



Lines from the Environmental Education Forum

Vol. 4 Issue 1 AUTUMN 2006

Inside



Page 2
Eco-Schools



Page 3
Eco-Unesco



Page 4
Environmental
Education News



Page 5-8
Members
News



Page 9-10
Diary Dates



Page 11-12
Resources &
Training

**EIGHT PAGE
SUPPLEMENT**
Eco-Schools
Eco-UNESCO



DELIVERING ESD!



Education for sustainable development is an approach to the whole curriculum and management of a school, not a new subject. It has its roots in environmental education and development education. As a result, many of the building blocks of education for sustainable development are already present in every school.

This issue of LEEF has been developed to facilitate schools in developing approaches to ESD in the new curriculum. It will guide you through the various groups and agencies in Northern Ireland that can help you teach the subject both in a school setting and in the outdoor classroom.

Environmental Education Forum

c/o Northern Ireland Environment Link
89 Loopland Drive
Belfast BT6 9DW
Phone: (028) 9045 5770
Fax: (028) 9094 2151
E-mail: eef@nienvironmentlink.org
Website: eefni.org.uk



PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER



Eco-Schools Programme

Making a Difference with Eco-Schools



Try to imagine a world with no litter, in which everything – from worn spectacles and shoes to plastic bottles, newspapers, cans and rags – was found a new home, or given a new lease of life. When nobody needed nagging to turn off the lights when they left the room, and where everyone took such pride in their surroundings that graffiti was just a faded memory.

Dream on, we hear you say. But if the Eco-Schools project continues to inspire and influence school children at its present rate then maybe in 20 years time we really could be living in "eco-topia".

As a further measure of its success the Eco-Schools programme has been given the backing of the United Nations who have endorsed the programme as UN model of good practice. Thirty six countries are now part of the programme, including most of Europe and South Africa.

The Eco-Schools programme addresses the following topics within schools:

- Biodiversity (new for 2006)
- Litter
- Waste Minimisation
- Energy

- Water
- Transport
- Healthy Living
- School Grounds

How does Eco-Schools Work?

The process involves three main stages:

1. Implementing the seven elements of the programme (as listed below).
2. Applying for one of the three Eco-Schools awards depending on how much the school has achieved; a bronze certificate, a silver certificate or a Green Flag.
3. Renewing the award every two years.

The Seven Elements

Any environmental management system needs a structure to help it run smoothly, and to make sure that there is a continuous momentum towards setting targets and working to achieve them.

The structure of Eco-Schools involves the school:

- Setting up an Eco-Schools committee
- Carrying out an Environmental Review
- Drawing up an action plan
- Monitoring and evaluating progress
- Linking environmental initiatives to the curriculum
- Involving the whole school and wider community in the programme

- Compiling an Eco-Code which is integrated throughout the school

The Award

There are three levels of award. Bronze, Silver, and Green Flag. The Bronze and Silver awards are based on school self-assessment and can only be applied for through the Eco-Schools website:

www.eco-schools.org.uk

The Green Flag is awarded to those who achieve the top level criteria for each of the seven elements.

How is the programme delivered?

Here in Northern Ireland we have 17 delivery partners along with all 26 councils helping to assist schools in the process of gaining the awards and helping them work through the programme. The full list of partner contacts can be found on the website at the following address:

www.eco-schools.org.uk



Eco-Schools Green Flag



Eco-UNESCO Programme

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2007



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. The awards honour young people who protect, conserve and enhance our environment, making a difference in the lives of others locally and globally.

Who can get involved?

The Awards are open to all young people in teams of between 2 - 25, in schools, youth groups, youth clubs or community groups.

How does it fit my Programme?

Young people in schools, youth organisations, environmental groups and community groups can take part in the YEA. The YEA compliments many aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, it can be integrated into the Geography curriculum at Key Stage 4 under the themes atmosphere, eco-systems and population and within the Science

curriculum at Key Stage 3 under Life and Living Processes, Physical Processes and Material and their uses, as well as at Key Stage 4 in all GCSE Single and Double Award syllabi.

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 cultivate leadership qualities.

Important Dates:

- Registration of project outline: **Late November**
- Closing Date for completed projects: **Late February**
- Show Casing and Awards Ceremony: **Early May**

You can request or download a **YEA Training Manual** with step by step instructions to help carry out an environmental project go to: www.ecounesco.ie

ECO-UNESCO runs three core programmes:

- **Environmental Youth Programme** which includes activities, workshops and ECO-UNESCO clubs for young people
- **Education and Training Programme** including training for trainers, youth environmental training and FETAC accredited modules and the
- **Young Environmentalist Awards Programme.**

In addition ECO-UNESCO produces publications and education resources

ECO-UNESCO is affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (W.F.U.C.A). Since the awards began in 1999 many schools and youth groups taking part in the programme have devised, developed and carried out



projects.

Junior Overall Winners 2006
Ballycastle High school

For further information on the Young Environmentalist Awards





Environmental Education News

BBC Breathing Places Update

Breathing Places is a three year campaign run by the BBC and its conservation partners, aiming to transform 50,000 local green places across the UK, making them better for wildlife and people. The main aim is to inspire individuals to create and care for their local green places by helping with already existing initiatives or by starting their own project.

Breathing Places can be anything from established nature reserves to small green spaces cared for by community groups (e.g. school gardens, or workplace grounds). They all provide opportunities for the public to get actively involved in helping nature. One-off 'inspirational' events can grab their interest – the challenge for all of us is how to turn this into a longer term commitment!

The project now has an extensive database of more than 1,000 'Breathing Places' events and activities available at www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces

AUTUMNWATCH INFO.

BBC2's Autumnwatch will be on air from 2 October and will be focusing on seed collecting over the weekend of 7/8 October. There will be events taking place around the country and the public will be asked to get involved with one of the seed gathering events. Participants will be provided with a stock of Breathing Places seed gathering bags.

These brown paper seed bags will include an illustration and a brief description of the seed to collect. The idea is that members of the public will take their seeds home to plant in a pot and watch them grow into saplings ready for Autumn 07 and mass tree planting events across the UK.

Win a Wood for your local community. In the second week of Autumnwatch, there will be the opportunity to win one of a hundred woods for your community.

And don't forget that during Autumnwatch a further **£4million** worth of Breathing Places grants will be available to apply for thanks to the Big Lottery Fund to transform places for wildlife. These grants will be available to a wider range of groups including new community wildlife groups, schools, workplaces and libraries – who begin their commitment to the campaign this October.

For further information on Breathing Places on one of the many projects taking off across the country please contact:

Laura Francis
Breathing Places Event
Producer
BBC NI
Broadcasting House
Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HQ

Tel (028) 9033 8207

E-Mail:
laura.francis@bbc.co.uk

ESD University Days

Planning for this Autumn's ESD days is well under way. These days have been a great success in the past in affording an opportunity for trainee teachers to come into contact with many of the organisations carrying out environmental education in Northern Ireland, and in the process allowing them to fully appreciate the importance of teaching environmental and sustainable development issues in the classroom across a range of core curriculum subjects.

Local & Global Days 2006/2007 Dates

Thursday 19 October

St Mary's College year four day
9.30am. Key Stage 1&2
student teachers.

Friday 3 November

Queen's University day
9.00am - 4.00pm. Key Stage
3&4 student teachers.

October/ November 2006 Exact Dates to be arranged

Stranmillis University College
day. Key Stage 1&2 student
teachers.

Friday 8th December 2006

St Mary's College year three
day 9.30am. Key Stage 1&2
student teachers.

Mid January 2007 (t.b.c)

University of Ulster, Coleraine
day. Key Stage 3&4 student
teachers.

Thursday 8 March 2007

University of Ulster, Coleraine
day 10.00am - 4.00pm. Key
Stage 1&2 student teachers.



Members' News

Sort It Out with Bryson Education

A new waste education programme, Sort It Out!, is now available from Bryson Charitable Group. Funded by E.H.S. through the Community Waste Innovation Fund and Better Belfast, Sort It Out! is available to primary schools throughout Northern Ireland free of charge.

Each visit is tailored to the needs and abilities of the class or classes and focus on facilities provided in that area by the local authority. This is vitally important as there is little point talking about recycling facilities if they are different to those the children have at home. We use a variety of different delivery methods, ranging from talks to several classes in the assembly hall to work with an individual class in their classroom to recycling drama to arts and crafts made reusing waste materials.

We are also producing a DVD for schools on waste also funded by Better Belfast, which will be launched in the new school term.

Although the techniques are different, every visit has the same underlying message, we must reduce the amount of waste we send to the landfill, and that we can all do this by changing our shopping habits and reusing and recycling more materials. We also talk to groups about what recycling facilities are available where they live e.g. blue bin, kerbside box, school's recycling

programme. We are also careful to explain why we need to reduce, reuse and recycle e.g. landfill capacity, environmental destruction due to acquisition of raw materials etc.

Participation can contribute to the school achieving the Eco-Schools Award and we have a website, www.brysoncgeducation.org.uk with areas for pupils and support material for teachers.

Sort It Out has four Education Officers, one for each of the three Waste Management Group areas and one in Belfast.

Contacts –

Belfast City Council Area –
George Lyttle (028) 9034 7744

ARC21 (Ballymena, Larne, Newtownabbey, Carrick, Antrim, Lisburn, Down, North Down, Castlereagh, Ards) –
Josie Gallagher (028) 9034 7744

Southern Waste Management Partnership (Armagh, Banbridge, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Newry & Mourne, Omagh) –
Anthea Owens (028) 8776 9358

North West Region Waste Management Group (Moyle, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady, Derry, Strabane, Magherafelt) –
Laurence Speight (028) 7131 3512

Bryson
Charitable Group

Feed The Birds Day!



*RSPB Feed The Birds Day is a great opportunity to step up your feeding to help garden birds through the cold months ahead. This year's event is on **Saturday 28 October 2006***

Why feed?

It's good to feed birds all year round - for warmth in the cold weather and energy during the breeding season. Providing a little food, water and shelter can really help birds through the winter - and turn your garden into a wildlife haven.

Why have Feed The Birds Day in October?

Feed The Birds Day marks the clocks going back and the winter nights drawing in - it's the time when birds and other wildlife need a little extra help as the first frost looms. So please fill your feeders, clean your bird tables, put out some water and give a helping hand to the wild birds around you. And the sooner you start feeding them, the more birds you'll see when you sit down to enjoy the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch in January!

Get involved!

Special events will be taking place across the UK to celebrate Feed The Birds Day on Saturday 28 October.

Check out the RSPB website for details: www.rspb.org





Members' News

Marble Arch Caves European Geopark SPECIAL OFFER!



What a Season! Lots of things have happened this year on the 21st birthday of the caves. So far 2006 has seen a big increase in visitor numbers. Cuilcagh Mountain Park has more than doubled in size, a new lighting system has been completed and numerous brochures have been printed in various languages. The DVD shown in the audio-visual theatre has been updated, a new sculpture can be seen outside the Visitor Centre and new information panels are mounted in the 'Geopark Corner'. Marble Arch Caves European Geopark was also awarded best Visitor Attraction in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board for the activities undertaken between February 2005 and February 2006.

In June Frank Rogers, a retired history teacher from Mount Lourdes Grammar School Enniskillen, crossed 32 lakes in 32 counties in 32 days – in fact it didn't even take him 32 days! Frank started off his adventure at Marble Arch Caves when he re-enacted the boat journey of Edouard Alfred Martel, the French Speleologist who explored Marble Arch Caves in 1895. With help from the guides at Marble Arch

Caves European Geopark, Frank brought his canoe from the Visitor Centre to what is known as the Wet Entrance jetty and silently manoeuvred the canoe along the lofty passages to what is known as junction jetty.

Many schools have already visited Marble Arch Caves this year and many more are booked in. The limestone trail is increasing in popularity as teachers appreciate the workbooks available for the GCSE Patterns and Processes element of the geography specification. Another very popular trail this year has been a 'Walk on the Wild Side'. The trail includes use of mirrors allowing children to run and jump through the branches and tree tops like Suzie the squirrel.



Frank Rogers Canoeing through
Marble Arch Caves

When booking this year's cave tours for September why not book fieldwork at a discounted price. Fieldwork prices are discounted by 50% when booked with a cave tour. Fieldwork activities include woodland walks, mini-beast hunts, vegetation studies and the ever-popular limestone trails. **SPECIAL OFFER** – All pupils booked onto tours and trails in September receive a free Marble Arch Caves European Geopark recycled pencil. This special offer only

applies when you book any of the fieldwork activities listed below along with cave tours. Please refer to this issue of the **LEEF newsletter** and the offer of pencils when you are making your booking. Only available to schools visiting in September 2006. Bookings are essential. Depending on demand, this offer may be extended into October. Please note that the short boat journey in the cave is not available in October.

KS1

A Walk on the Wild Side Woodland adventure, hop through the trees like Suzie the squirrel!

KS2

An adventure as a woodland warden and a stop off for a mini-best hunt.

KS3

Processes and Challenges. A limestone trail on the lower slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain in preparation for KS4.

KS4

Limestone trail on the lower slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain. Workbook provided. DVD material for workbook. OS map extracts used.

Contact:

Lisa M^cManus
Education Officer
Tel: (028) 6634 8855
Email: mac@fermanagh.gov.uk



Studying at Marble Arch



Members' News

Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards

Belfast City Council is working hard to improve the city's environment but we recognise that others are also doing their bit. To acknowledge the hard work of the citizens of Belfast who are working to improve their local environment we are inviting groups, schools and business to enter the Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards.

This is the third year of the highly successful awards which include the Anti-litter, Business and Community Partnership, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Schools Environmental and Nature Conservation categories.

Work on the competing project should have begun between 1 March, 2005 and 1 September 2006 and entries may be completed or on-going. The closing date for entries is 4pm. on Friday 29 September 2006. Application forms are available from the Brighter Belfast Awards team on (028) 9032 0202 ext: 5240. Alternatively download an application form from www.belfastcity.gov.uk/brighterbelfast

A specially designed trophy and £500 to be spent on material or equipment that will benefit the organisation and help it continue with its environmental work, will be given as part of the prize. The winner of the Business and Community Partnership Award will nominate an official community group or charity to donate the prize money to.

Anti-litter pack for Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils

An anti-litter education pack has been developed as part of Belfast City Council's Brighter Belfast anti-litter campaign. It will assist teachers in post primary schools to promote the anti-litter message in an educational and practical way. Units in the pack include Media, English, Geography, Art & Design and Drama. Each unit has lesson plans and has been linked to the revised curriculum encouraging cross curriculum working and the development of skills for learning for life and work. The pack aims to encourage young people to recognise the importance of taking individual responsibility and action to demonstrate respect and care for the environment. It is hoped the pack will inspire pupils to take pride in their city and respect their environment by binning their litter. The pack is designed to be used in conjunction with a free anti-litter education workshop from Belfast City Council's Community Awareness Team. The team can also facilitate anti-litter debates and cleanups. For more information about the anti-litter education programme contact Donna Bates on 028 90 320202 ext 5239 or via email on batesd@belfastcity.gov.uk

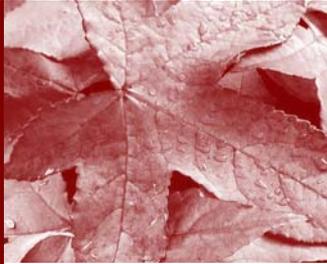
Captain Cleanup's Anti-litter Workshops

Captain Cleanup is Belfast City Council's own super hero who is helping the council tackle litter. Through an informative anti-litter workshop carried out

by the Community Awareness Team children can learn about the importance of caring for their environment by not dropping litter. In addition to an interactive workshop an anti-litter education pack is available which will further assist teachers in promoting the anti-litter message in an educational, fun and practical way. The pack provides teachers with an excellent resource to spread the anti-litter message throughout the school. It is full of useful information, worksheets, lesson ideas and activities which lead young people to recognise the importance of taking individual responsibility and action to demonstrate respect and care for the environment. It is hoped the pack will encourage pupils to take pride in their city and respect their environment by binning their litter. The pack is of real benefit for schools working towards environmental awards such as the Eco-Schools award and the David Bellamy award. For more information about our education programme contact Donna Bates, Belfast City Council, Cleansing Services, Community Awareness Team on 028 90 320202 extension 5239 or via email or batesd@belfastcity.gov.uk



Belfast Council's superhero
Captain Cleanup



Members' News

A Walk on the Wild Side With T.A.C.T.



The T.A.C.T. Wildlife Centre is open for both On and Off-site school visits throughout the year. A variety of activities can be arranged from a guided tour and talk on the animals at the Centre to more specific projects incorporating topics of interest such as Biodiversity, Classification, Adaptation and Hibernation.

T.A.C.T. provides a visual and real experience in contact with animals and is available to visit schools across the country.

T.A.C.T. has approximately 350 resident animals living at the Centre at any one time. These long term residents become ambassadors for their species and may be used as resources to teach children and adults of all ages and abilities about wildlife, conservation, the need to promote and protect the environment and makes the school curriculum come alive in a unique way.

A variety of workshops have been developed with the 'hands on' approach to recycling waste materials into feeding and housing items for wildlife. Further workshops in Designing and Constructing Wildlife Gardens, increasing Biodiversity in the school grounds and science projects & experiments to tie in with these topics are all facilitated by the T.A.C.T. Centre.

Off site resources include:

- Live animals such as rabbits, hedgehogs, kestrels, owls and foxes.
- Powerpoint presentations covering a range of environmental themes.
- Taxidermy.
- Birds eggs and nests.
- Invertebrates.

On site resources include:

- Live birds and mammals such as swans, gulls, gannets, birds of prey, geese, foxes, hedgehogs and many other species.
- A range of taxidermy, eggs, nests, and invertebrates.
- Quizzes, treasure hunts and other project work.

Education packs are included in the visit. These packs contain information relevant to the various key stages. However, these can be amended to suit your specific subject .

Contact:

Debbie Nelson,
Education Work Leader on:
(028) 9445 9739

E-mail: debbie_tacteducation@yahoo.co.uk

Website:
www.tactwildlifecentre.org.uk



School trip to T.A.C.T. Centre

Autumn Allsorts!



RSPB is delighted to bring you news of our 'Autumn Allsorts' programme for 2006.

You are invited to bring your primary school groups to Greenmount Campus to explore a variety of farmland habitats and their associated wildlife in the autumn season. Nursery Schools and groups with Special Needs welcome by arrangement.

The Greenmount Trail will open for guided school visits from **Mid-September 2006**

Greenmount Campus offers an amazing range of outdoor learning experiences, demonstrating the links between farming and the countryside. Pupils will be able to explore the extensive woodland environment and have hands-on experience of curriculum-linked topics, bringing their classroom studies to life. Topics include: seasonal change, migration, hibernation, autumn fruits and seed dispersal, harvest produce, habitats and adaptation.

For further Information or to book your **FREE** visit please Tel (028) 94 426 705 and quote 'Trail School Bookings'

Picnic facilities are available by arrangement

NB: Greenmount is not an 'Open Farm' experience.



Diary Dates

EEF Events & Meetings

Tuesday 5 September 3pm
Forum Meeting
Rowallene House, Saintfield

Wednesday 20 September 3pm
Management Meeting
River House, Belfast

Wednesday 11 October 9.30am
Autumn Conference
Lough Neagh Discovery Centre,
Oxford Island, Craigavon

Monday 11 December 11am
Management Meeting
NIEL Offices, Belfast

Monday 11 December 2pm
Forum Meeting
NIEL Offices, Belfast

Members Events



SEPTEMBER 2006

Friday 8 September
Night Walk at Lagan Meadow
Chance to meet our nocturnal
neighbours—9.30pm
Telephone: (028) 9049 1922

Saturday 9 September
**Tree Trek through Moreland's
Meadows and Belvoir Forest.**
Organised by Lagan Valley
Regional Park and the Forest of
Belfast. 11am
Telephone: (028) 9049 1922

Saturday 9 / Sunday 10 September
European Heritage Open Days
Chance to visit some of Northern
Ireland's most interesting
buildings.
Telephone: (028) 9054 3022

Sunday 10 September
**Grandparents Day at Belfast
Zoo**
Bring your grandparents along for
a special thank you day.
Telephone: (028) 9077 6277

Saturday 16 September
Farm Day at Belfast Zoo
A day at the farm. Come along and
join in the activities.
Telephone: (028) 9077 6277

Saturday 16 September
Beach Clean at Kilkeel—12-2pm
A talk on the effects of waste on
marine life followed by a survey
and cleanup as part of the
'Beachwatch' campaign. UWT Event
Telephone: (028) 4483 0282

Sunday 17 September
**Redburn Pack Horse Trek at
Redburn Country Park—12-6pm**
A guided walk through the park to
the top of the hill. EHS Event.
Telephone: (028) 9185 3621

Sunday 17 September
Beach Clean at Ballyhornan Bay
Come and help our marine
environment by taking part in this
cleanup as part of the 'Beachwatch'
campaign. UWT Event—12-2pm
Telephone: (028) 4483 0282

Sunday 17 September
Dinosaurs of Colin Glen. 11am
An exploration into the geology of
the park and a search for fossils.
Organised by the Colin Glen Trust.
Telephone: (028) 9061 4115

Sunday 24 September
**The Good Life at Quoile
Countryside Centre—2pm—5pm**
Aspects of country smallholding to
inspire the beginner. EHS Event.
Telephone: (028) 4461 5520

Saturday 30 September
Binevenagh Hill Walk—EHS
A walk in the countryside
explaining the cliff geology, flora
and fauna of the reserve. 2-5pm
Telephone: (028) 7776 7532



OCTOBER 2006

Sunday 8 October
The Red Squirrel's World
In red squirrel week come along
and explore Belvoir Park. Children's
activities and guided walks.
Telephone: (028) 4483 0282

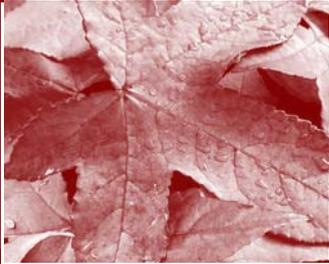
Saturday 7 / Sunday 8 October
Autumn Craft Fair, Castle Ward
Spend a relaxing afternoon
browsing the extensive display of
local crafts and indulging in local
treats. 1-5pm
Telephone: (028) 4488 1204

Saturday 7 / Sunday 8 October
**Harvest Food Fayre at Mount
Stewart**
Taste, talk about and buy home
produced traditional and different
ranges of food direct from the
producer. 10am-4pm
Telephone: (028) 4278 8387

Saturday 14 / Sunday 15 October
**The Autumn Festival at
Crawfordsburn Country Park—
EHS event—entrance free**
Celebrate the rich colours, aromas,
and tastes of autumn. Excellent
entertainment and family activities.
Telephone: (028) 9185 3621

Saturday 21 October
Fungal Foray
A guided walk to look at fungi.
Meet at the Loughview car park,
Stranmillis. 11am
Telephone: (028) 9049 1922

Saturday 28 October
Boo at the Zoo
Crafts and spooky activities at
Belfast Zoo.
Telephone: (028) 9077 6277



Diary Dates

Saturday 28—Monday 30 October
Children's Workshop at Mount Stewart

Bring a packed lunch, go for a walk and have a busy half-term break with lots of fun activities. Activities both inside and out. Suitable for 6-10 yrs old
Booking Essential 10am-3pm
Child £15, Members Child £15
Accompanying adults free.
Telephone: (028) 4278 8387

Sunday 29 October
Hallowe'en Craft Fair at Florence Court—National Trust Event

Fun for all the family with crafts, music and witches brew. 1-5pm
Adult £3, Child £1.50, Family £7.50, Members Free.
Telephone: (028) 6634 8249

Monday 30 October
Guided Nature Walk at Castle Ward, National Trust

Enjoy seeing a canopy of autumn colours as you stroll around this stunning demesne. 3pm
Telephone: (028) 4488 1204

Tuesday 31 October
Hallowe'en Walk at DIVIS AND THE BLACK MOUNTAIN

View Belfast's annual firework display from the top of Black Mountain—warm refreshments provided. 7.45-9.30pm
No Charge, Donations welcome.
Telephone: (028) 9082 5434



NOVEMBER 2006

Saturday 4 November
A Treasured Landscape
Discover the hidden heritage of Belvoir Park. Meet at Belvoir Forest car park. Organised by the Forest of Belfast and Lagan Valley Regional Park.
Telephone: (028) 9049 1922

Saturday 4 / Sunday 5 November
'Reptails' at Belfast Zoo
Reptile display in the Education Centre.
Telephone: (028) 9077 6277

Sunday 5 November
Seals and Seabirds, Murlough Nature Reserve — 2-4pm
Learn about the wildfowl and waders of Dundrum Inner Bay and observe the seals at their haul site at Ballykinlar Adult £2.50, Child £1
Members Adult £1.50, Child £0.50.
Telephone: (028) 4375 1467

Sunday 12 November
Wonderful Winter Wildlife at Strangford Lough

View the wonderful spectacle of waders and wildfowl using Strangford Lough as their feeding grounds. Telescopes, binoculars and help available. Meet at Floodgates car park, Newtownards. 1.30-3.30pm. No Charge.
Telephone: (028) 4488 1411

Saturday 18 November
Roost Ramble at Belvoir Forest

Enjoy the unusual sights and sounds as large numbers of birds begin to gather to roost. Meet at Belvoir Forest car park 4pm—Organised by Lagan Valley Regional Park.
Telephone: (028) 9049 1922

Saturday 18 November
Mushrooms and Toadstools of the Glen—Colin Glen Forest

A walk through the woodland of Colin Glen identifying numerous species of mushrooms and other fungi. Meet at Colin Glen visitor centre at 11am Adults £2.00, Children £1.00.
Telephone: (028) 9061 4115

Sunday 19 November
Walking in Clouds - National Trust event at Divis Mountain
With no tree cover on Divis and Black mountain the wind can literally take your breath away. The summit of Divis is often in clouds at this time of the year. Come along and walk in a cloud. 1-3pm
Telephone: (028) 9082 5434



DECEMBER 2006

Saturday 2 December
Starling Spectacle at Albert Bridge — 3.30 pm
A look at one of the City's most spectacular wildlife sights as thousands of starlings gather to roost. Meet at the Lagan Watersports centre, Ravenhill Road for a short talk before walking out to see the birds. Organised by the Lagan Valley Regional Park and the R.S.P.B.
Telephone: (028) 9066 2259

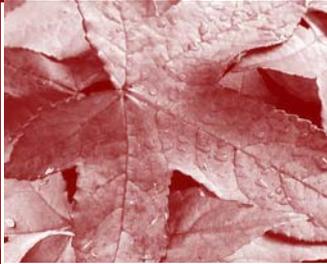
Sunday 3 December
Tree Fair at Castle Archdale—12-4pm—EHS Event
Visit santa in his workshop and help to make bird feeders and nest boxes. Ideas for a 'Green Christmas'. *Pre booking essential.*
Telephone: (028) 6862 1588

Friday 22 December
Children's Christmas Workshop at MOUNT STEWART 10am-3pm
A fun Christmas themed day for ages 6-10yrs with a range of indoor and outdoor activities. Includes art, crafts, games and a visit to Santa's Grotto. *Booking Essential.*
Telephone: (028) 4278 8387

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!





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 NVQs / other forms of training.

For further information please visit the CVNI website at www.cvni.org/training

CENI Courses

Community Evaluation Northern Ireland (CENI), is running a series of one day introductory training courses throughout 2006. They include the following:

- 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 at CENI premises: Floor 1, Block 5, Jennymount Business Park, North Derby St, Belfast.

Times: courses run from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Further details and prices can be obtained from the CENI website at 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 is aimed at encouraging contact and networking amongst participants and their organisations as well as providing quality training at reasonable cost to voluntary, public and statutory organisations.

There is a wide range of training courses available in the 2006/07 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

Book Online at:
<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/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.

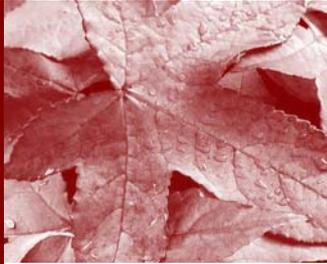
Training Links: a training networks programme.

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 or from Elizabeth Bolger, email: elizabeth@wheel.ie or Tel: 00 353 1 454 8727.



Resources and Training

Global Education Resources For Use

The Centre for Global Education has an extensive collection of resources such as teaching packs, videos, DVDs, CD ROMs, books and periodicals - available to loan to members. Many of these resources address sustainable development issues that are central to the work of many EEF members. They explore the relationship between human development and the natural environment and how this interaction can diminish natural resources and traditional, sustainable lifestyles. A resource catalogue of new teaching resources is available on-line and in hard copy and a database of books is available in the Centre's resource base. For further information on our resources and membership rates contact: Information Officer (028) 9024 1879 or e-mail info@centreforgloaleducation.com

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



PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THIS NEWSLETTER YOU PASS IT ON TO WORK COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS

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