

Issue 39
Summer 2011

Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service
Supporting Sustainable Schools

CEES judged “OUTSTANDING”

It’s official: Following rigorous external assessment for the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service has been judged “outstanding”.

National Quality Badge Assessor, Tony Thomas spent a full 7-hour day in March scrutinising all aspects of CEES at Stibbington Centre, including observing teaching sessions with two different classes of visitors. Tony judged that CEES had “fully met” all 36 of the criteria for the “Route 2” award, with no areas identified for development.

The Quality Badge is administered by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom and comprises two levels of award. The self-assessed Route 1 award is applicable for most day visit locations such as farms and museums, whilst the Route 2 award for residential settings and those offering higher risk activities is independently assessed.



CEES’ quality award extends to its day course bases at Wisbech Castle, Coldham Wind Farm and most recently Burwell House (see page 3). At all of its locations, the same team of experienced teachers delivers educational day courses to the same quality standards as at Stibbington.

Within Cambridgeshire the route 2 Quality Badge has also been achieved by CEES’ partners in Cambridgeshire Outdoors: Grafham Water Centre and Burwell House Residential Centre. The County’s Recycling Buses have succeeded in achieving the Route 1 Quality Badge.

In this issue

CEES judged “outstanding” 1

CEES News

Lottery boost for Wisbech	2
Residential visit bursaries	3
CEES at Burwell House	3
Learning in the school grounds CPD	3
ICT at Stibbington	3
Evacuation to Wisbech	4
Climate Change education	4

News from other organisations

Global Thinking, Global Learning	5
Great Fen Project	5
Domesday Project re-loaded	5
EDF Green Fund	6
Queen Emma Primary	6
Biodiversity Contacts	6
Quantum Theatre	6
Eco-Schools News	7
Sustainable Schools Conferences	7
Diary dates	8



CEES News - 1

Lottery Boost for Learning in Wisbech

Upstairs, downstairs — Children in Victorian Wisbech

CEES-led joint project scoops lottery backing



Research in Wisbech Library

CEES has teamed up with staff from Wisbech Castle, Wisbech Library and Wisbech and Fenland Museum and the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop an exciting joint project offering local school children the chance to spend a day visiting all 3 Centres to gain an understanding of life in Victorian Wisbech.

The visits are part of a wider project encouraging schools to use the heritage of Wisbech as an educational resource.

Heritage Lottery Funding of £50,000 will enable the project team to lead the programme, and to provide transport to the venues free of

charge for local schools. It will also cover the development of a website promoting the heritage of Wisbech as an educational resource .

Each participating class will spend time at the library exploring maps and documents which illustrate the story of two children in Victorian Wisbech. The class will go on to take part in a role play activity at the Castle and will explore the Victorian children's story in greater depth using the resources and collections at the museum.

After the visit the children will be able to practice the skills they have developed and further explore the story using the resources that will be available online. The website will also provide suggestions and opportunities to explore present day Wisbech and to consider the future of the town.



Wisbech and Fenland Museum

"Wisbech is a wonderful town, which is greatly under-appreciated. The wealth of heritage makes it a superb teaching resource. However, the input of specialised teachers is needed to exploit this to the full. This is only possible through projects like this one."

Visits to the Centres for this project will start in September and will continue through to summer term 2013. CEES' Administration team at Stibbington Centre will be coordinating bookings. The website should be online by September, with a range of ideas and resources for using Wisbech Town as a focus for learning.



A Victorian role play at Wisbech Castle

Project coordinator and CEES Teacher, Richard Green said:
"Wisbech is a fascinating town, with such a rich heritage. We have designed this project to encourage local children to value this heritage. We hope the visit to the three centres will provide a springboard for using the town in a wide range of further studies."

An essential element of the project was to secure funding to cover the costs of teaching and transport to the venues. Many teachers already using the Centres have commented on how they would like to do much more but the costs involved prevent this.

Suzanne Teverson, year 6 teacher at Ramnoth Junior School, commented:



CEES News - 2

Stibbington bursary scheme for residential experience

Thanks to the fund raising efforts of the Stibbington Centre Greener Future Trust (SCGFT), a new bursary scheme is now available to support residential experiences at Stibbington Centre.

Trustees, including headteachers and recently retired heads, took the decision to create the bursary scheme in order to increase the proportion of children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are able to take part in residential experiences. The Trustees aim to ensure that no child is excluded for financial reasons from joining their classmates and benefitting from the significant learning and personal development opportunities that a residential course at Stibbington offers.

A bursary of £30 per eligible child is available, with criteria for selection at the discretion of the nominating headteacher. At "off peak" time this represents almost 50% of the cost of a 3-day residential course.

Stibbington Centre is now taking bookings for residential courses from September 11 to July 12, and bursary applications may be submitted along with booking forms. On Wednesday July 6 interested teachers are welcome to come along to an Open Afternoon between 3 and 5pm to view the much-improved residential facilities. To reserve a place please use the contact details on the right.

CEES is currently taking bookings for whole school staff training days on

Learning in the school grounds

Programmes are designed to inspire teachers to use their school grounds for learning activities across the curriculum.

- Suitable for Teachers and TAs at Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- An emphasis on practical learning activities in the "outdoor classroom"
- Subject areas including literacy, numeracy, science, geography and art
- Learning activities ranging from investigating habitats to patterns, poetry and pirates
- All activities may be adapted for use in any school grounds, and activities will be suitable for those working to a restricted (or even nil) budget.

Courses may be delivered either on the school site or at an "Away Day" using the wealth of resources at Stibbington Centre.

Contact details as above right.

CEES at Burwell House - New Day Courses launched

Tuesday 3 May was a red letter day for CEES, as it saw the launch of a new Day Course service based at Burwell House.

With help from staff at Burwell, the CEES team has set up "The Bramley Barn" for learning programmes that were previously offered at Upware Centre. Following the closure of Upware in April, many of the day courses offered there are now available at Burwell instead.

CEES teachers have devised learning programmes that use the delightful grounds of Burwell House and local sites of educational interest, as well as the wide range of specialist materials and equipment that has been transferred from Upware for CEES' use at Burwell. And the CEES staff have transferred too.

Year 4 children from Thomas Eaton Primary School were the first to sample the "Investigating Rivers" course at Burwell and the day was pronounced a great success. Fieldwork at the nearby River Snail, together with river models and presentations in the Bramley Barn and Garden Gazebo made for an action-packed programme.

Other courses currently being trialled with schools include "Investigating habitats and food chains", "Maps, Trails and Treasure", "Exploring minibeasts" and a "Roman Day". For further details about any CEES Day Courses at Burwell House:

contact CEES on tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

ICT developments at CEES

Alongside significant improvements that have been made to CEES' facilities during the past year, there has been major investment too in new and improved ICT resources, resulting in additional teaching and learning opportunities at CEES Centres.

Electronic pupil response systems have been introduced at both Coldham and Stibbington; Interactive White Boards have been installed and are in regular use at Coldham, Stibbington, and CEES' new base at Burwell House; and at Stibbington a class set of Smart Phones is available with applications as varied as identifying pond creatures, mapping a route through the village, carrying out a house survey and even taking photos of fieldwork activities.

In all cases, the new technology is used to support and enhance the real life learning experiences in the environment, not to replace them!

CEES News - 3

WWII Evacuees at Wisbech Castle

In mid-May Wisbech Castle became a school for children who had been evacuated to Wisbech during World War II. Mercifully the war lasted only one day and the children were able to return to their parents that evening.

During their role play the children had an opportunity to come to terms with food rationing, learn maths using wartime money and take part in a lesson in the style of a 1941 primary school. The day was interrupted by a daring day time air raid by enemy planes. The children were forced to shelter in the vaults of the Castle until the All Clear was sounded.

The children also had a chance to practice 'Home Guard' Drill and to play with period toys during their break. The children, actually from Leverington Academy, had an exciting day that brought their WWII studies alive.

The evacuation day is just one of the courses offered by CEES at Wisbech Castle, providing an alternative venue for this programme which is also run at Stibbington.

Other popular courses at Wisbech include Victorian role play days, Locality studies around Wisbech Town Centre, and "Exploring materials". For details of these and other courses contact CEES' administration team on 01780 782386, cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Take a look at the exciting news on page 2 for more information about learning in Wisbech.



Gas Mask Drill

Climate Change, Coldham and the Co-op

This Spring, around 135 pupils from four Cambridgeshire schools have taken advantage of a special Energy Works programme including visits to their local Co-operative Food store. The schools that took part were: Fordham, Fulbourn, Great & Little Shelford and Melbourn Primary Schools.

During each visit, pupils met their local store manager to find out about how the store has saved energy as part of the Co-operative Group's commitment to reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions. Viewing operations behind the shop front as well as within the store, pupils discovered what happens every day to reduce wastage and recycle, and they found out about new energy saving lighting and refrigeration systems. Combined deliveries and warehousing has enabled the number of vehicle movements to be reduced, which has also contributed to a reduction in carbon emissions. The children also learnt about Fairtrade and sustainable wood products.

Back at school, activities on food miles, transport and energy efficiency led to discussions about what we can do to combat Climate Change. Renewable energy was investigated using hands on solar and wind kits in the school grounds and all pupils had first hand experience of wind energy during a full day visit to Coldham Wind Farm. The response from Fordham Primary was: "The pupils were really engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the activities: "Best trip ever!"

For more information about Energy Works visits to Coldham Wind Farm, workshops in schools and the Co-operative Food store link — all available free of charge — please contact CEES on tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.



Melbourn pupils quiz their Co-op store manager

News from other organisations

Global Thinking — Global Learning: A CPD programme for Primary Schools

The Global thinking—Global Learning programme equips teachers with the inspiration as well as the practical tools and strategies to enhance global learning within the whole school community.

Using real life examples from schools that have embarked on their own global learning journeys with impressive results in terms of pupils motivation and achievement, this programme ensures that teachers have the opportunity to identify the issues and solutions relevant to their school.

There are just two of the sessions left to run, both at Milton Country Park Cambridge on 30th June (the first of the three on Inspiring Ideas for Global Learning has already taken place):



1. **Planning for Global Learning** 9.30—12.30
2. **Assessing Global Learning** 13.30—16.00

For full details and costs or to book contact

Jane Carpenter

Tel: 01223 769300/ 07948 095080

Email: jane@global-thinking.org.uk

Web: www.global-thinking.org.uk

The Global Learning Programme can be tailored to school INSET programmes or as part of a cluster INSET day.

Connecting children with local wildlife at the Great Fen



Teachers are invited to come to the Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre in Ramsey Heights to discover the amazing wildlife

and heritage on one of the most important conservation projects happening today - the Great Fen.

From Fen Time Travellers to Wildlife Investigators and Creature Comforts, children will have the chance to explore the nature reserve, meet fen characters from the past, build dens, explore the watery world of pond life, meet the mini beasts and become future carers of the planet. Programmes are available for pre-school,

Key stage 1 and 2.

For a limited period the Wildlife Trust can offer up to £50 per coach to help with travel – This has been kindly funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. For further details please contact the Great Fen Team on Info@greatfen.org.uk or telephone 01487 710420

The Paxton Pits Environmental Education Centre is also offering exciting programmes for pre school, key stage 1 and 2 For further details contact

Debbie McKenzie on 07734 478475 or 01480 473161

or email debbie.mckenzie@wildlifebcnp.org
www.wildlifebcnp.org



Domesday Project Reloaded

In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious project to record a snapshot of life across the UK for future generations, marking the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book. One million people, including children from many local schools took part in BBC Domesday, sending in photo and articles about where they lived. Now, 25 years on, teachers and children can explore this material on a new web page, and they are being asked to update it too.

This resource offers a great opportunity to discover how landscape and life in the local area have changed over the years. Amongst the many entries from this area is the archive for Stibbington which was created by children who went to Stibbington Centre on educational visits in the mid-1980s. Will the many hundreds of children who have visited the Centre during the past year recognise the Stibbington of 25 years ago?

Log on to find out more information and to update details:
www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday

News from other organisations

EDF Energy Green Fund



EDF Energy's Green Fund awards grants to organisations who apply for funds to help cover the cost of renewable energy technology that can be used to produce green energy from the sun, wind, water, wood and other renewable sources.

Customers on EDF's Green Tariff pay a small premium on their electricity bills which is matched by EDF and used to help support renewable energy projects across the UK. Green Tariff is now part of the Green Energy Certification Scheme. This voluntary scheme has been set up to

independently certify tariffs to ensure they meet the required level of environmental benefit.

The money raised through the Green Tariff is placed in EDF's Green Fund and used to award grants to community, non-profit, charitable and educational organisations across the UK.

Projects benefitting from this funding include: Ringmer Community College, East Sussex – staff and pupils used funding to install solar panels on the south-facing roof of their school.

St. Mary's School, West Sussex – backed by funding, the school installed a 6kW wind turbine, which not only generates energy but is also used as a teaching resource for pupils.

Sustainability features in new Cambridgeshire school

A special ceremony will mark the completion of exterior structural building works at Cambridge's newest primary school. The topping-out ceremony – traditionally held to celebrate the fact that the building is watertight – was held on Monday 23 May at the new Queen Emma Primary School. As part of the ceremony, an evergreen branch was hoisted onto the roof of the building.

Queen Emma Primary School in Gunhild Way will open in September to accommodate the growing need for school places in the south of the city. Ultimately able to cater for 480 pupils and 60 members of staff, the £7m school will have 16 classrooms, a hall, kitchen and dining areas, office and admin space. Outside will feature hard and soft play areas, netball

courts, a football pitch, wildlife areas, landscaping and parking.

The school will operate as a federation with nearby Queen Edith Primary School, under an executive headteacher (Caroline Peet) and a single governing body. It will open in phases – the first being in September 2011 for up to 60 Reception age children and will thereafter continue to have an annual intake of Reception children.

Funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and built by contractors Willmott Dixon Construction, the new school will also include a number of environmentally sustainable features, such as a ground source heat pump, heat recovery units, a rainwater harvesting system and a drainage system incorporated into a wetland area.



Biodiversity Partnership

New Contact Details

There is no longer a full time coordinator for the local Biodiversity Partnership.

New contact details are as follows:

Local Biodiversity Partnership work in general:

Laura Watson and Sian Williams,
biodiversitypartnership@wildlifebcnp.org, 01954 713530

Biodiversity Steering Group: Martin Baker,
martin.baker@wildlifebcnp.org, 01954 713508

Traditional Orchards Group: Sarah McConnachie-Kessel,
sarah.mcckessel@mypostoffice.co.uk

The Partnership website gives a full description of the work of the partnership as well as downloads of the partnership newsletter: www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk

Quantum Theatre Tours

Quantum Theatre is touring its comedy musical 'Bin Raider' this summer. With a strong environmental message, this play can be adapted for Infant or Junior audiences.

Bookings can be made for one school at £370 (+VAT) or discounts are available for block bookings.

Quantum Theatre will be touring right through to the end of term (the week of 18th July). More information is available on:

www.quantumtheatre.co.uk/binraider

Eco Schools News and Conferences



Eco-Schools Success stories

Congratulations to St Mary's Primary School, St Neots and St Faith's School, Cambridge for achieving their first Eco Schools green flag award in 2011.

For achieving the award for the second time, congratulations to Westfield Junior School, St Ives and Werrington Primary School, Peterborough.

And special congratulations to Great Wilbraham Primary, Cambridgeshire for successfully winning their green flag award for the third time.

Eco Councillors' Conventions—new dates for the new school year

To provide an extra boost for green initiatives in schools, the now tried and tested "Eco Councillors' Convention" programmes at Stibbington Centre have proved a great success. Groups of around 8 year 4 to 6 Eco Councillors or School Councillors from 4 different schools, together with a teacher from each school, spend two days together following a programme designed both to inspire eco-action back in school, and to promote teamwork, leadership skills and independence. The next Eco Councillors Convention for this year on June 22 to 23 is fully booked.

New dates for next year are now available for booking: **19—20 September; 6—7 February; 25—26 June**

Tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Schools Green Days when groups of around 8 children from lots of different schools will converge on Stibbington Centre are also planned for next year, with a choice of **Thursday 8 and Friday 9 March**. Further details will be circulated in the Autumn Term but for now those who are interested might reserve the dates in their school calendar.

National Sustainable Schools Conference – Let's get creative!

One of this year's Sustainable Schools regional conferences, run by SEEd (Sustainability and Environmental Education), will be coming to Northampton in July. The day will offer teachers an opportunity to share resources, skills and successes, and make plans for becoming a sustainable school. There will be inspirational national speakers, and a choice of workshops.

This year the theme is *Let's get Creative* with workshops led by experts in their fields covering:

- Creative engagement with students
- Creative use of the outdoors and museums
- Creative Curriculum
- Creative with Funding, and,
- Creatively engaging with your community

It is widely acknowledged that we must all live, work and think more sustainably in the future, and that schools play a vital role in this. In fact surveys of students say they want to learn more about sustainability at school. With so many changes in education, engaging in sustainability may well save schools money, encourage more motivated students, lead to improved outcomes and prepare students more effectively for their futures.

The **Northampton** conference will be held on Tuesday 5 July at the Learning and Discovery Centre, Delapre Learning Centre. Other regional conferences will take place in London and Manchester.

Places may be booked online at: www.se-ed.co.uk/NSSC2011 or contact Michael Cutts on michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk or phone 020 7420 4446

Cambridgeshire Sustainable Schools Conference: diary date

CEES is currently beginning to compile a programme for its next annual conference which will be at **Girton College**, Cambridge on **Friday 2 December**

The programme for the day will involve nationally recognised keynote presenters as well as a wide range of workshop options.

CEES would be pleased to hear from schools that have innovative practice which they would be willing to share with delegates on the day, for example:

- Eco Action Plans
- Active Eco Councillors
- Recycling schemes
- Energy or water saving
- Growing gardens
- Wildlife areas
- Global links
- Sustainable travel

Contact tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Environmental Education News is published termly by Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service (CEES) and is distributed free to all Cambridgeshire schools and to non-Cambs schools that subscribe to CEES.

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.

Autumn Term 2011 newsletter:

**Copy deadline:
30th September 2011**

**Publication date:
18th October 2011**

Please contact CEES with any questions, comments or ideas:

Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service (CEES)

Stibbington Centre
Church Lane
Stibbington
Peterborough
PE8 6LP
T 01780 782386
F 01780 783835
E cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
W www.cees.org.uk

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

DIARY DATES		
Date	Event and venue	Contact
13-17 June	National Schools Grounds Week	www.ltl.org.uk
18—26 June	Bike to School Week	Www.bikeweek.org.uk
22-23 June	Eco-Councillors Convention Stibbington Centre	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
23 June	Learning Outside the Classroom Teacher Taster session, Wood Green	Www.lotc.org.uk/news-and-events
30 June	Global Thinking, Global Learning Workshops, Milton Country Park	jane@global-thinking.org.uk 01223 769300/ 07948 095080
5 July	Sustainable Schools Conference, Northampton	www.se-ed.org.uk
6 July	Stibbington Residential Centre Open Afternoon, 3—5pm	To reserve places contact 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
16—31 July	Big Butterfly Count	www.bigbutterflycount.org
17Sept—2Oct	British Food Fortnight	www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk
19—20 Sept	Eco Councillors' Convention at Stibbington Centre	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
17—23 Oct	Energy Saving Week	www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
2 Dec	CEES' Annual Sustainable Schools Conference at Girton College, Cambridge	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
6—7 Feb	Eco Councillors' Convention at Stibbington Centre	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
8 & 9 Mar	Schools Green Day at Stibbington Centre	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CEES Evaluation Draw, Spring 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:

Upware Centre: Mrs McKee's year 4 class from St Mary's Junior School attended an Investigating Rocks Day and this added a 'more scientific approach to work and study'.

Coldham Wind Farm: Cheryl Caldecoat's children from Fulbourn Primary learnt many new things and enjoyed making model wind turbines during a trip to Coldham.

Stibbington Day Centre: Amy Barker's Eco Group from Bishop Creighton Primary took part in the Schools Green Day and found all aspects excellent. The children were very enthusiastic about what they had learned and enjoyed sharing eco-ideas with children from other schools.

Stibbington Residential Centre: Debbie Afford's Southfields Primary School attended a 3 day residential course, choosing to focus on minibeasts, art in the environment and environmental issues; they particularly enjoying pond dipping.

