



In this issue.....

Eco-Challenge Winners

Walkerburn are Top Of The Pops

Waste Minimisation Art Competition

SCOOP Exclusive Stories from our Junior Reporters

Summer in the Eco Schools Garden

We're here to Help

STOP PRESS!

Due to high demand, educational Visits to M&S Green Store will resume after the summer holiday, further details to follow.

Details of Eco-Challenge 2009 will be announced in the next edition.

This newsletter is also available to download from the Scottish Borders Eco-Schools website www.scotborders.gov.uk/eco-schools



Welcome to the summer edition of the Scottish Borders Eco-Schools Newsletter

The winners of this years' Eco-Challenge were announced at a prize-giving ceremony at Old Gala House on the 19th May. Turn to page 2 for details of the winning entries.



The Eco-Challenge Winners: Pupils from Kirkhope, Tweedbank and Cockburnspath Primary Schools with fellow eco-warriors from Jedburgh Grammar, Peebles High School and Hawick High School celebrate their success.

Our Junior Reporters have been very busy this term scooping a number of exclusive eco-stories from around the Borders. Turn to page 4 to find out what's been happening at Tweedbank, Ettrick and Walkerburn Primary School.

New for this month, an opportunity to enter the Waste

Minimisation Art Competition and see your eco-art displayed on a grand scale. If one of your Eco-Schools topics is Waste Minimisation this is the perfect opportunity to promote any work you have done so far or to help you along the way to an Eco-School award.



 Fiona Hanlin
Schools Environmental Development Officer

Challenge Winners!

Hard working pupils from throughout the Scottish Borders have been finding out which schools have been declared winners of the '2008 Scottish Borders Schools Eco-Challenge'. The winners were invited to attend a prize-giving ceremony on 19th May at Old Gala House.

The competition was part of a unique environmental partnership project between Marks & Spencer and Scottish Borders Council. Cash prizes were awarded to primary and secondary schools who have demonstrated best practice in their efforts to achieve eco schools status.

Jedburgh Grammar School won the top prize of £300 in the secondary section with their new **Wildlife Garden**. **Peebles High School Health Promotion Week** and **Hawick High School Energy Awareness Week** walked away with 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Kirkhope Primary School picked up the top award in the primary category with their **Junior Countryside**



Councillor Catriona Bhatia (Executive Member for Education) and M&S Plan A Champion Bev Fendick with this years winners.

Ranger Project. **Tweedbank Primary** were awarded 2nd prize for their work **developing biodiversity around the school** while 3rd place **Cockburnspath Woodland Walk** was also recognised as a model of good practice.

Bev Fendick, Plan A Champion at M&S Galashiels, said:

"As a member of the judging panel, I have been extremely impressed by the many fantastic and innovative entries we had to choose from. Each and every pupil involved should be very proud of the work they're doing and I hope they continue to build on their green successes for years to come."

Executive Member of Education Councillor Catriona Bhatia added:

The Scottish Borders Schools Eco Challenge competition judging panel included Lawrence Alexander, SBC's Curriculum for Excellence Manager; Julie Rankine, SBC's Waste Strategy Manager and Bev Fendick, Plan A Champion, from M&S Galashiels.

BORDER GREEN FESTIVAL – an Eco Family Day Out

Sunday 28th of June is the date for the 5th Border Green Festival, a day full of family fun with an environmental theme. You can make art from natural materials, throw your own pot or create a junk model. Take part in the shadow puppet making workshop, watch some interesting films in the solar cinema or try your hand at making music with traditional African drums or just sit and listen to the music and storytelling. All activities are free.

This year to celebrate the 25th year of the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve and the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast European marine site that spans the border, the festival has a seas and coasts theme and a highlight will be a

chance to join in building an underwater world with community arts group Think Make Grow. The marine reserve trailer with its touch pools will also be there so this is a good time to find out all about the Borders coast.

On top of all the things to do, the Festival features information and advice on a wide number of areas including wildlife, cutting waste and recycling, renewable energy and growing your own food, as well as local food and drink to replenish energy levels.

The Border Green Festival is on the Five Arches playing field, Berwick from 11am to 5.30pm, admission adult £2, Concessions £1, Children free. For further information see www.bordergreenfestival.net or call Berwick Community Trust 01289 330955

Calling all artists to help cut waste

Young artists in the Scottish Borders are being invited to help shout out the green message. Primary 5 to 7 pupils are starting work on their entries for the SBC's **Waste Minimisation Art Competition**.

The pupils have been set the task of designing an image to go in a new advert to urge everyone to Reduce and Reuse their waste.

Large adverts are now appearing on the Council's fleet of waste and recycling collection vehicles which criss-cross the Borders, seen by thousands of people each day. The winning design in the art competition will be used to create one of the next adverts.

The competition details have been sent to all primary schools and the **deadline for entries is 25 May**. On 11 June, the entries will be on public display in Galashiels at a major Waste Minimisation event at the Volunteer Hall.



One of the existing designs.

Waste Minimisation is now a high priority for the Scottish Borders. Scottish Borders Council has seen a dramatic increase in its Recycling Rate since Kerbside Recycling was introduced in 2005. Now it is promoting other ways to cut waste.

The most effective way to cut waste is to reduce what we use in the first place. Reusing materials is the next most effective habit and then recycling brings up the rear, as recycling often involves using natural resources (for example fuel is needed for power to manufacture new products).

SBC Eco Profile – Community Service

If your Eco-School is developing its school grounds and is considering having maintenance or construction work carried out, look no further than Scottish Borders Council Community Service Team. They can undertake site clearance and preparation for an eco-garden, pathwork and slabbing. Their low cost range of joinery work includes picnic tables, benches, boardwalks, planters, steps, fencing and timber bridges, all of which are constructed to a very high standard.

The Community Service team will work with you to create a design which suits your school. Recent projects include creating a series of unique pupil-designed planters at Yarrow Primary School and installing raised vegetable beds, one for each class, at Walkerburn Primary School.



Contact Billy Birse or Richard Pretsel on 01750 725255 to receive a copy of their Catalogue of Products and Project Works or to arrange a site visit and quotation.



SCOOP Exclusive Stories from our Junior Reporters

Our Big Day of Action

On Friday all of Tweedbank Primary School took part in a litter picking day of action. All the classes had a section around the school grounds and shop so that we did not miss any of the areas out. Each class was given some litter pickers, gloves and two bin bags.

When the bell rang we had to pick up as much litter as possible. We found an aerosol can and lots of crisp packets. We also found some glass bottles and still working lighters! There was lots of rubbish caught in the bushes and trees. It was a terrible mess!

The area round our school looks a lot better now. We are encouraging people to stop dropping litter and have put up posters around Tweedbank to remind people to use the bins. We hope you will remember to use them too and help us to make a litter-free environment! We don't want any more litter around our school or in the Scottish Borders.

 Natascha
P5, Tweedbank Primary School



Collecting litter on our Big Day of Action.



A worm in the hand.

Making a Wormery

Mr and Mrs Allan came to help us make our wormery. They showed us how to set it up with all the different layers and how to look after the worms. We have to feed the worms scraps of fruit and vegetables every few days. They don't like onion skins or orange and lemon peel. We also have to give them special tablets to help them digest the food. Each week we give them some cracked egg shell too to help them break up the food scraps. They need some wet newspaper on top to keep them cool. They don't like the rain as this could make them drown so they have to be kept in the school or under the shelter.

Once the worms have eaten lots of scraps they will make compost. We can use it to grow our plants in the courtyard. The worms also make a special liquid that we can collect to feed the plants.



Making the wormery.

 Sanna
P4, Tweedbank Primary School

The Walkerburnies

The pupils of Walkerburn Primary School have been busy these last few months because they have made a CD for the world to enjoy.

The Company: Before class P4-7 unleashed their debut single they had to apply for jobs. They could be a Sales Consultant, Production Technician, Resources Manager, Finance Team and many other important jobs. When they had chosen what job they would like they had to prepare for an interview. They got called outside one by one to show that they had potential. A few days later the names got called out for who had which job.

The Band: P4-7's band is called "The Walkerburnies." They called it that because they live in Walkerburn. There are 14 children in the band and their ages vary from 8-12 years old.

The Music and the Instruments: On the children's CD there is one main track called "Everybody Get Up" and two bonus tracks. They are called "Eco Code Rap" and "Green Jam." Green Jam is where P4-7 play instruments and Eco Code Rap is where the children rap! "We couldn't have made this CD without our lovely music teacher Miss Young who gave up her own time to help us fulfil our dreams," a pupil from P4-7 said.



The Walkerburnies: Pupils from Walkerburn Primary School

It's For A Good Cause: The profit P4-7 raise will be split two ways; 75 % to Mary's Meals and 25% to Borders Forest Trust. Mary's Meals is a charity that encourages children in Malawi to come to school by giving them one meal every day. P4-7 are also giving some of the money to Borders Forest Trust so they can be closer to buying the Devil's Beef Tub and plant some native trees in place of the trees woodcutters have cut down.

The CD will be available in local shops such as Marks and Spencer, the Walkerburn Post Office and from the school itself.

Rae Anderson
P6, Walkerburn Primary School

STOP PRESS! View The Walkerburnies video at www.southernreporter.co.uk or on YouTube.

Walkerburn's NEW GARDEN

All of our school are working on a vegetable patch just outside of our playground. We are growing our vegetables in raised beds, built by the council community team.

Before we started gardening, we were doing a problem to see what tools we could buy for our new garden with £300 and Mrs Norman, our head teacher, said we could run a competition. Two people in Primary 4 Daniel Murtagh and Laura Young won the competition. We bought some rakes, trowels, spades, forks and hoes.

On 30th April we went to our new vegetable patch and we divided ourselves in to our primary teams. Each team were planting different varieties of vegetables. The Primary

5 team were planting brassicas – kale, cabbage and broccoli.

Two people Abbie, P3 and Jack, P1 said they learned how to put the seeds into their rows and they also said that they learned how to dig the right way and the last thing they said was that all of the children in the school including them did an amazing job especially as some of the children have never tried gardening before.

Altogether we are hoping to grow quite a lot of our food and then try it for lunch. We hope that our garden turns out fine and that none of the plants die because we have put so much effort into it.

Ryan Cochrane and Sean Murtagh
P5, Walkerburn Primary School



P6 planting tatties in one of our new raised beds.



Ettrick Primary School's ECO-GARDEN

The ECO-PLAN

Ettrick Primary School used to have just grass at the back of the school and so last year the eco-committee got together to sort out a plan of action.

Our plan was:

1. To turn most of the grass into a beautiful garden.
2. To have our own small gardens, with different flowers and plants.
3. To build a garden willow house with willow sticks and plants.
4. To attract plenty of different insects.



Ettrick Primary School pupils hard at work in their Eco-Garden

The start of our ECO-GARDEN

We invited all the parents over for 'fencing frenzy day' to help dig up the grass and rocks with spades, picks and a tractor. The dad's also put up a wire fence to keep out the rabbits and helped plant seeds.

Dr and Mrs Lockie, who live in our beautiful valley, helped to build a willow house and plan our gardens to look after all our plants and insects.

We worked in our garden every week during the summer, including watering and weeding during break-times. We did have a few problems with rabbits nibbling on our plants and digging up the roots.

We noticed that bumblebees also became interested in our garden as well as in the tree flowers around our school. There were a lot of earthworms and the garden also attracted birds. During winter our garden frosted over and went to sleep.

Improving our ECO-GARDEN

Our plan this year is:

1. To turn more grass area into a big vegetable patch.
2. To move all our flower garden's next to the vegetable patch.
3. To take out more stones and rocks and rabbit proof our garden.
4. To grow much more vegetables to attract more insects, especially honey-bee's.
5. To harvest, eat and sell vegetables, to our community for fund-raising.

What we have done so far

Some of our parents helped us with our plans and worked in our garden the whole day while the sun was shining. It was really hard work and we had to do a lot of digging and planting of flower and vegetable plants. We all had to design our own special gardens and also help in preparing the ground for seed planting in our big vegetable garden.

We planted different types of vegetables, including potatoes, onions, leeks, carrots, spring onions, lettuce, tomatoes, beetroot, parsnips and marrows.

We saw loads of earth worms and spiders and a few birds and sheep watched us work all day. The next day it rained and we were very happy with what we had done for our garden. The young green shoots are showing already and everyday we see more plants growing.

What we hope to achieve

The eco-committee plan to count the number of insects and honey-bee's in the garden each day and make sure there is no sign of rabbits.

For school fund-raising we hope to harvest our vegetables and invite the Ettrick Valley community to taste all the vegetables in our garden.

 Caitlin Branston
P5, Ettrick Primary School, Ettrick Valley



Are you a BUDDING NEWS REPORTER?

We are looking for Junior Reporters for the Scottish Borders Eco-Schools Newsletter.

If you have an eco-school story that you would like featured in the next edition please send your news report to me by 4th September 2009. Reports should be no more than 500 words in length.

 email fiona.hanlin@scotborders.gov.uk.

Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service EVENING CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 2nd September, 7pm – 9pm and Wednesdays in term time to November

Nature and Wildlife of the Scottish Borders

A 10 week series of evening classes/workshops jointly run this year with National Trust for Scotland Rangers and held in Eyemouth. Led by a Countryside Ranger, each evening will include a practical session and a workshop or talk. Participants will learn about over 150 species including trees, animals, plants, and butterflies. Interesting for hill walkers, teachers, gardeners and others wishing to improve their knowledge of our Scottish Borders countryside and coast. Course fee £40 concessions £25. A small number of free places available to volunteers.

 For further information contact Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service (01835) 830281
rangers@scotborders.gov.uk





We're here to Help

School Grounds... a fantastic learning environment on your doorstep



Grounds for Learning is the Scottish programme of Learning through Landscapes, the UK school grounds charity. We support schools and early years settings to use and develop inspiring outdoor spaces for play, learning, health and sustainability.

Learning outdoors compliments classroom learning in a number of important ways. It provides a context for more active learning and a hands-on approach. It energises and motivates some pupils who find being inside the classroom difficult. It offers opportunities for integrated cross-curriculum & cross-age learning and the possibility of learning through real-life situations & projects.

Explore the potential of A Curriculum for Excellence in your school grounds:

- Stimulate **successful learners** through hands-on, cross-curricular, enjoyable learning experiences.
- Develop **confident individuals** by providing an outdoor environment which is safe, sociable and all-inclusive
- Nurture **responsible citizens** by caring for and respecting a shared space
- Support **effective contributors** by facilitating team work, active problem-solving and decision making

Grounds for Learning can help you make best use of your outdoor space:

- **Training:** We offer a range of training courses to support teachers and early years practitioners with the use & development of their outdoor spaces, including central courses in local authority areas and from our office base near Stirling
- **Advisory visits:** For schools that would like individual

support to use & develop their own grounds, one of our experienced professionals can visit to have a look at your outdoor space, meet staff and provide you with tailored advice and workshops for staff and/or pupils

- **Member support:** Join our School Grounds UK or Early Years Outdoors membership schemes and benefit from personalised advice by phone or email, regular resource mailings, online access to our resource library and discounts on conferences & publications
- **Free resources:** Our website – www.gflscotland.org.uk – provides a range of case studies and activity ideas, including our free National School Grounds Week resource pack, The Big Play Experiment, taking place from 8-11 June 2009

To find out more, contact us at

Grounds for Learning,
Inglewood House,
Alloa FK10 2HU
tel 01259 220887,
email gfl@ltl.org.uk,
web www.gflscotland.org.uk

Summer in the Eco-Schools Garden

10 tasks you can be getting on with this summer.

- Plant containers with shrubs and perennials for birds and butterflies
- Plant a wildflower meadow
- Plant summer bulbs
- Start a compost pile
- Plant vegetable seeds including peas, beans and lettuce
- Weed and mulch borders
- Build a bee café
- Start a gardening club
- Create an eco-mural from recycled materials
- Carry out a wildlife survey

Fiona Hanlin
Schools Environmental
Development Officer

You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Schools Environmental Development Officer,
Scottish Borders Council, CPD Centre, Marigold Drive, Langlee, Galashiels TD1 2LP
Telephone: 01896 662185 ext: 287 or email: fiona.hanlin@scotborders.gov.uk

