



EXPERIENCE OUTDOORS  
BENMORE ♦ BANGHOLM ♦ LAGGANLIA

SPRING 2019  
2ND EDITION

# OUTDOOR LEARNING NEWS



**SUPPORTING OUTDOOR  
LEARNING IN EDINBURGH  
SCHOOLS.**

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# WELCOME



Welcome to the Spring Edition of Outdoor Learning News. Our new look newsletter aims to keep you informed of news, opportunities and events. Our Outdoor Learning team is committed to supporting Outdoor Learning in Edinburgh schools. In addition to our highly regarded residential experiences at Benmore and Lagganlia, our city-based team works locally to support all aspects of Outdoor Learning. Visit our website [www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk](http://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk) to meet **the team** or learn more **about us**.

## NEW WEBSITE AND OUTDOOR LEARNING MAP RESOURCE

Just before Christmas our new website; [www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk](http://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk) went live. We're really pleased with how it looks and will be adding an increasing range of tools and resources to support Outdoor Learning.

One of these tools will be an interactive Outdoor Learning Map. The Outdoor Learning Team successfully secured a grant from Scottish Natural Heritage to fund the IT development of this resource and also fund a one-day-a-week secondment for a teacher over the 2019/20 school year. The advert for this post will go live in March.

If you have comments, ideas for development or resources you would like to share through the website, we would love to hear from you:

email [andrew.bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## OUTDOOR LEARNING CHALLENGE

Following the success of our first Outdoor Learning Challenge last September, this event, open to all pupils at P6 stage, will take place on 18 & 19 September 2019. New this year will be a drop-in twilight session for teachers on the 18th; 4 – 6pm. All Primary and Special School Head teachers will be contacted in May to sign up your school, places are limited so sign up quick!

## EDINBURGH SCHOOLS ADVENTURE RACE

Our Secondary Schools' Convenor's Challenge is also back for 2019 with some changes for the teams to conquer, the first of those being a name change: The Edinburgh Schools Adventure Race will take place on June 14th for teams of four S5 Pupils and a staff member.

To register, or for more information, contact:  
[fraser.robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## AT JANUARY'S CREATIVE CONVERSATION WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME OUTDOOR LEARNING SUPERSTAR JULIET ROBERTSON. THE VENUE WAS PACKED TO BURSTING – A TRUE TESTAMENT TO THE ENTHUSIASM FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING ACROSS THE CITY!

Juliet engaged and inspired with practical and proven ideas and very candidly shared her own outdoor learning journey. Her website; [Creativestarlearning.co.uk](http://Creativestarlearning.co.uk) is a fantastic source of ideas and resources.

## EDINBURGH TEACHERS' OUTDOOR LEARNING FORUM

All welcome! This open forum was responsible for creating the excellent resource '50 Ways to Experience Edinburgh Outdoors' and played a big part in shaping the Outdoor Learning Challenge event. Upcoming meetings this school year are March 13th at Longstone Primary School and May 14th at Bonaly Outdoor Centre. Please email [Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk) to let us know you're coming (and to allow for sufficient catering!).

*Andrew Bagnall*

*Outdoor Learning Development Officer, Schools and Communities*



# COURSES & EVENTS

## **MARCH 13**

Teacher's Outdoor Learning Forum – from 4.00pm, Longstone Primary School.

## **MARCH 20**

Growing Food for Primary Schools (CF2667). 4.00 – 6.00pm, Hermitage Park Primary School. This practical CPD session aims to promote growing food with pupils in primary schools. The session, with input from the Royal Highland Education Trust, will include practical hints and tips on growing food and its use in a primary classroom.

## **MARCH 29**

Introduction to the John Muir Award (CF1766). 9.30 – 4.00pm, Bangholm Outdoor Centre.

## **APRIL 17 & 18**

Fieldwork Skills, Lagganlia Outdoor Centre. This course is for Geography & Biology PGDE students at Moray House, however, there may be spaces available.

Email [andrew.bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk) for further details.

## **APRIL 26**

Developing Loose Parts in a Primary Setting (CF2678). 1.30 – 4.00pm, Bangholm Outdoor Centre.

## **MAY 3**

Working with classes near water (CF2306), Water of Leith Conservation Trust.

## **MAY 14**

Teacher's Outdoor Learning Forum – from 4.00pm, Bonaly Outdoor Centre.

## **MAY 23**

Outdoor Classroom Day.

Even if you have been involved in Outdoor Classroom day before, please sign up again on the website.

For those who have not been involved, this is a great way of drawing in less confident colleagues - why not challenge your whole school?

<https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk>

## **JUNE 7**

Group Leader Training Practical (CF2484), Bangholm Outdoor Centre. Through scenarios and discussion, we will build confidence and share good practice for taking groups off-site.

## **JUNE 14**

Edinburgh Schools Adventure Race.

Contact [fraser.robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk) for further details.

Other training programmes, such as Group Leader Training Theory, are running on multiple dates; see the Professional Learning Directory on the Orb for more details.

For other courses and events visit our website [www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk](http://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk)



# WIN

## AN OUTDOOR LEARNING CLASSROOM PACK FROM

# RSPB

RSPB Scotland would like to build on our existing educational work by improving the way we work with teachers, schools and nurseries.

We would like to better understand what teachers are looking for when inviting external organisations such as RSPB Scotland to delivery workshops, sessions, demonstrations etc in your establishment.

Our aim is to ensure that the RSPB Scotland programmes offers children the most memorable and enriching experiences whilst meeting the educational outcome needs of the teacher.



We invite you to share your views in a short 4-minute survey (link below). If you would like to be entered into the prize draw, please enter your name and school address at the end of the survey. If not, simply enter your postcode. The data provided on this form is collected and used only for the purposes of research, will only be used internally by RSPB and will not be shared with anyone else.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZYK6K9V>



# SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS WITH ORIENTEERING

Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club want to support teachers to develop their knowledge of orienteering so that they have the ability to deliver an orienteering session of their own and link it to curriculum experiences and outcomes. An ideal stage at which to introduce orienteering is at P6 to S2 and/or around transition – and once a set of exercises is developed the same exercises can be delivered year-in, year-out at that level.

## To support this, ESOC can:

1. Advise on your school grounds suitability for orienteering.
2. Help with the creation of an orienteering map.
3. Provide a volunteer to act as mentor until the teacher is confident with delivery.
4. Provide ideas for integrating the experience with the Es+Os of the Curriculum for Excellence using outdoor learning.
5. Advise on progression for enthusiastic pupils to participate in regular orienteering events in and around Edinburgh outside school hours,
6. Arrange for you to use our ESOC's electronic equipment for recording time around a course or exercise (this would require your school to join ESOC at the club/group rate - <https://www.esoc.org.uk/group-membership-information>).



One of the best ways to start is for the teacher to attend the Intro Course provided by Scottish Orienteering: <https://www.scottish-orienteering.org/soa/page/introducing-orienteering-new-course-for-teachers>

The Scottish Orienteering Association would be happy to provide a course for teachers in Edinburgh. Thereafter, ESOC would provide local support.

## JASS IT UP!

ESOC is particularly keen to support primary schools in delivering JASS; the Junior Award Scheme for Schools (<http://www.jassschools.org.uk/what-jass>). This would normally involve an ESOC volunteer working with a school over three or four weeks. After practice sessions on the basics of orienteering in the gym or on the school playing field, with some orienteering games thrown in, there is an easy test course in the final session for pupils to show they have a good understanding of orienteering.

For further information on any of these items, please contact [schoolenquiries@esoc.org.uk](mailto:schoolenquiries@esoc.org.uk)



giving  
nature  
a home

## **RSPB SCOTLAND LOCH LEVEN NATURE RESERVE IS A WILDLIFE HAVEN AND A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN ABOUT NATURE.**

Bring your class to discover the birds, minibeasts and habitats of RSPB Scotland Loch Leven. Experience the sights and sounds of a thriving nature reserve- swooping swallows, burrowing bugs and sky-dancing dragonflies. Find out about life cycles, adaptations, food chains and giving nature a home through our range of curriculum linked wildlife programmes. A full list of programmes and further information can be found on our website: [www.rspb.org.uk/lochlevenschoolvisits](http://www.rspb.org.uk/lochlevenschoolvisits).

Facilities include a varied outdoor learning space with woodlands and wetlands, an indoor classroom, toilets, pond dipping areas, birdwatching hides, and nature trails.

We have limited availability for Autumn, and are now taking bookings for Spring and Summer.

To register your interest, visit the website or contact us by phone.

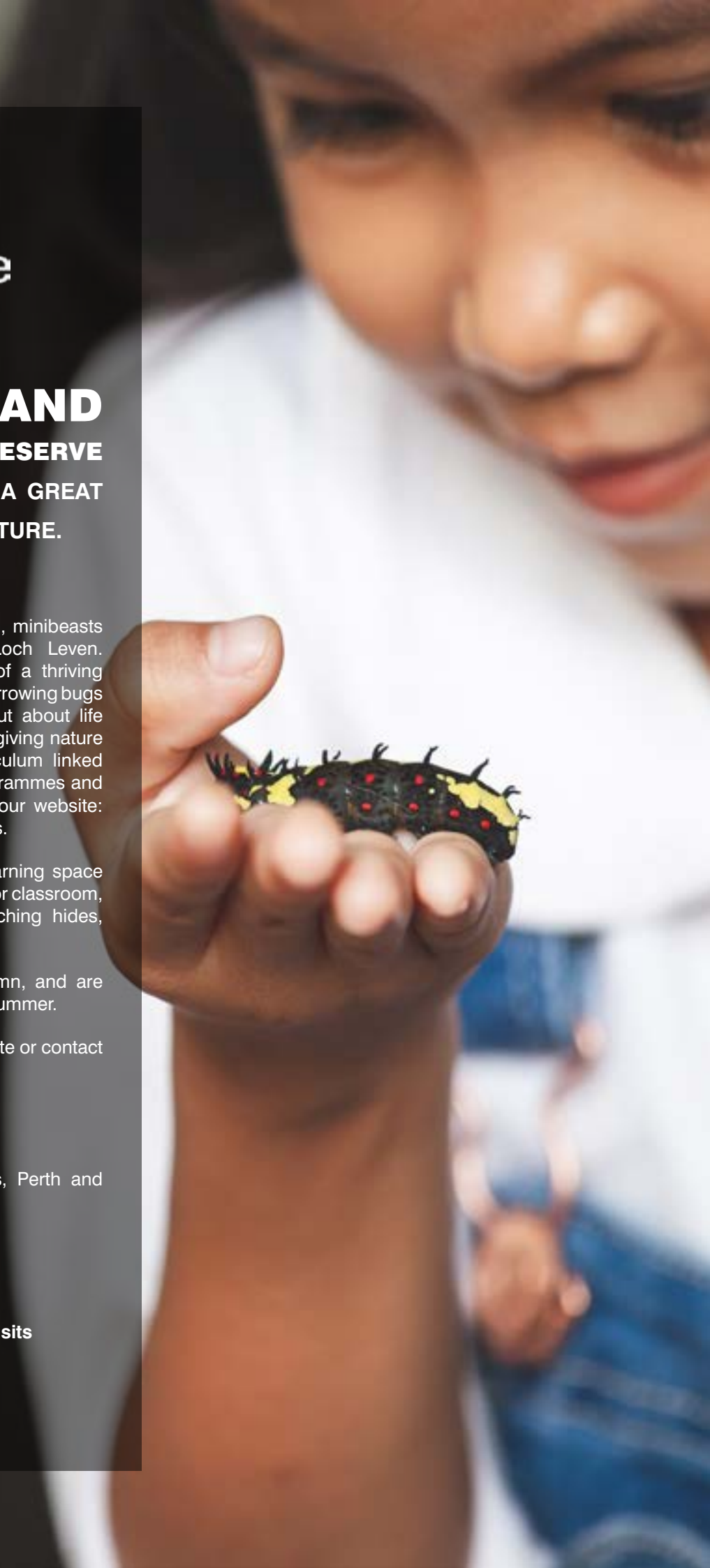
*Craig Leitch  
Community Learning Officer*

RSPB Scotland Loch Leven, Kinross, Perth and Kinross, KY13 9LX

**Tel 01577 862355**

**[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)**

**[www.Rspb.org.uk/lochlevenschoolvisits](http://www.Rspb.org.uk/lochlevenschoolvisits)**



# TEACH EARTH TRAINING COMING TO EDINBURGH

At Earthwatch, we are experienced in engaging the next generation in environmental research and sustainability issues, and have been working in education for over 20 years.

Our Teach Earth programme offers teachers, teaching assistants, educators, trainees and students inspiring ways to connect students to nature using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a key framework.

This year we are very excited to be bringing a Teach Earth training weekend to Scotland, we will be based out of Bonaly Outdoor Centre for the 31st May-2nd June. I have included some further information about the weekend below. If you would like to include it in your upcoming event news in your newsletter or on your website we would be very grateful for the support.

An immersive teacher-training outdoor weekend that provides you with the space to learn about and take part in citizen science research projects which you can carry out in your school grounds, setting them within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Training includes free takeaway materials, resources and lesson plans on citizen science projects and the SDGs and how they link into and support the national curriculum.

Staying in shared rooms at Bonaly Outdoor Centre in Edinburgh, Scotland: 31st May-2nd June

There is a small charge of £75 to attend Teach Earth which covers all food, accommodation, training and materials throughout the weekend (Friday – Sunday inclusive). If you are working at a school based in a disadvantaged area and the school will be paying your fee, please contact us at [education@earthwatch.org.uk](mailto:education@earthwatch.org.uk) for further options.

Please note that places for these weekends are limited and operate on a first come first served basis.

For more information about Teach Earth please visit: <https://earthwatch.org.uk/get-involved/education-and-schools/teach-earth>

Book your place on Teach Earth 2019 now!

*Megan Evans*  
Education Learning Manager

# WILDSIDE NATURE AT TOLLCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Tollcross Primary School we have had a number of educationally rich workshops from Donald at Wildside Nature. These have been carefully adapted to suit our pupils from Nursery to P7.

It was wonderful to see our playground being turned into so many different aspects of nature. Pupils used the outdoors to create a spider web, the Antarctic, the deep dark depths of the ocean, the rainforest and a busy bee hive!



Using outdoor learning in these workshops created depth to the experience and allowed learners to gain a more realistic understanding of the animals and their natural habitats. The pupils were highly engaged and really enjoyed working with their classmates in these practical and exciting workshops.

Our Teachers were also encouraged by this as a reminder of the many benefits of using the outdoors for learning. Thanks Donald the Explorer!

For more information, visit:

<https://www.wildsidenature.com>







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INVESTING IN OUTDOOR LEARNING

• EDINBURGH •  
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL