



# Learning Without Walls Newsletter



October Edition 2019

## Editorial

What a start to the 2019-20 academic year – we are currently engaging with 1,000 children learning outside every week!! Over 200 schools are now actively involved in the Forest School Awards and we have already had two fantastic conferences.

## Clandeboyne Nature Rangers



### [Clandeboyne Nature Rangers Facebook Page](#)

The Clandeboyne Nature Rangers ran their successful Clandeboo 2 event.



It proved hugely popular again with all the days oversubscribed.

Click here to see some of the highlights.

[Clandeboo Halloween Video](#)

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## New Nature Ranger Centre



We will be working with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to establish a permanent Nature Ranger Centre in the centre of Ballymena. This will support local schools and families to enjoy forest schools every day. Very exciting. See Facebook page for more information - [Peoples' Park Nature Ranger Centre, Ballymena](#)

Forest School Family event at Peoples' Park on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 12 noon – 2pm.



[Find out more about the Peoples' Park Forest School Family event](#)

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## Hall of Fame

Teachers and individuals can undertake the Forest School Leader Level 3 qualification as part of the Forest School Awards. The qualification is recognised across the UK and is accredited by the Open College Network NI.



Andrea and John receiving their Level 3 and Official Forest School plaque



Sinead from Campbell College Junior School receiving her plaque and Level 3.



Stacey from Dunclug Primary School receiving the plaque on behalf of Mr Beacom, Principal of Dunclug.



Mr McCann with his new plaque for St Patrick's Primary School at Rasharkin.

## NIFSA Statistics 2018-19

Updates from October 2019 – number of children learning outside – 45006, 199 schools registered and 179 families involved. **Don't forget to complete your Activity Reports in the MIS.**

## LEAF – Linking Environment and Farming

We were delighted to welcome Caroline Drummond and Carl Edwards from LEAF – Linking Environment and Farming to our Annual Learning Without Walls Conference in October at Clondeboye. Here is just one of the

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initiatives that you could become involved with.

### FaceTime a Farmer

FaceTime a Farmer is transforming how farmers connect children with their food and where it comes from. Children regularly chat live to their matched farmer from their classrooms through FaceTime or Skype, discuss ideas, ask questions, share knowledge and gain a 'real-time' understanding of the issues farmers face every day. Since its early beginnings on Farmer Tom's farm in Cambridgeshire, the exciting FaceTime a Farmer initiative has continued to gather in momentum and popularity resulting in over 350 teacher and farmer pairings across the UK. Children across the UK are benefitting from this effective project allowing them to see beyond the farm gate and gain a developing understanding of where the food on their plate comes from. Farmers from many agricultural specialisms are participating including not only dairy, sheep, beef, arable, pig, poultry and eggs but also farmers from the cut flowers and herbs industry and fish farming. This diverse mix is resulting in excellent conversations within the classroom between the farmer and the children that promotes effective learning. FaceTime a Farmer continues to go from strength to strength, harnessing the power of digital communications to inspire, engage and educate young people about not only the journey from farm to fork but also the everchanging, diverse agricultural industry.

Sandy Booth is Managing Director of The New Forest Fruit Company, a business specialising in asparagus and berries. They grow, pack and distribute fruit to Sainsbury's. Hannah Draper is a Year 1 teacher at Oakgrove School, in Milton Keynes. She was keen to become involved as she wanted to include outdoor environment learning into her curriculum

plans.

The first FaceTime a Farmer session focused on an introduction to Sandy and his farm, the children enjoyed learning about how the strawberries grow and were able to link this to their current science topic. Hannah stated, "the children loved being able to talk to someone that lived somewhere else in the UK," this then created a learning opportunity for looking at maps and distance in geography. Sandy was, "pleasantly surprised," at the enthusiasm shown by the children and was impressed by their questioning, even asking when he had time to sleep! The first session took place in the strawberry tunnel, however next time Sandy aims to focus on a different aspect of the farm, for example picking and packing. This experience will give the children a fantastic insight into the 'farm to fork' journey and where their food comes from.



*Washinborough Academy Farmer Facetime*

Both Hannah and Sandy are enthusiastic about the benefits of the FaceTime a Farmer initiative, Hannah commenting on how quick and easy it was to set up. Sandy states, "There is no doubt that it is widening the children's horizons and understanding of where their food comes." He also makes the link to the benefits of children learning from not only teachers but other role models too. Hannah's class found the first call interesting, fun and enjoyed learning about the strawberries. Hannah believes the project, "has been great for our children to see where their



food comes from and in gaining some appreciation of the effort and hard work that goes into food production, it has also helped bring our science learning alive!" Going forward Hannah is looking forward to linking her future calls with Sandy to the wider curriculum.

Further information about this initiative and how your school or farm can become involved can be found at

[www.leafuk.org/facetimeafarmer](http://www.leafuk.org/facetimeafarmer)

Contact: [Julie.Neale@leafuk.org](mailto:Julie.Neale@leafuk.org)

More details on

<https://leafuk.org/facetimeafarmer>

TCV – The Conservation Volunteers



TCV are partners in Lady Dufferin's Learning Without Walls initiative. Lady Dufferin has supported TCV at Clandebye for over 30 years.

TCV runs a **Community Network** for groups who are engaged in community projects across the UK. There are currently 1150 members and in 2019 we are on a mission to increase the number of members to 1500. We would like to invite you to join!

I have attached a quick guide of the list of benefits, more information and the short straight forward registration form can be found at

<https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/join-community-network>

As part of TCV's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations joining our Community Network in 2019 is totally FREE. (membership will run for 12 months from your date of joining). This really is a great opportunity for you and your community groups to connect close with TCV to benefit from the range of practical, development and funding supported opportunities we can offer through our Community Network.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or you require any further details. Please feel free to share this information with other groups who you feel may benefit from this great opportunity. Please note Schools can also become members so please forward to any contact there.

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Operations Leader

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2019 – Learning Without Walls Conference

We had a fantastic day on 4<sup>th</sup> October at Clandeboye Estate. This was our second annual Learning Without Walls Conference. We had 60 delegates attending and presentations and workshops for experts on their field. Click on link for highlights.

[2019 Learning Without Walls Conference](#)



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