

information

bulletin **volume four** **2015/2016**



Falkirk Council

INTRODUCTION

This Information Bulletin is divided into two parts. Part 1 (all pages with the exception of the section coloured green, which relates only to tenders and which is found at the end of the Bulletin) presents a number of papers, which are designed to update Members, Officers and the citizens of the area of ongoing issues of interest which would not be expected to be dealt with through the Council's formal decision-making processes. These papers are relatively informal in terms of style and format and are an additional and important reporting mechanism for the Council which is easily accessible and which it is hoped will be a useful reference document.

In terms of its Contract Standing Orders, the Council has a requirement to report all Contracts referred to in Standing Order 6.2. The Information Bulletin is considered to be ideal for this purpose and any such papers can be found in Part 2 (the section coloured green) of the document.

Any general enquiries regarding the Information Bulletin should be directed to Chief Executive Office (Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager Ext 6110).

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FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS RE EQUAL PAY TAX LIABILITY
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 9 MARCH 2016
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Falkirk Council is required to settle a tax and national insurance liability in relation to Equal Pay settlements. The professional consultancy services of BDO were used previously to negotiate with HMRC in order to secure a voluntary settlement arrangement that would be advantageous to the Council.
- 1.2 This arrangement with BDO has been continued on the basis that it delivers best value to Council because:
- a) BDO provide this service to most Councils and have established an effective relationship with HM Inspector of Taxes in relation to equal pay settlements;
 - b) BDO expect to deliver a composite rate tax level similar to that achieved previously and will assist in achieving settlement for the tax liability for c1,200 remaining claims; and
 - c) BDO have agreed to cap their fees at a maximum of £10,000 for this work.

2. ACTION TAKEN

- 2.1 Members note that in accordance with Standing Order 6.2(i), I have engaged BDO, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX to negotiate settlement of the Council's Composite Rate Tax liability with HM Revenues and Customs at a cost not exceeding £10,000 plus expenses.

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

Date: 19 February 2016

Contact Officer: Amanda Templeman

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter of Engagement

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506371 and ask for Amanda Templeman.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: TOURISM FALKIRK 2020 – PROGRESS UPDATE
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 9 March 2016
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the Council's tourism activity since the launch of the Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 – Tourism 2020 which was officially launched in February 2015. The report highlights the progress being made and key achievements to date.

2.0 BACKGROUND TO TOURISM WITHIN THE FALKIRK AREA

- 2.1 The last few years have been extremely important for the Falkirk area in relation to tourism. The area has firmly made its mark on the international tourism map with the continued success of the Falkirk Wheel and the opening of the Helix Park, the Kelpies and more recently the Visitor Centre.
- 2.2 Falkirk Council responded quickly to the huge increase in tourists visiting the Kelpies and Helix Park and the impact this had on the Falkirk Area. The Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy – *Tourism Falkirk 2020* aims to make Falkirk a destination of first choice with high quality, value for money and world-class attractions offering memorable customer experience delivered by skilled and passionate people. It was developed by the Council and its partners in conjunction with local tourism businesses, national stakeholders and local communities.
- 2.3 The Tourism Strategy clearly identifies three key targets:
- To increase visitor expenditure in the Falkirk area by 20% over the next five years to 2020.
 - To increase overnight visitor accommodation (serviced bedrooms and self-catering units) in the Falkirk area by 20% over the next five years to 2020.
 - To develop a Falkirk Area Tourism Partnership to take ownership of, to review and to implement the strategy.
- 2.4 The Council contributed £20,000 to Visit Scotland for the provision of visitor information at the Falkirk Wheel and a further £17,000 to destination marketing activity. The balance of its tourism budget is directed towards promotional activity.

1.0 FALKIRK AREA TOURISM PERFORMANCE

3.1 The key measures of tourism performance are the number of visitors to an area and the expenditure of visitors in an area. The best available estimates are as follows:

3.2 Dream Report 2015* – Volume and Value of Tourism Expenditure

Key findings from the Dream (Detailed Economic Regional Accounting Model) Report 2015 in relation to tourism performance within the Falkirk area for the period 2013 - 2014 indicate:

- an increase in total tourism expenditure of 15.1%
- an increase in total tourism trips of 48.8 %
- an increase in total tourism direct spend of 15.5%

The figures above illustrate a clear growth within the area's tourism sector and highlight the increasing importance of tourism to the Falkirk area. More details can be found in Appendix 1

3.3 Visit Scotland – Increases in Footfall

The Visit Scotland 2015 MOA (Minute of Agreement) report highlights the following for the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) :

- An increase in footfall at the VIC between 13/14 and 14/15 of 22%
- An increase in bookings at the VIC between 13/14 and 14/15 of 20%

The mid-year report on Falkirk tourism from Visit Scotland for the period April – September shows continued growth in 2015, with footfall at the Visitor Information Centre at the Falkirk Wheel up by 11.19%

Visit Scotland state that this increase is largely attributable to the launch of the Kelpies and considerable high profile marketing activity funded by Falkirk Council and partners through their involvement in Visit Scotland's Growth Fund activity in the period in the run up to the launch of the Kelpies.

The full figures can be found in Appendix 1.

3.4 Visitor Figures at Main Attractions in the Falkirk Area

In general there has been a positive increase in the number of visitors at a number of attractions throughout the area including The Falkirk Wheel, Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway reporting an increase of 12%, Blackness Castle showing an increase of approximately 18% and attendance at the open days at Kinneil House showing an increase of over 10% between 2014 and 2015. The impact of the Helix and the Kelpies is also clearly illustrated. The full figures can be found in Appendix 1

As well as the traditional attractions a number of newer attractions have also opened and the impact of these newer attractions must be considered to be significant.

- The Milk Barn opened in July 2013 has calculated that since opening they have attracted in the region of over 200,000 visitors.
- Wellsfield Farm and Activity Centre regularly attract approximately 100,000 Visitors per annum.
- The John Muir Way – Scottish Natural Heritage have commissioned research to monitor visitor numbers however at the time of going to report these figures are unavailable.
- Historic Scotland consider that the increase in visitors at Blackness Castle is attributable to the opening of the John Muir Way, the ‘Outlander’ impact and on-going promotion via Historic Scotland, Visit Falkirk and Visit West Lothian.

The Cruise Market is also seeing significant growth with Forth Ports receiving 76 Cruise Calls, with 95 days in port in 2015. In 2016 they report 73 Cruise bookings so far and 51 Cruise bookings for 2017 (this is unique in terms of forward bookings). The Falkirk Wheel reports seeing a direct benefit from this sector receiving a minimum of 2 coaches per month throughout the cruise season.

Recognising this benefit, the Council contributed £1,000 to CruiseForth’s – Visit Scotland Growth Fund Bid which will further promote tourism activity to local attractions within an hour’s drive of the Cruise ships’ arrival points.

4. TOURISM STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 The Tourism Strategy identified three Strategic Priorities:

1. Targeting Key Markets
2. Providing Enjoyable and Marketable Experiences
3. Improving the Customer Journey

The following notes progress in relation to these Priorities:

TARGETING KEY MARKETS

4.2 Since 2013 Falkirk Council has had a strong focus on tourism and has worked closely with Visit Scotland and the Scottish Tourism Alliance alongside local businesses within this sector to launch the Falkirk Area Tourism Strategy.

The Council has strengthened its presence at Visit Scotland Expo the main exhibition for the travel trade coming to Scotland. Falkirk Council received two Visit Scotland Awards for its presence at Visit Scotland Expo and has seen a significant increase in enquiries as a result.

Visit Scotland Destination Marketing

4.3 The Council has continued to work closely with Visit Scotland on a series of destination marketing campaigns with great success. These campaigns have continued to raise the profile of the Falkirk area for tourism, generating just under 2.8 million ‘opportunities to be seen’ (OTS). Full details of this activity and results can be found in the Appendix.

Additional Visit Scotland Marketing Activity

- 4.4 In addition to the destination marketing campaigns, Visit Scotland engage in a range of activities which further promote the Falkirk area e.g. delivering a 'Closer than you think' campaign in May/June 2015 which featured the Kelpies and was placed in London, York and Newcastle. The Falkirk area was also featured in a number of Daily Mail – 'Its Friday Whats on?' features – a full list can be found in Appendix 1. Visit Scotland included Falkirk in several of its monthly newsletters, reaching over 1.8 million international & UK consumers. Visit Scotland has continued to include Falkirk within their social media and the Falkirk landing page within the Visit Scotland website has seen a 40% increase in unique page views in the last year.

On-going Press Activity

- 4.5 Falkirk Council through the use of Smarts PR has also achieved significant national press coverage for the area in a number of features e.g. Carr's Hill was featured in Scottish Field, The Herald and The Caravan Times, a Premier Inn expansion story appeared in The Herald, the Scotsman and the Daily Record. The Maquettes arrival at the West End Festival resulted in coverage on STV News and their placements continue to generate on-going press coverage and social media interest. The Kelpies were used as the main cover image on 'World Class Scotland' an inward investment publication which is distributed through Scottish Development International and goes to all consulate offices worldwide

Smarts PR under the instruction of the Council delivered a focussed tourism media campaign which encompassed gaining national coverage for key tourism events, identifying opportunities to gain coverage for events and attractions and delivering a series of media visits. In total there was a 58% increase in coverage for the period January 2015 to December 2014 compared to the year before and an increase in national coverage of 74%.

The Kelpie Maquettes

- 4.6 Falkirk Council continues to place the Kelpie Maquettes at high profile events and venues throughout the UK and have received significant press and social media coverage. The full list of where the Maquettes have been based can be found in Appendix 1.

The Council continues to receive enquiries and the Maquettes are booked for Edinburgh Zoo and a number of other locations for 2016 and 2017.

PROVIDING ENJOYABLE AND MARKETABLE EXPERIENCES

- 4.7 The Tourism Strategy identified a need to improve and expand the Falkirk tourism experience throughout the area. To date the following has been achieved:

a) Development at Major Attractions

The Visitor Centre at the Helix has now been opened and provides a restaurant, retail and interpretative section for visitors to the Kelpies and the Helix Park.

Falkirk Wheel has developed the Water play park, increased ancillary activities on site including Segway Tours, pedal boats and plans for electric boats. They have upgraded the towpaths, invested in new lighting in the Dark Tunnel and have plans to develop interpretation panels between The Wheel and The Kelpies. They are also refocusing their efforts on the promotion of the Wheel as a location for business tourism with the publication of a new Business Tourism Leaflet.

The Mariner Centre has been refurbished and is now being actively promoted as a key leisure pool within the central belt of Scotland.

b) Cultural and Heritage Tourism

Blackness Castle – Historic Scotland have invested in a shop refit and introduced new retail lines. They have also installed a new suite of interpretation panels (both internal & external) to improve visitor experience and learning.

Kinneil House and Museum – received a refurbishment and was reopened in 2014

Antonine Wall – an Action Plan was approved in March 2015. Work has been on-going at Polmont Woods and Tamfourhill to clear vegetation off the wall and a section of the path has been cleared. Historic Scotland commissioned an Antonine Wall Visitor Survey in 2015 – two of the sites used for this included Roughcastle and Callendar Park. The key findings can be found in Appendix 1

c) Activity Tourism

- *Callendar Estates* have invested significantly in the development of cycle trails, bike skills course, building of Canada Wood & Barn Restaurant and Greenrig Cycle Shop. They are looking at further opportunities to develop the estates and will continue to add refinements to the existing trails. They are also co-ordinating a series of events based around cycling which are attracting people from outwith the area.
- *The John Muir Way*, Falkirk Council has continued to invest significant sums to further develop and upgrade the John Muir Way and the core path network throughout the area. The majority of funding invested has come through successful funding applications to external funders such as Sustrans, Sport Scotland, Central Scotland Green Network, Falkirk Environment Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage with the balance invested from Falkirk Councils capital resources.

d) Accessible Tourism

The Helix Park have recently opened a specialist play/sensory area for children of all abilities

e) Events and Festivals

Falkirk Council has actively promoted the full range of major events happening within the Falkirk area, these are now included within the Visit Falkirk tourism leaflet, the Visit Scotland Website and a dedicated Visit Falkirk Website. We continue to liaise with event co-ordinators to ensure maximum exposure for these events.

IMPROVING THE CUSTOMER JOURNEY

Pre arrival information

- 4.8 ***Visitfalkirk Website*** - Falkirk Council launched a new Visit Falkirk website in February 2015 - a 'one stop shop site' for local area tourist information, events and accommodation. The site has been well received by tourists and businesses within the area and has now had over 39,880 views.

Kinetic Falkirk was also launched in February 2015 a short time lapse film of the Falkirk area's main attractions by award winning Walid Salhab of Queen Margaret University - this film has now had over 73,200 views on Vimeo.

Social Media - the Council operates a Visit Falkirk Facebook page, established December 2013, it now has over 5440 likes and a Twitter Feed with 850 followers.

On arrival information

- 4.9 Falkirk Council has invested significantly in the implementation and maintenance of an enhanced scheme for brown tourist signs to and between key tourism sites and facilities. Work on this is currently on-going.

Falkirk Council have worked with partners such as the Howgate Shopping Centre, Kinneil Museum and Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway to ensure tourist information is available at additional centres throughout the area. The Council is currently working with Visit Scotland regarding future information provision.

Through Visitfalkirk.com the Council now has a series of Visit Falkirk leaflets in a number of languages all of which are downloadable and include French, German, Mandarin, Spanish and Italian.

Road and rail infrastructure, public transport & sustainable travel.

- 4.10 Falkirk Council have worked closely with FirstBus in the rebranding of routes 3 and 4 which link the Falkirk Wheel, the town centre and The Helix park. These buses now operate with distinctive livery including the Falkirk Wheel, The Kelpies and the Falkirk Steeple and include the Visit Falkirk logo.

To improve the connectivity between the railway and bus stations, the town centre and The Kelpies, The Falkirk Wheel and Callendar House – the Council successfully applied for funding from Transport Scotland to operate ‘The Loop’ bus. Launched as a pilot project it originally operated until 30 September 2015, this was extended to end of October, funded by revenue generated from its operations between April and September. As part of the funding bid Falkirk Council also received budget to boost awareness of the service with a VisitFalkirk outdoor and digital marketing campaign which ran across the summer 2015.

Final figures revealed that The Loop pilot bus scheme carried a total of 30,460 passengers. Approximately 40% of users were from outside the Falkirk area, hailing from Australasia, Europe, America, Scotland and other parts of the UK. Investigations are currently on-going re future funding for this service, in the meantime, First Bus are now utilising the Pink Branded buses on the routes 3 and 4 which connect The Wheel, The Helix Park and the Town Centre.

5. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Private sector investment in the tourism sector

- 5.1 The impact of the growth in Falkirk’s tourism has also been recognised by the private sector with the following investment having taken place
- Premier Inn – expanding 3 out of 4 hotels creating an additional 66 bedspaces and refurbishing the 4th hotel – each hotel now has a floor to ceiling ‘Falkirk Tourism Attractions’ visual within their reception areas
 - Carrs Hill – investing in 2 new safari tents creating 8 additional bedspaces
 - Mannerstons – invested in opening a Café and retail outlet with plans for further growth and expansion
 - Corbie Inn- increased the size of their restaurant
 - Refurbishment and Rebranding of Monster Mania soft play to Wonderworld Soft Play and opening of Sky High Trampoline Park
 - Falkirk Distillery – to be launched in 2016 creating a distillery, retail space and café
 - Rosebank Distillery – Falkirk Council and Scottish Canals are in discussion currently with a potential developer

Partnership working

- 5.2 Falkirk Council has delivered Visit Falkirk activity through a partnership involving key partners such as the Falkirk Wheel/Scottish Canals, Falkirk Delivers, the Falkirk Community Trust and Boness and Kinneil Railway. Many other businesses are now engaged in Visit Falkirk activity and businesses are keen that Falkirk Council co-ordinate a number of networking meetings between the Tourism Businesses within the area to encourage increased awareness of what the businesses have on offer and to promote cross selling between the various attractions. As a result the first networking event was successfully hosted on 25th November at the Kelpies Visitor Centre. The Council is in the process of establishing a Tourism Partnership which will bring together the public and private sector to assist in the on-going and future promotion of the Falkirk Area.

The Council was recognised for the activity it has been involved in relation to tourism by reaching the Regional Finals of the 2015 Thistle Awards.

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Director of Development Services

Date 22 March 2016

Contact Officer: Tracey Martin Ext: 0967

APPENDIX 1

TOURISM SUPPORT PROGRESS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides an update on the Council's tourism support activity since February 2015 as delivered by the Growth & Investment unit within Development Services along with key tourism partners.

2. FALKIRK AREA TOURISM PERFORMANCE

DREAM (*Detailed Economic Regional Accounting Model*) statistics for the Falkirk Area

Falkirk tourism	2012	2013	2014 (preliminary)	change 2013-2014
Number of visitors (including day tourists) 000	2 695	2 329	3 466	48.8%
Number of bednights 000	621	538	445	-17.3%
Visitor-days	3 316	2 867	3 911	36.4%
Direct expenditure £mn	146	104	120	15.5%
Indirect and induced expenditure	59	42	48	14.2%
Total (sometimes called economic impact)	205	146	168	15.1%
Employment (no of people/jobs) (provl)	4 600	3 200	3 600	12.5%
Direct Gross Value Added	47	34	39	14.5%
Indirect and induced	24	17	19	14.2%
Total	71	51	58	14.4%

Visit Scotland – VIC Performance

The following table supplied by Visit Scotland illustrates the increase in footfall, bookings and the subsequent additionality generated through this.

VIC	Footfall 2013-14	Footfall 2014-15	Bookings 2013-14	Bookings 2014-15	£Additionality 2013-14	£Additionality 2014-15
Falkirk	37,308	45,501	45	54	199,597	243,430

The figures below illustrate the performance of the Visit Scotland Info Centre at the Falkirk Wheel between **April to September for 2013 to 2015** – this increase is largely attributable to the launch of the Kelpies and considerable high profile marketing activity funded by Falkirk Council and partners through its involvement in Growth Fund activity in the period in the run up to the launch of the Kelpies.

VIC	Football 2013	Football 2014	Football 2015	Bookings 2013	Bookings 2014	Bookings 2015	£Additionality 2013	£Additionality 2014	£Additionality 2015
Falkirk	28,919	34,747	38,532	40	51	36	154,717	185,896	206,146.20

This new profile for Falkirk will also have drawn visitors from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July and August, the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in September and many other Homecoming events.

Visitor Numbers to Key Attractions

The following table highlights visitor numbers at local attractions within the Falkirk area:

Attraction	2012	2013	2014
The Falkirk Wheel	414386	406693	514170
Boness & Kinneil Railway	64647	68306	68329
Blackness Castle	15179	14716	17624
Callendar House	30897	35621	28781
Park Gallery	26511	18561	19011
Boness Hippodrome	34015*	28957	27602
Kinneil Museum	4524	2716**	3153
Mariner Centre	228636	217021	180643
The Helix	NA	NA	952506
The Kelpie Tours	NA	NA	47840

* Hippodrome 100 celebrations

** Please note a new system of counting was introduced in this year

This illustrates the steady growth in visitor numbers at attractions such as the Falkirk Wheel, The Boness & Kinneil Railway, Blackness Castle and highlights the extent of the impact of the Helix and the success of the Kelpie Tours.

3. TARGETING KEY MARKETS

The following details the type of marketing activity undertaken with Visit Scotland

Autumn 2014 Activity

In July and August 2014 Falkirk destination marketing included a mix of press and digital marketing with the aim of encouraging visitors in the autumn period. The activity targeted potential visitors in Scotland & Northern England within a 2 to 4 hour drive of Falkirk.

Activity included :

- 4 page poster pullout in The Herald
- Full page advert in the Press and Journal
- Full page advert in Newcastle Chronicle
- Email to database of campaign partner Trinity Mirror
- Online display ads targeting the Central Belt.

A competition to win a break to Falkirk including a Kelpies Experience Tour and a stay at the Grange Manor Hotel. Activity was promoted via visitfalkirk.com and to visitscotland.com to gather data for future communications.

Key Results

- Opportunities to see campaign messages about Falkirk - **379238**
- Unique visits to campaign landing page – **1240**
- Competition entries – **361 (885 total cumulative from spring activity)**

Spring 2015 Activity

As in autumn/winter, the focus was on the key product strengths of the area's visitors attractions. The activity targeted potential visitors in Scotland and northern England, using a mix of press and digital channels including direct email and social media.

- Press advertising in Metro Newcastle, Dundee Courier and Sunday Post
- Digital activity included:
 - A Falkirk web skin (a framework of images surrounding the website page content on the Metro)
 - A programme of dark posts on Facebook (posts which are only seen by those targeted by the campaign)

Key Results

- Opportunities to see (OTS) campaign messages about Falkirk - **1.4 million**
- Unique visits to campaign landing page – **7155**
- Competition entries – **2748**
- Business referrals **243**

Summer 2015 Activity

A digital only approach was taken for summer marketing activity – Call to action win one of 5 Family Days Out in the Falkirk Area

Key Results

- Total Opportunities to see - **561429**
- Unique visits to Falkirk Campaign Landing page - **11648**
 - Competition entries **3438**
 - Business referrals **14**

Autumn 2015 Activity

Complementing the National Brilliant Moments campaign the Autumn/Winter campaign promoted the Falkirk area to inspire, engage and motivate potential visitors to book a break in the area. It included a mix of digital and press advertising

Key Results

- Total Opportunities to see – **831096**
- Unique visits to Falkirk campaign landing page **15958**
- Total prize draw entrants – **5127**
- Business Referrals - **59**

Additional On-going Support from Visit Scotland

The following illustrates the on-going promotional support being received from Visit Scotland

- The Kelpies and John Muir Festival were included in several editions of specially produced homecoming themed supplements for Scottish Field magazine – issued as an e-brochure to 200,000 contacts on Visit Scotland's database in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- Promotional content was included in a number of all Scotland direct mail packs issued to Visit Scotland's best prospect consumer contacts
- The Kelpies have featured prominently in consumer e-newsletters in both the domestic and international markets.
- Daily Mail Partnership – Visit Scotland run a regular feature with Brilliant Moments holiday ideas for the UK Market – The Falkirk area was featured as follows:
 - 17th April 2015 The Loop Hop on Hop Off Bus
 - 15th May 2015 Cycling in Falkirk
 - 31st July 2015 Falkirk Area Feature
 - 16th October 2015 Funny in Falkirk
 - 13th November 2015 Festive Falkirk, Boness & Kinneil Railway
 - 11th December 2015 Reindeer, Falkirk Town Centre
 - 18th December 2015 Fire & Light at Helix, Falkirk Wheel – Santa Grotto

(The Opportunities to Be Seen per edition was 93,000)

- Visit Scotland have now featured the area in a number of guides and websites including an ‘Outlander’ map of Scotland, A Taste of Scotland’s Foodie Trails, the newly launched ‘Ice-Cream’ Trails (launched at the Milk Barn which received coverage on National TV) and the ‘Set in Scotland’ – Visit Scotland’s Film location guide. We continue to input in to these publications to ensure the profile of tourism businesses within the Falkirk area is kept to the forefront.
- Visit Britain – Great Names campaign – Visit Scotland proposed the Kelpies to be included within the Visit Britain 1.6 million campaign in China. The campaign was a highlight effective way of raising the profile of The Kelpies among the 30 million people who watched the online video
- Consumer PR – Visit Scotland made the Kelpies a staple of their promotion activity within 2014 – a highlight was the achievement of 2 full double page spreads dedicated to the Kelpies in ‘East Week Magazine’ a Chinese publication with a reach of 150000 copies per week.

Kelpies Maquettes

As mentioned in the main report The Kelpie Maquettes continue to be placed in high profile locations throughout the UK and overseas - To date the Kelpie Maquettes have now been to:

Scotland Week in New York
The Grand National at Aintree
The Royal Highland Show,
The Ryder Cup,
The West End Festival in Glasgow
Edinburgh Festival
Blair Athol Horse Trials
Belwade Heavy Horse Centre
The Scottish Cup Final at Hampden
Tom Jones Concert
Glasgow Queen Street Station
Edinburgh Airport
Kelso Town Centre
Queen Margaret University
Edinburgh University

4. PROVIDING ENJOYABLE & MARKETABLE EXPERIENCES

Cultural and Heritage Tourism

Key finding from Historic Scotland's survey of visitors at the Antonine Wall

- 28% of those visiting Roughcastle were from overseas compared to 4% at Callendar Park. Visitors to Roughcastle were more likely to be on holiday or a day trip
- 51% of those asked stated they visited or intended to visit another attraction or site nearby – this was mostly Roughcastle visitors visiting the Falkirk Wheel or the Kelpies on their trip.
- The research goes on to identify how people are finding out about the Antonine Wall and what levels of knowledge visitors have, which can be fed in to future promotional plans for the Antonine Wall.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 - COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 9 MARCH 2016
Author: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on the Charity Board's operations, financial position and organisational changes over the 2014/15 period, which is aligned to the school academic year from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Schools 2008 Charity has been in operation since 14 June 2010 and the Board meets quarterly. The Community Schools 2008 Charity was established following the 4 new (NPDO) Secondary Schools being completed. The Charity's main aim is to receive and disburse the proceeds that it is contractually due to receive from the NPDO schools project holding company, Gateway.
- 2.2 The Charity's objectives are:
- To advance education within the catchment areas of all of the secondary schools
 - To provide (or assist with the provision of) recreational facilities within the Operating area with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities are primarily intended.
- 2.3 The Charity Board is responsible for the distribution of grant awards to schools, community groups, sports, arts and voluntary groups and organisations throughout the whole of the Council area. The Charity Board assess applications throughout the year and distribute grant awards to successful applicants.

3. CONSTITUTION/LEGAL STATUS/BOARD STRUCTURE

3.1 Charitable Status

The Community Schools 2008 Charity is a fully registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and Companies House.

3.2 Submission of Annual Returns

To comply with both the Companies Act and OSCR's regulations a number of annual/statutory returns must be submitted. The following returns have been lodged for the period 1 April 14 - 31 March 15:

- (i) Companies House
 - Annual Accounts
- (ii) OSCR
 - Annual Return
 - Annual Accounts
 - Trustees' Report
- (iii) HMI Customs & Revenue
 - Corporation Tax Return

3.2 Board Membership

- In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Charity Board, the Board Members appointed from the organisations detailed below rotate every 2 years:
 - Parent Councils
 - Pupil Councils
 - Trade Unions
- The current Chair of the Charity Board is Christine Bell who is an Independent Director on the Board.
- The Charity Board Structure detailing the names of the Board Members is attached at Appendix 2.

4. **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Accounts for the Financial Year 1/4/14 - 31/3/15 are shown at Appendix 1. The accounts were formally adopted and approved by the Charity Board at their Annual General Meeting held on 20 October 2015.
- 4.2 The Charity Board since its inception has received **£173,961** from the main NPDO Schools Project Company (FSGL).

FSGL's Income

Financial Year	Donation Received	Interest Received	Total Income
2008/09	£ 5,397	£0	£ 5,397
2009/10	£10,409	£18	£10,427
2010/11	£10,601	£86	£10,687
2011/12	£11,388	£133	£11,521
2012/13	£11,812	£174	£11,986
2013/14	£62,001	£39	£62,040
2014/15	£62,353	£0	£62,353
Total	£173,961	£450	£174,411

4.3 Other Relevant Financial Information

During financial year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 the Charity Board paid out **£61,206** in grants.

Other expenditure incurred during the period was £355 in respect of publicity and insurance fees.

At the 31 March 2015 the Board had a closing reserve/balance of **£49,154**.

4.4 Since the Charity Boards formation and during the period 14/6/10 to 31/3/15, the total amount of grants that were approved for funding by the Board is **£139,897:**

- £116,397 has been released/paid; and
- £23,500 remains pending awaiting further information.

5. SUMMARY OF 2014/15 OPERATIONS

5.1 The Charity Board, in addition to their normal Grant Award Scheme agreed to fund some larger grants to support local projects:

- A “Challenge Fund” was promoted locally to allow local organisations/groups to receive funding of up to £10,000 for larger innovative projects that would benefit the community.
 - This year 3 Groups were awarded money from the Challenge Fund, totalling £22,000.
 - To date funding of £9,500 has been released and £12,500 is still committed.
- £10,000 each was also awarded to Falkirk Sports Council and Falkirk Arts and Civic Council to enable both groups to distribute grants locally to talented artists or athletes and to provide funding for coaching qualifications.

5.2 During the year, a total of **39 applications were received. Their status is as follows:-**

- 27 Applications Grant Award applications were granted and funding was released.

- 3 Challenge Fund Awards applications were granted.
- 2 Applications referred to the Sports Council and Arts & Civic Council and given funding.
- 7 Applications were refused (as they fell outwith the remit of the Board).

39 Total

5.3 In total **£75,206** was awarded:-

- £61,206 has been released for this period to date; and
- £14,000 is pending awaiting further information.
 - £12,500 Challenge Fund Awards.
 - £1,500 Grant Awards.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Members are asked to note the Charity Board's 2014/15 Annual Reports financial position.

.....
 Director of Children's Services

Date: 13 January 2016

Contact Officer: Kirsty Wilsdon, Ext 6605.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

APPENDIX 1

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY

Registered in Scotland, No SC319676

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

2013/14		INCOME/EXPENDITURE	2014/15
£			£
		INCOME	
56,095	Note 1	Donations	62,353
<u>39</u>		Interest	<u>0</u>
56,134			62,353
		EXPENDITURE	
46,452	Note 2	Grant Awards - Paid	61,206
<u>175</u>		Insurance, Publicity & Legal Fees	<u>355</u>
46,627			61,561
		RESERVES	
38,855		Opening (Balance at Bank) at 1/4/14	48,362
9,507		Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year	792
<u>48,362</u>		Year-end balance at Bank as at 31/3/15	<u>49,154</u>
		BALANCE	
		CURRENT ASSETS	
<u>48,362</u>		Reserves (held at Bank) at 31/3/15	<u>49,154</u>
		RESERVES	
		Committed funds – (Grant Awards Pending)	23,500
		Uncommitted Funds – (General Reserves)	25,654
<u>48,362</u>			<u>49,154</u>

Notes to 2013/14 Accounts – (Prior Year Adjustment):

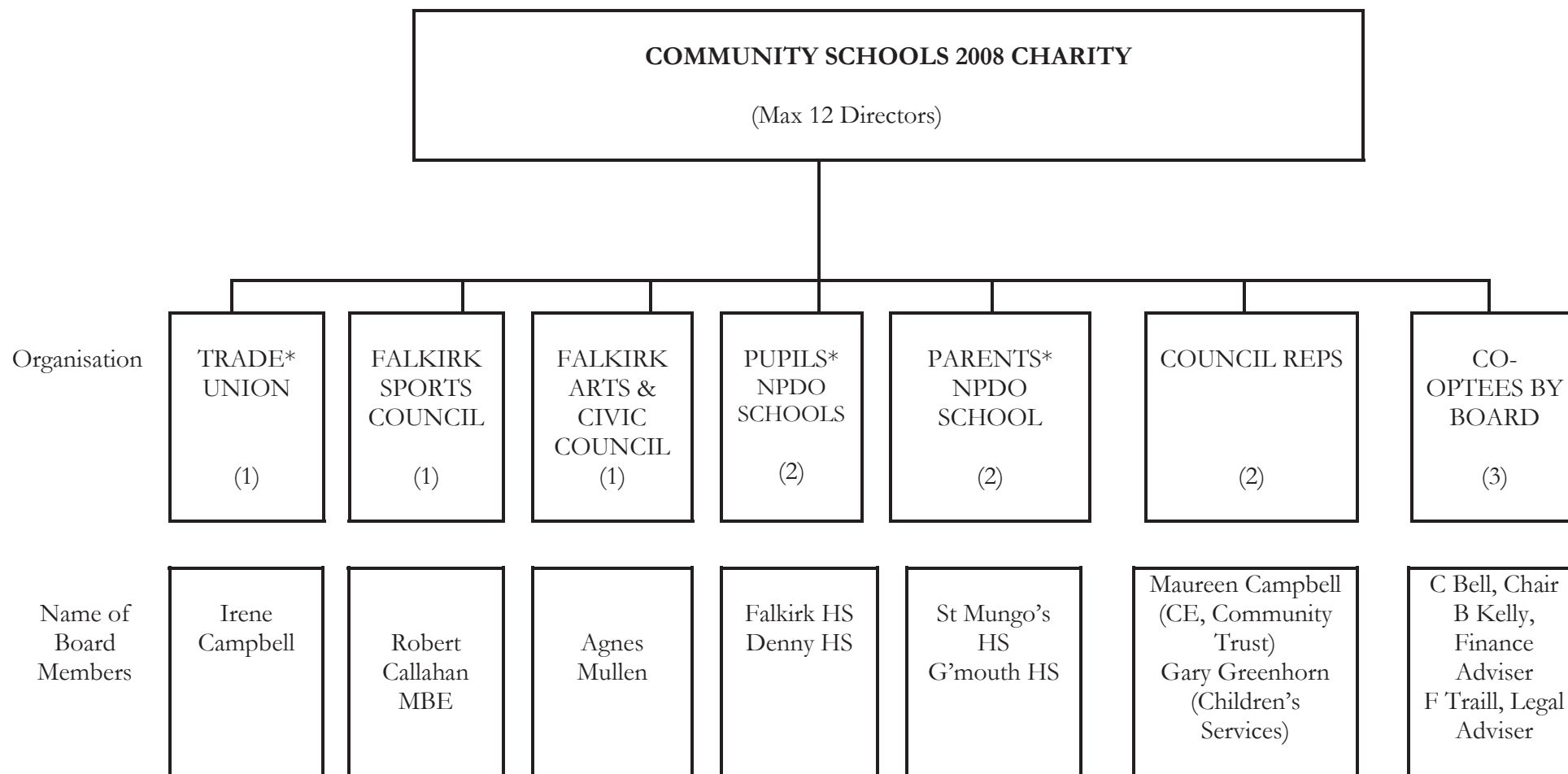
1. Income of £5,906 accrued in 2012/13, was incorrectly shown in 2013/14. Income duly corrected to £56,095.
2. Grant Awards: Originally stated as £61,278, incorrectly included £14,826 of awards committed but not paid. Corrected to £46,452.

Notes:

3. For the year ending 31 March 2015, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
4. Directors' responsibilities:
 - The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
 - The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts
 - These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
5. The financial statements have been approved and signed on its behalf by:

	Registered Office: Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB
--	--

Director, Gary Greenhorn

2014/15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Rotation
Arrangements

- Unison
- EIS
- SSTA



Falkirk Council

Children Matter

Learning to Achieve



Celebrating Success 2015

Volume 16 Issue 04

November 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Falkirk Cluster 2-12

Calendar of Events 12



Individual Achievement

There were many nominated staff in this category –

Nominated

- ★ Jennifer Dougall, Graeme High School
- ★ Mary Elizabeth Rankine, Avonbridge Primary School
- ★ Carole Turner, Oxbang School
- ★ Chloe Differ, APT, Brockville
- ★ Charlie Hastie, CLD, Park Street

Thanks went to the Erin Scott, St Mungo's High School and Craig Smith and Sarah Makin from Graeme High School who presented the nominations.

Thank you also goes to Sing Forth, Falkirk's Community Choir who entertained at the interval.

The 11th annual Celebrating Success awards were held on 16th November at Falkirk Town Hall. Children's Services had a large number of short listed entries. Well done to all staff who submitted entries, made the shortlist and, of course, those who won!

Service Improvement

Nominated

- ★ 10 Pieces Project at Denny Primary School

Winner



- ★ Falkirk Council and Forth valley College Application Portal

All secondary schools can now see the status of young people's applications to Forth valley College to help them successfully secure a place.

Community Involvement

Nominated

- ★ A Wee Scots Celebration at Stenhousemuir Primary School
- ★ Independence at Windsor Park School
- ★ Opportunities for Wider Learning Class: Theatre in

Education - Friends Like These at Denny High School

- ★ Winchester Avenue Orphan Land Project at Denny High School
- ★ 1+2 Adds up to Something Estupendo in the Larbert Schools Cluster

Environmental Initiative

Winner

- ★ Walled Garden at Dollar Park, Criminal Justice Social Work

A seven year project to restore Dollar Park's Victoria era walled garden. People in community payback orders worked in the park under the supervision of the Criminal justice Team and have been key to rejuvenating the park as a valued resource that the whole local area can use.

Health Initiative

Nominated

- ★ Special Smiles Initiative at Stenhousemuir Primary School
- ★ Feeding the Bairns, Children's Services and Catering Services

Economy and Employment

Nominated

- ★ WEA / CLD Support for Employees, CLD, Grangemouth Municipal Chambers

Service Accessibility

Nominated

- ★ Inclusion Outreach Team Social Groups, Camelon Education Centre
- ★ Sam from Stenny at Stenhousemuir Primary School

Bantaskin Primary School News

Farm to Fork

As part of their Farm to Fork topic, P3 and P7 worked together to make apple crumble and fruit



smoothies so they could investigate where food comes from. They used apples from the school orchard as well as other ingredients that could be traced back to the farm. After some super team work, careful measuring and accurate timing for

baking, all classes took part in the important taste test. Everyone thought their creations were delicious and could talk confidently about the journey from farm to fork.

The Street - Storyline IDL

Both P4 classes have been involved in an interdisciplinary storyline topic. The focus was initially on creating families and homes in an imaginary local community. Once the families and street were established, the children were presented with different challenges including: new neighbours from a foreign country, making the community more environmentally friendly and creating a community garden for the residents to enjoy.

The focus changed when pupils were confronted with the vandalism of the community garden (scenario). This led to an investigation including forensics and culminating in a courtroom dramatisation and a class trip to Falkirk Sheriff Court.

The children having ownership and having the responsibility of decision making in their imaginary local environment has led to overwhelming engagement by the children.

The Street's Learning Wall



Children in Need

On Friday 13th November the pupils and staff of Bantaskin Primary and Nursery dressed up as Superheroes in order to raise money for Children in Need. Some of our P7 pupils also had a bake sale and organised a nail bar. Overall, we raised over £400. What an achievement! Well done to all those involved!

Woodland Trust

Bantaskin Primary and Nursery have recently been awarded Silver as part of the Green Tree Schools Award from the Woodland Trust. The children have worked really hard to increase their knowledge on the importance of trees in their environment. In order to get this prestigious award the children had to complete different challenges. These included tree planting, taking part in a campaign to reduce CO2 emissions, recycling paper and working towards becoming a woodland ambassador. We are now working towards our Gold Award and we hope it won't be too long until we receive this!

Welly Boot Bank

We have been working in partnership with 'Kids Love Wellies' and we are delighted to have a Welly Boot Bank in our front foyer. The organisation aims to recycle welly boots in a bid to reduce the amount of waste produced. So far, we have collected 10 pairs of boots. Well done and keep up the good work!

Bantaskin Primary School News Cont'd

P7/FHS Transition Project - Fun with Forensics We used our crime scene to:

Learning Intentions

- To find out about the wider world of work and to be able to describe some of the kinds of work that people do
- To develop skills which I can apply in a practical situation in order to solve a problem (crime)
- To work with others and contribute to discussions in order to achieve a common goal

Tasks

- Summarise what forensic work has been covered so far in our primary classes
- Experiment with Pen Chromatography
- Carry out Crime Scene Pen sampling investigation
- Carry out Crime Scene Water sampling
- Collaborate in group to decide who committed the crime & justify our decision.
- Summarise skills developed and links to World of Work

We started the project in our school where we carried out experimental work to develop observational and investigative skills set in a crime scene.

We then up to Falkirk High, were placed into small groups and worked with pupils from other schools to carry out 2 further forensic techniques in the challenge.

We used all the information we had gathered to decide who the perpetrator of the crime was.

Why Forensics?

- ★ It's interesting!
- ★ Develops teamwork!
- ★ It's fun!
- ★ Uses higher order thinking skills!
- ★ Problem Solving!



- examine photographic evidence
- focus on fibres
- compare soil samples
- Use our observational skills to gather evidence



The children were very enthusiastic about the project and their interest in Science has heightened.

Numeracy Week

Bantaskin Primary and Nursery held a Numeracy Week from 9th - 13th November. Each day had a different numeracy focus and the children participated in different activities over the course of the week relating to a different aspect of numeracy. On Monday the focus was Measure, Tuesday's focus was Time, Wednesday was Weight, Thursday had a Problem Solving focus and Friday focussed on Financial Education.

Literacy Focus

The pupils have been working hard on developing their Literacy Skills and have taken part in a variety of different activities. On 13th September, all pupils took part in Roald Dahl Day where they learned about the author, and the different stories, poems and rhymes he had written. Thursday 8th October was National Poetry Day and the children listened to a variety of different poems, looked at different poetry styles and wrote their own poems. We definitely have some young budding poets in our school! Tuesday 27th October was 'Tell a Story Day'. The classes buddied up with others in the school for paired reading sessions. To celebrate Author's Day on November 1st, the children chose an author to research and presented their findings back to their class. Throughout the month of November, the focus of learning is on non-fiction and the pupils in the school and nursery are learning about the features of non-fiction books and taking part in paired reading sessions.

Children Matter Every Day at Bainsford PS

Achievements



A huge well done to Jack who gained a special merit in the TESCO art competition and has his painting on display in The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Nursery News

The nursery outside area has undergone a complete transformation over the past year. All the plastic toys have been replaced with toys and areas made from natural materials. The mud kitchen and the water wall are firm favourites with the children.



Here they are learning all about capacity (above).



Our nursery Mini Explorers have had a busy year visiting the local woods every fortnight. They are able to take everything they are learning about in nursery and apply it outside.



Our buddies came along as part of our transition work.

The Return of Rookie Rockstars

There is no place for bullies at Bainsford PS and the Rookie Rockstars have been penominal at helping put this message out!

Since their original visit in April 2014 The Rookie Rockstars have returned to perform a Rock Concert for the pupils.

Singing all their original songs and some new ones for the pupils there is a clear message about being a good citizen.



Goodbye Mr Hogg!

We were all very sad to say goodbye to Mr Hogg our janitor. Mr Hogg has been janitor in Bainsford for 18 years and he a popular colleague and loved by the pupils.

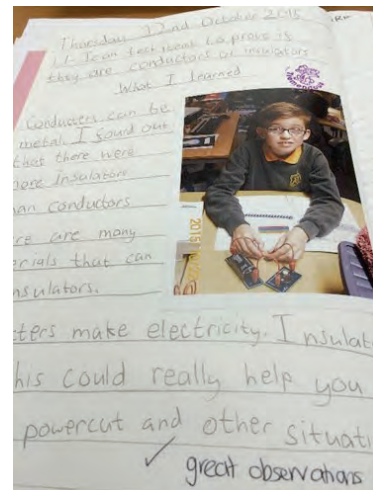
We wish him well in his retirement.

Putting our pupils in the Spotlight!

This year as another way of profiling our pupils' work and sharing the learning with parents we introduced the Spotlight jotter.

For a whole week the pupils undertake all their work in the one jotter, this jotter is then sent home to give the parents a flavour of a week's learning in their child's class. Spotlight weeks will take place three times a session with one jotter lasting two sessions, this will allow parents to see the progress their child is making over time.

So far parental feedback has been very positive.



Comely Park Primary School News

A 'Titanic' Experience

In May our P4 pupils visited The Titanic Museum in Belfast. The day started at 7:15am as the group set off for Cairnryan. The children travelled by Stena Superfast Ferry to Belfast. The new experience of travelling on a ferry was exciting. The weather was fair and the children were up on deck for part of the crossing. The Titanic Museum is situated in the port



area and the children enjoyed a three hour educational visit. It is an exciting, interactive museum which really brought all that the children had been learning in class to life. The children were joined by many of their parents/carers who also loved every minute of the visit. Dinner was a 'McDonalds' meal which kept the pupils happy and then everyone returned to the 7:30pm ferry for the trip back to Scotland.

The journey from Cairnryan to Falkirk was a quiet one as our driver dimmed the lights so the many tired children could sleep. We arrived back in Falkirk around midnight. It was an unforgettable trip for the children and adults alike and we have already booked again for May 2016.

Sport Scotland Gold Award

Comely Park Primary School has been recognised with a prestigious national award for innovation and



achievement in delivering physical education and extra-curricular sport. Comely Park is the only primary school in Falkirk District to attain the award!

The School Sport Award is a national initiative designed to encourage schools to continuously improve the quality and quantity of physical education and school sport opportunities. They also encourage the sporting links between schools and the communities around them. There are currently 82 Gold Schools, 181 Silver and 65 Bronze across Scotland.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of **sportscotland** said:

"I would like to congratulate all of the staff and pupils at Comely Park Primary School for putting quality physical education and school sport at the heart of the school. They should be proud of this fantastic achievement."

"We are building a world-class sporting system for everyone, and a crucial part of that is putting young people at the centre of our efforts. Working with our partners in local authorities and governing bodies of sport, we are creating closer links between physical education, school sport and club sport, which benefits young people by providing more and better opportunities to take part in sport."

Ms. McLintock, Head Teacher, of Comely Park Primary commented:

"We are absolutely delighted and proud to be awarded The Sports Scotland Gold School Sport Award. Our staff work incredibly hard providing quality, sporting experiences and opportunities for all our pupils. We all believe that physical activity is important and strive to help our children become happy, healthy and fit successful learners."

To achieve a bronze or silver **sportscotland** School Sport Award, schools self assess their current practice. However, to gain gold status an extensive external assessment is also carried out by an independent panel of experts.

The Young People's Sports Panel were central in the development of the School Sport Award which means that young people were able to input at the earliest opportunity.

Throughout the assessment process schools are encouraged to reflect on current practice and focus on continual improvement. Support and guidance is available to schools to help improve the quality and quantity of physical education, physical activity, and sport opportunities available to children and young people.

Comely Park Primary School News Cont'd

Art Club Enterprise

Two of our artistically minded parents have been



operating a regular lunchtime art club. Our P3 and P6 pupils have been lucky enough to attend and the

standard of work produced has been wonderful.

The children's work was on display at some of summer term events and parents/carers purchased the 'masterpieces' for a small donation. The club is operating again this session and some of the pupils are working with clay.

Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS)

Our P6 and P7 pupils are taking part in The Junior Award Scheme for Schools. JASS was developed by as a pilot exercise in 2010 by FOTA (Friends of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Edinburgh and the Lothians) and City of Edinburgh Council. JASS is being used by schools in England and throughout Scotland in both public and private sectors.

JASS helps children develop new skills and interests and expand their knowledge in a fun and rewarding way. It assists with pupil profiling and is a great way of evidencing the variety of work done within a school. JASS has 4 sections; Get Active, Stay Active, Me and My World, My Interests and Adventure. Our P6 pupils are working towards attaining their bronze level award and P7 are striving to attain the silver level. At each stage the participant receives an award certificate recognising their achievement.

Staff and pupils are working closely with Mr Drew Barton of Falkirk High to make the most of this exciting new experience. The P6 pupils recently completed the



'Adventure' section by taking part in den-building, a stream walk and mountain biking at Muiravonside.

Setting the Table

Our nursery pupils recently harvested some of the vegetables they had been growing since last session. A great deal of valuable learning evolved from this project which culminated in the children preparing, cooking and enjoying some homemade soup.



Nursery Transition DVD

Mrs Wilson, Acting Senior Early Years Officer, has been busy using 'Movie Maker' to compile a DVD for our new intake of nursery pupils. The DVD lets our new pupils and families know all about our nursery, who works there and what kinds of things the children will do and learn. She is also in the process of translating the text into other languages such as Polish, Mandarin and Tamil. It will be a useful tool in the transition process for all new pupils.

Fundraising



Our kind hearted pupils, families and staff donated 154kg of food to Falkirk Foodbank at our Harvest Service which took place at Trinity Church. Falkirk Foodbank is one of the busiest in Scotland. The foodbank is run and supported by a number of local churches representing a range of denominations.

BBC

Children in Need

13 November 2015

Each year Comely Park look beyond the school walls and reach out to help others less fortunate. We are so proud of our pupils, teachers, families and friends for the heart-warming donations to such

Comely Park Primary School News Cont'd

a worthwhile charity. The children took part in competitions, raffles, design an outfit challenge and a fashion show as well as selling wristbands and cute Pudsey headbands. The total raised in aid of Children in Need was £775!

'Friends of Comely Park' Afternoon Tea



One of our parents suggested that we hold regular afternoon tea parties for parents/carers as a way of getting to know one another and our school better. This social gathering has a different function to the Parent Council and PTA.

A warm welcome is extended to all, the idea is to relax and chat to other parents and carers. As time progresses guests will be invited who can chat about the role they play in our school community.

Glee Club

The Comely Park Glee Club is really starting to take shape. Pupils from P5 and P6 take part each week and they all enjoy the sessions which are led by Mrs Nicola Ewing. The children are responding really well to singing in the style of musical theatre, using songs from musicals, films, seasonal events all around the world. The group also hope to add some dance moves and gymnastics to some of the routines! We look forward to the group's first Glee Club performance soon.



Pictober Litter Pick

Both P4 classes recently took part in 'Pictober', a Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team initiative. The children carried out a litter pick in and around Callendar Park on a stretch of The John Muir Way.

John Muir Award - Langlees Nursery

Families attending Langlees PS Nursery are working with Nursery Staff and Community Learning & Development to complete the John Muir Discovery Award.

Over 10 weeks families take part in activities which meet the award challenges of Discovering, Exploring, Conserving a wild place then sharing their experiences with each other as a family and as group. Families have already taken part in worm charming, made a Halloween tree as well as purpose built bug hotel with help from the Countryside Rangers. However nothing beats the simple pleasures and magic of mud, leaves and a pokey stick!



The Discovery Award for Families is a relatively new award from the John Muir Trust and in the main, is completed by individual families rather than through an organisation and as a result it has been highlighted by the Trust as a good practice model of outdoor family learning.

As well as being a fun way for parents to spend time with their children, importantly it recognises the role of parents in supporting their child's learning and their efforts to experience outdoor spaces as a family. No mean feat considering Scottish weather.

Langlees Primary School News

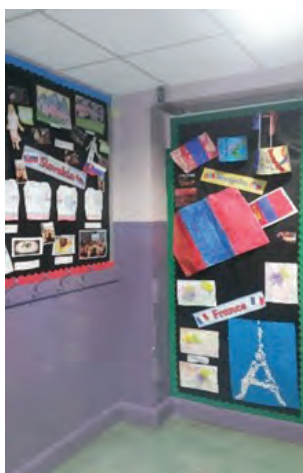


Cultural Awareness Week

Pupils at Langlees Primary thoroughly enjoyed their Cultural Awareness week at the end of September. All classes investigated a chosen country and were fascinated by the languages, places and customs they explored. These countries were selected to reflect the diverse culture within Langlees Primary and its local community. These included:

- ★ France
- ★ Italy
- ★ Greece
- ★ Norway
- ★ Romania
- ★ Poland
- ★ Slovakia
- ★ China
- ★ Mongolia
- ★ Australia
- ★ Japan

Pupils engaged in a variety of learning experiences



from building traditional homes and tasting new foods to dressing in native clothing.

The week came to a close with Parents and Carers attending a showcase of pupil learning, with ambassadors from each class discussing their development and experiences. This event was well received, with those attending commenting on the vast knowledge and

enthusiasm of pupils. Most importantly, our Cultural Awareness Week has been a success in developing our ethos of respect for all.

Special Smiles Project at Langlees Primary

Pupils in Langlees Primary's Lower Enhanced Provision class have had great fun finding out about what happens when they visit the dentist and learning how to take care of their teeth properly.

Before starting the project, teachers worked closely with Dental Project Officer Mary-Flora Ferris from Action for Sick Children (Scotland)

www.ascscotland.org.uk who provided the school with its own wonderful **free** play box which holds a wealth of resources including dressing up clothes,

an inflatable dentist chair and dental equipment as well as books, dvds and display resources. **Fantastic** for the classroom role-play area!

Free play box

The Play box resources fit into three themes:

- making healthy food choices
- caring and taking responsibility for your teeth
- preparing for the dentist

Inter-disciplinary learning

Our inter-disciplinary topic planning matched perfectly with Curriculum for Excellence outcomes for Health and Wellbeing, Literacy, Numeracy, Expressive Arts, Sciences and Social Studies.

Pupils learned about money by finding out how much the tooth fairy had left under each pillow and practised addition and subtraction facts using their 'toothy smile' templates to find out how many teeth each mouth had lost. They used their knowledge of time to make appointments for patients.

In Science they experimented using eggs to demonstrate what happens to our teeth when we drink different things like orange juice, cola, water or milk.

Art and craft activities included making cardboard models of 'baby teeth' and using the Playdough Dr Drill and Fill activity to model teeth and help with naming and positioning in the mouth.

There were opportunities to use Drama to explore dental procedures and dental health routines and the children enjoyed learning and performing several songs from the Special Smiles pack.

Some Literacy activities involved children in completing patient details sheets, tooth brushing sequencing activities, handwriting, making healthy and unhealthy food posters and colouring and labelling tooth diagrams.



Limerigg and Slamannan Learning Community News



Our new learning community logo is based on a design by The Waddell family, who have children attending both Limerigg and Slamannan Primary School. The hands were an idea by Ethan and Niamh McGregor.

We are in our third year as a Learning community with a Head teacher shared across the 3 establishments. Our partnerships and relationships are strong and mutually beneficial to all schools.

Children from Slamannan Primary benefited from the location of Limerigg Primary when they went for

an activity day organised by Active Schools and our community. Former pupils provided a range of sports taster sessions, a parent delivered a session in taekwondo and the children experienced canoeing on the Black Loch.



The P7 children from both schools spent a week together in Dalguise and continue to strengthen their relationships through joint P.E. and transition circle time every Monday afternoon.

Younger children from Limerigg will benefit from the FoCAL programme being delivered in Slamannan.

Heathrigg nursery pupils have been enjoying ball handling skills in Slamannan Primary School delivered by our very own Mr Paterson, a parent and qualified football coach. Mr Paterson has also taken his expertise to Limerigg Primary School.

Langlees Primary School News Cont'd

Parent workshop

Parents were invited to a special workshop session with Mary-Flora and her colleague Amy Joss and afterwards joined the children in class. The children were very proud to show their parents all the hard work they



had been doing!

Fame at last!

Parents, children and staff were happy to be interviewed by reporter Emma Seith for an article entitled 'The scheme that hopes to extract a fear of the dentist' which appeared in the Times Educational Supplement on 16th October.

One of our mums featured in a PowerPoint Amy delivered in London to a range of professionals with an interest in play and Mary-Flora included photos of the class in the Action for Sick Children photo-book of 2015-16.

She also made a video of some of the photos she took of the ideas created and used to support the children in their dental health topic. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Action-for-Sick-Children-Scotland/335036309873235?ref=hl>

Limerigg and Slamannan Learning Community News Cont'd



Scottish History Focus

Scottish history, in particular, the Battle of Falkirk, is being brought to life in both of our schools through our multi stage learning context about Scottish Clans. The previous house system in both schools has been replaced by 6 multi stage and multi school Clans.

Clanranald and local historian Ian Scott are both supporting the delivery of our project, which involves all children from both schools being part of a Clan group including MacKenzie, MacGregor,

MacDonald, MacLeod, Fraser and MacKintosh.

The children worked together in their Clans for 2 days to complete their first Clan Challenge. As part of their experience, each clan had a session with Clanranald to learn about what life would have been like for clan members living around the time of The Battle of Falkirk.

The children also enjoyed a range of stimulating artistic activities over the course of the 2 days creating a dance routine and Clan Badge.

Mini Bus



Our learning community is delighted to announce that our local community centre has donated their mini bus to us for use by our 2 Primary Schools and nursery school. Thanks to Falkirk Council, this will

be on the road and ready to go very soon. We hope that this will see increased partnership learning across our 3 establishments and further the opportunities for our pupils to participate in experiences in the wider community.

Football

Heathrigg nursery took part in football sessions organised by our wonderful parent and football

coach Mr Paterson. Mr Paterson delivers football skills across our learning community. The children learned different skills through warm ups, fun games and relays. This also helped to develop their gross motor skills such as jumping and



balance.

The children and nursery staff thoroughly enjoyed the sessions.

Limerigg and Slamannan Learning Community News Cont'd

Healthy Eating At Limerigg

Healthy Eating at Limerigg (HEAL) group was established this academic year and has been a huge success. The children have been working in partnership with Your Local Farm, who supplies the



fresh fruit, then the children wash, prepare and retail the fruit to the rest of the school. This allows the children to experience running a business and they are responsible for keeping their own spreadsheets up-to-date during ICT time. During Maths the children count their money and Literacy time has been used to prepare price lists, make leaflets and research the health benefits of fruit. Having a context that engages the children in their learning and providing an aspect of ownership, allows the children to be motivated within learning. The HEAL group retails fruit at very affordable prices every Thursday morning.

"Having an interdisciplinary approach to learning allows the teaching of content and skills to be very fluid within targeted aspects of the curriculum. The children are already planning recipes to create smoothies and parents / carers are asking for the HEAL Group to be accessible directly to them also".
Mr. Findlay, Acting Principal teacher.

Heathrigg Nursery Autumn Walk

The children at Heathrigg Nursery have been learning about autumn. They have been exploring the garden and looking at the changing leaves and discussing the changes in the season. To further extend the learning the children also went on an Autumn Sensory Walk accompanied by their parents and the staff. Children and parents were given a Sensory Walk sheet to record what they could see, hear and smell.

Parents and children looked for the items on their sheet and then completed this at home before returning to nursery the following day. Some of the comments from the children included:-

'I saw lots of trees, there were lots of leaves on the ground, they were red, yellow, orange and brown'.

'I heard loads of cars and the trees blowing in the wind. The birds were singing too.'

'I smelt the leaves and the cut grass'.

We had a fantastic turnout and everyone enjoyed the walk.



16 Days of Action in Forth Valley - Opening Seminar - Staying Safe in a Wired World

25th November 2015, 9:30am – 12:45pm, Forth Valley College, Grangemouth Road, Falkirk FK2 9AD

The 16 Days of Action is an international campaign aimed at raising awareness of violence against women issues and is supported annually in the Forth Valley area.

Our FREE opening event this year will explore the intersection of technology and violence against women and girls. We will hear how technology can be used in positive ways to access help, to strategically maintain safety and privacy, to remain connected to family and friends, whilst also being used to prove guilt and hold offenders accountable. In addition to these positive aspects we will also explore how technology, in its various forms, can also be misused by abusers and perpetrators in crimes of domestic abuse, grooming, sexual exploitation, stalking, and revenge porn.

Places are limited at this event and will be allocated on a 'first-come' basis. To secure your place please email gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk with your name and job title.

Calendar of Events December 2015

Secondary Head Teachers Business Meeting - Sealock House	01 Dec
Anti - Slavery Day	02 Dec
Early Years and Primary Business Meeting - Sealock House	02 Dec
CSBF - Sealock House	03 Dec
International Day of Persons with Disabilities (www.un.org/disabilities)	03 Dec
Hanukkah (Jewish)	06 Dec
Winter Term Ends	22 Dec
Christmas day	25 Dec
Boxing day	26 Dec

Forensic Primary Cluster Challenge in Falkirk Cluster

SSERC Mentors from the Falkirk cluster worked closely with Colette Smith, Principal Teacher of Science at Falkirk High to arrange a Forensic Challenge as part of their transition program.

Following a CPD session, organised and delivered by the SSERC Mentors, P7 classes in seven of the cluster schools studied forensics and completed four learning experiences from the Further Fun with Forensics pack. P7 teachers provided opportunities for the pupils to carry out experimental work, and develop observational and investigative skills set in a crime scene.

The scene was set and suspicions had intensified . . .

On the 22nd of September 2015 the forensic scientists descended on Falkirk High School to summarise their

findings and finalise their investigations.

Small groups were formed to encourage communication with pupils from other schools. Following an ice breaker challenge, the groups carried out a further two forensic techniques. The information gathered was used to identify the perpetrator of the crime and . . . the guilty party was arrested!

Whilst summing up the skills developed links were made to second level science and the World of Work. One teacher commented that, *"They (the pupils) were able to easily make the link between real life situations and what they were learning in class."*

Evaluations from this event show that it was successful. Particularly in relation to transition and building relationships. When asked, "Did you enjoy working at Falkirk High with pupils from other schools?" **88.68%** of the pupils who completed the evaluation stated that they **enjoyed working with pupils from other schools**. The children identified ways in which this event would support them emotionally and socially in their transition to secondary school.

"I really enjoyed working with people from other schools which will be great when I go up to the high school next year I think this should be continued next year for the next P7s."

"I liked working with my group because we got to know each other's names and we might be in the same class."

"I became more confident around other people."

Teachers' comments on the learning and teaching at Falkirk High supported this with 3 out of the 5 responses making comments related to the interactions their pupils had with children from other schools.

"Children all engaged well. It was also good to see children working together with children from other schools."

This transition project provided several other benefits including the development of skills and opportunities for focussed investigation and cross curricular links through an engaging topic which allowed the children to develop a greater knowledge of forensics. It is hoped that the event can become part of the annual calendar of transition events for Falkirk High feeder primary schools.

