

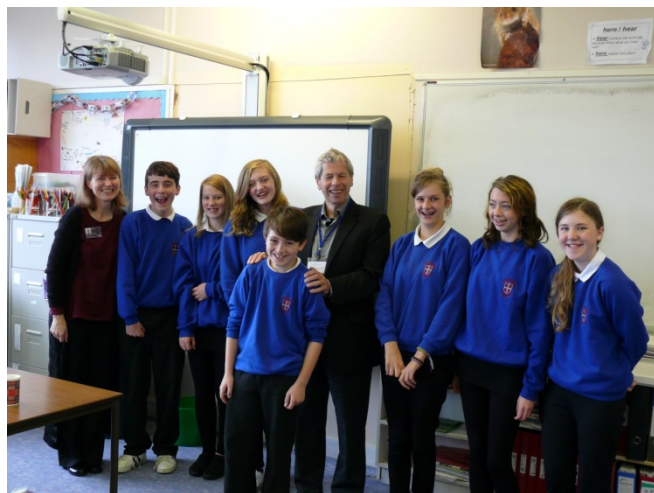
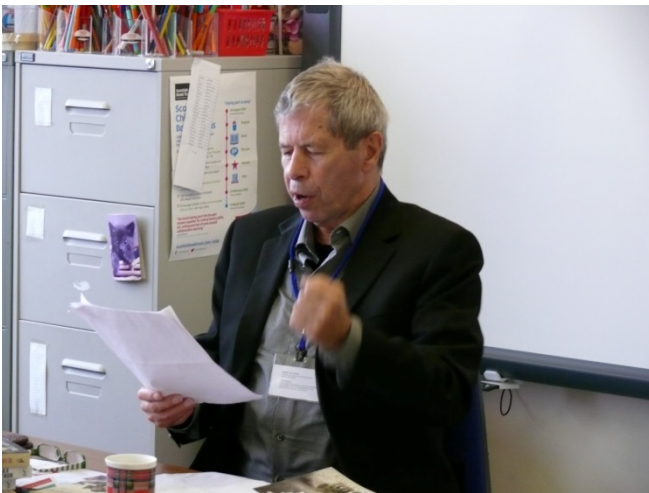
# LITERACY NEWS

## Glenkens Cluster

### December 2014

#### DALRY SECONDARY

Max Arthur OBE visited Dalry Secondary School in October as part of the Wigtown Book Festival schools' outreach programme. Max is an oral historian who specialises in bringing together first-hand recollections of important historical events through personal and archived interviews. His many books include the Sunday Times bestseller "Forgotten Voices of the Great War".



**"The highlight of my trip to Wigtown was to come to your school and meet you and your very bright pupils.**

**Great atmosphere - and bleak as the day was it was warm and sunny inside and all children should be taught in such a happy environment."**

Max talked to S3 and S4 pupils about the many veterans he has interviewed from both world wars and other conflicts, read them extracts from his books and answered their questions about his own life and career. Despite the fact that many of Max's stories were sad and poignant, there were also many funny tales and anecdotes.

Max ended his visit by encouraging the pupils to interview their own parents and grandparents so they could find out their family's history and pass that on to their own children when they become parents themselves. In that way the words "We will remember them" will remain true.

The pupils really appreciated Max's visit especially in this, the centenary of World War One. Edie Hockey S3 observed, "The fact that all of the stories in his books are real is amazing," and Craig Fisher S3 commented, "Max Arthur made me think because he's reminding us about the war and what the soldiers went through."

#### GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION OF GLASGOW

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November S2 girls Erin McGaw, Hannah Grieve and Kelsie Marshall gave a presentation thanking the Galloway Association of Glasgow for their generous contribution to their recent school trip to the Battlefields of Belgium and France.

S2 pupils Kelsie Marshall, Erin McGaw and Hannah Grieve travelled to Glasgow where they were welcomed at the Association's Winter Meeting in Netherlea Parish Church. The President of the Association helped them to set up their power point presentation and introduced them to an audience of about thirty members. The girls overcame their nerves and together gave a colourful, entertaining and detailed account of their trip in June earlier this year. They told of the visits to Passchendaele, Ypres and Vimy Ridge which really brought home the sacrifices made during World War One. On visiting Tyne Cot Cemetary, some pupils found the names of relatives who had lost their lives on the battlefields. Hannah, Erin and Kelsie were congratulated by the President of the Association, who told them it was more impressive than some professional ones he had seen. The girls then answered a wide range of

questions before being treated to some refreshments.



Erin, Hannah and Kelsie nervous before the event

## BIOLOGY

This term S2 have been learning about presenting information on posters.

They have been concentrating on which bits of information are essential to make it informative, and how presentation can make it attractive but readable. They have been checking spelling, and adding relevant diagrams.

They have produced two posters so far - the first was a trial so each pupil could improve for the next and the second was displayed with each pupil commenting on all the posters with constructive comments. Next term we will take this a step further by producing a poster which will be assessed by an external Biologist on a piece of research relating to birds. This will tie in with Dalry Bird Town project.

S4 pupils are now putting past practice into assessment. Having completed a few word documents on a Biological issue they have researched, they are now producing one that counts towards their National exam. The resources they use have to be justified, so each pupil must judge the relevance and reliability of their chosen websites, books or articles, which hopefully encourages them to read a few before choosing!

S3 enjoy watching Daily News Blast from Clipbank. There is usually a science article amongst the three or four bits of news and this

stimulates a discussion about current topics. It is also a fantastic example of how to summarise a couple of stories into one minute's worth of information – this should help the S3 as they move into practising the 100 word documents in advance of their National assessment.

## MODERN LANGUAGES

S1 studied a French poem called “L’Araignée” (The Spider), while S2 enjoyed analysing the poem “Déjeuner du Matin” by Jacques Prévert. They looked at the importance of word choice, punctuation (or lack of it), line length, rhythm and rhyme. This led to some imaginative interpretations of the poem.

In Spanish, S1 pupils have each given a class presentation on a Spanish-speaking country. They were encouraged to use as much Spanish as possible and teach new words to the class.

## GEOGRAPHY

The S4 Geography class have been studying the Human Environments part of the National course. To allow them to prepare and complete the assessment they watched a documentary based on the slums in Dharavi, Mumbai. While watching the documentary they had to make notes on the lives of the people living in the slums, their homes and job opportunities as well as redevelopment plans for the area. They were able to take these notes into the assessment and expand on them to allow them to complete the assessment task.

## HISTORY

S2 have been learning about The Scottish Wars of Independence. They brought the topic to life when they made up their own play script on The Murder of John Comyn, and acted it out. They also acted out a play about the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Pupils wrote a newspaper article on the battle and created a storyboard on The Battle of Falkirk. They did extended writing on The Death of Alexander, and took detailed notes on The Bruce.

S2 have studied The Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King’s speech, “I have a dream”. They went on to write their own inspirational

speech, and will present it to the class. They will be evaluated by their peers on Tone, Clarity, Pace, Eye Contact, and other criteria that make for a good speech. The class also created and presented power points on Rosa Parks and The Bus Boycotts.

### **DALRY PRIMARY**

On Friday 3rd of October the children's author Ian Whybrow took time out of his busy schedule at Wigtown Book Festival to visit Dalry School. Over the last twenty five years he has published an impressive one hundred and twenty children's books. Ian read extracts from some of his books from the hilarious poems of 'Little Wolf', 'Meerkat Madness' to his most famous books 'Harry and his Bucket of Dinosaurs'.

All pupils were captivated by his description of his trip to a garden centre, (made under duress when he really wanted to stay home and watch football), where he met a young boy with a bucket of dinosaurs, which he was hiding under plants around the garden centre. Ian Whybrow was a great story-teller - the children were hanging on his every word. He said that in one of his books, Harry and the Robots, he was going to make the Nan die, but his editors told him that he shouldn't kill her off, that they liked Nan and wanted her to be in other later stories, so in the end when it was published she got better.

At the end Ian Whybrow answered questions from the pupils about his life and where he got his ideas from. He signed copies of his books and pupils diaries. Ariene commented that "I found him extremely inspiring, and I enjoyed his visit a lot." Liam and Daniel said, "Having Ian Whybrow at our school absolutely amazed us. He was really funny and exciting. Our class got excited because he wrote 'Harry and the bucket full of dinosaurs!'"

Since his visit Ian has written to the school to say that, "It was a treat to visit your lovely school the other day and thanks to you, the staff and the children for making me so welcome."

Serafina Green recently won the Primary Award in the 2014 Reading Zone Picture Book Competition. Serafina's picture book, Xandra

Wants a Dog, was considered to be outstanding by the judges. It was selected as the winner of the primary category by author and illustrator Guy Parker-Rees. He said, "Wonderful illustrations and bold splashy washes made this book a real winner. I loved the imaginative use of photography and the thoughtful observations and details. Very well done Serafina." Serafina's picture book was printed and the school received fifty copies to distribute to the younger pupils.

All pupils have been busy rehearsing their lines and learning songs for their Christmas Show, 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw.' P3/4/5 also produced posters to advertise the show to the local community.

### **SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS**

Once again, the P1 and S1 children have been working together to read and listen to the three books that have been shortlisted by the Scottish Book Trust for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. The P1s had a lovely time looking at and listening to the different stories. They then voted to decide which book they thought was the best. The P1s all agreed that the S1 pupils were all great storytellers.

During Scottish Book Week all P1 pupils were gifted their Book Bug Bag, which contained the three books.



Robot Rumpus was the overwhelming favourite.

**Scottish Children's Book Awards –  
Reading buddies sharing their favourite books  
and casting their votes at the end.**

**DALRY AND KELLS PRIMARIES**

Pupils from P6 and 7 visited the Catstrand in New Galloway to watch a French film called 'La Reine Soleil' (The Sun Queen). This was an animated adventure set in Ancient Egypt and was part of the 'Into Film Festival.'

This was an exciting and unique Film Festival for young people, that took place around the UK in November. The Festival aimed to bring learning to life for 5-19 year-olds by inspiring young people to watch, make and understand film in new and creative ways, as well as helping to build a lifelong passion for film.

**KELLS PRIMARY**

The Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning was used to develop the P5/6/7 pupils' functional writing skills. Posters advertising the event at The Cross Keys Hotel and thank you letters to parents and local businesses were written by the pupils.

The P5-7 pupils have been busy rehearsing their lines and learning songs of their Christmas Show, 'Children of the World.'

P1-4 were recently involved in food tasting which led to the pupils having to use 'wow' words to describe the different foods. The 'wow' words were then used by the pupils to write a descriptive poem.

Thank you for all your contributions.

Please contact Mary Acheson [gw08achesonmary@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw08achesonmary@glow.sch.uk) if you would like to share any Literacy News for next time!

