



# Lines from the Environmental Education Forum

Vol. 4 Issue 4 SUMMER 2007

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### FOUR PAGE SUPPLEMENT

YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT



# Youth and the Environment



The Youth Service sector of Northern Ireland plays a major role in supporting and encouraging young people to mature and reach their potential as valued individuals and responsible citizens.

This annual Youth Service edition of the LEEF newsletter will explore ways in which the EEF's members and the Youth Service can work together to promote the education of children as environmentally and socially aware individuals and empower them with the knowledge, skills and experience to lead sustainable lifestyles.

## Environmental Education Forum

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## John Muir Awards at Kilbroney

### John Muir Awards at Kilbroney Centre

**Alliance Youth Works** runs a Camp for 12- 16 year olds at The Kilbroney Centre in Rostrevor, Co. Down. Based on the American summer camp model, it is now in its fifth year and has grown hugely. The camp is booked out every year with young people returning for fun, outdoor pursuits to build new friendships and take part in the John Muir Award Scheme.

### What is the John Muir Award?

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. This could be anywhere from a mountaintop to a city garden. It encourages the discovery and conservation of wild places in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. The Award is non-competitive, open to all and is the educational initiative of the John Muir Trust. There are three levels of the John Muir Award, encouraging a progressive involvement. All levels of the award are based on meeting the same four challenges of Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share.



Campers at Kilbroney can work towards one of three awards throughout the week by taking part in a programme designed by **Alliance Youth Works** following the four challenge elements of the awards scheme.

Campers **discover** a new wild place, **explore** it, work to **conserve** it and **share** what they have discovered and what they have learned with parents on parents' day. Last year we chose a piece of Kilbroney Forest as our programme focus and through talks, a visit from the British Trust for Ornithology, an overnight hike in the mountains exploring other forests and tree planting in vacant areas in the woods the campers learned about the ecosystem there, life cycles, food webs and the biodiversity of the Park. They also developed a love and appreciation for the land they lived on during their camp experience.

This very closely mirrors the 'Heart, Head and Hand' model underpinning the awards scheme. As our young people develop strong feelings towards a wild place and begin to care about it they explore it and learn from it, understanding better how it works, fits together and benefits life. From this care and understanding stems a desire for action and so a deeper love and care for the wild place they have actively worked in.

Our campers at Camp Alliance have most certainly fallen in love with the site they have been looking after, seeing

themselves as guardians of the forest which they have worked so hard to develop. Last year campers also cleared the river that flows through the forest and helped to weigh and ring birds in a forest survey.



The awards scheme also encourages young people into the outdoors to discover their own wild places. Young people coming back to camp each year tell stories of wandering and exploring the natural world where they live. Having taken part in the **John Muir Award**, young people see things they never saw before and are more aware of how the world fits together, how it needs to be cared for and tended.

### Contact Details

Alyn Jones (AYW,  
Environmental Education  
Officer at the Kilbroney  
Centre, Rostrevor)

Tel: 028 7032 7817

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[allianceyouthworks.org.uk](http://allianceyouthworks.org.uk)

## EEF News

### Forum Update

The Environmental Education Forum has continued to expand in recent months and has been involved in organising a number of activities for its members and both the formal and informal education sectors.

### LEEF Newsletter 2006-07

Issue 4.1—*ESD and Accredited Schemes*

Issue 4.2 - *Woodlands and Forestry*

Issue 4.3 – *SENSational Environments*

The above newsletters were sent to every school in Northern Ireland. Copies of all LEEF newsletters can be provided by EEF or downloaded from

[www.eefni.org.uk/publications](http://www.eefni.org.uk/publications)

### ESD Day Resource Guide

This guide was produced in October 2006 for student teachers, in-service teachers, youth group leaders and environmental organisations as a guide to those who can contribute to or provide Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Northern Ireland. A copy of this document can be provided by EEF or downloaded from [www.eefni.org.uk/publications](http://www.eefni.org.uk/publications)

### Website

The EEF website continues to grow and is a source of information, publications, members' news and programmes. Please take a look at:

[www.eefni.org.uk](http://www.eefni.org.uk)

### ESD Days

Every year the Forum runs Education for Sustainable Development Days at all of Northern Ireland's Universities, offering ESD training for new teachers. In 2006, 11 such days took place at Queen's, St Mary's, Stranmillis and University of Ulster, Coleraine. In 2007 an even better series of days is planned.

### Conference

The conference at the NEELB Antrim Board Centre which took place on April 17 2007 was on making the links between the development and environmental education sectors. The report can be found at: [www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings](http://www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings)

### Membership

Forum membership has increased this year with new members seeing the benefits of belonging to a network that can help coordinate the ESD sector.

We would like to welcome the following to the EEF:

**Action Renewables**  
**Armagh City Council**  
**Baglady Productions**  
**Creggan Country Park**  
**Northern Ireland Water**  
**Sustrans**

**For more information on joining please contact Andy Griggs, EEF Co-ordinator, on Tel: 028 9045 5770 or email: [eef@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:eef@nienvironmentlink.org)**

### Identity Box Workshop

An EEF members event took place in June at the School of Art and Design, University of Ulster, Belfast.

The day was run by John Johnson of 80:20 who gave training and instruction on the use of 'Identity Boxes', a technique to facilitate group engagement.

John has been involved in developing and delivering the identity box idea with groups of young people in East Belfast who had been excluded from mainstream education. The idea of constructing the boxes was to encourage the children to decorate them artistically with things that were important in their lives. This procedure led onto to open discussions and encouraged the participants to talk about their lives, pressures and problems. The project can be developed using recycled materials and is a simple, cheap and highly effective way to encourage group engagement on a range of issues.

The day itself was a great success and provided an opportunity to look at how the environment and development education sectors can use this technique in their work.

To find out more about the identity box concept please visit:

[www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings](http://www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings)

## Environmental Education News

### Environmental Youth Speak Awards 2007

The Annual Environmental Youth Speak Awards took place at the Guild Hall, Derry in May. Since its inception in 1997 as a competition for local pupils from Ards, Down and North Down Council areas, the awards have developed into an opportunity for school pupils all over the country.

The aim of Youth Speak is to encourage increased environmental awareness amongst young people by giving them the opportunity to research and debate current environmental issues.

The competition is organised by Northern Ireland's three regional waste management groups (North West, Southern and ARC21 (Eastern) Region). The awards are sponsored by the Environment and Heritage Service, and give children aged between 8 and 12 years the opportunity to voice their opinions on a range of issues.

This year's competition saw the Junior (primary) section research and present on the topic "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – what it means to me", whilst the Senior (secondary) section had to talk on "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - why are they in that order?" Each child had to deliver a three to five minute presentation on the theme in to a team of judges.

The competition itself was very well attended and hard fought between all the speakers.



Caroline Leitch from Loanends Primary School

All 26 District Councils in Northern Ireland took part in the competition and organised their own separate local heats ahead of the final event. Each group then held their respective regional heats on the morning of the final. The afternoon saw regional winners vie for the opportunity to win the Northern Ireland title.

Broadcaster Stephen Nolan hosted the event with John Minnis from the Environment and Heritage Service, Sue Christie of NI Environment Link and Sarah Lapsley from the Verbal Arts Centre Derry judging the final presentations.

Caroline Leitch from Loanends Primary School, Co. Antrim and Caitriona Boyle, from St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt were named as this year's overall competition winners.



Caitriona Boyle from St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt

### Outdoor Learning Manifesto Launched

The 'Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto' partnership was launched at the end of 2006. The Manifesto is a joint undertaking that many different stakeholders have helped to create and to which anyone can sign up. Its aim is to ensure that all young people have a variety of high quality learning experiences outside the classroom environment.

At its heart lies the concept that 'Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances'. The Manifesto acts as a shared statement of intent for all who see the benefits to young people and want to help bring about this vision of high quality, meaningful experiences. All who support the Manifesto's vision are invited to endorse and champion it. Copies of the Manifesto can be downloaded at the following website address:

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resourcematerials/outsideclassroom](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resourcematerials/outsideclassroom)



Image provided by Richard Revels—RSPB Images.com

## Members' News

### Belfast City Council Youth Programme

The Community Awareness Team can visit youth groups and uniformed groups and can organise activities such as debates, quizzes, games and arts and crafts. The team can also provide equipment and support to youth groups for cleanups.

For more information about Belfast City Council's Cleansing Services anti-litter education programme contact Jennifer Stephens, Belfast City Council, Cleansing Services, Community Awareness Team on 028 9032 0202 extension 5383 or via email on [stephensj@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:stephensj@belfastcity.gov.uk)

### How Will Our Countryside Look in the Future? You Decide!!

Ulster Wildlife Trust in partnership with CAFRE help protect wildlife by learning how farming and food connects with nature. Making the links between food, farming and wildlife has never been simpler than when you visit the CAFRE Trail at the Greenmount Campus, Antrim. UWT in partnership with CAFRE offer FREE visits to youth and community organisations to this training and development site where you can see first hand the cream herd, horticultural gardens, constructed wetlands and learn how wildlife can thrive and be protected through environmentally friendly techniques and practices in our fields and hedgerows.

Take this taster visit to the site where the next generation of farmers, florists and gardeners are being trained. Learn through fun and informative games and activities about some serious topics such as how the production of local and organic food and how we shop can affect our local economy and wider global issues. Find out more about countryside management techniques and how the creation and protection of countryside habitats can help regenerate landscapes and wildlife.

Youth organisations can use this visit as a trip away from the urban environment, as a chance to explore sustainable living issues, as an inspiration or training ground for budding new agriculturalists or horticulturalists or even as a means of achieving an environmental award or badge work.

Whatever your reason for coming to Greenmount, you'll leave with a new perspective on living!

For booking information (weekends/evenings available) – Telephone Greenmount Campus – 028 9442 6705

### Kilbroney Centre Youth Service Work

The Kilbroney Centre is managed by Alliance Youth Works, a youth work resource agency which works in alliance with a mixture of outdoor pursuits and environmental agencies to create a varied range of services on the Kilbroney site. Groups can also participate in the John Muir Award Scheme over a number

of visits or on a residential. All programmes are fun, exciting and informative and have been created to cover a wide range of learning outcomes and environmental issues. The Kilbroney Centre is also available for primary and secondary schools. Fully catered or self-catering residential accommodation and has 60 bed spaces. Teambuilding programmes and outdoor pursuits are available on request. The Kilbroney Centre can also offer secondary school orientation and induction programmes.

### RE:Source Centre at Kilbroney

RE:Source is there to support you. If you are a youth leader, teacher, youth worker, young person or student RE:Source can get you what you need. There are two shops and warehouses and in true AYW fashion we work in alliance with PLAY RESOURCE in Belfast ensuring that we get resources from suppliers all over Northern Ireland. Resources include paints, glues, colouring materials and stationary.

#### Contact:

Alyn Jones  
The Kilbroney Centre  
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Rostrevor  
Tel: 028 4173 8401

#### E-mail:

[alynjones@allianceyouthworks.org.uk](mailto:alynjones@allianceyouthworks.org.uk)

[www.allianceyouthworks.org.uk](http://www.allianceyouthworks.org.uk)



## Members' News

### New Initiatives from The National Trust

#### New Environmental Learning Officers!

The National Trust owns and manages over 12,000 hectares of land and 200 kilometres of coastline providing access and environmental education. To provide learning opportunities to youth and community groups the Trust has established two new posts for Environmental Learning beginning this year, one at the North Coast and one in Strangford Lough. A third will begin in Fermanagh in April 2008. They will provide a practical approach to increasing awareness on environmental issues. (*Contact George Blackwood, Regional Learning Manager, 9751 2356*)

#### Get Involved!

The National Trust provides opportunities to provide new skills, new challenges, new friends and fresh experiences. Through becoming a volunteer you can explore fascinating places, acquire skills and knowledge, gain practical work experience, meet all kinds of people, join in social activities, enjoy new challenges and have loads of fun! (*Contact Regional Community and Volunteering Manager 9751 0721*)



### T.A.C.T. Wildlife Centre and The Community

For many years the T.A.C.T. Wildlife Centre has been working with the Northern Ireland Youth Service sector, providing talks and visits to groups and organisations interested in learning about wildlife conservation and caring for animals. The Centre itself is based in Crumlin and is a voluntarily run charity that cares for and rehabilitates sick and injured wild birds and mammals, attempting to release as many back to the wild as possible.

The Trust has an extensive education programme both in schools and with after schools groups and is actively involved in a wide range of projects encouraging community participation in wildlife issues.

T.A.C.T. can visit your group for an interactive and highly stimulating hands-on experience with live animals, and works with a range of organisations such as Scouts, Girls Brigades, Boys Brigades, Youth Clubs, Summer Schemes, Mother's Unions, Community and Development Associations, Chest, Heart and Stroke groups and Playgroups.



Members of a Brownies group get hands-on with an Eagle Owl.

T.A.C.T.'s work complements the role of many voluntary and statutory agencies, supporting community workers in raising environmental awareness in their area and promoting mutual understanding and encouraging cultural diversity.

T.A.C.T. education staff are available to visit groups off-site as well as facilitating on-site visits to the Centre itself. If you would like to know more about the work of T.A.C.T. and the services that it provides to community groups please contact:

Debbie Nelson  
Education Work Leader  
Tel: (028) 9445 9739  
E-Mail: [debbie\\_tacteducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:debbie_tacteducation@yahoo.co.uk)

### Youth Service at Colin Glen

Colin Glen Forest Park is ideal for both passive and active recreation. Containing over 5000m of paths, two wildlife ponds and broadleaf deciduous woodland, the Forest Park offers nature experiences including walking following way marked routes, bird watching, fungal forays, pond dipping and mini-beast collections. The Forest Park can also offer countryside fun events including sponsored walks, treasure hunts, orienteering, jogging and youth organisation outings.

Colin Glen Trust  
Forest Park Centre  
163 Stewartstown Road  
Dunmurry  
Belfast  
BT17 OHW  
Tel: 028 9061 4115  
[www.colinglenrust.org](http://www.colinglenrust.org)



## Members' News

### The Hunt is on for Northern Ireland's Ancient Treasures



Ancient treasure is waiting to be discovered throughout Northern Ireland; some of it hundreds, maybe even thousands of years old. The Woodland Trust is asking everyone to take part in a new UK-wide treasure hunt to search for the country's oldest and fattest trees, our ancient treasures. Finding and recording these natural gems is an important first step in securing their future for the benefit of wildlife and for the enjoyment of generations to come.

A new Woodland Trust survey shows that ancient trees already have the support of the public. 92% of UK adults surveyed say it is important to secure the future of ancient trees, just as we do for man-made monuments. While there is no official register of ancient trees in the UK, it is estimated that it is home to around 80% of Northern Europe's ancient trees. The mission is therefore to pinpoint their exact location and put these trees firmly back on the map. That's why the Woodland Trust needs all treasure hunters to take part in its Ancient Tree Hunt.

BBC weather presenter Angie Phillips has joined the Hunt and says: "Anyone can take part –

adults and children. The Ancient Tree Hunt provides a wonderful incentive to simply step out and explore your nearest woodland or park," "Our oldest trees are 'living monuments' which have seen centuries come and go. They're an integral part of the Northern Ireland landscape and are home to many rare and threatened species. With your help the Woodland Trust will be able to map and build a clearer picture of our ancient trees – a vital first step in helping to secure their future."

"We want you to look out for trees which appear old, fat and gnarled. As they get older, trees develop holes, nooks and crannies, with the dead or rotting wood providing perfect homes for wildlife," adds Gregor Fulton, woodland officer with the Woodland Trust. "You don't have to be an expert to take part, as a trained team of volunteers will subsequently verify each record received. You just need a tape measure to record the tree's girth; or, better still, enlist the help of friends to do some tree-hugging! Different species vary, but an oak, for example, will be of interest if it takes at least three people to give it a hug."

The new Ancient Tree Hunt website is packed with tips for tree hunters, including how to recognise an ancient tree, measure its girth and how to identify different species. Find out more and record online at [www.ancienttreehunt.org.uk](http://www.ancienttreehunt.org.uk)

### Action Renewables Education Programme

Action Renewables Education Programme exists to raise awareness and inspire young people to become informed, engaged and to take action now and in the future.

[www.wiseuptorenewables.com](http://www.wiseuptorenewables.com) is an educational website which includes up-to-date, relevant information, teaching resources and the innovative 'Renewable Robbie' game.

The Action Renewables education team is available to give presentations about renewable energy and related issues. We tailor our workshops to each group and can include drama, kite-making, decision-making activities and investigations using model wind turbines and solar panels. We also work with school clubs especially Environmental, Geographical and Science clubs. Recently the primary education officer spent time with an eco-club in Edenderry Primary school in Banbridge which proved to be a huge success.

### Action Renewables

The Innovation Centre  
Northern Ireland Science Park  
Queens Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9DT

Email: [education@actionrenewables.org](mailto:education@actionrenewables.org)

Web: [www.actionrenewables.org](http://www.actionrenewables.org)

**Action Renewables**  
the future of energy, today



## Members' News

### Young people and their environment

The "Young Environmentalist Awards" is an all-Ireland annual environmental awards programme for young people, run by ECO-UNESCO and supported by Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland. The programme is carried out by groups of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who are interested in environmental issues.

By getting involved in the Awards young people can make a positive contribution to their environment and community. The programme promotes environmental awareness, personal development and social responsibility, as well as encouraging participatory action and active citizenship. The awards allow participants to develop organisation and communication skills, while gaining knowledge on a range of environmental issues. They also learn to work with others, develop confidence, and acquire leadership qualities.

Since the awards began in 1999 many youth groups taking part in the programme have devised, developed and carried out projects. The awards entail an easy to follow six-step programme where you form a team, decide on a topic, decide on a plan, decide on the central action, carry out the action and raise awareness in communities and schools through contacts with local councils and local media.

### Junior Eco-Community Development Category Winner 2007

**Project Title:** 'Eco Garden Project', Baldoyle Eco-Group, Baldoyle Youth Club.

This group of young people designed and created a garden in a yard close to their youth club and also started a composting scheme. The group tapped into local knowledge of the environment through gardeners and community members.

The local people assisted the group by taking part in a composting course and then passed on the knowledge to the youth group. The youth group created birdhouses to encourage wildlife into the area and built a seating area to encourage use of the garden.

The project was launched with a ribbon cutting ceremony to which community representatives were invited. After the ceremony the group enjoyed a barbeque with local people. This project raised awareness about the environment and what young people and the community can achieve when they work together for a common goal.

### Junior Energy Special Prize for Team Work



**Project Title:** 'Energy Project' Farney YSD Project, Monaghan

This group of young people from Monaghan Youth Federation were concerned about energy use in Ireland and how using renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and water turbine could help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and combat climate change.

The group researched different companies supplying renewable energy in Ireland such as Airtricity, Westwind, Eco-Wind Power Ltd and Hibernian Windpower. For solar panels they found Mc Veighs, Heatmerchants, Herr Ltd and Gavimsolar.

The group compared the pros and cons of different types of energy sources and designed a very eye catching colourful display to raise awareness about what options are available for renewable energy sources in Ireland.

Young People from Farney YSD, Monaghan Youth



Federation Energy Project

## Members' News

### Big Schools' Birdwatch 2008!



Starlings are some of the most commonly seen birds in Big Schools' Birdwatch

It is never too soon to prepare for the Birdwatch event of the year!

By feeding birds and providing nesting sites in your school grounds throughout the winter you will be supporting many of our garden birds and providing a useful teaching resource as well! The RSPB 'Big Schools' Birdwatch' has grown steadily over the past five years, and it is part of the world's biggest bird watching event; the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

More people than ever took part in that event at home in 2007, and the Big Schools' Birdwatch encourages children to take part while they are at school.

Children are asked to watch the birds in their school grounds or local park and record the highest number of each species they see at any one time. They can then submit their results using our online form or by post.

Big Schools Birdwatch takes place during the last week of January and the first week of February every year. Watch our website for details of teachers packs with lots of ideas for curriculum-linked activities linked to the Birdwatch. [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

### Come to Creggan Country Park for an outdoor experience you will never forget

Creggan Country Park is a watersports, outdoor pursuits and angling facility based in Westway, Derry. The park was established in 1992 and has significant experience with a wide range of customers with an even wider range of needs!

All groups can avail of our £1.3m activity centre which includes showering / changing facilities and our fabulous new bistro restaurant, Creggan Country Inn. We understand the difficulties faced by many schools and youth groups in finding suitable activities that will not only get young people active but that will also produce meaningful outputs. We have developed a programme of activities that puts participants' enjoyment and safety first and contributes to capacity building. We cater for groups ranging from a minimum of 6 participants to a maximum of 100 participants on one day. Minimum age requirement is 4 years old – however 4-6 year olds must be accompanied by an adult in the water. Prior booking is required and some activities will be limited

to specific age groups or numbers of participants.

### THE ENVIRONMENT - OUR GREEN APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

Creggan Country Park has made a long term commitment to reducing our ecological footprint and working with nature as much as possible. The Activity Centre has been designed to be highly energy efficient, featuring under-floor heating and a turf roof. The building is heated by a wood-burning boiler, which has CO<sub>2</sub> neutral emissions. By burning coppiced willow or waste wood reliance on scarce fossil fuels is dramatically reduced. By burning waste wood the site also reduces pressure on local landfill and a small hydroelectric scheme is in operation. Our 20 kw wind turbine, which will enhance the overall sustainability of the project, is now up and running and will reduce further our reliance on fossil fuels.

#### Contact:

Anne-Marie Gallagher  
Creggan Country Park,  
Westway, Derry,  
BT48 9NU  
028 7136 3133

[annemarie.gallagher@creggan-countrypark.org](mailto:annemarie.gallagher@creggan-countrypark.org)

[www.creggan-countrypark.com](http://www.creggan-countrypark.com)





## Diary Dates

### Members' Events

#### October 2007

Sunday 7 October 2pm– 4pm  
**The Red Squirrel's World**  
Explore Belvoir Park Forest and learn about these beautiful creatures during Red Squirrel Week. Activities and guided walks. Adults £2, Accompanied under 16's £1, (UWT members free) Booking Essential, organised by Ulster Wildlife Trust and DARD Forest Service.  
Tel: 028 4483 0282.

Saturday 13 Oct 11am-2pm  
**Woodcraft Day in the Colin Glen**  
By simply using the natural materials from the woodland habitat we can produce a range of items both artistic and practical.  
Adult £2 Child £1.

Saturday 20 October 2-4pm  
**My Great Adventure**  
Find out all there is to know about migration this autumn. Join the education team at Castle Espie (Comber) as they explain migration by using various props including a hugh map.

Saturday 27 October 12pm-2.30pm  
**Marvellous Mushroom Meander**  
Explore the fungi of Slievenacloy Nature Reserve. For adults and over 11 year olds. Bring packed lunch. Meet at eastern entrance of Ballycolin Road. Organised by Ulster Wildlife Trust.  
Tel: 028 9062 8647

Saturday 27 October 10.30am  
**Boo at the Zoo**  
A day for the whole family to enjoy, packed full of eerie stuff and fun things to do! There will be animal talks, reptile displays, face painting, creepy crafts, fancy dress and best carved pumpkin competitions. Tel: 028 9077 6277.

Saturday 27, Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st October  
**Halloween Festival at Ulster American Folk Park Omagh**  
Take a tour of the outdoor museum as darkness falls. Ghost stories, ghouls and witches bring the

museum to life as you are guided around the houses learning about Hallowe'en past. Sample traditional Ulster and American fayre such as barnbrack, pumpkin and shoofly pie. This is a **ticket only** event so contact Tel: 028 8224 3292 for information.

Wed 31 October 7-10pm  
**Halloween on the Black Mountain**  
Following on from the success of last year's event, the view of all of Belfast's fireworks has to be seen to be believed. A warm beverage awaits all those who wish to view this spectacular scene. Organised by the National Trust. Free, donations welcome.

#### November 2007

Saturday 3 November 11am-2pm  
**Homes for Wildlife in the Colin Glen**  
Would you like to be involved in making a home for wildlife? If so come along to this practical habitat creation day and make Bird Feeders and Bat Boxes to keep the animals of Colin Glen warm for winter Adult £2 Child £1.

Saturday 17 November 2pm  
**Tour and Children's activities in WWT's Sustainable Garden**  
Take a walk with the education staff and understand what the sustainable garden is really about. See its hidden side and enjoy a talk covering the reedbed sewage system, straw bale building and much more. Event held at WWT Castle Espie, Comber.

Sunday 18 November 9am – Noon  
**Walking in Clouds**  
Divis and the Black Mountain are often in the clouds at this time of year—come along and 'walk in a cloud'. Meet at National Trust car park Divis Road. Organised by the National Trust Tel: 028 9082 5434

Saturday 24 November 11am  
**Remarkable Trees of Minnowburn**  
A look at the variety of trees in the Lagan Valley. Meet at Minnowburn

car park. Organised by Lagan Valley Regional Park and the National Trust. Tel: 028 9049 1922.

#### December 2007

Saturday 1 December 11am-3pm  
**Castle Archdale Country Park, Tree Walks & Tree Planting**  
A guided walk through the woodlands and an opportunity to plant trees at the Country Park. Walking shoes and waterproof clothing advisable. Admission free  
Tel: 028 6862 158.

Saturday 1 December 10am-4pm  
**Scrabo Tower & Country Park**  
Killynether Wood, Scrabo Country Park. Learn more about our native trees. Enjoy guided tree identification walks and more in the pleasant surroundings of Killynether Wood. A chance to purchase trees for your own garden and receive expert advice on how to care for them. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. Admission free.

Saturday 8 December 11am-2pm  
**Holly & Ivy Christmas Creations**  
Use holly, ivy and other material collected from Colin Glen to create your own individual Christmas Wreath or hand crafted Yule Log to take home and decorate your home for the festive season. Adult £2 Child £1.

Sat 8 & 15 December 5-7pm  
**Kilclief Castle Newtownards Christmas Story Telling & Music**  
A real treat for children at this special time. Free admission.

Sat 8 & 15 December 12noon-4.30pm  
**Green Santa**  
This year Green Santa will be taking up residence in our Straw bale Building to receive his visitors. An additional donation of £2 will be required for those who wish to receive a special green gift. Event held at WWT Castle Espie, Comber.



## Resources and Training

### CVNI Training Courses

Conservation Volunteers is running a variety of training courses to help anyone who wants to gain the skills and knowledge to improve the environment. Training is available in a wide range of subjects including practical skills, habitat management, people management and wider environmental knowledge. There are also opportunities to gain accreditation through NVQ's / other forms of training.

For further information please visit the CVNI website at [www.cvni.org/training](http://www.cvni.org/training)

### CENI Courses

Community Evaluation Northern Ireland (CENI), is running a series of one day introductory training courses throughout 2007. They include:

- Introducing Self-evaluation
- Getting the most from External Evaluation
- Introducing Outcomes

**Cost:** £85 per person for community & voluntary organisations, £150 per person for statutory organisations. ILM award costs an additional £40 per person.

**Venue:** All courses will be held in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast O28 9087 7777.

**Times:** courses run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Further details and prices can be obtained from the CENI website at [www.ceni.org](http://www.ceni.org)

### Environmental Trainers Network

The Environmental Trainers Network (ETN) was established in 1991 as a network of trainers and managers in environmental organisations. Its activities are overseen by a steering group drawn from Black Environment Network, BTCV and RSPB.

The ETN training programme has been running since 1994, and aims to encourage contact and networking amongst participants and their organisations as well as provide quality training at reasonable cost to voluntary, public and statutory organisations.

There are a wide range of training courses available in the 2007/08 programme. This includes aspects of:

Working with Communities  
Regeneration & Sustainability  
Promoting Diversity  
Communication and Interpretation  
Fundraising and Income Generation  
Supervision and Safety  
Youth and Education  
Training and Personal Effectiveness

Course Fees for 1 day events:

Voluntary Orgs: £105 + VAT  
Statutory Orgs: £160 + VAT

For further information and a full list of courses please contact ETN at this address:

Environmental Trainers Network, c/o BTCV  
Radio House  
Aston Road North

Birmingham  
B6 4DA  
Tel: (0121) 359 2113  
Fax: (0121) 359 2114  
E-Mail: [ETN@btcv.org.uk](mailto:ETN@btcv.org.uk)  
[www.btcv.org/etn/](http://www.btcv.org/etn/)

### Wheely Good Training and Development

The Wheel has a series of programmes to provide much needed funding and support for training and development in the voluntary and community sector.

#### *Training Links: a training networks programme.*

This programme will provide an opportunity for a number of organisations, working together in a training network to access training grants of up to €50,000 per network.

#### *Stronger Leaders: a leadership development programme.*

This programme will provide an opportunity for a number of paid leaders within the sector to avail of a cutting-edge leadership development programme, tailored for the sector. The true cost of this programme per participant is €6,500. However, due to substantial funding, the actual cost per participant is only €1,700.

Programme information and application packs are available from [www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie) or from Elizabeth Bolger, email: [elizabeth@wheel.ie](mailto:elizabeth@wheel.ie) or Tel: 00 353 1 454 8727.

## Resources and Training

### CGE Newly Updated Resource Catalogue

The Centre for Global Education has just re-launched its Resources Catalogue which has been revised and updated. The publication comes at a time of exciting developments in the education system with the introduction of a new schools' curriculum from September 2007. The catalogue will help to prepare schools for the introduction of the new curriculum and, at the same time, enable learners to become better equipped to understand the key global issues which have become part of our everyday lives.

The catalogue is available as a link on the Centre for Global Education's website

[www.centreforglobaleducation.com](http://www.centreforglobaleducation.com)

and has been uploaded to the EEF website at [www.eefni.org.uk](http://www.eefni.org.uk)

### ENFO Resources

ENFO is a public service organisation based in Dublin which provides easy access to wide-ranging information on the environment. It was established in 1990 by the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Govt.

ENFO collects and maintains up-to-date information on all aspects of the environment and sustainable development and makes it readily available to anybody who wants it. ENFO services include:

- A range of information leaflets/fact sheets/posters on a wide variety of environmental topics
- Query answering service, by post, phone, or e-mail
- Reference Library with books, journals, reports, microfiche, computer databases

- Video lending for schools and environment groups
- Teaching resource pack lending for teachers.
- Exhibitions and exhibition lending for any interested groups.
- Group visits, talks and activity trail for visiting schools and other groups of all ages - assistance will be provided to meet the requirements of individual groups. Prior booking for groups is recommended.

For further details please contact ENFO offices at the following address:

17 St. Andrew Street,  
Dublin 2, Ireland.  
Tel: + 353 1 888 2001  
Fax. No. + 353 1 888 3946  
E-mail [info@enfo.ie](mailto:info@enfo.ie)

The EEF is supported by



**Environment & Heritage Service**  
[www.ehsni.gov.uk](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk)



An Agency within the Department of the  
**Environment**  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THIS NEWSLETTER YOU PASS IT ON TO WORK COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS OR INTERESTED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY ENJOY READING IT.**

**REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE!**

### What is the Environmental Education Forum?

The Environmental Education Forum is a networking organisation that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Members include representatives of central and local government, the voluntary sector and educationalists.

### What are the aims of the Forum?

The Forum itself was established in 1995 with the aim of enhancing the profile of environmental education in the Curriculum. It aims to promote the role of environmental education in the delivery of many core and non-core Curriculum subjects, encourage partnership, improve co-

operation, exchange information, avoid overlaps in provision and to promote greater interaction among all those involved in environmental education and education for sustainable development.

### How can I join the Forum?

Membership of the Forum is open to organisations and individuals interested in environmental education. Environment and Heritage Service funds the core administrative costs of the Forum, but contribution is levied from members to cover the direct costs of running the Forum. Annual membership fees are based on a 'band' system depending on organisational status and the number of people benefiting from the Forum's activities within that organisation