

Eco Committee timeline

People who are or have been involved:

Adults : Yvonne Cockburn, The Eastham family, Vicky Low, Anna Phillips, Theresa Rae, Avril Robertson, Tom Shannon, Christine Sheerin, Martin Stephen, Catriona and Sterling Yates.

Pupils:

P7 Kieran Smith

S1 Christopher Bell, Devon Cox, Rebecca Johnson, Tom King, Stuart Stockman, Jasmine Worrall

S2 Alisha McCaig, Tamara Wilton

S3 Andrew King, Jemma Law, Ashwin Rai, Rachel Read, Allana Smith

S4 Tegan Gallacher, Nikita Gurung

S6 Victoria Marland



2008

21 August Registered for the Eco Schools Award Scheme

9 October 09.15 Library: Exploratory meeting with Avril Robertson, Waste Education Officer, Stirling Council and interested members of staff.

9 October Registered with the Generation Green Scheme

3 December 08.00hrs Library: First Eco committee meeting chaired by Mrs Sheerin. (Minutes on website)

December Mr Lawrence put an Eco committee link on the QVS website as a place for everyone to read about what we are doing. We also put minutes and information on the server and we have a notice board in Central Hall for print information. Info about the Eco School Award and the Generation Green Scheme are also on the website, so parents as well as pupils, can win us 'leaves'.



2009

14 January *08.00 hrs Library:* Eco committee meeting chaired by Victoria. (Minutes on website)

18 February *08.00 hrs Library:* Eco committee meeting chaired by Tegan and Nikita. (Minutes on website)

11 March *08.00 hrs Library:* Presentation practice!

16 March Miss Phillips expresses interest in joining and offers the services of Mike from the Argaty Red Kite Group.

20 March *08.30 hrs Chapel:* Pupils of the Eco Committee make a slide presentation to the whole school at Chapel (attachment)

20 March Cake sale and Discos for P7, S1-2 at 7pm S3-S6 at 8.30pm. Raised £188. All committee worked really hard making and selling cakes, decorating the theatre and helping out with the Disco. Good fun too!

21 April Granted money from Mr Carroll's Hobbies budget to buy equipment for the Centenary Garden.

24 April Placed order for wide range of equipment including raised beds, bird boxes, etc.

27 April Granted money from HMC fund £500.

30 April

Present: ME, CS, AP, MM, JH and Finn, CY, SS, AK, AK, JW, DC, RJ, TW, TG, NG.
Apologies: VM, AS, RR, JL, KS.

First meeting outside in Centenary Garden. Poured of rain then the midgies came! Cleared leaves, marked out plots for barbeque area and raised beds, started a compost area. Miss Phillips introduced Mr McDonnell from the Argaty

Red Kite Farm who is going to help us with bird boxes, manure and other Eco things. Mrs Harrison and Finn looked at where to put the sandpit and gave us information about a planting scheme for a Spring Garden (which we will order). Mrs Yates showed us a catalogue of benches and everyone liked the one that goes round the tree! Mrs Bellars gave us some sunflower seeds and each committee member will start growing one seed each and we will see who grows the biggest!

May

Mr Lawrence's S2 class have a competition to re-design the Eco pages of the QVS website. The Eco Committee to award a prize.

No meeting on 7 May as none of the supplies have been delivered.

14 May

Painted sheds and planted some gladioli donated by Mrs Yates. The ground is very hard and full of roots so digging was particularly difficult. Well done to Andrew King who did his best at digging (especially after he'd just come from a marathon run in PE!). Most of the pupils now have sunflower seeds in pots but the ground is so hard we're not sure where we'll put them!

21 May

BRONZE AWARD!

5 June and 11 June

Arrival of the raised beds, the two composters, the water barrel and the bird boxes, along with the Spring plants. Massive activity to set out the beds and get them planted up. Netting is covering them and hopefully this will keep out tree debris and rabbits (who made light work of the gladioli we planted!)

17 June

The barbeque area was relocated. We made a circular 'feature' with recycled bricks and stones, three plants and an Easter Islander Head!

20 June – visit of Derby School

The Head of Derby School in Germany, now closed, visited QVS on 20th June to hand over a plaque that the children there made as a gesture of support and solidarity at the time of the Dunblane shootings. Since then they have also made a plaque to explain why they are giving the original one to us for the Cunningham Centenary Garden.

The Head, her husband and two other colleagues arrived around 1130, and at 12 Mrs Bellars, Mr Eastham and family and Mrs Sheerin, along with Andrew King,

Holli Work, Alisha McCaig and Alex Kenning took them to the garden for a short ceremony handing over the plaques.



A new academic year and a new direction!

What's happening in the QVS Eco school world this month?

Although the original Eco Committee did really well last year – especially getting a **Bronze Award**, we have decided this year to change the structure and create more hands-on, action Eco Groups which will fit in better with the school day, by running them during 'hobbies' time.

We've still got a lot to do and hopefully this year we'll get our **Silver Award**. We still want to make improvements to the **school grounds** and plant more vegetables in the Centenary Garden. We want to **recycle** more things, especially spectacles, printers and batteries and it would be good if we could **fundraise** for charities through our recycling schemes (like we do with used postage stamps for the Guide Dogs Fund). We still need **leaves** for the 'Generation Green Scheme'. We also still need to do an **energy audit** to work out our carbon footprint. One major thing we still have to do, that is outstanding

from last term, is to judge the **eco websites** that Mr Lawrence's computing class designed and to award a prize for the best.

Some pupils on the Eco committee are keen to make our **recycling bins** more interesting and attractive and they have asked Mrs Rae, the Catering and Cleaning Manager, for permission to decorate them. Mrs Rae has given the go-ahead and has kindly agreed to judge the entries. The Eco Committee pupils (Alisha McCaig and Alex Kenning) are inviting pupils to submit the entries on a piece of A3 paper with an outline of the shape of the bin in your House with the design drawn on the bin. The entries can be handed in to Mrs Sheerin in the Library.

Four S5 girls are volunteering to do **Bumblebee Conservation work** at **Argaty Farm** on Wednesdays. We will keep you posted about how Cerys Docherty, Tasie Lynch, Emma Pead and Charlotte Worth get on!

Eco hobby October 2009

The Eco hobby is currently being held in Miss Phillip's room on Mondays after school, but pupils are welcome to help out at other times.

The pupils – mostly members of the original Eco committee - have lots of good plans for the future and we hope we'll be able to get our Silver Award this academic year.

Mr Coates has also joined us, bringing his considerable expertise and an excellent contact (his wife!).

Staff had a steering meeting on 12.11.9 to discuss future plans including:

- 1 Judging the eco website competition
- 2 Ways of improving the school grounds (Mention also of Mr Adams plans for Trenchard and Mrs MacDonald's plans for flowers for the chapel centenary) as well as plants for the Centenary Garden.
- 3 Recycling more things – especially spectacles, printers, batteries, etc. (Mention of Mrs Cockburn's certificate from CHAS for helping to fundraise through her recycling of mobile phones and printers, see next article in the timeline). Spectacles can be placed in the box in the library.
Continue used postage stamp collection
- 4 The energy audit is nearing completion.
- 5 Possible leaflet with eco ideas to be circulated before Christmas by the Eco Group

6 Eco badges for pupil members

October 2009

Through Mrs Cockburn's conscientious recycling of the printer cartridges used by staff at QVS, she helped raise the phenomenal amount of £165,962.76 for CHAS (The Children's Hospice Association Scotland). If any pupil wishes to donate their old mobile phones, please hand them in to Mrs Sheerin in the library. At home, families can send them direct to CHAS Recycling Appeal, FREEPOST NAT 22771, Falkirk, FK2 9BR. For more details please check out the website at www.chas.org.uk

January 2010

Pupils and staff have donated spectacles which will be passed on to Vision Aid. The way this is done is explained on their website www.vao.org.uk, but basically, we collect old prescription glasses and pass them on to the opticians who transport the glasses to developing countries via Vision Aid Overseas once prisoners in the UK have cleaned, graded and packed them. Spectacles are dispensed to patients abroad after a full eye examination and great care is taken to match them to the patient.



Woodland Trust has offered us some free tree packs which will arrive in school in March. More information about this scheme can be found on www.woodlandtrust.org.uk.