

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June

- 1st Easter Sunday services at our local churches and 8am service at Cuil Bay
- 5th Proposed filming date for Goddess
- 5th Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
- 8th Cuppa & Cupcakes at the Village Hall 12-4.30
- 17th Duck Race on River Laroach 5pm
- 23rd Midsummer Ceilidh at Onich
- 29th School Summer Holidays start

July

- 3rd Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion



Noticeboards at Co-op



In response to community feedback there is a new noticeboard in the front entrance of the Coop Ballachulish, replacing the one that was taken down during last years' refurbishment. We have had a small one inside the shop in the interim but struggled to fit all of the events and advertisements on it for our customers, so we were thrilled to receive the new one.

As always, we request that customers hand all posters and adverts in to the Post Office staff, who will endeavor to keep the board neat and tidy. We look forward to filling it up!

If you would like a poster inserted in the community noticeboard *outside* the Co-op, please put it in one of the letterboxes at the village hall for consideration. No Small Ads.

Advertising

If you would like to advertise your local business in this newsletter, please get in touch. Adverts will cost £20 per issue, for a quarter page which includes a small banner advert on the Community Website. We will take a maximum of 10 adverts per issue, and can do the artwork for you if that helps.

Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Company and Ballachulish Community Association SCIO (SC023308) have worked together to produce this newsletter.

Editors: Rob Malpas and Sheila McLean

Distribution: Sheila McLean and Kath Small (with helpers) to approximately 370 properties in the Ballachulish and Glenachulish community. Funded through Ballachulish Community Association SCIO, Ballachulish Village Hall, East Pier Road, Ballachulish PH49 4LE

SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 9 – June/July 2018



Above: Scouts enjoying the practice area at Nevis Range High Wire

Below: A welcoming update to the school, thanks to parents and pupils at Easter.



WELCOME!

As ever, thank you to everyone who has supplied an article for this edition of Slatest. If you have some interesting snippets of local history or have found some old photos or want to share a memory, please get in touch, we can also help put articles together.

Slatest belongs to the community, and needs your support to continue being a success, the deadline for the next edition is **14th July 2018** with deliveries by the end of July, so please get in touch if you have any ideas!

BALLACHULISH GODDESS

As you will remember, last year the Pallas Boy project visited Ballachulish and carved a replica of the Ballachulish Goddess, a full report about which was printed last October and is also on the Community website.

This year, in the first week of June, a BBC program called Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs and hosted by Paul Murton will be visiting Ballachulish to film a piece about the Goddess and the replica. We are hoping to involve some local people, and will let you know when it is due to be broadcast.



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REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Please note some activities do not meet during school holidays.

Monday

- 10am Step it Up Walking Group meet at TiC 
- After school primary football – Jubilee Park
- 7pm Highland Hustle at School
- 8-10pm Scottish / Country Dancing at Village Hall

Tuesday

- 9.30-11.30am  Playgroup at Village Hall
- 6-8pm Junior Shinty Training at Village Hall / Jubilee


Wednesday

- 6.30-7.15pm Zumba at Village Hall
- 7.15-9pm Youth Club at Village Hall

Thursday

- 9.30-11.30am  Playgroup at Village Hall
- 10.30-1pm Knit & Knatter, Coffee & Crochet at TiC
- 5.30-9.15pm **BEAVERS** **CUBS** & **SCOUTS** at Village Hall
- Evenings – Shinty Team Practice at Jubilee Park

Friday

- 10am Step it up Walking group meet at TiC 
- After school dancing session at school

Sunday

- 11.30am Church of Scotland Service at St Munda's
- Episcopal Church Service at St Mary's, Glencoe
- Catholic Church Service at St Mun's

As you can see, ours is a very busy community with lots going on. However, if your group isn't mentioned above, please get in touch!

If you are interested in any of the above, we're sure you will be made very welcome. Contact details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, on facebook or simply ask us and we shall pass your enquiry on!

Also active locally:

- South Lochaber Bowmen – Archery Club
- Ballachulish Football Club

RBS Mobile Bank

Tuesdays

10:45-11:15 Abbeyfield

11:30-12:30 V Hall

Fridays

10:30-12:00 V Hall



Mobile Library

Thurs 21/6 & 12/7

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside

Cottages

Wed 6 & 27/6; 18/7

(13:30-14:25 School)

14:30-15:15 W Laroche

15:20-16:00 Park Rd &
Abbeyfield

16:05-16:30 Albert Rd



USEFUL CONTACTS

If you have any questions about what is going on in the community, or would like to help with anything, please get in touch with someone below:

Community Council: www.ballachulish.org.uk

Our Community Councillors are: Shirley Grant (Vice-Chair), Alisdair Jack (Treasurer), Dave Kitson (Secretary), Rob Malpas, Kath Small, Kevin Smith (Chair), Iain Dickie

Community Association: www.balla-hall.co.uk

Our Trustees are: Brian Dickie (Vice Chair), Donella MacDonald, Rob Malpas (Secretary), Sheila McLean, Isobel Robertson (Treasurer), Sandy Stoddart, Marjie Thornton
Booking Secretary: Judy Bigham

Community Company: [on Facebook](#)

Brian Dickie, Simon Ingram (Treasurer), Dave Kitson, Angus MacInnes, Niall McLean, Kevin Smith, Morgan Smith, Jimmy Waugh (Chair)

Patient Participation Group: Bill Strachan or Meg Pollock

NEWS FROM ST MUNDA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

'Thank you' to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning which raised an excellent £783. After the success of our 'Jars for Change' appeal for WaterAid which raised over £530 we are now working on support for Christian Aid with a lunch at Duror and Kentallen Hall and more 'Jars for Change' being filled. People are very generous and when there is so much need in the world it's good to try to do whatever we can. We also continue to help 'The Highlands Support Refugees' both by being a collection point and providing volunteers to transport and sort donations.

Our 'St Munda's Social Group' had a great May meeting with a fascinating illustrated talk by Ian Sykes about his trip to the Antarctic and, particularly, his work with dog sled teams. Very few people have had this experience and it was so interesting to hear about it first-hand. Look out for further attractions in the autumn.



Our Praise Band will be supporting the Joint Service in Duror at the end of May and some members are getting more experience of being involved in conducting worship.

Loneliness is rightly being highlighted in various ways as a significant concern for many and the Church would certainly be happy to be involved in any 'befriending' scheme such as has been discussed again recently. Similarly we would be happy to be involved with the Patient Participation Group, Community Council, Abbeyfield staff and others in helping Ballachulish to be accredited as a 'Dementia Aware Village'.

I'll always be very happy to receive requests to visit anyone at home or in hospital (01631 740285).

Best wishes, Rev Sandy Stoddart



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We have space available Sunday to Wednesday to rent REST for a half or full day. If you are a beauty therapist or promoting health and wellbeing then contact Karl on 07769 809236 for details of how we can help your business.

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A: Ar Dachaidh, West Laroch, Ballachulish, PH49 4JJ

CUPCAKE DAY

This year's Cuppa & Cupcake Day to raise funds for Alzheimers Research Scotland, Action on Dementia will take place in the Hall on Friday June 8th from 12-4.30pm. Similar to last year, Ballachulish, Glencoe, St Brides and Duror Primary Schools and Nurseries will be invited to design a cupcake and the entries will be judged at the hall. More details and posters to follow. Donations of cupcakes, bottles for the tombola and raffle prizes would be gratefully appreciated. Music throughout the day, food and refreshments will be provided and a delivery service of cupcakes will be available to local businesses for their afternoon tea.

Last years event was a great success, raising over £1000, so please come and show your support so that we can raise more money to benefit research into this devastating illness.

Thank you from Team Cupcake



❁ Midsummer Beach Ceilidh ❁

Saturday 23 June 2018, 6pm onwards

Onich Beach

The pebble beach below the Tea Room/Shop
(formerly Onich Post Office).

Entrance fee: 1 flower per person...
(real or handmade and totally biodegradable)

***Decorate & raise Midsummer Pole, 8pm ***

❁ BBQ ❁ Bonkers Tug-o-war ❁ Beach Bonfire

❁ Open mic for: story chair/singers or musicians

❁ music for all to play or join in un-plugged

Nether Lochaber Community Association (SCIO) are pleased to be hosting this community event. Please join us and join in with your singing voice, story telling or musical instrument. Or just come along, enjoy the beach activities, social event, midsummer's music and craic.

Limited parking for the evening is available at Nether Lochaber Church, thanks to the Church for this.

Bring your own blankets or cushions to sit on...



**The tide is out all evening
leaving us a big beach to
make the most of...**

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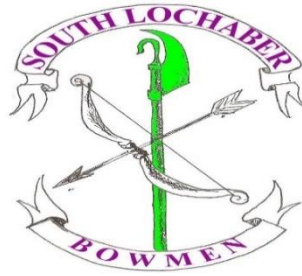
SOUTH LOCHABER BOWMEN

Archery Club at the Leven Centre, Kinlochleven
Come and give Archery a try; All abilities welcome
Otters (5-7yrs) Cubs (8-12yrs) Juniors (13-17 yrs)
Monday evenings 6-8pm £1.50 per session

Adults 18 and over Tuesday evenings

7:00-9:30pm - £2.50 per session - All equipment supplied
Archery sessions are run by qualified coaches in both Field
and Target Archery.

You can also find us on facebook: www.facebook.com/SLBowmen.



SLB have a full 14 target field archery course range and an all abilities field archery range in Ballachulish. However, we would like to draw attention to the fact that unauthorised use of the Field Archery Range in Ballachulish is not tolerated ... An arrow has been found on the path and does not belong to any Member of SLB. The arrow has been destroyed .

This action is breaking lease agreements with the Forestry and causing an unpleasant situation . To use this venue, membership is necessary with the local club, South Lochaber Bowmen , to facilitate the need for insurance.

Any person using this area without current membership, is leaving themselves open for damages bills for both persons and/ or animals. Please carry current SLB membership proof, or with other clubs affiliated to SFAA. Thank you for your understanding.

On Tuesday 7th May, one of our members, Jim Roberts (right), scored his maximum score of 25/25 at the club meeting. Congratulations to Jim!





QUARRIER'S

Kitchen

Fish and Chips

SIT IN AND TAKE AWAY

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COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS

A wee update on the possibility of the Community taking control of the Abhainn Greadhain Scheme at Glenachulish. We have had further discussion with Green Highland Renewables representative and they are still willing to waiver their exclusivity contract to allow the community to step in if they so wish. Fees have been asked for but will be subject to discussion as to amount and when to be paid.

Chair entered discussions with Forestry Commission , as agreed at AGM and last board meeting in February 2018, on the possibility of change they are keen to sit down with us and if the community wishes to take it on will offer support.

Likewise the Scottish Government Local Energy Scotland have been working with us on some financial modelling. However we need to find some more people to join us and take the lead on this to fully commit if the community decides it wishes to take it forward.

We have had some interest from two people from the community considering becoming board members but would be delighted to chat with anyone else who has an interest. Please feel free to contact any Director or the Interim Chair Jimmy Waugh on 811540.

Some members have still to pay their subscription membership fees are still £5.00 per member, per annum and can now be paid by BACS. The account is in the name of Ballachulish & Glencoe Community Company, the sort-code is 83 20 16 and the account number is 00665870. If you add your surname and the last part of your Postcode after the PH49 bit as your reference then we can make sure the records are updated.

If you want to pay direct you can give it to our Treasurer:

Simon Ingram, Stoneybrook House,
Laroch Beag, PH49 4LB; 07716 331 084
e-mail simonpbi@outlook.com

Or any other Director or post it in the Silver Post Box at the Village Hall, which is our Registered Office, with your name and Postcode on it for reference.

We would be delighted to welcome new members and accept any donations offered to us.

Jimmy Waugh





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4th Lochaber Scout Group

Beavers 6-8 years, 5.30-6.30pm

Cubs 8-10½ years, 6.45-7.45pm

Scouts 10-14 years, 8-9.15pm

All groups meet at Ballachulish Village Hall

A couple of weeks ago we took the Scouts up to the local campsite at Spean Bridge for a quiet and relaxing camp (which made a nice change!). They really enjoyed the free time and long lie in on Sunday morning (some didn't emerge from their tents until half past ten). However, it wasn't all lazing about, as they also had a night hike, campfire, cooked their own pizzas and the highlight of the weekend was going to the High Wire Tree Adventure at Nevis Range.

We have exciting summer programs planned for all three sections over the next few weeks, including walks, kayaking and tubing. We hope that the weather stays fine so we can get out and about as much as possible



River Laroch Duck Race

Starting at the Brig O'Laroch 5pm Sunday 17th June

Prizes for the first ducks to reach Albert Road

£50 for the Winner, £30 for 2nd and £10 for 3rd 4th & 5th

Ducks are £2 each or 3 for £5

This year all funds go to Ballachulish Scout Group to help fund activities for all sections

We also hope to send something out to the children in Kenya who our explorer young leader Dawn Beaton will be visiting over the summer. Scottish Charity No SC044853



BALLACHULISH PRIZE WORDSEARCH

There is a £20 gift voucher up for grabs, kindly provided by the Claymore in Glencoe. Simply find the words listed on the right in the grid below, the leftover letters will spell out the missing word from the list. Simply tell us the word, and give your name and contact number / e-mail address and return to the Claymore or the Black Letterbox at the village hall by 30th June. The winner will be drawn from a 'hat' of all correct answers.

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| H | C | O | L | B | J | U | B | I | L | E | E |
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| C | F | T | E | U | E | T | Y | A | C | L | P |
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| Ardarroch | Argyll |
| Ballachulish | Beag |
| Boatsheds | Brecklet |
| Bridge | Coop |
| Croft | Ferry |
| Glen | Golf |
| Jubilee | Laroch |
| Leven | Loanfern |
| Loch | Lorne |
| Meall Mor | MacColl |
| Quarry | Slate |
| West Laroch | |
| Missing Word | |
| _____ | |

Name _____ Contact _____

STEP IT UP WALKING GROUP

Summer is approaching fast and our intrepid local walkers are out and about exploring the local area.

Come and Join Us

We meet at 10.00am on Fridays for a shorter walk and Mondays for a longer, 2 hour walk, at the TIC to arrange car sharing and usually finish at a café, where the next week's walk is planned, before returning by car to the TIC.



BALLACHULISH MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Pulling together for health



The AGM was held recently when Irene Kerr took over from Bill Strachan as Chairperson of the group. Pauline Selby took over as secretary as Ruth McCormick who had served as secretary to the group since its start up four years ago, has moved to a new job in Fort William. Ruth was thanked for her work in establishing the PPG as one of the most effective and active in the Highland NHS area.

Recently, members of the PPG along with Community Council members and Abbeyfield staff attended a seminar in Abbeyfield where Michelle Menzie of Age Scotland gave a presentation on dementia awareness. This included what support the NHS could give to communities to enable them to become more dementia aware and eventually become accredited as a 'dementia aware village'. Some activities already take place which meet the NHS criteria and a coffee morning has been arranged for June 8th in the village hall.

This would improve the quality of life for sufferers and their carers. Financial support as well as professional back-up is available from NHS Scotland for this project. It is hoped that the community can take this forward.

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group is on Wednesday 4th July at 1.30pm in the medical centre. Anyone can attend and further information can be obtained by email from the secretary, Pauline Selby at balla.ppg.sec@gmail.com

Ballachulish Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

We provide a fun, interesting environment for pre-schoolers to play together at the village hall. There is a varied programme of activities with crafts, singing and storytelling.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 – 11.30
£1.50 per child; 6months & under - free
Everybody welcome!

Contact Meg Pollock
07887 837648



LOCH LEVEN CYCLING TIME TRIALS

I just wanted to express my thanks and gratitude to all those in the community who helped us promote a Class Act Cycle Race weekend. The collaboration between the community and myself has been 1st class. The help and pro-active ideas to help us has been incredible.

Everything went like clock work, From the day we arrived we got access to the hall, and the equipment on hand inside the hall was extremely useful. The kitchen and changing rooms were absolutely fantastic.

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to all those who helped us within the community, the Ballachulish people are really amazing. The fresh bakery and soup stole the show! One of the locals came out with tea and coffee for the finish line time keepers at Sundays event, that was really special.

The feed back from the riders who took part in the race was really overwhelming, they had such a fantastic experience that most felt quite sad leaving the village. The riders will be buzzing about this for many months to come and that will only boost the numbers for next year.

The charity I run in Paisley, Return To Life, Scotland's only walk in Renal Charity centre, really made some great progress with awareness and Organ donation.

Star of the show was the presence of Katie Archibald, World, European, Olympic, Commonwealth Champion. Although she broke her



collarbone in a previous race she still came up to support her partner and father who also raced.

We will be sending letters of appreciation and thanks to all the Ballachulish sponsors in due course.

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CROFT DEVELOPMENT

The Community Council are of the opinion that the Highland Council have not met the Community Engagement or Scottish Government Standard of Consultation with the West Highland Development Plan, for which we have lodged our comments on the HC site.

The Croft Proposal has been included in the Local Plan even with the Community objections being overruled at a site meeting by local Councillors two of whom had by then intimated their retirement. No Community participation was offered to be included although our Local Councillor raised the Community concerns but was overruled.

The Croft Proposal is for 15 to 20 Plots, although no Planning Consent has yet been granted for this proposal. As has happened in previous applications in the area, there appears to be no guarantee that the Social Housing aspect of the development (25% of Total) would be completed by the developers. Monies can be exchanged between the Developer and HC and can then leave the area for development elsewhere.

The West Laroach Proposal for 12 Social Houses sits behind West Laroach between MacColl Terrace and the existing housing association development. These houses would be for either rent, partial rent to buy or shared equity. The Land Owners are Lochaber Housing Association, although at present there is no Planning Consent.

The Community Council propose, with the Community backing, to carry out a survey to gather the opinions of the Community on how best to move forward.



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THE GLASGOW BUS

Perhaps it's just me, but is there not something inescapably romantic about the notion of 'The Glasgow Bus'. It is a connection, but if you'll excuse the cliché, it's so much more than just a connection.

We are lucky to live on the fantastic west coast, amidst the stunning

mountain scenery, with the loch at our doorstep and the great outdoors all around. Ours is a rich and vibrant community bursting with history and friendship, and yet in just over 2 hours we can also be at the heart of the biggest city in Scotland. Not just one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Britain, but perhaps the whole world. It is The Glasgow Bus that provides this connection, letting us sit back and relax as we pass through the landscapes of Rannoch Moor, Loch Lomond and then into the suburban sprawl that is Glasgow.

So, The Glasgow Bus is a physical connection between places, but it is also a connection in time, a connection in history.

A Hundred and fifty years ago, the West Highlands were connected by sea. Almost everything came in by boat, and The Glasgow Steamer was the connection to the outside world. The service wasn't necessarily direct, and only operated a few days a week to Ballachulish, but for communities up and down the west coast, the Glasgow Steamer was an important connection.

In 1903 the Ballachulish railway opened, and this was the last of the West Highland Railways to be completed. It started the demise of the Glasgow Steamers, although it took many years before the boats stopped sailing for good. The railways, however, didn't connect all of the communities, and it was buses that started to fill the gaps. The first local motor bus started in 1905 and ran from the Loch Leven Hotel to Fort William. By all accounts, the bus was not up to the job and so it was the following year when a new vehicle was employed that the local bus services really started. It was also a convoluted route by train to Glasgow, so over the next couple of decades, the Glasgow Bus began to run, and today we have at least 4 services each way 7 days a week.

The Glasgow Bus allows people to visit the city on business, for shopping, hospital appointments, visiting friends or perhaps something more cultural. It is also the beginning of bigger adventures, flying out on holiday from the airport, or catching the train down to London. Every bus carries dozens of people each with their own stories, some new, some repeated back across the years. It is a lifeline in so many ways, and with such a fascinating backstory, evoking thoughts of family reunions and tearful farewells there is more than a little romance in The Glasgow Bus.



LOCAL TRANSPORT NEWS

Local Bus Service

Following the announcement that Stagecoach were withdrawing from Fort William, Shiel Buses have agreed to take over the 44 bus service from the 1st July.

A suggested timetable for the school summer holidays has been given, as follows:

Ballachulish -> Fort William

7:50 / 9:52 / 11:52 / 13:52 / 16:12 / 18:57 / 21:45 Sundays 11:02 / 13:02 / 16:02 / 18:02

Ballachulish -> Kinlochleven

9:07 / 11:07 / 13:05 / 15:05 / 18:10 / 21:10 / 23:13 Sundays 10:17 / 12:17 / 15:17 / 17:17

The timetable for school term times will be issued on 18th August and implemented the following day.



Transport Forum Meeting 11/5/18

The 8am Fort William to Inverness bus will resume on 22nd May. There have also been requests that the Oban Citylink service, also serving Duror and Kentallen will be improved.

Sustrans are now proceeding with filling in the gap in the cycle path to Oban at Duror. This is planned to pass through the Achara Estate and Highland Titles forest at Dalnatrat.

The West Highland Railway line review included the following – a need for extra services, there has been a delay in previous requests, and also that the administration are poor at dealing with problems.

Discussions about building a bridge at Corran are also ongoing, over 30 years later!

Next Public Bus Users Meeting – 22nd June

Next full Transport Meeting - 7th August

Car Scheme: The car scheme is available for door to door uplifts any time during weekdays to any location in the local area. There is a small charge and the service is available to everyone living locally. Phone 01397 701222

Email transportforum@carelochaber.org

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BALLACHULISH BOATSHEDS NEED YOU!

As you are all aware, the boatsheds down at the harbour are in a very poor state of repair. Ballachulish Community Association commissioned a report last year to produce a survey which suggests that the cost of restoration to a standard acceptable to Historic Scotland, while ensuring that they are usable by future generations is in the region of £200,000. This assumes a certain amount of community volunteer labour for the non skilled tasks, such as moving loose slate. There are various bodies who provide grants which would cover the cost of the restoration, and we can also apply for funding to pay an external project manager who will oversee all of the works. The boatsheds are still owned privately, but the current owner has agreed to transfer them to BCA for a nominal sum if we can assure him that we will be restoring them.



However, we in the Community Council and BCA are all very busy people, and none of us feel able to commit to leading this from the community side. We therefore need someone who can take this project forwards. There are lots of people who can assist with various aspects of the project, but without a community project co-ordinator we cannot start. If you would like to get more information, please contact Kevin Smith at ksmithbcc@btconnect.com or on 01855 811641

We are concerned that if we don't start this project in the next few months it may be too late and we will lose some, or all of these unique and iconic structures forever.

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BALLACHULISH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Our P4/5 pupils got a chance to get their photo taken with the Calcutta Cup at the Lochaber Schools rugby tournament at Banavie

This cup is awarded annually to the winners of the England v Scotland Match at the Six Nations Rugby Tournament.



Race for Life

The children of Ballachulish Primary School organised a Race for Life for Cancer Research on April 27th in the village. Thanks to all the parents and community sponsors we have, so far raised an amazing £2125.35.



Some parents volunteered their time over the Easter holidays to fulfil the ideas of the school Eco committee, and carry out various jobs around the grounds. It looks pretty bright & awesome.

There is now a Welcome sign on the wire fence made from recycled water bottles (see front cover), Flags in alphabetical order of the eight countries represented at the school. The wee Pavilion has gone from brown to green & red. Flowers on the fence are made from hubcaps, tubing and tarpaulin, Clarissa the caterpillar again hubcaps & tarpaulin – check out the eyelashes! All of the yellow and blue pots were recycled from Crafts and Things, potted with tulips and daffodils. The Metal Fence has also gone from black to yellow. Tyres recycled and filled with flowers and finally the chair has been freshened up for weary legs after walking up the Brae.

Thank you to everyone who helped, it is really appreciated.

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