

# Partnership Newsletter

No. 5 Spring 2010



High Weald Hero Actions \*Find Out About \*Explore \*Take Care of \*Be Proud of \*Enjoy

**Welcome** to the High Weald Hero Partnership newsletter.

Thank you for being such active High Weald Heroes – we have been thrilled with your enthusiasm and your engagement in a variety of projects over the past few months. Remember, for any High Weald Hero queries, get in touch with Karen Maier at the Kent High Weald Partnership or Laura Sweeting at the High Weald AONB Unit – contact details at the end of this newsletter.

*We would also like to welcome...*

- Frant CEP School
  - St Augustine's C of E School (Scaynes Hill)
  - Hørsmonden Primary School
  - Ticehurst and Flimwell CEP School
  - Rolvenden Primary School and
  - Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary School
- to the partnership.



Laura (above) & Karen (below)



## Heroes in Scaynes Hill

**Wellington boots, bumble bee outfits and post-it notes were just some of the things required for one school's enthusiastic start to their High Weald Hero membership.**



Recently recruited St Augustine's C of E school, participated in a variety of landscape workshops linked to their current topics. Children from every class furthered their understanding of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Workshops



included; learning about their local habitats; understanding more about farming in the High Weald - both historically and in the modern day; taking part in an outdoor learning session in local woods; and putting on a meadows play



(see pictures) for the whole school. The meadows play helped children to learn about this rare habitat and the importance of its traditional management.

Mid Sussex District Councillor, and High Weald Joint Advisory Committee member, Cllr Christopher Hersey, presented the school with their High Weald Hero plaque to acknowledge their role in the partnership. He encouraged them to keep up the good work and highlighted the importance of finding out about this precious local landscape.



All of the children worked very hard and can now use their knowledge as a basis for other High Weald Hero actions in the future.

**New Resources - New Resources - New Resources!**

## Winnie-the-Pooh Story Sack

A Winnie-the-Pooh story sack, suitable for Key Stage 1 pupils, is available to borrow (for free!) for up to 3 weeks, from Ashdown Forest – the 'home' of this very famous bear.

Using A.A Milne's book, *The House at Pooh Corner*, as a springboard for activities, the story sack is full of resources and ideas linked to the National Curriculum. Enjoy re-telling the famous adventures with the cuddly characters (Winnie, Piglet, Tigger, Owl and Eeyore are included!), complete the Poohsticks science investigation, learn about Winnie-the-Pooh's heathland habitat at Ashdown Forest, use the 100 Aker Wood poster to map journeys and much, much more!

The sack also includes a handbook for teachers with explicit curriculum links and numerous suggested activities to engage and enthuse the children.



You will need to be responsible for collecting and returning the sack to the Ashdown Forest Centre (Wych Cross, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JP.) For more details and to arrange collection, contact the Ashdown Forest Centre – 01342 823583.

## High Weald Activity Cards

As the nicer weather approaches (!) we would encourage you to take your children outside and explore the High Weald, your local environment. For fun ideas and activities, plus pertinent teaching points, 15 Outdoor Activity cards are now available for free.



Download from the Education Resources section of the Learning Zone – [www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org).

## Nature V Nurture KS2 Debate Pack

Easy to use and designed to inform and promote discussion with Key Stage 2 children prior to, and during, a visit to Ashdown Forest. This debate pack looks at the key management issue of cutting down trees, aiming to promote awareness of Ashdown Forest itself and an understanding of why such action is needed. Through activities, thoughts and discussion, children will consider different opinions and begin to make informed decisions about a relevant and often misinterpreted local issue.

Download the debate pack for FREE at [www.ashdownforest.org](http://www.ashdownforest.org)

## Sustainable Energy Day

**Six High Weald Hero schools have been learning about energy and how they could solve today's environmental problems associated with fossil fuels.**



The High Weald AONB is an ideal setting in which to learn about renewable forms of energy. The Romans, Tudors and Victorians all used renewable energy for their industries including water, wood and wind power.



The features of the High Weald landscape mean that renewable energy is easy to harness – rolling hills, abundant woodland and gill streams. Teachers from all 6 schools were given training to lead an 'energy' workshop and were

also given advice and guidance by the Kent County Council Energy Team and Eco-schools Officer on how to make their school run more sustainably.

To make the learning truly fun and memorable, a day out was organised by the Kent High Weald Partnership Education Officer. All the children from a year 5 or 6 class had a fantastic time and spent the whole day learning about renewable energy through practical activities. This included constructing and racing solar cars, a water saving quiz, generating energy through pedal power and learning about the journey of a wood chip!



**A great many resources have been developed for primary school teachers about energy and its link to the unique High Weald landscape. They are free to download from the Learning Zone at [www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)**



A special well done goes to Hawkhurst CEP who won the Water Wizard challenge and also Lamberhurst St.Mary's CEP who took the learning further by running an assembly about energy, writing poetry on the subject and building electric cars! Thank you also to the following High Weald Hero schools who took part: Lamberhurst St.Mary's CEP, St John's CEP,

Hawkhurst CEP, Sandhurst Primary, St Barnabas CEP and Horsmonden Primary.

The day was made possible with the help of The Skinners' School, The Weald of Kent Grammar School, Commonwork, High Weald AONB Unit, Bedgebury Education team, Campaign for Real Events, and SEASoN (South East Alternative Science Network). Funding for this project has been made available from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee Sustainable Development Fund.

## Bees & Flowers Art Competition!



The Natural Beekeeping Trust are calling for the help of children ages 6-12 to help create fantastic artwork - on the theme of bees and flowers - to be used in the Trust's publications and promotional material.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to show off their artistic talent and to learn more about the valuable work of the Natural Beekeeping Trust. The most colourful and artistic entries will win a DVD and be used to represent the organization in a variety of ways. For further info and an entry form please see:

[www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org.uk](http://www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org.uk)

## Butterfly Hunting...



In connection with the Butterfly Conservation Trust, we have created a butterfly identification chart and survey sheet available for use in the Summer term.

Each month – April to July, a guide of which butterflies to spot in the High Weald will be available, as well as a sheet on which to record any sightings. Key Stages 1 and 2 will be able to look for, record and find out about butterflies in the High Weald – a great new way to embrace the High Weald Hero Actions.

Survey results can be sent to Laura and will contribute to the work of the Butterfly Conservation Trust. The survey will be sent to named High Weald Hero leads – if you would be interested in finding out more or receiving the survey directly, please contact Laura – [l.sweeting@highweald.org](mailto:l.sweeting@highweald.org).



## High Weald Heroes

High Weald Heroes is a partnership of primary schools that have demonstrated their commitment to the local landscape by undertaking the High Weald Hero actions – Find Out About- Explore- Take Care of – Be Proud of – Enjoy.

The partnership is supported by the High Weald AONB Unit and Kent High Weald Partnership who offer a free, landscape-focused support package of introductory assemblies, staff training, educational materials, themed classroom workshops and interactive plays, outdoor learning and networking opportunities.

### For more information contact:

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**News needed** - If you have any news or stories you would like to be included in the next newsletter or to appear on our website please let us know

