



Autumn Newsletter 2016

Improving countryside awareness and opportunity for all through education

Welcome to our quarterly e-newsletter. Countryside Learning Scotland (CLS) is a unique Scottish charity helping people to learn about the countryside. CLS organises school visits into the countryside and countryside speakers into schools to introduce young people to rural employment opportunities.

TAM TOD TROPHY 2016



Our Tam Tod Trophy 2016 winner was 15 year old Eion Urquhart from the Isle Of Skye where he is currently working as an apprentice on the Eilean Larmain Estate. Eion also won a Go-Pro camera sponsored by Tiso Sports, which he will use to capture and share his gamekeeping experiences with young people through CLS.

We are delighted to announce that the Tam Tod Trophy for 2017 will be awarded through Lantra Scotland under the title Outstanding Young Learner.

Their unique awards recognise the talents of people learning and working in the land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation sector.

Director of Lantra Scotland Kevin Patrick states that "The awards can be of wider benefit to Scotland's rural economy. By recognising the country's top learners, their employers and training providers, we can highlight the important contribution they make to Scotland's economy, particularly in rural areas.

Deadline for nominations is Friday 11th November with finalists shortlisted early in 2017, and winners announced at a prestigious ceremony in the Double Tree by Hilton, Dunblane Hydro on Thursday 2nd March 2017.



MUDDY TRAILS



Muddy Trials is annually held at Craufurdland Estate near Kilmarnock and is known to be the muddiest running event in the UK. This year, a percentage of the money raised was kindly donated to CLS and Break the Silence.



ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

This year CLS attended the RHS in partnership with Scottish Land & Estates and Mindstretchers for a busy day of rural adventures. Our 3D countryside map has been updated to include renewable energy in the form of a windfarm and visitors enjoyed exploring the map and guessing the animals on our giant moorland banner.



MINTLAW ACADEMY



20 pupils from Mintlaw Academy visited local Aden Park to learn outdoor survival skills with Bushcraft Ventures. The pupils were taught how to safely create fire for warmth and cooking, and were placed into teams to build shelters to encourage the pupils to work together. Campfire, woodland walk took place and tips on plant and tree species and foraging were shared.

The pupils also visited Nether Aden Farm where farmer David Barron provided a guided tour of his arable and livestock farm. The pupils were shown various farming methods including renewable energy via a biomass burner and solar panels.



AUCHMUTY HS @ LOCHORE MEADOWS

Pupil Support students from Auchmuty High School visited Lochore Meadows to plant Oak, Cherry, Rowan and Birch trees with the Park Ranger Dallas Seawright. This experience encouraged the pupils to think about biodiversity and conservation as well as working as a team.



ROSEMOUNT NURSERY KINROSS, COUNTRY PARK ADVENTURES @ KIRKGATE PARK, LOCH LEVEN

Early years children aged 3-5 years old took part in an outdoor day at Kirkgate Park, Loch Leven. The wee ones explored colour, shapes and sounds through a range of activities designed to encourage learning through outdoor play.



RURAL CAREERS DAY AT SCONE PALACE

High School students from a range of Perth and Kinross High Schools experienced a rural careers day in the beautiful grounds of Scone Palace, met its employees and explored Gardening + Horticulture, Forestry + Arboriculture and Estate Maintenance. The pupils took part in a taster session for each rural career, each with its own unique, hands-on, practical activity, and were offered qualifications and careers advice from Jim Goodlad, a leading lecturer at SRUC, Scotland's Rural College



SCOUTS PROJECT

Local Explorer Scouts in Alyth volunteered their time to help CLS create a range of countryside resources that we can use to engage with young people in schools. Natural items were collected from nearby wild places and local willow weaver Jane Wilkinson helped the Scouts identify different tree species.



CLS SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME

We are now booking events for our Spring/Summer 2017 programme which already includes a range of Countryside Days and Industries to School visits. We create educational events which include skill development, careers and rural industries, food sources, environmental impact, conservation, sustainability and health and wellbeing. If you would like to arrange an event for your school, club or organisation, please contact our Event Coordinator Nicky at nicola@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk.

DUNDEE OUTDOORS

Our pilot project The Dundee Outdoors website is now live however is still in its early stages of development and continues to be regularly updated with new information in partnership with Dundee City Council and the Ancrum Outdoor Centre.

The site aims to provide an extensive directory of outdoor learning and participation opportunities delivered by third sector organisations and rural industry providers. The site also includes an online map of places to visit in Dundee and its surrounding areas as well as throughout Scotland.

We are looking for providers of rural opportunities to help build our Dundee Outdoors database and enable us to offer access to educational facilities in the outdoor world. This will help raise awareness and knowledge of the countryside, promote Scotland's rich and diverse rural industry sector and highlight the benefit of rural life. We aim to cover recreation and responsible access, rural industry and rural land use and environment and conservation.

If you can help please send your details to nicola@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk.



CLS Trustee David Ritchie runs the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network (ASCSN). They are a network of schools studying the conservation of Atlantic salmon. At present their network is represented in the USA, Canada, Greenland, Finland, France, Germany, Spain and Scotland. The aim of the network is for schools to study their local salmon river and then share this learning with the rest of the network. International students will visit Scotland and begin their studies week commencing 7th Nov 2016.

BECOME A FRIEND OF CLS

If you would like to give something back to Scotland's young people and wish to share your knowledge and passion for the outdoors, you can show your support by becoming a friend of our charity. You can offer your time as a volunteer or partner organisation, or you can support our work by donating as an Individual, Business or Corporate supporter.



Please call Ian 07840 951332 or visit www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk/support-us

CONTACT US

If you would like any further knowledge about the work of Countryside Learning Scotland, please contact us on the following details:

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