

## Carol Services Contributions – The Jo Walters Trust

As some of you are aware, the carol services in December 2021 raised £318.40 for The Jo Walters Trust. We asked Lucy Johnston, Jo Walters' sister, an OG herself and a trustee of the trust, to write a short piece for the newsletter on The Jo Walters Trust, what it does and where the funds they raise go to.



 

**Jo Walters Trust – Maths Grant**  
**Interim Report from Aberdeen Science Centre, Magic Maths Project**

With funding received from the Jo Walters Trust – Maths Grant, we have been able to create 5 Magic Maths Loan Boxes for children, young people, and adults to enjoy learning about maths at home.

Each Loan Box includes a variety of resources including a tape measure, playing cards, dice, a calculator as well as a full activity instruction booklet.



*Image 1: Contents of the Magic Maths Loan Box*

The loan box can be borrowed for up to three weeks and allows individuals to explore maths in their own time at home, expanding on what they have learnt during their visit to Aberdeen Science Centre. The loan boxes are available free of charge and can be used by individuals, community groups or schools.



*Image 2: Five Magic Maths Loan Box*

We also have an in-centre display, showing the items within the loan boxes as well as some of the activities. This is to help promote the loan boxes, and also directs visitors how to book a loan box.



*Image 3: A selection of images showing two children exploring the Magic Maths display and puzzles*



“The Jo Walters Trust was set up by the family and friends of Joanna Walters (Hopeman 2000) after she was killed in a cycling accident in 2010. The trust provides grants to fund outward bound, educational and environmental projects in Scotland, across the UK and abroad. Run

entirely by volunteers, we fundraise in Jo's memory and use the funds to support causes close to her heart. As a product of Gordonstoun, many of these projects focus on giving people the chance to learn from being in the outdoors, just as Jo did.

After Gordonstoun, Jo studied Spanish and Russian in Bristol, then lived in Kenya for a while before working for Google in Dublin. After a few successful years there she realised her real passion was for teaching so she signed up to do a Maths PGCE in Brighton and she had just completed this when she died. Since 2010, the trust has fundraised and donated over £120,000, supporting a huge variety of grants with the common theme that 'Jo would have approved of them'.

The donation from the Gordonstoun Association carol services helped The Jo Walters Trust fund a couple of grants, including equipment for a small primary school in Aberdeenshire to help them offer forest school to their pupils, and a project run by Aberdeen Science Centre which enabled children to bring home maths boxes to explore at home. A few other grants that we have made recently include: buying camping equipment for a scout group, a trailer for sea cadets in Peterhead, specialised pens to allow blind children to draw graphs, and equipment for many schools looking to incorporate outdoor maths into their lessons. We have also funded several trips for young carers from underprivileged areas of Scotland to take part in residential courses with the Outward Bound Trust.

The ingenuity of the people who apply for the grants inspires us with their ability to provide life changing experiences for people who really benefit from taking part in the projects. As several of the trustees, including me, are OGs, there is a distinct Hahn influence on everything the trust does, from the focus on outdoors and the environment, to all the administration being done entirely by volunteers. We're always so thrilled to hear from anyone who has ideas for projects we should support or who might like to help us with fundraising, we have had some brilliant St Andrew's balls over the years, and many people have done epic sponsored events for which we are so grateful. There are further details about getting in touch or donating below, or if you'd like to volunteer to help in any way please contact [lucy@jowalterstrust.org.uk](mailto:lucy@jowalterstrust.org.uk).

- You can read more about the trust and the grants we've made so far here: <https://jowalterstrust.org.uk/>
- And watch a video we had made last year which we feel really sums up what the Jo Walters Trust is about here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZf6w27hfXY>

Lucy Johnston"