

Darlington Cares breathes new life into primary school's garden in Big Community Challenge

A group of local businesses have led the campaign to reinvigorate a local school's garden to help pupils benefit from an outdoor learning environment.



Once upon a time St. Mary's Cockerton Primary School had a beautiful nature garden for the children but sadly over time nature had taken over the garden, like Sleeping Beauty's castle. We were determined to hack through and give it the kiss of life it needs to bring it back for the children.



Darlington Cares' members worked with St. Mary's Cockerton Primary School on the Big Community Challenge to revamp the garden, so it could be used as an outdoor classroom.

The project, which was supported by Darlington Building Society and its members, saw employees of the town's businesses, pupils and teachers of the school helping to rejuvenate the area by refurbishing flower beds, renovating fencing, planting seeds and much more.

The Big Community Challenge was delivered in partnership with Groundwork North East & Cumbria. The Company provided expert knowledge in wildlife and horticulture and carried out the industrial work. The firm also helped ensure that the project will enable the wildlife to flourish.



Scores of volunteers celebrated the results of their hard work with a community picnic after they spent two days revitalising the school's garden.

With refreshments and children's entertainment kindly provided by Darlington Building Society, the school field was alive with volunteers and members of the public joining in the celebrations and exploring the new nature garden.



Head of School of St. Mary's Cockerton Primary, Michael Joyeux, said: "Thanks to the help of local firms we have been able to restore this resource for our children and it is just fantastic!"

