



Produced by the Parent Council

# Firrhill News

July 2018

## The Jazz Bar

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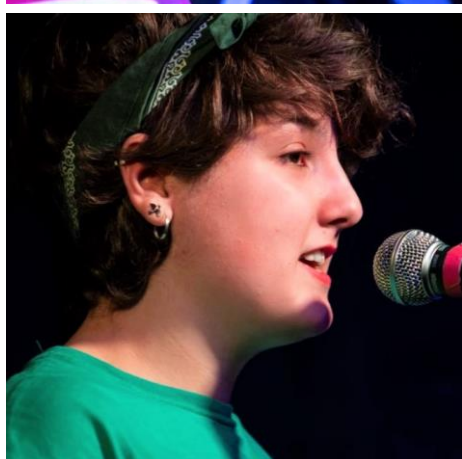
On Sunday 29th April the Firrhill Big Band played at the Jazz Bar on Chamber Street. The Big Band was supported by the Firrhill Jazz Quintet.



Thanks to all the pupils and staff who took part, and to Mr Courtney, who arranged this fantastic jazz event.



Sample recordings of the Firrhill Soul Band performance at the same venue in December 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/m3d6kncnl9p4nhnr/soul%20band%20recording%20edit.m4a?dl=0>



All door funds taken were donated to support Firrhill pupil Kira's cancer treatment #KiraTheMachine.







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## The Sponsored Walk



On 18 May in bright sunshine, pupils and staff enjoyed taking part in the school's annual sponsored walk. The route goes along Colinton Road, through Colinton Dell and finally back up Craiglockhart Avenue.

The sponsored walk helps to raise money for selected charities and also for the school. Mr Denvir and a group of pupils collected litter as they walked.

Well done to all who took part, and thanks to those who kindly sponsored the event.







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## S3 Work Experience

From 15 to 18 May groups of S3 pupils accompanied by a staff member enjoyed business placements. These included: Tesco, Waitrose, the Apex Hotel, Swanston Farm, Standard Life and Oxfangs Library. During the placement they were given a task by the business, and afterwards performed a group presentation. On Friday 18 May the groups gave their presentations. For practical reasons one was held in the library and another in the assembly hall. Some presentations included a short film or PowerPoint presentation.



The group of pupils from Standard Life were well-deserved winners.

The overall "best team presentation" was judged by the leaders from the business placements, and the winners were each given a small prize. Overall, the quality of presentations was high. The group from Standard Life ultimately came first – they had designed a very nice promotional gift of sweets in a box, with a clear advertising message for Standard Life. The team's presentation included a film about creating the box of sweets and an amusing but professional advert for Standard Life.



At Swanston Farm (photos right), pupils learned about the farm animals, the restaurant and the sports facilities there. They gave a PowerPoint presentation.

The pupils enjoyed working together and learning about the workplace. Well done everyone!

At Oxfangs Library, as well as learning about the various tasks in a library, the pupils designed a leaflet with the aim of showing young people what the library has to offer.



Pupils at Tesco Colinton Mains had the nerve-wracking but beneficial experience of each receiving an individual mock job interview. The aim being to help them perform better during a real interview. They also learnt about a number of practical tasks on the shop floor. Their presentation included a humorous example of both a good and bad interview situation!







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## Water of Leith Conservation Trust

In May a group of S3 pupils enjoyed a business placement at the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. Together the team performed a number of strenuous jobs to a very high standard for example clearing paths and removing rubbish from the Poet's Burn, including a wheelie bin and lots of plastic. They made high quality wooden fence stakes, cut down plants and cleared leaves.

They also wrote a blog for the Water of Leith website.

In their presentation, they explained that initially they all thought this placement would be boring but they had in fact enjoyed the experience and got a lot out of it. Although the group were not ultimately the winning team, they were highly commended for their presentation and work.



Mrs Dunn, Support for Pupils teacher, who accompanied the group said, "the pupils did a fantastic job, they all worked tremendously hard and were a credit to the school".





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## Languages Open Evening

On Tuesday 1 May, Firrhill High School hosted a Modern Languages Open Evening, where parents and their children discovered the importance of learning a language. Guests were welcomed with fun crafts and free refreshments and given a lot of useful information about what skills learning a language provides. We were delighted to be joined by Napier University, Skills Development Scotland and keynote speaker Dr Hazel Crichton from the University of Glasgow. Guests were given an overview of all the opportunities that languages can offer and shown how useful it is to speak an additional language. Earlier in the day, P6 pupils from the cluster primary schools visited Firrhill to take part in various language activities, including a French dance, making models of famous French landmarks and ordering snacks in French. Overall, the day was a huge success with parents, pupils and visitors leaving with great smiles on their faces!

*By Chloe Junor, Cindy Ma and Amy Beaumont (3B2)*



- Information on modern languages and the importance of language skills.
- How to support your child with their language learning.
- Why study a modern language?
- Careers information.
- SQA exam advice.

Thanks to the Firrhill staff who organised this event.



## Rural and Urban Training Scheme Boxing

Thanks to the PTA for funding eight RUTS Boxing sessions.



In January a group of S3 pupils enjoyed taking part in eight weekly sessions of RUTS rural and urban training scheme boxing programme, funded by the Parent Teacher Association. RUTS boxing is designed to use boxing and its values to excite and engage young people. It is delivered through a partnership with Boxing Scotland. The programme aims to use sport as a mechanism to engage young people. Mrs Dunn, Support for Pupils teacher, said, "the pupils enjoyed the sessions and found them very worthwhile".





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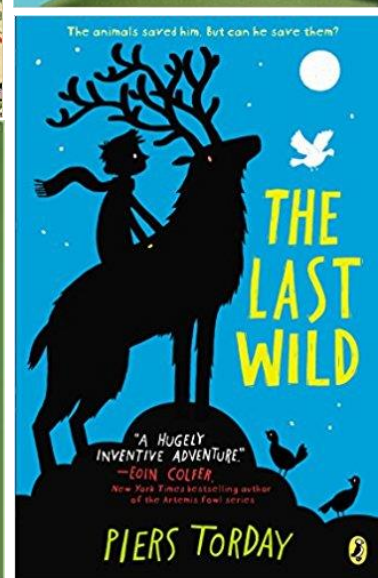
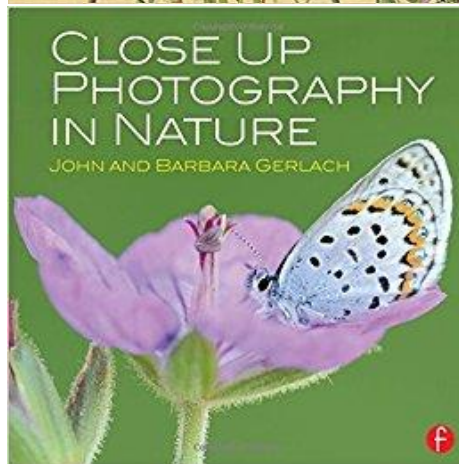
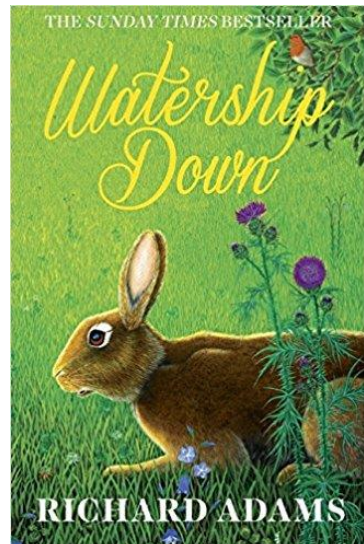
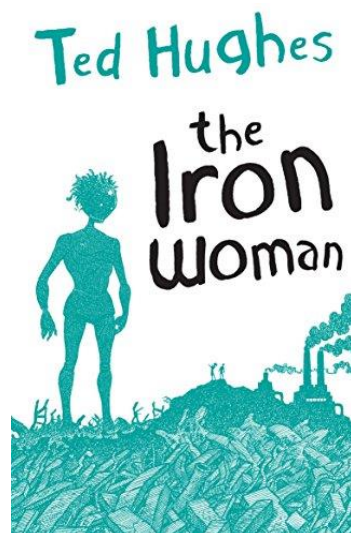
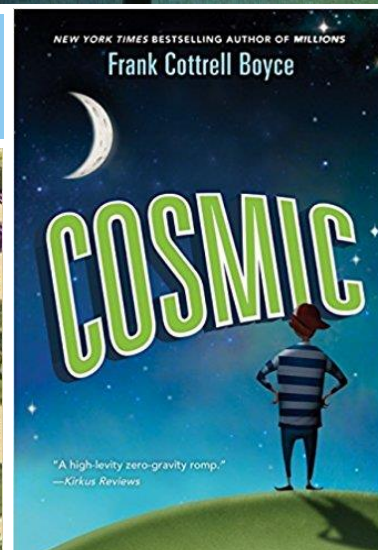
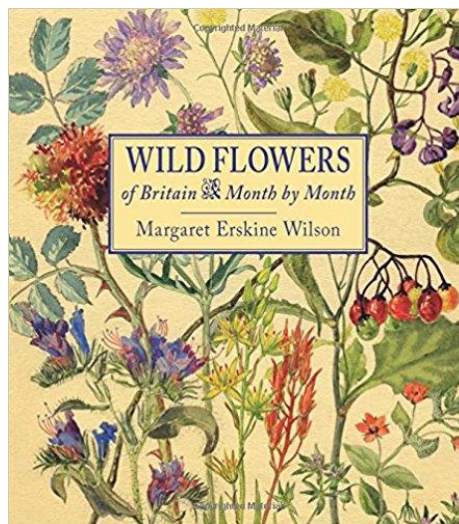
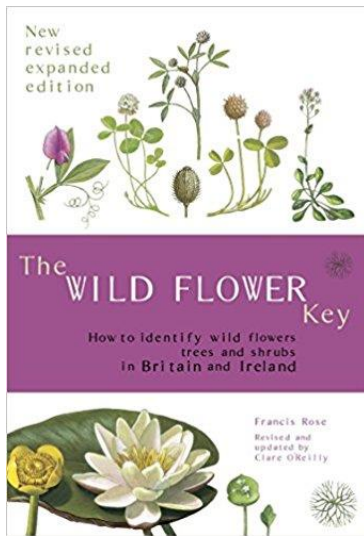
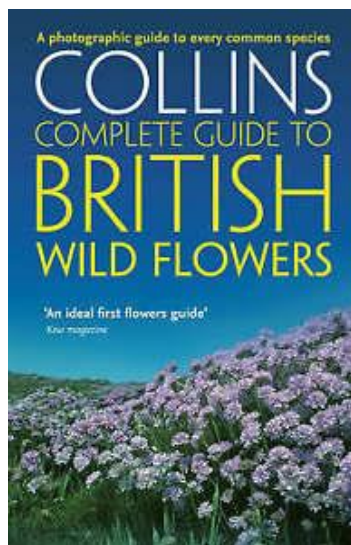
## Eco Books of the Month

Mr Declan McCann, School Librarian, has kindly reintroduced the Eco books of the month. This idea was originally introduced to Firrhill by Oygangs Primary School's Eco Committee.

"I will display the Eco books of the month, starting from May, including the Urban Flora Competition prize titles. (Last year the school won a £50 prize in the Botanical Society of Scotland's Urban Flora wild flower photography and identification competition). The books purchased with the prize money are: *Close up Photography in Nature* – John and Barbara Gerlach; Collins *Complete guide to British wild flowers*; *Wild flowers of Britain Month by Month* – Margaret Erskine Wilson; and *The Wild Flower Key* – Francis Rose. The other Eco books of the month are: *The Last Wild Trilogy* – Piers Torday; *Watership Down* – Richard Adams; *Cosmic* – Frank Cottrell Boyce; and *The Iron Woman* – Ted Hughes" says Mr McCann, School Librarian.



The Eco books of the month – a mixture of fiction and non-fiction – are all great summer reads!







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## Treasure Hunt

On 17 May, in glorious sunshine, groups of S3 pupils enjoyed taking part in a fun treasure hunt organised by Firrhill's probationary year teachers. There were 10 puzzles placed in the school grounds, each one set by various school departments, including: geography, maths, English, PE, French and science. Each puzzle included a clue to help the pupils find the next puzzle. The aim of the treasure hunt was to obtain the code for a combination lock on the treasure chest. All the teams enjoyed working together, and the winning team received goodie bags containing pencils, rulers and sweets.

Everyone enjoyed this exciting treasure hunt.



Thanks to all the staff members who organised this fun treasure hunt!







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## Decipher Assist

Thirty-six S2 girls and boys, selected by pupils in their own year group as being influential, were offered the opportunity to be trained as peer-supporters in tobacco education. Two groups of 18 pupils attended a two-day training course in the Stair Arms Hotel, with full conference facilities and catering, including a light breakfast on arrival and a tasty lunch each day.

The course focused on increasing young people's knowledge and understanding of the advantages of being smoke-free. It also developed the skills required to pass on information about the benefits of being smoke-free to their friends in an informative and non-judgemental manner.

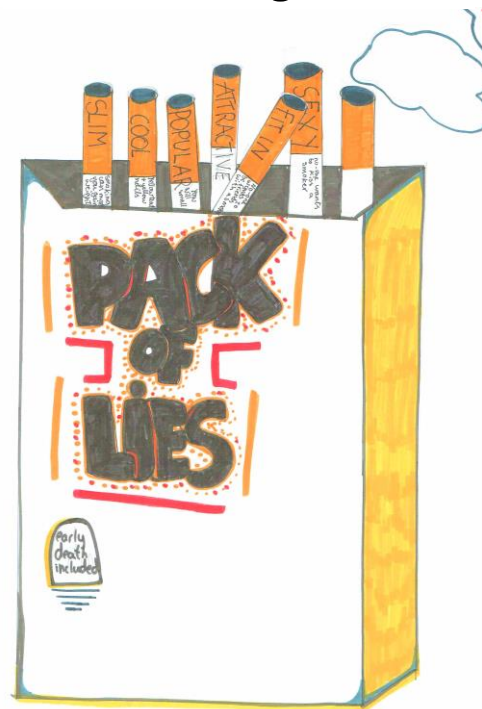
All the pupils worked very hard, learned lots of new and interesting facts and built on their existing skills. The feedback from the pupils was positive – most responded that they had greatly enjoyed it, and all had enjoyed the catering! At school all the participating pupils were presented with a framed certificate to recognise their work and effort over the two-day course.



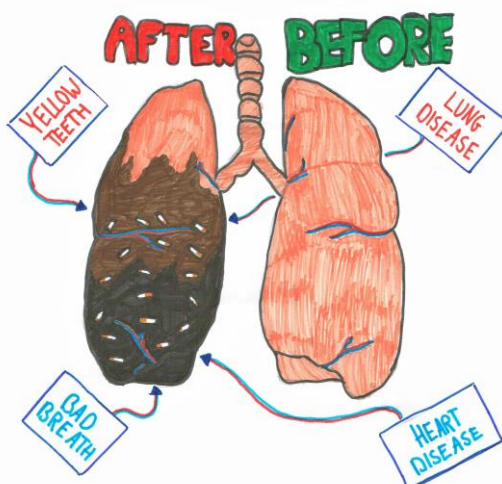
A huge thank you to the team from Decipher Assist for funding and running this very successful course for our young people.

## Anti-smoking Posters

Last term some S3 pupils made these anti-smoking posters in their PSE class.



Don't be a hag  
in the bin goes your fag !!



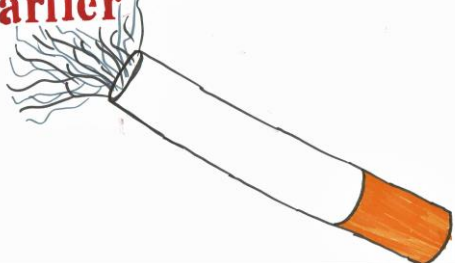
Don't Enter The Lair  
Of Smokers

You Won't Come Out  
**DON'T SMOKE**



DO YOU WANT TO  
DIE EARLY?

you will die ten years  
earlier



You Will

END IT  
BEFORE IT  
ENDS YOU



**DIE**