



Issue 45  
Summer 2013

# Environmental Education News

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

## "A huge impact on learning"

This was one of the comments made by a teacher following a recent whole school staff training day on Learning in the school grounds.

Great Gidding Primary School's Headteacher, Alex Chambers, had decided to start the second half of the Summer Term with a day of inspiration at Stibbington Centre for her teachers, TAs and lunchtime supervisors. She did not regret her decision:

*"Thank you for yesterday, We had such a great day and my staff were really buzzing today, lots of ideas flying around and lots of enthusiasm!"*

*Huge thanks for putting the day together and making it absolutely spot on - very laid back but inspiring, it made all my staff feel that they could achieve. After school club have ideas, support staff feel enabled and teachers are very energised!*

*As a result of all your hard work, at least one small, happy, achieving village school, is doing what is right for their children in these difficult educational times.*

*A great day at a great place."*

Programmes for CEES' whole school staff training days are tailored to the particular needs of each school, and may include ideas for practical activities to support literacy, numeracy, science, geography and art. CEES' learning activities for use in the school grounds will be revised and updated in the Autumn Term to ensure that they support the requirements of the new National Curriculum.

Taking learning outside the classroom to support the new National Curriculum will also be the focus of **CEES' Annual Conference** for 2013, to be held at **Girton College, Cambridge** on **Friday 22 November**. A conference prospectus will be available in September, but for now, those who are interested might like to reserve the date.

Bookings for CEES' whole school staff training days are now being taken for September onwards.

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## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Calling all Celts:



Recruiting in your area NOW

**The Roman Empire Needs YOU**

Join the AA (Auxiliary Army).  
No previous experience required.  
Uniform and training provided.  
Generous stipendium and pension scheme.

During the first part of our unique Roman Day programme for apprentices to the AA we will challenge you to demonstrate the necessary skills to work for the Roman Empire: team working, marching, counting, measuring, Latin learning, problem solving.

In the afternoon session try your hand at designing a Roman clay tile, writing on wax tablets, and handling artefacts, and become a masterchef by preparing a much loved Roman delicacy; stuffed dormouse or stuffed date (subject to availability).

Trainee Viking sailors are also sought for our new **Viking Days**.

Applications to attend Roman or Viking Day recruitment sessions at Stibbington Centre or Burwell House should be directed to CEES at Stibbington.

Person specification: Must be aged 7 to 11 years, training is available for groups of up to 34.



### BOOT BOYS and SCULLERY MAIDS

required at WISBECH CASTLE

Full training provided, including:

All aspects of kitchen work  
Laundry skills

Cleaning and polishing  
Table laying and napkin folding,  
and most importantly:  
Servants' etiquette

Don't miss out on this opportunity to work in the kitchens, scullery and parlour at the prestigious Wisbech Castle.

Applications addressed to Mr Grafton, the Butler, should be directed by teachers to CEES at Stibbington  
Person specification: Must be aged 5 to 11 years, training is available for groups of up to 34.

### ENERGY MATTERS, FOOD & FARMING

with CEES at VINE HOUSE FARM

Following the opening of CEES' new venue at Vine House Farm earlier this year, we still have a limited number of **£200 discounts** available for day courses on **Energy Matters** or **Food and Farming**.

For the Energy Matters programme,

- Visit a 60 metre wind turbine and carry out field investigations into wind strength, turbine size and 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 installations at Vine House Farm.

For Food and Farming,

- Explore the farm, spot the crops and the farm machinery
- Follow the field to fork trail
- Find out about bread making
- Visit the polytunnels and identify and measure the plants
- Investigate food production in the past at the farm museum

### LEARNING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

with CEES at BURWELL HOUSE

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

#### Geography:

- **Investigating Rivers**, including field work investigations at the nearby River Snail, and modelling river processes.
- **Maps, trails and treasure**, activities designed to develop map skills including using compasses and following a treasure trail.

#### Science:

- **Minibeasts, plants, habitats & food chains**. Explore minibeast habitats including the pond area and secret wild garden, Identify some of the mature and unusual trees, capture, observe closely and identify pond creatures and other minibeasts using ID keys, and construct food chains .
- **Investigating Rocks**. Investigate appearance and texture, and test for hardness and permeability using rock sets and microscopes, as well as investigating rocks in the built environment

#### Art & design:

- **Art through the Environment** using a variety of media and techniques in the inspirational grounds of Burwell House.

#### History:

- **Roman Days** and **Viking Days**, see above left.

## *Memories from the Home Front*



*Stibbington, Wansford, Sutton  
Water Newton & Thornhaugh*

### **Stibbington Hall**

The beautiful grounds of Stibbington Hall are regularly admired by the thousands of children and adults who walk through the village as part of their Evacuation Day, Victorian Day or Locality study.

The village fete which is to be held for the first time in the Hall grounds on Sunday 23 June is a chance to visit and explore. There will be lots of attractions to enjoy, including a Stibbington Centre stall. The charge for entry to the event which will run from 2 to 5pm is £1 per adult, 50p per child.

### **Planning for next year?**

#### **Residential opportunities at Stibbington Centre**

A few dates remain available for residential experiences at Stibbington Centre next academic year, and bursaries are available to support the inclusion of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

#### **Christmas is coming**

Planning for the Autumn Term will soon become a priority, and for those whose topic will include Victorian times or Christmas traditions, CEES' popular Victorian Christmas days are now available at Burwell House and Wisbech Castle as well as Stibbington Centre.

## **Memories from the Home Front**

A new booklet of "Memories from the Home Front" has been produced as part of a Heritage Lottery-funded project at Stibbington Centre.



The booklet has been designed to supplement existing learning resources on World War II, focussing in particular on supporting Stibbington Centre's most popular day visit, the Evacuation Day. Thousands of key stage 2 children who have been evacuated to Stibbington in recent years will recognise many of the people and places mentioned in the booklet, including Stibbington School's Head Master, Mr Stafford and teachers, the Miss Smiths. A free copy of the booklet has been distributed to all local schools, and additional copies are available at £3.00 each, or 4 copies for £10.

Additional resources on Memories from the Home Front are currently being prepared for updating CEES' website and by the end of June the new resources which will be available online will include audio clips of interviews with local people who remember the war, and wartime press cuttings from local papers.

## **Home Front Festival**

The finale of the "Memories from the Home Front" project will take the form of a World War II-themed Open Day to be held at Stibbington Centre on **Saturday 28 September**. Visitors to the **HOME FRONT FESTIVAL** will find lots of activities for all the family, including:

- o Take cover in an Anderson shelter
  - o Have a go at wartime handicrafts
  - o Visit our exhibition of memorabilia and contribute your own memories to our archive
  - o Try lessons in the evacuees' classroom, with gas mask drill and a message from Princess Elizabeth
  - o Listen to songs from the 1940s and join in with community singing too
  - o Handle bygone artefacts
  - o Try 1940s toys and games
  - o Look at vintage vehicles
- And there will even be wartime rations available from Lyons' Corner House

Teachers who are working on World War II with key stage 2 classes this term might like to involve their children in this special day by inviting them to design a poster for us to advertise the event. Posters will be judged on the **closing date, Monday 15 July** and the winning design will be produced as a poster and circulated to all schools at the beginning of September.

Teachers might also like to arrange for groups of children to entertain visitors to the event by singing wartime songs. A programme will be arranged with a timed slot for each participating school.

Further opportunities for school involvement on the day include creating exhibits for "Make do and mend", "Dig for Victory", "Rationed recipes" and "Waste not, want not".

Details about the poster competition, singers and exhibition are available on request, or visit Stop Press News at [www.cees.org.uk](http://www.cees.org.uk).

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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 2013 newsletter:**

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Please contact CEES with any questions, comments or ideas:

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CEES is part of the Cambridgeshire Outdoors partnership in Cambridgeshire County Council's Children, Families and Adult Services

Date	CEES events, venues and details
23 June, 2—5pm	<b>STIBBINGTON VILLAGE FETE</b> in the grounds of <b>Stibbington Hall</b> — a chance to visit for all who have admired the grounds from the outside
2 — 3 July	<b>LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM</b> a 2-day training course at Stibbington Centre for PGCE students and new teachers
21 July—30 Aug	<b>LITERACY AND NUMERACY SUMMER SCHOOL</b> Day Course programmes available at Stibbington Centre for Y6 to 7 transition groups
From 4 Sept	Bookings now being taken for whole school staff training days throughout next academic year on <b>LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS</b>
Sat 28 Sept	<b>MEMORIES FROM THE HOME FRONT</b> <b>World War II themed OPEN DAY</b> at Stibbington Centre, 10am to 4pm. No booking required. Activities and attractions for all the family
7—8 Oct and 30—31 Jan	Primary Schools <b>ECO COUNCILLORS' CONVENTION</b> A 2-day residential programme at Stibbington Centre for small groups of Y4 to Y6 children from several schools
Fri 22 Nov	<b>CEES Annual Conference</b> in partnership with Cambridgeshire Outdoors: <b>LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM WITH THE NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM</b> at <b>Girton College</b> Cambridge, 10am—4pm
2—17 Dec	<b>VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DAYS</b> with CEES at Burwell House, Wisbech Castle and Stibington Centre
Thurs 6 March	<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS GREEN DAY</b> at Stibbington Centre

**USEFUL WEBLINKS**

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

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

