



**Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland Bulletin  
July 2017**

Welcome to the OWL Scotland bulletin which is adapted from the Outdoor Learning Wales bulletin– Thank you to OLW for letting us share their bulletin! You can find more information on Outdoor Learning Wales [here](#).

If you have items for inclusion in the bulletin please send them to [Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**OWL Scotland Update:**

The informal OWL Networking Event and Chairs meeting took place on July 17/18<sup>th</sup> at Pillars of Hercules in Fife. We had representation from a number of groups and were blessed with glorious sunshine. There were 4 workshops on Woodworking Skills, Pewter Casting on an open fire and Animal Needle Felting as an outdoor learning tool. The nature of the event enabled considerable informal networking and sharing of ideas. Thank you to all who attended.

Here is some of the feedback:

**“Spending time with like-minded people supported my well-being and made me more enthusiastic to promote the work of OWLS.**

**Good practical sessions gave me skills and ideas to pass on to other learners.”**

**“The best thing for me about these events is usually the chance to meet and talk to other practitioners to exchange ideas and information. For that it was fantastic, and the location and arrangements were great. I got a lot out of it.”**



## **OWL Scotland Networking Event 17/18 July**

### **Website News**

We are happy to announce that we have recently had the OWL Scotland website updated with a new look and new search functions as well as making the system more user friendly for our local OWL groups. It has only just been launched so if you have any problems or spot any broken links please do contact us. [Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Local OWL Events and News:**

#### **West Fife OWL Group**

Would like to invite anyone in the area to their special networking event.

**Venue: Glass Room at Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline**

**Time: Thursday 7th September from 4 - 6pm.**

This will be a drop-in, market place style event open to school teachers, community groups or other organisations in Fife who would like to help get children outdoors. Organisations

or groups, such as yourselves, who can provide courses, resources or programmes that can help schools and community groups with outdoor learning are invited to provide a display of photos, resources, materials, etc. We would also like to provide a variety of short, hands-on activities outdoors, so please indicate if you would be happy to run an activity. If yourself or a colleague can attend you will have a table/ space where you can showcase your venue/ resources to teachers and other leaders who will be invited to drop in to find out what is available in Fife.

### **South Highland OWL Group**

#### **Networking Event :**

Date: **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Theme: **Health and Well Being**

Venue: **tbc.**

### **Dumfries and Galloway OWL Group - Event**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Moffat

### **North East OWL Group**

#### **Events-**

Play Day at Glen Tanar 15<sup>th</sup> August

Turriff Show Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> & Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July

Wild About Aden 2 Day Event – 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> August

Early Years Conference, Haddo Country Park 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Outdoor Networking Event, Camphill School, Murtle Estate, 16<sup>th</sup> September

Branching Out Awareness Event, Camphill School, Murtle Estate, October

## **Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2017**

We are delighted to announce the winners of the SFWA – Schools Award 2017. The winners received their cheques and prizes at the Awards Ceremony which took place at the Royal Highland Show on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Thank you to all the schools who entered and if you missed it you can apply later in the year for the 2018 awards. Further information can be found on the website [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) and on the Facebook page [here](#).

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### **SCHOOLS AWARD**

**Winner of the Crown Estate Schools Trophy – Underbank Primary School,  
Crossford, South Lanarkshire**



**Runner Up – Wild Willows, Kincaig, Cairngorms National Park**



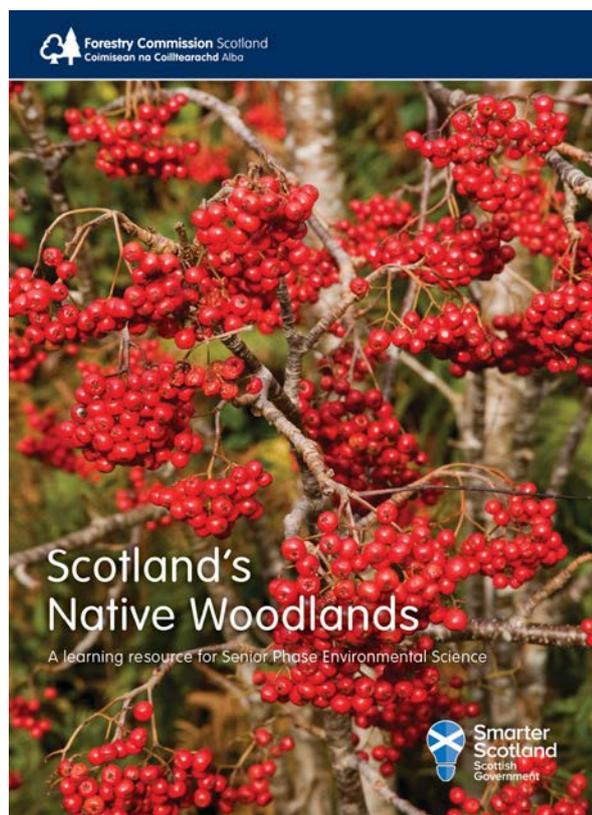
## New Resources:

We have recently published 2 new guidance resources further to requests from the OWL groups:

[Tool Use Guidance](#) for OWL Groups and  
[Fire Guidance](#) for OWL Groups.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the content of the resources. We hope you like them!

They are currently available for download only.



[Scotland's Native Woodlands Learning Resource](#) – this is now available from our publications distributors. Quote Stock code FCMS134 and send your details to order to: [forestry@theapsgroup.com](mailto:forestry@theapsgroup.com)

The resource can be downloaded [here](#).

### Working Forests' Campaign

Forestry Commission Scotland has released a new forest safety interactive story aimed at children. It supports the 'working forests' campaign.

<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/news-releases/1614-interactive-adventure-teaches-forest-safety>

## The World Beneath Our Feet – Soils and the Curriculum

A focus group of soils experts was brought together in 2015 to create a 'suite' of stimulus resources to highlight the possibilities for learning that soils can offer. A key output of this approach is to ensure a legacy of learning beyond the 2015 International Year of Soils. We hope that this suite of resources will inspire you to explore the wonderful and diverse world to be found right under our feet.

The resource is now available both [online](#) and as a hard copy. Please refer to the Resources Summary Flyer below for information on how to obtain printed copies

## New Resources from Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

- [Rural Land Use in the Park: Conflict & Resolution. National 4/5 and Higher Geography](#)
- [Rural Land Use – Case Studies on Conflict & Resolution](#)

These resources complement those produced by the Cairngorms NP which are also available on the Outdoor Learning Directory and can be found by searching the Directory under 'geography' and a few of these useful partner resources should pop up.

We have produced a [Resources Summary flyer](#) for download which sets out all of our resources, ages and stages and how to get copies.

## Free Botanical Illustrations



EUFORGEN has published a collection of 149 botanical illustrations relevant to European trees. Anyone is free to use the drawings non-commercially, as long as they give credit and do not restrict further use.

[Read More](#)

## Global Seed Search – online Database



A new publication from Botanic Gardens Conservation International has the answer: 60,065. An online database (Global Seed Search) gives access to all the information, and will be updated with EUFORGEN reports.

[Read More](#)



### Recipe of the month *Campfire Pizza*

GRILLED PIZZA  
Pizza dough  
Olive oil  
Sauce  
Toppings  
Charcoal BBQ grill

- Get your BBQ grill hot and ready.
- Place pizza dough directly on the grill.
- Grill for 5 minutes or until the base is golden brown. (Make sure you rub oil on the grates to prevent sticking)
- Brush on olive oil and flip the dough.
- Place desired topping on the pizza and cover the grill. (If the grill does not have a cover then create a tent with aluminium foil to cover the pizza.)
- Cook for 10 minutes or until the dough is fully cooked through.

#### TORTILLA PIZZA

Pizza dough  
Tortilla  
Sauce  
Toppings  
Charcoal BBQ grill

- On a sheet of aluminium foil place one sheet of tortilla and add your desired toppings.
- With another sheet of foil crease the edges and create a foil pack.
- Place on the grill and cook for 5 minutes.
- Careful when opening the foil pack (hot steam).

#### CAST IRON PIZZA

Cast iron pan  
Pizza dough

Olive oil

Sauce

Toppings

Charcoal grill

- Cover the pan with olive oil and place the pizza dough evenly onto the cast iron.
- Place it on the hot grill and cook for 5 minutes.
- Brush some olive oil onto the dough and flip.
- Put your desired toppings on the dough and cover and cook for 10 minutes or until the dough is cooked through.
- Carefully take it out of the cast iron and cut into desired pieces

## DUTCH OVEN PIZZA

Dutch oven

Pizza dough

Olive oil

Sauce

Toppings

Hot charcoal briquettes

- Oil the inside of the Dutch oven.
- Place the pizza dough and topping on the dough.
- On a flat dirt surface place 12-20 hot and ready coals on the ground in the shape of the base of the Dutch oven.
- Place the Dutch oven directly on top of the hot coals.
- Place more hot coals on the top to cover the lid.
- Let it cook for 15 minutes or until the dough is fully cooked.
- Carefully take the coals off the lid and remove from heat.
- Take out the pizza and cut into

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

## Quote of the month

“Children must never work for our love; they must rest in it”

*Dr. Gordon Neufield*

## Activity of the Month

*Seashell Poetry*



Collecting shells is always a lovely activity so why not find a few to try this activity out?

Work on a short poem or kenning, possibly inspired by the coast or the shell itself.

Use cut out words from old magazines, books or newspapers and stick them to the inside of the shell.

Another option could be a permanent pen with very small writing!

Now share your poem or create an unusual library or display by making more of them.

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



### Fact of the Month

Did you know sponges hold more cold water than hot?

### Plant of the Month

#### *Japanese Knotweed*

Once planted as an ornamental plant in parks and gardens, Japanese Knotweed is now considered a dangerous invasive species in the UK, as it can cause damage to building and infrastructure.

The species spreads aggressively and can reproduce from just a small piece of root cut off. There are particular problems with the plant in south Wales, where large stands form along rivers and railways.

As well as causing economic problems through property damage, Japanese Knotweed is also bad news for native wildlife. The large fast growing plants will smother other plants, and offer little as a food or shelter source for other creatures. It is very important to record the species, so that proper control methods can be implemented.

Japanese knotweed is a strong-growing, clump-forming perennial, with tall, dense annual stems. Stem growth is renewed each year from the stout, deeply-penetrating rhizomes (creeping underground stems).

The species forms 2 metre high stands (similar to Bamboo) at this time of year, with large cordate leaves.

#### New legislation

It is not illegal to have Japanese knotweed in your garden. On your property, you should aim to control this plant and other invasive non-native plants such as Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed, to prevent them becoming a problem in your neighborhood

If digging out is attempted, remove as much root as possible, then repeatedly destroy regrowth. In this way the energy reserves in the remaining underground parts will be gradually exhausted; a process which may, however, take several seasons



A plant sucker (psyllid) is being released in the UK as a biological control for Japanese knotweed. It is currently only being released at a handful of trial sites and is not available to gardeners.

However, if successful it will be released more widely and will

become widespread in Britain over the next five to ten years by natural spread

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

## **Species of the Month**

### *Oil Beetle*

There are five species of oil beetles in the UK, the Black oil beetle, the Violet oil beetle, the Rugged oil beetle, the Short-necked oil beetle and the Mediterranean oil beetle. The first three can be found in Wales in the spring. Oil beetles are incredible insects, but they are under threat. Three of Britain's native oil beetles are thought to be extinct, and the remaining five species, have suffered drastic declines due to the changes in the way our countryside is managed.

Oil beetles are conspicuous, charismatic insects which are often encountered when out walking and enjoying the countryside. Their habit of seeking out bare compacted earth in which to dig nest burrows means that they are frequently seen on footpaths.

Oil beetles can grow up to 3cm long and get their name from a toxic, oily substance they release from their leg joints to deter predators.

The females dig burrows to lay their eggs and their larvae rely on nearby vegetation to complete their strange and rather gruesome life cycle. When the larvae hatch, they crawl up onto vegetation and hop onto passing mining bees. Back at the bees nest they eat the bee's eggs and the store of nectar and pollen

Because the females like to dig their burrows on bare ground, they can often be seen walking across footpaths. You may also see them when walking through fields, heathland, coastal areas or woodland where they can be found looking for mates and nesting sites, and feeding on path-side flowers.



If you find an oil beetle, take photographs from above which clearly show the top of the thorax (mid-section) to identify the species then submit a record of the sighting

at: [www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-surveys/oil-beetle-hunt](http://www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-surveys/oil-beetle-hunt)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

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

## **Collective noun of the month**

A majesty of oaks

## **Funding**

### **Grounds for Learning**

The new small grants scheme is open

<http://www.ltl.org.uk/naturegrants/index.php>

### Community Fund

The FCS Community Fund supports community groups and organisations that encourage people to use woods more. The guidance document can be found [here](#).

### Training

#### **Grampus Heritage Erasmus Pride Placements**

You will find a full list with dates and most programmes on this year's PRIDE placements under here:

<http://www.grampusheritage.co.uk/projects/pride/>

The placements are fully funded.

#### **In the Wild Sparks Woods**

For the first time we are delighted to announce that we will be running workshops from our new nursery site, near Coupar Angus. The Wee Wild Sparks Nursery has taken months of planning but now exists as Perth and Kinross' first fully outdoor nursery. Join us for a day in the woods, getting back to nature and tuning in to the pace, rhythm and outlook of the children who attend. The workshop will consider our story thus far; our approach to early years education in an outdoor context and the curriculum we use which is inspired by the changing seasons.

Included in the day is the chance to observe the staff and children as they go about their daily routine in the woods. As we are in the early stages of our development we are excited to be sharing with you the organic process of our start-up.

Days run 10am - 3pm

11th September - Nursery site - Coupar Angus

For details and booking please email: [office@wildsparks.co.uk](mailto:office@wildsparks.co.uk).

[www.wildsparks.co.uk](http://www.wildsparks.co.uk)

#### **Themes Announced – International Day of Forests – 21<sup>st</sup> March**

The Themes for the International Day of Forests are:

2018 - "Forests and Sustainable Cities"

2019 - "Forests and Education".

#### **The Shieling Project**

The Shielling Project an Outdoor Learning social enterprise in the Highlands working with schools, teachers and the community on a range of topics connected with sustainability. We deliver educational day visits, residential for schools and summer camps as well as training for teachers. Since I started as Gaelic Education Officer in May we have been introducing some elements of basic Gaelic to all school groups who visit through signage, songs and simple vocabulary eg greetings and names of animals as we are a working croft and we are also engaging with Gaelic medium schools to offer educational day visits and residential through the medium of Gaelic.

Later this year we will be opening Summerlings outdoor nursery with capacity for 10 pre-school children in the first year of operation.

We are also planning to offer CPD for teachers and early years practitioners to increase their capacity and confidence to deliver topics connected with the sustainability agenda and outdoor learning through Gaelic.

Here's a link to our website and if you're ever up this way do come and visit!

[www.theshiellingproject.org](http://www.theshiellingproject.org)

### **Contact:**

To contact your local OWL group please go to the [OWL Scotland website](#)

### **Or contact us:**

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**Edinburgh EH12 7AT**

[Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Join us on Facebook – “Forest Education Initiative” group (we have over 5000 members so were unable to change from our original name!)**

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