

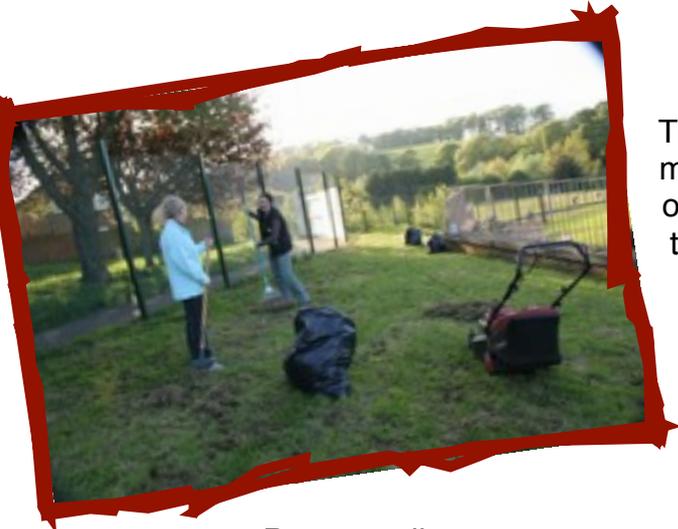


Ratho Primary School Garden Report September 2009



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**Brief summary of School Garden progress
last term April - July 2009 summer holidays -August 2009**



The decision was made at the garden group meeting on Wed 29th April 2009, to make a start on the garden area by taming the grass & painting the school railings. Work began with enthusiasm.

Parent mail was sent out regularly, keeping all parents informed of both the gardens progress & the evenings that we were working & inviting all to come along. We rotated evenings between Tuesdays & Wednesdays to give more parents the opportunity to come & help.



Each week, weather permitting the rubbish was lifted, the grass was cut & raked & large dock weeds were dug out of the grass. The railings were scraped & wire brushed back to the bare metal, undercoated with a primer & then given two coats of green to match the new school fence (Vert Mousse RAL 6005).

Many parents along with their children came along to help, brushes at the ready. It was a great opportunity for the parents to get to know other parents from the school while they worked together.



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Gus Egan of Earth Calling submitted a quote to erect an amphitheatre space with seating & a stage, 5 vegetable boxes & a pathway. Costs to supply & plant hedging, fruit trees & a willow structure would follow later in the year. This work was to start the first week of the new term & would take a week to complete.

Capital Skills, Edinburgh Councils training programme for the unemployed were contacted & discussions took place with them for a two tier terraced raised bed to be installed to address the steep area at the entrance to the garden. We would need to cover materials & transport costs but not labour. This work was hoped to coincide with the Earth Calling team at the beginning of the new term or possibly during the holidays if they could gain access.

Gus suggested that if the parents wished to get involved over the holidays they could prepare the path by digging out the soil to the correct width & depth.

The Garden Group held a meeting at the end of last term & set the Thursday & Friday of the last two weeks of the holidays as the days to tackle the path.

Helen MacGregor applied for funding from CSV Action Earth & was successful! The £50.00 has been banked in the Ratho Primary School Parent Council account. Part of the award was a refreshment pack from Morrissions containing tea, coffee, biscuits & sweets this was used greatly appreciated by the path digging volunteers! Well done Helen.

Finance

All monies relating to the School Garden are now held in the Ratho Primary School Parent Council account. Angie Muir Parent Council Treasurer is responsible for paying the invoices & repaying for goods relating to the garden on the presentation of receipts. Both the Parent Council & The Garden Group will keep a running total of income & expenditure.

The Pentland Community Partnership Grant of £5,000 was to have been used by the end of September 2009. We have started to spend this money now but as there is still work to be done & materials to be paid for. Pamela Souter will request an extension of three months on our time limit. A report with costs & receipts will be submitted to fulfill the grant requirements.

summer holiday path digging



marking out the path



lifting the turf



digging out the soil



stopping for tea, courtesy of Morrisons



path soil being used for raised bed



muddy but happy time to go home!!

Gus Egan & The Earth Calling Team

Gus & his team started as planned on Monday 17th August. The same day that it started to rain for an entire week.

All the materials for the garden had been delivered to the school playground, the first evening several bags of cement went for a "walk" over the 2 metre high fence. It was felt that it would be safer to store the wood & cement in a locked yard at Ratho Byres Forge, where it would be safe & we would bring what Gus required as he needed it. Thanks to Pete Hill & P. Johnson & Company for supplying the time & vehicle to transport the wood up & down the road over the duration of the week.

Gus & the Earth Calling volunteers dug holes, mixed concrete, man handled great logs into place for the amphitheatre, placed the little log seats, built & erected the stage, built 4 of the 5

veg boxes & most of this was done in the pouring rain!

Due to the adverse weather conditions & the extremely muddy state of the ground Gus was unable to complete the path.



Current Garden Progress August - October 2009

Kids get Involved.

The first week back to school the P6 & P7 children came out to the garden to help with some of the jobs that needed off. With help from parents the children shoveled 2 tonnes of top soil into the new vegetable boxes, & replaced soil & turf around the amphitheatre logs. The children worked very well in teams of three & four & enjoyed having a go at hard work, looks like we may have some budding garden assistants for the future.



The Garden Path.

Due to the adverse weather & Earth Calling being unable to attempt the path the parents from the Garden Group have started to tackle the job. Every Tuesday evening, weather permitting, we intend to work at the garden, laying the path, moving soil into large raised bed & getting the area ready for planting trees & shrubs in the autumn.



August 2009
Members of Garden Group

Shona Johnson
Catriona Black
Debbie Tully
James Tully
Mike Humphries
Pete Hill
Gillian Brown
Gillian Mair
Helen MacGregor
Ruth Gillan
Viv Bowden
Jill MacDonald
Lynn Steer
Jane Smith
Caroline Neilson
Helen Day