



# Firrhill News

June 2018

Produced by the Parent Council

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## Gold Sports Award *and opening of the newly refurbished fitness room*



Well done – a second **sportscotland** Gold School Sport Award – amazing!

On 20 April Michelle Livingston from **sportscotland** presented Firrhill with its second Gold School Sport Award. Keanna MacInnes, S5 Commonwealth Games butterfly swimmer, opened the newly refurbished fitness room. The sports ambassadors and pupils present included the S3 netball team who won the Scottish Silver Plate in March; three S4 pupils belonging to the Boroughmuir Rugby team, which won the U16 Scottish Cup, in March, and Finlay Ross, S1, the Scottish U13 1500m indoor record holder for running. Thanks to Miss Norman, Active Schools Coordinator, Miss Carmichael, CL Health and Wellbeing, pupils, staff and parents for their roles in the process.





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## PTA Quiz Night

On 4 May the Parent Teacher Association held their annual quiz night at Colinton Bowling Club, Redford Road. With a traditional chilli and baked potato supper by MacKenzies, and plenty of testing questions by our experienced quiz master, Graham Walker. Teams included "Why are we here?", who ultimately received the wooden spoon, and "May the farce be with you", who became this year's winners! Questions included naming photographs of the first ladies of America, listing the names of 10 of the most popular pirates, and music questions about the New Romantics movement. Also, additional fundraising was for cancer sufferer Kira #kirathemachine.



Thanks to the PTA who organised this fun event.



Thanks to everyone who came along on the night and helped to make the PTA quiz night a great success.





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## Scottish and British Junior Wild Water K1 Champion



Congratulations to Michael Denvir, S5, who has been selected to represent Great Britain at the European Wild Water K1 Championships in Skopje, Macedonia, in July. Wild water K1 racing is an exciting and challenging discipline, combining the speed and endurance of flatwater racing with the technical aspects of slalom racing. The aim of wild water K1 racing is to race your kayak as fast as you can down a stretch of white water rapids. Michael is the current Scottish and British Junior Champion in the 200m Sprint and the Classic event, raced over 4km or 5km.

We send our best wishes to Michael for success in Skopje and good luck in his preparation and training for the races.

## S3 Hockey Team

On Saturday 24 March, in the last game of the season at Meggetland, the Firrhill S3 hockey team beat Boroughmuir 4-0. The girls played a fantastic game – even though they were playing without a goalie, they were victorious.



A great end to the season – very well done!



## Band Night



On Monday 23 April the Senior Band, Junior Band and Big Band performed to an appreciative audience at their annual Band Night concert.



Thanks to all who performed, including some pupils from the feeder primary schools, and to the Instrumental Music Instructors, who organised this successful music event.



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## Resonate

Before the Easter break a number of talented pupils from Firrhill performed at the Queen's Hall Resonate concerts. The students played in groups as varied as: the Edinburgh Secondary Schools Wind Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, choirs, Scottish traditional bands, Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble and Edinburgh Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra. Firrhill's own Rosa Tabu (pictured bottom left) performed a solo with the Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble.

The Resonate concerts consist of performances by gifted musicians in Instrumental Music Services central bands, orchestras and ensembles, as well as school groups and Youth Music Initiative performers from across the city. The concerts provide pupils with the opportunity to perform in a professional music venue.



The following have recently passed ABRSM/Trinity exams:

- Jesse Ho – grade 7 saxophone – pass with merit
- Carys Dunn – grade 6 saxophone – pass with distinction
- Alexander Hodge – grade 6 trombone – pass with merit
- Mhairi Buchan – grade 5 clarinet – pass with merit
- Katrina Brewster – grade 4 clarinet – pass with merit
- Ruby Hogg – grade 4 cornet – pass
- Beth Parkinson – grade 4 cornet – pass
- Ben Brown – grade 4 jazz trombone – pass
- Matthew Liddle – grade 3 saxophone – pass with distinction
- Emily Davidson – grade 3 cornet – pass with merit
- Finn Birrell – grade 3 saxophone – pass
- Michael Glenwright – grade 3 guitar – pass
- Caitlin Ho – grade 3 viola – pass
- Niloufar Yazdanian – grade 3 viola – pass



Everyone performed brilliantly and Resonate was a super concert series!



### Wed 14 March 6.30pm From Studio to stage

Studio to Stage is a wonderful opportunity for primary and secondary schools in Edinburgh to showcase pupils' achievements in music, dance and drama. Prepare to be blown away by the creativity and variety of performances.

### Thurs 15 March 7pm Jazz and Rock

Fabulous performances by the Edinburgh Schools Jazz Orchestra, Edinburgh Schools Junior Jazz Orchestra and Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble.

### Thurs 22 March 7pm Traditional Night

A fantastic evening featuring the traditional music repertoire from Edinburgh Schools' Clarsach groups, YMI Piping Hot, Firrhill Ceilidh Band, Portobello Spurtle Group.

### Mon 26 March 7pm A Night of Strings

A night of beautiful and evocative music performed by various string groups, including the Edinburgh Primary Sevens String Orchestra, Edinburgh Schools Strings Training Orchestra Currie Community High School and the City of Edinburgh Music School.

### Wed 28 March 7pm Bands and Orchestra's Night

If you love the sound of big orchestras, this is for you. A concert packed with a wonderful variety of music that will include Edinburgh Secondary Schools Orchestra, Edinburgh Schools Wind Ensemble and Edinburgh Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble.



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## The New Planters



On 19 April pupils helped parents to plant up the new planters that are positioned by the entrance to the school. Compost and some slow release fertilizer was added. The plants were eased out of their pots and placed at the correct depth in the planters. Some mulch was placed around the plants to reduce weeds and retain moisture. This was followed by watering and tidying up.



Thanks to the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership, which funded the three new planters through their Community Grants Fund. An additional three planters will be sited by Colinton Mains shops.



Thanks to R. Gebbie and C. Hargest, parents, who organised the installation of the planters.



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## Divided – a film about Lee Craigie and Rickie Cotter’s Tour Divide adventure.

Follow on Twitter @adventuresynd

On 18 March six pupils: Niamh Gellaity, Emma McIntyre, Amelie Hunt S1 and Harris Imlach, Jack Morgan S2, and Louis Moore S3, accompanied by Firrhill parents Clare Hunt, Fraser Moore and Environment Group member Stella Thomson, went to see the film *Divided* at the Pleasance Theatre as part of the Edinburgh Cycling Festival. The film was followed by a question time with cyclists Lee Craigie and Rickie Cotter.



The Adventure Syndicate



“It was pretty impressive that they managed to film it while completing the cycle. The footage was of really high quality, too. I was amazed by the distance they covered, and it was also good that they came and introduced the film and answered questions”, said Harris Imlach, S2.

This film aims to show how cycle adventures can be character-forming and are worthwhile experiences.

The film *Divided* tells the story of Lee Craigie and Rickie Cotter, members of the Adventure Syndicate, as they travelled the Tour Divide in 2017. This is a self-supported ride from Canada to the Mexican border. The route follows the Continental Divide down the spine of the USA and covers 2,745 miles, climbing equivalent to approximately 20 Mount Everests! The women have to deal with lightning storms, bears, snakes and snow. They self-filmed it on a mobile phone and a Go-Pro, the resulting adventure being a result of various unplanned events.



An article about the film *Divided* <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/divided-film-about-lee-craigie-and-rickie-cotters-emotional-tour-divide>

A short video <https://www.vimeo.com/202209980> about Lee Craigie Cycling the Caledonia Way.

## Cycling Scotland

Thanks to Environment Group member, Stella Thomson who donated tickets.



Well done to all who took part in the cycle challenge!  
#matchthemiles  
#southboundtas.

## Match the Miles Challenge

From 22 to 29 April Firrhill pupils and staff took part in The Adventure Syndicate’s “Match the miles challenge”. The Adventure Syndicate team cycled approximately 900 miles, from Bristol, through France, to Casteil on the Spanish border. Ten Scottish Schools tried to “match the miles”. Dingwall Academy won with an astounding 2287.7 miles; Firrhill achieved a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place with 968 miles. Firrhill’s “pupil role model”, Louis Moore S3, contributed an amazing 70 miles on the first day of the challenge when cycling at the velodrome.



We are delighted that The Adventure Syndicate are rewarding all the participating schools with a free showing of the film “Divided”, which will be introduced by Lee Craigie and Rickie Cotter.

Cycle Friendly Secondary School



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## Travel Plan Meetings – *the survey results and action points*

On 26 March four pupils and Environment Group members Stella Thomson and Carolyn Hargest met Mark Symonds, Active Transport and Liaison Officer, for a second travel plan meeting, where there was a discussion about the results of the Firrhill High School pupil and staff travel surveys. Issues encountered by pupils and staff in their daily journeys to and from school were discussed. A further meeting took place on 15 May with a group of S3 pupils, who examined possible solutions to issues raised by the surveys. The school will promote the action points highlighted in the new Travel Plan.



Thanks to Cllr Jason Rust, who has helped to resolve some travel-related and litter problems in the area.

There was a good response to the school travel surveys: 331 pupils responded and 58 staff members completed the staff travel survey. As an incentive to take part in the survey, the Environment Group kindly donated three £10 Amazon vouchers. Congratulation to pupil winners: Cameron Shand and Lucia Rizza, and staff winner, Mr Márquez. Three love2shop vouchers donated by the City of Edinburgh Council were also prizes. Thanks to everyone who took part in the survey – the results form the basis of the Firrhill High School 2018 Travel Plan.



Most pupils walk to school, but the travel plan highlighted that the provision of more lockers may encourage more pupils and staff to cycle to school. We are looking into the cost of providing more lockers for cyclists. Better maintenance of cycle lanes and the provision of more cycle lanes may also help to encourage more people to cycle to school. The Rights Respecting Schools Award Group have discussed the right of any pupil to cycle, and also the right to choose to wear a helmet when cycling.



**Cycle Friendly Secondary School**

The revision of the school Travel Plan will also help the school to achieve the Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award.

Already as a result of the travel survey, the potholed access road to the school from Oxgangs Road north by Caiystane Court, to the mixed-use path through the middle of the school, has been resurfaced by Amey. The toucan crossing has had some immediate repairs done by the Clarence Response Squad. The pupil and staff cycle sheds are due to be repaired in the summer, including a new door with an integral keypad lock for the pupils' cycle shed. New cycle signage will be introduced to help cyclists travel safely to school. We kindly ask all parents and carers to use the Edinburgh City council "report it" site <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report> to alert the council to any road or pavement defects, gritting requirements, dog fouling problems, graffiti and litter. Please contact the Parent Council [firrhillpc@gmail.com](mailto:firrhillpc@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions which could help us to improve travel to school.





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## The John Muir Award

On Friday 9 March S2 pupils led by Mr Boyd, geography teacher, took part in outdoor learning, working towards their John Muir Award, Discovery Level.



The pupils walked around the school grounds, looking at nature, including learning about the evergreen and deciduous trees.

The four elements of the award are: discover a wild place, explore, conserve and then share your experiences.

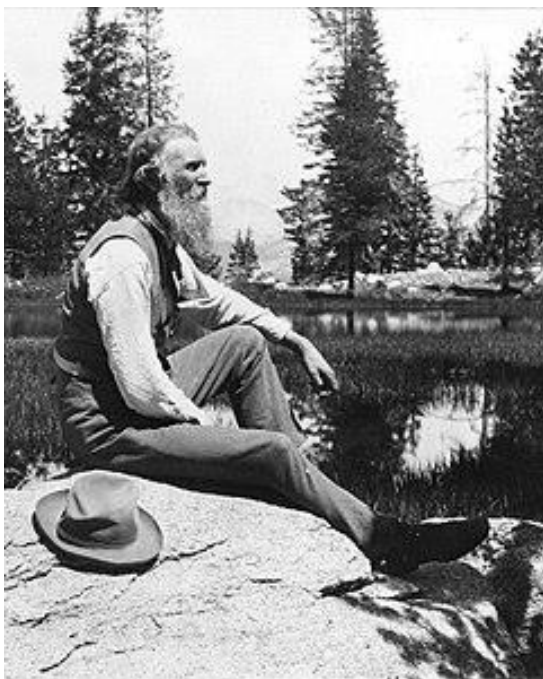
“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilised people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity.” John Muir 1838-1914.



The John Muir Trust is a conservation charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing wild places in the UK.



The pupils enjoyed being outdoors.



### JOHN MUIR AWARD

*wild places:*  
DISCOVER  
EXPLORE  
CONSERVE  
SHARE

John Muir was born on 21 April 1838, in Dunbar. When he was 11 years old he moved to America, where he became a farmer, a famous inventor, a writer, botanist and geologist. He is seen as the father of the modern conservationist movement. He ultimately settled in California and was responsible for the creation of the first National Parks – Sequoia National Park and Yosemite National Park. His birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar, has become a museum.

