



# Pocket Garden Stories 2021



In 2021 we held our first online showcase, where members of the public could vote on their favourite garden. Our judges also gave out Certificates of Achievement to outstanding gardens.

Themes for 2021 were the Year of Coasts and Waters and Celebrating Nature on your Doorstep.

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.

## **Winners of the public vote:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: St Palladius Primary School

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Greenhills Primary School

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ballerup Nursery Centre

## **Certificates of Achievement:**

Applegarth and Hutton Primary Schools

Glenlyon Primary School

Meldrum Primary School

Ullapool Primary School

Whinhill Primary School

# Applecross Primary School

This Pocket Garden was built by pupils at Applecross Primary School. A [Shieling](#) is an area of summer pasture on high ground. Applecross Primary School has its very own outdoor classroom, the Applecross Sheiling.

The nursery children in Applecross use the Shieling as an outdoor nursery and share the space with school children. The Pocket Garden is now part of a newly planted area with potatoes and vegetables in containers that the nursery children are growing.



Welly boot planters



Watering can to collect water



Willow weaving



Pupils worked on their Pocket Garden every Friday for 5 weeks. It was challenging with a cold slow start to spring but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the process. Once they found out they were to be entered into the online showcase, pupils had a planting session before the Easter holidays. A member of the community donated a big box of seeds so the children chose seeds to plant and took them home to grow them over the holidays. These included, calendula, salad, carrot, rocket, peas and nasturtiums .

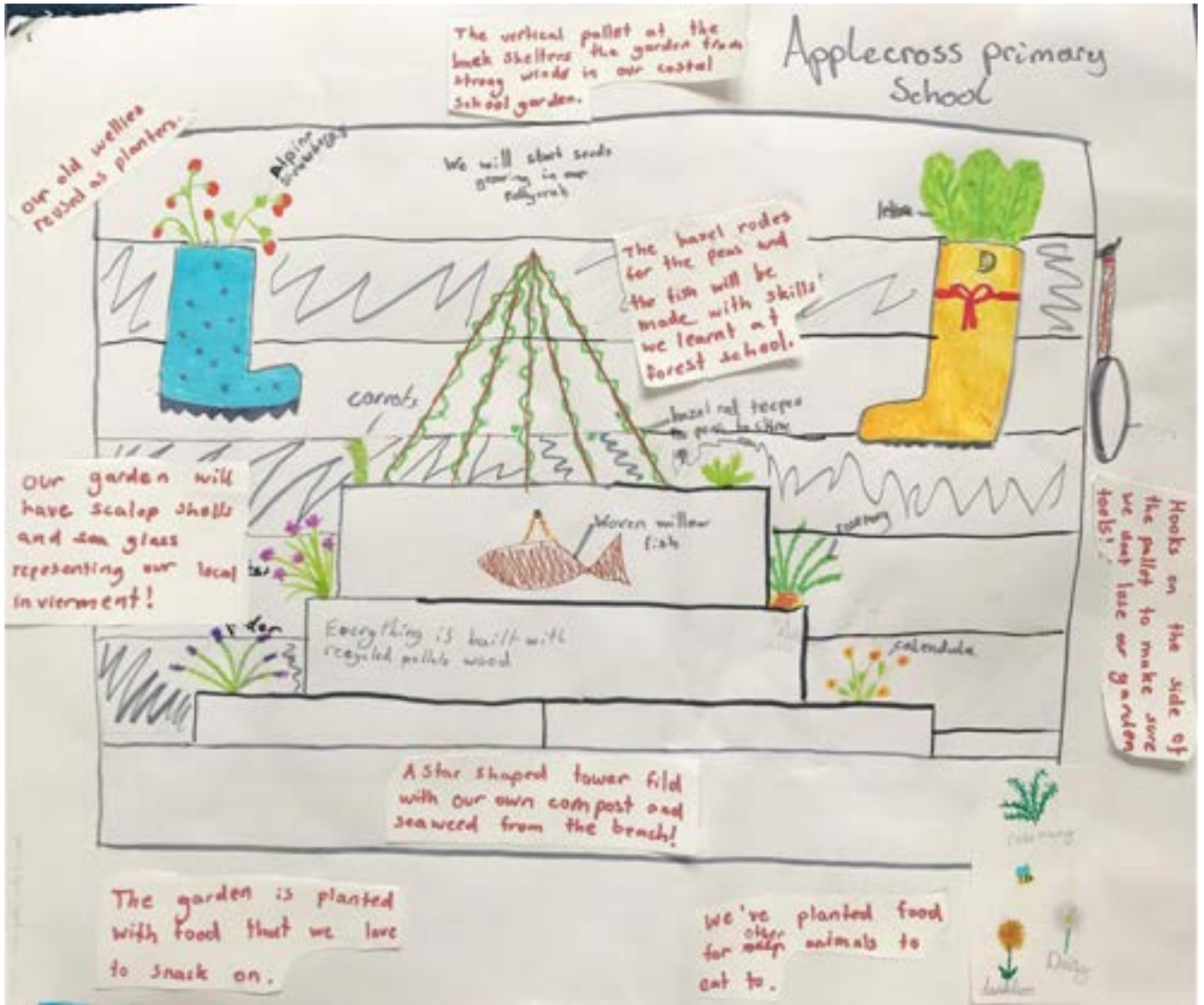
Pupils were assisted in building their design by Robert who is working on the Appleseed Project. He sourced and helped to cut pallets for the children. The children chose the site for the garden close to the polycrub in the school and nursery Shielling. The school has an incredible outdoor space which is constantly evolving and the Pocket Garden has brought a new focus to a previously little used area.



A special feature of this Pocket Garden is that everything apart from the welly boots will rot down eventually. No plastic has been used. The children brought in natural materials for the pallet at the back including sheep's wool, cotton and jute.

The children have been learning about composting with teacher Marion Gilroy as part of her role in the Appleseed Project. They used the contents of their rot pots to fill the garden along with the first batch of compost from the tumbler which takes all food waste from the school kitchen. Compost was also taken from a raised bed which was being moved to accommodate a bigger hen run for the school chickens.

Pupils spent time learning about no dig gardening too, and tidied up the edges of the Pocket Garden with no-dig gardening. The garden was decorated with woven willow fish and scallop shells. Pupils are very grateful to local photographer Annie MacDonald who generously donated her time and skill to photograph the Pocket Garden at sunrise and sunset.



Filling the pallet with soil



Planning where plants go



Watering plants in



# Applegarth and Hutton Partnership

## 2021 Certificate of Achievement

This Pocket Garden was built by pupils at Applegarth Primary School and Hutton Primary School who cooperated together to build their garden. It is named the William B Pocket Garden after the pupil who designed it. The Pocket Garden has pride of place at the front of the school, and was built with the help of the school Gardening Club.



Here is the story of this garden in the words of the pupil who designed it: "The garden will have 2 pallet walls with plant pots made out of all old tin cans. The top of the pallets will be lined with old silage plastic so we can plant native insect friendly flowers and vegetables. There will be a herbs like parsley, rosemary, thyme, fennel, chives planted because these are brilliant for insects and for me to eat and cook with. The garden will be south facing to get as much sun as possible. The pallets will shelter the plants from wind.

There will be an old gutter between the two pallets. To reuse water I will connect the pipes under the top flower bed of the pallet. So the drained water from the pallet will run into the gutter. The gutter will grow trailing plants which grow in shallow soil, which are good for insects and look pretty.



Beautiful flowers



Planters made of tins



Plastic tub pond

In the corner there will be a raised bed with 3 layers made out of rubble, This raised bed will contain native spring bulbs and vegetables later in the summer. Raised beds made from stones and wood, this will create more space in the garden and provide a beetle/bug bank, hopefully moss and lichen will also cover the wood and stone, helping diversity and create new homes. The materials will be waste pallets and stones from a local builder.



An ice cream tub will be used as a wormery next to the raised bed to eliminate food waste, create compost to grow plants in. This saves the planet since it is instead of buying compost in bags of plastic. Worms help degrade waste into compost. The worms could be used for fishing and aerating the soil.



Bird feeders- will hang off the pallets to help the birds in the same way the plastic helps my plants. In winter they will provide food for wild birds. I would make my bird feeders out of plastic bottles. If I have nothing to do one day I would reuse a plastic bottle to make a bird feeder. I would also like to make bird feeders out of old drainpipes.

Veg - to help feed humans and save buying veg in plastic bags and save food miles. It would also provide homes for insects, although I am worried that the insects eat the veg before I eat it. Sometimes you can't eat food in certain seasons so I will try to plant different seasonal food so I don't starve at certain times of the year. The rocks around the veg patch will create homes food and shelter for small insects and their predators.

Log piles- to provide a habitat for bugs and animals that might get cold in the winter like frogs, beetles or hibernating queen wasps or queen bumble bees. I will leave dead wood and dead plants over winter for insects, fungi, birds and mammals to live on and in.



Bird feeders



Vegetables



Log piles

In the soil there will be a little hole for a plastic sweet tub pond. The tub will contain stones, mud and water to make a water habitat for insects, bugs and a drinking area for birds and bees. This little pond would be a different habitat for attracting different plants and animals like frogs, newts, fish, mayflies, damsel fly's, dragon flies.

There will be old mushroom and fruit trays germinating native tree seeds and sunflowers. The plan is to transplant the seedlings in the surrounding environment to help animals and birds. If we need to make a mini greenhouse. I will cover these tubs with clear plastic bags or old agricultural see through bale wrap. Native trees help wildlife and help clean the air. The plastic covers will help when very wet, cold or windy the plants will get shelter, this should also speed up germination. The old plastic will help me extend my food seasons. If I had space I would grow blueberries and black currants from cuttings which I would then move to roadside hedges.

Flower choices include:

Bluebells: to feed the bees, they are native, they would come back every year

Native snowdrops: to make my garden pretty and feed the bees in the early Spring

Native daffodils: to make our garden pretty and feed the bees in the spring

Wild garlic: pretty when it flowers, animals, hens and humans can eat it. The bulbs make nice garlic and cheese scones

Poppies and cornflowers: this is insect friendly and seeds can be collected easily

Sunflowers: I will use the trays to germinate them and when they get a bit bigger I will keep one for the big raised bed and transplant the rest around the countryside.



They will be good for insects, bumble and honey bees in the summer and provide winter food for wild birds. If the birds leave some seeds I will replant them next year.

Pupils created a wormery using an old plastic bottle. The wormery sits next to the raised bed and can be used to eliminate food waste, and create compost to grow plants in. This saves the planet since it eliminates the need to buy compost in bags of plastic. Worms help degrade waste into compost. The worms could be used for fishing and aerating the soil. 8





Pallets are held together with logs



Flowerbeds lined with reused silage plastic



# Arnhall Day Nursery

This garden was built by the children at Arnhall Day Nursery and is a haven for birds and bugs. The garden building process was thoroughly enjoyed with the children who were heavily involved. Can you spot the dragonfly?



Wooden spoon  
ladybird



Pasta bees



Clothespeg  
grasshopper



Foam butterflies



Here's the story of Arnhall Day Nursery's garden from one of the Early Years Practitioners:

"Our handy man built our frame from old wood we had at nursery and the children built the forest by talking walks to the forest to collect sticks. The bird box was built by the children. For a few months children have been making bird feeders out of their oranges. They have made more for our garden which have had to be refilled already as the bird have been eating from them.



Messages from children



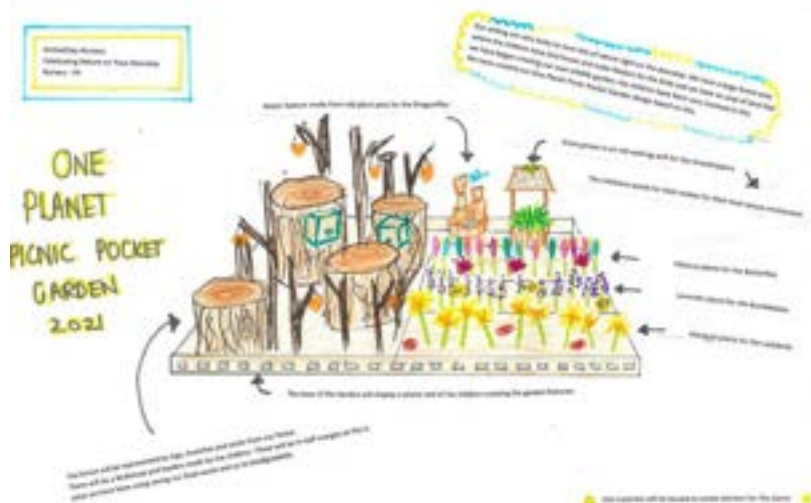
Bug hotel



Wishing well

The children have been caring for flowers in the polytunnel until they were ready to be planted in the display. They have used a range of tools to create insects to represent each playroom.

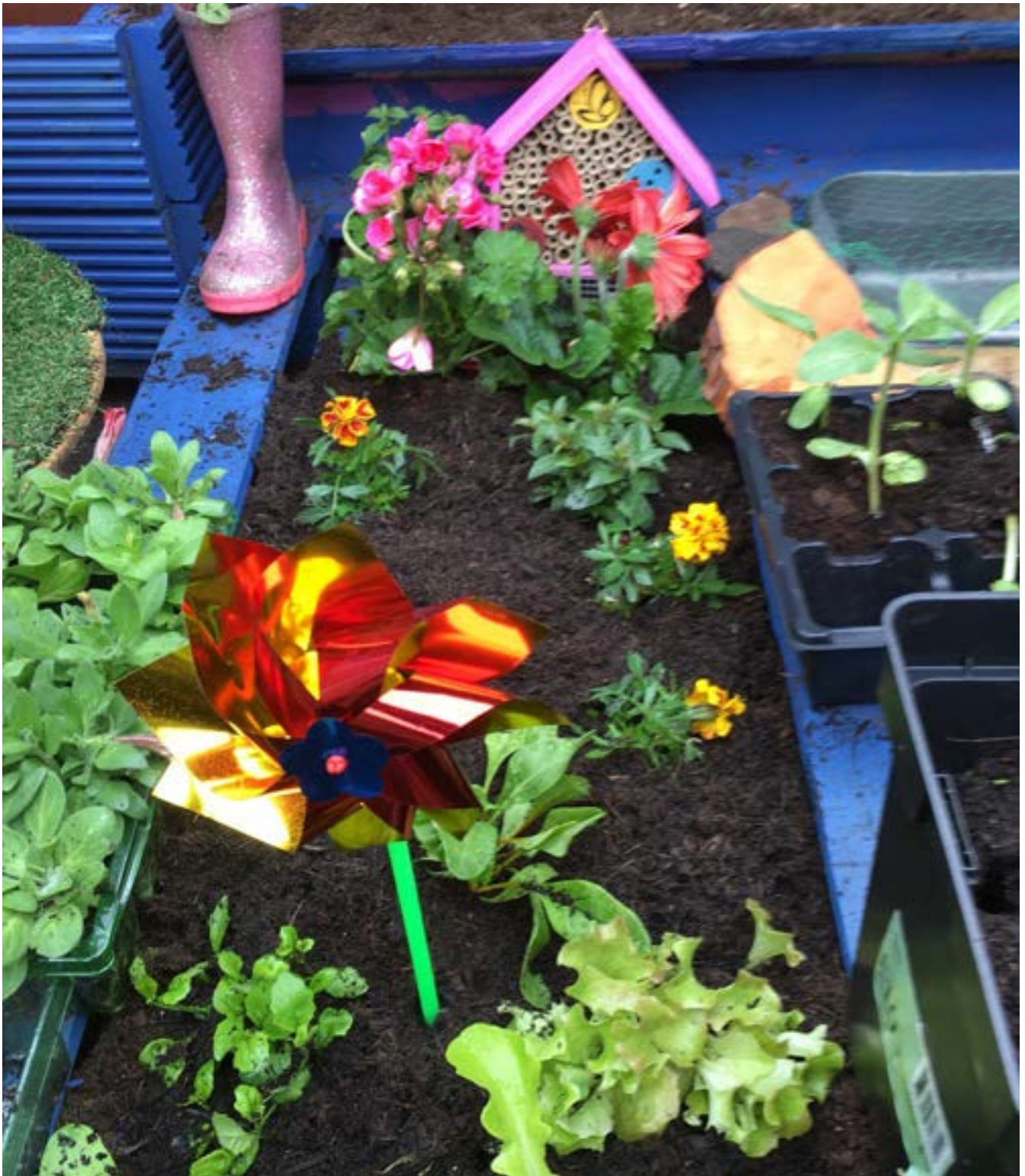
The bees are pasta and pipe cleaners, and the ladybirds are made of wooden spoons. We made the butterflies from foam shapes and lollypop sticks and the dragonfly is made from a kitchen whisk.



The grasshoppers are made from pegs and pipe cleaners. The building process is documented in photos and messages along the bottom of the garden.

## Arnwood Nursery

This garden was created by children at Arnwood Nursery. It is full of colourful flowers, welly boot planters and homes for minibeasts. There are lots of reused items here - welly boots, bottles, fruit netting and plastic boxes, as well as the pallet the garden is built on.







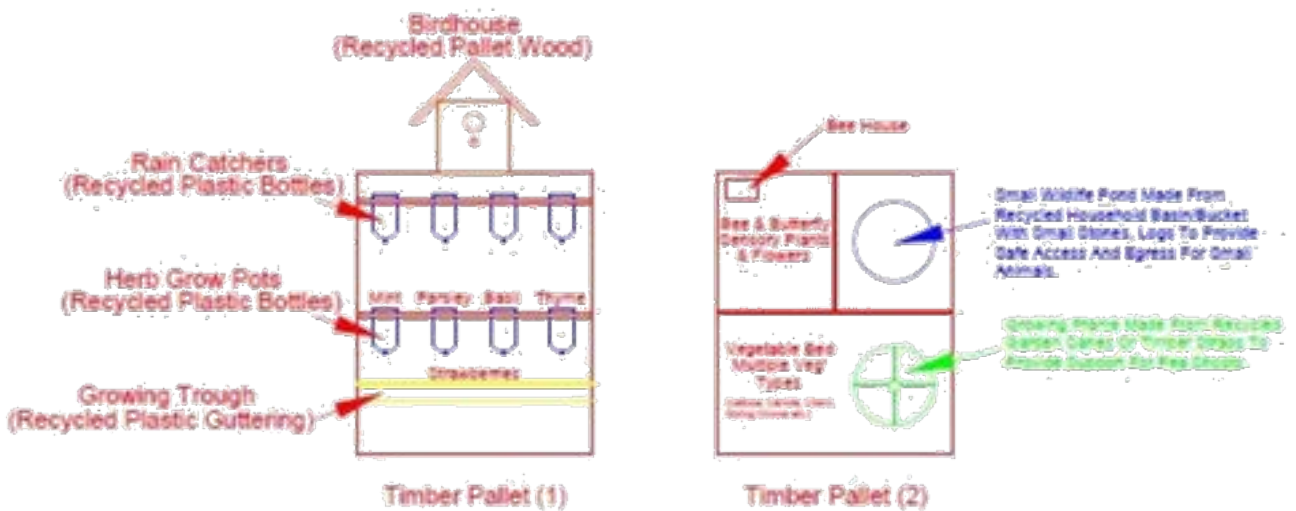
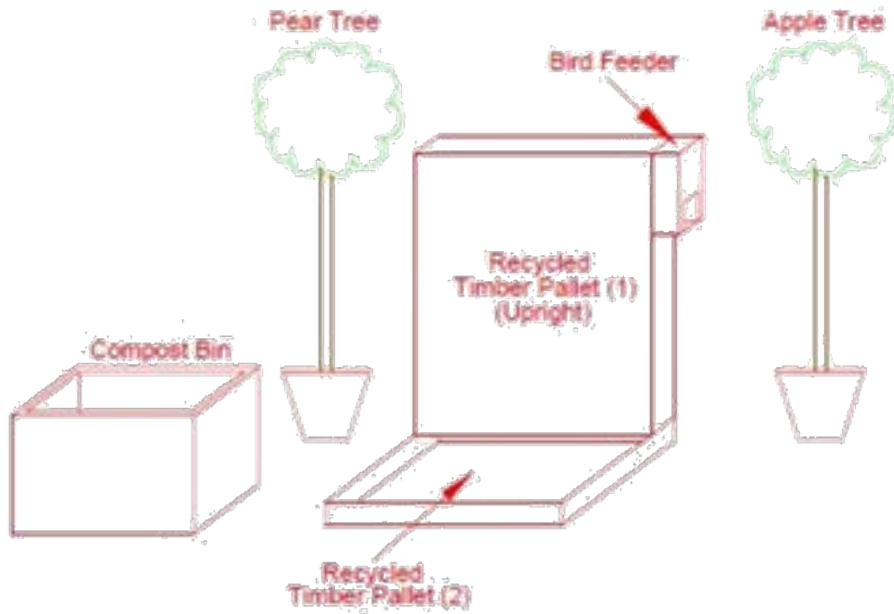
Painting the bird box



Painting bottles



Reusing bottles for the garden



# Auchinairn Early Years Centre

The children at Auchinairn Early Years Centre have been working hard on our garden. They came up with the basic design and have been involved in every stage of its construction. They helped dismantle old pallets, pull out nails, reuse the nails and saw wood. They have hammered in nails, drilled holes and put in screws with an impact driver. The painting was a team effort using stencils and they helped plant and repot the plants.





Everything in our garden has been reused except for the peat free compost which was donated by parents. We used 3 old pallets for the timber and a compost bag to line the growing area. The sides are 20 repurposed milk bottles which keep the compost in and house our strawberry plants.

At the rear, we have another 14 milk bottles which catch rainwater. The water flows through old silicone tubing into a small reservoir made with offcut pond liner. From there it moves through recycled capillary matting to the growing area.

We are growing strawberries which are starting to produce fruit and which have edible flowers. We also have sunflowers which produce edible buds, petals and seeds. Our violas and dahlias also have edible petals. To complete our salad we have some lettuce plants.



Starting construction



Planting

# Ballerup Nursery Centre

Received 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Public Vote

This Pocket Garden was built by children at Ballerup Nursery in South Lanarkshire. It is filled with habitats for insects including a huge bug hotel built into a tyre, lots of wood and rocks and a tiny hedgehog house filled with straw. There are welly boots full of plants and a large bowl for birds to bathe in. The entire garden sits on a reused pallet.







Homes for insects



Lots of driftwood and rocks



Hedgehog house



Painting the pallet to hold the garden



Hanging the bug hotel



Cutting wood



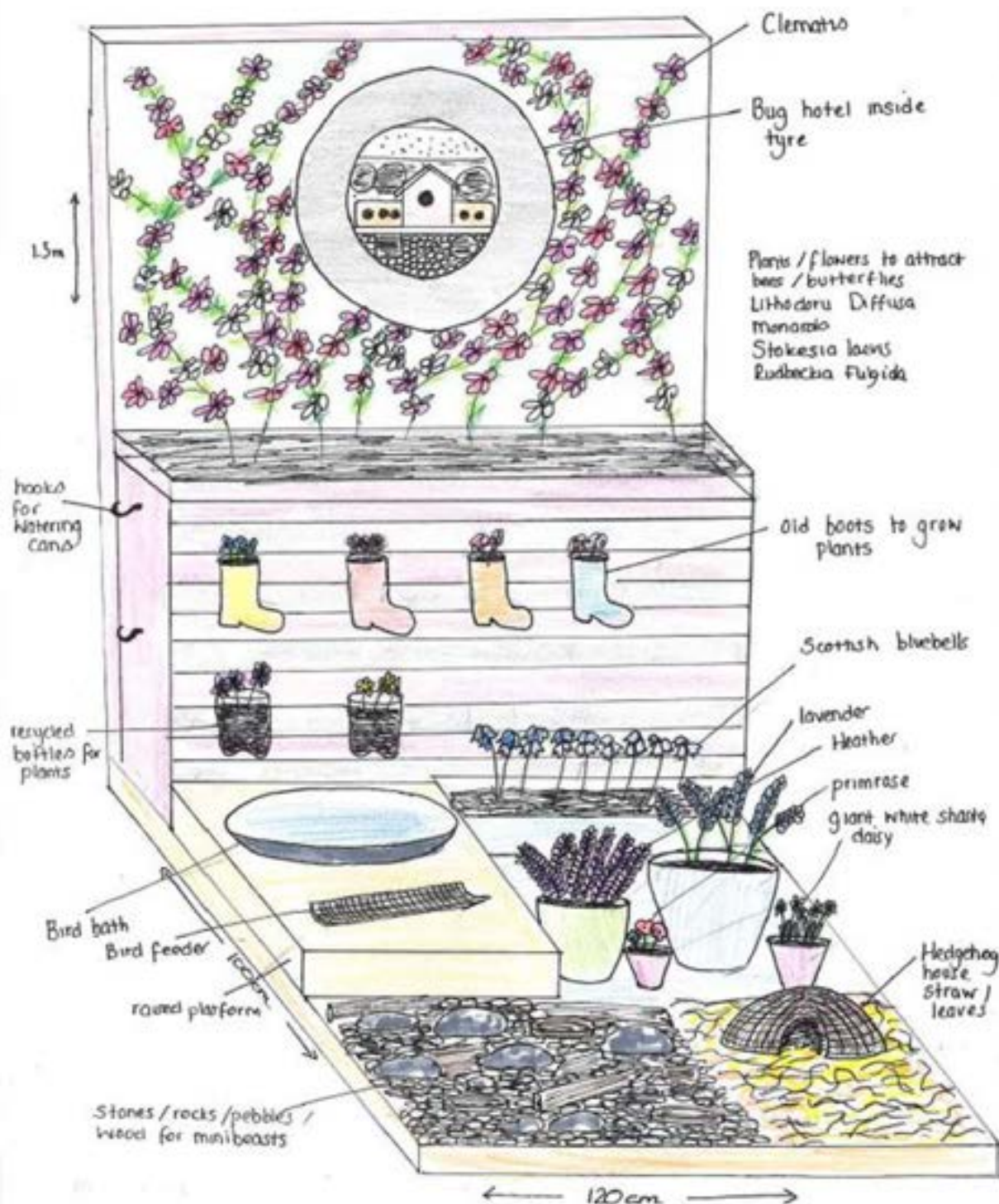
Planting seeds



Plants need water!

## Wildlife Gardening

- Pallets used for base, painted brightly to attract wildlife / bees / butterflies





# Bishopton Primary School

Hello and welcome to the Rainbow Beach garden! Greatly inspired by sustainability, mental health and our NHS during the global pandemic, our garden features a variety of local edible plants and flowers and is perfect to brighten up our school playground.

We wanted a rainbow theme as we love cheerful colours and thought if we themed our growing around this, then our garden would look joyful and make passers-by smile.





During our time at school this year we have learned a lot about sustainability and the Global Goals. We studied food miles, charted the journeys of our favourite snacks and discovered the massive carbon footprint that buying from abroad leaves on our planet. We decided that the way forward in terms of food was to think global but act local.

We designed our garden with local produce in mind and wanted to try and grow some plants and flowers that we could get in our local community. With some help from our friends at the Good Shepherd Centre, we were able to grow some edible plants. We shouldn't have any problems keeping them watered with our Scottish weather! Our flowers have shot up and add a lovely touch too.



Preparing for planting



Planting the garden



Time for decorating

Adding white stones and some shells from the beach gave the finishing touches to our garden and we are so proud of it.

We had so much fun designing, building, painting, planting and decorating Rainbow Beach garden and are delighted that we have the opportunity to share it with everyone. We hope you love it as much as we do! Designed by Isla and Chloe – built by Primary 7.





# Castlebrae Community High School

This Pocket Garden was built by pupils at Castlebrae Community High School. It is full of beautiful artwork including canvas paintings of wildlife and flowers, painted rocks and a mosaic made from broken crockery. Can you find the Minions?



Minions made of painted stones



Small painted canvases



Ladybird

Here is the story of this Pocket Garden told by pupils: "We are a group of S1s and S2s from Castlebrae Community High School in Edinburgh. The four foundations of our school are focus, respect, perseverance and integrity which we will bring to this competition. We would build this planter ourselves and we could use the wood from planters in school that are empty at the moment. We could include a water feature and build our hedgehog highway into the bottom.

When we throw away plastic it ends up in the oceans. This harms the fish and birds. It would be nice if we could recycle the plastic to support nature instead. Especially if your wellies are too small it is a waste to through them away!

We researched the foods that birds, like robins and sparrows, enjoy to eat. In our garden we would have a bird house where they could be safe and fed. We will include a hedgehog highway in our garden. This is to stop hedgehogs being hit on the roads.

Gardens are important homes for our insects. Bees are at risk of dying out and so we should include habitats for them in our garden. We would also include and worm hotels to show their hidden lives under the ground. We will use recycled material for our flower beds. To recreate our Scottish landscapes we will be using Scottish wildflowers and representing the water cycle through our mountains and rivers."



Mosaic of school initials made from broken crockery





# Cornhill Primary School

This boat built by Cornhill pupils is made from driftwood and is home to pumpkins and pansies. Powered by a bottle windmill and full of 10 edible plants on board! It is navigating a path to an environmentally friendly future.







A red windmill-like structure is constructed on a wooden pallet. It has a central vertical pole with four red balloons attached to it. The structure is supported by a triangular frame made of sticks. The pallet is on a light-colored wooden floor. In the background, there are yellow and red tables and chairs, and a bulletin board.

[illegible]



## Cowgate Under 5s Centre

This Pocket Garden was built by children at Cowgate Under 5s Centre and was inspired by their frequent trips to the beach. It is a coastal garden, full of wild coastal meadow flowers, spinach, and strawberries. One corner is a sandy beach full of seashells.



Shells and oranges



Log piles for insect habitat



Wood and birch frame

Here is the story of Cowgate Under 5s Pocket Garden in their own words: "The frame for our garden is approximately 1 metre square and made out of recycled wood (from a colleague's old garden decking), and birch trees from Wester Wood near Gifford, a sustainably managed woodland. The bed is lined with moss and filled with peat free compost and sand.

The garden itself has been created by the children. We have used your competition as an opportunity to create experiences for the children in and around Wardie Bay and Granton Community Garden Hub. Our hope has been to engender a love and respect for our local coastline and its communities as well as to plant and nurture a garden. At the end of this document you will find some of our 'lived stories' which show you the richness of the children's experiences and enable you to see the beautiful way in which their ideas and imaginations have sewn the seeds of our coastal garden.

The children have chosen to grow Sliochd crodh/Cowslips, Ch-ean coileach/Campion, An liath-las/Mugwort, Bar-a-mhilsein/Birdfoot Trefoil, wild coastal meadow flowers, spinach, strawberries and Preas an dealain de/Buddleia. We hope you agree these would create a wonderful picnic for people and wildlife alike. As you can see the children have also populated the garden with treasures found at the beach and have imagined some of their own sea myths in the form of dinosaur eggs and half-skin half-bone dogs!



Adding moss



Putting in small logs



Adding soil

We have recently created a partnership with two early years settings in Accra, Ghana. As Accra is also a coastal city we are planning to share the knowledge and love we each have of our coastal communities. We hope that this will greatly strengthen our love of our own coast and that our blossoming relationship and knowledge of Ghana will become part of 'Celebrating Nature on our local and global doorstep'.

Over the next few months we have much more nurturing planned: nurturing the plants, nurturing our relationships with our beautiful local coastline and rich communities, nurturing the children's love for their environment both in our garden and in our wider community and of course nurturing their imagination (who knows what new sea myths may emerge!)."



## Pocket Garden Diary

Some of the Early Years Practitioners at Cowgate kept a diary of letters to the children while they worked on their Pocket Garden.



### Week 1

Together, with Jayne and I, we walked to the number 8 bus stop to visit the beach. As we walked and waited for the bus, we noticed snow flakes falling from the sky and landing on Arthur's hair and Archie's eyelashes! Soon we arrived at the Wardie Steps. As we carefully walked down these steps, Arthur, said, "I can see a boat in the water", noticing the Firth of Forth in the distance.



Then Holly, you said, "I can see two boats!", and Elisa, you added, "I can see two too!!", which made us laugh. Ayla, you also made us laugh when you said, "I see sea!"

After using the pedestrian crossing, we walked along a foot and cycle path at the waterfront. As we walked I told a story about how the path we were using was once train tracks, even more than 160 years ago! A steam train would run along the tracks, with carriages filled with coal to load onto ships in the nearby harbour.

These ships would sail away, taking the coal to other lands. Ships would sail into this harbour from other lands, like Spain, carrying a special type of grass that was used for making paper to be printed on and turned into books. This grass would be loaded onto the steam train and delivered to Edinburgh, along the path that we were walking. Archie, you and Jayne talked about how you could hear the waves. Archie, you told us that you hoped to find sand, like the sand that you had once found in a seashell.

At the grassy opening of Wardie Bay, Arthur, you led us in the direction of the harbour, where you'd seen the boat from the distance. "It's a seagull!", you said, noticing a seabird landing in the water. "Look at all the shells!", you said, Archie. There were so many- millions, we almost couldn't see the sand. We wondered what might live inside the shells. Elisa, you thought a crab would.

When you did see sand, Archie, you mentioned that it was not the same colour of sand as the sand you'd seen your seashell. Ayla and Holly, you got down low to get a closer look at big clumps of seaweed that were washed up on the beach. After a bit of exploring, we found a grassy area that was a bit sheltered from the wind, near some bushes that didn't have any leaves on. It still looked and felt like winter on the beach, even though many of us have noticed the hyacinth and daffodil bulbs starting to grow green shoots in our garden at Cowgate. Here, we stopped for something to eat and some hot chocolate to warm us up.

Soon, it was time to leave. Archie and Elisa, I could hear that you were concerned about some litter that we could see as we made our way back through the grass. On our next visit we will make sure we have enough time to use our litter pickers to fill a bag of rubbish that we can dispose of responsibly.

Removing litter from the beach not only helps it to stay beautiful but it means that birds and other animals that we share the space with are not harmed by it. Did you know that most (80%) of the litter in our seas and oceans comes from the land? It may be blown there by the wind or left by people at the shore. Sometimes sharks swallow sharp metal cans, and turtles will swallow plastic bags thinking they are jellyfish- this can kill them.



It was wonderful being out at the beach with you all on this wintery morning, watching and listening to you making observations as you explored. Being in nature has so many benefits, especially for our health and wellbeing. Research shows us that being in wild spaces can help us to feel relaxed, which is very important for learning and our mental health. I am sure that you have enjoyed being at Edinburgh's shoreline today, discovering more about its past, and thinking about what types of plants and animals might live there today. 'No one will protect what they do not first care about.' (David Attenborough). We hope that you will join us again for a trip to Wardie Bay to strengthen your connection to Edinburgh's shoreline, and nurture your desire to help it thrive.





## Week 2

On a blustery day last week you all travelled by bus with me and Jayne to one of our local beaches on the Firth of Forth, Wardie Bay. As we approached, we could see some land across the water- Fife. Thea, you even noticed some snow on the Fife hills!

The sun shone on us as we walked across some grass growing on the beach sand and the rocks of the breakwater. We passed by tall, scraggly bushes of herb, called Mugwort.

Exploring closer to the water Ivy, you commented that we were walking on seaweed. Angus, you thought the seaweed had been washed up by the waves. Sharing our beach were three small friendly dogs, with their human, who ran about near the water's edge.

Magnus, Sophia and Thea, you took a close inspection with Jayne at something that was amongst the seaweed. "A skeleton!", you exclaimed, Thea. There was indeed a small skull and some vertebrae, or backbone, on the sand. Ivy, Angus and Rory, you came over to have a closer look. "Maybe it's a dog skeleton?", you wondered, Ivy. "Yes, but what's it doing on the beach?", you added, Angus. By this time, Sophia and Thea, you were looking out across the water- perhaps you noticed the island, which is called Inchkieth?

Soon, Rory, you were making marks in the sand with a stick. "This is our picnic blanket and these are the plates.", you said pointing to the small circles you had drawn inside the large rectangular shape, and many of you thought it was the place and time to have a picnic.

It wasn't easy for you, Ivy and Rory, to lay the blanket- the wind was wildly blowing it into the air. Then icy sleet and snow fell onto our hands and faces as we tried to eat. It felt as though Beira, Queen of Winter (from Scottish mythology) was with us! Long ago, people believed that Beira brought storms in January and February, making it hard for plants to grow. She had the power to create great whirlpools, or corryvreckan, in seas and cause snow to fall and rivers to overflow! Thankfully, there was no corryvreckan or overflowing of the Firth of Forth on this particular day but Angus, Magnus and Sophia, you were definitely very cold!

We quickly packed up our things and retreated to the nearby bus shelter and thankfully our bus turned up just after us. Just before we boarded the bus, Ivy, you said to Sophia and Magnus, "It's just a cold day." You were dressed for wintery weather.

Once in the warmth of the bus, Rory, you began telling us a story of a dog that lived on the beach we had just left, "It's head and front legs are covered with fur. It's back, tail and other legs are just skeleton. It can run on the beach but usually swims under the water.", you said and we were captivated by your words. It sounded a bit like a tale from Scottish mythology but it came from your brain, Rory, inspired by our experience today at Wardie Bay. Today was our first opportunity to get some ideas together for creating our own pallet-sized garden inspired by our local shoreline and coastline, as part of our Eco Schools interests. Magnus, you said that we need sand. You really seemed to enjoy making marks in it with a stick earlier. Jayne asked us what could grow in the sand and Ivy, you thought grass and Angus, you suggested potatoes.

From today, we already have stories and ideas as the seeds for your creativity. Did you know that people have been living beside the Firth of Forth for nearly 10 000 years? During the last 200 years people have changed our coastline and used it in a way that has been unsafe for plants and animals to thrive. There has been too much fishing in the Forth estuary and it has even been used as a dump for our rubbish! (<http://edinburghshoreline.org.uk/about/>). In the past, people have been disrespectful to the environment of Edinburgh's coast. Today we were getting to know a local beach that needs our love. When you visit places like this, creating your own stories, mythology and folklore, it forms a connection to it. With this connection there can be a desire to protect and nurture your shoreline, and to teach other people what you know, so that it gets the love that it deserves.

Thank you all for this wintery beach adventure! It would be wonderful if you could join us for more explorations of Edinburgh's north coast. We could learn more about what types of plants are native to the area- that could be attractive for insects and birds. We would all love to hear the stories you tell and know more of the new mythologies you create inspired by our beautiful coastline.

### Week 3

Last week we had a very enjoyable trip to Granton Community Hub garden. The garden is near Wardie Bay, on the Edinburgh coast, and local people enjoy spending time together there growing vegetables, herbs and flowers. We were especially interested to see what kind of plants would grow near the coast so that we could bring back ideas for the coastal garden we plan to grow at Cowgate.



It took us some time to get ready for the trip as it was a cold day and there were lots of clothes to put on! Corran and Bertie you were so kind and supportive to your friend Alex, helping him find his gloves and playing so gently with him whilst everyone else was getting ready.

We walked to the North Bridge to catch the number 8 bus. Everyone was very excited and happy, we had lots of jokes and laughter and singing.

We only had to wait a few minutes before the bus came and we all went straight to the back to sit on the big seat. While we were sitting on the bus Emma took out a picture which her neighbour had given her showing Wardie bay more than 100 years ago. The picture showed a very busy harbour and pier below a cloudy sky. The harbour was full with with large and small sailing ships, rowing boats and plumes of steam.



'A speed boat!' you exclaimed Bertie. The picture prompted so many ideas and thoughts: Ivy said that the clouds were made of steam and that the boats were collecting fish. 'The boats are storming the sea' said Nico, 'Elsa and Anna's mummy and daddy got blown over by a storm on the boat.' Corran thought that the sea was like 'a big, big pool and the 'clouds make it really stormy.' 'Yes,' said Bertie 'it's really stormy.....I saw lots of dolphins at Portobello' 'That's where I live' exclaimed Corran! Luca you were particularly interested in the steam train that was running along side the harbour.

The picture also reminded Ivy and Nico of the flooding that was happening in parts of Britain at the moment. 'My dad showed me on his phone when the sea covered the whole city,' said Ivy. 'I saw the floods covering a whole city', added Nico, 'Don't open your door, and the flood comes in the cracks. 'I can't swim,' said Ivy ...'but I can hold my breath for a long time.'

When we got off the bus we had about a 10 minute walk to the Community Hub garden. As we stood facing the garden Emma told us about the old factory building next door which many years ago built electric cars, sadly now the building is empty and not well cared for. It was good to learn something about the history of the community we were visiting. As soon as we entered the garden we were met by Katerina, Louise and Adrian who made us feel so welcome.

They showed us around the garden and talked to us about the plants that they were growing. Alex you were so excited and happy to be in such a beautiful open space. You ran all around the garden, exploring independently and especially liked playing on the bridge over the small stream. You and Corran and Bertie spent so much time gathering sticks to throw over the bridge into the stream. 'An excellent stick for my trick,' said Bertie.

Adrian showed us a raised bed which had been built to grow things in but was empty at the moment. Corran, Bertie, Nico and Ivy you all climbed in and pretended to be flowers growing. Luca you enjoyed watching your friends and you laughed at the fun they were having but you were very sure that you did not want to climb in with them. I really admire how you trust your own judgement and feelings Luca and express your feelings so clearly, gently and firmly.

At the back of the garden, under a sheet of tarpaulin was the trunk of a large tree that was being carved into an Iron Age long boat. People at the garden are using tools like the tools that people would have used over 2000 years ago to make the boat, which would have been similar to ones that people would have sailed in at that time.

When it is finished, people will sail in it from Wardie Bay or Granton Harbour, across the Firth of Forth to Fife. We could tell that it is taking a long time to make because the ground was covered with wood chips. We wondered what type of tree the boat was made from. Ivy, you said, "It's probably a pine tree that they are using because of the colour."

We saw some very interesting plants including Mugwort, St. John's Wort, Calendula, Cowslips and Red Clover. Katerina explained that most of them are native to Scotland and they all grow well by the coast.

There were also lots of vegetables and fruits, Luca you were particularly interested in these and spent quite some time looking at the spinach and the strawberries. We chose some plants to take back to our coastal garden...cowslip and some coastal meadow seeds and we hope to return next week for some more!

We sat for hot chocolate and a biscuit and I asked what kind of vegetables you thought would grow well by the sea. Corran said that any seeds will grow well as long as you look after them and give them water.

Then you said 'pepper', Bertie said 'cucumber', Ivy 'tomatoes' and Nico 'strawberries'. Ivy told us that when she had been at Abigail's party she had been given some seeds that 'will bring the butterflies'. I pointed out lots of Buddleia in the community garden that was also wonderful for attracting butterflies. We even noticed some Buddleia growing out of the walls and wondered if we might also grow some in our coastal garden.



As we were clearing our snack away Luca found two sticks and happily held them up in a cross shape. 'Look,' you said, 'an X, just like on my bus!'

After thanking Katerina, Louise and Adrian we headed back to the bus stop. As we walked Ivy spotted, very high up in the sky, a flock of geese flying in formation and making a 'V' shape. 'Like my number' you exclaimed recognising the letter V from your name. You explained to us that the geese were travelling from the east and heading south where it was warmer.

We also spotted an aeroplane coming into land at Edinburgh airport and Nico said that just recently, when she was with her grandad, an aeroplane had been right above her head!

It was so lovely to spend such comfortable time in each other's company learning from each other's knowledge and ideas, sharing information and having so much fun together. Thank you ! And how lucky that we were able to visit the Granton Community Hub garden and be made to feel so welcome and part of their very special community. I hope that there will be many more visits here and that we can bring back lots of ideas, knowledge and plants to enrich our own lovely garden at Cowgate.

### [During Lockdown](#)

Obviously, lockdown created many challenges for our coastal garden! The children were unable to nurture their plants and ideas in person. But we all discovered and were inspired by nature's force and independence. Here are some photos of our coastal garden during lockdown.

These beautiful pictures show how the onions and potatoes and grasses flourished in our absence, waiting for us to return and marvel.



And whilst our garden was flourishing at Cowgate, our children were finding many opportunities to nurture their love of the coast. Inspired by a virtual gathering from Wardie Bay. In just half an hour, during the gathering so much rubbish was collected with a litter picker.....there were wipes, plastics, fishing wire and even the sole of a shoe!

Inspired by our virtual gathering, one of our children visited the bay with her dad that same afternoon! And another of our children visited their local North Berwick coastline.....of course with a delicious ice cream!

On World Earth Day in April 2020, we had a virtual gathering where the children chatted about what World Earth Day means. We learned and sang a new song called 'Please take care of the water'.





# Cradlehall Primary School

This Pocket Garden was created by pupils at Cradlehall Primary School. It is full of beautiful colourful flowers with a large bug hotel made of logs in the middle. This garden has loads of habitat for minibeasts, which is how it has earned the name Bugtopia.



Plant pots on canes



Labels made of tin tops



Hand painted signs







# Duddingston Primary School

This Pocket Garden was built by the P3b class at Duddingston Primary School. It is full of flat rocks painted like ladybirds, bees and rainbows.



Bicycle tyre



Rainbow ladybird



Habitat created from paper

Here is the story of Duddingston's Pocket Garden in their own words: "Our Pocket Garden is themed around the idea of transforming our local park, which is just across the fence from the school, into a Wildlife theme park. We have included a Ferris wheel, made out of an old bike wheel, to which we would attach 'carriages' made from recycled materials.

These would hold a variety of edible plants including mint which a parent has given us lots of top tips to help with our growing.

We have included a 'log flume' which will involve an irrigation system to water our plants. We learnt about irrigation as part of our Ancient Egypt topic and how the river Nile was used. We want to create a fun 'edible' tree using recycled wood and mint. We have researched our local area and have looked on the 'Friend of Figgate Park' website. We were so interested in the different types of wildlife that live there and so we wanted to welcome them to our garden by building a bug hotel made out of recycled tins and to make our own bird feeders which would be attached to our mint tree.

Many of us have spotted otters in our local park so we would like to make models of these to include them in our design. We would also like to collect shells from our local beach, Portobello, to further include the coasts in our design.



Be kind



Plastic bottle planters



Pansies



Splash of colour

One of our class members has great links with Ostrero Scotland and we would like to contact them with regards to using recycled materials in a creative way to make our design environmentally friendly. We have also asked our families for their gardening knowledge and would like to plant pansies and marigolds so they bloom well for May time.

The children have loved taking part in this project and already have great plans to use the mint to make tea, spinach for salad and beetroot for a chocolate cake in the future. We've used recycled bottles, wood, pots and tubing to bring our creation to life!

Our design cover the four themes and includes the following. For coasts and waters: an irrigation system, shells from our local beaches, painted pebbles from the north coast of Scotland.



One planet picnic: we propagated herbs including mint, lemon balm and thyme, where we intend to make herbal teas. We hope to use the pansy petals for some biscuits, spinach for salads and grow artichokes and beetroot over the coming months.



The garden has come to life so closely to our design. The children have built the Ferris wheel, bug hotel, sweet pea slide and “log flume” just as on our original plan to turn it into “Duddy Theme Park Garden.”



## Learning to use tools



## Building the frame



### Finishing touches

# Glenlyon Primary School

## 2021 Certificate of Achievement

This Pocket Garden is based on the 2021 Year of Coasts and Waters theme, particularly sustainable energy like the Glenlyon hydroelectric dams and the lovely river that flows through the glen. There is a greenhouse made from CD cases, and a water feature that feeds a bird bath.



Here is the story of Glenlyon Primary School's Pocket Garden in their own words: Hello we are Glenlyon Primary School and Nursery and this year we decided to enter Keep Scotland Beautiful's sixth annual Pocket Garden design competition.

We chose the 2021 Year of Coasts and Waters theme. We looked at the water through Glenlyon from the Hydroelectric dam to the beautiful Roman bridge.

We made our initial design in March and have been working with a mentor to plan our garden.



The aim is that the garden will contain lots of eco projects and be super wildlife friendly for birds, bees, butterflies and bugs. We are also tying in the garden with a water theme. Based around sustainable energy like the Glenlyon hydroelectric dams and the lovely river that flows through the glen.

It snowed in May so a bubble wrap fleece was required to keep the cold away! We lost quite a few seedlings so had to repot. We are making sure that everything is locally sourced, seasonal, organic and we have tried to reuse things within the project.

The bird bath is fed by pipes on the wall. This will feed the bath and the potatoes, and the hanging garden with flowers to attract the bees and wasps. The steps are for nesting birds and red squirrels from our local area.



Garden poem



Bird bath with marbles



Beautiful blue flowers

The wheel will spin - it is like the hydroelectric dam up at the top of the Glen. It will make a small lightbulb light to show how important energy is. The garden has a fungi bird feeder. Pink roses around the pond, red roses in pots and lollipop sticks to make fencine - celebrating my dad's job as a fencer.

The wheel will spin - it is like the hydroelectric dam up at the top of the Glen. It will make a small lightbulb light to show how important energy is. The garden has a fungi bird feeder.

Pink roses around the pond, red roses in pots and lollipop sticks to make fencine - celebrating my dad's job as a fencer. Papa's tulips around the garden and mint for making our own mint ice cream!

There will be a path down the middle and a pond for birds and frogs, and a bridge to represent the Roman bridge in our Glen. Hopefully we will over time get lily pads as well.

We are also going to have a push and slide door greenhouse made out of recycled CD cases. There will be a water butt filling up from pipes and a pond below. The greenhouse will have hangers for trowels, tools and equipment.

There will be troughs for vegetables and over hangers on the outside for plants. The gutters will fill up the pond and maybe a water butt, hopefully made out of bamboo that we have spare in the garden. We are so proud of our final garden!"



Greenhouse made from CD cases and water feature that feeds the bird bath made from reused milk bottles



# Greenbank PreSchool

This Pocket Garden was made by children at Greenbank PreSchool. It is made from two reused cable spools decorated with the children's drawings and toys. The top of one spool holds reused yoghurt pots full of seedlings, and a clever bowl and hose system catches water keep the plants in the second spool watered.



Toy decorations



Planting space in bottom of  
spool



Wind chimes



[illegible]

## Decorating



# Greenhills Primary School

Received 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Public Vote

This Pocket Garden is the Mad Hatters Tea Party! Two scarecrows made of old clothes sit at a table made from a large pallet box planter. There are 'cakes' made from birdseed balls, and teacups planted with edible seedlings.



Birdseed 'cakes'



Edible plants in teacups



Scarecrows made from old  
clothes



# Greenhills Primary School Madhatters Tea Party 2021



Cross Heads



Eat me Calendula



Take a slice of Onion



Outdoor Handwashing



Carpet of Lettuce



Carnation Milk



Dandelion Tea



Daisy Sugar



Heather



Pebbles for the Birds





# Grove Academy

This Pocket Garden celebrates Keep Scotland Beautiful's 21st Birthday with wild flowers and vegetables in the colours of our logo, and a tree planted in the middle. It was designed by Natanya (last year's S6 pupil), and has now been installed at Queen Street Community Garden in Broughty Ferry. This is a great site for the Pocket Garden as it is maintained by young people from uniformed groups and Grove Academy. The Pocket Garden was built on the site by members of the S1 Outdoor Learning group.



Now the frame is in its home, the team begin to add the soil and bark chippings



Planting up the wedges of different colour wildflowers



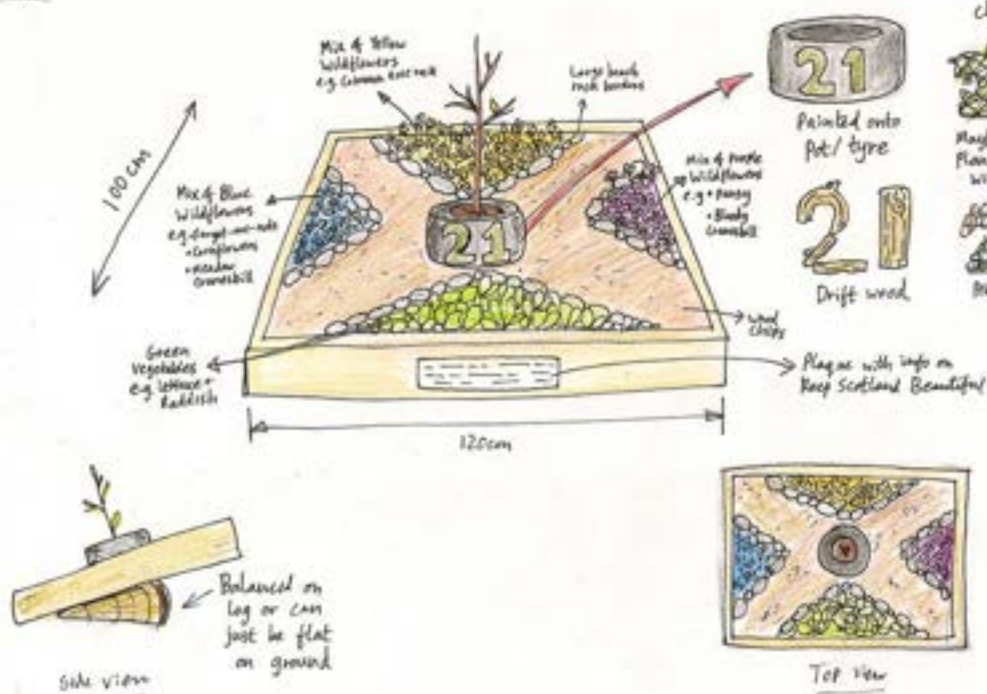


A mosaic of the number 21 for Keep Scotland Beautiful's 21st birthday

The whole garden is slightly tilted up. Even a small elevation like this helps the garden to seem like it's lighter than air.

## 21 Years of Keep Scotland Beautiful

Natalie L.A.





# Houston Primary School

This Pocket Garden features lots of blue flowers in a large planter box. At the centre is a bug hotel and lots of dry wood to encourage minibeasts to move in.







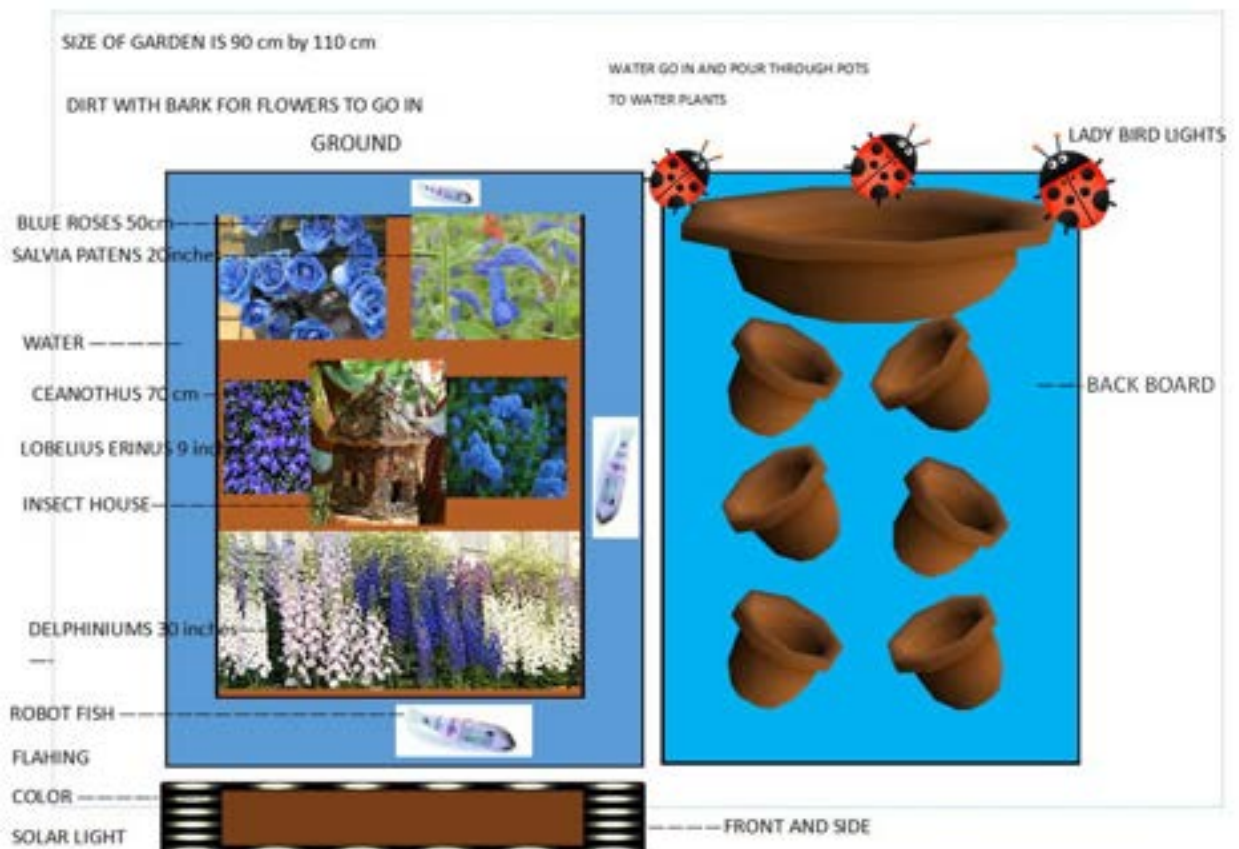
Bug hotel



Lots of blue flowers

Here is the story of Houston Primary School's Pocket Garden in their own words: "Materials used were wood framing to go around the garden and a big bit of wood at the back for water plants. Metal and lights for around the side. For anchoring the garden to the ground: four small bits of wood screwed through edges into the ground at the corners. Types of plants used: salvia poatens, ceanothus, lobelius eronus.

This Pocket Garden was built from a wooden box filled with dirt and box. Lots of blue flowers and a house for beasties to use. There is water around the edge of the garden for toy fish to play with. Water goes in pots and waters the plants. Lots of colourful lights to make the garden look happy. This garden would make me happy"





# Junior World Childcare

This Pocket Garden was made by children at Junior World Childcare. Everything used to build the garden has been collected or recycled. There is a shed made from lolly sticks, lots of seashells, and colourful painted rocks.



Paintings on wood slices



Ladybird stones



Seashells



Here's the story of Junior World Childcare's Pocket Garden in their own words: The bottom of the base will be done from a pallet with the two boxes which will be recycled from our fruit delivery and will have small driftwood and shells attached to them. One box will be filled with fruit and vegetables (carrots, strawberries and cucumbers) the other flowers (pansy, marigolds, poppies, phlox, forget me not and dwarf mix).

Along the back of the pallet there will be Sunflowers and some roses which will sit nicely beside the bug house.

On the opposite side there is the sign which says, "to the bug house" or "to the beach".

Around the boxes we have some roses, driftwood, shells, stones and pinecones that the children have collected from their walks along Nairn beach.



Shed made from lolly sticks



Watering plants



Planting seeds



Caring for plants



Dirt is good!



Everything we are using for this has been collected or recycled for this challenge.

The children have enjoyed designing this them self as it has encouraged them to go out and look for the things needed and helping us reduce waste.



# Lauriston Nursery

The children at Lauriston Nursery Dunfermline are very excited to be entering this year's One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden design competition for 2021. We had a discussion on what the word "nature" means and where close to us the children like to go on a walk. The children chose Townhill Loch Dunfermline. This is a popular spot we often go to on walks at nursery. The Loch supports many important species and habitats. We have been talking about the importance of keeping the loch clean and clear of litter.



Townhill Loch



Starting to plant



The finished garden



These types of areas support birds, insects and plants. We plan to visit Townhill Loch regularly to help pick up litter and anything that can be used as pots will be included in our garden. We will also research the wildlife and species of plants to help us choose which plants and flowers to grow.

Most of the materials used will be recycled and most plants will be grown here at nursery where possible. We will also include bird feeders made by the children from recycled items. Our plan is to have a small pond at the centre of our garden representing the importance pocket of the loch. We will also try to grow plants which are found at the loch to surround the pond.



To create our Picnic garden the children understand the importance of lochs/ponds for the wildlife as areas for animals to feed, breed and provide them with drinking water. To create our loch/pond we will use recycled pots, bottles, cans and plastic sunk into the ground. Will then use floating plants (a place for eggs). We will also submerge aquatic plants to help oxygenate the water. Marginal plants for around the edges and forget-me-nots. At the top of our garden we would like to use dandelions, daisies, buttercups, clover and speedwell as these are great sources of pollen and nectar. These can help transform habitats.



# Lockerbie Academy

This Pocket Garden is a three-layered tower beginning with a wormery at the bottom with four logs either side, and a pallet sitting on top of the logs. The pallets are filled with veg and mosses.



Talking about plants



Eating chives



Watering the garden

Here's the story of Lockerbie Academy's Pocket Garden in their own words:

Automatic Watering System: I have constructed a diverting system from the gutter to divert rainwater along a pipe and through small homes to water my plants.

If my plants are going to be flooded I have a system to release all the water down a pipe into a bucket for later use. I have moss to naturally hold water to ensure every drop available can be used by my plants.

When the water reaches the bottom of my structure it goes into my wormery, which fills the water with vitamins and minerals for the plants. The mineral water is held in a tank which can be released on demand with the tap to feed my plants in a sustainable way.

My logs will provide great homes for small insects to live on the surface and inside their bark. The moss will add biodiversity since this is a wetland habitat and will attract and retain different creatures. I used sheep's wool as a natural pest deterrent around the edge of plants likely to be eaten by slugs.

Structure: My structure begins with a wormery at the bottom with four logs on either side, and a pallet on top. The pallets will be filled with veg and mosses. The structure keeps going for another three layers. I will have a pallet facing south with tin cans attached full of bee friendly flowers, and there will be a bird box resting on the side. The bird box will be made of recycled plywood. I will not have bird feeders near my bird box since feeding birds will bring predators and disease to the bird box. Stones will absorb and retain heat for plants.

Building materials: My logs will be from windfall trees, pallets will be sourced from a local flytipping spot, and stones and gutter offcuts will be sourced from builders' rubble yards. Soil will be sourced from the waste picked out of gutters by our window cleaner. This should be very fertile and sustainable. I will also get soil from the wormery. Did you know household composting makes more of a positive impact on the planet than recycling?

Plants: Honey suckle will be trained to grow up the North and South facing side of the structure to ensure there is plenty of light from East and West. Honeysuckle is fragrant and attracts insects and bees, particularly the native wood bee.

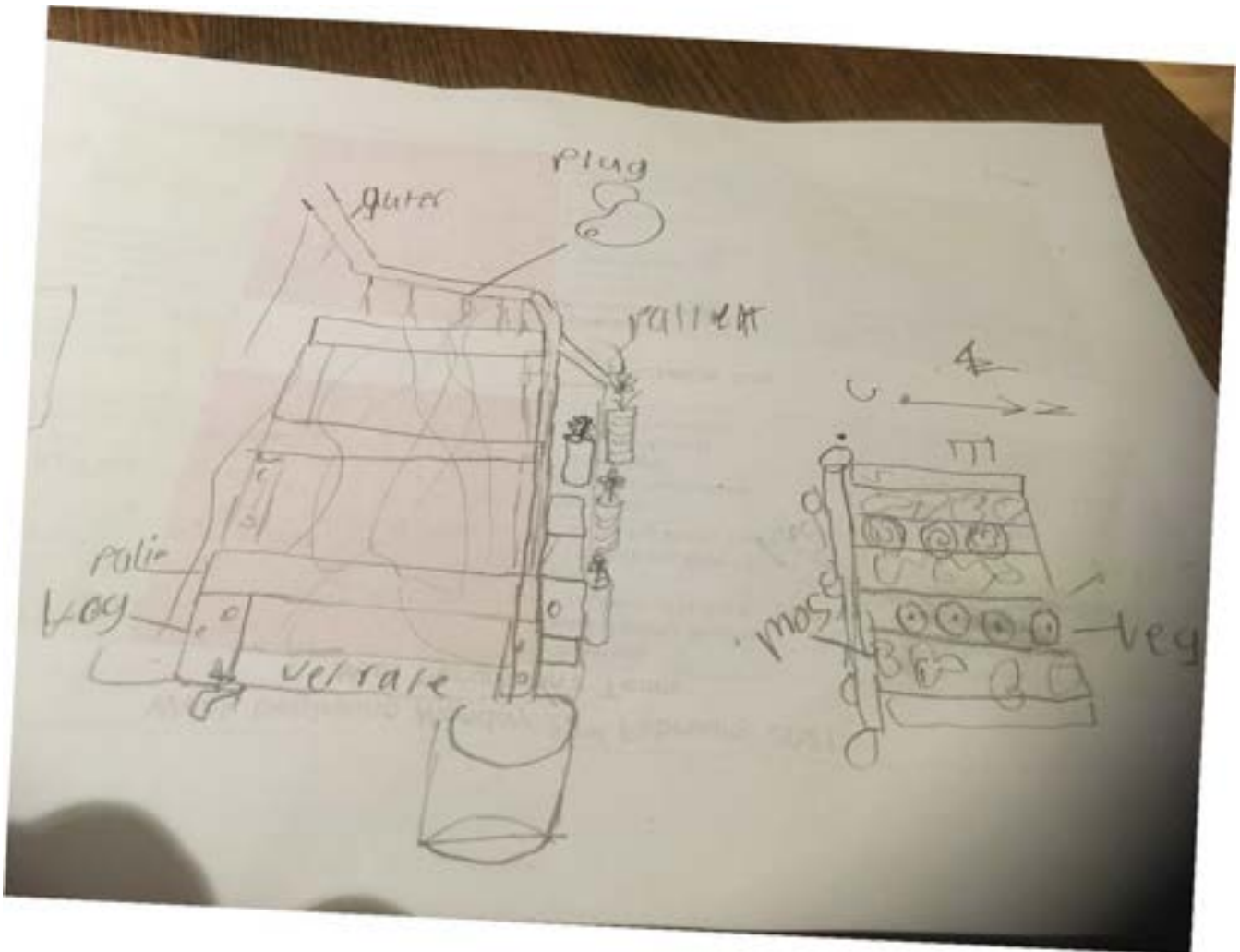
Clematis will grow along the South and North face to attract insects to my structure to pollinate all of my vegetables. Climbing roses will grow along the South and North walls. Insect friendly self-seeding flowers will be located on the tin can wall facing South such as dwarf sunflowers, lavender, bluebells, rosemary, foxglove, crocus, chives, salvia, Echinacea Purpurea, and cosmos.

Spring bulbs such as crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils will prevent insect starvation during the hungry time of the year and provide food early season for the first foraging bees and insects of the year. Primroses are native flowers which provide spring food for insects and bees.



Vegetables: My aim is to produce sustainable local food all year round without chemical pest control. One of the plants will be onions because you can grow them in a relatively small space and they store well after harvest. Mixed varieties of lettuce because they are colourful and tasty and have a long growing season and if they bolt they are excellent for insects and to feed my wormery. Beetroot because it is easy to grow, the leaves can be used for salads and the roots can be pickled and preserved for use months after harvest. Carrots because they can stay in the ground during winter and will supply me with fresh zero plastic veg during the winter. Strawberries because they will bring flamboyance to my garden and will supply with a very special treat during the hot summer months.

Herbs: I will plant herbs above my bird boxes to prevent the herbs spreading their runners too far. The fragrance, seeds and flowers from the herbs will be excellent for insects, birds and me to eat.



# Logie Coldstone Primary School

This Pocket Garden is based on pupils' love for wildlife and the outdoors. The school is located near Burn O' Vat which features a waterfall spilling into the Vat then running into the burn which in turn feeds into Loch Kinord.



Here's the story of Logie Coldstone Primary School's Pocket Garden in their own words: Living on the edge of the Cairngorms offers lots of access to the outdoors, including in the school playground where we are lucky to have a park sheltered by trees which are



sometimes covered in moss. Snowdrops grow in the school grounds and there are planters where crocuses and tulips are starting to appear.

Locally, sorrell and wild garlic are often found alongside bluebells in the woodland. In the winter, the children make bird feeders to attract birds to the school grounds. In Science they have made hedgehog houses and planted trees to attract more wildlife to the school.



Frog and pond



Tyre planter



Welly boot planters

The children at Logie Coldstone School really enjoy planting seeds and watching them grow. It's always a good lesson in patience!

We have successfully grown tomatoes, broad beans and peas in the past. Strawberries also grow well in a planter positioned in a sunny spot at the front of the school. We have also received seed potatoes from One Seed Forward which we are looking forward to planting. Other requests from the children this year include radish and spinach.

All the materials we have planned to use we already have or have access to. There is a garage in Logie Coldstone where we can access old tyres for our garden. We had a delivery on the pallet so we will re-use this.

We have old wellies in our outdoor shed which we can re-use. And we have access to lots of rocks, sticks, pinecones, moss and leaves to make our waterfall and wildlife.

We will seek donations of seeds and / or plants to help to build our garden too.



# Meldrum Academy

## 2021 Certificate of Achievement

This Pocket Garden is called Harry's Haven and features a pond in a bucket, space for insects, and bird feeders. There are lots of reused things used as pots for plants.







Pond in a bucket



Coconut bird feeder



Space for insects



This is called a pallet garden, we made the pots from old pots, and yogurt pots and drinks bottles. I put soil in and water.

This a pond in a pot...  
I got a bucket and put in rocks. I then, put in water, and I put in a pond weed and put in pond plants



**Plants**

Mint and strawberry

Potentilla

Chives

Clematis

Mini daffodils

A collage of six images showing various plants in pots. The plants are labeled: Mint and strawberry, Potentilla, Chives, Clematis, and Mini daffodils. The images show the plants in their respective pots, some in wooden pallet gardens and some in individual pots.



# Meldrum Academy

This design from the P3 class at Milltimber is inspired by the ocean. A single whale swims in waters created by blue leaves and flowers. It's a simple and beautiful concept.



A single red plant stands out in a sea of blue and green.



Re-used bottles stuffed with twigs and straw makes a home for minibeasts





The proud designer and his ideas brought to life.



One of the skills demonstrated here is adaptability. Blue orchids in the design were replaced by plants that have natural blue hues to the leaves as well as adding in some ocean green colour too.



# Monquhitter Primary School

Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes at Monquhitter Primary worked together to come up with their Pocket Garden design. They each made sketches after a garden walk and talk about the school garden and gardens at home, particularly during lockdown. They decided to celebrate Nature on our Doorstep with a wildlife garden.



Willow appears on the village clan badge and the children have used it all through the garden.

They learned how to weave it and created all sorts of features and structures from it including bird feeders and a tower for peas to climb.



Holes drilled in wood for solitary bees



A tractor to reflect the pupils' rural area



Celebrating nature on our doorstep





Wonderful woven local willow for plants to climb



Mosaic rainbow over the garden



Planting seeds



Weaving



Watering the garden



Planting out



Anchoring the features



# Murrayburn Early Years Centre

Here is the garden from Murrayburn Early Years Centre. They enjoy improving their garden space all the time and this mysterious Pocket Garden is made from a variety of different objects.



Choosing seeds



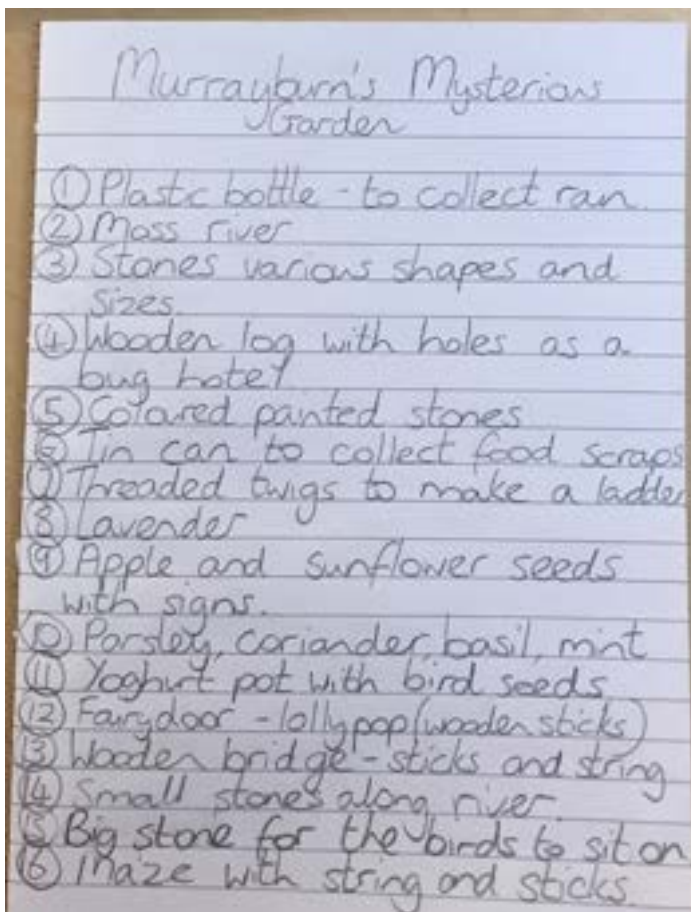
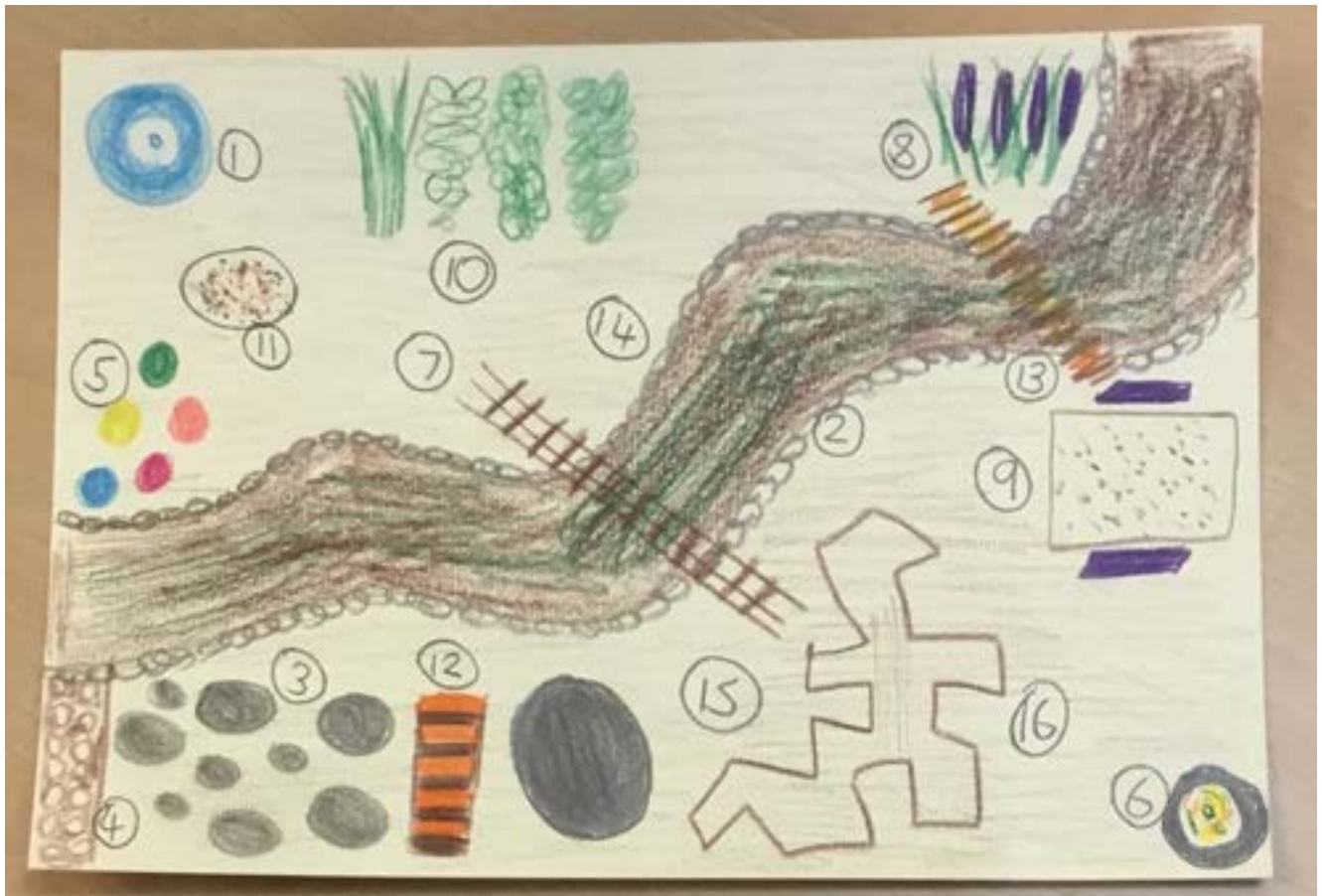
Planting



Close up of the finished garden

The children (4 years old) have designed a garden that includes lots of different objects.





We have been focussing on birds over the last few weeks. So that was our starting point.

It then developed into a "Mysterious Garden" by adding a log for the birds to hide the worms.

A stone for the birds to sit on and look at the plants. One child wanted purple flowers and another wanted mint.

So we decided to have an herb sensory garden. Some children wanted to use the wooden lolly sticks to make ladders and a fairy garden door.

The others wanted to use twigs and sticks to thread a ladder and create a maze. We are going to paint some stones as minibeasts.

# Netherlee Primary School

Throughout lockdown pupils at Netherlee began to appreciate gardens and outdoor spaces more than ever. Their Pocket Garden is built around the things that they love most in their own gardens, school grounds and local area.

This garden attracts pollinators such as bees and butterflies through its colourful flowers, scented herbs and providing shelter. Everything in the garden is re-used and locally sourced. The children say 'It is a hopeful place for our creepy crawly friends...'



Bug hotel under the garden



Small pond to attract wildlife



We made a wormery for our garden



# Oakwood After School Care

A Pocket Garden celebrating Glasgow. The raised bed has food and herbs and is designed to look like a Glasgow tenement flat. Peas, French beans and carrots are growing in the trough along with hollyhocks and radishes. The central focus is a large wind turbine with a bicycle tyre at its centre. This represents renewable energy along with the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and Mountain Bike Championship. Herbs grow in recycled tins at the centre of the wheel.



Vegetables and herbs

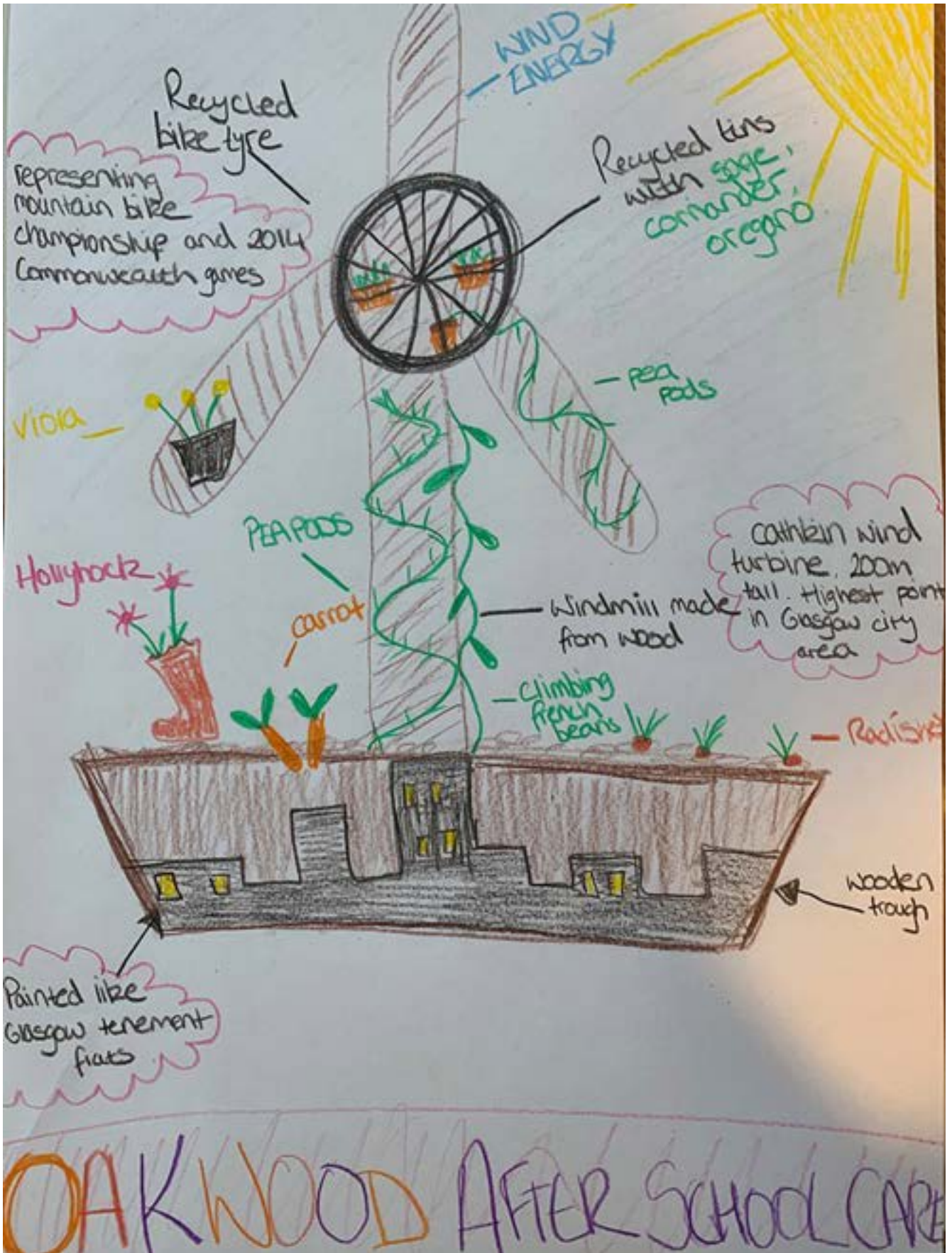


Bicycle tyre



An aerial view







# Park View Primary School

In choosing our design we thought of the role rivers have played in the development of towns and cities over the years. Different industries have used these for transport, delivery and export purposes and many areas have thrived and grown as a result. The River Clyde is half a mile from our school and our town's Light Burn runs into it. This now small Burn would have played a role in our local area in previous years.



Planting



Making the wheels



Setting out the tracks

Therefore, our design, incorporating elements of all the themes, is honouring the heritage of our community. We are connecting the past with the present, looking out of the classroom window 100 years ago and mixing it with what we see now.

Historically, coal mining was the major industry in the Cambuslang area and Park View Primary was built on the periphery of the site of Gilbertfield Colliery and Brick Works. The coal and bricks would have been transported on rails to the Clyde, loaded onto boats and delivered onward to coastal towns and villages and maybe exported abroad. Remnants of bricks have been found in our school grounds.

The base for our garden is modelled on a trolley that would have been used to transport coal out of the mine, it will be made from an upcycled delivery palette. The design of the bug hotel is based on pit head machinery which housed the winding gears for the lifts and our tower wormery is based on the giant chimneys.

Many of the plants used in our design have come from the school garden, these originated from donations when the school's garden club began.



Using seeds collected from previous years (nasturtiums, marigolds) taking cuttings (from herbs), preparing runners (from strawberries) and splitting larger perennial plants (rhubarb, chives, mint and yellow poppies) have ensured that our planting choices are sustainable and seasonal.

We will also scatter around wildflower seeds. These will all provide a picnic for humans and insects alike. The plants will be transplanted into recycled pots.

Some of the soil used is from our own compost which has remained largely unused over the last 12 months, and the wormery will contribute a little more.

Leaves collected in the autumn will be used around the base of the bug hotel and our 'forest' to provide shelter for insects and hedgehogs.

Our burn will be made from reusing a plastic water bottle and be blue from the forget me nots which grow wild every year.







# Perth College UHI Nursery

The children at Perth College Nursery are celebrating fresh water and nature in the heart of the city. The River Tay flows between Smeaton's Bridge and Queen's Bridge and milk bottles are re-used to create the houses and the river itself. The river doubles as a bird bath and the riverbank is also a herb garden. What a beautiful city!



Watering the seedlings



Planting out our young plants



Creating homes for minibeasts



# Rosneath Primary School

The Primary 2/1 class began creating their Pocket Garden to bring more wildlife to the school grounds and learn more about planting flowers.







## Rosneath Primary Pocket Garden

Unfortunately, the deer thought so too and ate them all up!

We were not disheartened and began to problem solve.

Primary 2/1 began creating our pocket garden for the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition. We wanted to bring more wildlife to our school grounds and learn more about planting flowers. We began planting and our garden began to grow.



Our tulips were first to appear. They were beautiful.



With our Janitor's help and leftover wood, we created a gate.



The children wove wicker to create something unique and wonderful.

We were ready to start planting again.

We discovered that *Pollinators love pink*. Carnations are heavily scented and are laden with pollen.

"Send in the bees!"



The children got to work.





Our Head Teacher, Mrs McDermid, allocated our class more space to plant fruit and vegetables. We began by planting what the children like to eat.

We hope our visiting **bees** will help pollinate our plants.



We then planted vegetables the children hadn't yet tasted. Aubergines first.

We included a **hedgehog house**, a **butterfly house**, a **bee hotel**, a **frog pond**, a **birdhouse** and made bird feeders.

We built a **bug hotel**.



We discovered spiders can float on water and jump!



Shhhh! We have a visitor.





"We look after all  
wildlife."



"We are not  
scared of  
spiders!"



"We watch the birds  
eating the seeds  
through our peephole."



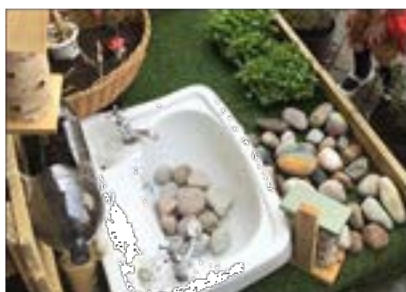
We hope you like our Pocket Garden ... as much as we do.



# Shaw Mhor Early Years Centre

In order to undertake this project we began by thinking about what the children already knew about the term 'Pocket Garden'. From this we then shared our thoughts and ideas about what they would like to have in their own garden.

We discussed the best ways to encourage wildlife into our courtyard, using books and the internet to discover which flowers would be best and followed this up by making a plan on paper to show the exactly to scale, the size of our intended garden. The children were particularly keen to have a fairy garden so we ensured we had an area set aside for this. This created even more excitement and interest for this project.



Even got the kitchen sink



Carefully watering the plants



Colourful flower bed

We are very grateful to have the support of our local businesses, and a nearby allotment very kindly donated materials such as wooden pallets, grass, seeds, soil and strawberry cuttings.



Corner basket planter



Splash of colour



Watering plants

We ensured we recycled and reused as many materials for our Pocket Garden as we could, some of which included plastic bottles, flowerpots, a bathroom sink and a bird bath. We planted a variety of flowers, herbs and grass heads. We made sure we included wildflowers; Aster, marigolds and geraniums as they gave the garden a more natural feel and encouraged the bees too.



Soon after planting we discovered our strawberries began to die. We sought advice from Jenny our mentor and she advised us to remove them from the plastic bottles and replant them in a bigger pot. At the same time she told us blueberries prefer rainwater. Taking this advice on board we worked with our neighbouring primary 7 class to make rain catchers and used the rain we collected (plenty as we live in Scotland!) for our blueberries.



Getting creative



Getting practical



Getting results



# St Mary's School Melrose

We have started to grow our little seedlings indoors in the hope that soon we will be able to move them outside. Our P4 children are very excited to take this on as their project though we hope that the whole school will benefit.

During lockdown, when everyone missed their friends, we have been dreaming of being able to come together for a picnic. The children started by drawing this.



Lots of pots



Painting pallets



Seedlings in cups

After washing out lots of yoghurt pots in our wish to reduce single use plastic we got busy planting our seeds. Our idea is to bring these little seedlings on by transplanting them into progressively bigger pots. Hopefully by the time the summer holidays come it will be time to break up our little garden and send everyone home with a flourishing plant.

We plan to build our picnic basket which will hold our precious plants from wooden crates donated by a generous local greengrocer.

A very good friend of the school, Alan, has already started to stain the boxes with wood preservative for us. We are excited about working in this modular form as it will allow us to try out different combinations.

We have discussed so many design ideas and have decided that we would like to weave some willow to make a basket frame around the containers.



Maybe we could even make some willow children who would enjoy our picnic!

We have started to make some 3D bees as we begin to understand the importance of the insect family in our eco system.

This feels like a truly organic project and we know that our ideas will grow alongside our little plants.

As we move towards summer we look forward with such joy to sharing our school grown picnic with those who we have so missed over recent months.





# St Mary's School Melrose

Received 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Public Vote

The boys and girls were challenged to design a Pocket Garden when Home Learning during the Covid pandemic. We were delighted when one of our designs was selected.

The children have grown many of the plants in the design including sunflowers, potatoes, onions and peas. Inspired by our class topic, the materials used are all recycled. They made pots from newspapers and lined the planting areas with repurposed compost bags.



Colourful characters



Watering the plants

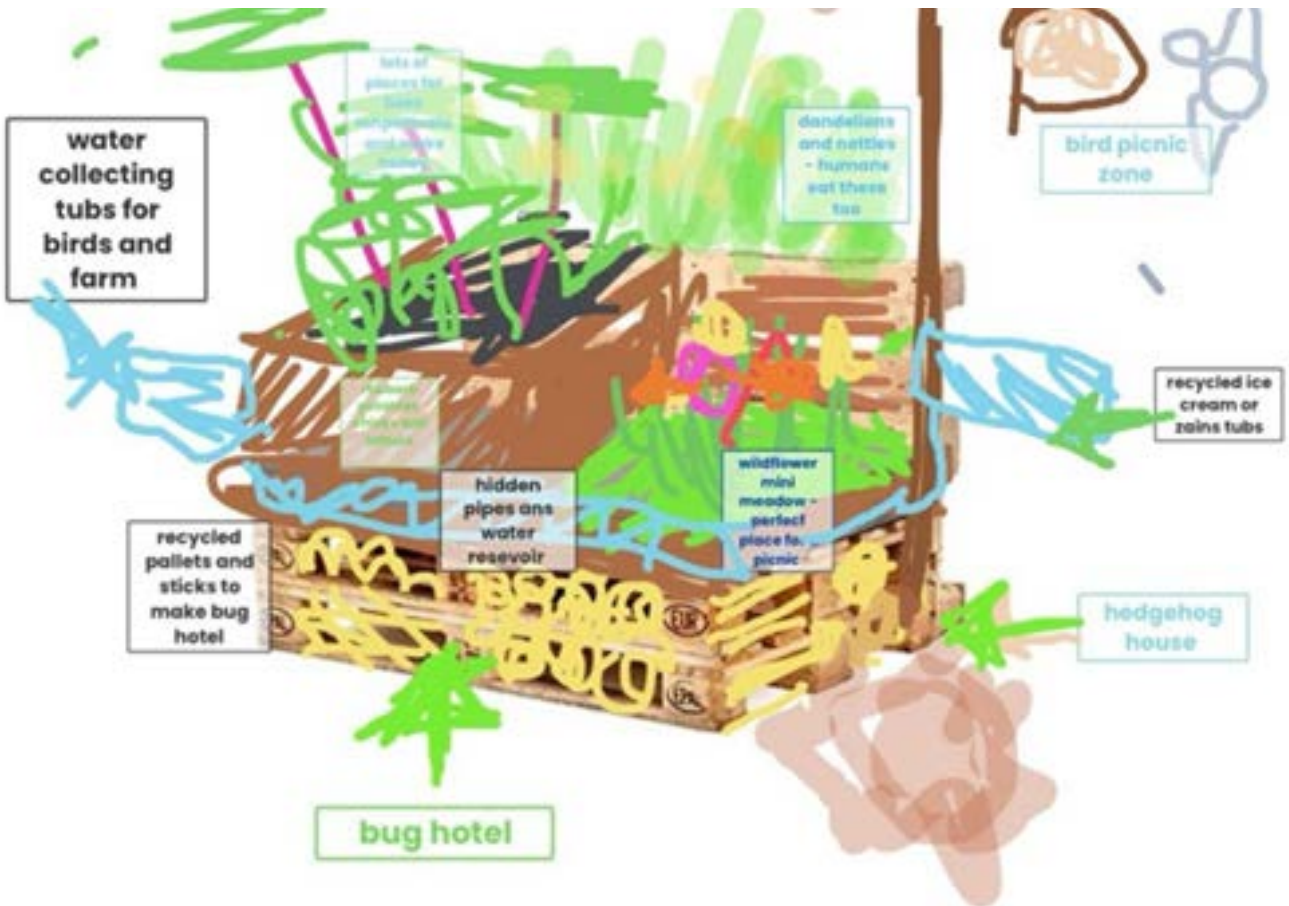


Lots of variety

What if Aliens visited our garden? The children made Alien Insects and created small habitats. This included a plastic bottle Rocket Rest area for flying insects, hollow Pitstop Planets and a Minibeast Hotel at the bottom of the pallets with entrances for hedgehogs and small creatures.

To nurture the garden, we have a rainwater fuelled sprinkler system and used careful planting to protect our sunflowers which will provide seed for our birds in winter. Children can measure the growth of the sunflowers and peas against a numberline.

All the plants are edible and can be enjoyed by minibeasts, humans and aliens alike! We have learned lots of new skills and enjoyed spending time outdoors. Most importantly, even though we are small, we can make a huge difference to our planet!





# Stow Primary School

The whole class have been able to follow their designs and they have loved every minute- most days started with somebody in my class asking if they were 'getting to do more gardening today?'

The group of boys involved in this design must have said at least 30 times that this is 'the best thing we have ever done in school'. They have loved the digging, planting, sawing, hammering, designing little parts like the treehouses! It's just been such brilliant, authentic way for the children to learn more about local biodiversity and community sustainability.



A wee bit o' tartan



Looks good enough to eat



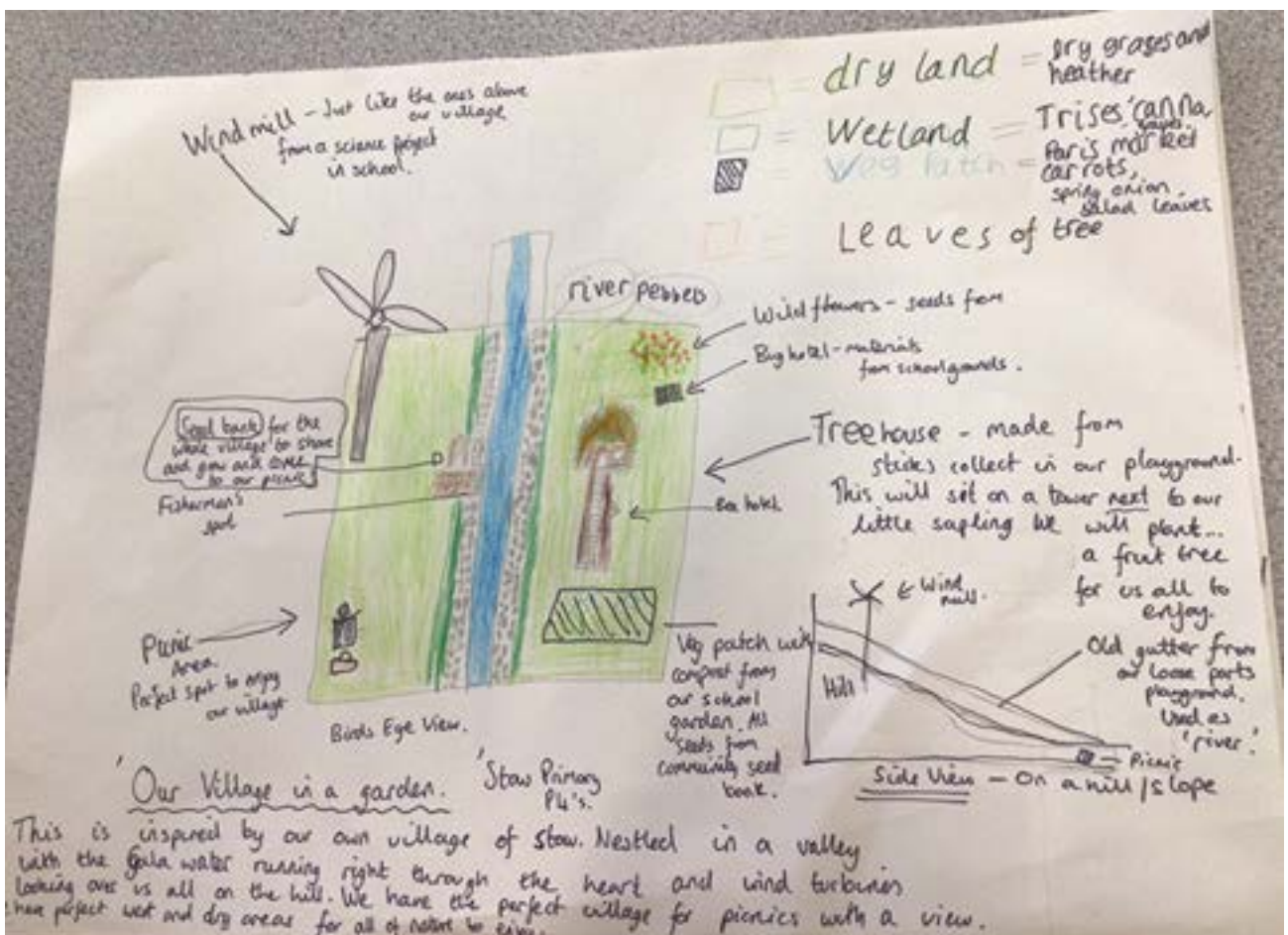
All hands on

We borrowed turf from our school grounds for our grass. On National Bee Day we dug some hexagons of turf (inspired by honeycomb) being careful not to damage the turf and then filled the area where we took the turf from with wild seed bombs which the whole school had been a part of making!

We have a new Polytunnel which was not in place in time to support us so we had to improvise with help from a grandparent who has two polytunnels and lives in the village and lots of growing on our classroom windowsills!

We learned about renewable and clean energy, particularly wind energy to help us learn about the wind farms in our village.

We have learned lots about protecting and helping the local biodiversity and painted beehive bee feeders to help support the bees we hope to encourage by planting wildflowers and grasses.





# Summerside Kindergarten

Our design process involved looking at photos of small gardens we have designed in the past for Gardening Scotland, looking at the competition brochure provided, discussing the required parts of the design brief, talking about what nature means to us and doing lots of drawing. The more children drew the more their ideas seemed to come. I listened carefully to what was being said.



Collecting resources



Weaving



A river, woods and a park

Summerside Nursery is located in Trinity/Warriston in Edinburgh. Being outside is important to the children and the staff and we have many places to choose from for our visits to green spaces. Victoria Park and the surrounding walkways are accessed most days, as are other local parks and small urban woodlands alongside the old railway lines. We also have our own allotment which is visited three times a week for growing, gardening jobs and nature play. The walk to the allotment involves walking alongside The Waters of Leith River. The children often go on trips to look at the ducks on the river.

Our design is focused on the Waters of Leith and two of our local green spaces-Victoria Park and the woodland walk alongside the river. The children have used these spaces a lot through lockdown.

The children spoke about the enjoyment that collecting small amounts of things from nature brings them. These items are often used for crafts. We have therefore added some collecting baskets to our design.



We are aware of the need to reuse and upcycle items, and we have lots of wood from our old shed which we can use. as much as possible will be reused or borrowed items.

The planting for the riverside of the design will use native plants which are edible. These will not be gathered from the wild but hopefully can be found and grown on at our allotment, or obtained from a local community garden. We would like to use yarrow, wild garlic, borage, daisies, shepherds purse, Bittercress, wild strawberries, plantain and dandelions.

We hope to be able to construct the tree and the rainbow out of wire and old plastic bags, and present them in quite a stylised form.



# Todholm Primary School

This Pocket Garden is designed across two levels. The lower level has a pond bordered with stones, while the upper level has been planted in a large tyre, the children are focusing on looking after bees with this garden, building a bee home and waterfall. Planted in the upper level are various flowers, including sunflowers, lavender, blue bells and black-eyed susan.



This design of the garden shows the layout and what the children plan to plant.



## Ullapool Primary School

This Pocket Garden was built by pupils at Ullapool Primary School. Aptly named "Living with the Sea", Ullapool is a fishing village on the west coast. It features landmarks and objects associated with the sea around them, a fishing boat growing spinach and beans, a lighthouse growing strawberries and chives.

The garden features decorative lobster pot planters growing nasturtium and stones found on their local beach that have been painted with words associated with the sea in English and Gaelic.

The garden also features driftwood found by one of the children, this has been planted with heather found on Ullapool Hill.







A strawberry and chive planter lighthouse



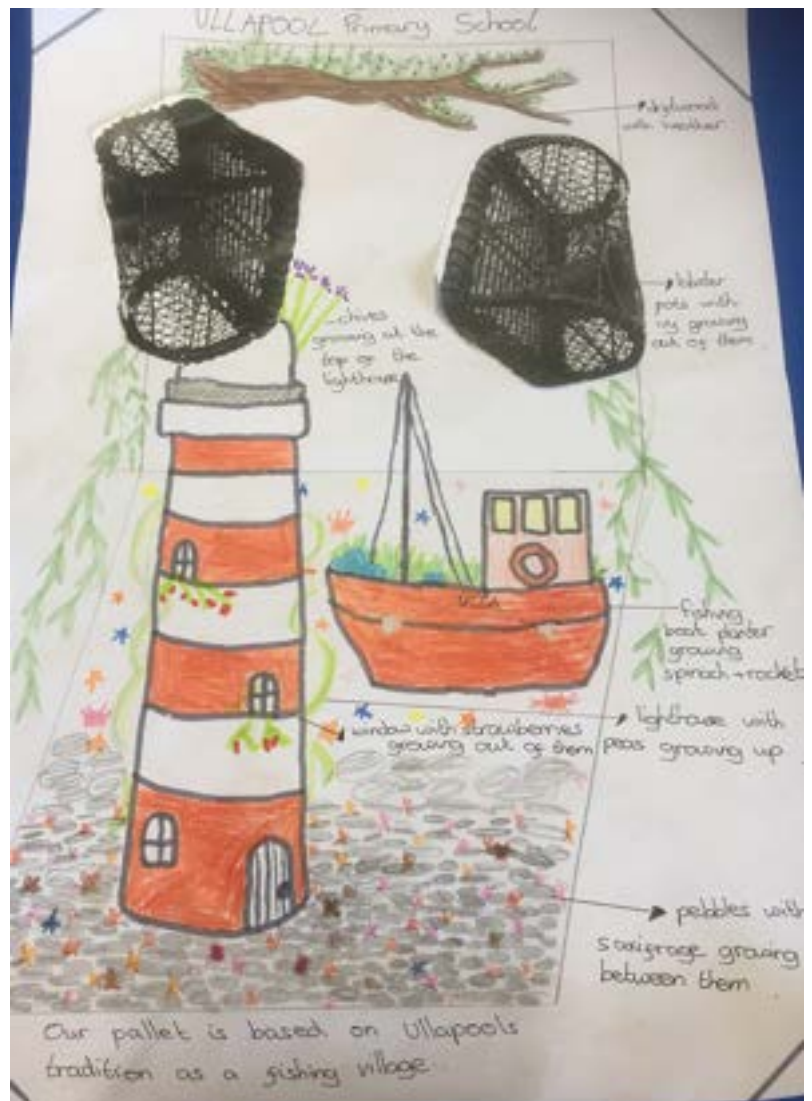
Lobster pots with a haul of plants



Saxifrage, seaweed and stones

From the school's design of their fishing village garden you can see all the features included:

- Driftwood planted with heather
- Lobsterpots with ivy growing from them.
- A lighthouse growing strawberries and chives.
- A fishing boat growing spinach and rocket.
- Pebbles with saxifrage growing between them.





# Whinhill Primary School

Whinhill School lies just below the Greenock Cut. The Cut was part of a water engineering project by Robert Thom, which delivered water from 7 reservoirs to the town of Greenock. Not only did the townsfolk benefit, but many industries were able to use water for power.

Our garden celebrates the Greenock Cut and we have tried to give some idea of the Cut itself and the beautiful natural surroundings that make it a favourite walk nowadays. We have also included little hints of the industries that were supplied with water: the ropeworks, the potteries, woollen mills, and sugar refining. Our pottery bowl is full of sugar water for the bees. All the plants came from a local garden and from our school's own wild grounds.



Tap water



Bridge



Sign at waterman's



Our bowl of blue flowers at the top represents a reservoir, the white flowers cascading down are a waterfall, our recycled cartons are the Cut and the tap and basin at the end represent the water supply.

We've included one of the many little bridges that cross the Cut as they are so iconic to this special place.

We've used 2 old pallets, the base lined with old compost bags and we used turf lifted when our new Trim-trail was built.

Our containers are also all repurposed. The osprey painting done by our young designers is representative of the amazing nature to be found round our reservoirs.



Two or three Ospreys have been coming for the past summers to nest here. Our sign is a copy of the one at the start of The Cut near the Waterman's Cottage and just up the hill from here.



Preparing the pallets



Planting



Building a bridge



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