



ROOT & BRANCH

Forest Education Initiative
Bulletin

Summer2013



FOREST EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Featuring woodland learning and Forest School news

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Root & Branch bulletin summer 2013!

Forest Education Initiative aims to increase the understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between the tree and everyday wood products. FEI is a national organisation, drawing expertise, resources and inspiration from a range of partners and leaders. The aim of this bulletin is to update our members in Scotland on news, projects and initiatives related to trees, woods and forests.

These bulletins will remain available on the FEI website. If you missed them, here are the spring editions of the [FEI Forest School newsletter Spring 2013](#) and [FEI Scotland March 2013 newsletter](#).

FEI SCOTLAND NEWS

National & local networks

Keep in touch with what is being discussed by the FEI Forest School Working Group. Minutes of meetings are posted on the [FEI website](#).

FEI cluster group news

The FEI Scotland Chairs meeting took place on 25th April 2013 at Kinnoull Hill, Perth. The minutes of this meeting can be found [here](#). Are you a member of your local [FEI Cluster Group](#)?

[Subscribe](#) to receive the FEI bulletin

TRAINING

FEI Training Programme

Don't miss out on these great [free training courses](#) for FEI members.

Many Cluster Groups are now organising local courses and events so do keep an eye on your local events and those of cluster groups near you.

There will also be a series of Tree Health workshops coming soon. See also 'other resources' section below.

Bonnie Maggio FEI Coordinator Scotland E: bonnie.maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Penny Martin FEI Forest School Coordinator Scotland
E: forestschoolcoordinator@livingclassrooms.org.uk

Forest Education Initiative Scotland Networking Event 2013

The FEI Scotland networking event will take place on 13th and 14th September 2013 at the Falkland Centre for Stewardship in Fife. In order to make it affordable to all accommodation will be self-booked and options range from camping at the local organic farm campsite to guesthouse or hotel. Places are limited so book quickly! Further information is available [here](#).

FEI GB Networking Event 2013 - Treecycle!

The FEI GB Networking Event will be held in Wales this year on 16th October. Further information is available [here](#).

RESOURCES

Treetrunk App

The Treetrunk App is now available free for download on Apple and Android devices. The app aims to act as a resource base for woodland learning resources. You can find all the FEI resources and you can upload your own ideas and resources for others to use.

Wildwoods Wolf Brother Resource

Fantastic new free resource! This resource has been produced to support teachers who are reading the novel *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver with their classes. Set in Mesolithic times, the novel is not only an exciting read but also reveals much about the lives of hunter-gatherers who lived in Scotland 10,000 years ago. Find more information on how to get yours [here](#).

FEI Forest School Scotland Context and Evaluation Framework

[FEI Forest School Scotland – a context](#) is now available. This provides the background for the [FEI Forest School Scotland Evaluation Framework](#). Both are available on the FEI website.

Do let us know what other resources you would find useful!

FEI Facebook snippets

Recent threads linked to Forest School have included:

- Early Years nature stories
- Knife use with children
- Best tools for Forest School
- Ideas using sticks
- Plant identification
- Trends in outdoor education and Forest School...*and much more*.

Why not join the [FEI Facebook group](#), and share your good ideas or questions?

GRANTS

Project Grants

We had no applications for funding in the June round. Your last chance for Project funding for 2013/14 will be the October round. We hope that the 100% funding will continue to encourage you to apply. If your cluster group hasn't applied for a while why not get a focus group together to think of a project that you could all work on to benefit the children and young people you work with? More information is available [here](#).

Small Grant

The small grant for cluster groups has gone up to £500 to enable groups to cover the cost of administration, meetings etc. In order to be eligible for this grant cluster groups should have submitted their annual Administration Form together with a membership list and full accounts. More information is available on the FEI Website [grants](#) page.

FEI FOREST SCHOOL SCOTLAND NEWS

The growing Forest School Scotland network

There are now 135 + contacts on this database. If you have not yet submitted your details, please get in touch with Penny Martin, the [FEI Forest School Co-coordinator](#).

Forest School Scotland Case Studies

Have a look at this example of this programme at Gracemount High School in Edinburgh where Forest School is incorporated into Biology Intermediate 1. This is part of a wider school approach to encourage regular attendance and wider achievement

If you would like your Forest School programme featured, do [get in touch](#).

Recognising and celebrating your Forest School practice

FEI Forest School Scotland is currently exploring options for getting the Forest School qualification recognised on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. We are also intending to seek recognition by the GTCS following the publication of the [Revised Professional Standards](#) for Teachers which come into effect August 2013.

Our [spring FEI Forest School newsletter](#) issue introduced some award schemes which have been used to recognise and celebrate achievements in outdoor learning programmes such as Forest School. Gracemount High School in Edinburgh (see above) has tapped into the Duke of Edinburgh Award, John Muir Award, and more recently aimed to use the [Junior Award Scheme Scotland](#) (JASS). This is an accredited learning programme for young people (P6-S2) used to recognise success in pupils taking part.

The John Muir Award has recently launched [Mission: Explore John Muir](#), available in a number of formats including a [downloadable](#) PDF.

Do get in touch with us to share your experience of any of these or other schemes to recognise your woodland learning or Forest School programme.

The [FEI Forest School Co-coordinator](#), Penny Martin, keeps a list of any Outdoor First Aid, and Forest School training courses, summer Forest School camps or similar courses run by Forest School practitioners.

Please get in touch with her for further information if you are seeking training opportunities or places for children on Forest School programmes.

If you are a training provider planning any further [Forest School training](#) courses, or a Forest School practitioner running Forest School programmes, do let Penny know.

FEI Forest School groups and meetings in Scotland

A seminar planned late summer/ autumn 2013 to consider how the Forest School qualification can be recognised within existing frameworks in Scotland. It is aimed at those involved in delivering and supporting Forest School training in Scotland. Get in touch with Penny [FEI Forest School Co-coordinator](#) if you would like to be involved.

OTHER NEWS

Scotland's Finest Woods Award

Scotland's Finest Woods (SFW) and the Forest Education Initiative (FEI) have teamed up to run an annual Schools Award in Scotland.

The Award is to encourage and reward schools that increase young peoples' understanding and appreciation of the environmental, social and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between trees and everyday wood-based products. There is a cash prize of £500 for the winning school and the second prize is £250. Each school will also receive a wooden display plaque recording their achievement, and a special Tree Pack containing trees for planting or tree growing kits.

The winner of this year's Scotland's Finest Woods Award for schools is:

Howden St Andrew's Primary School, Livingstone. The aim of the project was to provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment which would encourage the development of skills necessary for the pupils in the Upper Nurture Class to achieve their full potential. This was achieved through initially a Forest School programme which developed and grew under the initiative of the boys. The judges were particularly impressed with the extent of woodland skills learned by the boys including coppicing, working with willow, joinery classes which were then put into action to make benches etc. and surveying, along with the way that the project grew and developed under the initiative of the boys to include starting a Gardening Gang club and considerable engagement with the wider community.

And the Runner-Up is:

Girvan Academy The aim of their project was to enrich the biodiversity of 3 separate sites in and around the school. This was achieved through tree, hedge and orchard planting, establishing a butterfly trail, a bog garden, and a kitchen garden for the school. The judges were impressed with the broad scope of the project covering various sites with different challenges and the extent of the involvement of the local community and industry.

If your school is undertaking a project related to woodlands keep an eye on the FEI website for the details of next year's competition.

Going Out There - Scottish Framework for Safe Practice in Off-site Visits

This framework has been developed in partnership by the Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education (SAPOE), Education Scotland and the Association of Directors of Education, with input from other partners including voluntary organisations and providers. Read it [online](#) or [download](#) the document.

Branching Out

The [Branching Out](#) programme supports greenspace and conservation on referral for people with mental health issues. A Branching Out mailing list is being developed by Kirsty Cathrine the programme manager, to receive Branching Out news updates. If you would like to opt in, please email with your details.

National Network for Outdoor Learning Members, Scotland

Julie Wilson, the departing Development Officer for Outdoor Learning, Education Scotland has requested that for those who want to be part of this OL network, please update your contact details in the [survey](#) here.

To add to the collection of ideas, priorities, activities, venues and suggestions for planning the 4 meetings in the programme for next session, please complete this survey

UK Forest School Association



The new independent Forest School Association (FSA) now has its own [website](#). The FSA is offering 12 months free membership to all Forest School trainees studying at level 1, 2 or 3 regardless of who they are training with or where they are training. This offer is also open to those trainees who have already started their studies. Trainees must be referred by their trainer via a form on the website. Therefore their trainer needs to be a member of the FSA. You can find further information [here](#).

OTHER NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Forest School Association



The first FSA conference will be held at Derwent Hill Outdoor Education & Training Centre in Keswick, Cumbria on 12th and 13th October 2013. For further information and news visit the FSA [website](#).

International Mud day

Get muddy on 29th June 2013. Muddyfaces has developed a range of lovely free resources with contributions from practitioners passionate about mud play including those in the FEI Facebook community. In the [Mud Pack](#) you will find free downloadable resources such as A-

Z of Muddy Ideas, Making a Mud Kitchen book, examples of mud play and mud day celebrations. Prepare to have fun and get messy!

7th EU Forest Pedagogics Congress

The 8th EU Forest Pedagogics Congress will be held in Bilbao, Spain on 22-25th October 2013. Early Registration with reduced fees is open until the end of July. Full information is available [here](#).

CUTTINGS

Is Nature Deficit Disorder the right term to use?

Richard Louv who wrote *Last Child in the Woods* coined this phrase and has been much quoted since. The following article by Wendy Russell who writes on the Play England Love Outdoor Play pages was first highlighted on the FEI Facebook page. Read [Nature Deficit Disorder and Free Range Childhood: what's in a metaphor?](#) - And decide for yourself!

What young people want from education?

In a recent [Young People's Consultation](#) (December 2012) conducted by Young Scot for Education Scotland, when asked what would have improved their educational experiences, the group suggested the following:

- *Real life workshops in a range of subjects to develop practical and life skills*
- *Less focus on getting to university – this is portrayed as being the best option for everyone and all other options are suggested as second best*
- *More 'life' education and experiences – school doesn't prepare you for the real world and work*
- *Teachers who are more personable – who listen and treat you as an individual*

Many woodland learning and Forest School programmes provide these real life experiences and skills, plus listening and supportive adult leaders. Let's keep up the good work and use this and other reports as leverage for supporting what we do!

Learning outdoors and field trips are recommended approaches for supporting learning and skills development, and are referred to in the new [CfE Briefing 11: Planning for Learning part 1: Through the Broad General Education](#).

STEPPING INTO NATURE: Teacher Stories, Volume 1

This brand new 80-page 10.4 MB electronic publication is now available free [online](#). Included in this document are 15 Ontario-based articles written by teachers, a principal, a superintendent and a parent who are engaged in taking children outdoors regularly and within walking distance of their school. *Thanks to Julie Wilson and Simon Beames for sharing.*

OTHER RESOURCES

Tree Health

The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network is an exciting initiative that is open to anyone with an interest in nature, and encourages people to become involved in Citizen Science.

Recently, a group of people took part in a Tree Health training day at Hermitage of Braid in Edinburgh. This was supported by Forestry Commission Scotland and run by OPAL.

Further regional training opportunities in Scotland are planned, so keep an eye on the FEI website news page or cluster group emails.

You can also order free packs and find further information on the [tree survey](#) section of the OPAL website.

Free trees!

The Woodland Trust is offering community groups, youth groups and schools the chance to trees for delivery in November 2013, for autumn planting.

Please remember that you will need to provide protection for your new trees with tubing and/or fencing....

OTHER FUNDING

Tesco Charity Community Awards (UK)

The Tesco Charity Community Awards for grants for children's welfare and/or children's educations (including special needs schools) has re-opened with an application deadline of the 30th June 2013. Through the Awards, one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000 are available to local projects that support children and their education and welfare. In addition the Trust also provides grants to groups working with and supporting elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities. The Tesco Charity Trust Trustees also consider grant applications at their tri-annual meetings. These grants range between £4,000 and £25,000 and are to support local, national or international projects in areas where Tesco operate. Find further information [here](#).

Partnership Grants Scheme for Primary and Secondary Schools (UK)

The next round of the Partnership Grants programme will re-open for applications on the 2nd September 2013. Grants of between £250 and £3,000 will be available to support teachers, scientists and engineers help develop science projects. The aim is to make the teaching of science more interesting within primary and secondary schools. Any UK primary or secondary school teacher or practicing scientist/engineer can apply as long as the students involved in the project are between 5 and 18.

The deadline for applications will be the 1st November 2013. Find further information [here](#).

Biffaward Flagship Programme Opens for Applications (UK)

Biffaward, which is one of the largest Landfill Communities Fund schemes, has announced that its Flagship programme is now open to applications. The Flagship Scheme supports two themes: Rebuilding Biodiversity & Cultural Facilities.

Through the Flagship programme grants of between £150,000 and £500,000 are available to support projects that are unique within a region. Projects must be site-based, within 25 miles of a Biffa operation and ten miles of an active landfill. The organisation making the application must be eligible to enrol with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body.

Biffawards usually support 2 to 3 Flagship projects per year. The deadline for expression of Interest is 12 noon on the 20th August 2013. Find further information [here](#).

The Ernest Cook Trust (UK)

Schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest either in the countryside and the environment, the arts or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy can apply for funding to the Ernest Cook Trust (ECT).

The Trust operates two grant making programmes. The small grants programme (under £4,000) supports state schools and small registered charities which would like to undertake projects which meet the Trust's objectives and require a small amount of pump-priming in order for such projects to take place. Meetings to consider applications for the small grants programme take place bi-monthly throughout the year. The full board of Trustees meets twice a year, in April and September, to consider grants in excess of £4,000.

At the Spring meeting only projects related to the arts, crafts & architecture and literacy & numeracy are considered while at the Autumn meeting only projects covering environment & countryside and literacy & numeracy are considered. Grants are normally awarded for one year only. The next closing date for applications for the large grants programme is the 31 July 2013. Find further information [here](#).

Deadline Extended for £20m Broadband Fund Applications

The Government has announced that the applications deadline for the £20 Million Broadband Fund has been extended from the 24th May to the 17th June 2013.

This is the third and final application round of the fund. The Fund aims to help hard to reach rural communities with limited or no internet, to access superfast broadband to give their businesses and communities a greater opportunity to profit and grow.

Communities and local authorities can bid for 50% or more of the total eligible project costs. The money will be used to help them build infrastructures to put broadband in place. Find further information [here](#).

Scottish Government Launches Food for Thought Education Fund (Scotland)

The Scottish Government has announced that Scottish schools will be able to apply for grants to provide more food education for pupils as a result of a new £1 million fund. Supporting the aims of Curriculum for Excellence, the Food for Thought Education Fund will help pupils learn about all aspects of food. The fund will encourage teachers to develop projects inspired by the extensive programme of major events planned for 2014 which includes the Year of Homecoming, the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup, creating a legacy for young people for years to come.

Food education is a key strand of Scotland's National Food and Drink Policy and funding of up to £5,000 will be available to teachers to support at least 200 projects over 2013-15, each of which will be topped-up with a direct financial or in-kind contribution from the private sector. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on the 28th June 2013. Find further information [here](#).

The Leche Trust (UK)

The Leche Trust has announced that the next deadline for applications to its grant making programme is the 20th August 2013.

The Trust makes grants for charitable purposes, in particular for the furtherance of education or academic research and the support of the National Trust and the preservation of rural England, and financing the visits of teachers and students abroad. The main focuses of the Trusts grant making activities are:

- The promotion of good relations between Britain and third world countries
- Assistance to academic, educational or other organisations concerned with music, drama, dance and the arts.

Bonnie Maggio FEI Coordinator Scotland E: bonnie.maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Penny Martin FEI Forest School Coordinator Scotland

E: forestschoolcoordinator@livingclassrooms.org.uk

- The preservation of buildings and their contents and the repair and conservation of church furniture
- The preservation of the nation's countryside, towns, villages and historic landscapes. Find further information [here](#).

Scottish Power Green Energy Trust (UK)

Local community groups and not for profit organisations and charities within the UK can apply for grants for the installation of renewable technologies. The funding which is available through the Scottish Power Green Energy Trust will provide grants of up to 25,000 (but most projects receive around £10,000) for up to half the cost of the chosen renewable technology. The maximum amount would only be awarded to exceptional projects that tick all the boxes and demonstrate real value for money. Projects also need to have a really strong community benefit and wider educational element.

The Trust considers all kinds of renewable technologies, including small-scale hydro, wind power, biomass, landfill gas, solar energy and ground source heat pumps. Applications involving other technologies may also qualify for support. Grant requests must be to support the capital and installation costs of a renewable energy project.

The next closing date for applications is the 13th August 2013. Find further information [here](#).

The Kids Fund (UK)

The Field Studies Council is an independent educational charity committed to raising awareness about the natural world. The Council works through a network of 17 residential and day Centres in the UK providing courses for schools and colleges at all levels in addition to adult Individuals & Families courses, outreach education, training and consultancy. The Kids Fund aims to bring environmental understanding to disadvantaged young people by attending a course at a Field Studies Council centre. It helps disadvantaged young people to attend a course who may otherwise be excluded due to some form of disadvantage - health, mobility, deprivation or financial. Funding will normally be up to 80% of the cost of your group's course to an FSC Field Centre to a maximum of £3000.

There are three funding rounds each year which close on 1st March, 1st June and 1st November. Applicants may apply at any time and the application will be held until the next decision round. Find further information [here](#).

Climate Challenge Fund (Scotland)

Keep Scotland Beautiful, has announced that the next deadline for applications to the Climate challenge fund is the 5th July 2013.

Through the Climate Challenge Fund, Communities across Scotland can apply for grants of up to £150,000 per year to help reduce their carbon footprint and become more energy efficient. Nearly £30 million in total will be awarded to communities who come forward with innovative ideas to tackle their carbon emissions. Find further information [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT

Napier College has a funded PhD studentship vacancy. The topic is timber potential of 'alternative conifer species'

Applicants must be highly motivated and ideally hold an MSc in Forestry, Engineering or a related subject, although applications with a minimum 2.1 Honours degree in related subjects will be considered. A good knowledge of forestry, timber engineering and statistical

analyses would be advantageous. Deadline for applications is 30 June 2013. Find further details [here](#).

Do you have a FEI cluster group, woodland learning or Forest School project you would like highlighted in the next newsletter? Do get in touch – see our contact details at the foot of this page!



Disclaimer: FEI/Living Classrooms is not responsible for the content or reliability of the linked websites or resources from this bulletin from external sources. Listing should not be taken as endorsement of any kind. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and we have no control over the availability of linked pages. You are receiving this email because your email address is on the FEI subscription list, Forest School enquiries mailing list or the Forest School Scotland database. If you do not wish to receive emails like this please email us (see below).