



Learning Without Walls Newsletter



February Edition 2020

Editorial

In this issue of the Learning Without Walls Newsletter I want to concentrate on three areas of our programme.

- a) CPD with the Field Studies Council
- b) Learning Without Walls Campaign
- c) Job opportunities with NIFSA at our new People's Park Nature Ranger Centre in Ballymena

Learning Without Walls statistics

At the end of February 2020, we have 55 qualified Forest Schools, 185 registered schools and nurseries actively engaged and working towards their Forest School recognition. NIFSA has supported an incredible 55600 children learning outside since September 2016. Thank you to everyone involved. Our Forest School Family scheme has 196 registered families involved.

Newly qualified Forest School Leaders Level 3

Our Hall of Fame for February includes:



Home of the
Forest School Awards



Sinead Donaghy from Little Flower Nursery in Coalisland. Thanks to Mid-Ulster District Council that supported Sinead's Forest School Leader Award at Ranfurly House in Dungannon.



Gareth Scullion from Tamnamore Learning Centre in Dungannon receiving his Level 3 Forest School Leader Level 3 Award.



Lindsey Ferguson from Bush Nursery and Primary School receiving her Level 3 and Official Forest School Plaque.

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Partnership with the Field Studies Council

Specialist Continuing Professional Development Courses at reduced prices for NIFSA Members



FSC: An Introduction to using Cutting Tools with Children -

May 28 - Thu 09:00 · Clondeboye Estate · Bangor, County Down

This introductory session will focus on purposeful use of knives, saws and axes with children.

Participants will explore a range of methods for using each tool with children, perform risk assessments and discuss benefits.

[To book for this event click here](#)



FSC: Building Playscapes – Ropes, Knots and Structures

Jun 2 - Tue 09:00 · Clondeboye Estate · Bangor, County Down

Participants will learn a variety of knots, while understanding their purpose and application.

The group will construct several play structures using rope and wood, perform relevant risk assessments and evaluate the benefits of their playscapes.

[To book for this event click here](#)



FSC: Fire Lighting and Campfire Cooking with Children

Jun 4 - Thu 09:00 · Clondeboye Estate · Bangor, County Down

This hands-on workshop will cover fundamental skills in lighting and sustaining a purposeful fire. Using these fires, participants will work in groups to prepare and cook a selection of child friendly snacks and meals through a range of cooking methods.

This workshop will also cover risk/benefit assessments and is ideal for anyone working or volunteering with children of all ages.

[To book for this event please click here](#)



All courses - £35
NIFSA Members - £25

Limited availability so early booking is advised.

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About the Learning Without Walls Campaign

What is it?

"An hour a week is what we seek". We want school children to spend at least one hour outside every week as part of their school timetable. Learning Without Walls is the vision of Lady Dufferin and The Dufferin Foundation. She is passionate about getting children engaged with nature and inspiring teachers to take their lessons outside.



How will we do it?

The Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA) is leading on the Learning Without Walls campaign.

Working in partnership with Councils and other Public and Voluntary bodies, NIFSA have developed a number of programmes to train and support schools on their journey -

- Forest School Awards - supported by local Councils and companies. Schools participate in a 6-week Forest School training programme in the local Park or school grounds.
- School visits to Clondeboy Estate - schools can visit Clondeboy Estate in Bangor to experience outdoor learning first-hand.
- Development of localised Nature Ranger Centres - NIFSA will be developing local Nature Ranger Centres across Northern Ireland. Dedicated NIFSA staff will be able to support teachers in the nearby local schools.
- Continuing development of outdoor learning resources - website, newsletters, training courses, on-line tutorials and much more.

We can only do it with your support. Please sign the Petition below. This will be used to lobby local and central Government to get them to support the Learning Without Walls campaign.



[Click on picture above to view presentation](#)

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[Click on the image above
to sign our petition](#)

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People's Park Nature Ranger Centre coming in September 2020



Recruiting now for dynamic and enthusiastic staff



Working for the Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA) the successful applicants will replicate the very successful Clondeboye Nature Rangers after-school club in Ballymena.

[Click to watch Clondeboye Nature Rangers](#)

Please apply with CV and covering letter stating which job you are applying for to brian.poots@gmail.com

Closing date for all applications is:
31st March 2020.



Click on the job title to go to that Job Description and Specification.

People's Park Nature Ranger Manager – permanent, full-time position – Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. £22-£25k. Developing and managing the after-schools club in People's Park and working in partnership with local schools in the Ballymena area delivering Forest School sessions.

People's Park Nature Ranger Assistant Manager – permanent, part-time position - £10 per hour. 25 hours per week. Assisting the People's Park Nature Ranger Manager in developing and delivering the after-schools club.

People's Park Nature Ranger Assistant – permanent, part-time position - £8.21 per hour. 25 hours per week. Helping deliver the after-schools club in People's Park.

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