



# Learning Without Walls Newsletter

January Edition 2019

2019 - an exciting year ahead for Learning Without Walls

Partnerships



Our partnership with Lady Dufferin and The Dufferin Foundation at Clondeboye grows from strength to strength. Together, under the Learning Without Walls umbrella, we hope to get literally thousands of children outside learning, exploring and discovering the natural world and all areas of the curriculum for themselves. We are working on a model that will build on existing partnerships and seek to secure new partnership opportunities.



### National Trust – Mount Stewart

Thanks to a generous legacy left by Mr Roland Bleakley, a fantastic learning programme has begun at Mount Stewart and will run for at least the next 5 years.

Working in partnership with NIFSA, staff and volunteers will gain accreditation as Forest School Leaders. They will use their new skills to engage their participants in the beautiful surroundings of Mount Stewart Demesne and provide active and fun learning opportunities around biodiversity and the challenges we face in maintaining our varied habitat.

Schools and groups will visit Mount Stewart Demesne on six separate occasions. On completion of the six weeks participating organisations will have the option to become trained as a Forest School themselves.



The new Clondeboye Nature Rangers barbecue hut ideal for those really cold afternoons



Home of the Forest School Awards



Supported by the Dufferin Foundation



## Forest School Families



Encourage families to register for free on the website

<https://www.forestschoolorawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=Family%20Zone;vat=1544009467>

We are having our first forest school event this March. Demand has been huge and unfortunately the event is now fully booked. However, we will be running regular Forest School Family events at Clondeboye. For further information please contact Lorraine at [lorraine@learningwithoutwalls.net](mailto:lorraine@learningwithoutwalls.net)

### FOREST FAMILY EVENT

Clandeboy Estate  
-Eagle Wood

DATE Saturday 16th March 2019  
TIME 11am - 1pm

**£5 PER CHILD/ ADULTS FREE**

All ages event with activities suited for ages 4+

**PLACES LIMITED  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Join in with two hours of family fun in the forest with self lead activities based on free play, enabling children to learn, explore, discover and be creative whilst having fun with their families, den building, bug hunting, tree climbing, nature art and campfire.

To book a place please email - [lorraine@learningwithoutwalls.net](mailto:lorraine@learningwithoutwalls.net)

Part of the Learning Without Walls Initiative



A vertical collage of three photographs showing forest school activities. The top photo shows two children in pink raincoats inside a wooden den. The middle photo shows a child's shadow on a tree trunk. The bottom photo shows a child's hands creating a nature art piece on a dark surface.

## NIFSA Membership

As a small independent charity operating in Northern Ireland we rely enormously on your membership.

Annual membership is £100 and we believe offers good value for money.

Follow the link to subscribe now!

<https://www.forestschoolorawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=NIFSAMembership;vat=1544014101>

What do you get for your membership?

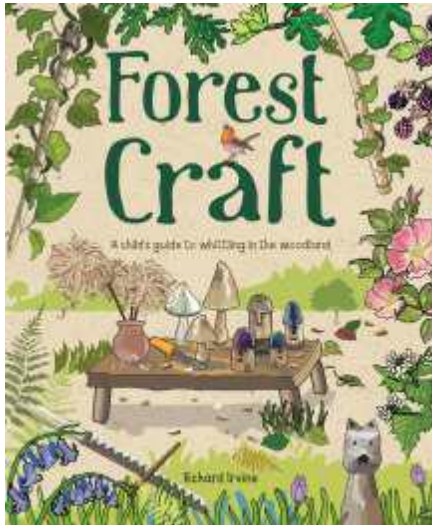
- Access to Member's Section of the Forest School Awards website which gives information on outdoor lessons, research and much more.
- A section on the website exclusively for your own organisation.
- Area to record Forest School activities and produce Eco-Schools Reports.
- Free attendance for 2 members to the annual NIFSA conference.
- Monthly Learning Without Walls Newsletter.
- Entry into the Nature Rangers programme to encourage you to do 6 Forest School sessions every year.
- Opportunity to train and mentor other staff within your organisation as Forest School Leaders for only £30 Open College Network registration fee.
- We are constantly developing new initiatives and forming new partnerships. We are currently working on Shared Education resources and other exciting programmes. Watch this space.

Home of the  
Forest School Awards



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# Forest Craft A Child's Guide to Whittling in the Woodland

By Richard Irvine  
GMC Publications • February 2018 •  
PB • RRP £16.99

*Make family days in the  
woodland even more  
memorable with outdoor  
whittling projects*

In today's hectic world, many of us are looking for ways to slow down, take time out, and calm our busy minds. The benefits of doing this are well documented for overworked adults. However, there's an increasing focus on how much children can gain from regular, quiet, meditative practice. An absorbing pastime like whittling in a peaceful woodland setting offers exactly that. With an emphasis on safety and adult supervision, this book presents a range of simple and fun projects that children can make and enjoy hours of play with afterwards projects such as a kazoo, mini furniture, a duck call, a whimmy diddle, rhythm sticks and an elder wand.

Author Richard Irvine, extols the virtues of exploring woodland, getting to know the trees in your local area and

learning about their characteristics and suitability for whittling. He provides a thorough guide to the basic tools and equipment that are required, the timber he recommends and would advise against for beginners, and the techniques that will be used in the projects. Following this are 20 projects, with simple step-by-step instructions accompanied by photographs and useful tips. Dotted throughout are interesting nuggets of information about woodland folklore. There's also plenty of inspirational photographs, showing how much fun it is to get out into the woodland with friends and family and share in this relaxing, rewarding pastime.

Appealing to both forest school teachers and families, this is a book that can be turned to time and time again, through the different seasons and over many years. The skills learnt can be treasured and passed down through generations, in time-honoured tradition.



## About the author:

Richard Irvine is a passionate advocate of high-quality outdoor-learning experiences for children and adults.

He is a qualified teacher and an accomplished greenwood carver. Irvine lives in Torrington, Devon, UK.

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