

Partnership Newsletter

No. 6 Autumn 2010



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

Welcome to another High Weald Hero Partnership newsletter. We hope you enjoyed your well-deserved summer break and have lots of fun things planned for the Autumn term. Sadly we have waved goodbye to Karen Maier from the Kent High Weald Partnership as she has left to train as a primary school teacher. However we welcome Saul Fajerman, previously a countryside ranger, who has joined the Kent High Weald Partnership and will be helping to support High Weald Hero schools.

For any queries or questions, do get in touch - contact details at the end of this newsletter.

We would also like to welcome...

- St Thomas CEP School, Winchelsea
- Bishops Down CP School
- Five Ashes Primary School
- High Hurstwood CEP School
- St Michael's Primary School, Withyham,
- Nutley CE Primary School
- Buxted C of E Primary School and
- Wadhurst CE Primary School to the partnership.



Laura (above) & Saul (below)



Is your class learning about...

- ..the Tudors?
- ..the Romans?
- ..maps?
- ..the Saxons?
- ..your local area?
- ..habitats?
- ..sustainable energy and climate change?
- ..farming?



If the answer is 'yes' to any of the above then the High Weald Hero scheme offers you FREE workshops and resources to help with these themes.

We would love to come and talk to your class or provide you with resources to aid your teaching. Workshops last about an hour and are set within the wider context of the High Weald landscape.

'Welly Walks' are also available to help your children safely explore the local area and learn more about the unique and historical landscape on your doorstep.

Contact us to discuss your topics and how we can help.

Have you seen our website?

Numerous free resources are available online:
www.highweald.org/learn/education/education-resources.html



Dramatic High Weald Heroes

Bigfoot, an arts education company, have been helping 'little feet' to learn more about the High Weald. Through interactive assemblies and themed workshops, 16 primary schools have enthusiastically participated in this pilot project. Due to its success, more school visits are planned for the new academic year.



Each day-long event is kicked off by a whole school assembly, led by 'Professor T.Travel', who introduces pupils to the history and development of the landscape. Individual Key Stage 1 or 2 classes are then able to get involved in drama workshops to learn more about the Romans, Tudors or the Environmental story of the High Weald.

Teachers have rated delivery and quality of the experience as 'excellent' and 'useful for providing a context for geographical and historical understanding'.



If you would like to know more or are interested in receiving a day of drama workshops (plus a whole school assembly), **for only £100**, please contact Laura. Workshops will be available up to December 2011 - book yours now!



The project is being funded by the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

50 High Weald Hero Schools!!

Nutley Church of England Primary School has become the 50th school to join the High Weald Hero scheme.



Nutley Primary School is looking forward to embracing the 5 High Weald Hero actions - Find Out About, Explore, Take Care of, Be Proud of and Enjoy, aiming to include them in their future planning and topics across the school.

The formal launch of the scheme for Nutley school was marked with a themed assembly and a staff training session to inspire teachers & pupils, raising awareness of unique local landscape characteristics.

Work has already begun with the Year 3 and 4 class to plan a school Welly Walk. The class are very enthusiastic and looking forward to donning their wellies in October to test the route and learn more about their local area. Once complete, the whole school will be able to share the walk with the wider community and continue learning more about the landscape and history of the High Weald.

Teachers Ready to Learn

Teachers from a number of primary schools in the High Weald have been getting some help with leading fieldwork and outdoor activities with their classes.

Whilst attending a short twilight session in July, held at the Ashdown Forest Centre, teachers were able to find out more about the educational options on the Forest and look at the resources available for groups that visit.



Go to: www.highweald.org/learn/education/education-resources.html to download your outdoor activity cards!

The teachers were able to meet the tutors, from the Sussex Wildlife Trust, responsible for leading outdoor sessions on the Forest and ask questions about the content covered.

Time was also spent outdoors, completing some simple, yet effective, outdoor activities that can be replicated on a self-guided visit to the Forest or during another outdoor learning opportunity.

All attendees received a free resource pack, full of information about the High Weald, Ashdown Forest, and a number of further ideas and activities for learning outside the classroom.

A second twilight session is planned for January - if you would be interested in attending, contact Laura.

Schools going wild!

Do you know what creatures are lurking in your school grounds?



Kent High Weald Partnership is working with 6 High Weald Hero schools to explore their school grounds and see what wildlife lives in their local area and parks. This project is to celebrate 'Kent Goes Wild' an event taking place at Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells, on 25th & 26th September.

The primary schools who are busy finding out about local wildlife and learning how to keep a wildlife record are Sherwood Park Community Primary, Langton Green Primary, St Peter's CEP, Penshurst Primary, Benenden Primary and St Matthew's CEP. These schools are also spending time creating works of art for the special 'Kent Goes Wild' art competition.



'Kent Goes Wild' is a family event, where you can meet a variety of organisations involved in making sure that important information about wildlife is kept for conservation work and future use. You can also get involved in exciting, free activities such as making bird boxes and insect hotels.

For more information please contact Saul or go to www.kent.gov.uk/kentgoeswild.

We hope to see you all at Dunorlan Park in September!

Planning a field trip? Want to do some outdoor learning? Why not take your class to Ashdown Forest?



A place steeped in history, rich in wildlife and beautiful at any time of year. Originally a deer hunting forest in Norman times, Ashdown Forest is now the largest public access space in the South East. It is a great place for exploring, enjoying spectacular views over the Sussex countryside and is known the world over as the 'home' of Winnie the Pooh.

With taught and self-led options available, new resources and a fully equipped Education Barn, it has never been easier to take your class to the heart of the High Weald AONB. A range of education options are available, check out www.ashdownforest.org or phone the Ashdown Forest Centre on 01342 823583 to find out more.

Free Woodland Game

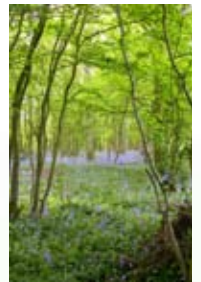
Find out about



The Royal Forestry Society (RFS) is offering free copies of their RFS Pancake Wood Game to all primary schools in the South East. The game helps children to investigate a virtual woodland and discover how all the plants and animals are specially adapted to life there. Children then need to 'manage' Pancake Wood as it grows and changes over time, to see if they can make sure all the plants and animals keep the conditions they need to stay alive!

If you would like to receive a FREE copy of this game on CD Rom, please contact: rfshq@rfs.org.uk

Alternatively the game, and related teaching resources, can be accessed online at: www.rfs.org.uk/learning/woodland-discovery.



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 and 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, please 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

