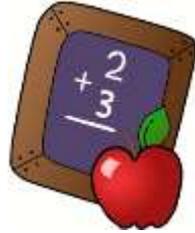




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NOVEMBER 2020



## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM E-BULLETIN

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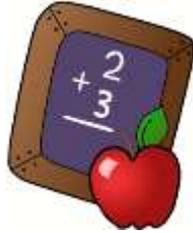
1. Big Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland
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#### Opportunities

Some Opportunities Listed



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Education for Sustainable Development Forum** which provides information on activities in the environmental education and education for sustainable development sectors in Northern Ireland. Below you will find a variety of useful information, including ESD Forum and member's news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and any job vacancies in the sector.

The Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Forum attempts to raise awareness of environmental education and education for sustainable development issues in the formal and non-formal education sectors through the provision of services such as the production of resources, initial and in service teacher training, member meetings and training and organising member and public conferences.

**Iona Meyer**  
ESD Forum Administrator

## NEWS FROM THE ESD FORUM

### 1. ESD FORUM UPDATE

**Save the Date 10/03/21**  
**ESDF Conference**

The Management Committee have decided to hold our Annual Conference Via Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, more details will follow.

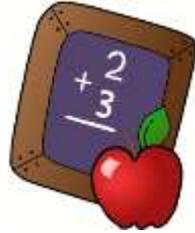
If you need to contact me please use my email [iona@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:iona@nienvironmentlink.org) and I will get back to you as I am currently working from home.

Please note that last year NIEL became VAT registered our fees for ESDF membership is £48 for all organisations. We are conscious of the difficult financial position that members may be operating in, if you have financial difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have any information you would like promoted through the E-bulletin please send it to me by the end of the month, and if you want anything (news, upcoming events, etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me. It is a good opportunity to get your information out to a wide audience at no charge to you or your organisation.



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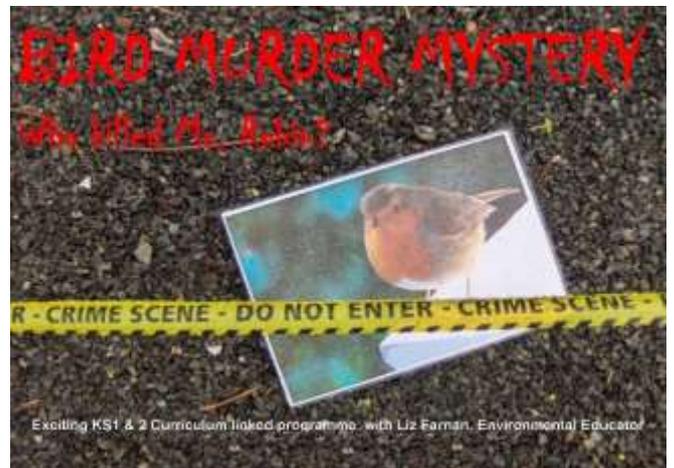
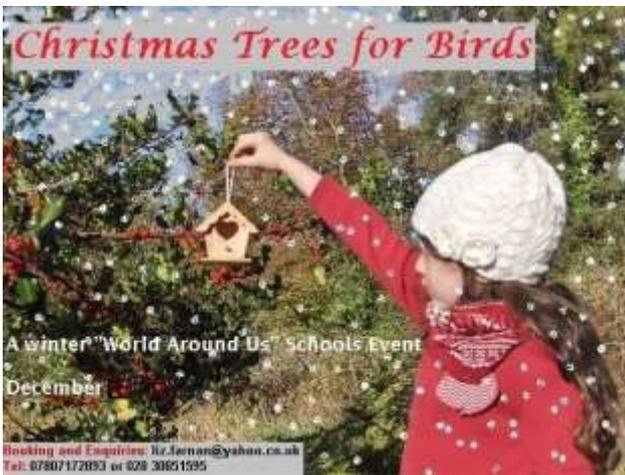


## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

### 1. WINTER THEMED 'Outdoor Classrooms' or 'Bubbles'

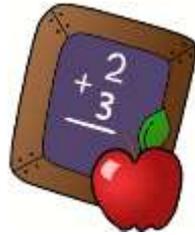
Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator's winter themed workshops to support 'outdoor classrooms' or 'bubbles' in your school grounds or a wild place near you include 'Christmas Trees for Birds' and 'Bird Murder Mystery'

For more details on price, content and curriculum links or to discuss social distancing guidelines please contact [liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel. 028 3085 1595.





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## 2. 'EUROPEAN WEEK' - WASTE REDUCTION

The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) is the biggest campaign to raise awareness about waste prevention in Europe. Driven by local and regional public authorities, we bring together all sorts of other actors — citizens, schools, businesses, NGOs, associations — who organise activities to raise awareness about waste reduction.

The Week, as we otherwise call it, is just that — a week in November; normally the penultimate or last week of the month. What makes it special are the efforts and passion invested by the thousands and thousands of volunteers who spread the word about sustainable consumption and circular economy in their communities.

### *What are the EWWR's objectives?*

- to raise awareness about waste reduction, product reuse and material recycling strategies, and related European Union and Member States policies,
- to highlight the work accomplished by EWWR participants,
- to mobilise and encourage European citizens to concentrate on four key action themes,
- to reinforce EWWR stakeholders' capacities by providing them with targeted communication tools and training.

### *Our message: 3Rs...*

The actions carried out under the EWWR address the 3Rs: Reducing waste, Reusing products, Recycling materials — in this order. These are the main Rs (though there are many others) to have in mind when re-evaluating consumption habits. It is no coincidence that the 3Rs are at the top of the waste hierarchy, because the EWWR bases its activity precisely on this hierarchy. In practice, this is how the waste hierarchy should inform personal (or organisational) decisions:

**Reduce:** ask yourselves whether you really need the goods you are about to buy before buying them. That also goes for the packaging in which some products come as well. Can you perhaps repurpose things or borrow from a friend or fix broken objects or share a neighbour's tools? If the answer is yes, then you can — and should — REDUCE.

**Reuse:** this is the part where conscientious consumers can really make the difference. Swap single-use items for reusable ones in every area of your life! That's the case not only for plastic, but for all other single-use items and products! Convince your employer, classmates, family, friends, or neighbours to do the same!

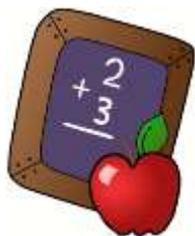
**Recycling:** is better than landfilling, but it's not our preferred option. Why? If you need to recycle something, it means that you're already generating waste. If you're serious about reusing and reducing, recycling should only constitute a small part of your efforts.

### *...and a clean-up*

Unfortunately, littering continues to affect our cities and nature. In order to counteract its adverse effects, the EWWR encourages participants to educate their peers about waste prevention; and to clean up those



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areas where littering is impeding the well-functioning of natural and human habitats. Learn about [Let's Clean Up Europe](#).

Find out more at <https://ewwr.eu/>

### 3. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

#### *IYPH children's art and drawing competition*

Plants are the foundation of all life on Earth. They provide food, oxygen and shelter that keep humans, animals and all life forms in our world alive. But their health is often threatened by plant pests and diseases, which are making their way to new places, mainly because of climate change, international trade and travel.

This year, on the occasion of the International Year of Plant Health 2020, we are calling on children aged 5 to 13 around the world to get creative and show us what protecting plant health means to them!

The children of today are the citizens of tomorrow and our actions as parents, guardians or educators will help them to become responsible citizens. We need to educate our future generations about the importance of keeping plants healthy and protecting our natural resources from pests and diseases.

For more information visit <https://bit.ly/35sXFoT>

### 4. FEEL FESTIVE AT BELFAST ZOO

From Saturday 14 November visitors will notice a touch of magic in the air at Belfast Zoo as we get into the festive spirit for the season.

On select dates throughout November and December, visitors can post their letters to Lapland and might even catch a glimpse of Santa zipping around in our zoo buggy!\* Keepers will also be treating the animals to special Christmas-themed enrichment such as festive boxes and home-made crackers.

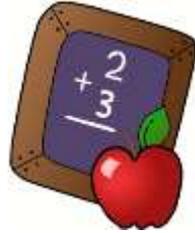
Grab your woolly hats, embrace the outdoors and plan your next trip to Belfast Zoo. Children can explore our beautiful 52-acre site by taking part in our Christmas Trail and be in with the chance of winning a huge lion plush toy!

Our Treetop café will also have plenty of winter warmers on offer and a free festive treat for every non-alcoholic mulled wine bought. Our Treetop café is only open at weekends during November and December.

Feel Festive at Belfast Zoo takes place on dates between Saturday 14 November and Monday 21 December from 10am until 4pm, with last admission into the zoo at 1.30pm. All tickets must be bought online in advance.



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Normal admission rates apply. To read about our health and safety measures or buy tickets, go to **Plan your day**.

\*Dates for Santa's appearances

November: 14, 15, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>

December: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>.



## 5. A FREE ONLINE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

### FOR ALL TEACHERS Primary and Post-Primary

A Free Online Teacher Professional Learning Opportunity tailored for The Global Pandemic: Virtual Learning, Outdoor Learning & Wellbeing



**Workshop 2 – Building Student Resilience through Virtual and Outdoor Learning**  
(Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 3.30 – 5.30pm)

**Workshop 3 – Active and Participatory Learning: Sharing Practice** (Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>  
December 3.30pm – 5.30pm)

*(all workshops will be delivered through zoom)*

**REGISTER @** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/D3QQD5>

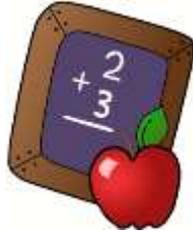
#### YOU WILL:

- explore activities for building student wellbeing and resilience whilst helping them make sense of COVID 19 on a global scale
- explore practical global learning activities which can be delivered to students virtually and through blended learning approaches, including outdoor learning
- come together with other teachers to share practice, tips and resources for engaging young people in global learning and well-being during a global pandemic

*The training is offered to you free of charge and it is delivered in partnership with British Council's Connecting Classrooms Programme.*



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## 6. ECO-SCHOOLS OCTOBER E-BULLETIN

Please follow the link to get the latest from updates from Eco-School [Here](#)

## 7. UPDATE FROM WEE CRITTERS



**WEE CRITTERS**  
INTERACTIVE ANIMAL EDUCATION

Wee Critter's is a fully mobile and professional interactive animal education service which operates throughout Northern Ireland. Our mission is to provide a unique, fun, memorable and educational experience which will inspire a commitment to the protection and conservation of animals and the natural environment within the local community.



## Breaking News With C2K



Earlier this year, we formed a partnership with the C2K Newsdesk, a digital resource available free to all teachers and pupils in Northern Ireland (who have an account).

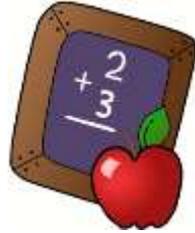
We are delighted to announce that, throughout the Autumn term, we will again be delivering regular interactive and educational video resources and worksheets. Tune in every week for our 'Wildlife Wednesday' updates.

## Taking Learning Outdoors

Schools are back and we are ready to deliver our sessions in a safe and fun way! Let our intrepid explorer take your class on an interactive adventure in an outdoor space at your school.



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From the curiously cute to the creepy and crawly, when you book a Wee Critters session a carefully selected team of animal ambassadors will come along to your classroom. Wee Critters offer a range of curriculum-based topics to suit all age groups and abilities including the world around, rainforests, nocturnal animals, minibeasts, animal diets and food chains, classification and many more!

You can find out more and download Wee Critters' school programmes leaflet at [www.weecritters.org.uk/schools](http://www.weecritters.org.uk/schools), email [hello@weecritters.org](mailto:hello@weecritters.org) or call 079 1278 5047.

*We can deliver our sessions in your designated outdoor space or can bring along our own gazebos. All Wee Critters sessions are covered by a full risk assessment, we have comprehensive covid-19 procedures and full public liability insurance.*



## ZOOM on over...a wild time awaits

Allan the explorer will also continue to provide online sessions for the foreseeable future. These include:

- a 30 minute interactive animal education session via Zoom
- the chance to meet and learn about six of our wee critters
- the chance to ask Explorer Allan all of your questions
- you can invite up to 10 individual households to take part or one class of up to 32 children
- 20% off our normal mobile education service for your class, party or group



*Each session is £50. Wee Critters has introduced a number of procedures to ensure safety and security online during online interactive animal education sessions. For more information on this policy and about the service, visit [www.weecritters.org/onlineessions](http://www.weecritters.org/onlineessions).*



## Celebrating Red Pandas

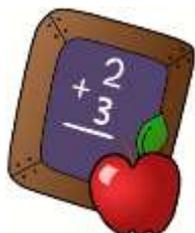
**Did you know the 19 September is International Red Panda Day? Here at Wee Critters, we firmly believe that we can all do 'wee things' to change the world (no matter how big or small we may be).**

We are officially 'red panda guardians' through the Red Panda Network, which means that we donate monthly to help secure a sustainable future for red pandas, species that has declined by 50% over the last 20 years. In fact, it is estimated that there are only 2,500 left in the wild! If you would like to support red pandas, find out more at [www.redpandanetwork.org](http://www.redpandanetwork.org)

***Wee Critters also support Sense NI and the World Land Trust.***



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## Allan the Explorer's Koala-fications

- 15 year career in zoology and conservation
- Diploma in zoo animal management (*Sparsholt College*)
- Child Protection Training (*level 2*)
- Autism Awareness Training (*Autism NI*)
- Understanding the Autism Spectrum (*Queens University*)
- Sensory Steps Training ASD Processing and Sensory Equipment Training
- Disability Awareness Training
- Fully Access NI checked



## Wee Critter's Contact Details

Phone	-	<a href="http://www.weecritters.org">www.weecritters.org</a>
Email	-	<a href="mailto:hello@weecritters.org">hello@weecritters.org</a>
Website	-	<a href="http://www.weecritters.org">www.weecritters.org</a>
Facebook	-	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/weecrittersni">www.facebook.com/weecrittersni</a>
Twitter	-	<a href="https://www.twitter.com/weecrittersni">www.twitter.com/weecrittersni</a>
Instagram	-	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/weecrittersni">@weecrittersni</a>

## 8. GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

Visit the Growing for the Future resource on [www.ccea.org.uk/growing](http://www.ccea.org.uk/growing) and get ideas to manage your garden in Autumn.

CCEA has developed a web resource, in partnership with Tourism NI, to encourage children to grow fruit and vegetables, explore where food comes from and to promote healthy eating.

Teachers can access curriculum-linked resource sheets for Key Stages 1 and 2 divided into the calendar year, with monthly overviews and guidance to growing the fruits and vegetables that are in season. These resources can support many of the Ten Topics of the Eco-Schools Green Flag journey, such as Biodiversity, Energy and Healthy Living.

Let us know how you get on with any of these activities by sharing on CCEA's social media or email Melanie Mulligan, Education Manager on [mmulligan@ccea.org.uk](mailto:mmulligan@ccea.org.uk).

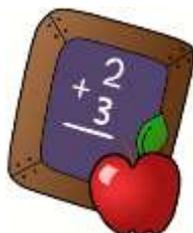
## RESOURCES

### 1. FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL CLASSROOM

FSC have a number of excellent free summer activity sheets which are available at <https://www.field-studies-council.org/publications.aspx>



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## 2. RSPB RESOURCES

RSPB have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/lesson-plans-and-supporting-resources/spot-it/>

## TRAINING & EVENTS

### 1. VARIOUS EVENTS

Unfortunately there are not many events happening at the moment. If you have, any novel events coming up in your own groups let me know and I can publicise them on the website.

[www.eefni.org.uk/events/index](http://www.eefni.org.uk/events/index)

## FUNDING

### 1. BIG LOTTERY AWARDS FOR ALL NORTHERN IRELAND

Awards for All is a quick and easy way to get small Lottery grants of between £500 and £10,000 for projects that last for a year at most (they can be shorter). You can apply at any time and you will normally get a decision around 3 or 4 months after applications are received.

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/northern-ireland/awards-for-all-northern-ireland>

### 2. ERNEST COOK TRUST

The Ernest Cook Trust is one of the UK's leading educational charities. Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land through hands-on educational opportunities on its estates and by offering grants.

#### *Scheme details*

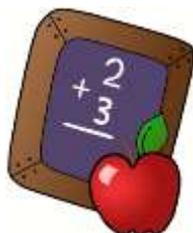
The Ernest Cook Trust gives grants to registered charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest either in the countryside and the environment or the arts (in the broadest sense) or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy.

Since the ECT is a land-based Trust, work, which encourages or ensures the continuation of rural skills and crafts, is of particular interest to the Trustees. All applications are expected to link either in with the National Curriculum or with recognised qualifications.

Each year the ECT Trustees give around £1.8 million to support hundreds of educational projects throughout the UK.



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- A large grants programme for awards of over £4,000 and a small grants programme for awards of under £4,000 operate throughout the year.
- For small grants, most awarded are in the range £1000 - £1500 For large grants, apart from a few larger awards to projects especially close to the interests of the Trustees, most awards are in the range of £4,000 – £12,000 Find out more on [GrantTracker](#) or on the [website](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

**National Trust Gardener - Cushendun - Closing 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme: Invitation to Tender: Project manage, research, develop and deliver farm resilience plans in the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands area - Closing date:22/10/2020**

**NIFSA – Learning Practitioners for new People’s Park Nature Ranger Centre opening 2021 - Closing date:23/10/2020**

## MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

### JOIN US

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Most members are actively involved in environmental education and bring a wide range of expertise and enthusiasm to the forum. Membership to the ESD Forum is open to all individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

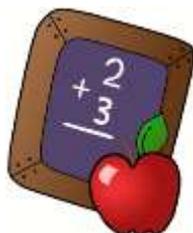
### Benefits of membership include:

- Access to an established networking and information organization
- One conference per year organised on a range of related environmental education topics
- ESD Days run at all of Northern Ireland's University establishments
- E-mail updates on the Forums activities plus information, publications and events via the E-Bulletin
- Access to ESD Forum website
- Support and publicity for your work
- Sharing of ideas, expertise and experience

	<b>Voluntary Organisation</b>	<b>Statutory Body</b>
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<b>Organisation, one person</b>	£48	£48
<b>Organisation, up to 3 people receiving membership benefits at one site</b>	£48	£48
<b>Organisation, more than 3 people receiving membership benefits at one site at one site</b>	£48	£48

As part of your subscription, you will have free place at an ESD Forum conference each year. The E-Bulletin goes into many of the schools and is a good way to promote your work. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact.

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