



## In This Issue

### News from the ESD Forum

1. [ESD Forum Update](#)

### Environmental Education News

1. [How to Enjoy a Green Christmas](#)
2. [Belfast Harbour Reveals Teaching's 'Green' Giant](#)
3. [IKEA Waste Disposal](#)
4. [Lagan Valley Regional Park New Resource](#)
5. [Energy Savings 'Could Pay For A Teacher'](#)
6. [Get Ready And Get Set For Impact 2012 Awards!](#)
7. [Built Heritage Schools Competition](#)
8. [Taking Action to Reward the Best in the Green Industry](#)
9. [Ulster Wildlife Trust Appeal to Save the Barn Owl](#)
10. [Red Letter Day for Santa & Lapland Owl at Crawfordsburn!](#)

### Resources

1. [Free Range Kids Website](#)
2. [The Year Round Organic School](#)
3. [Garden Organic](#)

### Training & Events

1. [Centre For Global Education Annual Conference 2012](#)
2. [Eco Schools Celebration Event February 2012](#)
3. [Christmas Continental Market](#)

### Funding

1. [Grants for Northern Ireland](#)
2. [Big Lottery Funding](#)
3. [Tesco Charity Trust](#)
4. [Field Studies Centre Derrygonnelly – Kids Fund](#)



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Education for Sustainable Development Forum** which provides information on activities in the environmental education and education for sustainable development sectors in Northern Ireland. Below you will find a variety of useful information, including ESD Forum and member's news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and any job vacancies in the sector.

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development sector that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The ESD Forum attempts to raise awareness of environmental education and education for sustainable development issues in the formal and non-formal education sectors through the provision of services such as the production of resources, initial and in service teacher training, member meetings and training and organising member and public conferences.

If you would like to send an article to include in the next E-Bulletin please contact:

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## NEWS FROM THE ESD FORUM

### 1. ESD FORUM UPDATE

The next edition of the Forum Newsletter will be issued late January early February and the lead article will be on Coasts/Marine/Fishing. There will be plenty of space for your stories if you would like any articles published in the Newsletter which will be going into every school please feel free to send stories/forthcoming events etc. through to me and I will have them promoted for you.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2012; I look forward to working you all again in the New Year.

If you have any information you would like promoted through the E-bulletin please get your information to me by the end of the month and if you want anything (news, upcoming events etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me it is a good way of getting your information out to a wider audience. I can be contacted at [iona@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:iona@nienvironmentlink.org) our website address is [www.esdforum.org.uk](http://www.esdforum.org.uk)



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

### 1. HOW TO ENJOY A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Christmas (which has occurred on 25 December since 336AD) is a family feast in the depths of winter (at least for the northern latitudes). Occurring 4 days after the winter solstice, days are short and yet the year has turned and people start to look forward to spring. Memories of last winter's white Christmas may bring back picturesque images for some of us, while others may be hoping that this mild November weather continues to Christmas. However, Christmas tends to be a time when many of us generate a lot of waste and my aim is to encourage us all to rethink waste and take a different approach.

#### First there are the cards...

Christmas can start quite early, if you go by the houses that light up on November 1st! But for most of us it starts with the annual Christmas card ritual of sending cards to people we never speak or write to for the other 364 days! In fact the UK spends more on Christmas cards than anyone else in the world averaging 55 cards per person and amounting to £1.3 billion per year. Maybe this year you can take a different approach? Only send cards to people who you do see at other times, but don't send cards to people you will see at Christmas! As to the once a year people, ask yourself WHY? Try making your own – there are pre-folded cards that you decorate yourselves using images from magazines; some people even make their own card from recycled paper! Be imaginative – believe me I would much prefer a home-made card which will be unique to me than an e-card! And all the cards you receive can be saved to decorate next year's; alternatively you can recycle the cards at various recycling centres after Christmas.

#### Then there are the lights...

So what about the houses which appear overnight and keep their lights on for two months! If you are a fan of having a house lit up to the extent of guiding aircraft to the runway, try going the solar route or at the very least use LED bulbs which use 90% less energy.

#### And the tree...

Assuming you prefer a more traditional style, the next thing in people's minds is usually the tree! While the tree dates back only to 1841 with Prince Albert introducing it from Germany, the idea of bringing nature indoors connects us with our environment and the natural world at the very time of year when we are probably least connected to it, preferring the warmth of our homes.

Each year in the UK we use approximately 6 million trees of which fewer than 10% are recycled and less than 5% are replaced. A real tree is carbon neutral and if you get one from a local producer and or an FSC accredited source, you know it is sustainable. Make sure that you take it for composting after the festivities are over. Better still grow your own in a container which can be brought indoors each year. Keep it well watered and you will not have the needle drop issue of cut trees. Now some might argue that the artificial tree is re-used each year but they are generally made from metals and petroleum based plastics, use a lot of energy in their production (generally in Taiwan or China so add in transport costs) and they tend to last no more than 6 years at which point they go to landfill!

#### The decorations for the tree...



Having got the tree, you then have to decorate – and the decorations are often made of the same materials as the artificial tree! It seems a shame to bedeck a real tree (because of course that is what you have gone for) with artificial materials when homemade natural decorations are cheaper and can be either eaten or composted after! Try popcorn on strings using vegetable dyes; bundles of cinnamon sticks tied together with ribbon, gingerbread men, natural berries, ivy, holly and mistletoe. A particular favourite of mine are baked orange slices. Believe me the aromas of spices; fruit and pine evoke the Christmas spirit far more effectively than pink tinsel!

### **Then we have the gifts...**

Enter stage left Santa Claus and all those presents. Santa Claus traditionally dresses in red and white, right? Actually only since Coca Cola used him to advertise in 1931 and put him in the corporate colours!

Choose gifts with care and remember presents for children do not have to be battery operated all the time. If you do go that way, try and use rechargeable batteries. Of course, you may not always get it right but a little thought will reduce unwanted gifts. And should you receive such gifts you can always give them to charity (obviously after a respectful time has elapsed!).

### **And the wrapping...**

Be creative in your choice of wrapping. Each year approximately 83 km<sup>2</sup> of wrapping paper ends up in bins – that would cover Guernsey! If you are buying it avoid the glossy or metallic types which do not recycle so well. Use ribbon or string rather than sticky tape – I cut off the “hanger ribbons” from clothes I buy and use the ribbons to tie up small gifts. “Brown paper packages tied up with string” can look very attractive in their simplicity!

### **Food, glorious food...**

You have sent your cards, decorated the house and now your attention turns to the feeding of the hoards! With some forward planning you could have grown much of your Christmas dinner given the surge in interest in allotments. But even if you have just a few herbs on a window sill, you will know exactly where your food/herb has come from and (if you do grow your own) you will know just how good it tastes!

For most of us the signature meal is the turkey and all the trimmings. You have of course by now, sourced an organic turkey from a local breeder! Inevitably we do feast, cook and eat more than normal. However, the peelings and left over cooked vegetables can be used to make a vegetable stock/soup after. The raw vegetable stalks and peelings can also be composted if preferred. And the carcass of the turkey makes great stock as well. Any excess fat can be recycled into fat balls for the birds.

Having cooked the meal, you sit down to your tastefully dressed table lit by beeswax or vegetable based candles which are smoke free, biodegradable and eco-friendly. And you are using your china and glassware – OK that means washing up but at least you are re-using them! And let’s face it – you won’t be the one washing up!

Finally, and in my mind the best part, is the family walk after the Christmas meal! Whether you are crunching though snow or bundled up against the wind and rain, or enjoying a dry and mild Christmas, that walk, when everyone leaves the warmth of our homes and engages once more with nature is the point when everyone breathes a sigh of relief and starts to look forward to the New Year!

**Merry Christmas Everyone! (Article by Anne Hayes DOE)**



## 2. BELFAST HARBOUR REVEALS TEACHING'S 'GREEN' GIANT

A primary school teacher from Ballyclare has been named Belfast Harbour Green Teacher of the Year 2011 at an exciting Challenge Day at W5 attended by The Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Niall Ó Donnghaile.

Mr McAllister, from Fairview Primary School, Ballyclare, scooped the top prize in the Northern Ireland-wide search for the primary school teacher who showed most leadership and took most responsibility for the environment. Second prize was rewarded to Mr Black from Phoenix Integrated Primary School in Cookstown. Two Belfast schools reached the final stage with Mrs Phoenix from St Colman's Primary School claiming third prize and Mr Moran from Holy Child Primary School receiving the runner-up award.

The unique competition, sponsored by Belfast Harbour and organised through Action Renewables, called on primary school pupils across Northern Ireland to help find the region's 'greenest teacher' by nominating their teacher and explaining, in no more than 100 words, the hard work their teacher does to look after the environment and educate children about 'eco' issues.

The Green Teacher of the Year 2011 Awards came to an exciting finale at an environmental challenge day at W5 on Wednesday, during which the six shortlisted teachers and their classes enjoyed an interactive 'Talking Rubbish' show and designed, built and trialled their own wind-powered racing machines - as well as meeting Webster the Port Monster, Belfast Harbour's Environmental Guardian.

### **Speaking at the Challenge Day at W5, The Mayor of Belfast said:**

"I would like to congratulate every school, pupil and teacher who has participated in Belfast Harbour's Green Teacher of the Year award. The huge number of entries this year is a testament to our schools' commitment to teaching environmental knowledge and responsibility to our next generation of leaders.

"It is fantastic to hear about the environmental work local teachers are involved in, such as setting up eco clubs, reducing energy in school, and even creating wormeries at school. The environment is extremely important to everyone and Belfast City Council has a sustainable action plan to protect our environment. We are currently working on recycling, reducing our energy using and exploring sustainable travel methods."

The entries were judged by a panel of experts, including David Knott, Environmental Manager, Belfast Harbour, and Laura Coey, Primary School climate change teacher, Action Renewables, as well as sustainability representative, Jackie Gibson from Graham Construction.

### **Roy Adair, Belfast Harbour CEO, said:**

"Belfast Harbour would like to congratulate all of the individual entries for this year's award along with our skilled panel of judges – the competition was again so strong, that choosing the six finalists from over 320 entries was an extremely difficult job. We would like to extend particular praise to Mr McAllister for his success, along with the finalists who came from schools all over Northern Ireland.

"Belfast Harbour is actively committed to fulfilling our environmental responsibilities and highlighting the benefits of reducing waste and energy consumption to a wider audience. The Green Teacher initiative is a key element of our extensive engagement with schools as we believe it is important to educate children at a young age on green issues and actively reward those who bring the benefits of environmental responsibility to the forefront of education."



As well as enjoying the Challenge Day, the successful teachers also won large hampers, goodie bags and tickets for their class to see the Ulster Orchestra perform the music to the Christmas classic 'The Snowman' at the Ulster Hall. The other finalists were Mr Black from Phoenix Integrated Primary School in Cookstown, Mrs McCann from Glengormley Integrated Primary School, and Mrs Griggs from Spires Primary School in Magherafelt. All other finalists received goodie bags in addition to a workshop with the Ulster Orchestra.

**Nicola Murphy, Business Development Manager, Action Renewables, said:**

"Action Renewables is delighted to have teamed up with Belfast Harbour for the third year of this extremely successful competition, recognising primary school teachers' continued commitment to environmental projects while educating children about green issues. The Challenge Day is a great way to reward both pupils and their teachers while allowing children to learn about local and wider environmental issues in an innovative and exciting way, such as creating a wind-powered racing machine.

"It was tremendous to see so many school children interact with each other at the Challenge Day and be educated about the importance of caring for their environment in a fun-filled way. From speaking to teachers and pupils here today, it is encouraging to see so many Northern Ireland teachers and pupils with genuine enthusiasm about creating a greener environment."

### 3. IKEA WASTE DISPOSAL

Retail giant IKEA is now recycling 85% of its waste across all of its 19 stores in UK and Ireland, and has become 'cost-positive' in the process with no disposal costs.

Speaking at WRAP's annual conference, IKEA's sustainable development manager Charlie Browne said the company had reduced the cost of its waste management operations year-on-year to a point where it could become revenue-generating.

"We are not spending money on waste disposal anymore," he told delegates. He said that effective waste management and prevention could potentially account for up to 10% of a company's net profit in terms of cost savings.

Browne added that waste prevention didn't have to be complex - by implementing napkin dispensers that only allowed customers to take one napkin at a time, IKEA saw a 40% reduction in napkin use in its restaurants, resulting in annual cost savings of £50,000.

He also highlighted IKEA's widely publicised plastic carrier bag charging scheme, which led to a 95% reduction in carrier bag use - saving some 300 million bags over six-and-a-half years, and generating £3M cost savings in the process.

Browne said the company was now looking beyond zero waste to 'positive waste' by taking back more waste than it generates through its operations. "The big question now for us internally is how we go through that 100% recycling barrier?" he added.



#### 4. LAGAN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK NEW RESOURCE

Come and discover the [Lagan Valley Regional Park](#) as an outdoor classroom; a stunning location rich in natural resources to arouse children's curiosity. In a world dominated by technology, help today's children 'get back to nature' while giving them a unique cross-curricular learning experience.

Lagan Valley Regional Park covers approximately 4,200 acres of beautiful countryside with a wide variety of sites to visit, including the Neolithic Giant's Ring, the Lock Keeper's Cottage and the early 17th century Belvoir House Estate.

Laganscape is a Landscape Partnership Scheme, a grant supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Through Laganscape we have encouraged greater participation within the Park and this website has been designed to provide you with all the information you need to enjoy your Lagan Valley experience. Visit [www.laganvalleylearning.co.uk](http://www.laganvalleylearning.co.uk)

#### 5. ENERGY SAVINGS 'COULD PAY FOR A TEACHER'

Leaving computers on can waste a great deal of energy. Schools could save the equivalent of a teacher's salary by switching out the lights and taking energy saving measures, a charity says.

The Carbon Trust says UK secondary schools could save up to £21,500 in energy bills if they took measures.

These include switching off lights and computers, turning heating down, installing insulation and more efficient lighting.

UK school energy bills cost £543m a year.

The Carbon Trust says that UK schools now account for more than half of local authorities' carbon emissions.

It argues that across the UK as much as £135m in savings could be made through basic cost-effective measures which would pay back in less than three years.

#### 'Squeeze on budgets'

It says: "Simple measures such as switching off lights and installing more efficient heating could help the average secondary school save £21,500 in energy bills - almost equal to the annual salary of a newly qualified teacher."

Director of Carbon Trust Programmes Richard Rugg said: "The Carbon Trust's work with local authorities shows that schools can play a pivotal role in helping the public sector to save millions of pounds while slashing carbon emissions.

"With a squeeze on budgets, our focus is on helping local authorities in collaboration with their schools estate to identify low cost opportunities that deliver high financial savings.

"Whether a pupil, a teacher or a school site manager, every member of the school community must play its part in saving energy."



## 6. GET READY AND GET SET FOR IMPACT 2012 AWARDS!

The DOE (Department of the Environment) and OFMDFM (Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister) are urging young people up to the age of 25 across Northern Ireland to get ready and get set over the summer months, in preparation for the Impact 2012 Awards.

The Impact 2012 Awards are designed to recognise those young people who are making a positive impact in life, in terms of the environment and sustainability. These Awards will celebrate action being taken on the ground and they will also provide an excellent platform to share these award winning and inspirational ideas with hundreds of others.

Project applications can be made under a range of categories, including environment, innovation, rural sustainability, leadership, awareness raising, community safety and others.

Full details on how to apply will be released in September on the NI Direct website

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/environment-and-greener-living/your-local-environment/being-green-in-the-community-and-at-work/impact-2012-awards.htm>

The deadline for submissions will be in **December 2011** and the Awards will be announced at an event in Belfast on **14<sup>th</sup> March 2012**.

If people would like to register their interest in the meantime, please email [marketing@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@doeni.gov.uk)

## 7. BUILT HERITAGE SCHOOLS COMPETITION

In 2011 alone, 11 significant listed buildings have been seriously damaged by fire. The loss of these buildings results in huge costs to our economy, local communities and to wider society. This competition has been designed to encourage young people to think about the built heritage as something worth preserving.

### The Competition

You are invited to enter the Opening Doors to the Future Competition for schools. Nine winning entries will be displayed at a Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Built Heritage conference in May 2012 to celebrate Northern Ireland's historic environment. In addition to attending the conference, winners will receive a hand crafted trophy.

The competition is open to schoolchildren across Northern Ireland.

### What do you have to do?

To enter the competition you need to research a historic building, structure or site near your school. You must find out as much as you can about its history including things like:

- when it was originally built
- who built it
- who lived in it
- what was its function



You should describe the materials used to build it and illustrate your project with pictures or photographs.

Some buildings are of such historic or architectural importance that they have been designated as a Listed Building or in state care to protect and preserve them. Some buildings have Blue Plaques to show their association with famous people. The building you choose to research may just be important to you. It could be your school, a local church or just a really interesting local monument.

You should be able to demonstrate in your project why it is important to preserve the building you have chosen. Thinking about the social benefits of the restoration of buildings you should devise a conservation plan and consider how you will promote it to local people and tourists. Try and include new and innovative technologies in your promotion proposals where possible and appropriate.

You should produce a display which illustrates the building and its history, its importance, why and how it should be conserved and your plans to promote it.

The closing date for entries is 12 noon on Wednesday 29 February 2012.

### **The competition classes**

Entry to the competition is divided into three age groups. These correspond to Key Stages (KS) in the National Curriculum which set the educational knowledge expected of students at various ages:

- Primary (Key Stage 1 and 2)
- Post-Primary (Key Stage 3)
- 15+ (Key Stage 4 and 5)

The winner and the two runners-up for each age group will be invited to display their projects at the Built Heritage conference in May 2012. The winners of each age group will also give a five minute presentation on their project, demonstrating why they chose their building, why they feel it is important and how they have used innovative ways to preserve and promote it.

They will also be invited to take part in a question and answer session which will take a maximum of 30 minutes.

All the shortlisted projects will also be entered into the People's Choice Award. You will be able to vote for your favourite in the People's Choice Award Built Heritage Competition by text message, or here on the nidirect website, from 12 March 2012.

### **Curriculum Links**

The Curriculum Objectives which are met by this competition are to develop young people as contributors to society, the economy and environment. This project will provide an enquiry-based learning experience.

### **Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities**



- Managing information
- Working with others
- Being creative
- Using ICT

### Areas of Learning

- The World Around Us (KS1 and 2)
- Environment and Society (KS3)

### Key Stage 1

My environment - historical sites and old buildings in my environment

### Key Stage 2

The way we live - the life of a famous person, family or building in the past, either local, national or international.

### Key Stage 3

Statutory Requirement Objective 3 Investigate the need to preserve history in the local and global environment, for example, visit an important historical site and evaluate the measures taken to preserve it; create the case for a local building or site to be preserved; explore the contribution of heritage tourism to society, the economy and the environment.

### Key Stage 4 and 5

Links will be determined by specific syllabi being followed.

### Application form and rules

The rules and application form for the competition are available on the following pages:

- [Built heritage schools competition rules](#)
- [Built heritage schools competition application form](#)

If you want to enter the competition, download and complete the application form and return it by email to:

- [annehayes@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:annehayes@doeni.gov.uk)

## 8. TAKING ACTION TO REWARD THE BEST IN THE GREEN INDUSTRY

The Action Renewables Association Awards in association with Tughans and Travelwise NI are now officially launched. Now in their fourth year, the awards recognise excellence and reward innovation by local companies who are leading the way with renewable energy technologies and sustainability and awareness raising initiatives. The awards are open to all companies throughout Northern Ireland who are showing their commitment to the development and growth of the 'green' industry locally.



The awards will take place in the new Titanic Belfast attraction on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, one of a series of familiarisation events taking place ahead of the official opening on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012. This has been agreed due to the environmental and sustainable nature of the awards which compliments the ethos of the new building. As part of the event guests will be given a personalised guided tour of the building's green credentials, as well as the opportunity to meet and speak to the designer of the building Angus Waddington of Todd Architects and enjoy a 4 course lunch.

Nine prestigious awards are up for grabs including: Best Energy Saving SME (sponsored by ESB IE Electric Ireland); Most Innovative Construction Project (sponsored by The Ardminnan Group); Most Innovative Renewables Installation (sponsored by Dimplex Renewables); Most Sustainable Travel Plan implemented by SME (sponsored by Travelwise NI); Renewable Energy Awareness Award (Best School) (sponsored by RES); Best Training Provider (sponsored by SummitSkills); Best Community Project (sponsored by *brites*); Best Planner: Renewable Energy Project (sponsored by Advent Wind), and Tughans will be presenting the Action Renewables Award for Outstanding Work in the Renewable Energy Sector in Northern Ireland.

Companies are required to submit their entries by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 after which the experts at Action Renewables will shortlist the finalists along with judges Norman Aspley, CEO of Northern Ireland Science Park, Linda Stewart Environmental Correspondent at the Belfast Telegraph, and Dr Geraint Ellis and Dr. Stephen McKay both Senior Lecturers at the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering in Queens University, Belfast.

Speaking at the launch Michael Doran, Director, Action Renewables said; "The Action Renewables Association Awards rewards exceptional projects and those people who are showing their commitment to the renewable energy and sustainability initiatives locally. The awards have grown from strength to strength each year, which demonstrates the dedication from local businesses to the development of the 'green' industry in Northern Ireland."

Andrew Ryan, Partner and Head of Energy, Environment and Planning at Tughans added: "Tughans is actively involved in the Renewable Energy sector, advising businesses on issues including funding and financial incentives for renewables projects, planning applications and consents for new installations and commercial agreements for start-up technology companies. These awards therefore provide an ideal opportunity for us to show our support to local companies that are showcasing excellence within the fast moving 'green' sector."

Andy Bready of DRD Travelwise NI added: "We are delighted to be supporting the Action Renewables Awards which recognise the measures that local companies are taking to reduce their negative effect on the environment. Travelwise works with businesses all around NI to help reduce over-dependence on the car for both commuter and business travel through its Workplace Travel Plans, supporting employers in encouraging sustainable travel alternatives to help relieve congestion, improve the environment and improve the health and wellbeing of staff. We hope that these awards will not only reward the excellence and innovation already existing in the public and private sectors, but also appeal to new companies to promote sustainable modes of transport."

To download an entry pack or book a place at the awards visit [www.actionrenewables.org](http://www.actionrenewables.org) or request information from [awards@actionrenewables.co.uk](mailto:awards@actionrenewables.co.uk)

## 9. ULSTER WILDLIFE TRUST APPEAL TO SAVE THE BARN OWL

A Northern Ireland charity is hoping to raise £10,000 to save the native barn owl as numbers dwindle to a dangerously low level. There are now as few as 20 to 40 breeding pairs of barn owls across Northern Ireland.

The Ulster Wildlife Trust said the owls' habitats were disappearing as trees and old buildings were destroyed.



Belfast Lord Mayor Niall Ó Donnghaile helped launch the campaign on Monday.

“By taking action now, we can make a big difference,” he said.

“I would urge everybody to support the Ulster Wildlife Trust’s 2012 Barn Owl campaign to ensure that one of our finest local wildlife spectacles can be enjoyed for generations to come.”

Over the next year, the UWT plans to install barn owl boxes and train and support volunteers to carry out surveys across Northern Ireland.

To fund the programme, the trust needs to raise £10,000.

Barn owls are often called “the farmer’s friend” as they can eat up to four small rodents every day – keeping farm rodent populations down for free.

The trust is asking for donations to help fund the barn owl project.

## **10. RED LETTER DAY FOR SANTA & LAPLAND OWL AT CRAWFORDSBURN!**

Don’t worry despite the economic outlook Santa has not received a letter from his bank! The Red Letter Day in question is a special new children’s eco-Santa visit at Crawfordsburn Country Park on Sunday 18 December (11am – 4.00pm).

Red Letter Day will offer a red Santa experience with a green day difference! Firstly the event offers great value for money at £10 per child, while keeping the interests of the environment in mind. Secondly, The Owl Man will arrive on the day bringing a Great Grey Owl, a native species of Lapland no less, plus an Eagle Owl and three hedgehogs.

Caring for the environment at Christmas is easy at Red Letter Day. Comics will be utilised as gift wrap for Santa’s presents; recycled paper will be crafted into make and take reindeers and donkeys and handmade decorations take on that vintage feel with Blue Frog, who are specialists in reusing materials and turning them into fantastic crafts.

The price includes Santa visit, present, face painting, two crafts, a drink/biscuit and of course a chance to see those owls and hedgehogs!

Admission is free for adults with the optional exception of warm beverages, to include non-alcoholic punch and shortbread/mince pies at a cost of £2.50 per head.

To avoid queues this is a timed event. Pre-booking is ideal and may be done by contacting Ann on 07790 778179 or Carole 07902 391517, or if you drop in on the day please allow 30 minutes waiting time before your visit.

Crawfordsburn Country Park is ideal whatever the weather, so why not call down and make your own perfect festive day out for all the family.



## RESOURCES

### 1. FREE RANGE KIDS WEBSITE

Sustrans' Free Range Kids website is now live. This is part of a new campaign to bring freedom back to the heart of childhood.

On the website you can:

- speak out for free range kids by adding your voice to the pledge
- find free resources and downloads to get kids outdoors and active
- join in the debate on blogs and comment pieces
- get involved as a partner and help to spread the word

Sustrans believes every child deserves to be free range. They should experience the freedom from their front door to go exploring, play outdoors, and make their own way to school and beyond.

Visit their [website](#) or get in touch and help them us make this possible.

### 2. THE YEAR ROUND ORGANIC SCHOOL

Kerry Earth Education Project with the Irish Seed Savers Association has produced a wonderful resource for teachers and parents who wish to set up or progress their school garden. Simply presented and packed with useful information, this book takes you through the tasks associated with the garden for each month, offers many ideas for projects no matter how small your available space is, and demonstrates clear links as to how the gardening activities can be fully integrated into the curriculum. With class by class plans, glossary of terms, resource lists and photocopy able forms for classroom use; this is a book the school gardener will use again and again.

Available online [www.theorganiccentre.ie/node/1131](http://www.theorganiccentre.ie/node/1131) or at the Organic Centre Eco shop for €12 + p&p.

### 3. GARDEN ORGANIC

Garden Organic is committed to getting people growing and there is no better place to start than getting our children involved. The Garden Organic Website [www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools\\_organic\\_network/](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools_organic_network/) is full of ideas for getting an organic garden started. It includes lots of ideas along with a Fun Zone with games and activities, along with a Teaching Zone and a Learning Zone to name a few. This website is definitely well worth a look.

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### 1. CENTRE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

The CGE Annual Conference 2012 will be held in Dublin on Thursday, 23 February 2012 on the theme "Rising to the Challenge: Development Education in a Changing Local and Global Landscape". The conference will explore some of the key challenges confronting the development education sector in the current financial climate and shifting policy



landscape, particularly in demonstrating the impact of our practice on target groups. It will signpost how the sector can move forward in this context and examine the new opportunities that have arisen for development educators to engage with local audiences on global issues. The keynote address will be delivered by Bobby McCormack, Development Perspectives. The conference will be held in The Exchange, 50 Gardiner Street Lower, Dublin 1 from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

A full programme and registration form will be circulated soon. In the meantime, if you require further information please contact:

Stephen McCloskey

Director

Centre for Global Education

9 University Street

Belfast

BT7 1FY

Tel: 028 9024 1879 [stephen@centreforglobaleducation.com](mailto:stephen@centreforglobaleducation.com)

## 2. ECO SCHOOLS CELEBRATION EVENT 2012

Eco-Schools Northern Ireland is delighted to announce that they are holding a celebration event on the **2nd February 2012 at the Canal Court Hotel, Newry**. With an expected 600 attendees from schools, local authorities, the education, environment and charity sectors it promises to be an exciting and interactive occasion for pupils, staff and other guests. The event will include an exhibition area with additional activity, workshop and ask the expert zones and a main stage showcasing some entertaining performances.

The Celebration Event will also be attended by international representatives from the Foundation for Environmental Education as well as an international guest speaker who will discuss the global environmental problems caused by climate change and the contributing impact of our local actions. We also plan to invite a small number of border schools to the event.

The event will include an exhibition area with additional *activity, workshop* and *ask the expert* zones with emphasis on providing visitors with an interesting and interactive experience. There will also be a main stage showcasing some entertaining performances during the event. We are planning a varied, engaging and exciting programme of activities which will give many organisations from throughout Northern Ireland the opportunity to showcase their work and products to an interested audience.

### Who should attend?

This Celebration Event would be of interest to retailers, suppliers and organisations whose products and/or services offer solutions to sustainable development aimed at local authorities, schools and third sector environmental organisations. The attendees of this event are already engaged in the sustainability agenda and, as such, are interested in sustainable development products and services. The exhibition forms the networking heart of this event and offers exhibitors a superb opportunity to do business face-to-face, collect leads, build awareness or launch a new product or service. The exhibition and sponsorship opportunities offer a powerful and yet cost effective opportunity to organisations wanting to benefit from association with this highly successful event.



If you are interested in participating in or would like more information about the Eco-Schools Celebration Event please contact the Eco-Schools team on 028 9073 6920 or email [Joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:Joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org) or [Jennifer.hargan@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:Jennifer.hargan@eco-schoolsni.org)

### **Eco-Schools Celebration Event**

*The Eco-Schools Celebration Event is supported by the Department of the Environment and sponsored by Newry and Mourne District Council*

## **3. CHRISTMAS CONTINENTAL MARKET**

The Christmas Continental Market will be at Belfast City Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 19 November to 6pm on Monday 19 December, selling a range of food, drinks and crafts. Kids can enjoy the merry-go-round and visit Santa in his grotto! They can also post their letters to Santa using Santa's post-box.

### **Opening times**

- Monday - Wednesday: 10am - 8pm (except Monday 19 December when it will close at 6pm)
- Thursday - Saturday: 10am - 10pm
- Sunday: 1pm - 6pm

### **Food and drink - Highlights include:**

- Bratwurst sausages and German beers
- Warming gluhwein
- Liqueur coffees
- Gourmet burgers
- Spanish paella
- Toasted baguettes
- Waffles, crêpes and Dutch pancakes
- Cakes, fudge and sweets
- Continental and Irish cheeses
- Exotic meats from around the world.

### **Gifts and other items**

If you are looking for an unusual Christmas gift then you are bound to find something among the great selection of gifts and crafts, including:

- Leather handbags, purses and wallets from France
- Candles
- Jewellery
- 'Smellies' from Provence
- Natural carved wooden furniture, statues, figurines from Kenya
- Pashminas and scarves.



## FUNDING

### 1. GRANTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The John Moore Foundation is a registered charity, established in 1964, that gives money to charitable community organisations. We focus on funding projects based in [Merseyside](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

The Foundation supports projects which aim to break down barriers. To encourage co-operation and joint working between different community and voluntary groups, grants may be given for work involving local trust-building initiatives.

Priority is given to small, grass-roots and volunteer driven organisations and new rather than long-established groups. We are particularly interested in supporting those groups that find it more than usually difficult to raise money.

#### The Foundation Makes Grants Towards

- Start up and running costs
- Volunteer and programme costs
- Education and training costs
- Venue and travel costs
- One-off project costs
- Equipment

**No** grants are made to **individuals**. Nor are grants made for **capital building projects** or for work that clearly falls under **statutory** responsibility. For a complete list of our exclusions please follow the link on the left: [What we are unlikely to fund](#).

The size of grant varies, but we prefer to give smaller grants to a larger number of projects.

Applications may be refused where we feel that the organisation concerned is already well funded or has excessive reserves.

### 2. BIG LOTTERY FUNDING

This Programme is delivered and funded by the Big Lottery Fund in Northern Ireland and awards funds of between £500 – £10,000 over a 12 month period.

The aim of the programme is to bring real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need by funding projects which involve people in their communities, bringing them together to enjoy a wide range of charitable, community, educational, environmental and health-related activities.

#### We want our money to make a difference by helping:

- People to participate in their communities to bring about positive change
- People to develop their skills and widen their experiences



- People to work toward better and safer communities
- Improve people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

We hope these awards will improve people's lives and will strengthen community activity. For further information see <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/northernireland/summary.html>

### 3. TESCO CHARITY TRUST

The Tesco Charity Trust was set up in 1987 to support both national and local community charities. The Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities. There are four rounds of funding each year.

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. More information from [michelina.filocco@uk.tesco.com](mailto:michelina.filocco@uk.tesco.com) or visit: <http://cr2010.tescopl.com/communities/tesco-charity-trust.aspx>

### 4. FIELD STUDIES CENTRE DERRYGONNELLY – KIDS FUND

"The FSC Kids Fund provides financial support for groups of disadvantaged young people who would like to visit one of our Centres for an FSC experience. We believe that the only way you can learn about and appreciate the environment is by getting outside, experiencing it...and having fun. FSC Kids Fund courses are made possible by the generous donations from our staff and members. £5 of every £15 annual FSC membership fee is donated directly to Kids Fund.

FSC Derrygonnelly has welcomed many Kids Fund groups from Northern Ireland (and further afield). The Centre lies in the unspoilt West Fermanagh countryside, 10 miles from Enniskillen. It is on the site of a former creamery and has the River Silles running through the Centre grounds.

To find out more about FSC Kids Fund and how to apply please visit our **website** <http://www.field-studies-council.org/supporting-you>

## MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

### JOIN US

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the sector that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Most members are actively involved in environmental education and bring a wide range of expertise and enthusiasm to the forum. Membership to the ESD Forum is open to all individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

#### Benefits of membership include:

- Access to an established networking and information organization
- Newsletter distributed three times per year



- One conference per year organised on a range of related environmental education topics
- ESD Days run at all of Northern Ireland's University establishments
- E-mail updates on the Forums activities plus relevant information, publications and events via the E-Bulletin
- Access to free reference Library
- Access to ESD Forum website
- Support and publicity for your work
- Sharing of ideas, expertise and experience

	<b>Voluntary Organisation</b>	<b>Statutory Body</b>
<b>Organisation, one person</b>	£35	£50
<b>Organisation, up to 3 people receiving membership benefits at one site</b>	£50	£100
<b>Organisation, more than 3 people receiving membership benefits at one site at one site</b>	£75	£150
<b>Organisation, additional sites receiving membership benefits</b>	£35 per site	£35 per site

As part of your subscription, you will have the opportunity to have one page in the ESD resource guide for teachers and group leaders and a free place at an ESD Forum conference each year. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact:

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