



Issue 42
Summer 2012

Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service
Supporting Sustainable Schools

New look CEES Newsletter

From Summer 2012 our CEES Newsletter takes on a new, slimmed down appearance. This is largely due to our increased use of electronic communication systems which allow us to provide weblinks to news from other organisations rather than including their news stories and events within our pages.

The back page of this issue therefore includes a “one-stop shop” for weblinks to several other organisations working in the fields of environmental education, sustainable schools and learning outside the classroom.

The next few pages focus on the latest news and events from CEES, and a glance at the contents list on the right provides an indication of the wide range of subjects included.

New look CEES brochure

Also new for Summer 2012, CEES' brochure has been transformed from a single publication to five different ones. We now have separate leaflets for each of CEES' branches, so look out for these publications in school and on our website:

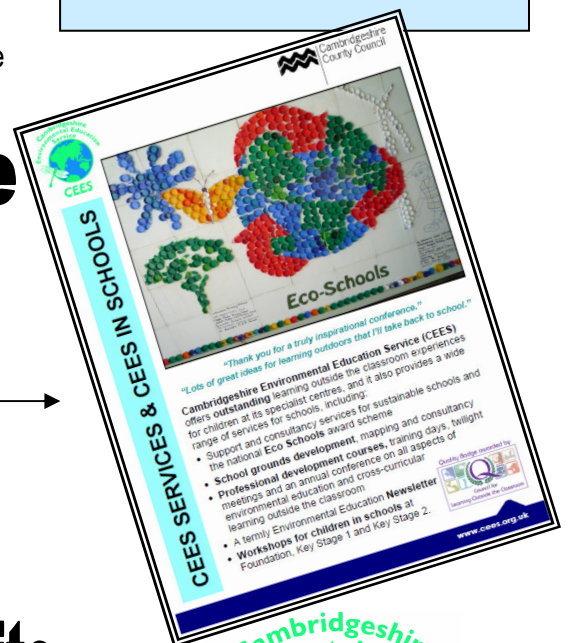
- CEES Services and CEES in schools
- Residential Courses at Stibbington Centre
- Day Courses at Stibbington Centre
- Day Courses at Burwell House
- Day Courses at Wisbech Castle

Bookings are now being taken for all CEES courses and services from September 2012 to July 2013.

Coming soon . . . new look CEES website

In another new initiative, CEES' website is about to be improved with the addition of new **VIYP** pages. We look forward to hearing from the **Very Important Young People** who we hope will enjoy the new site. They will find Stibbington's Stanley and Stella poised to lead them through activities that include Centre tours, Power Rangers, Waste Wizards and Garden Gang activities, a gallery and feedback page.

- In this issue**
- Inspirational learning in the school grounds—workshops
 - Professional development for new teachers outdoors
 - Running out of energy?
 - Minibeast Olympics
 - Memories from the Home Front
 - 1940s Open Day
 - Primary Geography Quality Mark
 - Bringing learning to life—CEES Conference at Girton College
 - CEES at Burwell House
 - Summer Schools
 - Residential Centre Hire
 - Diary dates & Weblinks



From “good” to “outstanding” via INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

“A pair of wellies is now part of school uniform for our key stage 1 and 2 youngsters who spend hours every week learning maths, English and science under a canopy of trees. Lots of schools want children to go outside to have fun, but we want a high quality of learning out there too, and it has been well worth it – we’ve now achieved “outstanding” (Ofsted 2011 – 12)!”

Primary deputy head teacher, quoted in national media, April 2012

CEES is pleased to offer places for teachers and TAs at two new workshops that aim to inspire participants to use their school grounds for learning activities across the curriculum. The practical “hands on” afternoon workshops will be held from 1.30 to 4.30 on **Monday 25 June for Foundation and Key Stage 1**, and **Monday 2 July for Key Stage 2**.

The programme will have an emphasis on practical learning activities in the “outdoor classroom”. Subject areas will include literacy, numeracy, science, geography and art, with 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.

RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY?

This year, CEES teachers have been going into school classrooms to enable pupils to experience electricity generation first hand. The half day **Energy, Enquiry and Experiment** workshops use mini solar panels and wind turbines in the classroom and the school grounds to illustrate how electricity is made.

Without such specialist equipment, the concepts involved are difficult to portray. Whilst we haven’t been able to source a working model of a coal fired power station yet, the miming actions of Kung Fu Coal Power that we have substituted for the real thing have been popular with both pupils and staff.

All of the major energy companies now have on-line resources for primary and secondary pupils. This month, the NDA with support from Sellafield Ltd launched a new upper KS2 and KS3 resource called Energy Coast. This looks at the western coast of Cumbria, which has been earmarked for substantial energy generation from a variety of renewable and non-renewable sources. Pupils have the opportunity to view animations of each type of electricity generation and to build their own version of the energy coast to try to generate enough power for a local town for one day (at level 1) or one

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: a challenge for new teachers?

Even the most experienced 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:

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 10am on **Monday 9 July** and ending at 4pm on **Tuesday 10**.

year (at level 2).

Another challenging activity for KS3 pupils from EDF is The Pod’s Energy Mix, where pupils select how much of each type of energy source to use for the UK to deliver the 60,000 MW needed, whilst meeting the UK CO2 targets. Not an easy task and the report afterwards helpfully gives the disadvantages and advantages of using more or less of that type of energy.

Eon-UK’s *Energy Experience* is particularly engaging for KS2 pupils with clear, bright animations of energy generation in the *Power! Activity* and the opportunity to plan a wind farm and manage electricity for a town for a day in *The Town is Going Renewable*.

The direct web links below will lead to the activities mentioned above.

www.succeedingwithscience.com/resource.php?id=61
www.jointhepod.org/activities/7-11/energy/energy-mix/interactive/
www.eon-uk.com/EnergyExperience/113.htm

Bookings are being taken by CEES for **half day workshops** in schools on **Renewable Energy** or **Climate Change**.

MINIBEAST OLYMPICS - Late availability

At the time of writing the London Olympics may be only seven weeks away, but teachers need not wait that long nor travel that far to get into the Olympic spirit.

CEES' Minibeast Olympics Day for key stage 1 and 2 classes offers an opportunity to learn about minibeasts whilst following an Olympic theme and applying the Olympic values in an inspirational outdoor setting. There's an opening ceremony at the start of the day, and teamwork challenges to tackle focussing on minibeast variation, adaptation and identification. There's even an awards presentation finale with songs, medals and certificates at the end of the day.

We have a few dates available in late June and July for our Minibeast Olympics Days at Stibbington Centre and at Burwell House, so for details of a learning experience with a difference, contact CEES.

MEMORIES FROM THE HOME FRONT 1940s OPEN DAY at Stibbington Centre, Saturday 22 September

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, CEES will be hosting a "Memories from the Home Front" 1940s themed Open Day at Stibbington Centre on Saturday 22 September. The day will be an opportunity for visitors to explore the Centre, sample lessons and gas mask drill in the period classroom, try 1940s style handicrafts, look at documentary records from the period and buy refreshments at the Lyons Corner Shop.

The grant will also make it possible to supplement and expand the resources currently held at Stibbington to support the Centre's very popular Evacuation Days. During the past year alone more than 3000 children have been "evacuated" to Stibbington. In future many more children will benefit from the new resources that will be acquired thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY QUALITY MARK

On Thursday 20 September there will be a meeting at Mayfield Primary School for Geography Subject Leaders who are interested in finding out more about the PGQM. Dr Paula Owens, Primary Quality Mark and Curriculum Development Leader, Geographical Association, will be there to give a presentation, share some examples of schools work towards the award and answer questions. For further information or to book a place at this meeting please contact CEES on 01780 782386 or email CEES' Primary Geography Adviser, helen.johnston@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

The PGQM is an award for primary schools wishing to achieve recognition for the quality and progress in geography leadership, curriculum development, learning and teaching in their school.

BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

CEES Annual Conference
at Girton College, Cambridge

in partnership with

Cambridgeshire Outdoors

Friday 16 November 2012

Conference Prospectus and booking details
available from 3 September

CEES at BURWELL HOUSE

CEES' Day Course programme at Burwell House is expanding as more schools are discovering the delights of visiting the Residential Centre for a Day Course. In addition to the Minibeast Olympics Day Courses (see above), other popular Day Course titles include:

Investigating Rivers; Investigating Rocks; Art through the Environment; Minibeasts, habitats and food chains; A Roman Day and Exploring a Locality.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Supporting the DfE's Summer Schools programme for disadvantaged young people at year 6 to 7 transition, CEES is offering Day Course programmes that bring literacy and numeracy to life in the environment. Summer School days are available on selected dates during the school holidays.

RESIDENTIAL CENTRE HIRE

During weekends and school holidays Stibbington's Residential Centre is available for hire by organised groups and bookings are now being taken for next academic year. Recent weekend visitors said,

"We would give the centre a "big thumbs up" with plenty of safe outside space, great kitchen, somewhere to sit and relax and ,above all, very clean bedrooms! All on one level meant no problems for mobility issues". *The Roberts Family*

"The facilities were ideal for a group of our size – 17 adults and 16 children.. There was plenty of space for us to sit comfortably together, both to eat and relax, but also plenty of space to spread out. This was particularly important for the children as they practised for 'Stibbington's got talent'. The classroom served as a great studio for the final show. And of course the outside space is perfect for the children to let off steam." *The Johnston Family*

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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.

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

CEES DIARY DATES	
Date	Event, venue and details
Mon 25 June	Inspirational Learning in the School Grounds at Foundation and Key Stage 1, a professional development workshop at Stibbington Centre, 1.30—4.30
25—26 June	Primary Schools Eco Councillors' Convention , a 2-day programme for groups of Y4 to 6 children at Stibbington Centre
Mon 2 July	Inspirational Learning in the School Grounds at Key Stage 2, a professional development workshop at Stibbington Centre, 1.30—4.30
9—10 July	Learning Outside the Classroom , a 2-day training course at Stibbington Centre for PGCE students and new teachers
23 July—31 Aug	Literacy and Numeracy Summer School Day Course programmes available at Stibbington Centre for Y6 to 7 transition groups
17—18 Sept	Primary Schools Eco Councillors Convention A 2-day programme for groups of Y4 to 6 children at Stibbington Centre
Thur 20 Sept	Primary Geography Quality Mark meeting led by CEES Primary Geography Adviser, Helen Johnston and Dr Paula Owen, GA, at Mayfield Primary School, 4.15—5.45pm
Sat 22 Sept	Memories from the Home Front 1940's themed OPEN DAY at Stibbington Centre, 10am to 4pm. No booking required. Activities and attractions for all the family
Fri 16 Nov	CEES Annual Conference in partnership with Cambridgeshire Outdoors: BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE Outside the Classroom at Girton College Cambridge, 10am—4pm

WEBLINKS

CEES: www.cees.org.uk

Burwell House: www.burwellhouse.com	Growing Schools: www.growingschools.org.uk
Carbon Trust: www.carbontrust.com	Learning Outside the Classroom: www.lotc.org.uk
Eco Schools: www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools	National Association of Field Studies Officers (NAFSO): www.nafso.org.uk
Energy Display Meters: www.energydisplaymeter.co.uk	Outdoor Education Adviser, Cambs: www.cccpccvisits.org.uk
Energy Saving trust: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk	Outdoor Education Centre Heads (AHOEC): www.ahoec.org
Farming and Countryside Education: www.face-online.org.uk	RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk
Food For Life Partnership: www.foodforlife.org.uk	Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd): www.se-ed.org.uk
Green House Project, Huntingdon: www.greenhouseproject.co.uk	Wildlife Trusts: www.wildlifetrusts.org
Grafham Water Centre: www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk	Wisbech Adventure Playground: www.wisbechadventureplay.net

