



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

October 2017

Sports Tour 2017

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On 24 June a group of Firrhill pupils and staff went on a sports tour of Holland, Germany and Belgium. They enjoyed playing hockey and football with local teams and visited many tourist attractions. Action-packed days, plenty of nice meals, including hospitality laid on by the host teams, all in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Pupils enjoyed playing sport, improved skills, and having fun together with the staff. A really enjoyable trip!

Holland: Noordwijk, Durinell Tikipool, The Hague, and the Ajax Amsterdam Sports Stadium Tour.

Germany: Cologne, Aqualand, with flumes and plenty of exciting water fun, and Phantasialand, one of Europe's best theme parks with scary rollercoaster rides.

Belgium: Bruges, for a scenic "history of chocolate" walking tour, which included some chocolates with unusual flavours such as the memorable "onion-flavoured" one!



Thanks to Miss Carmichael and all the staff members for organising this fab trip.





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Shakedown Perform Shakespeare

 Follow on Twitter @FirrhillArts



Pab Roberts' version of Shakespeare's *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"* was performed twice at the King's Theatre on 28 June.



Shakedown is an exciting new theatrical event involving pupils from several Edinburgh schools, including Firrhill. "Thank you very much to you, your school and, of course, your star performers for your involvement in the pilot year of Shakedown! I was extremely impressed with the work put in by Firrhill, and they pulled off two fantastic public performances, gaining special applause for their musical skills" said Pab Roberts.



"Opening the production, Firrhill played it relatively straight as they set the whole thing up, introducing all of the three elements and culminating in a beautifully executed lullaby for Titania that exhibited real understanding of what they were about." Read more at <http://www.alledinburghtheatre.com/shakedowns-a-midsummer-nights-dream-2017-review/>



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Anne Frank Garden – planting trees



Follow on Twitter @FirrhillHMD

On Wednesday 28 June, Firrhill parents, Ruth Gebbie and Carolyn Hargest purchased a rowan and a birch tree for the Anne Frank Garden, in honour of Holocaust survivors Zigi Shipper and Harry Bibring. Two S2 pupils and an S6 pupil helped to plant the trees. First, a circle of turf was removed and then a hole, twice the size of each pot was made, bone meal sprinkled and the trees were planted, watered, staked and tied securely. Each hole was filled with earth and topped with a layer of mulch. Everyone worked well, and the task took two hours to complete.

In August, memorial plaques were placed by each tree.

During the holidays the trees needed regular watering. Trees are good for wild life – birds love rowan and birch. The trees were purchased with funding from the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership.



Harry Bibring came to the UK from Vienna, Austria via the Kindertransport system. He gave his moving and inspirational testimony at Firrhill's Diversity Day in 2014, and again at Firrhill's Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in 2017.

Zigi Shipper spoke at the Edinburgh Schools' HMD 2016 event, hosted by Firrhill. In his amazing life story he describes surviving the Death March and imprisonment in numerous concentration camps, including Auschwitz.





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Sprinting Success



Follow on Twitter @ScottishAthleti
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Christabel Antwi, S5 is a member of the Edinburgh Athletic Club. She recently competed in three championships: East District Championships, Edinburgh Schools Athletics Championships and Scottish Schools Championships indoor sprint.

Christabel describes her recent competitions. "At the East District Championships in Grangemouth in May I won gold in the 100m and achieved a new personal best of 12.41 seconds."



"Then at the Edinburgh Schools Athletics Championships on 8 June, I won gold in the 100m & 200m – I broke a record from 1996 which was 12.77 seconds and my time was 12.58 seconds, but I also got a new personal best in the 200m of 26.12 seconds."

At the Scottish Schools Championships – which took place at Meadowbank Stadium in June – Christabel competed over two days: "On the Friday I participated in the 200m and managed to get to the finals but dropped out due to my current injury which has impacted my performance levels, but on Saturday 10 June I won gold in the 100m and beat the standard time for my age group (Under 15s)."

Further recent achievements for Christabel include:

July: she finished 2nd in Grangemouth in the 100m at the UK Youth Development League Scotland Final.

August: she achieved first in the 100m at the Scottish Women's Athletics League in Scotstoun.

September: UK Youth Development U13/U15 League National Final in Birmingham she placed 1st in the 100m and 2nd in the 200m, with a personal best of 25.70.



Firrhill Christmas Market



Christabel is part of the Athlete Support Programme which aims to help pupils with the demands of their school work as well as the pressure of training, and as far as possible, enable them to perform to the very best of their abilities both academically and in sport. Firrhill's Athlete Support Programme pupils. Christabel is top right in the photograph.

We wish Christabel every success in the future.

The Xmas Market is on Thursday 9 November, 7.15-9.15 pm, £2 entry. Enjoy some festive food and browse the stalls. This eye catching poster for the Christmas Market was designed by Poppy Bertram S2.



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Ethos Day: Plants and Bird Food

“The pupils I spoke to were delighted with their plants!” said Ms Howells, CL Modern Languages



On Thursday 29 June, some pupils took part in gardening as part of the school’s Ethos Day activities. The weather was very wet and the pupils, accompanied by Ms McPhee, Ms Young, Mrs Bannerman and Mrs Frew, worked under the covered area by the steps at the rear of the school. They potted geraniums and propagated both outdoor and indoor plants.

Thanks to Mrs Hargest who organised this Ethos Day activity.



They also made fat blocks, using melted lard mixed with twice as much of the dry ingredients. The pupils measured out oatmeal, sunflower-hearts, nyger seed, kibbled peanuts and desiccated coconut and mixed them with melted lard. Using a spoon, the mixture was pressed into square plastic containers (lined with grease-proof paper) and put in the fridge to harden. Later that day the birds had a feast! Blue tits, great tits, robins, magpies, dunnocks, starlings and house sparrows were seen at the feeders.



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Celebration Garden

On 23 June Firrhill pupils helped to shift two tons of gravel from the rear entrance of the school into the Celebration Garden. They did a fantastic job and within an hour the task was complete!



Thanks to all who helped – this was a great team effort by all who took part.



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Firrhill's Librarian Retires

Many of us were surprised to read in the Head Teacher's newsletter about the retirement of Mrs Shauna Dickson, School Librarian, at the end of the summer term, having worked at Firrhill for 15 years.

Mrs Dickson had a varied career as a librarian:

1976-77: worked in a girls grammar school near Brisbane (Ipswich Girls' Grammar) and then State Library of Queensland

1978: travelled with friends around the Continent and the UK and then worked at South Bank University Library, London

1979-82: worked at Edinburgh University Library

1983-86: worked at World Health Organisation Library, Geneva

1990-97: worked at Macquarie University Library, Sydney

1998: worked at Edinburgh University Library

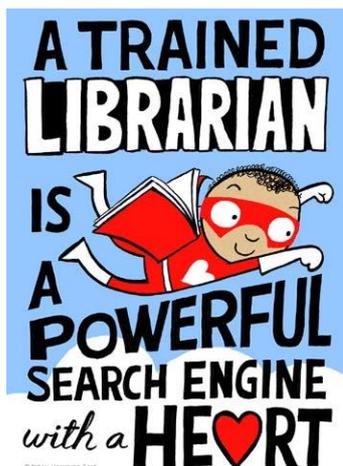
1999-2002: worked at Craigroyston High School Library

August 2002-July 2017: worked at Firrhill High School Library



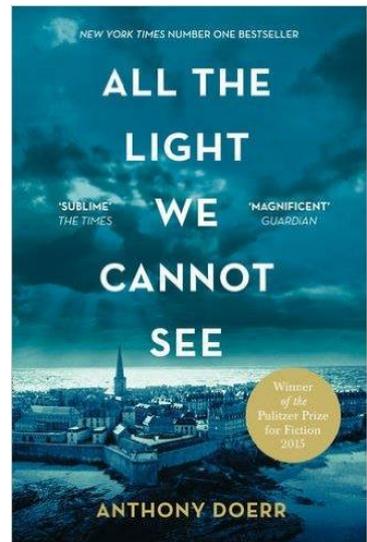
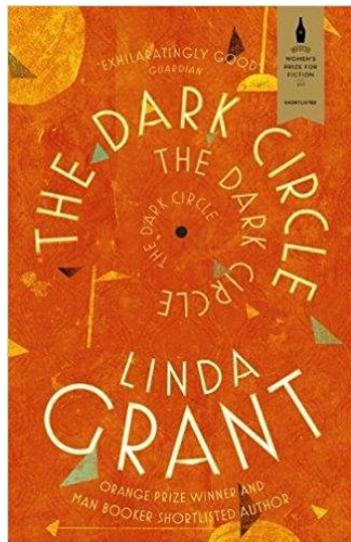
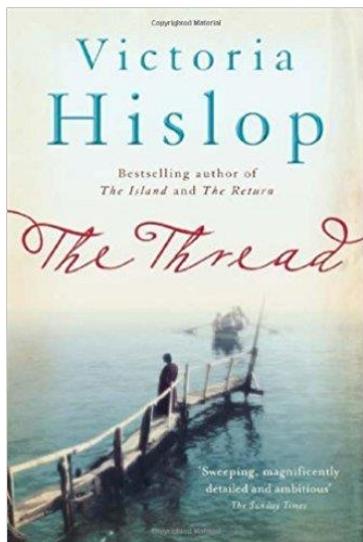
"I feel some of the happiest times in my library career have been in schools, especially Firrhill where I have worked longer than any other library! I am a keen walker, reader and singer and belong to various groups, including "Sangstream", a local Scots Folk choir. I plan to do more of the activities I enjoy and develop more of an interest in gardening. I will also spend more time travelling as I have a son who lives in Boston and lots of family in Australia and New Zealand to visit. I will miss the support and friendship of many at Firrhill and wish the school every success in the future," said Mrs Dickson.

Mrs Hargest, Environment Group Leader said, "Mrs Dickson will definitely be missed. I have benefitted from her help on many occasions, particularly in the Book Week Scotland Book Swap and book give-away event. I hope Shauna enjoys her retirement and was glad to hear she had a good send-off with lots of flowers, chocolates and presents.



Our new school librarian is Mr Declan McCann.

Book Week Scotland 2017 will take place from Monday 27 November to Sunday 3 December. It is hoped that there will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the school library for two weeks from 21 November - 5 December 2017. There will also be a lunchtime Book Swap / book giveaway event to celebrate Book Week Scotland.



Mrs Dickson was asked about books she has been reading lately. "Recently, I reread "The Thread" by Victoria Hislop, which I thoroughly enjoyed. It is set in Thessaloniki in 1917. I like fiction with some historical background and read "All the light we cannot see" by Anthony Doerr which is set in France mainly, with a WW2 background. I have almost finished "The dark circle" by Linda Grant – this is about the treatment of tuberculosis after WW2, the development of sanatoria, and touches on the development of the NHS."



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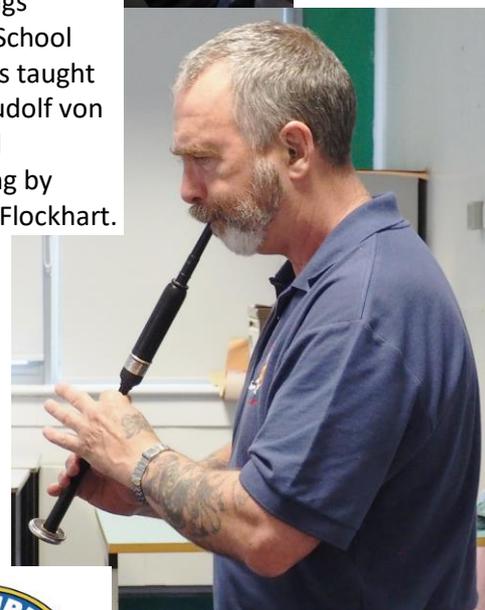
Firrhill Pipe Band Club



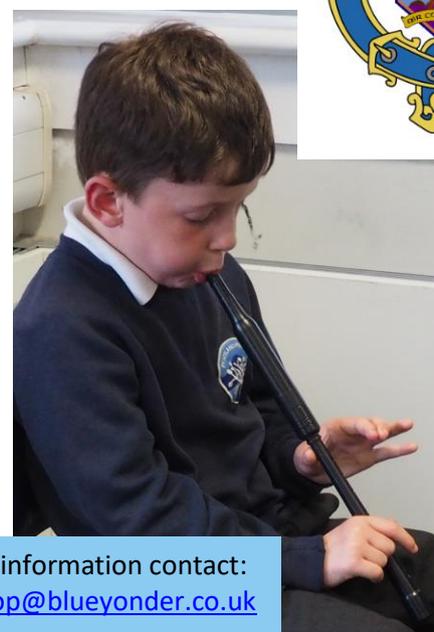
At the end of the summer term the Firrhill Pipe Band club appointed a new committee. Many thanks to Carolyn Hargest, Susan Bailey and Keith Hargest for years of hard work.



At Oxfangs Primary School chanter is taught by Pat Rudolf von Rohr and drumming by Caroline Flockhart.



The Firrhill Pipe Band club is for P3 - S6 pupils of all levels, and provides an opportunity to learn traditional Scottish music. At FHS chanter and pipes are taught by Mike Pretsell and drumming by Caroline Flockhart.



For more information contact: dawn.alsop@blueyonder.co.uk