

greenscene

sustainable development news for teachers



This issue is about

issue 11

school grounds

spring term 2002

School grounds are such a versatile resource for learning...

through specific environments like ponds or wildflower areas, wooded areas, an area with scented plants, or by growing vegetables to learn about food and diet, or you might want an outdoor theatre, a barbecue area, a shaded quiet area, a willow dome, an orchard of native species fruit trees, or you might want to link with the local community, look at local distinctiveness, or connect with local allotments...

.... the possibilities are endless

Here is what some schools in Norfolk are doing

Norman First School have an after-school gardening club. They've been composting, looking at minibeasts, making birdboxes, planting bulbs and sprouting broccoli, collecting seeds and even making elderflower cordial.

Contact Jackie Honour
c/o 01603 427758

Children at **Sprowston Middle** have been working in their **wildlife area** and are about to start creating a vegetable patch and herb garden. They have learnt how to make recycled paper and are using it to make a book about native hedges.

Contact Mrs Massey 01603 425150

Larkman First and Middle Schools' Magic Garden has a veg growing area, a wildlife area and 4 garden clubs. They've discovered coppicing, been pond dipping, and visited local allotments and woodlands.

Contact Dee Harvey 01603 452817

Framingham Earl High's wildlife group

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two really helpful organisations

1. HDRA Organic Network for Schools. It's free to join...

and will give you access to all the information and advice that you need for projects in schools grounds...to start an organic garden, for instance.

You can either join via the website or email your postal address and an information pack will be sent to you. The web address is:

http://www.hdra.org.uk/schools_organic_network/index.htm

You will also receive a quarterly newsletter which is brimfull of examples of work from schools around the country.

2. Learning through Landscapes

have developed a new membership scheme in consultation with schools.

Twice a term you could receive a SCHOOLS' GROUNDS resource pack to keep on file (they send the file) which over time expands to become a valuable reference tool.

The first pack, for instance, contains 'ground notes', case studies, worksheets (eg a crop planner), a list of funding opportunities and a publications catalogue (and more) with file dividers to help get yourselves organised.

Other services that come as part of your membership are:

- * access to free advice and support
- * free loan of slides, videos, posters and CD roms
- * discounts on training and book purchases
- * members' only website pages with free downloadable resources

Cost of membership £50 pa.

seeback page to find out how the new Manager for the Environmental Education Service, Sue Falch-Lovesey, wants to help schools...

training

The Roots of Learning Three 5 day courses for teachers at Schumacher College



The focus is on how teachers can make what they learn during the course integral to their work in the classroom.

Schools, Land and Food

March 23-28, 2002

Practical ideas and activities about food growing and preparation and looking at the diversity of nature.

Education, Ecology and Imagination

October 27- November 1, 2002

Using the imagination to open up to wider educational and ecological concerns.

Designing a Sustainable School Environment

April 12-17, 2003

Checking out alternative technologies to make school buildings and grounds function more ecologically.

There are a maximum number of 25 places per course and the course fee (subsidised) is £250

Please call 01803 865934, or
email: enquiries@schumachercollege.org

Science through the Environment a conference at Girton College, Cambridge, Tues 26 March Using the environment to explore science, for key stages 1 and 2.

For teachers, field study teachers, advisors etc

To book a place call 01780 782386, fax: 01780 783835, or email:

cees.stibbington.centre@education.camcnty.gov.uk
by Friday 1 March 2002. Full fee £75, CEE members get a discount.

Council for Environmental Education (CEE) Events in March include:

6-7 March 2002

Involving Young People in Environmental Projects

Venue: Bishops Wood Environmental Education
Centre, Worcestershire

Cost: £175

8-17 March 2002

National Science Week

This is a UK event celebrating science and its importance to our lives. Coordinated by the British Association for the advancement of science (BA).

Email nationalscienceweek@the-ba.net

Website www.britassoc.org.uk

17 March 2002

Funding for Sustainability Projects

A day's introduction to finding money for small scale practical and educational projects which aim to create more sustainable environments.

Venue: Otley College, Suffolk.

Details: Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY Tel 01473 785543 Fax 01473 785353

Email course.enquiries@otleycollege.ac.uk

Website www.otleycollege.ac.uk

20 March 2002

Education for Sustainable Development Workshop

Venue: Bishops Wood Environmental Education
Centre, Worcestershire

Cost: £80

To contact CEE call 0118 950 2550 or check out their website:

<http://www.cee.org.uk/index.html>

Another date for your diaries

11 - 15 June 2002

National School Grounds Week

**See Learning through Landscapes
website**

www.ltl.org.uk

other websites: www.commonground.org.uk to find out about local distinctiveness, or.....

grants/awards

Greenfingers

Challenge 2002

The **Greenfingers** Challenge is a national gardening competition which aims to involve young people in improving their environment through practical horticultural projects, which are:

- * sustainable
- * essentially practical
- * encourage interaction with the local community
- * in character with the local area

The key to success is in demonstrating a fun, imaginative and practical project of benefit to the neighbourhood which will involve gardening and/or conservation and/or recycling.

The Challenge is not limited to school groups, though the work can usefully be integrated into the curriculum.

Every group participating needs to submit an album of their work.

The deadline for entering is 3 June, 2002.

Prizes are regional; each area winner receives £500 plus a trophy and a certificate.

For the full story, call for a brochure on 01942 612621, or email enquiries@encams.org.



For a fuller list of grants see attached sheet

Reminder: check out 'GrowingSchools' website www.farmgarden.org.uk to find out about funds.

The Volvo Young Environmentalist Award

From September 2001 (for this academic year) grants of £250 to £1000 are available to schools in UK for Practical Environmental Projects (PEPS).

The awards are for groups of up to five young people aged 10 - 16 led by their teacher.

It's an internet based scheme, and to apply, follow the steps outlined on the Action zone at www.volvooceanadventure.org.

Submit your plans for a project to this website - **by March 31** to be considered for a grant.

Project aims:

- * To educate using exciting classroom activities, helping young people better understand their local and global environment.
- * To encourage lively discussion and positive action to preserve our environment.
- * To inform about pressing global issues.
- * To provide comprehensive materials that can be used for environmental education in the classroom online or in a paper based format.

.....continued from front page

have created a butterfly garden and pond. They are now planning an **organic garden** where they will be growing vegetables and herbs.

**Contact: Mr Charlie Coulson-Knights
01508 492547**

Staff and students at **George White Middle** have **created four plots** in which they have planted potatoes, broad beans, onions, beetroot and radishes. The school has four **compost bins** which will provide a ready supply of valuable soil conditioner and fertiliser for next year.

Contact: Mr Eddie Payne 01603 425515

You can also find out about what 's going on in Norfolk Schools on the HDRA website at http://www.hdra.org.uk/schools_organic_network/map/norfolk.htm

Sue Falch-Lovesey is the new Manager for the Environmental Education Service

Sue's background

Sue worked for the National Trust for 12 years, initially in South Wales at a centre for outdoor education called 'Stackpole for Schools', and then on the North Norfolk coast set up the Brancaster Millenium Activity Centre, an Environmental Activity Centre, and was Property Manager for a stretch of the North Norfolk coast.

These are the main points from Sue's mission statement:

- ★ **Sue would like to ensure that schools have access to guidance and support that develops the role of Education for Sustainable Development.**
 - ★ **to provide a framework that will work for all schools whatever their starting point and individual requirements**
 - ★ **to help schools develop an ethos, policy and practice towards becoming more environmentally focussed (in terms of waste, energy, transport, grounds and biodiversity)**
 - ★ **to work with Holt and Wells Field Study Centre colleagues to ensure well resourced establishments that support and enhance the work of schools in all aspects of the curriculum**
 - ★ **to use the very best practices in order to inspire and encourage the use of an environmental context for learning across the curriculum**
 - ★ **to work with school councils, and through the citizenship curriculum to support pupils to become the valued agents of change in their own schools and communities**
 - ★ **to encourage schools to work with communities, to put schools at the hub of local communities wherever appropriate**
- Sue works cross-departmentally within the County Council and has an input into NCC Environmental Policy and Strategies. Sue also helps research, communicate and work with schools to secure relevant grant opportunities for environmental work.**

can we have your photos please...

To all those schools who have carried out any landscape work in their grounds - a pond, seating areas, or murals for example.

We would like to compile a database of photos of these sort of improvements to share best practice with all schools via a page(or pages) on the *esinet*

website. Prints would be better than slides but do send slides if that's all you have, to: David Yates, Landscape Architect, Environmental Co-ordination at County Hall. If you have any queries over what to send or when your photos will be returned, please call 01603 222810 or 01603 222771.

working together to help promote environmentally focussed schools

'greenscene' is produced by the Departments of Planning and Transportation (the Environmental Co-ordination Team) and Norfolk Education Advisory Service

'greenscene' contacts are -

Corinne Livingstone 01603 222810, email corinne.livingstone.pt@norfolk.gov.uk and Sue Falch-Lovesey 01602 222985 or email sue.falch-lovesey.edu@norfolk.gov.uk