



Produced by the Environment Group

# Firrhill News

November 2015

## Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award



The DofE Bronze Award has three sections plus an Expedition, which lasts for two days and one night. The sections include Volunteering in the local community, a Physical activity of

their choice e.g. dance, rugby, badminton and a Skills section which could include joining a band, choir or learning piping and drumming. All sections have an assessor and suitable goals agreed for the pupil to work towards. The time spent on each section averages at least 1 hour per week.

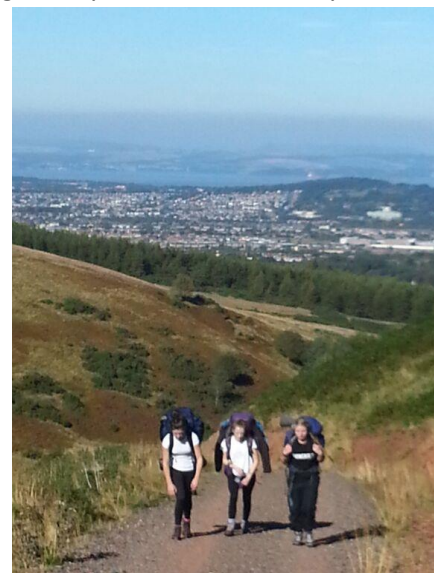
The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award requires the participant to be at least 14 years old and to spend 3 months on each section of the award plus an additional 3 months on one section.



From Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, blessed with glorious autumn weather, seventy S3 Firrhill High School pupils and staff members including Mr Boyd, Mr Isdale, Ms Shedden, Ms Anderson, Mrs Frew, Mrs Milner and Mr Cameron, in the role of supervisors, set off in small groups walking to Bonaly Scout Camp.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition route was via Colinton Dell, along the Water of Leith to Blinkbonny, then along Cock Rigg to Maiden's Cleugh, up Harbour Hill, then descending to Bonaly Reservoir and down to Bonaly Scout Camp, where they pitched their tents and cooked their evening meal on camp stoves. Many pupils had pasta or noodles for dinner and porridge for breakfast.

After a night in their tents they returned, via Caerketton Hill and finally Dreghorn Polo Field and back to the school (some groups did the route in the reverse order). It was superb weather and spirits were high, although everyone understandably was tired after this exciting trip, which is preparation for next year's qualifying expedition.



Firrhill High School's YouTube DofE film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiaipRN4bCE>

It was great that so many S3 pupils could have this opportunity to take part in their Bronze DofE practice expedition.

Thanks to all the dedicated staff, Firrhill High School is now able to offer Silver and Gold DofE to a limited number of pupils.





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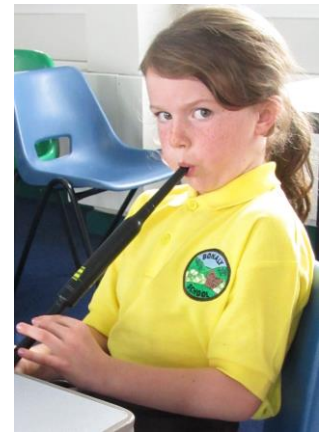
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## Firrhill Pipe Band Club

The Firrhill Pipe Band Club developed from a single chanter class in 2013. Snare drumming classes started before the Easter break and cater for all levels of ability. Pupils from S1-S6 may join the classes and P4-P7 pupils from our feeder primary schools are welcome to join afterschool classes. The club provides a new opportunity for pupils to learn to play traditional Scottish music.

For information contact  
[carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com](mailto:carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com)



Thanks to Mike Pretsell and Andrew Gray, chanter instructors, Brian Alexander and David Farquhar, drumming instructors and Carolyn Hargest, parent helper Clarsach lessons are also available on Friday afternoons – for information: [julia.elizabeth.harpist@gmail.com](mailto:julia.elizabeth.harpist@gmail.com)



Pupils can ask Mrs Graham, CL Expressive Arts, for more details

Costs:  
Chanter classes £6  
Drumming classes £5

Lunchtime Classes:  
Mon - Thurs,  
After school Classes  
Mon & Tues 4.00pm





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## 50 Trees of Knowledge Sculpture

The "50 Trees of Knowledge" sculpture, located in the Celebration Garden, was created in 2010 to commemorate Firrhill High School's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This amazing sculpture was produced by the "50th Tree Sculpture Group" - mostly S1 pupils - who worked with Mr Mulholland. The 50 trees symbolise each of the 50 years of Firrhill's existence. However by 2015 the sculpture was in need of some maintenance.

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September, parents Sue Bellis and Carolyn Hargest washed and dried the sculpture and S2 pupils, Zoe and Hannah helped sand it down and fresh paint and varnish were applied. The result looks great!

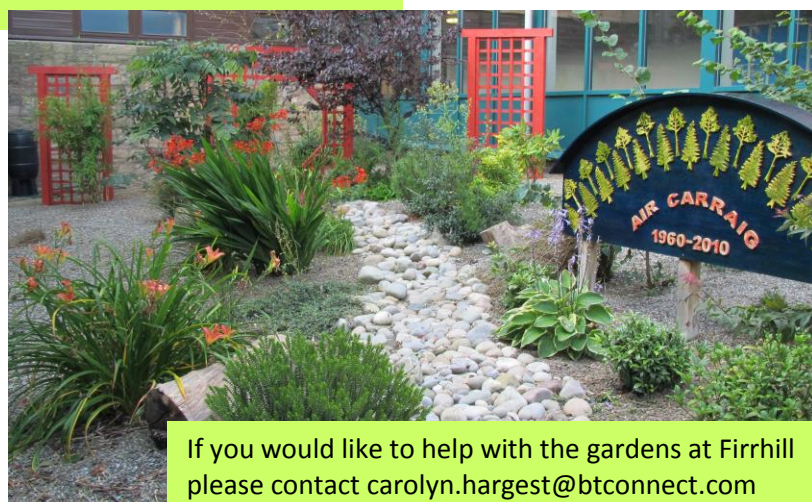
Mr Mulholland said that 50 Trees "has been a labour of love - a lengthy process, with lots of fiddly little tasks" Firrhill Heights, Summer 2011

<http://www.firrhillhighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Firrhill-Heights-Summer-2011.pdf>



The Celebration Garden was designed and created by Audrey Timmins and Ruth Gebbie, Firrhill parents, with the help of the Eco and Environment Groups, as part of Firrhill's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The Parent Council donated a commemorative plaque which is in the school concourse and further plaque in the garden, marks a tree planted by the Lord Provost. The red Moongate panels, native elm logs, sleeper benches and "cobble river" are among the structural features. The planting represents grasses by the edge of a river. The benches were built by "The Conservation Volunteers". Duncan Monteith, Monteith Fencing, erected the Moongate panels and recently a tool store was added, bought with sponsored walk funds. Many of the plants have been donated and the garden has benefitted from the support of the PTA and the Parent Council. The garden is doing very well and is maintained by pupils, staff and parents.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/Firrhill50/videos> to see short films/slide shows about the Celebration Garden, Anne Frank Garden, school Meadow and Pond Garden.



If you would like to help with the gardens at Firrhill please contact [carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com](mailto:carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com)



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## Braidburn Gala



On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September a number of Firrhill High School pupils took part in the Braidburn Gala. A lovely sunny afternoon - perfect weather for the duck race and raft floating events. There were various stalls including tombola, plants, home-baking, Greenbank Parish Church provided cake icing fun, Friends of Braidburn Valley Park were seeking new members, "Exit the Theatre" a group of two guitars and a percussionist entertained the crowds and there were refreshments and even a dog show.

**Well done to all the Firrhill High School pupils who took part in this superb local community event.**



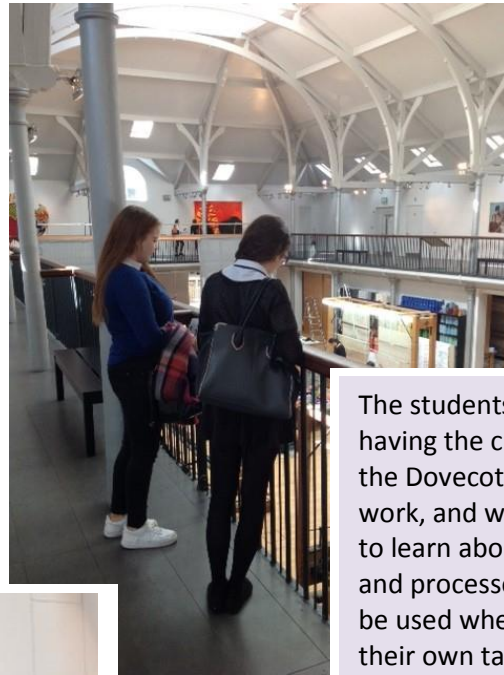
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## The Dovecot Studios

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, the S3 Fashion class was taken by Mrs Graham, Ms Harris and Ms Cairns to visit the Dovecot studios in Infirmery Street, Edinburgh. They saw a very exciting exhibition of paper sculptures by Korean artist Kwang Young Chun, and "A Life in Colour" a retrospective exhibition of artist and textile designer Bernat Klein. They were also able to view some of the Dovecot's permanent collection of tapestries and rugs.



The students really enjoyed having the chance to view the Dovecot weavers at work, and were interested to learn about techniques and processes which could be used when weaving their own tapestries.



All of our S1 students are currently working on a large scale installation, inspired by the work of Kwang Young Chun. This will be on display at the Christmas Concert on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

The students who visited the exhibition will have their own weaving experiments on show at the Creativity Event in June 2016





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## Farewell to Mr Cruickshank

After 21 years at Firrhill High School, Mr Cruickshank, PE teacher, retired at the end of the summer term. Mr Cruickshank was very involved in many aspects of life at Firrhill: he organised the annual Celebration of Achievement and the sponsored walk. He was a regular participant in the talent show and PTA Quiz and was also known as a DJ extraordinaire! He spent a lot of time and effort developing football at Firrhill, in particular, "the Senior boys team".  
***We all wish Mr Cruickshank a very happy and healthy retirement. He will be missed by staff, pupils and parents.***



The Environment Group are grateful to Mr Cruickshank for obtaining sponsored walk funding for gardening equipment & a tool store (above) for the garden.

**At the school Sports Information Evening on 8<sup>th</sup> September Mr Cruickshank received a School Sports Award for coaching football**

## Firrhill 2015 Christmas Market

The 4th Firrhill Christmas Market will be held on Thursday 12th of November from 7.15-9.15pm. Entrance fee £2.00.

A great opportunity to choose Christmas gifts from a wide variety of stalls, enjoy entertainment and festive fayre.

This fabulous winning poster was designed by Ben Brown, Firrhill pupil.

***Do come to the Christmas Market***



## Firrhill Christmas Market

[www.firrhillhighschool.org.uk](http://www.firrhillhighschool.org.uk)



Thursday 12th November  
7:15-9:15pm

Entrance £2



Bring your friends!  
Crafts, cards, cakes, gifts,  
jewellery, decorations, sweets &  
much more on offer.  
Enjoy seasonal refreshments  
and carols as you browse the  
fabulous stalls.



## The School Blazer

***Parents have commented that senior pupils wearing blazers at recent school events looked very smart!***



The introduction of a Firrhill blazer was the result of consultation with pupils, staff and parents and the majority were in favour of a blazer for senior pupils. Before the summer break, some senior pupils, Mrs Porter, Depute Head Teacher and Catriona Luff, Parent Council Chair met with Aitken & Niven. The blazer is made from black polyester and includes both the school logo and royal blue braiding. There is a unisex cut (right) which features patch pockets and side vents; the girls' blazer (left) features concealed side pockets and no breast pocket or side vents. On Wednesday 24th June staff from Aitken & Niven came into the school to fit blazers. Aitken & Niven, 6 Falcon Road West, Morningside (0131 4773922) stock the Firrhill school blazer and can assist with fitting.

