



Lines from the Environmental Education Forum

Vol. 5 Issue 1 AUTUMN 2007

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EIGHT PAGE SUPPLEMENT



THE CURRICULUM IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



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The Changing Climate of the Curriculum

The Changing Climate of the Curriculum

The intention of the revised Northern Ireland curriculum is to help young people make use of the knowledge, and the associated skills, values and attitudes developed during the process of learning, to help them to live their lives. By promoting learning experiences that are enjoyable, challenging and relevant, the curriculum aims to prepare young people to manage their own lives, relationships and lifestyles and also to engage positively with others in sharing and protecting the resources of the planet for now and future generations.

One of the biggest challenges that has ever faced our society is addressing the issue of climate change in a way that avoids the worst consequences both for ourselves and for those living in other parts of the world. This issue of LEEF has been developed to give teachers and students an idea of what causes climate change and provide practical suggestions on how each and every one of us can do our part to solve this global problem.

What causes climate change?

Climate change does occur naturally, but the changes in climate over the past century have been attributed to the development of industry and modern day living. The emission of harmful gases from the burning of fossil fuels

is a major contributor to global warming.

What is global warming?

Global warming is the gradual increase in the world's temperature. The Earth's temperature naturally rises or falls, but there has been much concern recently about temperature rises and the possibility that these changes are man made. While the temperature of the earth has only increased by a few degrees over the past century, this has a significant impact. The increasing temperatures have caused the melting of ice caps leading to rising sea levels and putting low lying areas at great risk of flooding. The increased temperatures also change the rainfall, often resulting in either flooding or drought. Global warming is believed to be caused by harmful gases in the atmosphere which absorb solar radiation and prevent it being radiated out into space, warming the surface and water of the earth. This is known as the Greenhouse Effect. The levels of gases in the atmosphere have increased significantly since the industrialisation of the "developed world." Emissions are still incredibly high and are increasing as more nations industrialise.

Another contributing factor is urbanisation. The past century has seen large scale migration from country to city, which has resulted in the clearing of land and trees in order to accommodate the influx of people. Large scale deforestation has meant that

the large volumes of CO² emitted are not being absorbed.

What can YOU do?

Take action. All of us have the power to change the future - a small action, makes a big difference.

Think about the energy you use and try to reduce wasting energy by becoming more energy efficient, e.g. turn lights off when you are not in the room, fill the kettle only with the amount of water you need and turn off the TV off (not on standby) when it is not being used.

Wise up to renewable energy! Become informed about energy issues and the solutions we have for now and the future.

What about your house? Get the children to talk to their parents/guardians to encourage them to make their house more energy efficient, e.g. good insulation, to use Eco-Energy (green electricity supplied by NIE) and/or install a renewable technology, e.g. wood-pellet boiler.

Finally the supplement supplied with this newsletter will give you more ideas on how to help combat climate change. It will provide you with hands-on activities to do in the classroom and connect you to external agencies and websites where you can learn more about what we can all do every day to make a difference.

Mary Elizabeth Quinn
NI Environment Link





EEF News

Forum Update

The Environmental Education Forum has continued to grow 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

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

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

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

Membership

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

We would like to welcome the following as well as some individuals 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

Outdoor Learning Manifesto Launched

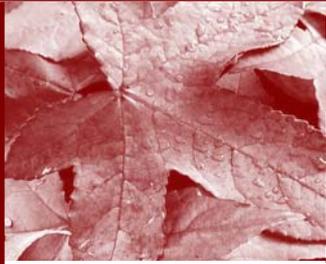
The 'Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto' partnership was launched at the end of 2006. The Manifesto is a joint undertaking that many different stakeholders have helped to create and to which anyone can sign up. Its aim is to ensure that all young people have a variety of high quality learning experiences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



Image provided by Richard Revels—RSPB Images.com



Members News

Sustrans Safe Routes to Schools Project

Sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, has announced the 18 rural schools in Northern Ireland who will be part of the new Safe Routes to Schools project. The project will include improvements in and around selected schools to encourage more pupils to walk and cycle. The project, worth £1.3 million, includes £936,531 from the Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity funded by the EU through Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The project aims to achieve a 10% reduction in car journeys in participating schools and to increase levels of walking and cycling by 2008.

Sustrans has now appointed two School Travel Advisors who will work with the schools to produce and implement School Travel Plans tailored to meet each school's specific needs to enable children to travel in an active and environmentally-friendly way. Work will begin immediately and will include measures which will range from building new cycling and walking routes to installing baggage lockers and cycle sheds.

Each of the 18 participating schools has already been organising events for its pupils to increase walking and cycling to school with great success. These include:

Castlederg and Ballinamallard PS dedicating a day to walking to school with great support from pupils, parents and

teachers. Cloughmills had every pupil walking every day so there was **NO** school traffic!

Killyleagh PS enjoyed a 'Breakfast of Champions' in their pyjamas when they arrived at school on Walk to School day and Killylea PS ventured into the great outdoors for a healthy picnic on the final day of Walk to School week and are now running a regular walking bus to school. St Patrick's, Derrygonnelly, and Hezlett PS organised walking buses during Walk to School week, whilst St Joseph's, Bessbrook had a surprise guest at their Walk to School event when Regional Development Minister, Conor Murphy, visited the school to congratulate the pupils on their progress.

St Mary's, Derrytrasna, organised half the school to walk to school whilst the other half cycled! There was a noticeable reduction in the speed of traffic passing the school as children were visible on pavements and there were no cars on the school run. Gracehill PS organised a hugely successful Bikers Breakfast with 175 pupils & 110 parents taking part. As well as feasting on a healthy breakfast pupils were able to give their bikes a health check courtesy of Halfords. To find out more about Safe Routes to Schools contact:

William Methven - Safe Routes to Schools Project Manager or Jill McDonald - Safe Routes to Schools Development Officer on (028) 9043 4569 or log on to the website at:

www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk

Belfast Council Anti Litter Packs

Belfast City Council has developed anti litter education packs for KS1 & 2 and KS3 & 4. The packs are designed to help teachers promote the anti-litter message in an educational, fun and practical way. The pack is an excellent resource and 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.

The aim of the pack is to 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. 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. If schools are interested in organising a clean-up of their grounds Belfast City Council can provide equipment and support to the school.

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 90 320202 extension 5383 or via email on: **stephensj@belfastcity.gov.uk**



Members' News

Eco Fair at St. Colm's High School Draperstown

On 9th May 2007 pupils of St. Colm's High School in Draperstown enjoyed an Eco Fair hosted by their school with exhibitors from a whole range of organisations such as RSPB, Conservation Volunteers NI, DRD (Travelwise), Magherafelt District Council and Bryson Charitable Group available to provide information on environmental protection and sustainable living. The success of the event was further supported by the large turnout of P7 pupils from the surrounding primary schools.



The fair was organised to raise awareness of environmental issues in the local community. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the environmental work undertaken by St Colm's pupils which resulted in the school being awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

At the beginning of the year the pupils of St Colm's identified a number of areas where environmental improvements could be made such as energy use, water use and litter. They completed a survey to identify areas where they were performing well and areas where they 'could do better'! Energy, water and litter

monitors were appointed, and a series of action points was identified such as closing curtains at the end of the school day to keep the heat in, providing water butts to collect rainwater and taking shorter showers after PE. Indeed, the pupils were able to demonstrate a saving of £267.44 in their electricity bill over 2 months from the same period last year by following their energy checklists.

An Eco-School thematic unit was produced for Year 8 with environmental issues addressed in a range of subjects such as English, Art, Home Economics and French as well as Geography and Science. This allowed for active and connected learning to reinforce the notion of how environmental issues impact on all aspects of our lives.

The success of the entire project was underpinned by active involvement of the local Council, the NEELB and local business firms who provided support both by way of funding and sponsorship and expertise particularly in the area of energy efficiency.

St Colm's is one of only a handful of post-primary schools in the province to have achieved Green Flag status and, as Juliet comments, "The Eco-Schools programme provides a framework to integrate environmental and sustainability issues into the life of a school. The Eco fair was an excellent opportunity for the school to showcase their achievements to the local community."

Colin Glen Trust Works on Climate Change!

Colin Glen Forest Park is referred to as Belfast's 'green lung' giving a taste of the countryside within city limits. The Park consists of 200 acres of scenic woodland through which the Colin River Flows. The trees in the park are native species such as oak, ash, silver birch, alder, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly, elm and willow. These types have become naturalised after thousands of years and it is these which the Trust has planted over the years.

Most of the planting has taken place on the old industrial areas as well as in small clearings close to houses. Tree planting has been carried out with the help of volunteers and school children. Seeds are collected from the woodland in autumn in order to grow new trees to plant on the reclaimed areas.

Colin Glen Forest Park is an ideal location to conduct field work to study a woodland habitat. Different emphasis is placed on each programme to suit the different examination requirements. In relation to climate change, pupils can examine conservation and environmental protection, microclimate investigation and woodland ecosystem study.

Contact: Colin Glen Trust ,
Forest Park Centre
163 Stewartstown Road
Dunmurry BT17 0HW
Tel: 028 9061 4115
www.colinglenrust.org



Members' News

ECOS Centre - The ideal place to learn about Climate Change and its effect on Wildlife

2007 is the year that the Ulster Wildlife Trust took over the delivery of education programmes at The ECOS Millennium Centre in Ballymena and began its quest to use this exhibition and demonstration centre to make the clear link between our ecological footprint and the devastating effects we can have on our local and global wildlife!

A new KS3 programme was piloted from April to June this year with resounding success and a clear need to explore many issues was established, namely renewable energy, pollution, recycling and the links between climate change and phenology.

Explore the more sustainable methods of living by investigating the reed bed, wind turbine, wood chip burner, solar panels and recycling and collection methods - then monitor the water for invertebrates and learn to identify trees and wildflowers. Finally, link this all to how the seasons are affected by climate change and investigate what knock-on effects this could have on our wildlife. A visit to the ECOS centre will help you to live a more sustainable lifestyle and continue to monitor the signs of climate change in your school grounds, homes and neighbourhoods.

For more information or to make a booking contact The Ulster Wildlife Trust – 028 4483 0282.

UWT 'Wildlife Watch' The club for Young Wildlife enthusiasts

Wildlife Watch is the junior membership of the Ulster Wildlife Trust. Taking part in Wildlife Watch is an exciting way for young people to explore their local environment and discover loads about wildlife right where they live!

Wildlife Watcher members (7-14yrs old) will receive lots of wildlife goodies including magazines and posters which provide information about local wildlife, events, campaigns, cartoons, competitions and nature games and activities.

'Wildwatch' The After Schools Programme

UWT is piloting a new afterschools project called 'Wildwatch'. It is a free 8 week after-school wildlife club, based in 10 schools and run by the UWT guides with the assistance of a teacher. The project aims to help schools and their pupils become more sustainable, improve their school grounds and help towards gaining the biodiversity unit of the Eco-Schools award. Wildwatch will be linked with the revised curriculum and encourage pupils to become more active outdoors. It is also a useful tool for teachers to use to gain confidence and experience in teaching children about wildlife.

Wildlife Watch is a UK wide programme with specially developed activities designed to make wildlife exciting and fun as well as learning through play. Wildlife Watch makes learning fun.

Associate Wildlife Watch (school membership)

The 10 chosen pilot schools will receive their first year's free membership to 'Wildlife Watch'. As an Associate watch member your school would receive all the Wildlife Watch children's magazines and posters but would also receive the Wildlife Watch pack of booklets on marine, freshwater, grassland and woodland habitats, as well as access to free wildlife training for teachers and much more throughout the year.

The UWT's Wildlife Watch Officer will give you continuous support and advice on how to improve the school environment. You will also be given a password which provides access to a restricted website containing wildlife activities and resources on the Wildlife watch website – www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Once piloted, the Ulster Wildlife Trust hopes to offer this service to a wider group of schools – for more information on Wildlife Watch membership or the WildWatch Afterschools Club Programme – contact the Ulster Wildlife Trust

Tel 028 4483 0282.
or check our website
www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org.uk





Members' News

'Watch This Space!' urban greenspaces project with Belfast City Council

The Ulster Wildlife Trust is piloting a new Wildlife Watch initiative in partnership with Belfast City Council. The "Watch This Space!" pilot is running for a year in two City parks - Falls Park in West Belfast and Woodvale Park in North Belfast, enabling the local communities to engage positively and help them regain ownership of their urban green space through environmental education.

Local P5 classes in schools close to the parks have been enrolled to spend the next academic year exploring their park on seasonal topics, carrying out practical work in the parks, such as bulb and tree planting and habitat creation combined with follow-up activities back in school.

A Wildlife Watch Saturday Club will also take place in both parks, to engage local children with wildlife in green spaces using the Wildlife Watch approach. Each park will host wildlife themed events and a series of one day workshops for young people.

For more information on "Watch this Space!" – contact the Ulster Wildlife Trust – 028 4483 0282.



New initiatives from the National Trust for the new academic year.

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 schools and community groups the Trust has established two new posts for Environmental Learning. Programmes will be aimed at primary and post primary and will tie in with curricular areas such as "The World Around Us" in the primary sector and "Education for Sustainable Development" in the post primary sector. They will be ideal for providing the Biodiversity Theme for Eco-Schools awards programme.



Schools Art Partnerships

The National Trust Schools Art Partnership aims at linking two schools through an Arts Project based at National Trust properties. Funding up to £2,000 is available to supply an artist, art resources, transport and group membership. The schools meet between three to six times at a property and create pieces of art of their choice – it can include digital art as well as the more traditional arts. What better way to engage your pupils with the environment!

Guardianship Scheme branches out.

The National Trust's Guardianship scheme is extending into new properties this year. The scheme provides a series of environmental and biodiversity programmes linked to the curriculum. It provides a practical and "hand-on" approach to the environment and environmental issues. There is no cost to the school and there is funding available for resources.



For further information contact:

George Blackwood
Regional Learning Manager
Tel: 028 9751 2356
Mobile: 07917 596525
E-mail: George.Blackwood@nationaltrust.org.uk





Members' News

Autumn Feasting and Winter Sleeping Education Programmes

The RSPB are delighted to bring you news of our 'Autumn Feasting and Winter Sleeping' programmes for 2007.

You are invited to bring your primary school groups to Greenmount Campus, **free of charge**, to explore a variety of farmland habitats and their wildlife in the autumn and winter seasons. This programme is especially useful for P6 and P7.

Greenmount Campus offers an amazing range of outdoor learning experiences, demonstrating the links between farming and the countryside. Pupils will 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, habitats, hibernation, autumn fruits and seed dispersal, harvest produce and adaptation.

The Greenmount Trail will open for guided school visits from Mid - September 2007

For further Information or to book your **FREE** visit
Tel (028) 94 426 705

Please quote 'RSPB School Bookings'

Picnic facilities available by arrangement

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

Big Schools' Birdwatch 2008!

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

RSPB Climate Change/ Marine Storymat

Building on the format of the very successful Garden Storymat, RSPB has produced an interactive, curriculum-linked resource for pre-school, nursery and Foundation levels.

It delivers simple but important messages about climate change and what personal actions we, as groups and individuals, can take to reduce the effect of climate change on the environment.

The resource also creates awareness of the biodiversity of our oceans and seas and explores some of the issues facing our marine life. The Marine Storymat is designed for outreach use in local schools, groups and communities. For further information please contact RSPB, Tel: 028 9049 1547

Armagh Council Education Programme

Armagh City and District Council offers a free waste education programme to all primary and secondary schools in the District. Sessions include Waste and Recycling; the 3R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; and Composting; Presentations are accompanied by a Recycling Pack, and all can be tailored to suit individual school needs. Visits to the local Recycling Centre and Landfill site can also be arranged.

We also run a series of environmentally themed Schools Challenges throughout the year:

Schools Environmental Challenge (November)
Yellow Woods Challenge (January)
Environmental Youthspeak (April)

For more details please contact our Recycling Helpline on 028 3752 9624 or Liz Drew at liz.drew@armagh.gov.uk





Members' News

Action Renewables Education Work

Action Renewables, supported by the DETI, has announced an extension to their renewable education programme. The programme, which is linked to the curriculum and is **free of charge**, is targeted to primary and post primary schools.

Our primary education programme aims to increase the knowledge, understanding, and interest of pupils in renewable energy and related issues. The programme has been designed in such a way as to encourage pupils to be creative, manage information, work with others, solve problems and make decisions. Our post-primary programme aims to provide teaching tools, information and presentations to increase knowledge, raise awareness, engage, empower and encourage young people to take action on renewable energy and its related issues, e.g. climate change.

Our new education website has been designed to be attractive to pupils of all ages as well as teachers and parents. It is accessible at:

www.wiseuptorenewables.com

The Education Programme is available to all schools in Northern Ireland. To arrange a visit, contact the Action Renewables Education Officers via email:

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

actionrenewables.org

or phone our Primary Education Officer on 028 9073 7862 or our Post-primary Education Officer on 028 9073 7863 or by fax to 028 9073 7825.

Outdoor Education at the Kilbroney Centre

The Kilbroney Centre is managed by Alliance Youth Works, a youth work agency which works in alliance with a mixture of outdoor pursuits and environmental agencies to create a range of services on the Kilbroney site. Groups can 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 with 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

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. 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 stuff and stationary.

Contact:

Alyn Jones
The Kilbroney Centre
Tel: 028 4173 8401

E-mail:

alynjones@allianceyouthworks.org.uk

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 to make the revised curriculum come alive in a unique way.

A variety of workshops has 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.

Education packs are included in the visit. These packs contain information relevant to the various key stages. However, they 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





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 huge 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 Halloween's 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.

Sat 8 & 15 December 5-7pm

Kilclief Castle Newtownards Christmas Story Telling & Music

A real treat for children at this special time. Free admission.

Saturday 8 December 11am-2pm

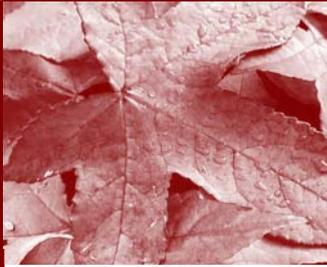
Holly & Ivy Christmas Creations

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 12- 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 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:

- 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 Grandesm Belfast O28 9087 7777.

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 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 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

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

and has been uploaded to the EEF website at 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



**WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED
READING THIS NEWSLETTER YOU
PASS IT ON TO WORK
COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND
RELATIVES**

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