



Autumn Newsletter 2018

Providing education opportunities across all rural industries

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 brings countryside speakers into schools to introduce young people to rural employment opportunities.

EDUCATION EVENTS AND PATHWAYS TO RURAL WORK



In July, CLS were delighted to welcome our new Education Officer, Beth Johnston, on board. Since joining us, Beth has been hard at work on our Pathways to Rural Work project, visiting schools and arranging career information events. Pathways to Rural Work provides schools with the opportunity to improve their pupils' awareness of the variety of career opportunities available in the rural sector. The project provides hands-on experiences of the benefits of working in the rural sector through pupil engagement sessions, on-site rural career days, teacher training and rural industry partnerships for further work experience.

If you'd like further information on our Pathways to Rural Work programme, please contact beth@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk.

PRINCES TRUST AT GLAMIS

Young people from Dundee joined CLS, the Princes Trust and representatives from Scotland's Rural College for a rural careers' day at Glamis Castle. The participants were given opportunities to engage with many aspects with Estate life including horticulture, farming, gamekeeping and forestry. This provided them with practical insight into the varied careers available in these areas.



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 become a friend of our charity and offer your time as a volunteer or partner organisation.

You can also make a donation by texting **CLSG10** £amount you wish to give to 70070.



TEACHER TRAINING DAY - INVERMARK ESTATE



A key element of the Pathways to Rural Work Programme is improving the knowledge and awareness of those who deliver rural careers, training and qualifications advice to our young people. With that in mind, we have developed a Teacher Training Day on rural opportunities. Our first event proved a great success, with fantastic feedback from the 17 teachers and community workers from Dundee and Angus, that attended. The day began with a guided Landrover tour of Invermark Estate, stopping regularly to explain the careers involved directly in the running and maintenance of the estate. These range from gamekeeping to hydro engineers and grooms to vets. The indirect employment opportunities that the rural environment provides were also highlighted such as butchers, biologists and hoteliers. The afternoon consisted of a game BBQ and talks from various employees including foresters, a rural college graduate and a land agent highlighting their route into their chosen career. The teachers were delighted with breadth and depth of the information provided by the estate team and volunteers. Our thanks go to Lantra for providing resources on relevant qualifications and training opportunities and to the Angus Glens Moorland Group and Invermark estate staff for hosting the event. The Event was organised in conjunction with Dundee and Angus Developing the Young Workforce.



DUNOON ACADEMY S4

CLS were delighted to return to Dunoon Academy with Winston Churchill Game, and for the third year running, deliver an interactive and inspiring day to the S4 Business Studies group. The group learned about all aspects of running a rural business and enjoyed a tour of the butchery facilities, including hands on experience. The pupils all enjoyed all their self-made venison burgers for lunch.



COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION



In the Spring, CLS supported the Angus Glens Moorland Group (AGMG) in delivering a countryside management course over five weeks, on Friday afternoons, for young people from Brechin High School. The pupils all enjoyed practical, hands-on learning about all aspects of countryside management, the jobs available in the rural sector, food sources, rural business and responsible access.

CLS delivered our Rural Volunteer Award (RVA) course for the gamekeepers and staff on the AGMG estates prior to the events to ensure a safe and enjoyable working environment for the staff and young people. We provided staff with training on facilitating learning so that the pupils got the most from their tutors.

Our thanks go to the AGMG and Invermark,

Hunthill, Gannochy, Glen Ogle and Millden Estates for hosting the events and to their staff for giving up their time to tutor the pupils.

Estates and rural businesses that would like to help their staff learn about working with young people, please contact Ian on **07840 951 332** or ian@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk



SUMMER AGRICULTURAL SHOWS



ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

CLS once again attended the Royal Highland Show in partnership with Scottish Land and Estates. Our theme this year was 'Rivers – Protecting and Enjoying our Waterways'. Younger children had the opportunity to make willow fish and older children and adults had a go at tying flies.

As always, our 3D countryside map had a lot of attention from our young visitors as well as our "guess the species" game.

BLACK NECK PHEASANT SHOOT

In May, along with our colleagues at the World Pheasant Association, we hosted our annual Black Neck Pheasant Charity Clay Pigeon shoot. We launched a new format this year, four fifty-bird flushes, three sporting stands for individual black neck trophy, a pool trap to test the top shots. Pig on a spit.

The participants really enjoyed this new format and we are already taking team bookings for our May 2019 Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot. Have you got a team you'd like to enter? **Please get in touch with info@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk for more information.**

PATHWAYS TO RURAL WORK

**DUNDEE
OUTDOORS**
LAUNCH



We're pleased to announce that Dundee Outdoors officially launched at Dundee Flower and Food Festival on Friday the 31st of August 2018.

We were visited over the course of the weekend by teachers, children and young people, most of which were from local schools and clubs looking for; activities to participate in - particularly those which would benefit their annual curriculum – rural skills development and local educational opportunities.

The website was welcomed with positivity and interest from Dundee's young people and we hope that this resource will inspire

them to delve deeper into what the great outdoors has to offer them.

We're always looking for rural opportunity providers to further build on our current database of clubs, organisations and groups. If you'd like to be listed on the site, please email your details to Beth Johnston at beth@countrysdielearningscotland.org.uk

Dundee Outdoors is an online, completely FREE resource for all. Why not visit the site today?

<https://www.dundeeoutdoors.com/>

WOMEN IN WELLIES

On the 31st of October 2018, we attended the inaugural "Women in Wellies" event hosted by Cairngorms National Park, held at the Community Hall in the Boat of Garten.

The event, which aims to promote the opportunities that rural careers has to offer to women of all ages, featured inspiring talks from various industry professionals and was widely attended by individuals and schools from the surrounding area.

Anna Fleming, the CNPA's education and inclusion officer, said: "The land-based sector is very important to the economy of the Cairngorms National Park and with fewer young people pursuing jobs in this industry we think that by inspiring women we might be able to reverse that trend.

"We really hope that the Women in Wellies event may give some young women the confidence and encouragement to think about a rural career."

CLS are currently in discussions with Cairngorms National Park in the hopes of recreating a similar event or range of separate events for schools across Tayside and Perthshire.

Are you a young woman working in the rural sector, interested in sharing your career experience to encourage others? If so, please email our event co-ordinator Beth Johnston on beth@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

DEVELOPING ANGLING IN SCOTLAND

CLS is partnering with Fisheries Management Scotland and the District Salmon Fisheries Boards (DSFBs)/Trusts to create a national structure that will provide the opportunity for all demographics, particularly young people from all backgrounds and abilities, to get involved in the sport of angling and all the benefits it offers. The programme will be delivered locally through the DSFBs from a national development template including volunteer training, event organisation and the creation of angling partner clusters.

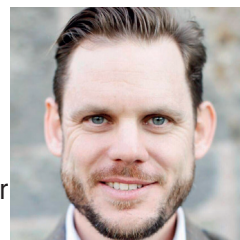
Part of this project involves the development of a network of trained volunteers through Countryside Learning Scotland's Rural Volunteer Award (RVA) Course. The RVA will provide volunteers with initial training on Health & Safety and Safeguarding during short rural courses, such as introducing young people to angling.

<https://www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk/scottish-national-dev-strategy>

NATIONAL RURAL LEARNING CENTRE UPDATE

Project manager David Ritchie is currently undertaking a scoping study for this project. He has met with a large number of stakeholders across Scotland through the summer months and early autumn with a view to driving the proposal forward. The consultation will continue until the end of the year, the findings will then be collated in advance of a stakeholder conference to take place in Perthshire in the Spring.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-rural-learning-centre-stakeholder-conference-tickets-52005298247>



ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION SCHOOLS (ASCSN) NETWORK UPDATE

Students from Washington Academy, Maine, USA will arrive in Perthshire during March for a study visit and angling week. The students will learn more about conservation methods for the Atlantic Salmon to take back for their own work with the Downeast Salmon Federation who organise Atlantic Salmon Conservation efforts on the East Machias River in Maine. The Students will also have the opportunity to try their hand at catching the elusive Tay springer during their week-long stay. The visiting students will be hosted by students from Perth High School who will make the return trip to Maine and also the Miramichi river in New Brunswick, Canada in July 2019. These school exchanges are events are being organised by the ASCSN to mark the NASCO led International Year of the Salmon 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Do you need help organising a countryside event for your school / youth group? Please get in touch to see if we can help! Email beth@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

The Autumn and Winter in Scotland can bring some lovely weather. **Are you a teacher or youth leader?** Here's some resources for getting children out into nature:

www.theschoolrun.com/6-outdoor-activities-winty-weather

www.creativestartlearning.co.uk/early-years-outdoors/christmas-outdoor-activities/



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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