



ROOT & BRANCH

Forest Education Initiative

Bulletin

Spring 2014



Featuring woodland learning and Forest School news

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Root & Branch bulletin spring 2014!

Forest Education Initiative aims to increase the understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between the tree and everyday wood products. FEI is a national organisation, drawing expertise, resources and inspiration from a range of partners and leaders. The aim of this bulletin is to update our members in Scotland on news, projects and initiatives related to trees, woods and forests.

These bulletins will remain available on the FEI website

FEI SCOTLAND NEWS

Contact: Bonnie Maggio FEI Coordinator Scotland E: bonnie.maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The future direction of FEI in Scotland?

A series of consultation meetings were held with the FEI Cluster Groups to explore the future direction of FEI in Scotland as a result of changes occurring more widely. A summary note of the meetings can be found [here](#).

National & local networks

Keep in touch with what is being discussed in the world of FEI including Forest School by searching for 'Minutes' of meetings posted on the [FEI website](#) resources pages.

FEI cluster group news

Glasgow FEI Cluster group are holding a networking event on Saturday 1st March. For information look [here](#).

North and West Argyll FEI Cluster group have been awarded funding to run Woodward – a pilot project aimed at developing adult literacy and numeracy using forest education.

Are you a member of your local [FEI Cluster Group](#)? [Subscribe](#) to receive the FEI bulletin.

TRAINING

FEI Training Programme

This year's CLPD courses have been a huge success. The courses on our new resources Wolf Brother's Wildwoods and Trees and the Scottish Enlightenment have been very well received and we hope to run more courses in the new financial year. If you missed out and are interested in attending a course please email Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk with CPD course as the subject and give your name, address and local cluster group.

RESOURCES

Wolf Brother's Wildwoods

This resource has been produced to support teachers who are reading the novel *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver with their classes. Set in Mesolithic times, the novel is not only an exciting read but also reveals much about the lives of hunter-gatherers who lived in Scotland 10,000 years ago. To receive a copy please send a Self Addressed A4 envelope with £1.09 stamps stuck on and Wolf Brother written on the envelope, to:
FCS Admin, Forestry Commission Scotland, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

An audio version of Wolf Brother is available [here](#).

Please do our quick [evaluation survey](#) of Wolf Brother's Wildwoods resource for a chance to win a £50 gift voucher for forest education kit. Prize draw will take place 17th March 2014.

New Resource – Trees and the Scottish Enlightenment – and more....

A new two part resource which explores forestry in the context of the Scottish Enlightenment and is a learning resource for teachers of Curriculum for Excellence P6/7 and S1/2, will be published online in November 2014. Watch the FEI website for updates. Download [here](#).

Or to receive a copy please send a Self Addressed A4 envelope with £0.90 stamps stuck on and Trees and the Scottish Enlightenment written on the envelope, to:
FCS Admin, Forestry Commission Scotland, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Coming Soon.....

- New Woodland Workout resource with The Commonwealth Games supplement.
- Tree Stories – A beautiful story and supporting information for a tree for every month.

To get up to date information please subscribe to the FEI website [here](#).

FEI Facebook snippets

Recent threads have included: early years numeracy outdoors, inclusion for disabled children, toileting and hand washing outdoors, willow weaving, chainsaw skills and much more.....

Why not join the [FEI Facebook group](#), and share your good ideas or questions?

GRANTS

There will be new grant categories for 2014/15 for FEI – keep an eye on the FEI website.

AWARDS

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards for Schools are for forest education projects. Get your entries in now! Deadline March 31st 2014.

Scotland's Finest Woods (SFW) and the **Forest Education Initiative (FEI)** have once again teamed up to run an annual **Schools Award** in Scotland.

The Award is to encourage and reward schools that increase young people's understanding and appreciation of the environmental, social and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between trees and everyday wood-based products.

Full information available [here](#).

FEI FOREST SCHOOL SCOTLAND NEWS

Contact: Penny Martin FEI Forest School Coordinator Scotland

E: forestschoolcoordinator@livingclassrooms.org.uk

FEI Forest School Scotland – update on the qualification

Penny Martin is coordinating a Working group comprising FS Scotland training providers on this. A meeting with Forest School Scotland training providers took place on 20/1/14, with the aim to find consensus on Forest School Scotland course content for credit rating on the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF). As providers are affiliated to different Awarding Bodies, no decision was made on which option to take, but participants agreed to review the course content wording to make a better fit for Scotland. The minutes of this meeting are available from the FEI website [here](#).

Mapping Forest School across Scotland

With the support of the GIS team at Forestry Commission Scotland, Penny has produced a map which reflects the information you have provided for the Forest School database. This gives an indication of where Forest School practitioners (and trainees) are, across Scotland. The more people registered on this database, the more accurate this picture will be!

The [map](#) has been added to the FEI website as a news item, a link within the Forest School pages, and as a resource. The map will be updated next in November 2014, so make sure Penny has your details by then!

The growing Forest School Scotland network

Looking for a Forest School programme near you, or a fellow practitioner? Do you want to be kept in the loop with news and resources? There are now 142 + contacts on the Forest School Scotland database, and growing.... If you are a Forest School trainee or qualified practitioner, and have not yet submitted your details, please get in touch with Penny Martin, the [FEI Forest School Co-coordinator](#).

Forest School Scotland Case Studies

In Aberdeenshire, teacher and Forest School practitioner John West Hughes runs woodland sessions outdoors for the pupils at Drumoak School.

On delivering the curriculum outdoors, John says "last session I took each class in Drumoak to the forest for 6 sessions along with 2 parent helpers. We have 4 composite classes so I tied the learning up with their topics - P1/2 living things P3/4 enterprise P5/6 Energy P6/7 Rainforest. Each class also made a floor book to show their learning, the curricular areas we covered and what photographs from the sessions. This session each class will have 2 days in the wood, and the reason behind the taster sessions for parents and teachers is to encourage others to lead FS activities in Drumoak School while simultaneously promoting outdoor learning."

Do you want to find out more? John has been running Forest School taster sessions for any teachers or parents. The final one is on Saturday 8th March at Drumoak School. These Saturday morning sessions run 930 – 1130 and involve half hour presentation/practical then into the forest. Anyone interested please contact [John West Hughes](#)

Would you like your Forest School programme featured? Do [get in touch](#) !

Linking Forest School with the curriculum - calling teachers who are Forest School practitioners!

Penny would like to set up a focus group to explore Forest School in a school context, with the aim of producing a resource that helps others align their practice with learning and teaching.

We can organise an e-group so that we can meet and share ideas at a time that suits. Interested? Please contact the [FEI Forest School Co-coordinator](#).

OTHER NEWS

Grounds for Learning film resource

This resource is for anyone who has an interest in children's wellbeing at school, although it has been designed to be particularly relevant to support staff. It explores how outdoor play in schools supports children's learning and development, identifies a range of ideas for enriching play and shares practical advice from schools that have developed good play practice.

New Standards for Scotland's teachers

Launched August 2013 by the GTCS, the new [Professional Standards for Teachers](#) have big implications for teachers and the development of outdoor learning in Scotland. The Standards cover Registration, Career-Long Professional Learning, Leadership and Management. Within this suite of Professional Standards there are a number of key themes:

- Professional Values and Personal Commitment
- Learning for Sustainability
- Leadership

Teachers are now required to "understand and develop the most appropriate contexts for learning including outdoor learning and be able to apply appropriate pedagogies for these environments".

What are your thoughts about this? We'll publish them in the next newsletter.

Scotland's national tree

A [public consultation](#) took place – and yes, Scotland's national tree is now officially the Scot's Pine!

Look at the Tayside FEI cluster group [downloads](#) pages for the pine tree and other stories.

OTHER NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Forest School Association – date for your diary

The 2014 National FSA Conference will be held over the weekend of 26th to 28th September at Essex Outdoors Danbury Centre, by Chelmsford. Keep an eye on the [FSA website](#) for further news.

CUTTINGS

Whittle an elder stick man

Learn how to make an elder stick man with great 'hair' from Chris Holland (also promoting his e-book version of 'I love My World') in this YouTube [video](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

Plant a tree for bees

There is still time to plant bare root trees, if your soil conditions allow. You can use this [WT guide](#) to help bees by planting species that are particularly bee-friendly

OTHER FUNDING

Greenspace Scotland

Visit Greenspace Scotland's [funding sources](#) pages for up-to-date news on funds that can support greenspace projects and to sign up with their monthly e-bulletin.

A comprehensive list of UK wide funding opportunities can also be found on Creative STAR Learning Company's website [grants](#) page.

See also.....

Big Announces New £30 Million Environment Fund (UK)

The Big Lottery Fund announced a new funding programme, Our Environment Our Future. This UK-wide £30 million investment is set to support projects enabling young people (aged 11-24) to improve their local environment and increase their employability through learning new skills. The deadline is the 16 May 2014 for organisations to apply for the role of UK-wide strategic partner.

<https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/grants/news/www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/ourenvironment>

UK Mammals Grants (UK)

The People's Trust for Endangered Species is inviting research project applications from voluntary conservation organisations, scientific researchers, individuals and consortia under its UK Mammals Grant Scheme. The deadline for applications is the 13th October 2014.

<http://www.ptes.org/index.php?cat=89>

Funding for Summer Playschemes (UK)

The Hilden Charitable Fund has announced that its Summer Playscheme Grants Programme is now open for applications.

The aim of the scheme is to help community groups run Summer Playschemes for the benefit of children from refugee and ethnic minority families. Funding of between £500 and £1,500 is available for Summer Playschemes for children aged 5 - 18 years lasting for 2 - 6 weeks with strong volunteer support. The funding is available to voluntary agencies with an income of less than £120,000. Some priority will be given to projects which show they are inclusive of children from refugee families, and show BME involvement.

The closing date for applications is the 15th March 2014.

<http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/>

Start and Grow (Scotland)

The Foundation Scotland has announced that next deadline for applications to "Start and Grow" is the 30th April 2014.

Start & Grow is the first investment package offered by Resilient. Start & Grow is primarily a loan package with an element of grant funding, to support the development and growth of both new and existing social and environmental organisations in 13 local authorities (Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, East Ayrshire, City of Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire, and West Lothian). Organisations can apply for investment packages

ranging from £10,000 to £60,000 and the funds can be used to finance revenue or capital costs, including first asset purchases, wages, refurbishment, set up and running costs.
<http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/resilient-scotland/our-programmes/start-grow.aspx>

Community Food Fund (Scotland)

Scotland's Rural College has announced that the third round of the Community Food Fund is open for applications.

The Fund aims to promote local food and drink through supporting activities that focus on three main outcomes. These are:

- Creating or enhancing a current food and drink network / group / community
- Supporting development of food trails and networks
- Establishing local food and drink events, including farmers' markets that celebrate and promote food and drink throughout the year.

The scheme is open to food and drink producer groups, networks and community organisations. It is not open to individual businesses. Applicants can apply for up to £25,000. The deadline application for this round of the Fund is 5pm on Thursday 20th March 2014.
<http://www.communityfoodfund.co.uk/>

Trees for Communities (UK)

The Tree Council, the lead tree campaigning charity working to promote the importance of trees within the changing environment, has announced that its Trees for Communities grant making programme is now open for applications.

Funds are available for community groups within the UK who are able to show that children under the age of 16 will be actively engaged in tree planting projects during National Tree Week 2013 (29th November to 1st December 2014). The Tree Council can fund projects between £100 and £700 and successful applicants will receive up to 75% towards their planting costs. For example, if your project totals £700, The Tree Council would offer up to £525. The remaining 25% will need to be secured by your school or organisation.

The closing date for applications is the 31st March 2014.

<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants/community-trees>

Trees for Schools (UK)

The Tree Council, the lead tree campaigning charity working to promote the importance of trees within the changing environment, has announced that its Trees for Schools grant making programme is now open for applications.

Funds are available for schools within the UK who are able to show that children under the age of 16 will be actively engaged in tree planting projects during National Tree Week 2013 (29th November to 1st December 2014). Schools must be local authority run or registered as a 'not for profit' organisation (including a community interest company, a charity organisation or a social enterprise). The Tree Council can fund projects between £100 and £700 and successful applicants will receive up to 75% towards their planting costs. For example, if your project totals £700, The Tree Council would offer up to £525. The remaining 25% will need to be secured by your school or organisation.

The closing date for applications is the 31st March 2014.

<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants/trees-for-schools>

Funding for Schools Science Projects (UK)

The Royal Society has announced that its Partnership Grant scheme has re-opened for applications. Through the scheme grants of up to £3,000 are available to support teachers, scientists and engineers help develop science projects. The aim is to make the teaching of science more interesting within primary and secondary schools. The Partnership grants scheme forms partnerships to allow teachers to increase their scientific knowledge and to give scientists and engineers the chance to develop their communication skills and engage with enquiring young minds. Any UK primary or secondary school teacher or practicing

scientist/engineer can apply as long as the students involved in the project are between 5 and 18.

The closing date for applications will be the 28th February 2014.

<http://royalsociety.org/education/partnership/>

People's Postcode Trust Small Grants Programme (Scotland, Wales and North of England)

The People's Postcode Trust has announced that its small grants programme has re-opened for applications.

Through its small grants programme, the People's Postcode Trust offers grants of between £500 and £20,000 to small organisations and community groups for projects lasting up to 6 months in the areas of:

- Poverty Prevention
- Advancement of Health
- Community Development
- Public Sports
- Human Rights
- Environmental Protection.

Eligible regions for this funding round will be Scotland, Wales and the North of England.

The closing date for applications for this funding round is the 21st February 2014.

<http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/>

Climate Challenge Fund (Scotland)

Keep Scotland Beautiful, has announced that the next deadline for draft applications to the Climate challenge fund (for funding of £30,000 and over) is the 4th April 2014.

Through the Climate Challenge Fund, Communities across Scotland can apply for grants of up to £150,000 per year to help reduce their carbon footprint and become more energy efficient. Nearly £30 million in total will be awarded to communities who come forward with innovative ideas to tackle their carbon emissions.

For applications of below £30,000 there is a monthly decision making process.

<http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund>

Microbiology in Schools Fund (UK)

The Society for General Microbiology has announced that its Microbiology in Schools Fund is now open for applications.

Through the fund, grants of up to £1,000 are available to schools or individuals that are members of the Society to support microbiology teaching initiatives and events. Grants can be used to support a range of microbiology-related projects.

Applicants can submit more than one application during the year, but no more than a total of £1,000 will be awarded to a single individual / school during a single calendar year.

Applications can be submitted at any time until the budget has been exhausted.

<http://www.sgm.ac.uk/en/grants-prizes/education-outreach-funds.cfm/microbiology-in-schools-fund>

Quaker Housing Trust Grant (UK)

The Quaker Housing Trust has announced that the next deadline for applications is the 7th March 2014.

The Quaker Housing Trust provides grants and interest free loans to housing projects that cater for people with mental and physical health problems, social disadvantage and abuse, etc.. This can include:

- Converting, renovating or refurbishing property; building new housing, buying property and/or land
- Expanding an existing housing project
- Making a housing project 'greener'; etc.

To be eligible for funding, applicants need to have legal charitable status and be a small organisation (with an annual turnover of not more than £5 million).
<http://www.qht.org.uk/>

SPOTLIGHT

Woodland birds

The British trust for Ornithology have highlighted that this is the time of year that many birds start prospecting for nesting sites, so now is the time to put up a nest box and be part of National Nest Box Week. Find out more information on the [National Nest Box Week webpages](#)

If you are out in the woods at this time of year, you might hear a Great spotted woodpecker doing its spring drumming display. Visit the RSPB species information [here](#) to read (and hear) all about it.

Do you have a FEI cluster group, woodland learning or Forest School project you would like highlighted in the next newsletter? Do get in touch – see our contact details at the foot of this page!

Expect the next

FEI bulletin

Summer 2014

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