

**Issue 44
Summer 2013**

Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service
Supporting Sustainable Schools

LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

CEES' annual conference at Girton College in November proved a very popular event. 90 participants enjoyed keynote presentations and workshops that focussed on bringing learning to life. With options that ranged from *Treasure Island*, *Rock around the clock* and *A bug's life* to *If you go down to the woods today* and *Here's one I made earlier*, there was something for everyone.

Feedback from the event was very positive with almost 90% of responses rating the day very good (grade 1 of 5). Amongst the suggestions for follow-up, the most commonly mentioned was a request for training on literacy and numeracy in the school grounds.

In response, CEES offered a series of workshops in January at Stibbington Centre and at Burwell House. There were separate sessions for key stage 1 and key stage 2, and participants left with a host of ideas for taking their literacy and numeracy work outside the classroom into the school grounds.



Practical activities outdoors were curtailed slightly by the bitterly cold weather, but teachers were game to persevere as far as possible, retreating indoors for some of the activities. For example, on the theme of minibeasts: having used instructional text, poems, measuring and counting outdoors, a group impersonation of a minibeast (in this case a mayfly nymph, right) took place back inside.

For those who would like to explore the potential for taking their literacy and numeracy outside during the summer season, further training dates will be offered in the summer term, and whole school staff training days are also available. To register an interest, contact CEES.

Another aspect that was identified by several conference delegates, as well as those who attended the above training sessions, was the need for child-friendly maps of the school grounds. Maps such as that shown left can be prepared by CEES and supplied in the form of a series of Powerpoint slides allowing flexibility of use by teachers.

In this issue

- Literacy and numeracy in the school grounds
- Climate Week and Science Week workshops in schools and Day Courses at Centres
- Primary Schools Green Day
- CEES at Vine House Farm Open Afternoon
- Very Important Young People
- Residential facilities makeover
- Family learning opportunities
- CEES at Burwell House
- Diary dates



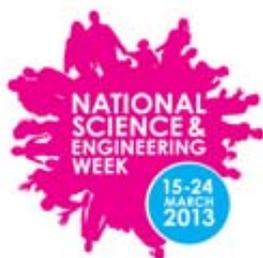


Britain's Biggest Climate Change Campaign: 4 — 10 March 2013

Thousands of events and activities are being planned by organisations from every part of society for **Climate Week**. Showcasing real, practical ways to combat climate change, the week aims to renew our ambition to create a more sustainable, low-carbon future. The campaign is supported by some prominent individuals and organisations, including the Prime Minister, The Met Office, The Department for Education, leaders from every major political party, and even Sir Paul McCartney. Climate Week 2012 saw over half a million people take part in more than 3000 events, but organisers want this year to be even bigger! To find out more go to www.climateweek.com.

CEES has signed up to Climate Week and is delighted to be able to support the campaign by offering schools **Energy Matters** in-school workshops. Children will learn about climate change and investigate renewable energy using hands-on mini solar panels and wind turbines. Alternatively on a class visit to CEES' new base at **Vine House Farm**, Deeping St Nicholas near Peterborough children will see real wind turbines and solar panels in action on site.

Climate change will also affect plants and animals as they will need to adapt to changing conditions. Classes can visit **Burwell House** near Cambridge for our **Minibeasts and Climate Change** day. Children will discover a wide variety of minibeasts in land and pond habitats and investigate how creatures have adapted to their habitats.



Discover National Science and Engineering Week: 15 — 24 March 2013

Teachers who are organising activities for National Science and Engineering Week might like to take advantage of the high quality teaching and engaging activities offered by CEES' programme of in-school workshops. Themes include: Energy Matters; Minibeasts and adaptation; Soils and growing; Investigating food chains; Investigating rocks. All workshops involve CEES teachers bringing specialist resources into school and leading learning activities that focus on practical "hands-on" experience.

For key stage 2 classes, CEES has also developed special day courses at its Centres during Science Week. The programmes for these active learning days aim to bring science to life and engage children in memorable learning experiences. Half day programmes are also available for these courses.

For details about national events visit www.britishteachers.org.uk/national-science-engineering-week.

<p style="text-align: center;">at VINE HOUSE FARM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Explore! Renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a 60 metre wind turbine • Carry out field investigations into wind strength, turbine size and turbine impact • Explore the advantages and disadvantages of wind as a renewable energy source • Use renewable energy mini-kits to investigate wind turbines • Investigate electricity production using photovoltaic cells • Explore the full range of renewable energy used on Vine House Farm. 	<p style="text-align: center;">at WISBECH CASTLE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Investigate! A Crime Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the children solve the mystery of the missing Victorian clock? • Use the period interiors and grounds of Wisbech Castle as a venue for a Crime Scene Investigation with a historic twist • Collect evidence from around the Castle and grounds at the crime scene, set in 1892 • Time travel to the present day to analyse evidence using modern forensic techniques • Finally identify the guilty party. 	<p style="text-align: center;">at BURWELL HOUSE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discover! Plants and minibeasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the beautiful, extensive grounds of Burwell House • Identify some of the mature and unusual trees, and complete a tree passport, including estimating, measuring and counting activities. • Explore minibeast habitats including the pond and wild garden • Capture, observe closely and identify pond creatures and other minibeasts using ID keys • Use literacy, numeracy, art and drama activities to support learning.
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Full details about Climate Week and Science Week workshops in schools and Day Courses at CEES Centres are available at www.cees.org.uk or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

CEES' **GREEN DAY** at Stibbington Centre on Thursday 7 March also supports Climate Week. The day offers opportunities for teachers from lots of different schools to bring small groups of key stage 2 children for a programme of eco-action inspiration.



To book places at any of these courses, workshops and activities use CEES' contact details above.



STIBBINGTON RESIDENTIAL CENTRE BEDROOMS MAKEOVER

Last year the children's bedrooms at Stibbington Residential Centre were given a makeover and the improvements have met with a huge vote of approval from the many young residents who have come to stay, sharing the cosy, homely rooms for 4 with their friends.



This year it's the teachers who will benefit from the latest improvements: their single rooms have been newly decorated; they have new beds, new cupboards, new shelving and new window blinds; and new artworks will soon be added too. Funding for the improvements has come from Stibbington Centre's charitable trust, with volunteers supplementing the staff team to complete the transformation work.

Leading a residential experience with 30 youngsters is quite a responsibility for anyone. The new, more comfy bedrooms should help to make the overnight experience a more pleasant one for visiting adults, and during the daytime CEES teachers take the pressure off by leading the learning programmes. Bookings are currently being taken for residential courses next year. Details about the residential facilities may be found at www.cees.org.uk, and a DVD is available on free loan to interested Heads, teachers or governors.



DOORS OPEN FOR CEES AT VINE HOUSE FARM

On one of the coldest days during the January cold snap more than 20 visitors braved the elements to join members of the CEES team for the launch of its new base at Vine House Farm, Deeping St Nicholas near Peterborough.

CEES teacher Richard Green, who will lead educational programmes at the farm, described CEES' plans for the site and led a tour of the features of interest, including the wind turbines and other renewable energy installations; the fields and polytunnels, the pond and wildlife areas.

Back inside the education base hot drinks were very welcome, and experimenting with mini wind turbines and watching the bird feeding zone from the viewing area proved to be warmer learning opportunities.



The afternoon ended with a chance for participants to visit the well stocked farm shop and the fenland farm museum, both of which lend themselves to learning activities with visiting classes. Bookings are now being taken for class visits around the themes of energy or food and farming or wildlife and habitats.

FAMILY LEARNING SATURDAYS

Following the success of its first session on **Victorian Christmas** in December, CEES is pleased to offer two more Saturday morning opportunities for children to come along to Stibbington Centre and learn alongside their parent/guardian.

Bookings are now being taken for young geologists and their families to join **The Wonderful World of Rocks** on the morning of Saturday 23 February and for those with an interest in renewable energy, **Energise** on Saturday 23 March.

Details and a booking form may be found on the website or by emailing CEES.

VERY IMPORTANT YOUNG PEOPLE

CEES' website has recently been updated to include a special section for younger visitors.

The new VIYP zone contains lots of information and activities for young people to explore. There are details about what happens at CEES Centres and who works there, and for those who have stayed on a residential course there is a Garden Gang blog and Power Rangers weather records, as well as a photo gallery, frequently asked questions and a chance to send in comments for inclusion on the site. Check out

CEES at BURWELL HOUSE

CEES is continuing to develop its Day Course programmes at Burwell House. Popular titles for key stages 1 and 2 include:

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

Further information about these and other day visit learning opportunities at Burwell House is available from CEES,

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

Summer Term 2013 newsletter:

Copy deadline: 7 May 2013

Publication date: 18 May 2013

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

Date	Event, venue and details
From Feb 2013	NEW FROM CEES FOR 2013: Discounts available VIKING DAY at Stibbington Centre and Burwell House IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE FARM TODAY at Vine House Farm, Deeping St Nicholas ENERGY MATTERS workshops in schools
25-6 Feb 17-8 Jun	PRIMARYSCHOOLS ECO COUNCILLORS CONVENTION 2-day residential experience at Stibbington Centre
25 Feb 10 Mar	FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT www.fairtrade.org.uk .
Thur 7 March	PRIMARY SCHOOLS GREEN DAY For groups of 8 key stage 2 children at Stibbington Centre
Thur 7 Mar pm	MAKING FIELDWORK COUNT CAS Training course at St John's Primary School, Huntingdon For details and to book: www.geography.cceducation.net
Fri 8 March	QUIZ NIGHT at Stibbington Centre
4—10 March	CLIMATE WEEK www.climateweek.com .
15—24 March	NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK Workshops in schools and Day Courses at CEES Centres
19 March	GROWING SCHOOLS CONFERENCE Hertfordshire www.growingschools.org.uk
22 March	WORLD WATER DAY www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013

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

