

OWL Scotland September 2024 Bulletin



Hello OWL Scotland network!

It has been a busy summer in the OWL Scotland network and autumn is looking jam packed. Read on to find out what's coming up, the latest resources, and updates from local OWL Scotland groups.

OWL Scotland Update in Brief

Don't Miss Out - Save the Date!

Sep 7: Midlothian OWL Skill Share

Sep 7 & 8: Logie Timber Festival

Sep 21: North & South Highland with West Coast OWL Networking; Argyll & Bute OWL Networking

Sep 22: Moray OWL Tree ID CPD

Sept 25: Forth Valley OWL Gathering

Autumn: Glasgow & Region: Scottish OWL Development Weekend

Nov 2: Tayside OWL Festival of Lights

2 New Teaching Resources

Taking Maths Outdoors with Your Child

Taking Literacy Outdoors with Your Child

OWL Recent Events & Local Group Updates

OWL Scotland Summer Networking at Pillars of Hercules

West Dumbarton OWL Group Relaunch & Reconnect

Moray OWL Group Networking

Dumfries & Galloway OWL - new resources & funding success

Using Citizen Science Projects in Outdoor Learning Funding

Don't Miss Out - Save the Date!

Sep 7: [Midlothian OWL Summer Skill Share Event](#) - Newbattle Abbey College (9 to 3.30)

Sep 7 & 8: [Logie Timber Festival](#) -with Moray OWL activities & Scottish Forestry Programme, Logie Steading, Forres

Sep 21: [North and South Highland, and West Coast OWL](#) Joint Networking Event - Dundreggan Rewilding Centre (10 to 3.30)

Sep 21: [Argyll and Bute Networking Event](#) - Inverary Primary School (9.30 to 3.30)

Sep 22: [Moray OWL Tree ID CPD Session](#) - location tbc

Sep 25: [Forth Valley OWL Gathering](#) - Callendar Park (4.00-5.30)

Autumn: Glasgow & Region OWL - Scottish OWL Development Weekend (date to be confirmed, check the [OWL Scotland events page](#) for updates.

Nov 2: Tayside OWL Festival of Lights - check the [OWL Scotland events page](#) for updates.

New Resources from Dumfries & Galloway OWL Group

Lusi Alderslowe and Kaye Borthwick of Dumfries and Galloway OWL Group have produced two excellent booklets with a range of games and activities to support maths and literacy learning outdoors. Both of these free resources can be downloaded from the OWL Scotland website.

[Taking Maths Outdoors With Your Child](#)

[Taking Literacy Outdoors With Your Child](#)



Recent Events & OWL Scotland Group Updates



OWL Scotland Summer Skill Share at the Pillars of Hercules (23-25th August)

Another great OWL Scotland event with the weather staying fine for almost all of the weekend. There were different workshops on Foraging (Charlotte Flowers), Making Wooden Games (Kim Craigie), Yoga and Mindfulness (Tess Welsh), Using the Ogham Learning Resource (Seona Anderson). The swap shop was a great success and there were many new connections made and old friendships renewed at the weekend. Thanks to Julia Harriman for coordinating the event as well as the wonderful workshop leaders and everyone that attended and created an amazing space to share, learn and have fun.

West Dumbarton OWL Relaunch and Reconnect Event at Loch Lomond & Trossachs HQ (28th August). Thanks to everyone involved in organising this event to share skills, make connections and plan outdoor learning activities for the future. There was a great buzz in the room about the future of this group

Moray OWL Group held their latest networking event at Transition Town Forres on the 21st of August. The group will be taking part in the Logie Timber Festival on the 7th and 8th of September and there will be a tree ID CPD session on the 22nd of September.

North East OWL Group helped out with the scything of the wildflower meadow at Tomintoul with the Cairngorms National Park Rangers, the Glenlivet Ranger and members of the local community.

Dumfries and Galloway OWL Group have just published two great new resources to support taking maths and literacy into the outdoors. You can download both of these from the OWL Scotland resource page. DGOWL Group have been successful in their application for Multiply funding to expand their outreach activities. They have been working to deliver summer roadshows along with the Council's youth Services and Life Long Learning officers, speaking to the parents of the Early Years children there, engaging them and

giving out the Taking Maths Outdoors Booklet. The next step is to deliver Stay and Plays with nurseries, home educators and parents who have children with childminders, toddler groups. They are expanding their booklet to become a 'Just Add Play' play tin with loads more ideas and activities and continuing to deliver Branching Out with 3 rolling programmes of [Branching Out](#) (with maths) from September to March.

Upcoming

Midlothian OWL have an action packed [skill share event](#) planned for the 7th of September at Newbattle Abbey College

North & South Highland and West Coast OWL Groups are planning their third [joint networking event](#) on the 21st of September at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre with a range of 45 minute and 2 hour sessions.

Argyll and Bute OWL Group also have their [networking event](#) on the 21st of September at Inverary Primary School based around the theme of "Learning from the Landscape", using place based activities.

GROWL Glasgow and Region OWL Group are planning a Development Weekend for all OWL Scotland members to support groups in sustaining their activities. Dates and more information will be posted on the [OWL Scotland events page](#).



Using Citizen Science Projects in Outdoor Learning

Taking part in free citizen science projects can help develop outdoor skills and also contribute towards improving the data for conservation action. There are a wide range of options for taking part and they provide information and help to take part. Some of them happen on certain dates but others happen throughout the year.

If you are thinking about including citizen science projects as part of your outdoor learning activities here are the links and the timings for taking part.

[Rivers Trust Big River Watch](#) - 6 -12th September 2024

[Waxcap Watch Plantlife](#) - autumn 2024

[Buglife Bugs Matter Survey](#) - May to Sep 2024

[RSPB Big Garden Bird Count](#) - 24-26 January 2025

[Big Butterfly Count](#) - 18th July to 10 August 2025

[National Plant Monitoring Scheme](#)

The UK CEH (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology) has a list of some [Citizen Science apps and projects](#).

Funding

Local School Nature Grants

Open to schools and early years settings this outdoor learning grant fund has two elements – £500 of outdoor equipment chosen from a catalogue of over 100 items, and an outdoor learning training course for your staff. For more information and to access the application form visit the [Learning through Landscapes website](#).



Tesco Stronger Starts Grants

This scheme can provide grants of up to £1500 to local projects from across the whole of Scotland. Please visit the [Greenspace Scotland website](#) for more information.

Climate School 180

Climate School 180 is Learning through Landscapes' new climate-focused initiative. The project aims to develop and share a better understanding of how schools can implement quality climate education, alongside providing first-hand experience of creating nature-based solutions to climate change in the school grounds. For more information and to apply please visit the [Learning through Landscapes website](#).

For further funding opportunities, please visit the [Creative Star Learning](#) webpage.

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Visit the OWL Scotland website: <https://owlscotland.org/>