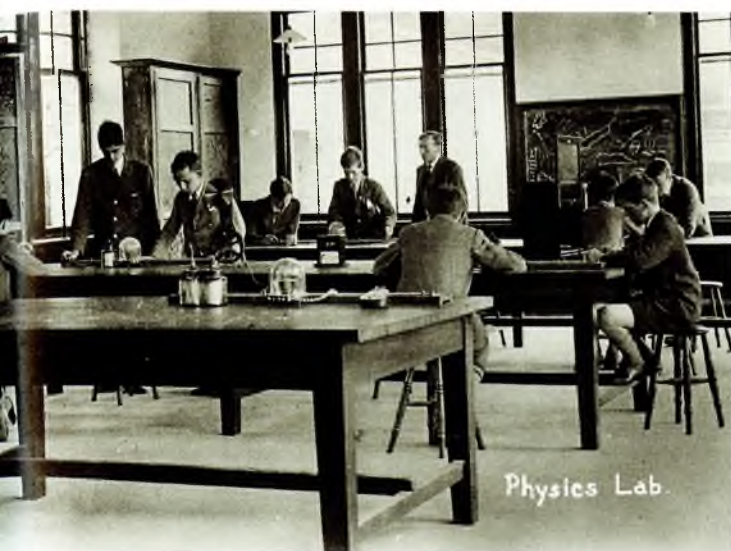
## STRATHALLAN SCHOOL FROM THE EAST

Robert Noel Bain, the master of works for James Carnegie at Killearn near Balqhiddier, was appointed to the position of master of works at Strathallan School, formerly held by the much respected William McEwan, on 5th February 1923. William's sudden death had shaken Harry Riley and left many plans for the school expansion in the air. The new position would require energy and experience; so many expectations were placed on Robert and his wife Susan as they took up residence in the old Freeland Stables. Robert was no stranger to Forgandenny as he was the son of the former Freeland House steward David Bain, who had worked for many years for the Wood family. The return of Robert to his childhood home was welcomed and celebrated by old friends in the area. Robert was placed now in charge of an extensive new building scheme at Strathallan. Predominantly, the plans were for a new dining-hall, classrooms, gymnasium and laboratories. Just over a year after Robert's arrival, Strathallan School held a Gala Sports Day on Saturday 7th June 1924. The event was as much about showing off the plans for the new building works as the sports, which were, nevertheless, all-embracing. The new buildings were the science laboratories and the new gym by Freeland Stables on the grounds of the old gardens, as well as new dining facilities in the main building. Parents, children and local families were free to roam the grounds as the Queen Victoria School band played throughout the afternoon.

Robert Bain had been hard-pressed for many months with the building schedule at Strathallan School. The gymnasium, classrooms and laboratories were finished in good time at the garden site, and put into immediate use in the summer of 1926: the gymnasium was again used during the Christmas break when staff and friends held the first Strathallan Christmas Dance, with the ceremonies and music led by John J. Roy. But the work at the main building was much slower due to the complexity of joining the new works to the old building. Harry Riley's intention had been to create two new buildings on the east of the main house to form a dining room, six dormitories, two large recreation rooms, cloakrooms and music rooms, as well as plans to build a swimming pool. Building was also under way in the village with the near completion of the four new houses at Boatloan. There were seven applications by January, so the Parish Council recommended that four more be erected as soon as possible<sup>1</sup>. The village hall repairs were also complete just after Christmas with a new roof built by the Forteviot joiner James Thomson and slated by Dougall and Sons of Dunning. Imrie and Menzies of Perth completed the indoor painting, which was highlighted by several new incandescent lamps supplied by Garvie and Syme of Perth. Unfortunately, soon after completion, an old poplar fell in the grounds of Castle Croft during the particularly fierce spring storm at the end of January damaging the roof and guttering on the south side of the hall.

<sup>1</sup> Forgandenny Council reported that eight houses would be needed by the parish in response to the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919, which required councils to assess the needs for housing for rent and to make plans to meet those needs.



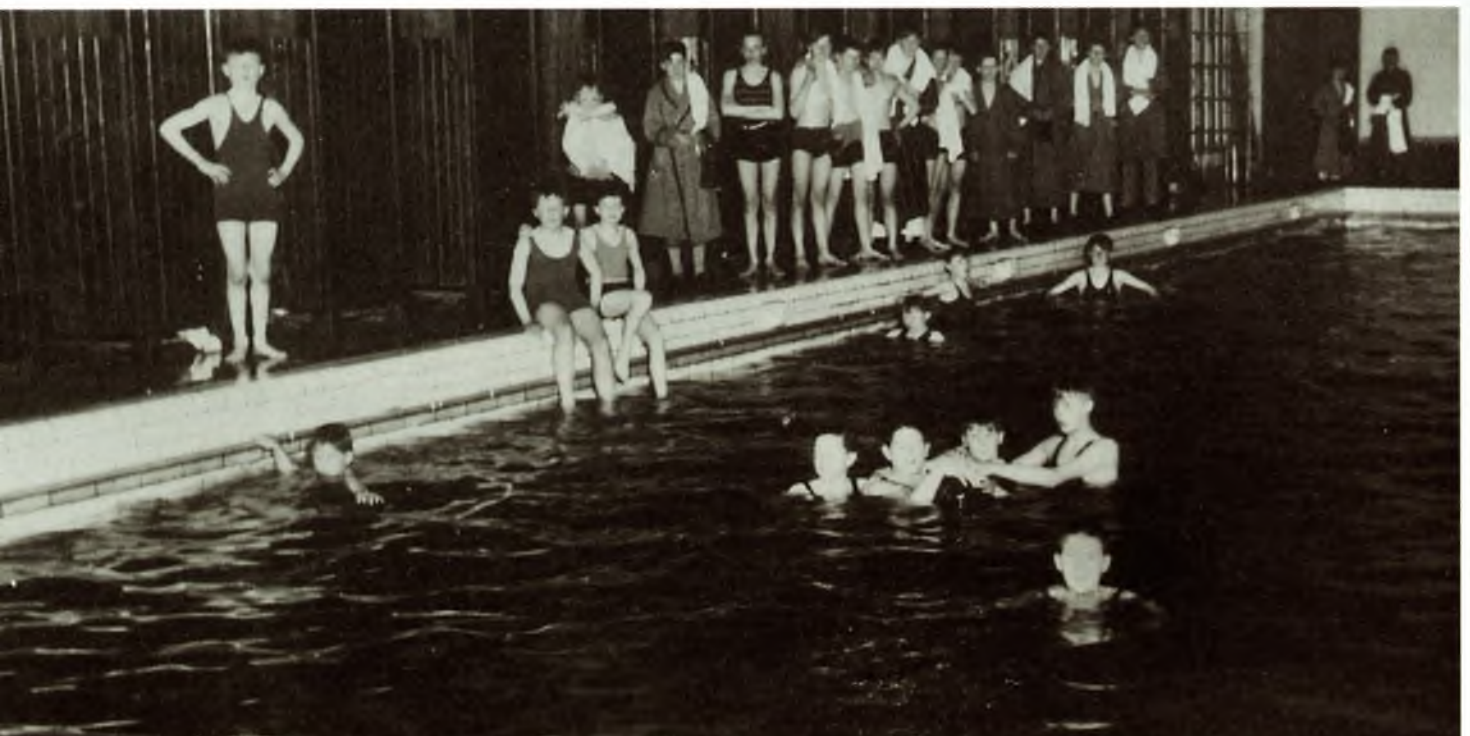


The gale started on the evening of Friday the 28th of January 1927 and reached an incredible ferocity blowing down a lot of trees, while slates were sent flying everywhere in the village. The village school roof was badly damaged and severe damage was caused to several buildings at Strathallan School, but most spectacular of all was the felling of all the limes alongside the main drive. This also happened at Glenalmond School but there the destruction was permanent as they had not heard of Robert Bain. Despite incredulity from many onlookers, the master of works at Strathallan polled and restored each lime along the drive despite serious offers of alternative advice. His success at what was considered at the time to be a pointless task can still be seen today. However, Baroness Ruthven's famous cedars, which lined the church path in the village, were not so fortunate, and had to be removed permanently.

Despite the setback to work on the new building, Harry Riley pushed ahead with his plans to form an Old Boys' Society to coincide with the completion of the buildings. Both sets of plans were in place by the start of the new term in September 1927. The new building was almost complete, so the boys returned to the school with a new downstairs dining-room for use by the whole school, and were able to occupy three of the six dormitories: the second building, which would house the swimming-pool and music rooms, was well under way. The old dining facilities in the main building had been converted into a library, and the boys were able to move to the new junior and senior common rooms. One of the villagers remarked that the new building was probably to enable the inmates to have separate cages. Harry Riley was never to be daunted in any project and immediately made plans for a new ward, two isolation wards and a bathroom at the Freeland Stables, now designated as a sanatorium.







Harry Riley's intention had been to create two new buildings on the east of the main house to form a dining room, six dormitories, two large recreation rooms, cloakrooms and music rooms, as well as plans to build a swimming pool.





During the Christmas break, a frozen pipe caused damage to the ceilings of the new building at Strathallan, which meant that half the accommodation was unavailable for the spring term. Frost continued for several weeks so preventing much progress with any of the buildings. Harry Riley announced at the first Old Boys' Dinner held with fifty former pupils at the Central Station Hotel, Glasgow, on the 16th December, that the date agreed for the official opening of the new building, to be named Simpson House in honour of his mother's family, was to be 9th February 1928. In fact, even this was delayed and so it was not until March 11th that Harry Riley was able to mount a tour of some of the new boarding rooms and the new dining-room. Sports Day on June 15th 1928 was the grandest affair to date. The new Simpson House and the remodelled environs loudly proclaiming Harry Riley's vision and Robert Bain's tenacity to bring Strathallan into the new age. The swimming-pool, having only been made available some four days earlier, was then used on Monday July 9th to stage the annual swimming championship. Few expressed regret that the annual dip in the River Earn had become a thing of the past.

With much of the construction completed, Robert Bain was able to take a well earned break and attended his brother David's wedding at the Station Hotel in Perth on 14th July. The bride was Nettie Brown, the daughter of the late Rossie gardener, John Brown. The next four houses at County Place were ready by the end of the year and taken by Cecil Sharman, the music teacher at Strathallan; Robert Whytock, a joiner; Thomas Stratton, a rabbit catcher, and William McMillan, the contractor formerly at Eastfield. Simpson House was fully occupied at the beginning of new school year in September 1928, and Harry Riley opened the new swimming pool officially on the evening of Friday 26th October 1928. The expansion of the school numbers now meant that Simpson House was officially the fourth Boarding-House, and Stuart Ferguson was appointed as the first Simpson House Captain.

GRMR





## Biology field trip

## BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP



**It was surprising how back to nature we all became; the expectation of rain all weekend gave the boys an excuse to dress up as giant smurfs.**

**On Saturday the 22nd of April, the Upper VI biology sets, set off for Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae with our comedy entertainment for the weekend, Raphael. The excitement on the ferry across wasn't entirely due to the anticipation of identifying seaweed or the Sunday night statistics, but the amusement of feeding the seagulls.**

It was surprising how back to nature we all became; the expectation of rain all weekend gave the boys an excuse to dress up as giant smurfs in their blue waterproof jackets and trousers. On arrival, we were out straight away counting periwinkles. Before tea, we had a huge game of spoons (which got a bit competitive), followed by snakes and ladders. After tea all ready to go back to the lab only to find out that JJ had some how broken the lab key. Everyone was devastated ...

An early start on Sunday morning was not one of the highlights but it was met by sunshine. Once Pip had smurfed up, (even though there wasn't a cloud in the sky) we were off for a transect of the rocky shore, collecting eels, starfish, crabs and seaweed. Then we were off for

the traditional cycle tour of the island with the majority on tandems. Stuart and Andrew.C had a pit stop half way round for a swim, and later there was a skimming stone competition with Ben holding the record of 16. Before tea we had a game of football with Team Angus vs Team Jamie Pugh. Later that night we studied barnacles and set out plankton traps.

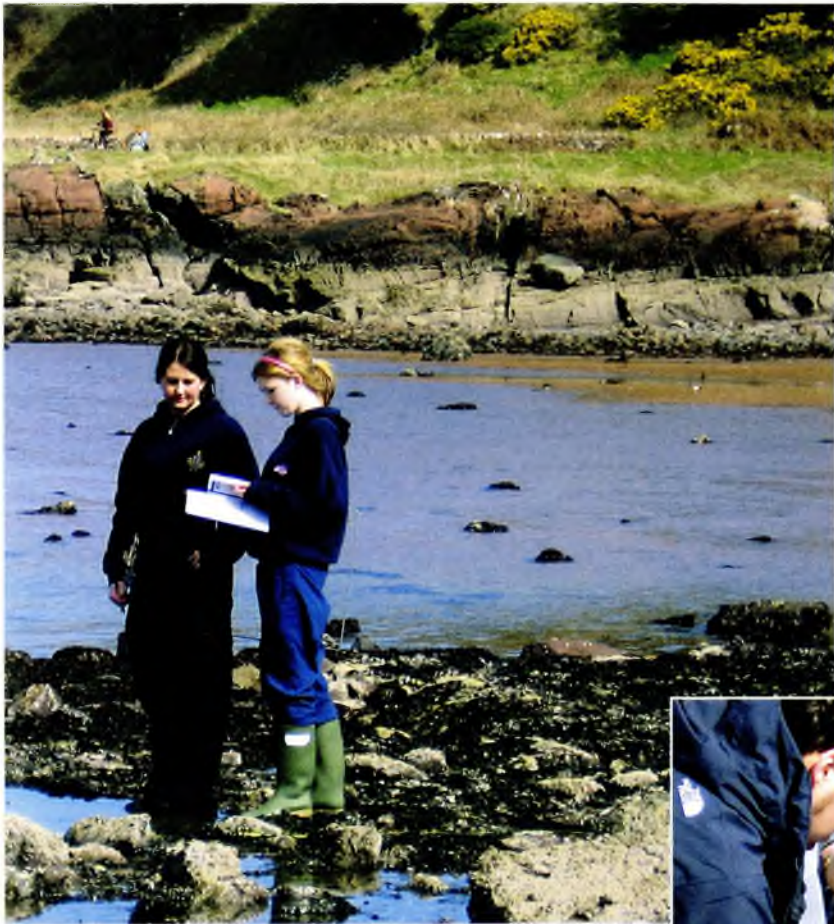
Up early on the last morning to do some past paper questions, before boarding the ferry. While we were waiting for the ferry Mrs Raeside demonstrated her juggling skills whilst Mr Goddard and Liam had a showdown with some foam rocket launchers! On boarding the boat Raphael and Sarah's attempt to recreate the famous 'Titanic' moment was ruined by Raphael's singing.

Before getting back to school we stopped at an RSPB reserve to learn about succession and an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet. Tired, we arrived back at Strath to find that we had athletics standards in an hour. Arrrgggggghh!!!

Thanks to Mr Goddard and Mrs Raeside for giving us a very enjoyable and memorable weekend away and for putting up with Raphael.

**Sarah Fleming Thornbank Upper VI**







## Second form exchange – Spring 2006

On the evening of Sunday 30th April, two minibuses full of French students bubbling with excitement arrived outside Riley. They were from the Collège Ste Clotilde in Bordeaux and were going to spend the next 10 days experiencing life in and around Strathallan. The languages department had prepared a packed programme of interesting activities, including a visit to Edinburgh to see the castle, the cathedral and the shops! On one of the days, half of the visitors went to Craigclowan, whilst the other half visited New Lanark heritage museum. Another day, the exchange pupils headed for the fair City of Perth where they checked out the museum and more shops. The most popular outings were to the Zoo and the Safari Park – though unfortunately they didn't see any lesser-spotted haggis... (délicieux!)

In between their various visits, the French students had a taste of school life – not only lessons but also drama and sport as well. My French pen pal couldn't believe how much sport we were allowed to do. She was very envious...

After 10 days, we waved goodbye to our new-found friends and now we're all really looking forward to our visit to Bordeaux. Lots of people helped make the first part of this exchange possible – whether it was organising the trips or looking after the French students. So Il Form 2005-6 would like to say a great big 'merci' to you all!

Ciara Elwis Riley House

## Kinross concert



In May two-and-a-half years ago the choir and musicians performed a concert in Kinross Parish Church at the time when the church was considering beginning a major fundraising programme for an enormous refurbishment project. The £250 that was raised that night launched the programme. Neil Metcalfe said then that we'd be delighted to return to perform when the work was completed.

On November 17th, ten days after the first service had taken place in the newly-completed church, the return visit was made. The audience was overwhelmed at the quality of the performances from the choir and from solo musicians, Chris Charles (piano), Michael Segaud (viola), Becky Chalmers (flute), Gemma Chance, Claire Price and Sam Burns (voice). The musical variety was added to by William Campbell-Gibson and Alex Beetschen with Flanders and Swann's 'The Gasman Cometh', very appropriate for the church which was still awaiting a visit from the gas meter man to set the central heating! The Chaplain elicited wonder and amusement from the audience with his improvisations on any hymn tunes in the style of any composer named by the audience.

Almost all of the compliments from the audience mentioned how much the performers seemed to be enjoying what they were doing, and as one old lady said, 'Whenever any of them opened their mouths a lovely sound came out.' IIMcF





**This year's Burns Supper was once again an excellent night of tradition, talent and humour attended by around 50 pupils from Lower and Upper VI Form. After a short prelude of polite conversation and an overture by the Chairman, the Haggis made its entrance accompanied by the exceptional Freeland piper, Adam Michie. Mrs. McFarlane then stepped in for Mr. Glasgow, unfortunately unable to attend, to address The Haggis – again an entertaining spectacle.**

After the Selkirk Grace by Cathy Rutherford (Thornbank Upper VI) we all enjoyed an excellent meal provided by Gordon Stewart and his team. The Immortal Memory, then proposed by Rev. Quick, was a wonderfully colourful speech and, among outstanding performances by The Fiddlers, Miss Catherine Baker and Malcolm Fraser (Freeland Lower VI), we moved on to the toasts. First up was Jamie Morrison (Freeland Upper VI). We learned much about the apparent masculinity of the female sex but I'm sure this is just a Strathallan thing, so please don't be offended. Mardi Macgregor (Woodlands Upper VI), however,

after commenting on Jamie's admiration for masculine ladies, showed us that perhaps what goes on in the boarding houses, Freeland excepted of course save for one incident involving a small cake, gives us guys little moral high ground upon which to stand. The two speeches left us all feeling a little... well... speechless, but highly entertained, nonetheless.

Derek Elder (Simpson Upper VI) then valiantly reminded us all that Strathallan is truly a place for all to excel, especially those gifted with the sacred talent of Rugby of course, and Mr. Du Boulay's excellent reply showed us that Derek may really be the next Robbie Burns. Well, who knows?

Finally, it wouldn't have been the night it was without The Chairman, Mr. Kennedy, whose interludes were indicative of the spirit of the evening. So thanks to all involved and I'm sure that next year the evening will be, once again, one to remember.

**Peter Burgess Freeland Upper VI**



# REELS NIGHTS



**It doesn't matter how bad we are at dancing or how many left feet we have (at least two each) as we all love reels!**

### III and IV Form Reels

**So, it starts like this. 'Will you dance with me?' and then politely the reply is "yes" and you're off to dance in the 3rd and 4th Form Reels. The lunch hall was cleared apart from some tables to eat at, for of course there needed to be a large dancing area for the Strathallan pupils to try and attempt to remember Mrs. Hamilton's much-loved Scottish country dancing lessons. Thankfully, Mrs. Hamilton explained each dance before it started, so when the ceilidh band played the introduction, people at least vaguely knew what they were doing.**

We started with the Dashing White Sergeant. It went pretty smoothly, our enthusiasm made up for our mistakes. It was followed by the Gay Gordons, in which we saw many potential couples dancing together. Then we had Well Done Jack, Round Reel Of Eight, Canadian Barn Dance, The Haymaker's Jig, a break in which there were some delicious refreshments and some talk, plus laughter at each other, Military Two Step, Cumberland Reel, Dunnet Head, Virginia Reel, Eightsome Reel, in which some memorable solo dances were performed and lastly Strip the Willow.



Strip the Willow was by far the most dizzying and fun dance. The whole idea is to see who can be twirled around the fastest, I think. If it isn't, that's the way III and IV Form certainly portrayed it.

Of course this was the III Form's first reels and I believe it turned us from the shy bystanders at the beginning to the wild enthusiasts at the end. Therefore, many people that night went to bed with the Scottish tunes still playing in their heads. **Rebecca Clephan**

### IV and V Form Reels

**Reels. What more can I say. Yet more bruises, blisters and smiling faces. Oh yes, and people falling flat on their faces for numerous reasons. Reels nights are always great fun, although tiring! Everybody loves to dance and skip – though 'Strip the Willow' tends to be more about how far the guys can throw the scared girls across the room.**

I do pity poor Mrs. Hamilton though; not only does she have to cope with all of us, she has to watch us completely mess up all the dances that she tried so hard to teach us.

It doesn't matter how bad we are at dancing or how many left feet we have (at least two each) as we all love reels! Year boundaries evaporate as everyone grabs anyone to dance the night away. We are all exhausted by half way through – time for a welcome break. At this point there is a scramble either for some much-needed water or food – then its back to the swinging!

Basically, we all enjoy the reels nights, and we owe a big thank you to Mrs. Hamilton, the band, and all the other hard working people who give us these events. Reels are great, though be warned; prepare to get blisters!

**Amyce Smith - Bannister V Form Woodlands**



## St. Andrew's Night ceilidh

Everyone took to the dance floor as soon as the band started, the 'old hands' helping the novice dancers through their favourite reels and jigs.

St. Andrew's night seems to just 'happen' every year but a great deal of preparation goes in to giving this impression. Those behind the scenes deserve a mention and a big 'Thank You' for all their help. These include Gordon Stewart and the kitchen staff for a wonderful meal and for decorating the tables, the stage crew for draping the theatre with tartan, Tam Lindsay and co. for arranging the tables and seating, Mr. Streatfeild – James for the lighting, the teaching staff who turn up so regularly and help with the dancing and running the bar and last, but by no means least, the band who create a wonderful atmosphere for the evening.

On the evening itself, the boys arrived extremely well spruced up in their kilts (even Mr. Hilliard and the Australian exchange pupils were persuaded to wear one for the evening) and the girls arrived fashionably late but looking amazingly glamorous. Everyone took to the dance floor as soon as the band started, the 'old hands' helping the novice dancers through their favourite reels and jigs. For some the evening was their first taste of Scottish dancing. I am sure it won't be their last and I hope that they will retain happy memories for many years to come.

EWH

## Romeo and Juliet

The production itself was the full Shakespeare play so, naturally, it was very interesting and entertaining – albeit long.

During the second term of the school, a few of the more dramatically-inclined pupils went to see a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' in Edinburgh. This was a special production for many reasons. Firstly, it was great! We all thoroughly enjoyed the production, and we thespians are looking forward to putting on our own version of the play at Strathallan. Secondly, a former pupil of Strathallan – Ishbel McFarlane – was directing.

For those of you who are not familiar with the play, here is a short summary:

Boy meets girl. Girl not available (and it's not because she's washing her hair!). Fall in love anyway. Relatives killed. Girl pretends to be dead (as you do) so boy kills himself. Girl wakes up, finds body, and also kills herself. Tragic (with bits of comedy thrown in!)

The production itself was the full Shakespeare play so, naturally, it was very interesting and entertaining – albeit long. It was performed by actors from Edinburgh University – they gave a great performance in what was an unusual setting and stage. The performance took place in Greyfriars church, and rather than the conventional stage, the whole church was used. At one point the audience even had to follow the actors to the other end of the building. This took a little while for some of the more elderly members of the audience (fine by us – we got front row seats).

Over all, this classic play was very well acted and directed, and allowed us to appreciate what Shakespeare is really about. (And the kebab shops down the road made a great night even better)

Amyce Smith-Bannister V Form Woodlands



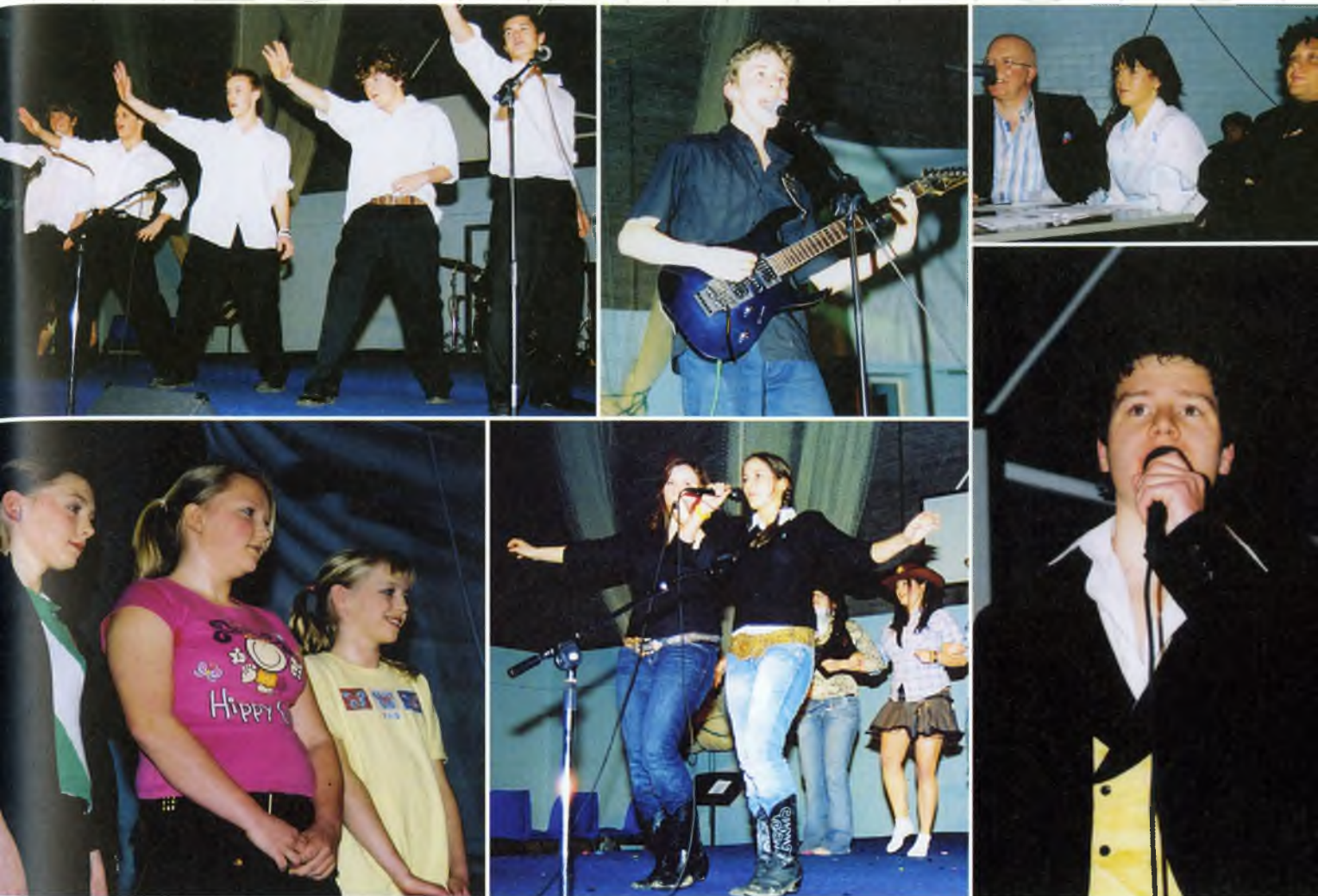
Sixth Form ball

# SIXTH FORM BALL





## The Strath Factor: What is it and do YOU have it?



The Strath Factor was a predominantly music-based talent show, showcasing the hidden talents of many of Strathallan's pupils. The night was sparkingly hosted by Captain of School, Pamela Garratt, and provided a highly entertaining evening for all those who attended. Even though they couldn't vote for their favourites – except through applause and foot-stamping – the audience was loud and thoroughly engaged from start to finish. The show was judged by an all star panel comprising Simon Cowell (Mr Hamilton), Sharon Osbourne (Miss Laurie) and Louis Walsh (Rev. Quick).

The show kicked off with an explosive performance of Ten o'clock by band Inane with Mark Garratt on lead vocals. The evening also included two vocal solos from Skye Johnston and Mark Bonington. Aishah Anas performed a beautiful rendition, on guitar, of The Cranberries' song *Zombie*. Kirsty Niven and Lauren Sutherland stepped in at the last minute, but still managed to put together an entire choir for the backing vocals in their performance of *I want to be the only one* by Eternal. A remarkable contribution, entitled *Freaky*, from Take This thrilled the whole audience, and set the girls' pulses racing.

Riley pupils Ciara Elwis, Chloe Lindsay and Corrie Stewart would have made The Beatles proud with their performance of *Let It Be*. Even 1J got in on the act with a powerful performance from Kerry Gillespie and Alison Ramsay of *My heart will go on* by Celine Dion: there was not a dry eye in the house.

The band Hoi Polloi (overall winners) performed *Enter Sandman* by Metallica, literally a show-stopper. Emily McLaren finished the evening with a bang singing *Can't fight moonlight* by Leanne Rhymes.

Of course, there were a few mishaps during the evening but this just added to the fun.

In all, Strath Factor was a packed and entertaining show, made all the more impressive by the pupils getting together and rehearsing themselves in the weeks running up to the event.

A total of over £1350 was raised on the night for Homelessness Sunday, a charity that brings together the efforts of thousands of churches across the UK in drawing attention to the devastating effects of homelessness.

Again, a massive round of applause to all who took part in the evening, providing a genuinely entertaining talent show. **K S-J**



## Charities Committee 2005-6



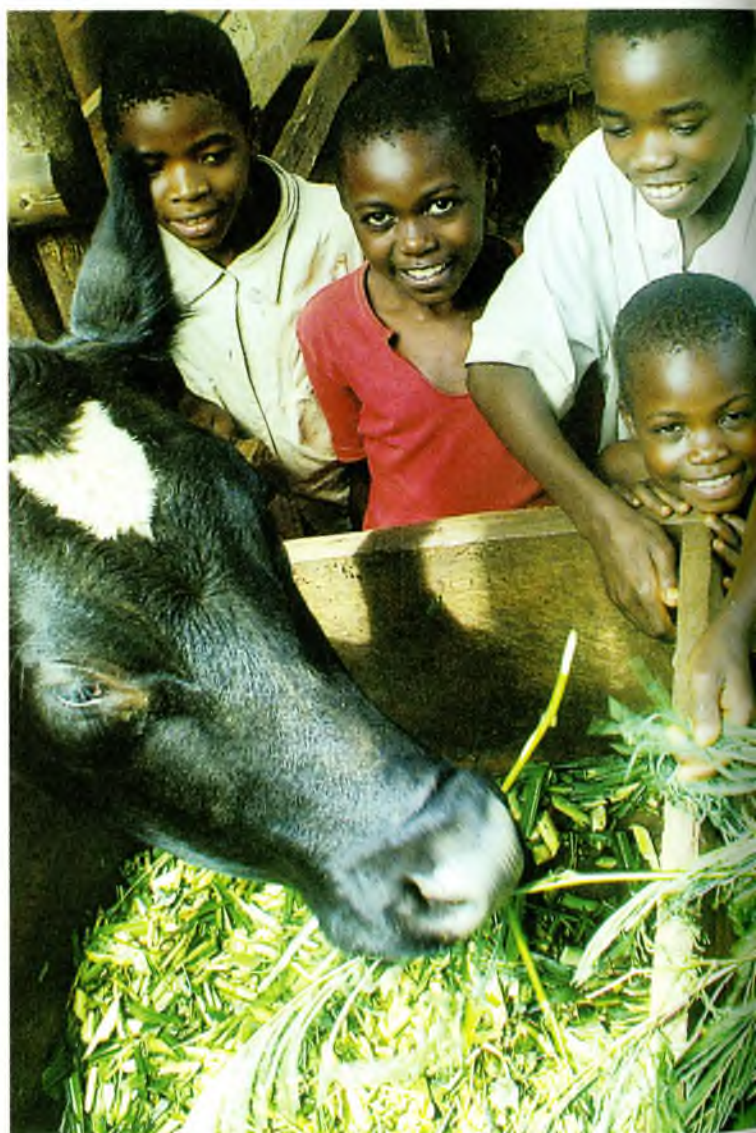
**In the autumn term a cheque for £3500 was sent to the Send a Cow charity, money raised by the sponsored run in the Summer term. We have received a wonderful photograph of a family with their new cow and a certificate. The money raised will buy a farm to support an entire village as well as pay for the training the villagers receive in caring for the animals. The rest of the money will be used to buy more animals.**

On the first Tuesday after half term in the Autumn the annual Fancy Dress Non-uniform Day was held. Each House was given a continent as their theme. Riley had the whole world to choose from! As has been the case on so many occasions many pupils made a huge effort with their costumes. This raised a fantastic £1644 in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee Earthquake Appeal for victims of the earthquake in Pakistan. A collection for this charity was also taken at the end of the House Music Competition before half term.

In February the final of Strath Factor was held in the Sports Hall. This was organised by Claire Laurie with help from the Chaplain and the Music department.

On 15th February, Strathallan had its very own Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell in the form of Mr Hamilton, Miss Laurie and the Reverend Quick in Strath Factor, Strathallan's main fundraising venture this term. The student based talent show competition raised over £1,350 (with more still to come from ongoing DVD sales) for the charity, Homelessness Sunday, which brings together thousands of churches across the UK in fighting against the devastating effects of homelessness. The winning entry from the many groups and individuals who had originally auditioned was Hoi Polloi comprising Ollie Wale, Jack Chartres, Brendon Neill and Will Farquhar.

In May the annual Five Mile Road Race took place in and around the Strathallan grounds. This involves local Club athletes including Fabienne Thompson, who organises the event, and Glyn Gardiner. The event raised a total of £390, with £130 going to each of the following: C.H.A.S, Get Kids Going and Cancer Research. Members of the Charities Committee helped with stewarding the race. **KS-J**









## Examination results 2006

This year's A level results again proved to be very strong. The A/B pass level was 73% with over 40% of candidates gaining A grades. The pass rate was 99.6% (which means that one candidate failed one subject).

Of particular note is the success of three pupils who came in the top ten in the country in their individual subjects: Katie Gibson our Art Scholar in Art and Design, Xiaodan Wu and Bryan Tsang

in Chinese (Bryan was taking the subject a year early and is not a native Chinese speaker). Outstanding results were achieved by the Art department with almost 95% of candidates gaining A or B, Business Studies with 90%, English Literature with 85%, Geography at over 90%, German at 100%, Further Maths at 83%. At GCSE we gained our best ever GCSE passes at A\*/A with 43% where the pass rate was again over 93%. Particularly high standards were achieved by Design Technology with 57% at A\*/A, French with 61% and Geography with 59%. Individual success was also achieved by Anne Alnor who came in the top five in the country in German out of over 53,000 candidates.

The A level results are of course important in themselves but are also the key to candidates gaining places at their universities of choice.

There can be tendencies at some schools for pupils to go in groups to preferred locations and it is a source of pride and pleasure that Strathallan students achieve places at such a wide variety of Higher Education establishments. The range, with no more than six going to any one university amongst 34 institutions at which our pupils were given places, is indicative of the individuality which we aim to foster and which lead to greater success and fulfilment for students when they go to the next stage of their education.

We have been delighted to receive news of significant success about a number of former pupils which reflects the truth of this contention. Of particular note are the fact that Louise Lamb at Oxford and Laura Kotseroglou, Christopher Wright, Mark Stringer at Cambridge all took firsts. What happens at school is important in itself but is also a preparation for the future. **BKT**

## Prizes 2006

## Speech Day 2006 Prizes

The Smith Cup for Head Boy	
UVI A Level Design & Technology	JJ Watters
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl	
UVI A Level Classics, French & Spanish	Pamela Garratt
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	
The University of Dundee English as an Additional Language Prize	
UVI A Level Biology, Chemistry & Physics	Matej Janecek
The Scanlan Cup for Merit	
The Choir Prize	
UVI A Level Music	Rebecca Chalmers
The Thomson Salver for Achievement	Maurits Hartgerink
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution	
The William Pasfield Salver for Music	
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	Michael Segaud
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman	Jamie Cachia
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman	Lizi Bush
Dux	Jamie Wisbey & Harriet Page
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Gael Welstead
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	
The Lord Kincaig Prize for English	
UVI A Level Philosophy	Mardi MacGregor
The Richard Moffat Prize for History	Geoffrey Melloy
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics	
LVI A/S Level Art	Bryan Tsang
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	Fergus Bell
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize	Cathy Rutherford
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	Charlotte Garven
Strathallan Travelling Scholarship	
Vth Form Biology & Design Technology	Amyce Smith-Bannister
Strathallan Travelling Scholarships	Eleanor Parkinson



The Haviston Broadsword Prize	Robert McCulloch
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Quaich CCF Prize	Peter Burgess
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Royal Navy Section Prize	
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LVI Computing	Malcolm Fraser
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The Rick Trophy Army Prize	
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Vth Form Geography	Ailsa Turnbull
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### UVI Form Prizes

UVI A Level Business Studies	Matthew Smith
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UVI A Level Computing	Min Ou
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UVI A Level Geography	Jamie Morrison
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UVI A Level German	Peter Burgess
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UVI Higher Biology & Chemistry	Seth Barnum
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UVI Higher Business Management & Geograph	Nicola Turnbull
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UVI Higher Craft & Design	Ewen Wardman
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UVI Higher English	Lindsay Whitelaw
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UVI Higher Economics & Mathematics	Gains Murdoch
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UVI Higher French	Emily Roy
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UVI Higher German	Maurits Hartgerink
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UVI Higher History & Physical Education	Duncan Brown
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UVI Higher Spanish	Jean Jardine
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UVI Higher Young Enterprise	Fiona Campbell
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### Lower Sixth Prizes

LVI Biology & Economics	Syazana Hassan
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LVI Business Studies & Geography	Harry Williamson
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LVI Chemistry & Mathematics	Sanny Choo
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LVI Classics, Philosophy & History	Lucy Grieve
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LVI English	Mark Bonington
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LVI French	Thomas Gordon
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LVI Music	Victoria McLellan
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LVI Physical Education	Joss Beharrell
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LVI Physics	Hafiz Hj Jaidi
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LVI Spanish	Zoe Hayward
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### Fifth Form Prizes

Vth Form Art	Cara Duncan
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Vth Form Biology, Chemistry, History, Latin, Mathematics & Physics	Helen Summersgill
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Vth Form Business Studies & Spanish	Hannah Cockburn
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Vth Form Computing	Robert Jardine
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Vth Form English & Music	Alex Beetschen
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Vth Form French & German	Mark Garratt
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### Fourth Form Prizes

IVth Form Art	Catriona MacKenzie
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IVth Form Biology, Chemistry, Computing, English, Mathematics & Music	Sam Lipworth
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IVth Form Business Studies	Sara Lundgren
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IVth Form Design & Technology	William Farmer
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IVth Form French, Physics & Spanish	Jamie King
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IVth Form Geography & History	Ailie MacGeoch
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IVth Form German	Morag Elwis
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IVth Form Latin	Etienne Melville
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IVth Form Physics	Robynne Smith
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### Third Form

Jenny Wood	Jack Chartres	Joanna Maclachlan	Bronwyn Lear
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## Six months in India

**I became good friends with one patient, Ashok, who had been given a very short time to live, and he did indeed die while I was there. This really brought home the loss caused by this terrible scourge.**

**My gap year was planned and prepared through Mr Du Boulay with the intention of working with a large charity organisation known as Deep Griha in a slum area of Pune just south of Mumbai. My support was through the LINK organisation from Dundee with whom I had spent several months preparing for the journey. Deep Griha charity workers cover the three slums of Pune comprising over two million people. Both full time workers and volunteers operate in the areas of medicine, teaching and welfare. All the volunteers work out of the safety of the Deep Griha Cultural Centre where they are housed and fed.**

Six months would appear to be a very long time, so, arriving in February, I felt that I really was going to be in India for some time. The first few weeks actually went by very slowly, probably as a result of my having to come to terms with a new culture, but then I couldn't believe it when it was time for a personal break to go travelling in May.

I must admit that adjusting to the culture certainly took me longer than I had expected; I didn't eat much because the food didn't look very appetising. I did, however, become very fond of the chapattis, and eventually found rice to be an attractive addition to meals. A rarely-purchased egg meant that the occasional lunchtime omelette was a godsend.

Hans, our director, met us all on our second day in India for a briefing – and threw us in at the deep end with a visit to an HIV/AIDS demonstration at the local college. That was both a fearful and fun experience as the enormity of the problem hit home while the visit was a great way to meet other volunteers and workers at Deep Griha. I began working in the Ramtekadi slum area teaching on the School Dropout Project with older slum orphans who have absolutely nothing. I must admit that my co-worker, Stevie, and I found the work very hard at the start because the children understandably lacked any respect for anyone. Once we became more familiar, the children settled to reading and writing tasks. In the afternoon, we worked with younger children in the crèche and taught again at the junior school known as

a balwadi. All the full-time workers at Ramtekadi were really nice and they always wanted to talk. It was through one worker that I took on the adult computer class with Stevie, and we both got called 'good teachers', which was very re-assuring.

The volunteers are given time to travel and many suggestions were made about destinations. Each place in India that I visited had its own little charm. One night we got to sleep on the roof of a school and although it rained this was made up for by the most spectacular lightning storm over the hills!

Coming back to work in Pune, I was directed, along with Jamie, to the City of Child orphan project, about forty kilometres outside Pune. I was asked by Hans to work on an HIV/AIDS project, which needed statistical reports. It was a great project to be a part of as I had a chance to go into the community with the staff and help them. I became good friends with one patient, Ashok, who had been given a very short time to live, and he did indeed die while I was there. This really brought home the loss caused by this terrible scourge.

I was very sad to leave when it was time. I made a spiritual visit to Hyderabad for the week before I was to leave, but this did not detract from the eventual, emotional departure; the teachers at work couldn't stop crying, and we exchanged many gifts. A great send-off, but it wasn't something I wanted to do – leave! I wanted to stay feeling that I had only just arrived, and do some more work. My future plans certainly involve a return to work again with such wonderful people. This year Jamie Morrison has followed in my footsteps to Pune, and I am sure that he will report later, as I have, that such a journey is the most fantastic experience in every sense. **Philip Ross Nicol '05**





## William Neve Montieth, Chaplain

**The Reverend William Neve Montieth, Chaplain of Strathallan between 1970 and 1977, died on 10 November at the age of 88. He had kept remarkably good health until the last year of his life. His burial took place on the hill above Largo House, Fife, overlooking the waters of the Forth, where he had spent his early childhood. His father had been Minister of Elie, but was killed at the Battle of Loos before Bill was born. Bill was to follow his father into the ministry after a career in the Diplomatic Service; but first it was prep school at Cargilfield, followed by Winchester and then Magdalen, Oxford.**

Bill was widely read and erudite, but he wore his learning lightly; nevertheless, his ability to pick up allusions or to quote from the Bible, Shakespeare or Milton, Wodehouse or Waugh was extraordinary. He took to re-reading the gospels in Greek in retirement, and could finish off the Times crossword by the end of breakfast. He learned to fly at Oxford and saw war service as a pilot. He was shot down ('I had five seconds' parachute training,' he said. 'Just long enough to learn how to pull the cord!') and was taken prisoner – having recognised his German captor as a man he knew at Oxford – and spent some time in a POW camp, where he was renowned for raising morale by organising theatricals. He learned Italian and, for a while, spoke with a strong Sicilian accent which, though useful for his experiences with i partigiani, raised some eyebrows years later when he was visiting the villa of a Tuscan principessa. By his own admission he liked contrasts: crossing the Atlantic in the 'Queen Mary' both first class and steerage, for example.

Bill had a simple and straightforward Christian faith, but a deep understanding of many other faiths. It imbued his work as a senior diplomat in the Sudan Political Service, where he showed humanitarian values and unquestioned integrity. He was deeply relieved, for example, when a death sentence that, as presiding magistrate, he had been obliged to pass on a murderer, was afterwards commuted on appeal. It was this sort of experience from life which made him a unique and riveting teacher at Strath. No other master, as I recall, had sentenced a man to death.

On retiring from the Diplomatic Service, Bill went to St Andrews to study for the ministry and to follow in the footsteps of his father. He was appointed an assistant at St John's Kirk, Perth; and then Wilf Hoare persuaded him to follow Ian Miller as Chaplain at Strathallan. These were very good years. Bill never found age a barrier to friendship and was able to bring over from St Andrews many young clergymen to preach in chapel who were able to speak directly to the young (if captive) congregations. He tended to be self-deprecating about his own abilities: 'Just back from Dornoch,' he once wrote. 'I combined preaching with golf. Not a bad combination, for standing up in the pulpit tends to inflate your self-esteem, but a tough golf course soon restores a bit of humility...'

He allowed himself, however, a rare compliment a short time before he died. His parish minister had asked to borrow some of his sermons to read. 'Which volume have you taken? 1972, 'Ah, a good year'.

Bill worked closely with Michael Hare Duke, then Bishop of St Andrews, to bring the Presbyterian and Episcopalian communities closer: in 1977 he arranged the first joint confirmation service, rather enjoying the consultation with Bishop Michael on what he deftly referred to as the 'choreography of our movements'. His time at Strath was also noted for the performance of the cantata *Davie the Giant Killer* for which he wrote the libretto. He was a convivial colleague in the MCR – 'a permanently avuncular and kindly presence with an unruffled exterior', one senior master noted. He played a full part in school affairs, even undertaking the unenviable task of escorting boys to visit girls' schools: 'Tomorrow I take twelve ambitious Strathallians to play tennis and swim and dance at St Leonard's. I can't help wondering how many I'll bring back!'

He cut a stylish figure, driving an open-topped sports car and coaching tennis in long 'whites' (Oxford c. 1938) and was a skilful player – as might be expected from one who regularly practised on the Real Tennis court at Falkland. He played serious golf and had such seniority at the R. & A. that he was offered a named locker in the Big Room. He did not take it up.

Bill was not easily shocked, but that is not to say that he compromised on his own moral standards. His nature was to question. The word 'trad,' as in 'Will the trad governors approve?' (of making *Rossie House* into a girls' annex) was hardly a compliment. 'Irreverent' (particularly in the young), on the other hand, was definitely a term of approval. He was dismayed by the increasing incidence of divorce amongst parents, and was worried about the effect on their sons. He sympathised deeply with the Housemaster who one term had to break the news three times to boys in his care. He saved his anger for those who did not know how to behave on the golf course. He was the best company imaginable, though he preferred small groups of friends and neighbours to large parties of strangers. In retirement in Elie one such gathering was a small group who regularly met at West House or other residences for a drink after the Sunday morning service, an occasion aptly referred to as 'thirsting after righteousness'.

Bill once wrote: 'Old men forget, which can be pretty boring, but it can be even more boring when they start remembering.' But Bill could never have been a bore. He never appeared to be old until he was ill.

Bill enjoyed his retirement, particularly reading, travelling and visiting friends. He faced his last illness philosophically, with both courage and humour, but he could not sympathise with the Anglican prayer for deliverance from sudden death. Only days before he died an Old Strathallian brought up in the neighbouring village of Lundin Links visited him in Elie and played to him a specially-composed fiddle tune. In his last weeks he spent some time reading his father's sermons, in order to be well prepared for a meeting which he had fervently desired, and eagerly anticipated, for nearly 90 years.

**Peter Hunter**





## John Cochrane

**Concorde test pilot John Cochrane, who has died of cancer aged 76, played a big part in the development of the Anglo-French supersonic airliner, and described its grounding in 2003 after 27 years of passenger service as 'so premature it was close to obscene'. Always referred to as No 2 to Brian Trubshaw (obituary, March 26 2001), he, in fact, took over much of the most hazardous test**

**flying as the British Aircraft Corporation's chief test pilot became increasingly involved in the technical and political contests that continually threatened Concorde's survival.**

Trubshaw and Cochrane made the maiden flight of Britain's Concorde prototype in April 1969 - a month after the French prototype had flown - but it would be seven years before the aircraft was ready for passenger service. During that time, and for four years before it, Cochrane was involved in the intensive test-flying needed to make supersonic flight safe for civilians.

Cochrane was born into a farming family in Ayr, and educated at Strathallan school, Perth. He abandoned an engineering degree to join the RAF and graduated second in his year from Cranwell in 1952. He was posted to the famous 617 squadron flying Canberra bombers, and moved on to pilot the Vickers Valiant, the first of Britain's three V-bombers. While graduating from the Empire Test Pilots School,

Farnborough, in 1960, he met Trubshaw, who two years later invited him to join what was then Vickers-Armstrong as a fellow test pilot.

Trubshaw and Cochrane insisted on many changes as they began flying Concorde. The first problem was the protective visor on the front window, which, with two slits for the pilots, gave them a good view of the clouds but no visibility for landing. "It was like flying inside a letter box," said Cochrane.

Cochrane test-flew all the British Concorde, and was in command when Concorde 101 reached its highest speed of Mach 2.23 and a height of 68,000ft. He established record three-hour crossings of the Atlantic in both directions.

By the time he had helped to train British Airways' Concorde pilots, and been appointed assistant director of flight operations at what had become BAC, there was little left for him to do. So he resigned, and in 1980 joined Cyprus Airways as a captain. With homes on the Mediterranean island and in England, he told me that those were the happiest 10 years of his life.

One of aviation's most respected figures, he was awarded the Queen's commendation for valuable service in the air in 1971, and the Derry and Richards award for flight testing in 1977. He was in one of the three Concorde that made their final landings in 2003, and said: 'From now on, progress goes sideways or backwards.' He is survived by his wife Julie, and their son and daughter.

John Cochrane, pilot, born August 26 1930; died November 4 2006

**Reginald Turnill**

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## Alexander Fraser MBE MC TD JP

(26th August 1907- 28th December 2005)

**Governor of Strathallan School - 1946 to 1972**

**Chairman of Governors - 1958 to 1960**

**Honorary Governor - 1972 to 2005**

**Born in Kirkcaldy Fife; the eldest of three boys, Alex lived all his life in Kirkcaldy. He died peacefully on the 28th December 2005 and was survived for a few months by his wife Bettine (Bett) and latterly by his daughter Susan and family.**

Alex spent his later school days at Strathallan under the watchful eye of Harry Riley. After leaving school he joined the family building business training as a stone mason and later going on to Heriot-Watt to complete his education. The time he and his two brothers spent at Strathallan was to have an impact on Alex for the rest of his life and it was a love of the school that never left him all his days. He went on in later years to become a Governor and, later still, an Honorary Governor of the school always taking a keen interest in all aspects of school life. His mark still remains at school as he oversaw the building of the school chapel.

From 1939-1945 he served in the 51st Highland Division in the Royal Signals and was involved in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and at the end of the war in Germany at the liberation of Bremerhaven.

Following de-mob he returned to Kirkcaldy and started working in the family building business. He was a keen sportsman playing rugby tennis and football for local teams and he became an accomplished curler. Other hobbies included fly fishing, gardening travelling and in particular touring in Scotland; always to the end of a road!

In 1952 Alex meet his future wife, an Australian who was on a tour of the United Kingdom, they married in 1954 and settled in Kirkcaldy. He embraced local life to the full with Alex becoming a JP, a member of the Civic society and a Rotarian.

Throughout his life there was always a common thread; communication, he was a great communicator and passionately interested in people; his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone at all never left him.





Louise was one of the most impressive people I have ever met. I am, and have always been, so proud to count myself among her friends.

## Louise Wallace

**If handwriting can be said to encode the character of the writer, the handwriting of Louise Wallace seemed direct representation of her personality. It was small, contained and distinctive, inscribed forcefully on the page. On some letters she would draw straight lines where most people used curves, in a manner that was both unfussy and powerful.**

For those who knew Louise it is unnecessary to make a list of her achievements. It was an acknowledged fact that she excelled at everything she did; woe betide anything animal, vegetable or mineral that stood in her way. However, I am aware that many people reading this will not have known Louise and so I will give a brief factual account of her short, remarkable life.

Louise was born on 22 March 1986, the first child of Gillian and Iain Wallace. Her brother Craig was born shortly before she began to attend Coupar Angus Primary. I am informed by Katie Lyburn, her long-term schoolmate, that Louise never left her position at the top of the class after the age of four. Equally successful at Craigclowan, Louise was joint Dux when she left to take up her scholarship at Strathallan. During her time at Strath she was in teams for swimming, tennis, hockey, rounders and, in Upper Sixth, was captain of the netball team. She reached the national finals of two separate debating competitions and, during her time in the House debating team, Woodlands never lost.

Academically, Louise could have taken any subject she wanted; winning prizes and accolades in everything from maths to literature, through the sciences and languages. In her GCSEs she achieved more A\*s than any other pupil at the school and her A level History mark was among the top ten in the UK. She sat LAMDA exams, played a significant rôle in *Les Misérables* and hosted the Woodlands House music evening in her final year. Louise's blazer was christened 'the maypole' for its multicoloured bands of academic, sport, creative arts and prefect-ship colours.

After leaving Strathallan, Louise took a place at Jesus College Cambridge to study Social and Political Sciences, a notoriously over-subscribed and difficult course which required a lot of hard work, something to which Louise was no stranger.

It is difficult to write an objective account of Louise's life. How can we talk about her time at Jesus College without mentioning James, her boyfriend, support and best friend for two years? How can we leave out her travels to Africa and her failure to get any kind of a tan? What about her one true love, her dog Bonnie who I believe Louise held in higher regard than any human being?

Piecing together the detailed fragments of memories of Louise, we construct an image of our dear friend; Louise with a newspaper, some Haribo and a Lucozade while the rest of us watched something mindless on MTV; carting Laura Bevis around simply to prove her physical strength, an image which Bevis likened to 'an elephant on a matchstick'; the sense of purpose on her face as she prepared for a lightning-fast centre pass on the netball court; Louise explaining slowly, and not a little threateningly, to Mr Proctor that she was not wrong, she was misinformed; her spectacularly messy room.

Louise had Cystic Fibrosis. This fact was simultaneously a big part of Louise and nothing at all to do with her. She rarely spoke about her illness and never complained. She was always utterly adamant that it should not colour anyone's opinion of her, favourably or otherwise. Yet Louise lived with the knowledge that her time would be short, and in that knowledge she chose exactly how to live her life; she ate it whole, biting off huge chunks and savouring them, where others nibble. Louise was one of the most impressive people I have ever met. I am, and have always been, so proud to count myself among her friends

**Ishbel McFarlane**



## VI Form Common Room



The VI Form CR Committee set up a wide range of exciting and varied events during the year and commissioned a revamp of the common room by Mrs. Batterham (Many thanks, Mrs. B). The outcome of the revamp was spectacular and was welcomed very positively by not only the committee, but also by the HM and the Bursar.

The new legislation that came into force in Nov '05 stated that the school could no longer give the VI form beer or wine without also giving them a "proper meal". To this end the school had to organise the arrival of food every second weekend; so far we've enjoyed pizzas, Chinese, roast hog, Chocolate Fountain, Subways etc. With up to 130 VI formers attending every two weeks the Common Room had to beg & borrow a hot plate along with plates, cutlery etc.

The welcome back party was a very good start to the year and set the tone for the CR. Other events included various Themed Events, Games night, Christmas Party, Comedy Night, Quiz Night to name but a few.

PMV

**Pamela was put to the test in showing the year group her new dance moves recently learnt in the school production of Grease.**

### Comedy Night

During the course of our Sixth Form event programme two comedians came in to entertain us all for a night, Jo Heenan from Perth and Bill Wheelan from Liverpool. One of the most memorable moments was when our very own head girl Pamela was put to the test in showing the year group her new dance moves recently learnt in the school production of Grease. Of course the comedians had a field day with this and Pamela returned to her seat highly embarrassed! It was then that the audience realised that none of us was safe as the jokes were flying much to most people's entertainment and embarrassment! The guys did a fantastic job and all of us returned to house with smiles on our faces and in stitches of laughter. We are all still trying to work out the last joke told as, much to Bill's amusement, no one got the punch line. We hope that they return soon to explain all and provide another night of extremely good entertainment. **Katie Potts L VI Woodlands**

### Games night

Games night is an amazing night where we take part in various fun/kiddie activities. Some of the features from which to choose include The Gladiator, Bucking Bronco, Bungee Run, Bouncy Castle Obstacle Course, The Equaliser and Laser Tag. The chance to be a big kid again is great! We played out the entire evening from 8pm until 10.30pm and finished with an inter-House competition on the assault course won by Ruthven. **James Fairlie L VI Ruthven**





Fucker up, PK.



Pas de deux, s'il vous plait, Madame Crane.



And it was then I noticed the reins had dropped off



The girl can't help it...er, him.



It was a plant, officer.





theStrathallian05/06

