

**Outdoor &  
Woodland  
Learning**  
SCOTLAND



## Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland Bulletin January/February 2020

Welcome to the OWL Scotland bulletin which contains content 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.gov.scot](mailto:Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gov.scot)

### OWL Scotland National News

#### **National Networking Event 2020**



The ever popular OWL Scotland National Networking Event for 2020 will be held on February Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm to February 23<sup>rd</sup> 12 noon at Dounans Centre, Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire. The event is now FULLY BOOKED!

## Early Years National Networking Event 2-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

We are holding a special Early years National Networking Event on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Falkland, Fife. The event will be an opportunity to attend a variety of hands-on workshops to help develop the outdoor learning practice of early years practitioners. A booking form and full information can be found [here](#).



## Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2020 – Time to get your application in!

**Scotland's Finest Woods (SFW)** and the **Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland (OWLS)** have once again teamed up to run an annual Schools Award in Scotland for 2020. 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.

*Teachers and helpers, as well as pupils, can take part and fun can be had by all!*

Details for the 2020 Awards' Programme are below. Remember, YOU need to be in it to WIN it!!

***We are now open for the 2020 competition and would love you to enter!***

### **Who can enter?**

Entry is open to nursery, primary, secondary and special schools anywhere in Scotland.

### **What sort of project is eligible?**

Entries can be practical or desk projects involving forestry, woodlands or trees. Here are some examples of projects that can be entered:

*A programme of learning in a woodland or forest environment or in a forest industry setting.  
A classroom-based study of woods and forests or the forest industry.  
Practical tree planting or woodland improvement projects in school grounds or in the local community.*



The entry can be for an ongoing forestry or tree related project, or one that was already completed. For more ideas explore the OWLS website: [www.owlscotland.org](http://www.owlscotland.org)

### **Prizes**

There is a **cash prize of £500 for the winning school** and the **runners-up prize is £250** with both receiving a [Mag Post](#) and a special Tree Pack containing trees for planting or tree growing kits. Each prizewinning school also receives a **certificate** and a **special commemorative wooden display plaque** recording their achievement. In addition, the beautiful Crown Estates' **Schools 'squirrel' trophy** will be awarded at the discretion of the judges with custody by the winning school for one year. See the fantastic photograph below taken by the trophy sculptor who kindly lets us use this remarkable photo!

The winner and runner-up are expected to be presented with their prizes on **Friday, 19th June 2020** at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston. On request, additional presentations can be made at schools or on site so that all those involved can join the celebrations.

The Crown Estate kindly commissioned the fantastic 'squirrel' trophy for the Schools Award that is shown below:



### **How you can enter**

A simple, [short entry form](#) is to be completed and returned by email.

More information at [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk)

## **Forest Kindergarten Programme**

Scottish Forestry has developed a Forest Kindergarten programme which began in Central Scotland, to promote woodlands as a play and learning environment for young children. A training programme for staff and teachers delivering early level Curriculum for Excellence in Central Scotland was developed and is now being rolled out through teacher training establishments. The qualification is on the SQA (level 7) and enables participants to set up regular Forest Kindergarten sessions in a nearby woodland area and embed Forest Kindergarten in their Pre-Birth to Three, and Curriculum for Excellence practice.

There are currently 2 organisations delivering the level 7 forest kindergarten training. Please see the links below and contact them directly for information on when they will be running courses.

### **[MACS](#)**

### **[Broxburn family centre](#)**

Scottish Forestry are running three-day courses for those working in further education colleges, training establishments and other organisations who educate nursery teachers and early years practitioners, as well as 2 day courses for Care Inspectorate Registration and Inspection staff (pictured below enjoying the course).



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

### **Greater Glasgow OWL Group (GROWL)**

#### **Training and Events**

**Feb 27** Outdoor Storytelling CPD for Glasgow Educators (Fully Booked - waitlist available)

**March 14** GROWL Spring Networking Event (Places available - family friendly event)

**April 26** Spring Herbal Foraging (Places available)

**June 14** Traditional Skills and Crafts ((Fully Booked - waitlist available)

#### **AGM** Wed 15 April

We are looking for new enthusiastic and committed committee members including a secretary. Come along to our AGM on to find out more about GROWL and our plans for the year and to join the board.

Email [hello@glasgowowl.com](mailto:hello@glasgowowl.com) for more info.

### **West Dunbartonshire OWL Group**

West Dunbartonshire Outdoor & Woodland Learning Group Launch Event

WD OWL (West Dunbartonshire Outdoor & Woodland Learning) successfully held their launch event on January 18th 2020.

The event welcomed early years practitioners, teachers, volunteers and parent-helpers from across all stages and schools within West Dunbartonshire.

A range of workshops were available for the 70 participants who attended on the day including; whittling by the fire, creating nature mobiles, invertebrate identification, den building, Gruffalo trail, numbers in nature trail, leaf pounding, and a lichen identification walk. Local companies and groups were also on hand to encourage everyone to confidently get outdoors and explore the natural world - RSPB, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, weeSTEMs, & Loch Lomond Fisheries.

The event was supported by OWL Scotland and Greenspace who provided a beautiful space in Balloch Park. Activities were led by local WD OWL members - if you'd like to know more about the group or be alerted to upcoming events please email [wd\\_owl@hotmail.com](mailto:wd_owl@hotmail.com)



## **EDINBURGH OWL Group**

### **UPDATE**

2019 has been a busy year with many exciting things happening with our Edinburgh OWL Group. We achieved another successful programme of CPD activities with a variety of outdoor learning themes over a selection of old and new locations across the city, favourites being Bridgend Community Farmhouse on the Edge of Craigmillar Country Park and Youth Vision in the Pentlands. CPD opportunities offered: All About Fire; Medicinal Plant Foraging; All About Tools; British Mammals and Their Habitats as well as our ever popular, 'Shoots and Roots' Nature Play Conference.

On 18 & 19 September 2019, Holyrood Park welcomed around 2400 Primary 6 pupils from 49 of the City of Edinburgh Council's Primary and Special schools for the Outdoor Learning Challenge. Organised by CEC's Outdoor Learning Team in partnership with Dynamic Earth and Historic Environment Scotland, each pupil experienced a selection of activities ranging from mountain bike skills, skiing, orienteering and handling sailing dinghies to fire lighting, craft making, knot tying and bridge building.

In total 38 separate organisations ran 60 different activity stations over the two days and Edinburgh Outdoor Woodland Learning were delighted to be included to be a provider this year, running Barbara's, 'Alchemy, Creativity and Outdoors' CPD. Pupils and Teachers were invited to take on a plant I.D. adventure, then using their found plants, vegetables and fruit created a colour spectrum from natural dyes along with a sketchbook for further exploration.

"Fab, well structured, practical demonstration and wonderful CPD opportunities discussed – I will look out for the Friday sessions!"

"It was fun in the colourful outdoors. It was really creative and it's cool that we got to go and use berries for paint."

"I think that it was great fun and really creative and interesting. I really enjoyed it and hope that I can do it again". (Sciennes Primary School) "We love how nature produces beautiful colours – thank you so much. We're already looking forward to taking part next year!" (Craigour Primary School)

A new feature this year was a twilight event for teachers and other educators. Around 200 people toured the providers and had a go at many of the activities on offer. From the Twilight, 'The Outdoor Learning Challenge 2019 Directory of Providers', was produced which is going to be a really useful resource.

My observation of the whole two-day event was that it was an engaging, inspiring and educational opportunity to share the dynamics of outdoor learning with all ages and forge new partnerships. It emphasised that to have the time to be immersed in the outdoors and to nurture a love of our natural environment can develop the skills of inquiry, critical thinking, creativity and reflection and contributes to positive, mental well-being.

The year has passed well with regular members attending our CPD's and events and extending a warm welcome to new members to EOWL. We've been cross-pollinating too - and thanks to Greater Glasgow OWL group and Borders OWL group for fabulous days out. We're now in the first rustles of planning for this year's CPD programme. The working title of our 11<sup>th</sup> Nature Play Conference is: "**One Love: Think Global, Act local!**" Check out details in February's OWL Scotland newsletter.

Barbara Middleton,(Chair) EOWL

### **Midlothian OWL Group**

We would like to formally introduce MOWL as the new OWL group in Scotland. Our official MOWL Launch Day is on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00am – 2:00pm on the grounds of Newbattle Abbey College. There will be a range of outdoor activities, nature photography gallery and stalls. The day will also include a bring your own picnic by the campfire for our official MOWL launch announcement. There will be something for all ages and everyone is welcome. Please either come along or share with someone you know. Further details will be confirmed at our next MOWL meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Please stay tuned on our MOWL website for further details. We would also like to introduce our new Administrator, Bethany who you can contact on [midlothianowl@gmail.com](mailto:midlothianowl@gmail.com) with any enquires.

### **Dumfries and Galloway OWL Group**

Next dates for meetings and skill shares in 2020:

8th April

8th June

8th August

8th October

8th December

Lusi Alderslowe

co-chair

Dumfries and Galloway Outdoor and Woodland Learning Group

check us out on Facebook @OWLDG and Twitter @DGOWLGP

**North East OWL Group**

Outdoor Learning Taster Day Cults Woods, Earlswells Road, Aberdeen, AB15 9RG 11am – 4pm FULLY BOOKED

Event date: 18/02/2020

What do you have access to? A park, a concrete playground, a woodland, a beach? This Outdoor Learning Taster Day will support you to get out there, to enhance and develop your practice with children. Aimed at everyone working with Early Years and Primary-aged children, come along to gain new skills and knowledge and connect with like-minded individuals. We have various workshops on offer which will run twice throughout the day, followed by optional facilitated discussions around a campfire. For more info: email - lindseymjduncan@yahoo.co.uk

Outdoor Woodland Learning Taster Day Report

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019

On Saturday 5th October 2019, members of Outdoor Woodland Learning Scotland North East Group (OWLNEG) held an Outdoor Woodland Learning Taster Day event at Haughton Park, Alford in West Aberdeenshire. There were five 1 ½ hour workshops which were delivered twice throughout the day and were attended by 22 participants.

The workshops were all delivered by Level 3 Forest School Practitioners all of whom were either members or partners of OWLNEG.

This event was aimed at anyone working with Early Years and Primary-aged children, to come along to gain new skills and knowledge and connect with like-minded individuals.

Workshop topics included:

- Literacy & Numeracy in the Outdoors
- Connecting with the Outdoors through Forest School Crafts
- Animal Senses Games and Owl Pellet Dissection
- Fire and Food
- Bushcraft and Woodcraft Activities

The day went very well despite the cold and rainy weather. We received permission from Aberdeenshire Council to use Haughton Park as the venue for the event. We had toilet facilities nearby and plenty of lovely mixed woodland areas to use for the different workshops.

## South Highland OWL Group

### Programme for Spring/Summer

#### Saturday CPD workshops

The South Highland Outdoor & Woodland Learning (OWL) Group exists to support outdoor learning across the southern half of the Highlands. This group is for outdoor learning practitioners, teachers, early years' practitioners and anyone with an interest in outdoor learning. All workshops are **FREE** and count for **CPD** time for teachers.



Choose from the list on the right and send your name & establishment to [julietpcrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:julietpcrobinson@gmail.com) who will then send a confirmation and location map for each workshop.

Note that the first workshop is **FULL** but you can put you on the cancellation list. All the others are **AVAILABLE** but book a place as soon as possible.

Please **bring your own lunch** & outdoor clothing, we will provide hot drinks!

Follow our **FACEBOOK** page: [www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHighlandOWL/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHighlandOWL/)



#### 1. Wildlife

**tracks & signs in the woods**

Join Dan Puplett who is a naturalist, outdoor educator and certified wildlife tracker. Tracking is an ancient skill that engages all our senses and helps to develop observation, memory, empathy and deduction abilities. Saturday 15 February 2020 at Anam Cara, Inverness from 1000 – 1600.

**FULL**

2. **Woodland beastie hunt**

Join Sarah Walker of RSPB to get some ideas for some low cost beastie hunting activities which are suitable for groups of all ages and hone your identification skills. Come dressed for the weather and bring your own lunch. **Saturday 21 March at the Nethybridge Community centre from 1000 – 1300.** Available

3. **Felt feet – make your own slippers!**

This workshop will involve wrapping our feet in wool and going for a walk and chat. While we walk the wool will felt our very own pair of felted feet slippers. You will be amazed at the results!!!! *You will have to bring a pair of boots that you don't mind getting wet. Not for anyone with a lanolin or wool allergy.*

**Saturday 18 April at Abriachan Forest Trust from 1000 – 1300.**  
Available

4. **Citizen science in action with Emily Brown**

Citizen Science involves the gathering, recording, and analysis of scientific data by members of the public and can be an engaging way to bring a real world context into STEM, outdoor learning, and sustainability learning in school. Citizen science activities a great way to enhance confidence of staff in relation to the sciences and to develop engaging programmes of learning for young people.

In this workshop we will explore ongoing citizen science your learners can become involved with as well as get hands on with sampling and biodiversity activities.

**Saturday 16 May at Craig Phadrig woods from 1000 – 1300.** Available

5. **Natural dyeing in the woods**

Join Christine Matheson to learn techniques for dyeing materials using natural materials. You will help gather some of the plants and use them to turn materials into wonderful colours. Suitable for teaching to all levels.

**Saturday 6 June at Abriachan Forest Trust from 1000 – 1300.** Available

**Tayside OWL Group**

**Event Calendar**

**Tracking workshop led by Dan Puplett**

**Dan Puplett is a naturalist, outdoor educator and certified wildlife tracker.**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**10am - 4pm**

**@The Shed, Kinnoull Hill, Perth**

**Tracking is an ancient skill that engages all our senses and helps to develop observation, memory, empathy and deduction abilities. Once we start to unravel a tracking mystery, we find ourselves becoming aware of, and understanding more about, mammals, birds, trees, insects, weather and many other aspects of the natural world.**

**In this FREE workshop you will learn how to identify a wide range of animal tracks and signs, and will also come away with some tracking games and activities for outdoor learning.**

*Photos: Feeding signs and badger track - both Dan Puplett copyright*



**Arrive for registration and refreshments at 10 am, for a 10.30 am workshop start.**

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided with a suggested donation of £1 to cover expenses.

Wear warm waterproof clothing – we will be outdoors!

We will enjoy a fire to sit around at lunchtime - please bring your own lunch.

Priority will be given to Tayside OWL Group members and wider OWL Scotland group members. Book soon to secure a place! Booking closes by 20th March 2020, or sooner if fully booked.

Email Penny Martin [penmartin@btinternet.com](mailto:penmartin@btinternet.com)

Our final event of the 2019/20 session will be a networking session on 25th April 2020 at Kinnoul Education Shed.

## West Fife OWL Group

**West Fife OWL Group Workshops 2020**  
**All workshops will run from 4- 5.30pm and are**  
**FREE unless otherwise stated**

*All courses aimed at those working with children in the outdoors at any level.*

**March 11th- Kelly Kettles** with Jenny Ventham.

Venue: Blairadam forest, Clentry near Kelty. Meet 4pm at Blairadam depot. KY4 0JQ.  
Boost confidence in safe use of Kelly kettles and fires. This course is approved by Fife Council Health and Safety. Please bring a mug. Tea and coffee will be provided. Free

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – Outdoor Food Hygiene** with Julia Mackay. **Whole Day Saturday – cost £60**  
(note – this course costs £110 but is subsidised by West Fife OWL)

Venue: Blairadam forest, Clentry near Kelty. Meet 9am at Blairadam depot. KY4 0JQ.  
How to prepare and cook food safely in the outdoors. A Certificate in Food Hygiene will be presented to successful participants.

**April 21st (Tues) – Archeology** with OWL Scotland's Bonnie Maggio

Venue: Blairadam Forest, Clentry near Kelty. Meet 4pm at Blairadam Depot KY4 0JQ.  
Which significant features of our local landscape are man-made by our predecessors?

**May 5th – World Beneath Your Feet** with OWL Scotland's Sally York

Venue: Blairadam forest, Clentry near Kelty. Meet 4pm at Blairadam depot. KY4 0JQ.  
Connecting soils with the curriculum. Learn about the components of soil and how it is made. Conduct experiments with drainage, create artwork, explore science. Each participant will receive a resource pack.

**June 9th – Wolf Brother** with OWL Scotland's Sally York

Venue: Blairadam forest, Clentry near Kelty. Meet 4pm at Blairadam depot. KY4 0JQ.  
Imagine Mesolithic life in Scotland's forests. Using literacy in the Outdoors. Each participant will receive a resource pack.



West Fife OWL Group have 3 different resource kits which are available to borrow. Each kit contains enough materials for a class of up to 30 pupils and can be loaned out for an initial period of two weeks. One of our committee members has kindly offered to drop off and collect kits.

**Den building Kit:** contains a selection of tarpaulins, rope, string, bungees, tent pegs, clothes pegs- add some trees and you have everything you need for a team building challenge.

**Fire Kit:** contains a folding portable fire pit, Kelly Kettle, Fire steels, water container, fire blanket, fire proof gloves and first aid kit.

**Pond Dipping Kit:** contains 6 white plastic specimen trays, 6 long handled nets, a selection of pots to allow children to observe pond life in close-up and FSC Freshwater identification guides. Can also be used in shallow streams and rock pools.  
(Kit photos attached)

To borrow a kit, please email the group on [westfifeowl@gmail.com](mailto:westfifeowl@gmail.com) giving your name, School, kit(s) wanted and date required.

During 2018-19 we ran several twilight workshops on a variety of topics: Worms & Soils; Risks & Benefits of Outdoor Play; Tools; Kelly Kettles; Seashore; Managing Landscapes and Natural Weaving. Here are a few photos from the Natural Weaving workshop with local Fife artist Bethany Snaddon.

## NEWS

### Links with Higher or Further Education Institutions

The Scottish Outdoor Learning Research Hub group are keen to develop and share outdoor learning research and practice across the network in Scotland. Are you an OWL Group which has active links with, or is close to a Further/ Higher Education Institution? If so, please get in touch with Penny Martin (Outdoor Learning Advisor SNH) E: [Penny.Martin@nature.scot](mailto:Penny.Martin@nature.scot)

## Events

### OUTDOOR RECREATION NETWORK CONFERENCE

OWL Scotland are supporting the @OutdoorRecreationNetwork “Engaging Children & Young People with Nature and Outdoors” Conference being hosted by Forestry and Land Scotland 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Why not join us at The Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh to learn about:

- Changes and emerging trends in how young people spend their leisure time
- Effective interventions to increase engagement of young people with nature and the outdoors
- Good practice that engages young people in the outdoors through taking part in taster sessions and site visits
- And make the most of a wealth of opportunities to network and share practice.

It would be great to see you there – visit [outdoorrecreation.org.uk](http://outdoorrecreation.org.uk) for full conference programme and booking details.



## Funding

We are delighted to announce that the [Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Grant Scheme](#) is open for applications. £81,000 is available for projects which support the sustainable development of our communities and the area's natural, cultural and built heritage.

The scheme is open to a range of organisations – including voluntary or community groups, schools and public funded bodies – as well as local businesses and individuals to help support projects that deliver against one or more of the [outcomes](#) listed in the [National Park Partnership Plan](#).

Examples of previously funded projects include: Native hedge and tree planting Renovating traditional barns to help diversify a farming business Developing skills in angling/rivercraft, travel/tourism, insects/wildlife, stone masonry Tackling invasive non-native species Creating a permaculture garden to inspire local food production Restoring an historic building of public or economic significance Feasibility study to run a bike-hire social enterprise Scoping the development of a heritage trail Architectural, survey or design services to develop a tourism or community facility Improving the public realm through public art, interpretation, community garden

Grant scheme funding recently enabled [Forth Rivers Trust](#) to hold an 'Intro to Angling' event for young people in Callander to learn more about fishing and bankside safety.

## Other news

### **Check out the latest Outdoor Learning news from Scotland**

Have a look at [Outdoor Learning Directory news page](#), where you'll find fresh updates, including news and resources from the Learning in Local Greenspace project.  
<http://outdoorlearningdirectory.com/index.php/news/>

### Recipe of the month

#### *Caramel Apple Bomb*

Ingredients (make 4 portions)

Apples

Caramel sweets

Foil

- Cut the apple in half.
- Remove the core
- Place caramel sweet in the space left of one half.



- Place both halves of the apple together.
- Double wrap the apple in foil.
- Cook in the banked camp fire for approximately 30 minutes until the apple has baked.
- Open the foil carefully, allow to cool and enjoy.

### Quote of the month

*“Anything you teach in an indoor classroom can be taught outdoors, often in ways that are more enjoyable for children”*

Cathy James

### Activity of the Month

#### *Habitat/Deadhead Fence*



Create a habitat that will become home to a micro menagerie!

Chose the site for your fencing which can be any size or length, e.g. as a boundary for a school edible garden.

Collect some hard wood poles or sticks such as Hazel.

Cut them to the height of the fence you want allowing for part of the pole/stick to be placed into the ground.

You can sharpen the ends before driving them into the ground in a line, leaving spaces in between.

The size of the space will depend on the height and length of your fence.

You can make an extra wide fence by making another line parallel to the first, with a space in between, for filling in with brash.

Collect some more long, flexible whips and sticks and weave them horizontally and haphazardly between the vertical poles/sticks.

Once you have enough structure experiment with brash to fill in the gaps. Small branches, cones, fallen leaves, etc, will provide useful homes and habitats for creatures as they rot down.

This fence will rot like a tree stump, enabling and creating biodiversity.

### Fact of the Month

Did you know that bees or the wind pollinate most plants in the world?

### Collective noun of the month

A cast of falcons.

### Species of the Month

#### *Coal tit / Periparus ater*

Coal tits prefer conifer woodland, particularly during the breeding season.

Although they resemble the larger great tit, they can be identified by the white stripe down the back of the head and the light brown flanks.

The Coal Tit is our smallest member of the Tit family. It is a regular garden bird and will visit feeders and tables frequently. If you use peanut feeders, you'll have a good chance of attracting one. especially if there are Pines or Spruce trees nearby.

Coal Tits are busy, hyperactive little birds. Both sexes are alike, with tail and wings being a pale blue grey.

Wings show two white wing bars along with white tips to the tertial feathers. The back and mantle are the same blue grey colour of the wings. The head is black and white and has large white cheek patches. The most important identification feature is the white nape patch on the back of the head, the rest of the head is black, including the chin. The underparts are a lovely buffy thorn colour, sometimes looking salmon pink in bright sunshine. The bill is black, longer than Blue's and fragile looking, legs are dark grey, eye black.

Juveniles appear from the end of April onwards and look like a washed-out adult. Coal Tits live for about 2 years, have 1 to 2 clutches during their breeding life.

The Coal Tit is a very abundant breeding resident in the UK with around 600,000 pairs. The Coal Tit occurs in all counties throughout the UK. Coal Tits will nest in manmade nest boxes, these should be placed 2-4 metres up and facing North/East.

Coal Tits occur in all habitat types throughout the UK, however they do prefer conifers, pines, spruce woodlands, parks, gardens, farmland, hedgerows and any open country habitat with suitable scrub. In the garden, Coal Tits love peanuts, insects, seed mixes, mealworms, suet and fat balls.

Coal Tits have a few call notes; most often is a buzzy, 'tuu tee tuu e' which is repeated. Song is a loud repeated trill, similar to Great Tits.....'pitchoo pitchoo pitchoo pitchoo'  
[www.twootz.com](http://www.twootz.com)

### **Plant of the Month**

*Whitebeam / Sorbus aria*

Whitebeam is a deciduous broadleaf tree that is compact and domed. Mature trees can grow to a height of 15m.

The bark and twigs are smooth and grey, and the shoots are brick red in sunlight but greyish-green in shade. The oval, serrated-edged leaves are softly hairy underneath and dark green and shiny on top.

Identified in winter by the young twigs which start hairy and become smooth later. Only the edges of the buds are hairy.

Leaf buds are green and pointed and leaf stalks are short. Leaves are thick, oval and irregularly toothed, with the underneath covered in white, felt-like hair. When the leaves first unfold, they look like magnolia flowers. They fade to a rich russet colour before falling in autumn.

Whitebeam is hermaphrodite, meaning each flower contains both male and female reproductive parts. The five-petalled flowers appear in clusters in May and are pollinated by insects.

Flowers develop into scarlet berries, which ripen in late summer or autumn. These can be eaten in the same way as rowan, in jellies and jams.

The flowers are pollinated by insects and the berries are favoured by birds. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of several moths.

Whitebeam timber is fine-grained, hard and white. Traditional uses included wood turning and fine joinery, including chairs, beams, cogs and wheels in machinery.

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



**Contact:**

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

**Or contact us:**

**Bonnie Maggio**  
**Education Programme Manager**  
**Scottish Forestry**  
**231 Corstorphine Road**  
**Edinburgh EH12 7AT**

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

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