

School grounds event

HEN organised a networking event focused on school grounds, highlighting the diverse range of supports for schools in the Highlands. All those who gave presentations on the day have provided a brief summary of their activities as well as contact details.

Contact list

CSV Action4Sustainability

Contact Elanor Gordon for a wide range of support services on all aspects of school ground development. Elanor can advise on planning and funding as well as deliver workshops relevant to your project. She has a wide range of resource materials to loan and can point you in the direction of other organisations who can help. If you are also considering an Eco-school award, she can show you exactly how your school ground improvements can help you achieve it. This service is free and available to all Highland schools.

07768 032669 / 01349 868255 elanor.gordon@highland.gov.uk www.csv.org.uk/scotland

Aigas Field Centre

As well as offering a range of exciting on-site activities at their Field Centre near Beauly, Aigas staff are available in the winter months to visit your school to advise on the biodiversity aspects of school ground improvements. They can help you make the most of what you have already in your grounds and also advise on improvements which would help encourage more wildlife. This service is free but for a limited number of schools during November - March.

01463 782443 Melanie Lister-Kaye

Artsplay Highland

Artsplay can help you with all aspects of planning an art project from the initial idea through to its completion. They can provide contact details for disclosed professional artists and information and ideas on a wide range of arts projects from cds to performances or exhibitions.

01456 450264 Jelica Gavrilovic jelica@artsplayhighland.org.uk

BTCV

BTCV staff and volunteers can help you plan your school ground improvements and also assist with some of the harder landscaping elements you may be planning. They can bring a team and tools and a lot of practical expertise. There is a charge for their help but they can also advise you on fundraising.

01463 811560 j.sleeman@btcv.org.uk www.btcv.org.uk

Grounds for Learning

GfL is the national charity which supports school grounds development in Scotland. It is a membership organisation and can offer a wide range of resource materials, practical advice and financial support in a number of funded projects. GfL provides resource boxes, training courses and a national network conference.

01786 445922 www.gflscotland.org.uk

Happyness Drum Circles

As well as providing a range of excellent percussion workshops, Steve Sharpe can help you and your pupils construct your very own wooden instruments as beautiful and useful features of your school grounds. There is a charge for this service; Steve is happy to talk to schools throughout Highland to help tailor a project to your needs.

01808 521335 www.happyness.org

Highland Council Countryside Rangers

The Highland Council rangers provide an excellent, free service to all schools in the area. They can advise on many aspects of school ground development and help with a wide range of classroom activities and practical projects to bring your school grounds into the school curriculum and to further improve them for wildlife.

To find a ranger near you phone 01463 724312 or go to www.highland.gov.uk and look under "R" for rangers.

Highland Council Waste Management

As well as advising your school on waste minimisation and recycling projects in general, staff on the waste team can help your school set up an effective compost system to help dispose of green waste and provide compost for all those planned garden projects. Compost bins also available at time of writing.

01349 868439 sheila.wickens@highland.gov.uk www.highland.gov.uk

John McNaught - art projects

John is employed half time by the council in Ross & Cromarty and has helped many schools carry out some excellent school ground arts projects - he is currently heavily booked up but may be able to spend up to a day on an advisory visit to a school in Ross & Cromarty - or with some persuasion to a school in another area (where he may get involved with freelance work).

01381 600337 gijo@ecosse.net

Magpie Creative Recycling

Join Magpie and have access to tonnes of useful “waste” as well as training sessions in the creative use of Magpie’s resources. Materials available currently include tarpaulin, pieces of marble and granite, fabric, paper, card - even sticky back plastic!

01349 832989 magpiecrc@hotmail.co.uk Deborah Carter/Jelica Gavrilovic

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The RSPB has a brand new resource for schools in the form of a part-time field teacher Jess Tomes. Jess can assist schools - free of charge - in many of the aspects of improving conditions for birds and wildlife in the school ground with advice, practical sessions with children and wildlife investigations. She can also help take pupils through the new Wildlife Action Award scheme.

01463 715000 jess.tomes@rspb.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Natural Heritage have local offices throughout Highland and provide grants for school ground improvement projects which benefit the natural heritage or improve our understanding of it. They also have School Ground boxes which are available on loan and full of excellent resource materials to improve and use your school grounds.

www.snh.org.uk for information about grants and contact details for your local office.