



Hello from an autumnal OWL Scotland. All the leaves are falling and the nights are certainly drawing in now. Perfect for campfires and outdoor autumn feasts. It has been another busy couple of months in the OWL Scotland Network and if you have news or projects you want to share please let us know. <https://owlscotland.org/>

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Upcoming Events

15th November 6.00 to 9.00 pm, **Willow Wheels & Winter Decorations Social**, Playbarn Dumbreck Stables, Glasgow. Get together with GROWL to make great decorations and socialise with the group. Book via Eventbrite [Click Here](#)

21st November, 3.30 to 4.30, **Online Force for Nature, Teacher Training**, fun, free event for teachers with ideas and activities to increase connections with trees. Session run by Luisa Brown, The Tree Council [Click Here](#)

24th November, 10am to 1, **Crafty Christmas @ Abriachan Forest Trust, South Highland OWL**, showcasing natural Christmas crafts, workshops and a short AGM around the fire. More information via email to South Highland OWL members and via Facebook. [Click Here](#)

1st December, 9.45 to 2.00, **Winter Skill Share with festive crafts & decoration making**, Forest College, Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith, **Midlothian OWL**. [Click Here](#)

18th January, 9.00 to 4.00, [Junior Forester Award Training Day](#), Callendar Woods, Larbet.

10th March 2025 [*Save the Date*](#) GROWL OWL Scotland Development Day Glasgow

[*Save the Date*](#) **28th Feb to 2nd March** **Winter OWL Scotland Networking Event**, Dounans, Aberfoyle. Tickets go on sale early December and as always, they are offered to local OWL group members first. Please ensure you are signed up as a member to secure a ticket as spaces are limited. [Click Here for Local OWL Groups](#)



Northern Scotland Round Up



Joint Skill Share Day Dundreggan 21st September - North & South Highland & West Coast OWL

Members of the Highland Outdoor Woodland Learning (OWL) groups welcomed 60 teachers and outdoor educators at their Joint Networking Event at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre on Saturday 21st September. This event was led by North Highland OWL, in collaboration with South and West Coast OWL groups. The aim of the event was to get together teachers from all over the Highlands, from as far as Caithness, Wester-ross and Badenoch to learn new techniques to use with their classes in the outdoors.

This all-day event at the stunning Dundreggan Rewilding Centre, offered the choice of numerous workshops for teachers to attend. During the morning, participants chose from topics such as Whittling for Beginners, Felted Pebble Pets and Film Making for Beginners. We were delighted to have workshop leaders from Abriachan Forest Trust, High Life Highland and Eden Court Theatre.

After a sociable lunch, afternoon workshops included Lichens & Fungi, Nature Art Therapy and Gaelic in the Landscape. This is the third time that this joint networking event has taken place, and we were particularly excited about being offered the use of this fabulous site run by Trees for Life at Dundreggan. Tickets were free thanks to funding from Scottish Forestry.

South Highland OWL

We are in the process of planning an exciting and innovative programme of weekend CPD workshops for this academic year. We are having another popular family-friendly Crafty Christmas @ Abriachan Forest Trust on Sunday 24th November (see above)

This is a quick taste of 2025 activities: outdoor maths for early years & primary, storytelling by the fire, campfire cookery, drama/role play, singing and yoga in the woods.





West Coast OWL

As well as the joint networking event at Dundreggan we participated in the Scottish Junior Forestry Award Sessions at Slattadale with pupils from Gairloch High School and the 'Farewell to Slattadale Celebration' before it is felled. We are updating our mailing lists so please check your emails and our Facebook Page.

North East Scotland Round Up

Moray OWL

Moray OWL were an integral part of the Logie Timber Festival in September providing outdoor activities for hundreds of children. Moray OWL also ran a tree ID workshop in September with Dan Puplett and as always there were great tree ID tips and sharing of tree knowledge.

North East OWL

North East OWL members have been working with Aberdeen Countryside Rangers & North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP)



Central & East Scotland Round Up



Tayside OWL

Tayside OWL have held some great recent events, a natural dyes workshop led by Bushcraft Bairns at Comrie Croft and a 'Light, Shadow, Action!' Workshop on Kinnoull Hill run by Luke Phillips. Tayside OWL are looking for more members to join this great local network.

Forth Valley OWL

Forth Valley OWL held a September fireside gathering at Callendar Park, Falkirk. Forth Valley OWL are very excited to start a programme with Kinnaird Primary School to provide training and support for teachers on delivering the Scottish Junior Foresters Award.



Midlothian OWL

Midlothian OWL held a great skill share workshop at Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith in September with hand made cheese board, firesticks, cordage, Ogham trails & much more.

MOWL have a winter skill share event coming up on the 1st December at Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith.

[Click Here](#)

Central West Scotland Round Up

Argyll & Bute

Argyll & Bute OWL ran a very successful networking event at Inverary School in September. The group are preparing to run a series of sessions on the Scottish Junior Forester Award (more details soon).

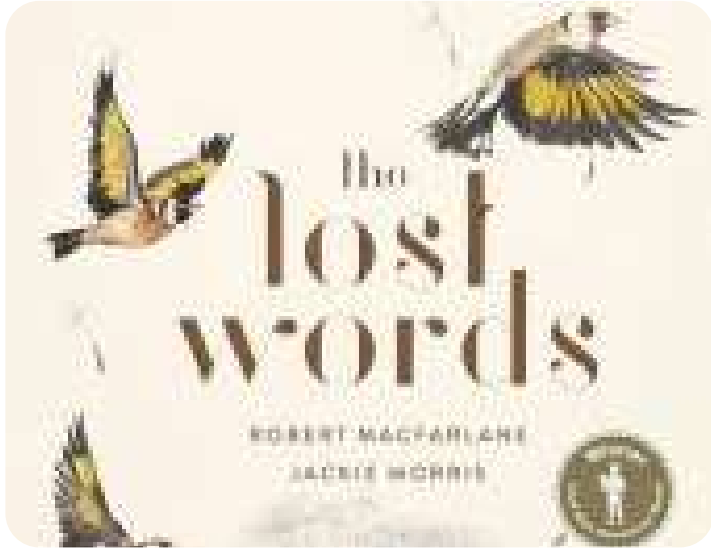
Due to recent interest the group are looking to help support a little owlet group on Arran.



Glasgow & Region

GROWL have a 'Willow Wheels & Winter Decorations' event on the 15th November at the Yogabarn Dumbreck Stables, Glasgow. [Click Here](#).

GROWL are planning an OWL Scotland, in-person development day in Glasgow on the 10th March 2025. Topics are likely to include volunteer and budget management, completing funding applications and running events. Local OWL group committee members will be invited and there are plans to hold follow up sessions on different topics.



West Dumbartonshire OWL

After their successful relaunch event at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park in August, West Dumbartonshire OWL Group are working hard on their 'Lost Words Project' exploring the use of the Lost Words book as inspiration for activities. The project will focus on 5 spells - Bramble, Dandelion, Fern, Ivy & Magpie. [More Information Here.](#)

Southern Scotland Update

Dumfries & Galloway OWL

DG OWL have had a busy few months running their Branching Out Project (*more information below*) to support adults with mental health issues, their free Stay and Play sessions for toddlers, home educators and childminders at venues such as Mabie Forest. Elizabeth represented Outdoor and Woodland Learning at the Stewartry Sharing Practice Roadshow in Castle Douglas.

DG OWL also created 2 new booklets filled with activities and suggestions for 'Taking Maths Outdoors' and 'Taking Literacy Outdoors'.



Borders OWL

Borders OWL group are actively looking for new members to help inspire outdoor and woodland learning in the borders area. If you would like to find out more please visit the OWL groups area of the OWL Scotland website. [Click Here.](#)



Funding

Local School Nature Grants [Click Here for Information](#) *Deadline 8th November 2024*

There are online guides which give specific advice on fundraising for outdoor learning

- Inspiring Scotland Booklet on Funding for Outdoor Learning. [Click here for Information](#)
- Creative Star Grants for Outdoor Learning & Play. [Click here for information](#)

Focus on Dumfries and Galloway Branching Out Project (Lusi Alderslowe)



DGOWL have been delivering branching out in three different location across Dumfries and Galloway thanks to funding from multiply. Branching out works with adults who have mental health conditions to improve wellbeing, resilience and confidence while connecting participants to nature and community. Usually branching out is a 12 week programme but this time we are trialling a rolling programme meaning participants can come along for their 12 weeks anytime between September-march, encouraging them to come along consecutively as much as possible. This is so a wider amount of people can benefit from the programme and also allow for life to happen holidays sickness etc and participants will still be able to have their full 12 weeks.

Branching out this time round has a focus on improving the maths skills and confidence in maths of the participants. We have found adding maths into our sessions easy and fun and we have realised that maths is everywhere and we have been using these skills anyway but now we point it out and use maths language to explain what we are doing. From measuring ingredients to cook up delicious recipes on the fire, using percentages and angles when building shelters, measuring and estimating when doing woodwork, finding colours and shapes in nature, to counting and estimating population sizes in nature surveys. Maths is everywhere in nature and our programme is helping to build confidence around maths and also general wellbeing too!





Awards

Awards are a great way to inspire, motivate and learn new skills. These awards are free to take part in and there are resources to help teachers and educators.

Scottish Junior Forester Award. This award aimed at 4 to 14 year olds. It gives an insight into a career in forestry and is based around 6 practical sessions. Young people can start the award at any time. [Click Here for More Information.](#)

Nature Awards Guide Scotland. This guide highlights 5 free nature based award programmes for young people in Scotland from early years to secondary school: RSPB Wild Challenge Award, Scottish Junior Forester Award, SCRA Junior Ranger Award, John Muir Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award. [Click Here for More Information](#)



Projects



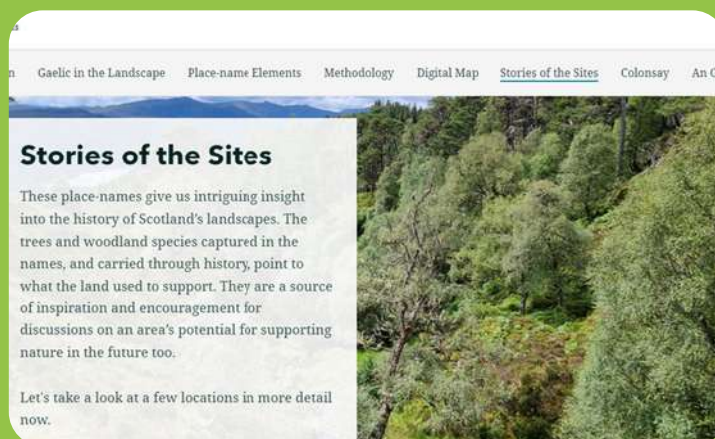
Ash Rise Exhibition.

The free Ash Rise Exhibition and Film coordinated by the Scottish Furniture Makers Association is still running at the Botanic in Edinburgh until January, when it moves to Dumfries and then on to Inverness at the end of March.

[Click Here](#)

NatureScot: Coilltean Caillte (Forgotten Woodlands) Project. This project has mapped the over 15,000 Scottish place names connected with woodland. It can help us understand how the landscape has changed. You can search the digital map and read about the stories of the site.

[Click Here](#)





Resources

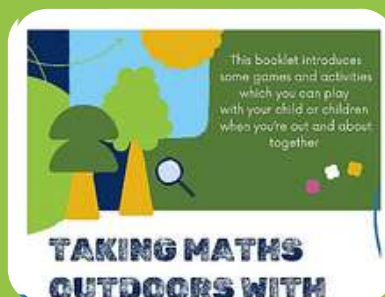
OWL Scotland Resources

Its that time of year for camp fires and OWL Scotland has a range of resources to support safe use of fires in outdoor learning. OWL Scotland [Youtube Fire Safety](#), [Youtube Camp Fire Cooking](#), [Branching Out Project Fire Pit Safety](#).

Latest OWLS Publications: [Taking Maths Outdoors](#), [Taking Literacy Outdoors](#)

Greenspace Map for Outdoor Learning: Are you a teacher or outdoor educators looking for areas for your activities? NatureScot provides links to the OS online map resource which lets you search for local greenspace. [Click Here](#)

Gaelic Nature Resources from NatureScot: NatureScot has a wide range of nature resources about and in the Gaelic language from blogs to maps and films about the natural world. [Click Here](#)



Contacts

Visit the OWL Scotland Website for a wide range of resources and information and links to local OWL groups. <https://owlscotland.org/>

Find out more about your local OWL Scotland Groups across Scotland. [Click Here](#)

For more information about the work of OWL Scotland please email Eilidh Malcolm (Eilidh.Malcolm@forestry.gov.scot)

To subscribe to this newsletter [click here](#).