

**Issue 41  
Spring 2012**

# Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service  
**Supporting Sustainable Schools**

## CEES Olympics 2012

**Kick start your Olympics theme  
with a day of inspiration at CEES**



Have you been unsuccessful in the draw for tickets for London 2012? Then do not fear, final places are still available at the CEES Olympics, opening on 16 April 2012 and running throughout the Summer Term. The CEES Local Olympics Committee (CLOC) is hosting the following events:

### **Minibeast Olympics**

**at Stibbington Centre, Burwell House and Wisbech Castle**

Participating teams from KS 1 and 2 will investigate a variety of habitats in the minibeast pentathlon, identifying and recording the different creatures found, and gaining points in the table for the medal ceremony. They will be invited to join the CLOC to inspect the Olympic Village, develop facilities and understand the food, fitness and accommodation requirements of the minibeast competitors.

### **Climate Change Olympics at Stibbington Centre**

This event is open to KS2 classes and will begin with an opening ceremony and a briefing for Go-Green teams. Participating teams will take part in the Go-green triathlon, including the three disciplines of running, weight lifting and hurdles. They will also try their hand at Glo-bingo and monitor the renewable energy available at the CEES Olympics site using mini solar kits and model wind turbines.

CEES' Olympic day courses are designed to support the Olympic and Paralympic values, and contribute to Science, Maths, Geography, PSHE and Citizenship, with differentiated activities for year 1 and 2, year 3 and 4, and year 5 and 6.

Teachers of key stage 1 and 2 classes who are interested in this opportunity are invited to contact CEES as soon as possible.

For further details and availability phone 01780 782386 or email [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.go.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.go.uk).

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## CEES News - 1

### Changes in the wind at Coldham

This year marks the fifth year of CEES' very successful Energy Works programme for schools at Coldham Wind Farm. More than 8500 students aged from 7 to 18 have experienced renewable energy in action and Energy Works leaders, CEES teachers Nicky Ayscough and Richard Green have lost count of the number of turbine models made by ks1 and 2 pupils.

In the next three months, seven new turbines are being erected at the site, making Coldham Wind Farm the largest in Cambridgeshire. During the construction period the wind farm will be closed for school visits, but it will re-open on Monday 30 April when a year 4 class from Fakenham Junior School will be the first to view both new and old turbines.

Funding for educational visits to the Wind Farm led by CEES teachers continues to be available until the end of the summer term 2012.



### Learning outside the classroom: a challenge for new teachers?

Even the most seasoned teachers will admit to remembering how daunting their first few months in the classroom were. Even more so the first time they took children outside the classroom to learn in the outdoor environment, to carry out field work investigations and to extend children's knowledge through first hand experience in the environment:

- *Will my outdoor lesson plan work?*
- *How do I manage behaviour in this new environment?*
- *Are my risk assessments adequate for the outdoor situation?*
- *Is all the time and trouble justifiable in terms of learning outcomes?*
- *What have I forgotten?*

Though it may be much easier to stick with the "safe" environment of the classroom, the opportunities that exist outside the classroom door offer the chance to bring learning to life for young people of all ages.

CEES has developed a new course designed to equip trainee and newly qualified teachers with the skills and confidence to start to use out of classroom experiences with their classes.

This 2-day residential course will include a wealth of ideas and activities covering a range of curriculum areas, and will incorporate elements on assessing and controlling risk, techniques for managing groups outside and addressing sustainability issues.

Recognising that for new teachers, time is valuable and budgets may be limited, the course has been designed to pack in as much as possible in the time available, as well as being a useful addition to CVs and great fun too!

This residential course will be based at Stibbington Centre starting at 10.00am on Monday 9 July and ending at 4.00pm on Tuesday 10.



#### **Trainee Teachers assess risks for a river study exercise**

Course leader, CEES teacher Richard Green said,

*"New teachers who have attended a similar course in the past have been delighted by the wealth of stimulating ideas they came away with, and the increased confidence they gained to take their classes outside the classroom to learn in the environment."*

Further information is available at [www.cees.org.uk](http://www.cees.org.uk).

## CEES News - 2

### CEES' Wisbech-based Lottery Project Thriving

The Wisbech Heritage Education project is a lottery funded project which encourages use and promotes understanding of the rich heritage of Wisbech. A major part of the project involves an exciting day of Victorian activities based at Wisbech Castle, Library and Museum. All teaching and materials for this day are free of charge and local schools can also get free or assisted price transport.

The Victorian day, entitled **Upstairs, Downstairs, childhood in Victorian Wisbech** allows children to explore the lives of their counterparts from the era. Real children of the time are researched in the library. The contrast between rich and poor children is seen at the Museum and the children take part in a role play, becoming prospective servants at the Castle.

All the schools that have taken part so far have found the day richly rewarding, enhancing children's learning and taking lots of ideas about the period back to school.



Learning how to cleaning and polish at the Castle



Washday at the Mangle

The project is aimed at Years 5 and 6 but can be adapted for years 3 & 4 if required. During the Summer Term a few places remain available for booking in May, June and July.

For further details or to book contact Stibbington Centre on 01780 782386 or email [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Another essential element of the project is the website [www.wisbechpastpresentfuture.org.uk](http://www.wisbechpastpresentfuture.org.uk). The site includes a wealth of information about the town and the educational opportunities that are available there. Project staff are continually developing this site and welcome any comments, ideas or input.

There is an opportunity to find out more about the project at an **Open Evening for teachers** on 15 March (see below) or for more details contact CEES' project coordinator: [richard.green@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.green@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### Learning opportunities in Wisbech — an invitation for teachers

Why not come along and find out more about the Wisbech Heritage Education Project, as well as other teaching and learning opportunities for ks1 and 2 in and around Wisbech?

Teachers are invited to an **Open Evening** from **4.00 to 6.00 pm** on **Thursday 15 March** at **Wisbech Castle**, The Crescent, Wisbech. CEES teachers and other Heritage Education Project staff will be there to share some of the resources and the website for the project, and there will be opportunities to find out about other learning activities around the Wisbech area, including the Wisbech Minibeast Olympics. You may even get the chance to take part in a few of the activities!

There is plenty of free parking nearby at the Church Terrace Car Park and tea and coffee will be available.

To book your place phone CEES on 01780 782386 or email [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## CEES News - 3

### Expanding opportunities with CEES at Burwell House

It is almost a year since CEES welcomed its first visitors to the Bramley Barn, the new day visits base at Burwell House. Year 4 pupils from Thomas Eaton Primary School trialled the **Investigating Rivers** day, and since then the day has become a popular option at Burwell. The nearby gently meandering River Snail is ideal for on-site investigations including erosion and deposition, river flow and channel shape. Back at the centre, hands-on models illustrate the mechanisms behind these processes and also look at surface run-off and the need for flood prevention.

*“The pupils enjoyed the activities, which were child-centred and appropriate for their need for practical work. Fine consolidation of new learning.”*

Year 5 teacher, Perse School for Girls

Other ks2 day courses that have been successfully trialled during the past year using the extensive grounds and surroundings of Burwell House include themes such as **Rocks, Habitats, Plants, Map skills** and even **Romans**. For the Summer Term the Burwell Minibeast Olympics day is also on offer.

The extensive and diverse gardens of Burwell House are especially suited to Foundation and ks1 classes. Children can discover the needs of living things with the **Teddy Bears’ Picnic** day, or with **Exploring our Environment** they discover the wonders of the pond area and the ‘secret’ wild garden.

For further details or to book contact Stibbington Centre on 01780 782386 or email [cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).



## News from other organisations - 1

### Huntingdonshire Green Heart Community Awards 2012

After two very successful Green Heart Community Awards, Huntingdonshire District Council is once again looking for applications to find those inspirational projects and motivated people who have been working so hard over the past 12 months to help the local environment.

There is a growing awareness in school communities about the importance of sustainability and the environment. Many schools are already following the Eco-School programme and have been awarded for their efforts. Whether schools have achieved the bronze, silver or green flag, a lot of hard work is needed.

From energy projects, waste and recycling schemes to sustainable growing schemes and environmental awareness raising, the District Council wants to hear about what Huntingdon schools have been doing.

Entries are welcomed under one or more of the following seven main categories:

Best Primary School,  
Best Secondary School/College,  
Young Green Achiever of the year,  
Green volunteer of the year,  
Best Wildlife or Nature Initiative,  
Best Energy Saving Initiative,  
Best Waste, Reuse or Recycling Initiative



The green carpet will be rolled out for shortlisted finalists at an award ceremony on Saturday 16 June in St Ives. One winner in each category will receive £200 towards their next project.

Download application forms at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) from Monday 20 February and submit completed forms by the closing date, Friday 27 April. For further information, contact Heidi Field, Environmental Education & Promotion Officer at Huntingdonshire District Council on 01480 388843 or e-mail [heidi.field@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:heidi.field@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

## News from other organisations - 2



### Yes, you CAN! A call to action from RECAP

Ever wondered if you can recycle your aerosol cans, biscuit tins, or used foil? Yes, you CAN! The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) is calling for residents of Cambridgeshire to recycle all metal packaging. Currently we are still sending 4,000 tonnes of waste metals to landfill every year, but we can do more.

Using recycled aluminium to make new products saves 95 per cent of the energy that would be used in the production of virgin material. It also saves huge amounts of water and significantly reduces carbon emissions. To make a difference, we want to borrow some Olympic spirit to help carry our messages across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The 'Yes You CAN' recycling relay is open to all residents and organisations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It will be working its way across the county, starting from Cambridge on the 24 May, with the grand finale taking place in Peterborough on the 28 May.

We are looking for people to sign up to take part in a length of the recycling relay. The baton will be transported by the community, around the county. You can explore the possibilities of how to take part in the recycling relay – don't just think by foot or bike – how about boat or buggy? Visit [www.recap.co.uk](http://www.recap.co.uk) to find out more, and sign up to take part in a place near you.

#### We need your help to get Cambridgeshire recycling more metals!

Become a bearer of the Yes You CAN recycling baton! We would like to encourage you to take part in the relay with your pupils and colleagues and encourage parents to participate too.

We hope to help you include the messages about metals recycling in your lessons. Contact us on [recap@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:recap@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) if you would like to receive more information about metals recycling.

With your help we hope to make all residents inspired and aware of the importance of metals recycling this summer term!

#### Know your metal

- Metal can be recycled without any loss of quality – meaning it can be recycled indefinitely
- Just six weeks after recycling a can it can be turned in to a new can, filled and put back on the shelf!
- In the UK, we use 13 billion steel cans every year. Stacked on top of each other, you could make three piles of cans that would reach to the moon.
- Using recycled aluminium to make new products saves 95% of the energy associated with the production of virgin metal. For steel the equivalent figure is 75%.
- Recycling one tonne of aluminium saves 9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

### Nick King Creations

Nick would like to thank those schools who supported him during his first, very successful, term in Autumn 2011. He is looking forward to visiting more schools in the Spring and Summer Terms, and bookings are invited.

Nick specialises in developing high quality models, using appropriate skills, tools and techniques with a variety of materials, supporting the creative curriculum across the age range. Examples of the models and activities are on the web site, [www.nickkingcreations.co.uk](http://www.nickkingcreations.co.uk) but Nick is always up for a challenge to create a new model linked to the curriculum.

To be sure of a booking contact Nick as soon as possible on tel: 01354 688447 or 680429 or Mobile: 07771976091 or Email : [Nking38167@aol.com](mailto:Nking38167@aol.com)



### Swift Decline

Did you know that the number of swifts flying around is declining rapidly? **Action For Swifts** has been involved in a variety of activities to raise awareness about swifts and their decline, including school projects (as well as the construction of the Cambridge Swift Tower). They've worked with school staff and children to create nest boxes for swifts and put them on the school building, then lure in the birds by playing bird calls. There's an example of their work at <http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/2011/03/milton-road-primary-school.html>. Interested teachers should contact - [actionforswifts@gmail.com](mailto:actionforswifts@gmail.com)

## News from other organisations—3

### Cambridge Natural History Society Exhibition

The Cambridge Society's 93rd annual exhibition displays all aspects of natural history and showcases wildlife of our area. The exhibition in particular gives children the opportunity to gain knowledge of the natural world - items on display have included slime, fungi, cacti, cow-pats, birds and bees, flowers, local reserves, historical documents, rocks and much more.

The exhibition, entitled '*Conversazione*' will be held on 15 & 16 June at the Elementary Laboratories of the University of Cambridge Zoology Department.

For more details contact Deborah Marchant on 01223 715688



**100 years working  
for Wildlife**  
2012, what an exciting year!



This year is very special for the Wildlife Trusts and the Great Fen. The Wildlife Trusts are celebrating a very important birthday – 100 years of the nature conservation movement in the UK. And it all started at Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve right in the heart of the Great Fen.

In 1910, Charles Rothschild from the famous banking family visited Woodwalton Fen and realised how important it was for wildlife. It was then a small island in the middle of farmland and he decided that the only way to stop it being drained and to help conserve the wildlife was to buy it for himself.

In 1912 he helped set up The Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves which later became known as the Royal Society for The Wildlife Trusts.

To celebrate this 100th birthday the Wildlife Trusts are encouraging schools to get involved:

- Wonderful Wildlife poster competition with great prizes
- Free assemblies in schools until Easter
- Special Centenary Fen Time Travellers school visits to Ramsey Heights and Woodwalton Fen. Limited funding available for coach expenses. Book your visit by 31st March 2012.

For more details on Wildlife Trust centenary events, education enquiries, fees, bookings and to arrange a preliminary visit to discuss health and safety, programme content and organisation of the day contact:

Telephone 01487 710420 or email [info@greatfen.org.uk](mailto:info@greatfen.org.uk)

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

Also don't forget to visit Paxton Pits Environmental Centre. To contact the education centre telephone: 01480 473161 or e-mail: [paxtonpite@wildlifebcnp.org](mailto:paxtonpite@wildlifebcnp.org)

### **ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ITEMS FOR RECYCLING** **FREE collection from Cambridge City schools on** **Thursday 15th and Friday 16th March 2012**

Cambridge City Council will be able to help schools with their waste as part of its forthcoming Recycling Event, which is taking place on 15 and 16 March 2012. The event is open to schools in or very close to Cambridge City.

The City Council is offering to collect from schools **FREE OF CHARGE** for recycling anything with a plug or a battery. This includes mobile phones, video players, computers, monitors, games consoles, microwaves, dishwashers, battery operated toys, power tools, electric kettles, televisions, electric heaters, radios, and MP3 players.

For full details visit Cambridge City Council's website: [www.cambridge.gov.uk/ewaste](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ewaste) and, those who wish to take part should download and complete the application form and send it to Cambridge City Council using the email address below.

Deadline for submissions is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012. Requests cannot be accepted after this date.

A minimum of 10 items is needed to make a collection viable.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Weymouth-Wood on 01223 458502 or e-mail [rebecca.weymouth-wood@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.weymouth-wood@cambridge.gov.uk)

## Eco Schools News and Events



### Climate Week: Britain's Biggest Climate Change Campaign - 12 to 18 March 2012

Climate Week is a supercharged national campaign to inspire a new wave of action on climate change. It culminates in thousands of events and activities, planned by organisations from every part of society, showcasing real, practical ways to combat climate change.

#### Registration for the Climate Week Challenge is now open

The Climate Week Challenge is the biggest environmental competition in the UK. In 2011 over 145,000 people around the country registered to take part and the winners were chosen by a celebrity panel of judges. The Climate Week Challenge takes place on the first day of Climate Week, and it will involve thousands of people from schools, colleges, universities and organisations all over the country simultaneously tackling the same task on the same day. It is a **free, fun and easy way** to get involved in this national occasion.

Registration for this high profile, high energy event is now open – hundreds of schools have already registered to take part! **Celebrities** who have agreed to select the winners include Liz Bonnin from Bang Goes the Theory and Kate Humble from BBC's Countryfile. **Register** before the 5<sup>th</sup> March to take part.

Information packs are available on the Climate Week website. However no preparation is required. The format of the Challenge and what to expect is outlined in these information packs but the exact Challenge is kept as a secret until 9am on Monday 12 March 2012. This is when the Challenge will be revealed online and the one-day competition begins!

To find out more about getting involved in Climate Week go to [www.climateweek.com/challenge](http://www.climateweek.com/challenge), email [info@climateweek.com](mailto:info@climateweek.com) or telephone on 020 3397 2601.

## Eco-Action for Climate Week in Cambridgeshire

Locally many schools are involved in Climate Week activities:

15 local Primary Schools have signed up to join CEES' **Green Day for Eco Action Inspiration** which is to take place at Stibbington Centre on Thursday 8 March, just before the start of Climate Week. Groups of 8 Eco Councillors from each of the participating schools will begin their day with a sustainable journey by train to Stibbington. On arrival their action-packed programme will include an eco-trail treasure hunt, an eco-celebration and sharing session, a green themed lunch and a choice of eco-workshops. At the end of the day the children will return to their schools with inspirational ideas to share and lots of enthusiasm for developing their Eco Schools initiatives.

3 Cambridgeshire Secondary Schools will be taking part in CEES' first ever **Eco Councillors Convention** for the secondary sector. Their programme at Stibbington Centre during Climate Week on Tuesday 13 March will include team challenges and discussions, as well as the chance to share their issues, achievements and concerns with interested students from the other participating schools.

March 12 to 18 has also been designated **Waste Week** and this year focuses on the waste associated with food in school.

Waste Week is an opportunity to get the whole school learning about waste and thinking about what they can do to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, by re-using, recycling and composting.

Activities created by The Pod make the waste topic fun for pupils and fit in with many areas of the national curriculum. The campaign's 'Lunchtime Crunchtime' activity also

enables schools to measure waste levels at the beginning and end of the campaign, providing valuable data with which to monitor and evaluate savings.

Whether schools are just getting started with Eco-Schools and working towards a Bronze or Silver award, or further along in the journey and going for Green Flag, taking part in the Pod's Waste Week campaign can help tackle the waste topic in school and gain Eco-Schools awards.

To take part sign up at [www.jointhepod.org](http://www.jointhepod.org) and download all the tools and materials needed to run a successful Waste Week campaign.

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of CEES or supporting organisations, nor does inclusion indicate endorsement.

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, readers should always obtain independent confirmation of any details upon which they wish to rely.

**Summer Term 2012 newsletter:**

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Please contact CEES with any questions, comments or ideas:

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W [www.cees.org.uk](http://www.cees.org.uk)

CEES is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Children & Young People's Services.

DIARY DATES		
Date	Event and venue	Contact
2 Mar	Stibbington Centre Quiz Night	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
8 Mar	Primary Schools Green Day at Stibbington Centre	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
12—18 Mar	Climate Week	<a href="http://www.climateweek.com/info@climateweek.com">www.climateweek.com/info@climateweek.com</a>
12—18 Mar	Waste Week	<a href="http://www.jointhepod.org">www.jointhepod.org</a>
12—25 Mar	National Science Week and Cambridge Science Festival	<a href="http://comms.group.cam.ac.uk/sciencefestival">comms.group.cam.ac.uk/sciencefestival</a>
13 Mar	Secondary Schools Eco Councillors Convention At Stibbington Centre	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
15 Mar	Learning opportunities in Wisbech — Open Evening for teachers at Wisbech Castle	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
15—16 Mar	Cambridge City Council Electrical waste collection	<a href="http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ewaste">www.cambridge.gov.uk/ewaste</a> <a href="mailto:rebecca.weymouth-wood@cambridge.gov.uk">rebecca.weymouth-wood@cambridge.gov.uk</a>
16 Apr	Start of CEES Olympics at Stibbington Centre, Burwell House and Wisbech Castle	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
16 June	HDC Green Heart Awards	<a href="http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk">www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:heidi.field@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">heidi.field@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
25—26 June	Primary Schools Eco Councillors Convention at Stibbington Centre	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
9—10 July	Learning Outside the Classroom course for new teachers	CEES at tel 01780 782386 <a href="mailto:cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>

**CEES Evaluation Draw, Autumn**

**11:** Congratulations to the following winners of CEES' draw last term.

A small token to thank them for returning their comments about the service is en-route to their schools:

**Stibbington Day Centre:** Anna Norden from The Ashbeach School commented on her Evacuation Day, "As always we had a super day, which the children thoroughly enjoyed and learnt from."

**Burwell House Day Centre:** Miss Pledger's Year 3 / 4 class from Burrough Green Primary School became trainee Roman soldiers for a day. The children especially enjoyed the chariot racing challenge.

**Coldham Wind Farm:** Nadia Stanbridge took her Year 6 class from Steeple Morden Primary School to Coldham and felt that the pupil's response to learning was very positive and particularly found the interactive quiz very enjoyable.

**Wisbech Castle:** Elm School visited the Castle as part of their locality studies which involved a treasurer hunt. Miss Bereford and Mrs Wickes confirmed that the course had extended the pupils understanding of the local environment.

**Stibbington Residential Centre:** Natalie Allan's Year 3s from Dogsthorpe Junior School thought that all aspects of the course were very successful. In particular they enjoyed the walks and rated the catering as excellent.

