



Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland Bulletin

June 2018

Welcome to the OWL Scotland bulletin which contains content from the Outdoor Learning Wales bulletin– Thank you to OLV 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

OWL Scotland – National News

Informal Summer Networking Event (And Chairs Meeting)

We are holding a **free informal summer networking event** on Monday 6th August 10am – Tuesday 7th August 10am camping at Pillars of Hercules Organic Farm at Falkland in Fife. There will be skill sharing and an opportunity for informal networking. Bring your own lunch and breakfast and camping gear – you can camp from Sunday 5th. The event is open to and free for OWL Cluster Group members – but is by booking only. We have places left. To book please email owlsotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk with your name, address, mobile number and OWL Group. If you are coming as a group (and sharing a tent) please book together so that we can allocate tent space accordingly. Closing date for bookings is July 1st. You are welcome to bring your partners/family but we ask that you book and pay for your camping separately with Pillars if you plan to do this (Book a plot in the “Bankings”).



Workshop at Summer Networking Event 2017

2018 SCOTLAND'S FINEST WOODS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED!



The Schools Award Trophy

At a fantastic Awards' Ceremony over 120 people attended to hear the announcement of the Judges' decisions. Those awarded were carefully selected after the judging teams' visits to over 30 short-listed entries submitted to the 2018 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards.

Competition was fierce following an outstanding field of entries with an extremely high quality and variety of entries received from across Scotland.

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for forestry congratulated the winners presenting them with their impressive trophies, cheques, special cherry wood commemorative plaques, certificates and for the schools a high resolution scientific magnifying glass called a 'MagPost' as well as fantastic seed pack and a framed photograph.

OWL Scotland work in partnership with SFWA on The Schools Award which was highly contested again this year with a good number of outstanding applications from a variety of schools. The winning schools attended the awards ceremony at The Royal Highland Show to collect their prizes.

The winners for the Schools Award were as follows:

Winner of the Crown Estate Schools Trophy: St. Mary's School, Melrose





St Mary's tree nursery trees

Joint Runners up: Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral Primary School and Nursery, Motherwell **and** The Secret Garden Outdoor Nursery, Letham, Near Cupar, Fife





(Award Ceremony and Trophy photos by ©Julie Broadfoot - www.juliebee.co.uk)

Local OWL Events and News:

Greater Glasgow OWL Group (GROWL)

GROWL News

A Coastal Foraging Day with Mark Williams is planned for our Spring/Summer CPD event.
A Tracking Day with Dan Puplett is planned for our Autumn CPD event.

2018 Calendar

August	Meeting
September	Tracking
October	Meeting
November	Meeting
December	Social gathering

Meetings are generally held on or around the 8th of the month from 7pm, venue TBA
– please Like and follow our FB page for more info.

Dumfries and Galloway OWL Group

Jenny Stephenson from the Dumfries and Galloway OWL group has produced an excellent short film about introducing children to Permaculture. Please follow the link to view the film: [Children in Permaculture](#)

South Highland OWL Group

Follow our FACEBOOK page on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHighlandOWL>

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 in the area. All workshops are **FREE** and counts for **CPD** time for all teachers.

Choose from the list on the right and:

Send name(s) & establishment to: julietpcrobinson@gmail.com.

I will then send a confirmation and location map for each workshop.

SHOWL/LfS Networking Event will be held on Monday 17th September at Inverness Royal Academy with Juliet Robertson as key note speaker. This is being organised in conjunction with Highland Council.

West Fife OWL Group

Pupils enjoying a den making session with one of the Den Kits available to borrow from West Fife OWL Group.



Group Kit

We have three different kits available to borrow:

Pond Dipping;
Den Building
and Fire.

Each kit contains enough resources for a whole class and can be borrowed from our store at Culross Primary. Please call the school beforehand to check availability.

New Groups!

We are delighted to announce that 3 new OWL Groups are starting up in South Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Forth Valley.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these groups please email Bonnie.Maggio@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

New Resources:

Hot off the press! Tree Measuring – Connecting Trees with Curriculum for Excellence. This new resource supersedes our previous Tree Measuring resources building on them and providing a progression of learning from 3 to Senior Phase. You can order it through our distributors (see resources leaflet – link below) using stock code FCMS140.

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



TREE MEASURING

Connecting Trees with Curriculum for Excellence



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.

REMINDER

Kelly Kettles should never be boiled with the bung/stopper/cork in as this could result in serious injury. These are intended to contain the water for carrying. As a safety precaution you can remove the bung/stopper/cork altogether from the Kelly kettle and store it separately. Please see the Fire Guidance for OWL Groups.

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>

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

Training

13th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2018 - Finland

We have the pleasure to invite you to the 13th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2018 to Finland Pudasjärvi 2 – 5 October 2018. The theme is “TOGETHER – How to involve and participate children and youth in learning, decision making and planning “. The Congress is a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the field of forest pedagogy.

This time we are welcomed to the largest log-built school structure in the world, [The Log Campus in Pudasjärvi](#), and to Youth and leisure centre [Pikku-Syöte](#). Following the theme teachers and pupils from Pudasjärvi Log campus will join us in seminars, workshops and activities during the first congress day, 3 October.

Registration is open until 7 September.
The final programme will be on the website on 1 July.
Registration for the workshops will be opened 3 – 12 September.

Congress fee: Early-bird fee is 200 € until 2 September and after that 225 €. The fee covers the programme, meals during the Congress and bus transport from Oulu and Pudasjärvi (turn and return). Breakfasts are included in the price of accommodation.

Accommodation will be in Pikku-Syöte. It has to be booked separately and is not covered by the fee. More information about the venue and accommodation is [here](#).
Travelling to Oulu: [some information](#)

We wish to see many of you in Pudasjärvi!
Please, send this invitation widely to your networks, colleagues and friends.

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](#).

This Scottish Youth Hostel Association fund is available for schools and youth groups to support accommodation and full catering costs for up to 3 nights in any of the Hostelling Scotland Youth Hostels. This includes sites in both the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Parks. The closing date for the current round of applications is the 2nd of July 2018. Follow this [link](#) for further information and the application form.

Food for Thought funding

Please see this Education Scotland funding signposted on OL Directory
<http://outdoorlearningdirectory.com/index.php/grants/908>.

Recipe of the month



Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Foil Packets

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 pineapple ring
- 1 maraschino cherry
- 1 round shortcake

vanilla ice cream, optional

- Tear off a 12x12-inch square of nonstick aluminum foil
 - Mound the brown sugar and butter in the center, followed by the pineapple slice and maraschino cherry.
 - Top with the shortcake biscuit round, flat side up
 - Fold in the sides of the foil and seal to form the packet
 - Grill over the campfire for 12-13 minutes
 - To serve, flip the cakes over and top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.
- www.bellyfull.net



Quote of the month

"We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Native American proverb

Activity of the Month

Drip, Drip, Splash!

A fun summer game based on Duck, Duck, Goose.

You will need a soft cup and some water.

Just like traditional Duck, Duck, Goose, everyone sits in a circle and the person who is "it" walks around the outside.

Instead of saying "Duck, Duck, Duck.... Goose," you say "Drip drip drip... Splash!"

Each time you say drip you put your hand in the cup and drip some water off your hand onto each person's head as you go around the circle.

When you choose who you want to chase you around the circle you yell splash and dump the whole cup of water on their head.

That person chases the "splasher" around the circle and back to their spot.

If you get tagged you must fill the cup up from whatever water supply is available e.g. garden hose, large bucket of water, and then continue the game.

Fact of the Month

Did you know that the month of June is named after the Roman goddess Juno?

Collective noun of the month

A squabble of seagulls

Species of the Month

Oystercatcher

Oystercatchers are hard to miss. They are large black and white wading birds, with long, orange-red bills and reddish-pink legs. When they are in flight, they have an obvious white wing-stripe, a black tail and a white rump that extends as a 'V' between the wings. You often hear them before you see them, thanks to their loud 'peep-ing' call.

Britain supports an internationally important number of wintering oystercatchers with up to 45 per cent of Europe's population choosing to spend the winter here. Overall, the breeding population has increased but there has been some significant local declines, reasons for which are unclear. Due to this, oystercatchers are Amber-listed in the UK and classed as Vulnerable in Europe as a whole.

During the winter, oystercatchers are still very much a bird of tidal estuaries and rocky shores. During the breeding season, however, they can be found much further inland thanks to populations moving along linear waterways.



Despite their name the main diet of the oystercatcher seldom involves oysters. They predominantly eat bivalves, including cockles and mussels.

Individuals have two main techniques for handling their difficult prey. Some, which have shorter, blunter bills, specialise in hammering the prey through the shell. Others, with longer, pointier bills, prise the two

shells apart.

The longevity record for an oystercatcher stands at 40 years, one month and two days.
www.discoverwildlife.com

Plant of the Month

Timothy grass / Phleum pratense

This is a popular agricultural grass, also known as common cats tail, found across the UK, found in pasture grasslands, meadows and on the side of roads. It is common in a lot of pet feed and many people are allergic to its pollen.

Characterised by the cylindrical flower head, Timothy grass grows in clumps that can be as big as 1 metre high. with smooth and hairless leaves that are pale green in colour, young leaves are rolled and become flat and pointed over time.

Flowers are located on the end of a stalk and they are densely packed into a cylinder. This cylinder is formed of tiny horned spikelets. Timothy grass is visible all year round and flowers from June until September, not to be confused with meadow foxtail which flowers earlier in the year from April until June.



The caterpillars of some butterfly species use timothy grass as a food plant. It is also part of important grassland habitats that are essential for invertebrate species.

This plant was named after Timothy Hanson who introduced it into agriculture in the southern states of America. It is now commonly grown for hay as feed for several different animals. Its main benefit is this species of grass grows quickly.

The pollen of timothy grass is a common allergen and has been used in the creation of a hay fever vaccine.

Reduction in meadow habitat is the biggest threat to this species however it remains to be a common species throughout the UK and Europe.
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Contact:

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

Or contact us:

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