



Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland Bulletin

September 2018

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.gsi.gov.uk

OWL Scotland – National News

Joint seminar held with Slovenian Network of Forest Kindergartens and Schools.

In August Bonnie Maggio , OWL Scotland Manager and Sally York, Education Policy Advisor FCS travelled to Slovenia to contribute to the international seminar – “Nature and Children Know no Bounds.”

Pedagogical work in a forest, forest pedagogics, forest kindergartens, implementing the curriculum in natural environments are trends which have been gaining importance. Since 2012, Slovenian kindergartens and schools that have incorporated forest pedagogy into their programmes have been united in the Slovenian Network of Forest Kindergartens and Schools, which is led by the Institute for Forest Pedagogics. Currently, over 100 educational institutions from Slovenia and its neighbouring countries are united in the Network. The ways in which forest pedagogy has been incorporated into the regular programmes of Slovenian kindergartens and schools are diverse and unique, just as our forests and children are. Owing to its own development path, Slovenia is becoming a good practice example in the broader European area. Bonnie and Sally were invited to share their knowledge of practice from Scotland with the 50 teachers who attended the event over 2 days giving keynote speeches and running workshops on Soils, Outdoor Numeracy, Biodiversity for Early years and Outdoor Archaeological Learning.



Biodiversity for Early Years workshop

Local OWL Events and News:

Ayrshire OWL Group

Innovative Launch of Ayrshire Outdoor and Woodland Learning (Ayrshire OWL) group

Earlier this year, an Ayrshire Outdoor and Woodland Learning (Ayrshire OWLs) group was constituted. It is part of the wider Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland network

<https://www.owlscotland.org/>

OWL Scotland aims to increase the opportunities for learning outdoors by

- Providing first hand learning experience
- Increasing knowledge, skills and understanding of outdoor environments
- Promote Learning for Sustainability
- Increasing recognition of the health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor learning

Membership of the Ayrshire OWLs group is open to individuals and organisations interested in taking an active part in the work of the group – principally sharing good practice.

We are launching Ayrshire OWLs with a Twitter event, #GoAOWL. Starting on 21st September, we will set daily challenges for people interested in joining the group. Challenges, we hope, will be fun, send us out to explore what Ayrshire has to offer OL and get the ball rolling for an active and inclusive group.

There is a prize for the most inventive, inspiring and comprehensive set of responses to the 15 challenges - a free place at the 2019 Teachers' Dirty Weekend due to be held <https://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/scotland/millport.aspx> on 1st/2nd March.

If you are new to Twitter go to <https://twitter.com/> to sign up for an account. Follow @AyrshireOwls and search #GoAOWL. Include #GoAOWL in your Tweet and we will be able to find you.

Looking forward to seeing you on Twitter!

Borders OWL Group

19 people from across the Borders, East Lothian and Dumfries and Galloway attended the Borders Owls Skills Share and **Networking weekend** on 8th and 9th September. We were treated to workshops on Natural Fibres, Knife Skills, Goethean Observation and Nordic Slinging and some of the skills shared included star gazing, needle felting and elder bead making.

It was great to make connections with new faces and old and we added a few new members to our mailing list. It was a very special weekend at a beautiful site and we can't wait for the next one.



Greater Glasgow OWL Group (GROWL)

GROWL have three CPD workshops coming up - free to GROWL members:

Tracking workshop Sat 17 November 2018 led by Dan Puplett (please see attached flyer)

Outdoor First Aid Sat/Sun 8-9 December 2018 led by BASP UK Ltd

Foraging workshop Sun 21 July 2019 led by Mark from Galloway Wild Foods

To book, you must be a member of GROWL. Email hello@glasgowowl.com for more information about becoming a member or to book.

The GROWL Development Officer has been focusing on building an online directory which will map all the Outdoor and Woodland Learning providers and practitioners in the Glasgow region. If you live or work in the area (either personally or via an organisation), please fill in [this survey](#), to automatically become a GROWL member giving you access to CPD training, use of kit and to appear on our online directory (optional). We have also been developing our membership scheme, our fundraising proposal system and events programme and improving in general the way we operate.

Tayside OWL Group

Out in the woods - A screening of "Resilience" film and a workshop exploration of the benefits of the outdoors in helping children build resilience.

Saturday 20th October 10am- 3pm in and around The Shed, Kinnoull Hill

Arrive between 9.45 and 10 am and grab a hot drink and fruit/biscuit and be ready to discuss our ground rules for the day and to share what we hope to get from the day before a screening of the Resilience movie at 10.30am. After the film we will share our initial thoughts on the impact of the film on ourselves and our practice.

We will break for lunch (please bring a packed lunch- tea and coffee and fruit and biscuits available all day) from 12-12.45 pm

After lunch we will spend some time doing a short mindfulness exercise before a practical session exploring some of the issues around working with children from a therapeutic perspective in natural environments. We will break into small workshop groups (refreshments in hand) to look at how we can build the ideas seen in the film into our outdoor practice and will finish around 3pm with a group discussion and a thought provoking final practical activity.

Relevant books will be available throughout the day. Although we are focussing primarily on children we encourage everyone to think about their colleagues, the parents they work with and themselves in terms of being aware of the impact of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) as explored in the film.

The session will be led by Tayside OWL group members Anne-Marie Mackin who works primarily in Out of School Care and as a Trainer/Assessor with Early Years and Playworkers

and Cath Latham, a Social Worker with a keen interest in working with Foster Carers in a therapeutic way in a natural environment.

Places are free but limited so booking is essential, please email taysideowlgroup@gmail.com for more information and to book your place.

Edinburgh OWL Group

Tool Maintenance



Tool Maintenance Workshop

On Sunday October 21st -11.30 to 2.30

Ruairidh from Fly Agric will lead a 2 hour workshop on how to maintain and sharpen all sorts of tools. Bring old tools with you for this workshop, these might include axes, secateurs, shears, knives. If you have sharpening stones and strops bring these too-although a number of stones will be provided.

This event will be held at Youth Vision in the Pentland Hills, Meet at Harlaw Carpark near Balerno at 11.15 and walk in-(takes 20 minutes)

Sat Nav info-EH14 7AS

We plan to have a quick lunch at Youth Vision-bring food to share with you, and then the workshop will start at 12.30

Cost £5 for members, £10 for non-members-you can join on the day.

Please e-mail Ros Marshall at rosmarshall@yahoo.com for information or booking.

www.facebook.com/Outdoor-and-Woodland-Learning-Edinburgh-OWLS

South Highland OWL Group



A Breath of Fresh Air - Highland Outdoor Learning Festival

We had a wonderful networking event on Mon 17th September (in-service day) at Inverness Royal Academy. This networking event was a partnership between SHOWL and Highland Council. Over 100 teachers and outdoor practitioners attended. The event began with an inspiring key-note talk by Juliet Robertson of Creative Star Learning. She outlined how to raise attainment through outdoor learning. We all then headed outside to the school grounds and nearby woodland. Over the rest of the morning and afternoon, attendees took part in a selection of 10 workshops which included Messy maths, Woodland webs, Campfire cooking, Literacy outdoors and Outdoors with no props. Workshop leaders included rangers, botanists, teachers and staff from environmental agencies. Everyone agreed that they found the event very informative and inspiring, and even the weather was kind!

Programme for winter 2018 and spring/summer 2019 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 below and send your name & establishment to julietprobinson@gmail.com who will then send a confirmation and location map for each workshop.

1. Into the Mountain: Embodied Environments

Join artist and choreographer Simone Kenyon for a practical workshop on sensory explorations of place, inspired by the writing of Nan Shepherd.

Saturday 20 October 2018 at Cairngorm Mountain (top ski car-park £2 per car) from 1000 – 1300.

2. Learning from Scandinavia

Join Highlife Highland Ranger Saranne Bish for an informal session about the Finnish education system and their approach to outdoor learning.

Saturday 17 November 2018 in Strathspey (location tbc) from 10.00 – 11.30.

3. Wildlife Gardens

Join Sarah Walker of RSPB to share a collection of simple wildlife garden ideas to help 'Give Nature a Home' in your school garden.

Saturday 23 February 2019 in Inverness (location tbc) from 10.00 – 13.00.

4. Outdoor Food Preparation

Join us for informal training on the basics of food hygiene for use in campfire cooking in the outdoors.

Saturday 23 March 2019 at Culloden Woods from 10.00 – 13.00. *Max no of 12.*

5. Foraging and outdoor learning

Join Dan Puplett to explore the fascinating world of wild food. Learn the essentials of safe, sustainable foraging and some tasty and surprising recipes.

Saturday 18 May in Inverness (location tbc) from 10.00 – 16.00. *Max no of 14.*

6. Art of Pewter Casting

Join Lara Greene for an intensive day of working with pewter drop casting on an open fire. Back due to popular demand –book early!

Saturday 22 June in Strathspey (location tbc) from 10.00 – 15.30. *Max no of 12.*

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

Follow our FACEBOOK page: www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHighlandOWL

West Fife OWL Group

Don't miss our AGM

Thursday 25th October 4-5pm

At Fordell Firs

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.

North East OWL Group

OWLNEG Networking Event, Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen Sunday 7th October 2018

Aimed at practitioners working with Early Years and Primary-aged children, wishing to gain new skills, knowledge and to network, this event offers workshops led by Forest School Level 3 Practitioners and trainers followed by facilitated discussions round a campfire. Workshops include Literacy & Numeracy/ Loose Parts Play birth to P7/ Forest School Crafts Fire and cooking. For more information and booking E: Lindsey Duncan lindseymjduncan@yahoo.co.uk

NEWS

Consultation on a Forestry Strategy for Scotland

A public consultation on a Forestry Strategy for Scotland was opened on 20 September 2018. It closes on 29th November and responses will be used to inform the content and structure of the final strategy.

The draft strategy for consultation underpins the Scottish Government's ambitions for forestry and has sustainable forest management at its core. It builds on and modernises the approach undertaken in previous forestry strategies, providing a 10-year framework for action to help achieve a 50-year vision for Scotland's woodlands and forests.

We would encourage everyone who is interested in the future of Scotland's woodlands and forests to participate.

The consultation can be accessed at <https://consult.gov.scot/forestry/scotlands-forestry-strategy-2019-29>

Research Document - Outdoor learning: closing the attainment gap in primary schoolchildren in Scotland

This Research Note compares the performances of 71 primary schoolchildren carrying out curricular tasks in outdoor and indoor classroom settings. By observing, recording and analysing how the children performed in group activities taken from the Scottish curriculum, an evaluation could be made of the relative merits of indoor and outdoor learning. In general, the results show that the outdoors environment had a more positive impact on individual and group performance than the indoor classroom. The effect of the outdoor setting on underachieving pupils was particularly notable, improving their engagement, contribution and self-confidence to match that of their peers. The results also indicate that the indoor classroom setting was less motivating, especially for those children with learning difficulties. By contrast, the richness of the outdoor setting provided an equitable learning environment where both younger and older children thrived, not only as a place where they were able to think creatively and work independently, but one where they could also learn how to collaborate and effectively solve problems with others in their groups. Furthermore, it helped them develop an appreciation of their own abilities and the natural world around them. Therefore, increasing the use of outdoor learning through national policy-making will support cognitive and social development in primary schoolchildren, and help close the attainment gap in Scottish education.

Working Forests' Campaign

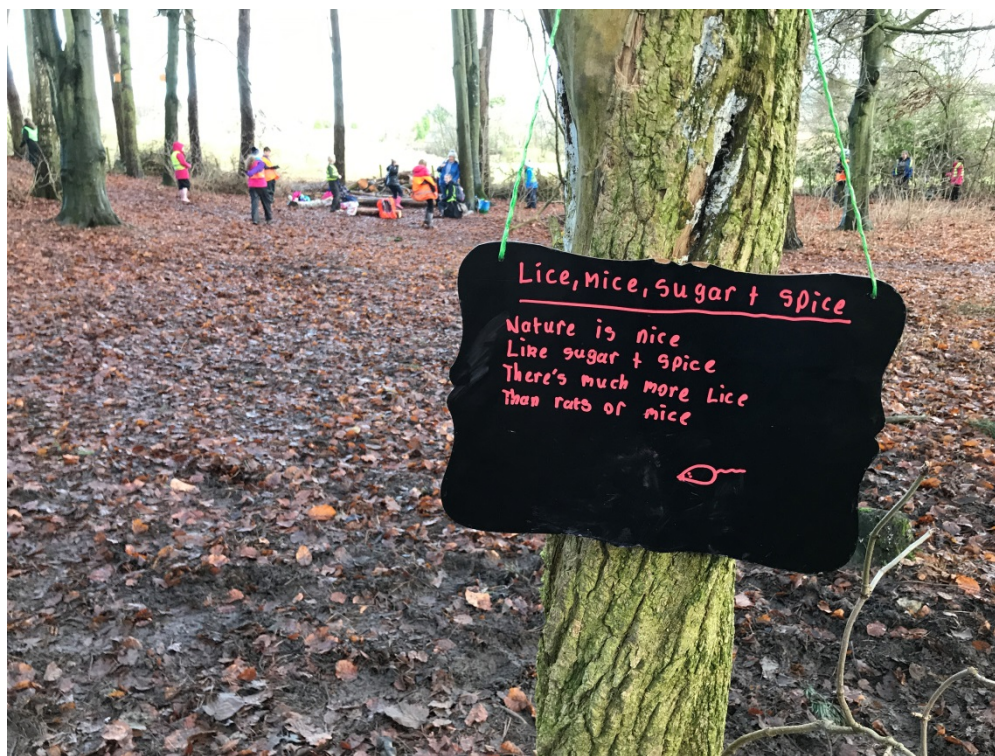
Forestry Commission Scotland has released a new forest safety interactive story aimed at children. It supports the 'working forests' campaign.

<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

Woodland Poetry Course



RSPB Scotland outdoor learning for educators on Saturday 6th October 2018 from 10am to 12.30pm at Quarrymill Woodland Park, Perth.

This informal training session is aimed at teachers and others working within an education or learning setting. Join us as we mark National Poetry Day 2018 with a morning of outdoor poetry, risk management and nature play in the woods. Followed with the option to stay and share a campfire lunch. For more information and to book your FREE place please call 01577 862355 or email miranda.shephard@rspb.org.uk

Wild Sparks Outdoor Play & Learning courses

Autumn 2018 Training Programme

Welcome to autumn term 2018! We hope you had a wonderful summer. Here at Wild Sparks we've been busy with our holiday play scheme, gaining further insight and first-hand experience into the multi-faceted benefits of free play outdoors. Each day Children showed us their incredible capacity to problem solve, work together, resolve conflict and generally apply their skills, knowledge and creativity to whatever a long, uninterrupted day in the forest threw at them. I have no doubt that each of these

children will return to school more confident, more inspired and ready to learn.

This Autumn we are offering some brand new courses with a specific focus on embracing risk and stepping back to let children lead. Courses are suitable for anyone working with nursery and primary aged children throughout the childcare, play and education sector.

All our courses are led by Wild Sparks' staff currently working as outdoor play and learning practitioners. We bring an up to date and working knowledge of the challenges and benefits of taking groups outside; each training day will feature lots of peer to peer learning and collaborative thinking.

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

Outdoor Learning in Nature Fund

This fund opens for applications on 26 September 2018. The closing date for applications is midnight on 31 October 2018. Further information including Round 2 Information for Applicants document is available via the link below. Round 2 is specifically targeted at Tier 2 activity which supports the Learning in Local Greenspace Project in the following local authority areas - Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh, Dundee City, East Ayrshire, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian. Registered charities, constituted organisations and local authorities are invited to submit proposals that will support a minimum of 4 schools to take learning outdoors, starting in spring 2019 and ending no later than December 2020. More information can be found on the link below:

[Outdoor Learning in Nature Fund \(Round 2\)](#)

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](#).

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

Muddy Glue



Not for eating but if you don't like using PVA for outside craft and sticking activities why not try this instead?

3 parts corn flour to 1-part water.

Cook in a pan and allow to cool

You can add essence drops to make it smell nice and food colouring to make it look fun at this stage.

Store in the fridge after use.

Muddy glue will last about a week but once dried it sticks things on things like super glue!

Quote of the month

"Going barefoot in nature helps to develop normal gait patterns, balance, and tolerance of touch in the feet, all of which provide a strong foundation for confident and fluid movement."

Angela Hanscom

Activity of the Month

Natural Paint Brushes

You will need:

Sticks

Interesting pieces of

Elastic bands (or string)



nature

Collecting pieces of nature for this activity is half the fun. Go on a walk and see what interesting things you can find. Look for different textures and patterns. Talk about which pieces of nature you think will make good prints.

Attach a piece of nature to each of your sticks using an elastic band (or a piece of string).

To avoid breaking your pieces of nature put the elastic bands onto the sticks first and then slide your pieces of nature into the bands. Make sure the elastic bands aren't too tight. You may need more than one band to keep your nature in place.

Then try out the brushes using watered down mud or poster paint and compare the outcomes.

www.messylittlemonster.com

Fact of the Month

Did you know that bats can eat up to 1200 mosquitos in an hour and eat their body weight in insects every night?

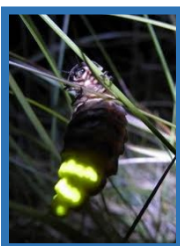


Collective noun of the month

A group of beetles is called a possi

Species of the Month

Glow worms / *Lampyris noctiluca*



The glow worm is not at all worm-like but is a beetle up to 25 mm long. Adult glow worms can't feed, so they live only for 14-21 days.

Only the wingless female glows strongly for a few weeks, to attract the flying males. Once a female glow worm has mated, she turns out her light, lays eggs and dies.

After a few weeks the eggs hatch into larvae, and they remain as larvae for one or two further summers, feeding on small snails which they paralyse before sucking them empty. The two or three-year gap between a mating and the subsequent appearance of an adult helps to explain why you may find plenty on a site one year, yet few or none the next.

The larvae usually only glow for a few seconds at a time from two small points on the rear underside of their tail segments. They often move around slowly in search of prey, using their tail segments to help themselves along a bit like a caterpillar.

Adults glow brightly and continuously from large areas on the final two segments with smaller spots on the final segment. These insects are rarely seen by day

The adult female has a completely matt black back with a thin, pale line down the centre. The adult male is smaller and has black wing covers.

Glow-worms have been seen across the UK from May to September, with the peak glowing period in June and July. Often seen in gardens, hedgerows, railway embankments, cliffs, woodland rides, heathland and even valleys in Wales!

The light from glow worms is a form of bioluminescence. It is caused when a molecule called luciferin is oxydised to produce oxyluciferin, with the enzyme luciferase acting as a catalyst in the reaction. Adults do not have the same control over the oxygen supply of many fireflies, which can switch their lights on and off in an instant and take minutes to switch on or off.

Larvae, however, have smaller light-emitting organs and can twinkle briefly. Male glow worms have the same ability, but it is rare to see them glow.

www.glowworms.org.uk

Plant of the Month

Golden samphire / *Inula crithmoides*



This attractive plant is a perennial coastal species usually found on cliffs and salt-marsh.

It flowers from late July until September.

The yellow flowers are about an inch wide, with thick, green, fleshy leaves. The large flower heads have six yellow ray florets which may be up to 15 cm across. The flowers are self-fertile (able to pollinate themselves) and may also be pollinated by bees, flies and beetles. The plant grows to about 12 to 16 inches high.

Young leaves can be eaten raw or cooked as a leaf vegetable

www.beachguide.wales

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!)