

Kinnesswood in Bloom: Year of Children and Young People 2018

Kinnesswood in Bloom usually try to include the Beautiful Scotland themes suggested by Keep Scotland Beautiful in their planning. We already work with young people in our community on a regular basis so this just required a little bit more planning and effort. We also found some extra funding to do a couple of projects.

We regularly work with Portmoak Primary School pupils with both gardening and artwork for the local festival. It was decided this year that the top three classes would work outside in rotation. They learned about compost, planted seeds, weeded, planted out and had a rota to water plants in the greenhouse and raised beds. At the end of the summer term they had planted oats, onions, peas, runner beans and tatties. Sunflowers and sweet peas had been raised and planted out in the flower beds. Wild flower seeds were scattered and raked in the wild flower banking.



The under-five group were included this year and given plants, compost and a big pot to make a display to put out at the hall to brighten up the entrance during the local festival.

We often have someone working with us for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and this year Ewan has been a regular fixture at our Saturday work parties. It is fine to see a young person from our local community come back to help our group.

The local secondary school at Kinross has asked us to take pupils for a couple of days as community experience. They are usually first or second year. This year about 24 pupils took part overall. We had a dozen on each day, painting, weeding, pond clearing, cutting back hedges and bushes and planting out tubs. One group even dressed one of our mini figures as a suffragette. It was lovely weather and much was accomplished. The school grounds look really smart after they have finished and it's a great help to the school in a time of financial restraints.

Our theme for this year's Portmoak Festival is "selfies" and each class was given a different medium to produce their self-portrait. Primary 1/2 made clay plaques of themselves. Primary 2/3 have been using natural materials in the outdoors so made pictures using bits of log, fir cones, flowers, sand and leaves, in fact anything we could gather from the outdoors. These pictures





were photographed and mounted on card. Primary 3/4 made cloth faces decorating them with paint, buttons and thread. Primary 5/6 learned about photography in the style of Andy Warhol, producing pictures with four different colour schemes. Primary 6/7 learned about portraits in the style of Picasso. It makes a wonderful art show at Portmoak Hall during festival week and a composite poster of some of the images will be permanently displayed in the bus shelter.

The Primary children have also been writing about themselves and these will be displayed on A4 boards throughout the

gardens in the village. During Festival week a time capsule will be buried in the grounds of the school. Primary 1-3 have taken responsibility for choosing items to go in the capsule.

Another project has involved the cubs and school in designing outdoor sculptures on the theme of young people with the local blacksmith to place in the school grounds.

We are very proud of the local school which produced a book about Michael Bruce this year. The art work from last year was incorporated into the book and it has been a resounding success.

We have been very pleased this year to show the talent of some of the young adults from the village. A local designer/illustrator designed an interpretation board for the Michael Bruce garden. He also drew the illustrations for a book we produced a few years ago when he was still at university and we have used his talents ever since. Another addition to the garden is a listening post where you can hear the music composed by music student Ian Dunnett. It was commissioned by us as part of the 250th anniversary of Michael Bruce's death.



You can find "The Loan to the Hill" inspired by the life of Michael Bruce at <https://soundcloud.com/hughdunnett/the-loan-to-the-hill>.