


**...if I wrote down
all the things
I enjoyed
I would run
out of paper...**

engage Scotland Visual Arts Education Awards 2004
in association with the Scottish Arts Council



***‘Wallowing, playing, concentrating,
looking, considering, directing, struggling,
changing, problem solving, choosing,
describing, imagining, collaborating,
sharing, constructing, creating, painting,
drawing, measuring, feeling, writing,
pushing through, communicating’***

children's processes while making artwork
director

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engage Scotland and
the Scottish Arts Council

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the artists, photographers, organisations and
authors, 2004

ISBN

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Designed by Elizabeth McLean
Cover image *Big Art Wee Hands*,
North Edinburgh Arts Centre

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...if I wrote down all the things I enjoyed I would run out of paper...

From a letter to the Travelling Gallery penned by a child in Shetland

The visual arts have an extraordinary power to change lives – and the **engage** Scotland Visual Arts Education Awards presented in this report recognise and celebrate the work by galleries, by educators, by artists to unlock and share this power.

The visual arts – when shared with initiative and sensitivity – can and do reach out to engage pupils who are struggling out of sight at school, and to excite busy teachers to share their vision, with colleagues and school children. The visual arts change how groups in the community see themselves, and shed light on their own engagement and creativity.

These Awards go to a selection of impressive visual arts projects in Scotland which have directly benefited many thousands of children and their families, and many more other members of the community and professional colleagues.

These projects stand for a rich and growing variety of exciting work across Scotland to open up visual arts and galleries to the widest possible audience – reaching literally hundreds of thousands of the public every year, through gallery education and outreach programmes, created with artists, with galleries, with arts centres.

One of the Scottish Arts Council's strategic initiatives to encourage the development of education in visual arts, the Awards are now in their third year and were first presented by the Arts Minister at **engage**'s conference '16:25>Art', in Glasgow's Tramway. **engage** is delighted to have been asked by the Scottish Arts Council to co-ordinate these Awards in 2004, and – as a parallel project – to explore how to develop them in future.

During 2004 **engage** Scotland will be researching and consulting with the culture and education sectors, and with potential partners, and is keen to hear views and suggestions.

engage's own commitment is to both excellence and access in this relatively new field of 'gallery education' – the work of gallery staff, freelancers, artists, teachers to help children and adults enjoy the visual arts, whether in or out the gallery setting itself. For us these Awards help focus attention on the best in gallery education, encouraging us to ask questions about what is 'good practice', and what we should reflect on and learn from in sharing the power of the visual arts. The project statements that follow set out what each applicant thought was most important, in their own words.

This reflection and learning about good practice seems particularly relevant at present, when government is making a bold commitment to a more significant role for the arts; through the First Minister's St. Andrew's Day speech, and the recent Cultural Policy Statement with its language of cultural entitlement and rights. This is a welcome challenge to which we will respond by setting out what we can do to help strengthen cultural engagement.

engage would like to thank the Scottish Arts Council for their important support both for these Awards and for our Scottish programme – **engage** Scotland. We also thank those who have helped organise and judge the Awards, in particular the members of the independent Awards Panel who have given up time in support. But most importantly thanks are due to all those who responded to this opportunity, and shared their exciting and valuable experiences with us.

Victoria Hollows

engage Board member and

engage Scotland Development Group

Christopher Naylor

Director, **engage**



Work in Progress
The Changing Room

engage Scotland Visual Arts Education Awards 2004 in association with the Scottish Arts Council

What was eligible for an Award?

Projects, exhibitions, programmes and events that represented engaged practice in visual arts education, with priority given to challenging approaches which brought together artists and participants in collaborative processes.

What were the Awards Criteria?

- o A distinctive and memorable example of good practice
- o Unique – in project idea, approach or the experience for participants and/or artists
- o A well-planned, but flexible approach
- o Inclusive in its approach to collaboration between organisation/s, artist/s and groups and from an early stage
- o Inclusive of audiences
- o Based on integrated practice within the organisation involved
- o Of high quality in experience, outcome, its documentation and dissemination
- o Evidence of organisational learning
- o Effective evaluation

Who was on the Awards Panel?

Ian Barr (Cultural Co-ordinators Programme Co-ordinator)

Mungo Campbell (Director, Hunterian Art Gallery)

Rachel Mimiec (Artist)

Angela Rogers (**engage** Cymru Co-ordinator)

Chrissie Ruckley (Arts Development Officer, Youthlink Scotland)

The 2004 **engage** Scotland Visual Arts Education Awards, presented at Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute, have been managed by Sue Pirnie. Details of each project follow at the end.

For further details on the Awards process and the work of **engage** Scotland and its members contact Co-ordinator, Rebecca Marr at scotland@engage.org. Information on **engage** Scotland and the Scottish Arts Council can be found at the back of this publication.

The projects – in their own words...

Work in Progress

The Changing Room, Stirling

The project created an innovative exhibition structure in which to engage contemporary artists and audience in a shared process of dialogue, creativity and exploration. Each week for four weeks, three artists (all with links to the local area) used the gallery as a creative laboratory to produce and exhibit work. The gallery was open to the public each day acting like an open studio, but with the added context and support of the gallery. Local individuals and groups were invited to collaborate with artists in their work.

project curator

‘Talking to people about your work makes you think about why you are doing it in the first place’ artist





Drawing On-Line

Moray Council

In association with ScotRail, passengers were invited to try their hand at drawing, on the Inverness–Aberdeen line. On the section of the line within Moray (Forres–Elgin–Keith), local professional artists Shaun MacDonald and Theresa Gault were on-board working, demystifying drawing and encouraging the public to ‘have a go’. ScotRail also provided extra space so that a local Primary and Secondary school had this unique opportunity of their art-class being literally on-line. Artists were on-hand teaching, as they took their students’ drawing lessons further than most. Sponsorship from Staedtler allowed quality drawing materials to be available to all throughout journeys made.

As ScotRail’s motto states... ‘Time Well Spent’
project manager



‘it never occurred to me how much I would gain from the experience ... I came away from the project enriched with new ideas and greater confidence’ artist



Trevor Martin

Big Fence – Big Sign

Munlochy Primary School, Highlands

The project was to design a 55m long school sign on a new wooden fence at Munlochy Primary School. The design was produced by P6/7 using a challenging mix of techniques, including linocut, digital photography, painting and screen printing. Working with local artist John McNaught, most of the production was carried out in the school, with the screen printing involving trips to the art.tn studio in Inverness. The finished fence faces out onto a busy road and is seen by locals and visitors alike – it has become a major talking point in Munlochy.

arts development officer





All images: John McNaught



'it has increased the profile of the children in our village, they now have a voice and are taken seriously'

headteacher

Big Art Wee Hands

North Edinburgh Arts Centre

Big Art Wee Hands transformed the gallery in North Edinburgh Arts Centre into an early years art studio and exhibition space for four months. Initially, resident artists introduced examples of their work to participating nurseries in 'meet the artist' sessions. In the following weeks artists, parents, carers and teachers worked collaboratively to support and extend the children's self directed exploration of a wide range of media and materials – paint, clay, collage, construction, digital photography, drawing. A mums' art group also evolved out of the sessions. The resulting exhibition together with a documentary video revealed the fun, focus and intensity of the children's experience.

director

'The whole project was fab and we were only able to attend because it was in our local area.' parent



Broad

Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen

A multi-layered architectural and artistic educational project based around ideas featured in the *Common Place* exhibition, shown at Peacock visual arts throughout October and November 2003. The project involved a diverse range of groups including local skateboarders, architecture students, artists, architects and senior residents local to Peacock. The social, moral and architectural issues around what is done to our 'common places', by whom and how it is perceived, were interrogated in various artistic ways. Workshops culminated in one particular highlight of the project – the *Public Natter*, which opened the project out to the public, attracting an audience of over 200 and providing a platform for debate on these issues that affect everyone.

project curator

“totally the most stimulating “arts” event I have been to since coming to Aberdeen. It was brilliant to see so many people, across the generations, discussing the issues around our built environment”

public debate





All images: Peacock Visual Arts



Roots of Language and the Family Tree

Preston Street Primary School, Edinburgh

The proposal was designed to develop and illustrate the aims and objectives of the school's *Language Family Tree* project, which set out to investigate the diverse cultural backgrounds of their pupils and study the origins and influences of family and lineage in their families and extended families. Led by Gordon Davidson and Joanna Boyce, the visual development took the form of a stylised forest of 'Family Trees'. These run the length of the ground floor corridor – thus creating a collective avenue of artwork which collates reference material previously gathered, and catalogues the results in a celebration of cultural display.

artist



'at lunchtime you often trip over children huddled at the bottom of the trees reading other children's stories'

teacher



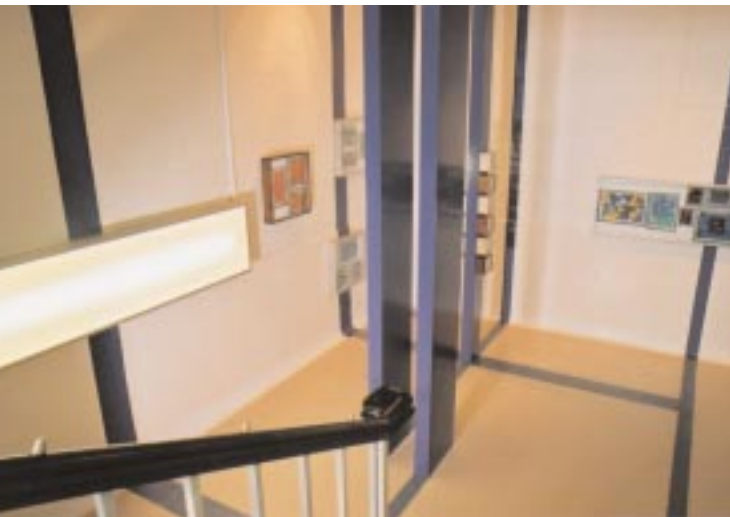
All images: Gordon Davidson

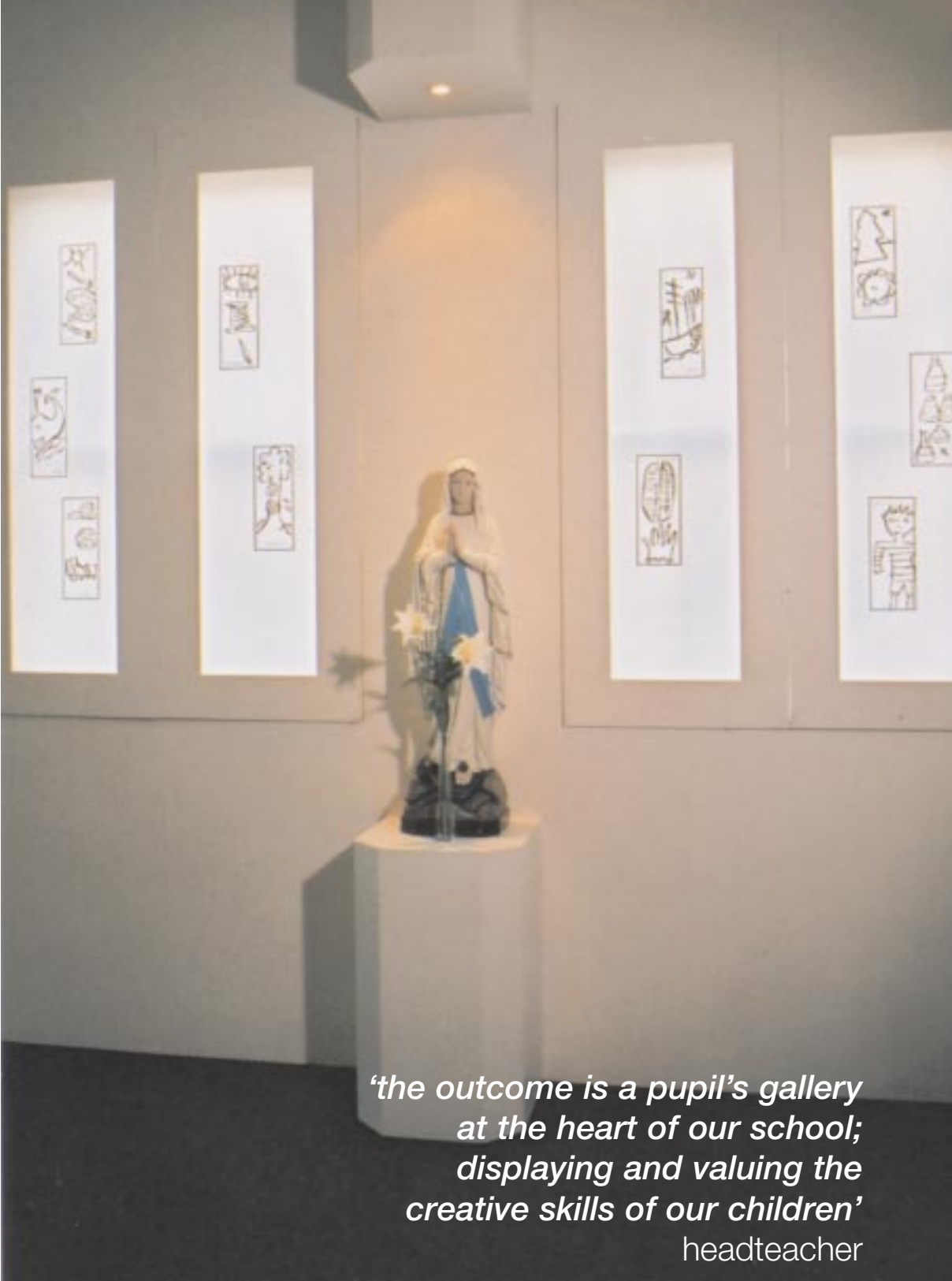
The Stairwell Gallery

St Mary's Primary School, Dundee

How would schools look if they were designed by children? Under the guidance of artist Chris Biddlecombe, twenty interior design students from Dundee University's Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design completed an unusual design project with fifty young pupils in St Mary's Primary School, Lochee, Dundee. In an extensive collaborative process the artist, students and pupils transformed an old stairwell in a 1930s Fiskin building into an ascendance of carefully selected colour and light shafting to create a functional gallery space that introduces a thoughtful contemporary aesthetic to the school experience.

project co-ordinator





*'the outcome is a pupil's gallery
at the heart of our school;
displaying and valuing the
creative skills of our children'*
headteacher

The Gizzen Briggs Animation Project

Tain Academy, Highlands

The project was a collaboration between: Community Learning and Leisure in Ross and Cromarty; first year students in the Art Department at Tain Academy, together with their teacher Mike Rush; and Tain-based animator David Smith, a member of Arts in Motion. The participants produced a Flash animation based on the local folk tale of the Gizzen Briggs (a sand bank in the Dornoch Firth). The purpose was for the students and teacher to learn about the Flash process, and for the students to produce the artwork which was used for the animation.

project manager





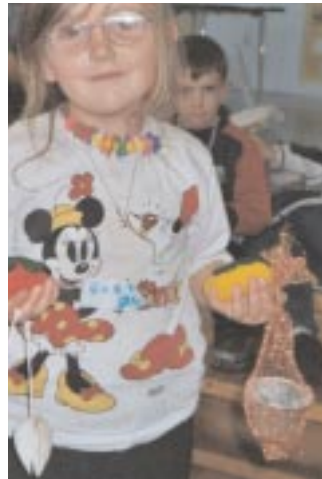
*'a powerful learning experience
for all of us involved'* teacher

Brooching the Subject

Travelling Gallery, Shetland – Dumfries

The Travelling Gallery exhibition by Jack Cunningham toured throughout Scotland from Shetland to Stranraer for 4 months last autumn receiving nearly 8,000 visitors. The exhibition content included 20 new narrative pieces of jewellery, a host of visual reference materials including a DVD of the artist talking about his work, a CD-ROM of inspirational images, plus unlimited access to the artists' own sketchbooks. The exhibition was complemented by an inclusive Education Programme of 18 full-day artist-led workshops, gallery talks to 6,000 school children, plus an Education Pack of worksheets, the CD-ROM/DVD and a Higher Still Teachers' pack.

education officer





All images: Travelling Gallery

‘most of them had never been to an art gallery before – they were fascinated’
Glentool Primary School

Information

Further information on Award winners...



**Work in Progress,
The Changing Room, Stirling**

Project curator: Kirsteen Macdonald, Stirling Council

Project co-ordinator: Caroline Wilson, student placement,
St Andrews University

Artist facilitators: Andrew Mackenzie and Sophie Scott

Exhibiting: Tracy Begg, Michael Roy, Vicky Hale, Susan Wade-French, Ann Shaw,
Isabel McGeachy, Liz Penman, Angela Beardsley, Frances Ryan, Amy Marletta,
Stephen Murray, Garry Wilson

Artist mentors: Elizabeth McLean, Sorcha Dallas, Peter Russell

Participants: P5, P7 and teachers Allan's Primary School, Croftamie Nursery
children, nursery staff and parents, and around 700 members of the public

Funders: Stirling Council and the Stirling Arts Forum

Contact: 01786 479361

Drawing On-Line

Moray Council, Forres to Keith

Project manager: Jacqueline Bennett, Moray Council

Artists: Shaun MacDonald and Theresa Gault

Participants: Teachers and pupils from Keith Primary and Speyside Secondary
Schools and the travelling public

Sponsors: ScotRail and Staedtler. Part of The Campaign for Drawing

Contact: 01343 557149

Big Fence – Big Sign

Munlochy Primary School, Highlands

Project manager: Wendy Sanders, Highland Council

Artist: John McNaught

Participants: Pupils in P6 and P7

Funders: the school and Highland Council

Contact: 01349 868487

Big Art Wee Hands

North Edinburgh Arts Centre

Project manager: Jacqueline Mackay, NEAC Director

Artists: Rosie Gibson (lead artist), Brian Hartley, Johnny Gailey

Participants: Children, parents, carers and teachers from: St David's Nursery,
Craigroyston Under Fives, Westercoates Nursery, Ferryhill Nursery

Funders: the Scottish Arts Council

Contact: 0131 315 6406

Broad

Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen

Project Curator: Fiona Doring

Artist: Eva Merz, Peter Richardson (architect)

Participants: ASS (Aberdeen Street Skaters); David McClean and Final Year Architectural Students, Robert Gordon University; senior residents – Constitution Court Sheltered Housing; and the public and councillors of Aberdeen
Core funders: the Scottish Arts Council and Aberdeen City Council
Project funders: the Lighthouse fund
Contact: 01224 639539

Roots of Language and the Family Tree
Preston Street Primary School, Edinburgh

Project leaders/Artists: Gordon Davidson and Joanna Boyce

Participants: Pupils, staff, and parent assistants

Contact: 0131 665 9897

The Stairwell Gallery
St Mary's Primary School – Dundee

Project leader/Artist: Chris Biddlecombe

Participants: 50 pupils, and 20 Interior design students, Dundee University

Funder: Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund

Contact: 0141 556 6149

The Gizzen Briggs Animation Project
Tain Academy, Highland Council

Project Leader: Bob Peggs (storyteller), Community Arts Worker, Highland Council

Artist: David Smith (animator)

Participants: First year students and their teacher

Funders: Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund, The Highland Council and Ross and Cromarty Enterprise

Contact: 01349 868 486

Brooching the Subject
Travelling Gallery, Shetland to Stranraer

Project leaders: Jo Arksey, Alison Chisholm

Artists: Jack Cunningham (exhibiting artist), Deborah Wood, Susan Barr, Andrea Roe, Carla Edwards, Grant McCaig (workshop leaders)

Participants: Over the four months of the tour workshop participants (222 in total) included 49 Primary and Secondary school pupils, an over 60s group from Corkerhill Neighbourhood Centre, 14 Arts Workers from Aberdeen including Cultural Co-ordinators and Arts Development Officers, a group of Asian Primary School children from Glasgow who received a talk by Jack Cunningham, and a group of 5th and 6th year students from Leith Academy who included work from the workshop in their portfolio application to art college.

Core funder: the Scottish Arts Council and the City of Edinburgh Council

Contact: 0131 529 3949



Also available:

Creative Collaborations 2003

A publication which shows more case studies and gives guidance on good practice. Published by the Scottish Arts Council in collaboration with **engage** Scotland. Available on the website or from the Helpdesk at the Scottish Arts Council.

engage promotes access to and enjoyment of the visual arts. **engage** is the lead professional body in the UK and internationally for gallery staff, artists, teachers, freelance educators and others involved in gallery education and access programmes. **engage** centrally publishes a journal and newsletter, and develops professional development programmes in the UK and Europe. The **engage** website www.engage.org.uk offers information for developing gallery education projects and links to Gallery Finder, a valuable resource of galleries across the UK.

engage Scotland programmes training and networking events for its Scottish members – including an annual residential seminar, provides information services and supports members' work. **engage** Scotland also undertakes research projects such as 'Addressing Disability in Galleries in Scotland', commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council. The **engage** Scotland Co-ordinator can offer advice on accessing the **engage** network. www.engagescotland.org.uk focuses specifically on **engage**'s work in Scotland.

engage Scotland

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The Scottish Arts Council works to develop the arts in Scotland.

Its aims are to:

- o celebrate artists and artistic excellence
- o improve the quality of life for all through the arts
- o provide leadership in the arts for Scotland

The Visual Arts and Crafts Departments provide direct support to artists and makers, and also supports arts organisations across Scotland to: present work, provide access to facilities, and run educational programmes for their audiences. The Visual Arts Department funds **engage** Scotland to provide professional support for those working in this field.

The Education Department supports a range of initiatives including specialist posts in local authorities. It has recently published an Education Strategy for the Scottish Arts Council. The Help Desk provides information on the work of the Scottish Arts Council, its funds, and publications.

Scottish Arts Council

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T: 0131 226 6051/ F: 0131 225 9833

Help Desk

0845 603 6000
E: help.desk@scottisharts.org.uk
www.scottisharts.org.uk

Burgaroe primary school.
yell
Shetland
24/09/03.

Dear Jo and Debbie.


Thankyou very much for
Coming to our school I
thoroughly enjoyed it.
It was excellent if I wrote all
the things that I enjoyed I
would run out of paper.
I would love it if you come
again.

Lots of Love fae me





ISBN



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