



Intrepid Iona Tells of Amazon Expedition

This summer, the High School's own Iona Innes spent several weeks trekking in the Amazon as part of a scientific survey. The Co-Curricular News asked her to tell us a little about her experiences...

Iona Innes (F6)

Our British Schools Exploring Society group arrived in Iquitos in the early hours of the 24th of June. After collecting all our luggage and kit we got a bus to the hotel which was a nice B&B called Pascana.

The following day we went down to the harbour ready to get the boats upstream to the Samiria River. The two boats that we would be on were called the "Lobo de Rio"- which means

"river wolf" and is what the Giant River

Otter is called- and the "Clavero" – which is the oldest boat on the Amazon. It took three days of travelling up first the Amazon River, then the Marañon River and finally up the



Samiria River to reach my boat's stopping point at Hunguari (the Clavero stopped a few kilometres further downstream at Huista). During the journey we were given briefings in communications, the science work and jungle living. On our

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School Armistice Parade– Photos



An Amazing Summer Experience

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first day at Hunguari the Anaconda Fire set off on their

surveys you would travel downstream for about 5km taking note of the species, number, distance and activity of



five day trek on their canoes and the Jaguars started the science work. We were split into two groups and my group did terrestrial transects for the first three days and then turtle surveys of the second two days. Terrestrial transects involve walking through the jungle for 5km, preferably in as straight a line as possible and making a note of all the animals spotted, including number of animals in the group, the activity they were doing such as feeding or resting and the perpendicular distance from the transect of the first animal seen. As we were the first group to do the transect we had to do a fair bit of chopping with the machete so we didn't see many animals the first day with all the noise we were making. However the next two days we saw many, including Squirrel Monkeys, Red Howler Monkeys, Monk Saki Monkey, Red and Black Squirrels and even a Brazilian Tapir. For the turtle

the turtles.

The first day of our trek, we travelled 11km up the Hunguari to a camp that the Anacondas had made. We saw lots of birds including Hoatzin which are supposed to be closely related to *Archaeopteryx*, the prehistoric bird/dinosaur fossil. The chicks of the Hoatzin are born with claws on their wings. During our lunch break we also managed to nearly sit on a Common Lancehead Viper! On the fifth day we canoed back to the Lobo. We arrived back before lunch. That night we had a salsa party with the Peruvian biologists and crew on the boat. The next day we had to change boats. In honour of this occasion we decided to dress up like pirates to "take over the Clavero!" At the end of our trip, it was another three days journey back to Iquitos, where we had three more days before we had to leave and say goodbye to all the friends we had made.

High School Skiers Hit the Slopes

Barbara Braid, Emily Hood and Erin Smith (all F1)

On Sunday 26th October, a team from the High School of Dundee travelled to Hillend Midlothian Ski Centre to take part in a Skiing competition. There were four different groups, Senior Girls, Junior Girls, Senior Boys and Junior Boys.

The Senior Girls team included Charlie Guest, Katie Guest, Rosie Gray and Kirsty Kilpatrick. The Junior Girls included Kirsty Guest, Kirsty Gray and Sarah Emslie-Smith. The Senior Boys were Robert Houstoun, Matthew Emslie-Smith and Ross MacDonald, and the Junior Boys were Duncan Leese, Fraser Buchan, Callum Rennet and Chris Guest. This was a new experience for first-year student Sarah, who was convinced by Mr Rennet to enter, who was head of the team.

All members were encouraged to wear warm clothes, a helmet and a waterproof jacket, as it was extremely cold. Skis were provided at the Centre. Many of them felt nervous at the start of the competition, which started with 3 very trying gates but the difficulty eased after that. It was very enjoyable.

Sarah summed it up by saying "I enjoyed it and would do it again!" This was a great success for the school. If you are interested in skiing the best advice is to try your best and not be nervous and if you fall over get back up again!

Iceland Trip Follow-Up Evening

Rachael Spink (F5)

Piling into Trinity, the keen geographers of the summer 2008 trip to Iceland met again for the last time as a group. Mrs. Vannet shared our breathtaking adventures and experiences with our families and friends and reminded us of the amazing and unforgettable trip. As we all listened intently, parents were green with envy as they saw photographs of the sites we had seen. Especially the

parents of those with disposable cameras, as the twenty seven photos in the camera were all taken in Glasgow Airport before departing. Watching the extraordinary PowerPoint Mrs. Vannet made for us of all the special photos from the trip brought many memories back, and left a tear in the eye.

We all agreed that the trip was out of this world, and nothing could have prepared us for the many sights we were lucky

enough to see, but nothing will beat the memories. Whether these are of waterfalls or waves, geysirs or Gullfoss, or even Andrew Guy's swimming shorts ripping in the pool, we all have special memories from the trip which we will never forget.

We all know it wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication from Mrs. Vannet, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Foulds and Dr Fotheringham. From all the group, thank-you.

“All Quiet On The Western Front” Highly Rated by F3

Patrick Cartidge (F3)

On the Thursday the 30th of October, 54 pupils from F3 along with Mr. Durrheim, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Phillips and Miss Dunn went to the King's Theatre in Edinburgh to see a performance of “All Quiet on the Western Front”. As later in the term F3 were going to be studying War Poetry, it was thought it would be appropriate to see a play set in World War One. The play also gives a different perspective on World War One as the fighting is seen from the Germans' point of view.

“All Quiet on the Western Front” is based on the book by the German writer and veteran of the trenches, Erich Maria Remarque. The play starred James Alexandrou (who played Martin Fowler, in Eastenders.) Since the play was based on a novel it was not known how the director would interpret it.

However, after seeing the play I can safely say that it was a brilliant adaptation. The acting was very good and all of the characters were very well portrayed. The only props in the play were boxes which were moved around to create all the scenes in the play. The sound effects, such as shells falling, were produced by the wail of a harmonica and the loud slam of a metal door. While the cast did a brilliant job because there were only nine actors in the production, and many roles were played by the same person, this occasionally caused some confusion as sometimes the only thing that made one character different to another was a hat or an arm band with a medic symbol on it.

Overall though, the play was enjoyed by both pupils and teachers and everyone had a great night out.

E-pals Project Meets with Success

Fergus Carmichael (L7)

Pupils in L6 and L7 are taking part in the E-pals project. E-pals is an over-the-internet pen pal emailing system that allows you to email your E-pal who could be, for example, in Texas in America, Edmonton in Canada, Tasmania or Perth in Australia and other English speaking countries. When a school joins E-pals Mrs Davie can email them and if they decide they are a good match they can agree to pair up children in their classes. People can email their E-pal from home or at the ICT lesson with Mrs Davie.

It's great, as children so far apart don't usually get to talk to each other. Many classrooms have joined and E-pals is gaining in popularity all round the world. Rhona from L6 says it's fun and exciting sharing hobbies and it's safe. Annie thinks it is “fun, good and exciting”. The best thing about E-pals is that you get to email someone your own age in a different country and see what life is like in their country because most people have not experienced this.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FAST APPROACHING!

The High School's Annual
Christmas Concert will take place
on Wednesday 10th December at
7.00pm in the Caird Hall.

Tickets will be on sale soon!

Interview— Iain Kennedy, Editor of the Co-Curricular News

Patrick Cartidge (F3)

Do you enjoy being the editor?

Yes, I do. It's hard work but very rewarding, especially when I see people reading the latest issue.

What is the best thing about being the editor?

It is very rewarding seeing the finished product. It is also good fun and a really enjoyable experience, and I enjoy putting the paper together and working out how it will all fit.

What is the worst thing about being the editor?

It can be quite stressful when people don't work towards their deadlines, but I am lucky to have so many people willing to write.

Are you always completely happy with an issue?

One or two small things slip past, but there has never been an issue I've felt dissatisfied with.

Do you intend to pursue journalism as a career when you are older?

The post of Editor will be up for grabs again this summer, so watch the Daily Bulletin and the CCN for details if you are interested in applying!

I'm not really intending to pursue it as a career— it's more of a hobby really.

Do you enjoy writing?

Yes, I wrote a lot of articles for the Co-Curricular News when it first started. It is very enjoyable.

How did you become the editor?

At the end of my 5th year, the previous editor was in 6th year, so people had to apply and be interviewed for the job of the editor. I was offered the job.

Did you always want to become the editor?

I never really considered it until the opportunity arose. When it did I applied for it and I am very glad I did.

Is there anything you would like to say to encourage people to start writing for Co-Curricular news?

If you do the job properly then it is hard work but it is also enjoyable, worthwhile and it will look good on your CV or university application. If you don't enjoy it, though, then there is no reason to do it.

L4 Crannog Trip Highly Praised

Harriet Wood and Anushka Pathak (both L7)

On Monday 22nd September L4 went to the Crannog on Loch Tay.

Even after a rather miserable start to the day because of the weather- Kyrmina Nassif said "The worst thing was waiting in the bus for an hour because of the bad weather"- Everyone had a great time! Ana Cowan in L4 said, "It was so exciting I want to go back! The most interesting things to me were the hands on things I had never heard of before. It was fascinating to see what it was like then. I would recommend it!"

Ione Moorjani said "The best thing was making the flour using a grinding stone . The only thing I did not like were the wasps that were flying everywhere! It was amazing I would love to go again." Campbell Cunningham and Alexander Berg said "We found a lot about the Celts, we got to make fire and use tools that the Celts used. The inside of the Crannog was really cool, we both give it a 10 out of 10 and would love to go again."

Rachael Flak said it was "Really fun and I really want to go again." Kieran Forster, Corrie Richardson, Lewis Hall and Katie Young all agreed their 'Worst' were the long waits in queues, the museum and the extra time spent on the bus. Their 'Best' involved all the hands on activities outside the Crannog itself.

L4's point of view was unanimous. They all told us the same thing . . . It was definitely 10 out of 10 and a once in a lifetime experience!