



SPRING
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NTS NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OUR TRICENTENARY YEAR: 300 YEARS OF HISTORY!

Mr Beechey



(The Founders top left: Joseph Nelson, John Thomlinson, Robert Thomlinson & Henry H. Dudding)

In **1714** an agreement was made for the establishment of the Free Grammar School for Wigton and in **1730**, thanks to the generosity of John and Robert Thomlinson, the Foundation Stone of the new school building was unveiled on Market Hill. Coincidentally, this building is currently occupied by one of our own NTS Year 11 students! **1899** saw the formal openings of the new Thomlinson Girls' Grammar School in the former Westmorland House (now the current Thomlinson Junior School) and the Boys' Grammar School, The Nelson School, on our current Flossfield site.

Further educational developments followed, some of which you may well have memories. This included the two schools amalgamating in **1952** to form the Nelson Thomlinson School and in **1969** the Wigton Secondary School was incorporated to create a split-site comprehensive school. In **1995** they merged to form today's single-site school with a total of 1400 students, a far cry from the 20 that started at Market Hill!

The Year 7 students of today mark an important milestone in the history of the town and the region, with students now opting to travel to The Nelson Thomlinson School from all parts of north Cumbria outside of the usual catchment area.

Charity Efforts



Preston Newton 8SC is currently undertaking the 100 Bag Challenge for one of our designated school charities, the Great North Air Ambulance. Preston is aiming to collect 100 bags from the school for this worthy charity. He has made presentations in assemblies and is busy collecting items from form groups to fill the bags. So, if you feel like having a clearout please send bags of unwanted clothes to the Learning Support Office for the attention of Mrs Newton.

£334 was collected at the Christmas Carol services to be contributed to our 3 school charities: The Great North Air Ambulance, Make a Wish and Cancer UK.

Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Young Enterprise – DigiPi Miss Walker

This year the team of 10 pupils are trying to develop a set of resources to teach Computing in primary schools. As a result of Michael Gove changing the curriculum from ICT to Computing, lessons are planned to start in September.

The team is creating a series of 6 lessons with supporting power points and worksheets to enable anyone to be able to deliver the scheme by following the detailed instructions and materials provided. They are making use of the Raspberry Pi computer which was designed specifically to introduce computing into schools as it is a mini computer at the affordable cost of £25.

Lessons will start from the point of no knowledge, introducing the concept of programming through giving sets of instructions – e.g. “guide someone around a map” and flow charts to “make a cup of tea.” This will build up to an understanding of algorithms and finally the ability to make basic programs using Python software.

The aim is to offer schools the option to purchase the scheme of work (plus resources) or they could also purchase a Raspberry Pi as part of the package. The intention was to offer schools the option of having the students deliver lesson 1 of the scheme as a demo of the materials (but time issues will probably make that impossible).

They also made their own Christmas decorations and plan to sell roses in what has now become an oligopolistic market!!

PTA-FONTS

Debbie Williams (FONTS Secretary)

Congratulations to the winners in the first 100 Club January Draw:

1st Place – Mrs A. Johnson £20

2nd Place – Molly Gilroy £15

3rd Place – Dr Lovegrove £10

We currently have 71 members of our 100 Club fundraiser. If you wish to join and support FONTS the cost is £11 for the remaining draws. Money for this can be handed in at the School Office.

The 'Friends of NTS' AGM will be held in the School Library on Wednesday 12th March from 7pm. All 'Friends of NTS' are very welcome to attend.

Library News

Mrs Crone Spellbinding 2014



(Some of the Year 8 Spellbinders)

19 members of the NTS Reading Club have started to read their way through the 10 books shortlisted for 'Spellbinding', the Cumbria Schools' Book Award Scheme 2014. They have until the end of May to read and review as many of the books as they can before they vote for their favourite 3 titles. The overall winner will be chosen from the top 3 at the final decision day meeting in June.



The shortlisted titles this year are:

A Horse called Hero by Sam Angus
Bodyguard by Chris Bradford
Sorrowline by Niel Bushnell
Black Spring by Alison Croggan
Smuggler's Kiss by Marie-Louise Jensen
Tall Tales from Pitch End by Nigel McDowell
Ferryman by Claire McFall
The Hanged Man Rises by Sarah Naughton
Ketchup Clouds by Annabel Pitcher
All Our Yesterdays by Cristin Terrill

Rotary Chef Competition 2014

Miss Bryan



On Wednesday 14th January the following five pupils took part in the first round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition: Ellie Parker, Molly Bowe, Sarah Horsley, Emily Studholme & Curt Martin.

Each pupil had to research, plan, prepare and serve a healthy two-course meal for two people within a budget of £10 using local produce. They had to demonstrate a variety of practical skills and work under pressure to prepare their meals within one hour and thirty minutes. The standard of the competition this year was very high and the judges commented that the pupils were all talented young people which made it difficult for them to choose a winner. Their menus were challenging and their table displays were elegant and they reflected the amount of time that each pupil had invested in the competition.

The final result was:

First place: **Ellie Parker** whose menu consisted of – Roasted quail served with crispy noodles, roasted vegetables and a quail reduction followed by Mango and pomegranate tart with a tropical cream.

Second place: **Sarah Horsley**

Third place: **Molly Bowe**



Ellie then went through to represent the School in the Cumbria final which was hosted here at The Nelson Thomlinson School on Thursday 6th February.



Prior to going to the Cumbria finals, Ellie spent two afternoons with Adrian Hyde, the head chef and owner of Overwater Hall Hotel, working on her menu. Adrian elevated Ellie's menu to three restaurant quality dishes.

There were seven competitors this year and the standard of the food was again very high and showcased the vast talent that these young competitors possess.



I am pleased to announce that Ellie won the Cumbria finals with her three fantastic dishes which were highly praised by the judges. Ellie should be extremely proud of her achievements. She will now go through to represent the School in the Regional finals which are being held in Lancaster on 22nd March 2104.

We wish Ellie all the best in the forthcoming round!

As always this competition cannot run smoothly without the help and support of others. So I would like to thank Mrs Johnston, Mrs Cass and Mrs Litt for all their hard work and support in making this competition a success.

I would personally like to thank Adrian Hyde for giving his time and expertise during coaching sessions with the pupils. His experience in this field as been invaluable to the pupils.

I would also like to thank Len Baseley & Mr & Mrs Cooper for giving up their time to judge the competition and for supporting the pupils by giving them the benefit of their years of experience in this field. Their advice was greatly appreciated!

The Beekeepers Newcastle Triumph Mr Chapman



In January, the Nelson Thomlinson School Sixth Form team entered the North East regional final of the *4x4 In Schools Competition* which was held at the Hancock Museum in Newcastle. *The Beekeepers*, as the team is called, took on the challenge of designing and making a remote controlled 4-wheel-drive model vehicle that adhered to strict rules and was able to take on a tough off-road course built by Land Rover engineers. Joe Stockdale (our REACT foundation student), Alex Raynerd and Stuart Ross all had to take a turn at driving the vehicle over part of the course and then undertake a towing task to test their ability to manoeuvre the vehicle in tight conditions. They then had to talk to a panel of professional Land Rover engineers who grilled them on how they had gone about the process of developing a new vehicle. They emerged the overall winners as well as coming first for the best engineered vehicle and the best track performance!

The team is following on from the success of *Black Widow* and *Landtrekker*, our two previous national finalists in this competition. *The Beekeepers* now go on to compete at Land Rover's National Research and Design Centre in Warwickshire against the other regional winners. They have set a fine example of determined and talented teamwork which is already inspiring others to get involved in Engineering in the School. Our thanks go to Innovia Films for its continued invaluable support for Engineering at NTS and in particular for sponsoring *The Beekeepers*.

Tullie House Visit Mrs Summerfield



On Tuesday 14th January, a group of A-Level Textiles students spent an interesting and very productive day studying fashion and accessories from the 1950s and 60s. Luckily for us, the recent 'Hartnell to Amies' Exhibition at Tullie House covered a period of design relevant to the AS and A2 Textiles specification and visiting the museum really helped this come to life for everyone.



During the first of two sessions, we enjoyed looking at and discussing the characteristics of the classic designs and wondered at the beautifully embellished gowns.

After lunch we had privileged access to various garments and accessories from the archived collections, which had been brought out especially for us by the curator. The students were able to study at closer quarters looking at the fabrics and construction of the various products, taking note of particular features and techniques which have already helped to inform and inspire the participants.



Thanks must go to the Secondary and Post 16 Learning Officer, Mark Gibbs, and the Curator at Tullie House for making our day so successful and interesting, and also to the students who were a credit to NTS!

Sports News

Mrs Lee

Cross-Country

The following pupils travelled to Cockermouth School for the County Cross-Country Championships on Saturday 18th January. Despite the cold wet morning, all runners competed with determination and contributed to the Allerdale team's success. Molly Wren, Matthew Whitehead, Sarah Brookes, Scott Wilson and Abbie Hetherington were selected to run for Cumbria on Saturday 2nd February at Durham in the Inter-Counties Match. They finished as follows: Scott Wilson 4th, Sarah Brookes 19th, Matthew Whitehead 32nd and Molly Wren 41st. Abbie Hetherington did not compete.

Squash

Members of the squash team travelled to Lancaster University last Tuesday where they won convincingly. They will now play Altringham Grammar School in the next round in February.

The team consisted of: John & George Kemp, James Wilkinson, Joe Tweddle, Chloe Lowes and Adam Gill.

Netball

The U16 Netballers travelled to Ellesmere Port on Saturday 2nd February to compete in the North West Regional round of the English Schools' Netball Tournament, having qualified in November as runners-up at the Cumbria County Tournament. We left school at 6.30am and made good time, arriving at the venue at 9.30am for registration. The first game was fast and furious and we were slow to get going. Injury followed, with our goalkeeper (Leah Doherty) having to leave the court. Unfortunately, a shuffle around of players to accommodate positions could not secure victory and we lost. In the following games we played much better with fantastic goalkeeping from Sophie Studholme and good teamwork with co-defender, Molly Gilroy, which prevented many goals being scored against us. However, a second injury was sustained (Amy Dixon) and our shooters were under pressure. The final result meant we did not qualify for the semi-finals but we did not disgrace ourselves and we improved throughout the tournament. The pace was fast and the games physical, something which we are not used to in Cumbria. Nevertheless, we had an enjoyable day and learnt a great deal about match play at this level. Well done, ladies!

Team members were: Molly Gilroy, Sophie Studholme, Molly Tweddle, Amy Dixon, Aimee Watson, Jasmine Crozier, Ellen Elliott, Leah Doherty and Sophie Scott.



