



# Pocket Garden Stories 2017



Our Pocket Garden theme for 2017 was the Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology.

A Pocket Garden is a miniature garden that uses edible plants, plants that attract wildlife, and that reuses something which would otherwise have been thrown away.

Each year, we invite young people from schools across Scotland to send in their designs for a colourful and exciting environmentally friendly, pocket-sized garden. Pupils who send in the winning designs are then invited to build and grow their gardens to display.

[Winner: 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology Theme](#)  
Allanton Primary School

[Winner: 2017 One Planet Picnic Theme](#)  
Douglas Academy

[Winner: 2017 Best Garden for Wildlife](#)  
Dunoon Grammar School

# Allanton Primary School

Allanton pupils' design included a mining bogey planted with lavender running past a wind turbine shaped bird feeder - tying together their industrial heritage and future.

Pupils had had lots of fun planting seeds and watching them grow. They were a bit disappointed that none of their lavender seeds grew so decided to buy a couple of plants to put in the bogey. Cornflower, grass and mixed salad leaves grew very well along with about half of their herb seeds.



Growing plants from seed



The mining bogey



Mini plastic bottles' greenhouses

Pupils had help from Tom, a volunteer, to build the mining bogey. They used wheels from an old trolley and wood that was left over from making planters. The wind turbine is made up of left over pipe and fittings for drains.

They were not able to find seed for honeysuckle and red campion so bought plants and small plugs to plant out and grow on.

Pupils also received a donation of a young rowan tree from someone's garden. It needed a new home so was added to the garden. It grew from seed which was most likely deposited by birds as there are rowan trees nearby.





# My Garden Design

by Neive and p2/3





# Ardvreck Primary School

Guarded by a willow dinosaur, coastal cottages and gardens rise up through farms and forests to mountains in this garden design, showing the rich diversity of Scottish habitats and plants.



Handmade Saltires



Miniature craft houses



Handmade bees

Pupils from Ardvreck Primary School visited the local garden centre in March to source seeds for their Pocket Garden. The centre manager was interested to hear about their project and kindly donated several packets of seeds.

Pupils sowed the seeds and took them home to nurture over the Easter holidays. One of the grandfathers of a pupil helped to design our structure to support the tyres. It was then assembled at the school, ready for planting.

Pupils began planting into the mountain structure including Bere barley which dates back to 8th century Scotland and can only be sourced from Orkney.

They were thrilled when the college offered to provide some seeds. Pupils worked with local enterprise Remake who supplied scrap materials for planting and bumblebees.

One of the pupils' grannies found several pieces to add to the design on a seashore scavenge. She is a keen gardener and member of RHS, and has also sourced some of the coastal plants in this Pocket Garden.



Filling the tyres with soil



Painting is fun!



Carefully placing plants



This Pocket Garden features plants and herbs planted in a stack of reused tyres on a pallet base. A grandparent helped to construct the base and pupils filled the tyres with soil and plants they grew themselves.



Painted  
Tyres

Lairn

Willow  
Dinosaur  
Structure



Yountzunka - A

Forest - B

Farm lands - C

Garden - D

Coast - E

shells

recycled  
containers

West coast  
traditional  
old cottages

Scotland's  
largest  
dinosaur  
site  
discovered  
on the Isle  
of Skye



# Allanton Primary School

## Winner: Best Garden Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology Theme

This design blends archaeology and modern picnic, using old objects as planters for food plants. Some objects are converted into bug hotels.



Plants in reused jars and tins



Interesting found objects



Nursery logo painted on the  
back

Every garden tells a story about the people who helped make it, the challenges faced, solutions found, lessons learned and the unexpected pleasures along the way. Here is Arnhall Day Nursery's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:





Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology logo made out of lolly sticks

Whilst the children were digging during forest schools outside of the nursery they came across an interesting object. Their curiosity then led to them doing more digging over the next few weeks and finding more objects.

The children have enjoyed constructing our Pocket Garden using all of the objects that they dug up. We have added height to some parts of it using the slates. The children have looked around the nursery garden sourcing natural materials for the bug hotel.

A lot of parents were very kind and handed in packets of seeds from our list and even donated seeds that were not on our list that we could use in the nursery garden. A few of our parents planted seeds at home too and kept us updated on their progress before bringing them in.



Filling a box with soil



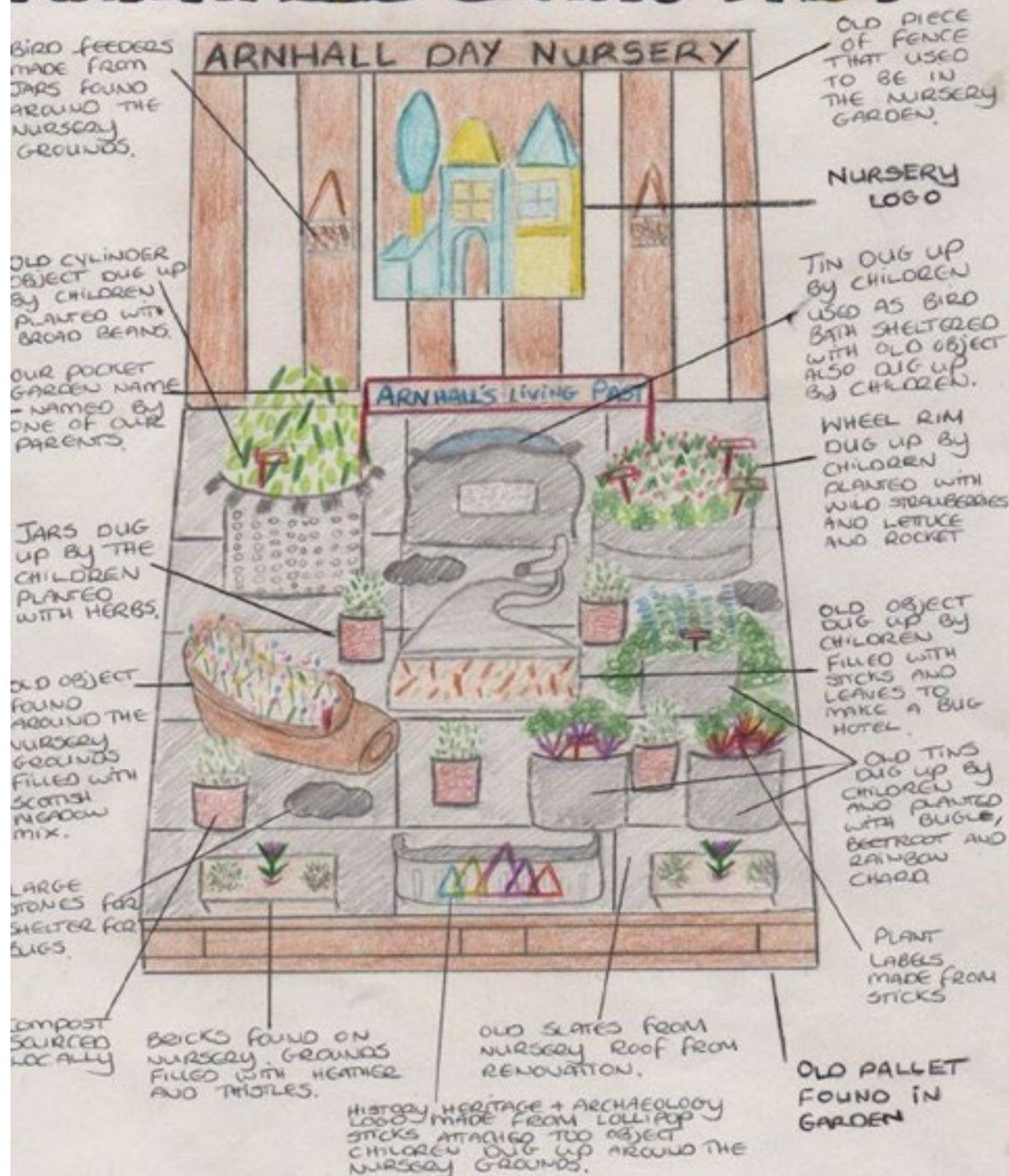
Planting in reused containers



Washing out a planter



# ARNHALLS LIVING PAST



THEME: YEAR OF HISTORY, HERITAGE + ARCHAEOLOGY



# Bervie Primary School

Bervie Primary School pupils have filled their miniature garden with plants that help us to feel and look our best.



# Bun-Sgoil Stafainn

In this design, an erupting volcano transports us back in time to dinosaurs and the story of the Skye landscape. Populated with food plants and plants for wildlife, this is a garden that rocks.



Here is Staffin Primary School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

We enjoyed watching our seeds grow strongly and visiting our local plant nursery to learn how to grow seeds successfully and to choose our volcano.

Using the resource atrium for growing the seeds also worked really well. It was great fun designing the frame and then helping to build it!

Our peas and beans grew really quickly and it was hard to untangle them for potting on! The cold weather was a definite challenge. Although the sun was shining the wind was blowing and our beans got wind burn! Learned our lesson, find a sheltered spot next time.





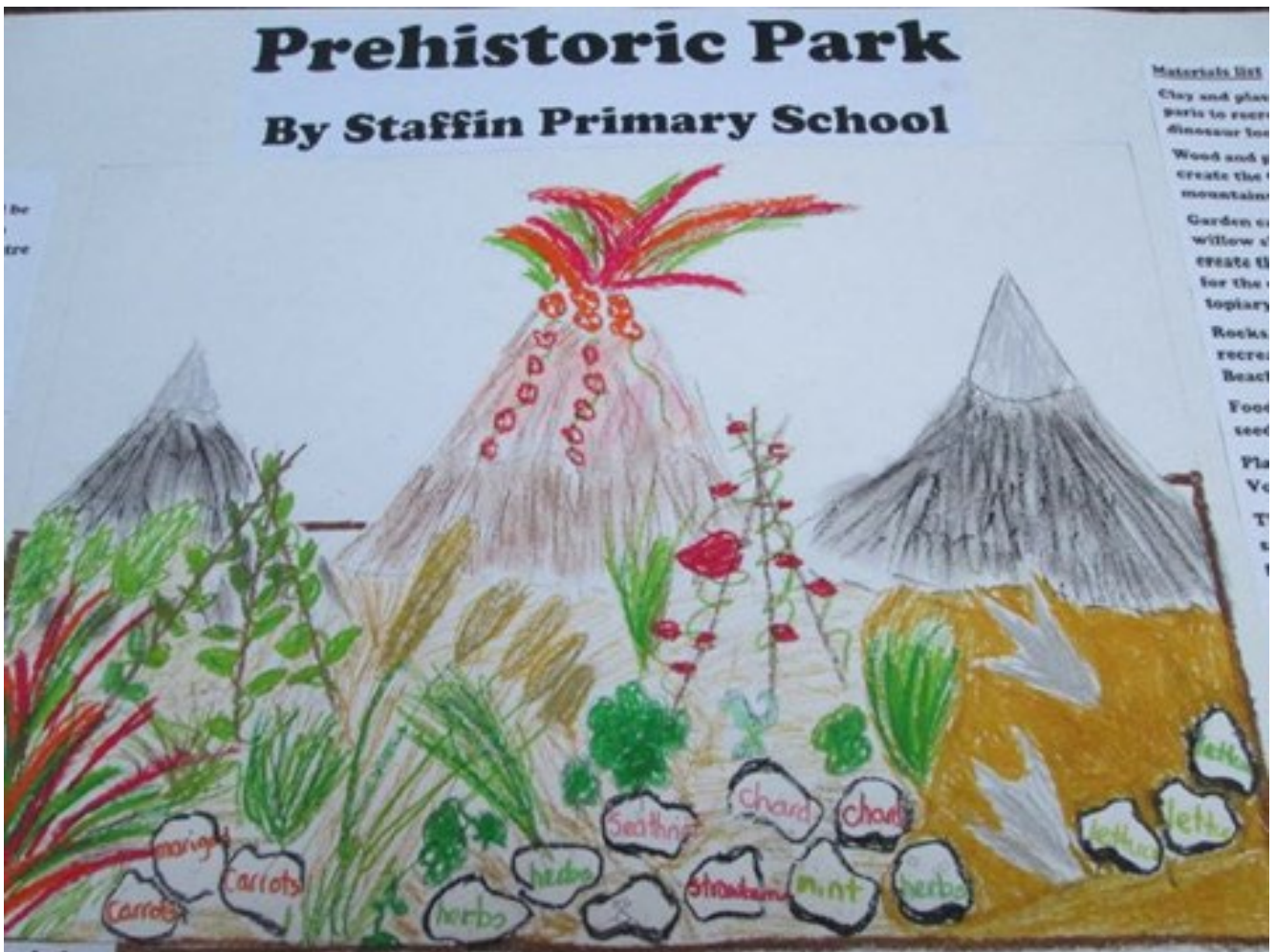
Taking care of plants



Building the base



Preparing planters





# Bun-Sgoil a'Phluic

Air a Mhachair - On the Machair. Peas scramble up a fishing net and our coastal riches appear throughout this design that uses companion planting to protect the food plants from pests.



Here is the Pocket Garden Story from Bun Sgoil a' Phluic:

The machair, which is unusual in this part of the North West, is a light sandy soil which stretches to the sea. Gardeners in Plockton have spent many years growing on machair and developing plants that are hardy and don't hate the salt air. We are also a bit warmer here than other places and we can grow palm trees.



Planting vegetables



At the shore



Teamwork





Growing veg



Miniature beach

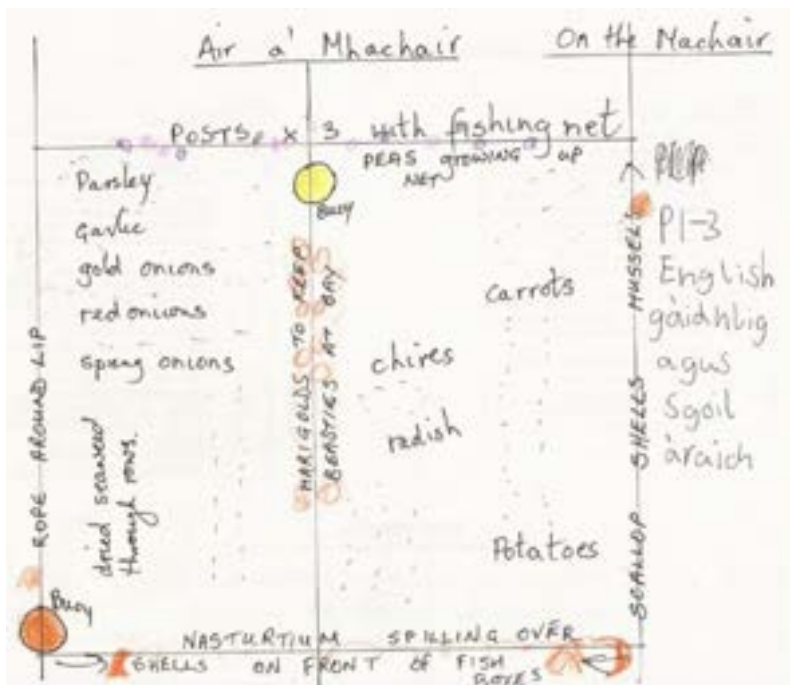


Photos at the shore



Decorated with shells

We started planting out our seeds for the garden in the greenhouse, particularly, carrots and nasturtiums. We got the peat free compost from the Walled Garden nursery at Duncraig. We started by planting our beans against the driftwood so that they would curl around. We used perlite to simulate the coral from the coral sands around our shores and to help drainage. We planted marigolds and onions to keep away the beasties.



The tiny potatoes are from last year. We plant out potatoes, leeks, kale, carrots, onions and tomatoes every year and the potatoes are always wonderful. We have put sand paths through the crops and left a picnic blanket and flask of tea for the crofter.

All done with help from Bob Kennedy our mentor and friend. P1-3 Gàidhlig & English and Sgoil Àraich (nursery) Bun Sgoil a' Phluic/Plockton Primary School.

# Burnside Primary School

“Look maw, its the rag n’ bone man” this Pocket Garden is a blast from the past and recalls the tradition of re-using in this colourful design of a rag n’ bone cart bursting with plants and personality.

Here is Burnside Primary’s Pocket Garden Story in their own words.

The first person I interviewed was Jim. He said the rag and bone man came to his street.

Jim gave me 2 books of old photographs of Glasgow.

My mum said that when she was little she remembered the rag n bone man visiting in the summer.

She remembers looking out the window and hearing him shout.

It was really exciting because he would bring the horse and cart down the street.

## Look Maw its the Rag n’ Bone Man

(my mum’s childhood memory of a Glasgow East End summer garden when the rag n’ bone man would visit.)



My mum said that all the gardens in the street had pretty flowers in the summer.

Her gran grew fuchsias which my mum thought were really exotic. She had peonies and roses, her neighbour’s garden was full of bright tom thumbs. Her mum grew gooseberries and rhubarb which they dipped in sugar. They always had pea-pods in the summer that they would eat from a big bowl and share.





A piece of Glasgow's history



Building the garden base



Getting help with cutting the  
pallet

My dad found a pallet and brought it home. He fixed the pallet in the garage and made the seat for the cart. I have had to rethink some of my plant choices as my drawing detailed flowers/foods that would not be in bloom in early June. It has been a challenge to find other suitable plants which still stick to my original ideas

# Carluke High School

Bricks and jam are part of Carluke's heritage and are used to great effect in this design that celebrates local history, local food and the importance of compost.

Here is Carluke High School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

Our Pocket Garden represents the history and heritage of Carluke. The wildflower edges represent that Carluke is a rural area. The wildflowers increase biodiversity. The bricks segregating the wildflowers represent the town forming, but bricks are also used as Carluke has traditionally been a town known for the manufacture of bricks.

Carluke also has a large jam factory so fruits in orchard represent fruits for jam and herb garden will be grown in reused jam jars.



Painting the pots



Growing tatties



Laying out the planters



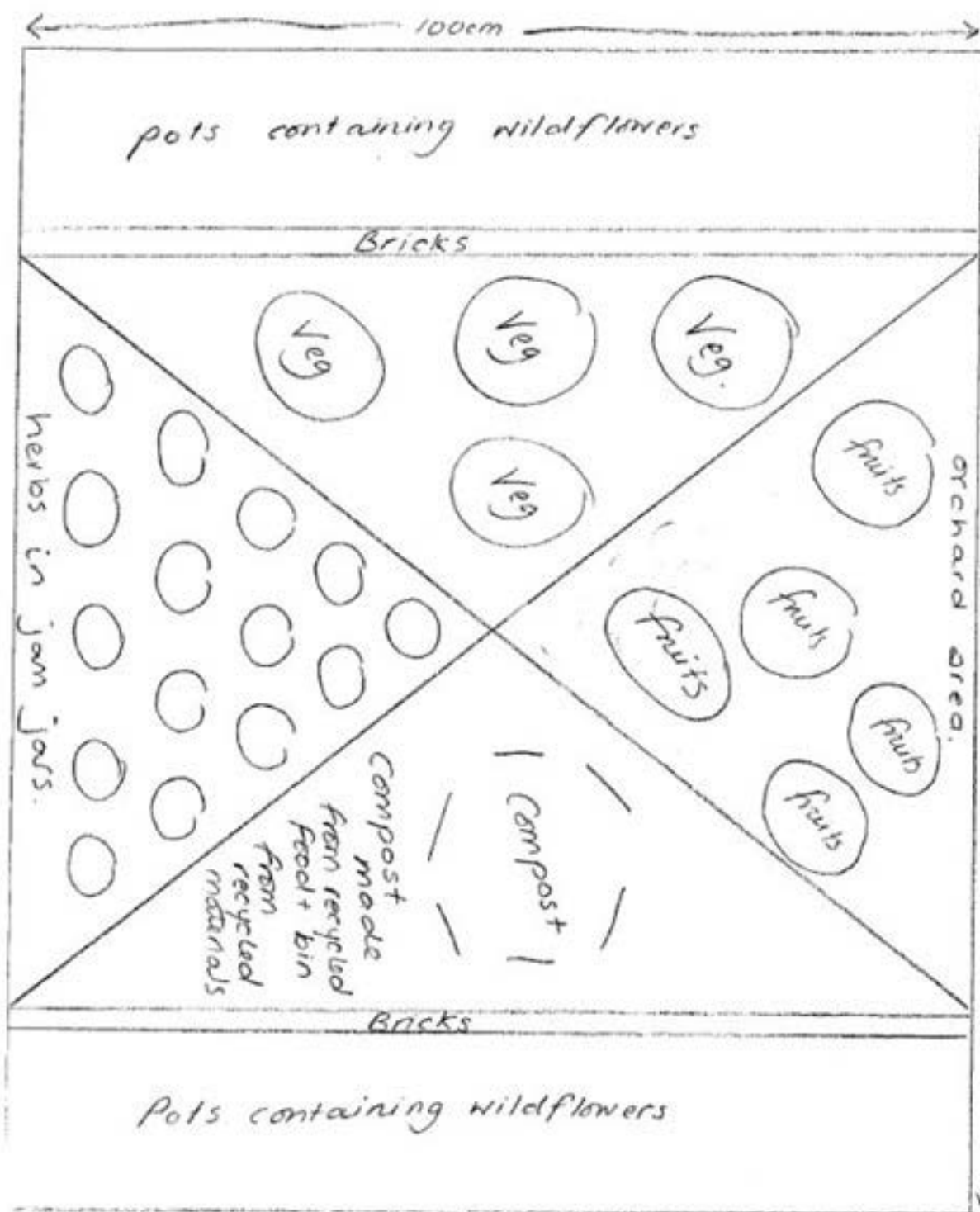
Growing letters!

Carluke is also traditional for farming and has a very famous butchers - Ramsays - which is award winning. The veg grown will be traditional for farmers to rear pigs and cows.

The compost for veg is pig food but also shows off the importance of recycling. The centre is a Scottish flag (Scottish heritage). The garden will be filled with signs and artefacts to explain this.







Woolly sheep



Reused jam jars



Finished planter

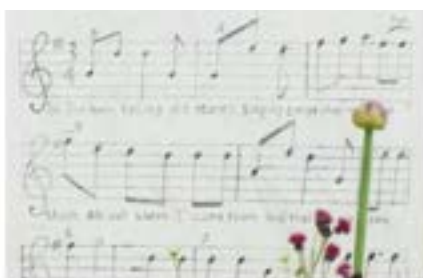


# Douglas Academy

**Winner: 2017 Best Garden One Planet Picnic Theme**



Instruments made into planters



Caledonia



Bagpipes and guitar

Here is Douglas Academy's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

The Dougie Diggers started sowing seeds in February in our classroom propagator. We then pricked out and potted on our seedlings to bigger containers. We used coir pellets to sow some of our vegetables.

The music department donated old instruments for us to turn into planters. The Craft and Design Department helped us cut up the guitar to turn it into a planter.

Our design was influenced by our musical heritage and inspired by Douglas Academy being a specialist music school. We had a lovely sunny day painting our pallet and backboard outside in the school grounds. We are working towards having our own school garden which we plan to break ground on in the Autumn.



Planning the garden



Plants growing well



Instruments reused

Mr Aldous helped us cut wood and put together the pallet and backboard. We grew cobaea scandens from seed in February for the music stands. Our guitar and bagpipe are filled with edibles and flowers we have grown from seed.

The accordion is filled with cerinthe and peas to attract wildlife and provide food.





# Dunoon Grammar School

## Winner: 2017 Best Garden for Wildlife

All aboard! 'Oh flowers of Scotland' by Dunoon Grammar School shows their interpretation of the Flying Scotsman locomotive in full bloom.

Here is Dunoon Grammar School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

The moment that we found out we got a place in the One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden competition we took a picture of us celebrating. We were in the final 24 out of 300 applicants from the whole of SCOTLAND. Help ma boab!



Scottish symbols



Train conductor



School initials

"I am watering the plants we are growing in our greenhouse getting them ready for our Pocket Garden. We found out about plants that grow in Scotland. We went to the garden centre to buy seeds and plants. Not all of our seeds grew so our teachers are giving us some from their gardens".

This is where I help out for my work experience, at the Walled Garden in Ardentinnny, all day on a Monday. I get lots of expert advice on how to help grow fruit, vegetables and plants for our pallet garden. I am moving strawberries ready for us to plant.

This is our train. We built it in technical studies. We made it from bits of wood and an old pallet. We learned how to use the tools and it was hard work. Mr Sanborn gave us old pipes, a bucket and wheels from his yard to go on our train.



Watering plants



Choosing plants



Technical studies



Work experience







# Focus School

Nature's Hospital is the theme here, featuring plants people used in the past for first aid and highlighting the medicinal properties of plants.







### Dr Healing's bag

Our medical garden began with the useful doc leaves growing in our local woodland which come in handy if we brush against stinging nettles. After some research, we found many plants have medicinal properties.

We got the idea of using poppies as the red cross for our Pocket Garden. (They are taking ages to grow though, so we have a back-up plan if they don't flower in time!). We have had lots of help from our janitor and grandparents even our teacher's dad helped by making our frame.



### Learning about plants

We have painted, hammered, researched and worked together but most importantly we have cared for our medicinal plants in the hope they inspire you to appreciate that flowers are not just pretty but heal too.

# Gigha Primary School

A mini-me island, Gigha Primary School has designed its whole island in miniature, complete with rocky coast, beaches, buildings and a golf course of cress.



Here is Gigha Primary School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

On Gigha, the North Atlantic Drift means that we enjoy a mild climate and lots of sunshine. We can grow exotic plants and have access to many of these in our world famous Achamore Gardens which are an important part of our history and heritage.





Shells and driftwood



Wind turbine



Local landmarks



Rock buildings

We collected plants ready for potting up so that they are well established for our mini Isle of Gigha garden. Mini King Sago palms are part of our design because we have lots of palm trees here. We also love to experiment with new foods in our planting and growing and are going to try to grow kiwi fruit, peaches and pineapples.

We didn't have all the plants we needed to create Bailey's design so we decided to plant lots of vegetable seeds and have a plant swap. That way other people could get the vegetables they needed and we would get the plants for our Pocket Garden.

We try to reuse as much as possible so we made plant pots out of newspaper. Altogether we swapped 200 plants and people gave us loads more!



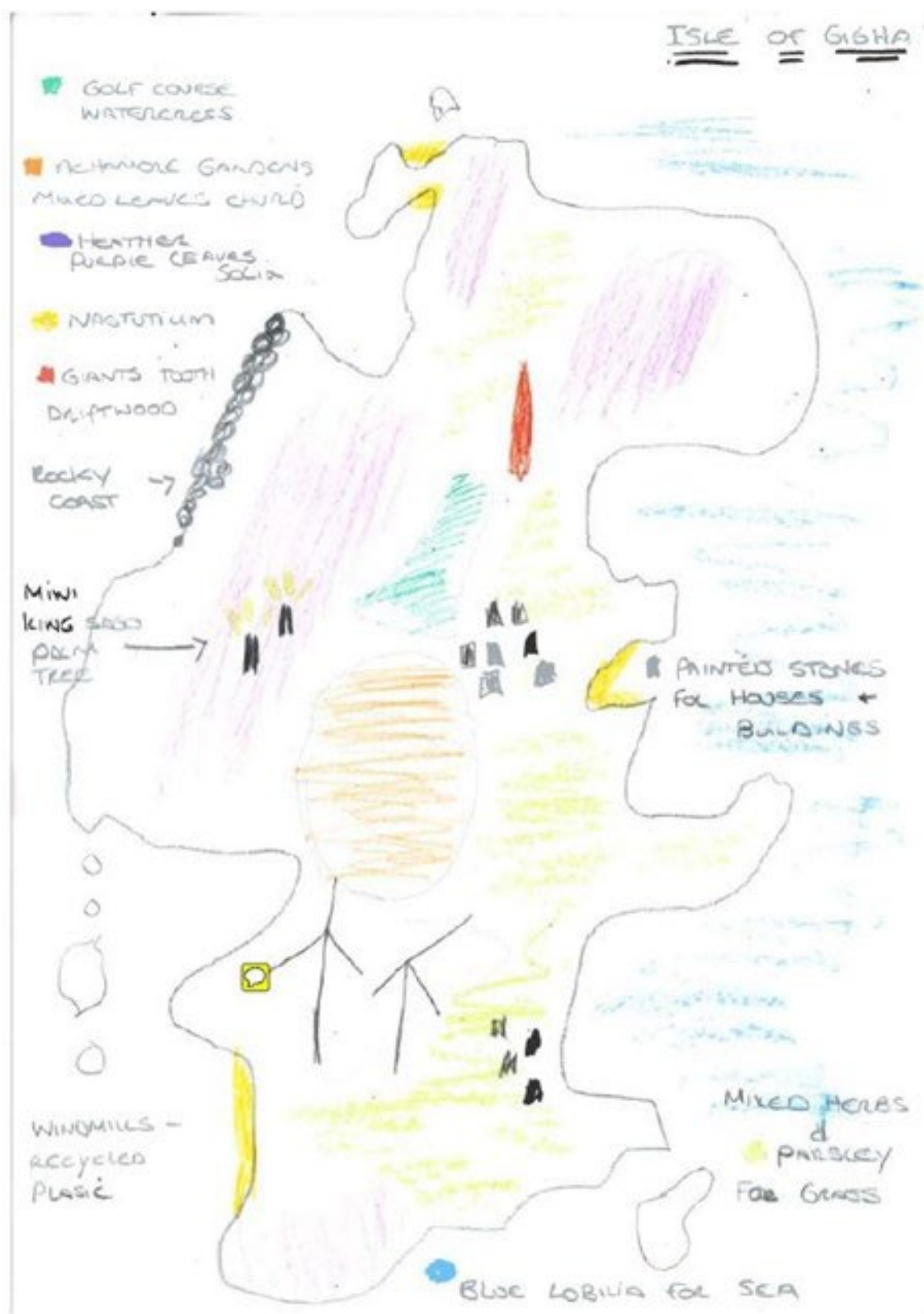
Potting up plants



Design ideas



Little seedlings





# Grove Academy

This dome shaped design is inspired by the Northern hemisphere and reflects our place on the planet. It reuses materials to appear like a beehive, and features wild and native plant species.



Here is Grove Academy's Pocket Garden Story in their own words: The lovely people at our local Costa and Dobbies supplied us with cups and plants!

We originally intended it to be larger with different sizes of cups. But it didn't work out, due to awkward cup sizes. So we made a simpler, smaller version - Plan B.

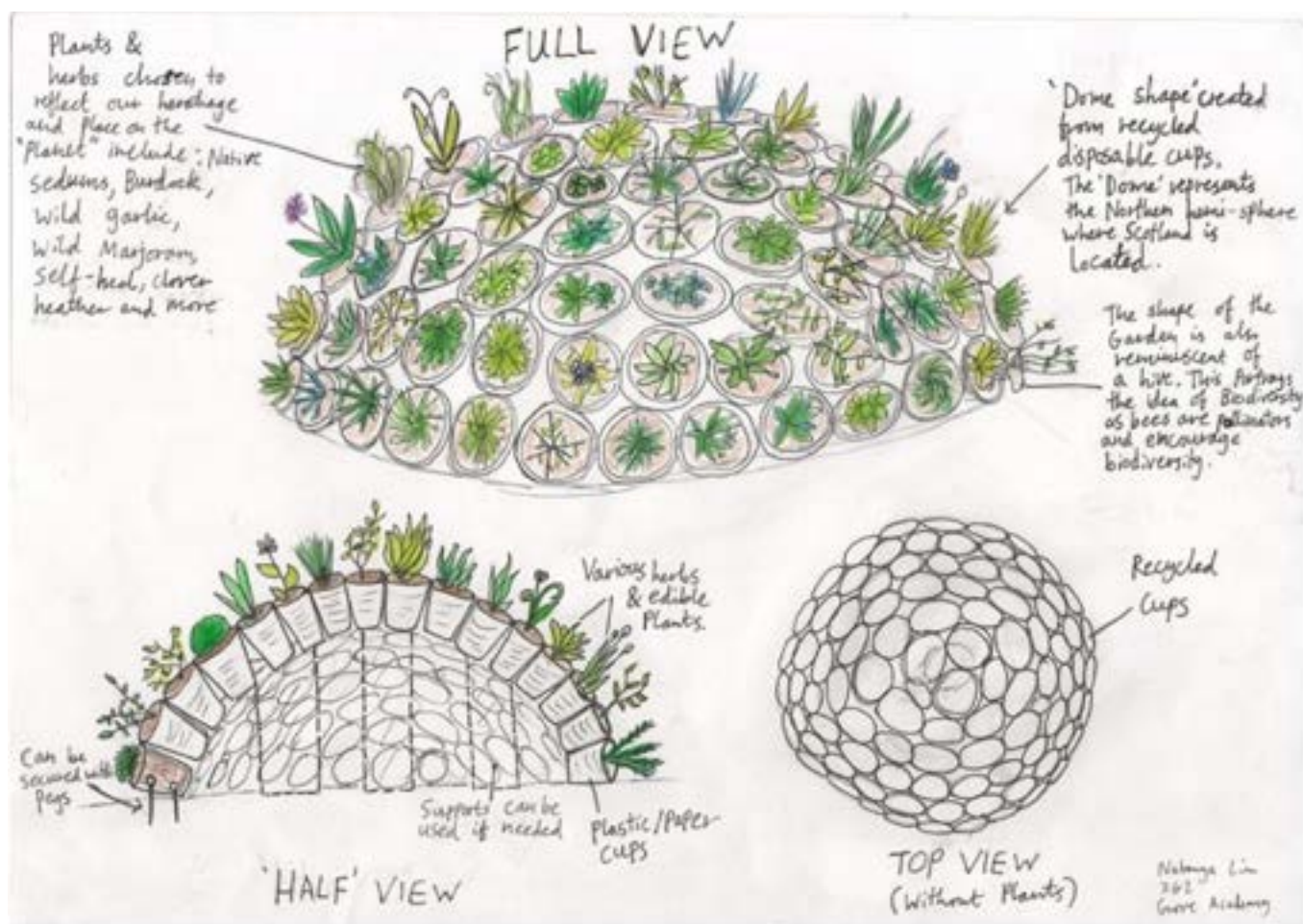
We were experimenting with a sturdier dome, made out of cardboard with cut holes for our cups.



Base made of coffee cups



Beginning to add plants





# Harmeny School

Plants from the Celtic Rainforest appear in this design of a Crannog, reminding us of times past and with inspired ideas for looking after wildlife for the future.



Crannog



Moss and lichen



Please spray the garden

Here is Harmeny School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:  
Our original design encompasses the themes of Heritage, Wildlife & Food.

The centrepiece is the Crannog, created using natural & found materials. The garden designer enlisted the help of adults from the school community to develop his drawing into reality.

We sourced appropriate plants but also found many examples growing around school, e.g. ferns and mosses.

It was fun experimenting with how to create the 'loch' feature.





# Knightswood Secondary School

The iconic Kelpies are re-created here, echoing Scotland’s heritage of myths as well as the modern sculptures. These Kelpies will be havens for wildlife, covered in flowering plants.



Bright flowers



Solar power



Kelpie detail



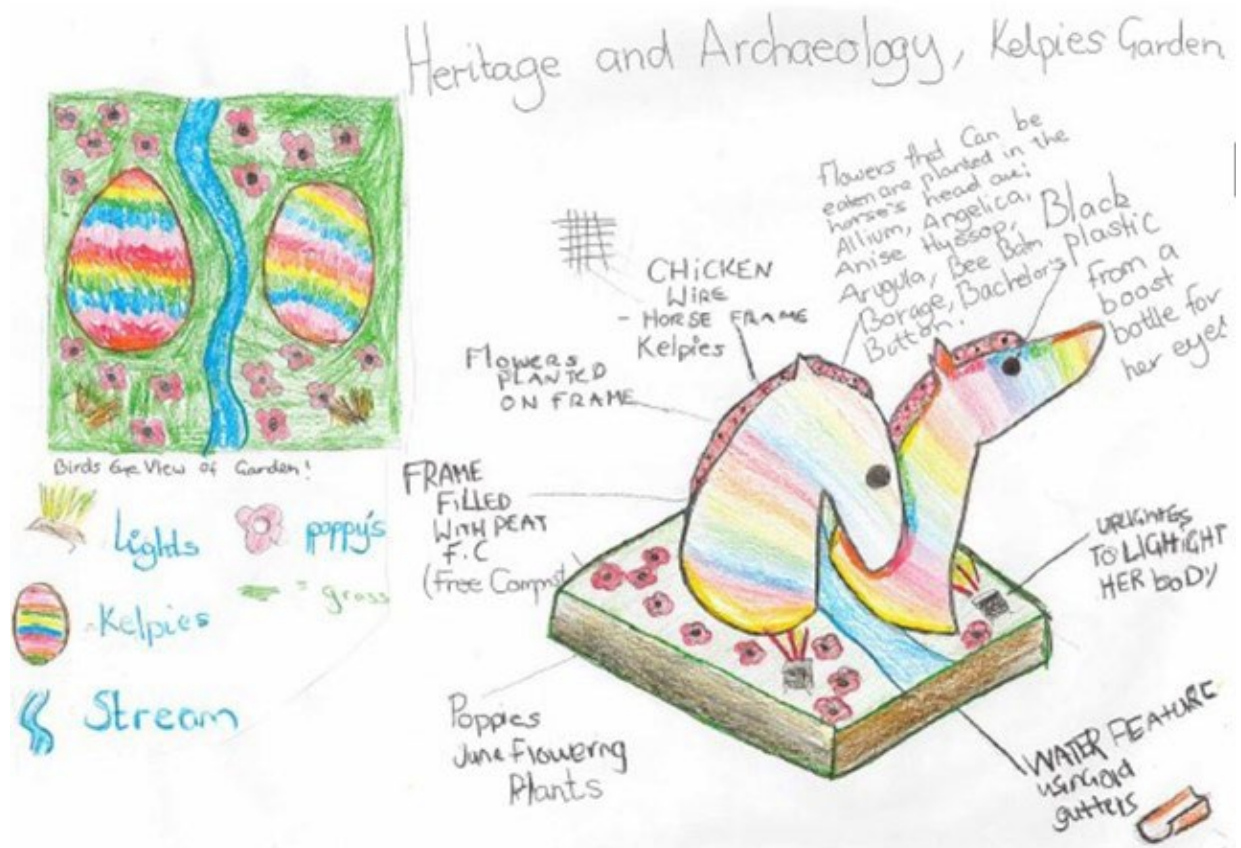
Stacked flowerbeds

Here is Knightswood Secondary School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

We have created a fun, dynamic garden for all to enjoy.

Our design is based on The Kelpies because they are iconic public sculptures. We grew flowers from seed and built an armature from recycled materials to create the base for our garden. The colourful plants are integrated into the Kelpies themselves.

Our garden is bold, vibrant and inspiring, we hope you enjoy it.



Plants growing



Base built from pallets



Painting the Kelpies



# Laurieston Day Nursery

In this design, an old doll's house has been given a make-over for some new residents. Who do you think they are?



Here is Laurieston Day Nursery's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

The children had fun designing our garden. They carefully drew their designs and then as a group decided what one they liked best.

Our plan was bright and colourful and had lots of ideas to help attract the 'mini beasts'. Planting seeds in the garden was fun; great care was taken to make sure that the seedlings had a good start.



Set up at nursery



Lots of insect habitat



Laurieston's Bug Hotel

We spoke to the children about the seeds and how we should look after them to make sure they grow.

The house started to become much more mini beast friendly as we carefully positioned sticks and stones to make it more attractive for our little friends. We watered them and when we felt they were ready we brought them into the Nursery Room so that we could keep closer watch and spray them with water more often.

When we felt they were ready we carefully replanted our plants from their plant pots in to the Pocket Garden. This was a tricky job and we had to be very careful. The children were pleased to see it all come together, as it had been a long process that they had worked hard on.



Potting plants



Greenhouse at nursery





# Leuchars Primary School

A tasty picnic on the beach from Leuchars Primary School for people and wildlife. Re-using food containers, beach toys, driftwood and pebbles.



At Gardening Scotland



Cuddly toys



Reused containers



# Pinewood School

This design celebrates wood, soil and the austere beauty of a West Lothian landscape that fuelled the industrial revolution. Tree lines that sheltered the first fields and crops of humble potatoes provide new habitat for wildlife.



Animal artwork



Potatoes



Lots of shade



Tiny potato farmers



# St Joseph's Primary School

This design asks What can you find in a dinner lady's hat apart from a dinner lady?



Gardening advice



Planting seeds



Growing nicely

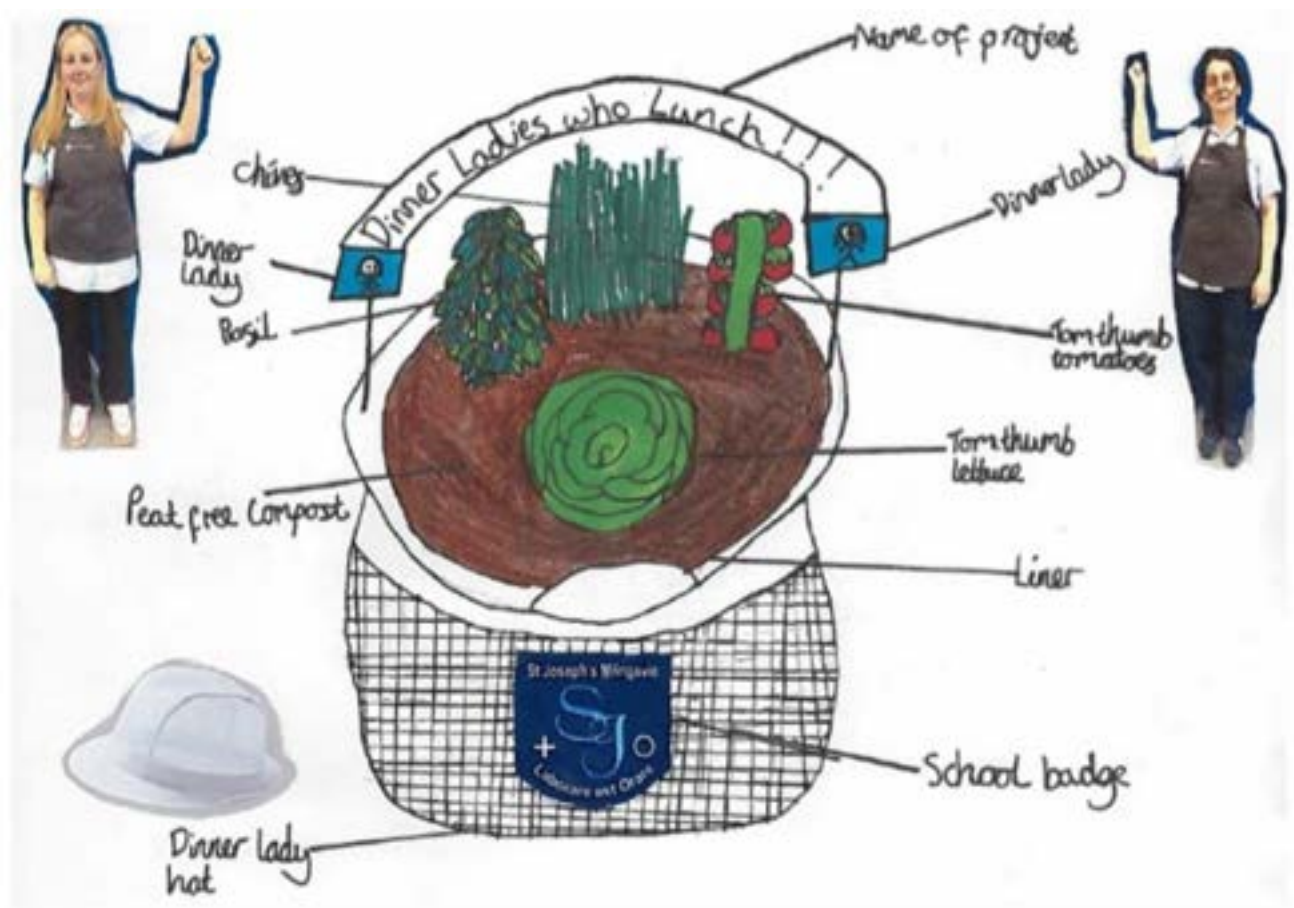


Here is St Joseph's Primary School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:  
We began planting our seeds in trays. We kept our seedlings moist and once the seedlings had a few true leaves we transplanted them into bigger pots. It was still really cold outside so we couldn't risk putting them out yet.

We watered our plants each day to help them grow. The Tom Thumb lettuce was very quick growing and germinated after just a few days. Lots of them grew in a little cluster and we had to thin them out a bit – we moved them to a new tray and they just kept on growing!

Brainwave! Why don't we make the hat into a hanging basket? This was much harder than it looked; the pupils worked together using their problem solving skills to create a basket that would be strong enough to hold our plants.

We worked with Milngavie Development Trust and Milngavie in Bloom to plant some of our plants in a community food garden in Milngavie. Thanks very much to Morgan Sindall who are building our new school for providing us with some top soil.



# Tarradale Nursery

Meet Tattybogle, a scarecrow from a story Tarradale Nursery enjoy, linking literature, planting and old-fashioned pest control.





Here is Tarradale Nursery's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

We talked with the children about our garden and mind-mapped their ideas. The children found the Tattybogle book and we read it. Conor drew Tattybogle.



Tattybogle



Seeds need help to grow



Wellies and window boxes

We asked Simpsons garden centre in Inverness to help us and they were very kind and gave us most of our plants, seeds and organic peat free compost. We gave our parents' a list of items we could use for 'Tattybogle', things like old wood, soup tins, plant pots and straw. We discussed how we wanted to re-use, re-cycle and reduce what we had to buy.

We used the compost from the school hot composter and mixed it with donated compost.

The children planted like mad and we soon took up most of the space in the polytunnel! We have learnt lots of new skills while working on Tattybogle: gardening, joinery, problem solving, teamwork, design, communication and having FUN!



Planting seeds



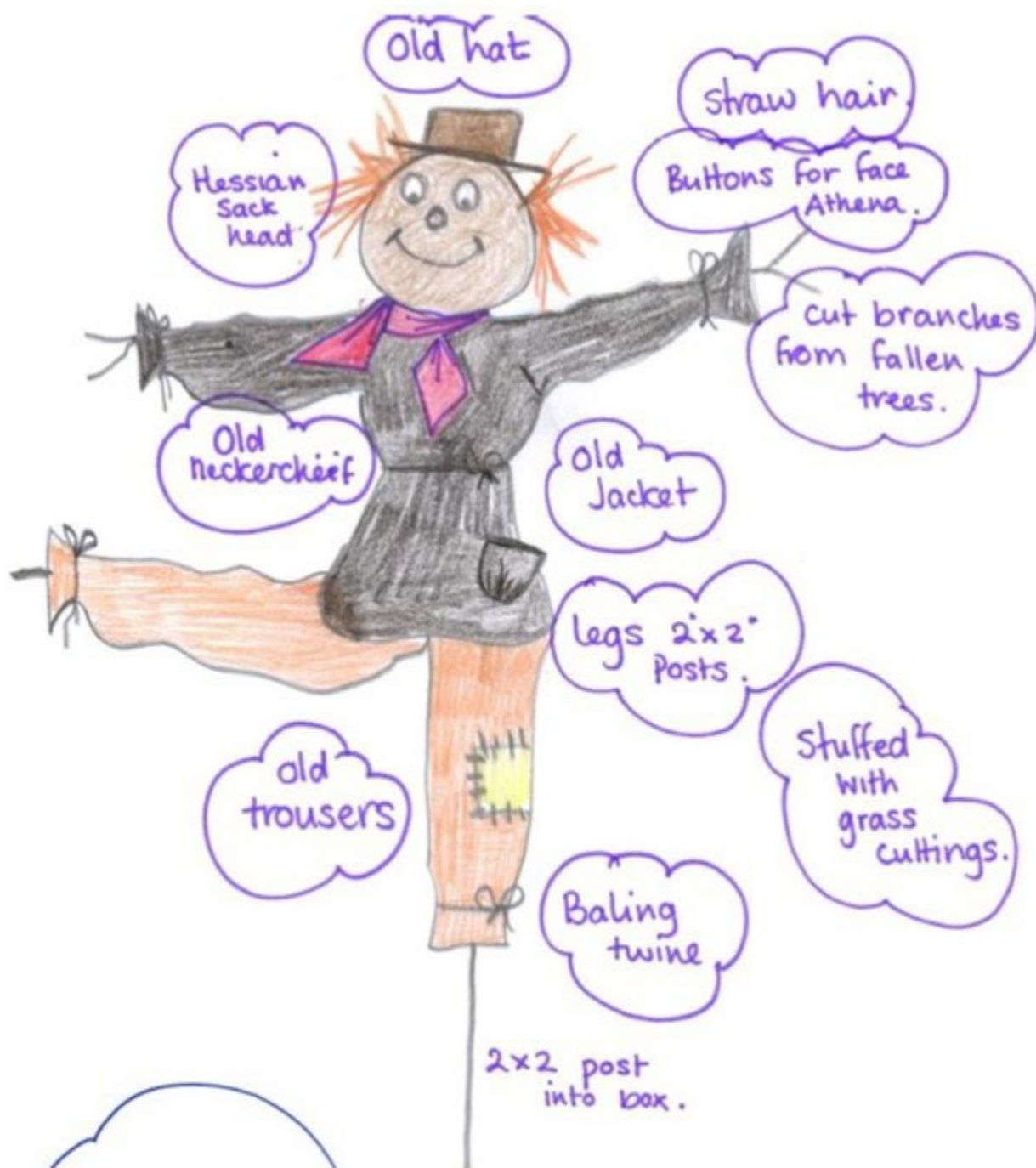
Growing



Building the base



Conor's drawing



### Tattlybogle

The story of a happy Scarecrow.

We call the children a Tattlybogle when they do something silly.

The children love this story.



# Ullapool Primary School

A Viking long-ship rowed by radish and beetroot is in full sail in this design through a Scottish wildflower meadow towards Maeshowe ancient burial mound.



Dragon's den



Here there be dragons!



Viking runes

Here is St Joseph's Primary School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

The challenge really began after the design was shortlisted as the class had decided to build the mound of Maeshowe.

We didn't at that point know how to build a mound on a pallet!  
After some discussion we decided to use a hedgehog house as the dome shape  
and plant the wildflowers inside it.

We prepared the planter for growing radish and beetroot to eventually turn into  
our Viking longboat.

Upon hearing the news that we had been selected to build our garden we  
planted the seeds in a rush the next day and started growing them in school.  
However the school was like a superhot greenhouse and the seedlings grew too  
spindly.

On our 3rd attempt we grew them outside.



Cutting out pieces



Watering plants



Mixing compost



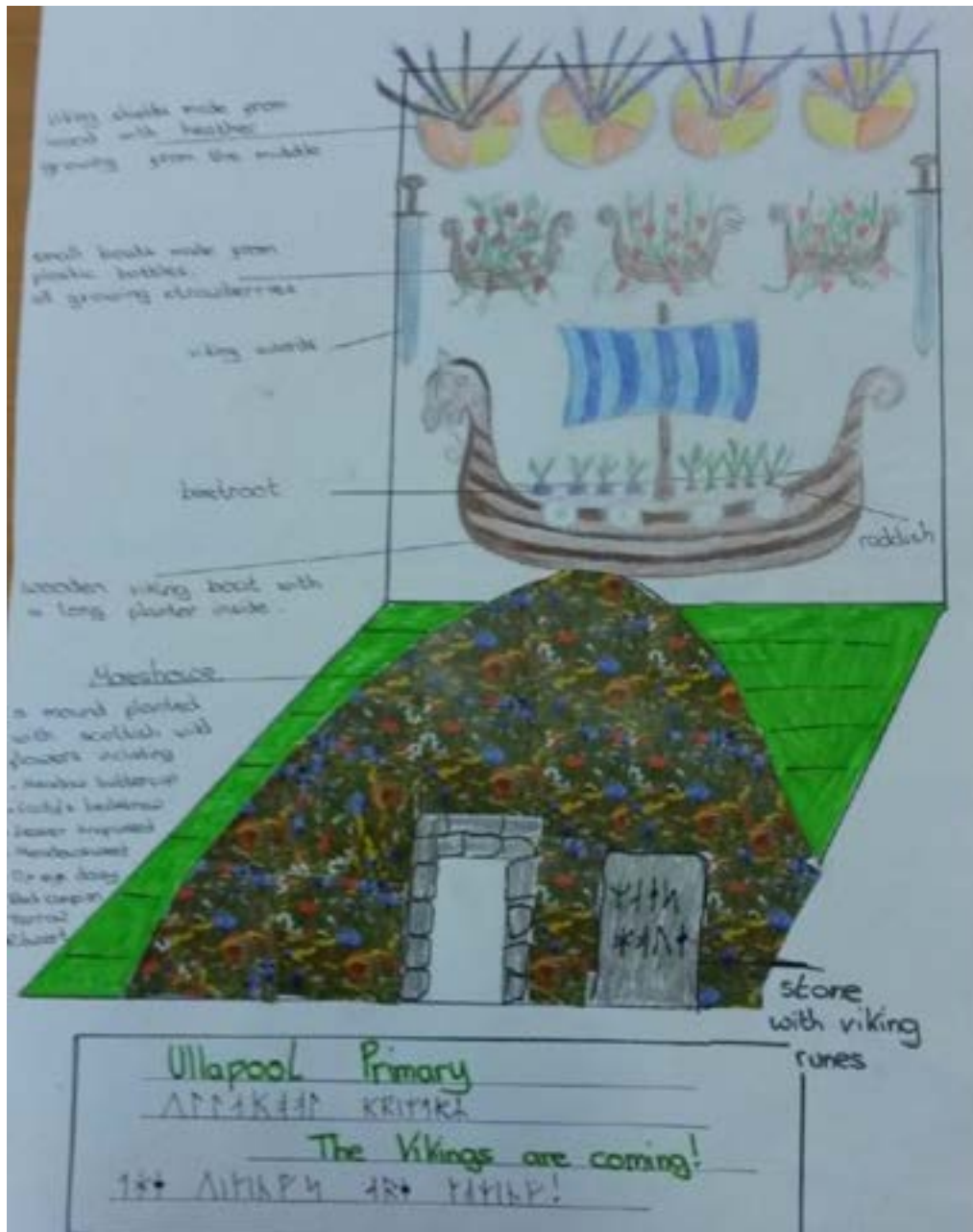
Painting dragons

We had volunteers from our community to help out - from a high school student  
to supervise the painting of our longboat, to our janitor helping the pupils cut  
out their swords and shields.

A pupils Grandad cut out the dragonhead . Many more parent volunteers are also  
on board to help out with the transportation and putting the garden together on  
the day.

Without all their help, the garden would not have been possible.





# Williamwood High School

Teddy bears are enjoying a picnic at the beach in this design, which features vertical growing and some iconic emblems from Scottish tall tales and technology.





Here is Williamwood High School's Pocket Garden Story in their own words:

Our design features a telephone planted with herbs growing from the mouthpiece because the telephone is a Scottish invention. There is also a Loch Ness monster made from recycled tubing and garden gnomes wearing kilts.



Reused containers



Plastic bottle flowers



Nessie

We chose plants that would attract butterflies and bees: sunflowers and lavender. At the bottom of our design are recycled picnic jars planted with edible ingredients like cress, and stones with Scottish things painted on them. We thought carefully about our stone designs.

We created our butterfly mobile to remember the real butterflies we raised from caterpillars and released in the Eco Garden. How many more stones, mugs and jars do we need to collect and recycle? We took good care of our plants inside and out to help them grow and flower!

Our garden gnomes were named Aidan and Ross after the real Aidan and Ross: our S6 maths and PE helpers



Handmade flowers



Building the base



Taking shape



Adding colour







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