

Welcome to the June edition of the Oxfordshire Outdoors newsletter which we hope you will find useful and informative.

Your response to bookings continues to be fantastic and we are now booking through to 2023/24. This is a great response and a huge confidence boost, many thanks for your support.

There is a growing recognition of the value and benefits of outdoor education, are you aware schools can earn money for your work:

LOtC are advertising the [School Travel Awards](#), a chance to win £1500 to fund school visits. Last year it was won by a primary school, who went on a trip to an Outward Bound Centre.

***Now you could easily replicate this using a trip to one of our centres, so why not submit an application?***

A further £1500 is available to schools who successfully nominate a School Trip Champion, again there are plenty of visiting staff who would fit this!

***Go for it!***

## Kilvrough Lodge self catering holiday let .....



At Kilvrough we have a superb 3 bedroom [Lodge House](#) for rental. Please use the link to view the property and to obtain further details, or simply contact

Kilvrough direct. The Lodge is a great venue, a very comfortable and homely place for your relaxing break. Gower is a great place to visit; its stunning beaches and clifftop walks are memorable.

Why not come and see for yourself.

## Bookings offer

January / February / March  
2019

We have very limited vacancies at Kilvrough Manor and Woodlands.

These are now offered at £275 per pupil place, inclusive of school to centre transport for Oxon schools.

This offer runs until June 29th.

For further details please contact the relevant centre :

Kilvrough Manor 01792 232743

Woodlands 01497 847272

## Don't delay - respond now to secure your place

Please note that more and more schools are making advanced bookings, which is great news for the Centres, but can be frustrating for some schools who find their choice of dates have gone. Please contact the Centre as, with a little flexibility, we can often find a suitable course for you.

Planning ahead means you can guarantee your course dates. It also means that you can spread the payment load too, which might be worth considering.

So many of our visiting staff teams comment on how transformative the courses are for their students; on the amazing venues we use; on the real sense of social interaction achieved during a course at any of our centres.



We are offering you the opportunity to experience for yourselves the stunning environments and venues that we use, with the potential for developing your staff teams .....

*So, how about spending some quality staff time at one of our Centres?*

The weekend runs from Fri evg to Sunday and is fully catered.

You can design the content to suit your group, from a leisurely stroll to a full on adventure, its your choice. We will design your programme according to what you want.

We provide on course transport and all necessary equipment and, of course, we will look after you!



## **THE IMPORTANT DETAILS**

**Cost:** £160 pp

**Group size:** minimum of 10

**How to book:** contact the centre of your choice and we will talk you through the admin

Kilvrough 01792 232743

Woodlands 01497 847272

Yenworthy 01598 741266

We ask **visit leaders and groups** to complete separate evaluations at the end of each course. The results below are for all 3 centres, during 2017/18. Thanks to everyone for your comments and opinions, they really help inform how we can provide you with better courses year on year.

It's a great set of responses, but also showing we have more to do, for example demonstrating sustainable practice, which is something we are working on. The setting of course aims is the responsibility of the visit leader and is a really important element of the course structure. Visit [course organiser info](#) for more detail.

## Groups

98% sessions were challenging and fun	98.5% gave me clear aims and objectives each day	teaching
97% encouraged me to succeed	89% gave me feedback that was helpful	
97% make progress with outdoor skills	91% learn how to get on with others	learning
96% learn about managing risks and staying safe	91% became more confident	
98% centre staff were helpful	91% the centre was clean and tidy	centre
88% enjoyed what was on the menu	81% understood how to act sustainably	
86% knew what the course was about	87% knew what my aims were for the course	summary
93% would want to take part in another course	97% would recommend the centre to others	

## Visit Leaders

100% sessions had appropriate levels of challenge	99% students had clear aims and objectives each day	teaching
100% students encouraged to succeed	98% appropriate & relevant feedback given	
95% students review and reflect on their learning	95% different learning styles were recognised and acted on	learning
99% students identify risks and stay safe	98% students independent & socially aware	
93% good quality of school to centre transport	93% centre was clean and tidy	centre
91% the menu suited our group	87% centre demonstrates sustainable practice	
99% the course met the aims I had set	83% students knew what their aims were for the course	summary
100% would bring a group back	99% course represents value for money	

The comments, below have been received recently from a secondary and a primary school visit . They clearly demonstrate the **'added value' and benefits** of using an Oxfordshire Outdoors centre .....

**Relationships:** Teaching is about relationships and interactions between staff and students; Everyone knows that if there is a good relationship the student works that little bit harder for that member of staff and achieves more in their lessons. Over the years I have got to know so many students on residential and drawn on that positive relationship in the classroom and school in general



**Resilience:** in school and in the workplace people need to be resilient. Students who have been on a tough – maybe cold and wet- activity day are more resilient and more importantly believe they can succeed and keep going when things get tough. Overcoming a feeling of “I can’t do that it is too scary” is such an important pattern of behaviour

**Back at School:** students who have been on an activity residential carry themselves differently when they get back to school. Their body language is more positive and confident.

In my tutor group this year two pupil premium students who had never voluntarily said a word to me are now chatty and confident. They learned to conquer their fears and help others whilst rock climbing at Glasbury. One also proudly shows me his packed lunch is no longer filled with junk food and he has lost weight and looks more healthy



Having recovered over the weekend, the children came back to school in such high spirits, still raving about their brilliant experience and this positivity has spread across the year, even to children who did not attend the residential. It has also notably come across in their learning. This is all down to the superb and knowledgeable staff. From the moment we arrived, we were made to feel extremely welcome and, as teachers, we were made to feel like a team with the centre staff. Throughout the entire week, every single member of staff was there to answer questions, advice and guide the teachers and helpers where they needed it, whilst also being open to a chat! It is safe to say that the staff had just as much fun with the leaders as the children!

The staff are a credit to the centre and this shone throughout the week, their friendly nature made us all feel relaxed; something that was especially helpful during a highly active and potentially dangerous trip! Some of the things those 10-year-olds were doing were pretty terrifying but all of the instructor's knowledge and professionalism put children and staff minds at ease. It was a truly fantastic week!

The amount of learning we have seen in the classroom just over the last three days since we got back has been outstanding, and my class are fortunate enough to perform an assembly to the whole school on Friday. All of the children who attended the trip want to share their fond and funny memories (mostly of me being saved during canoeing!) and anecdotes about the week with the school as well as share their newly formed knowledge of rivers.



### SPECIAL FEATURE

The Outdoor Classroom Day was held on Thurs May 17th.

The [website](#) has loads of ideas to encourage teachers to operate outside all year round

### UK Outdoor Learning Sector

#### **Conference Nov 7th - 9th 2018**

This conference is aimed at leaders, educators and managers involved in outdoor and environmental learning. The aim is to bring the sector together in one place, use this link for the [Conference details](#)

### **News from the media.....**

Guardian: [Improving children's access to nature starts with addressing inequality](#)

Guardian : [Life is fraught with danger. School playgrounds should be too](#)

TES : [Outdoor learning in early years boosted in bid to improve attainment](#)

BBC : [Microplastics are 'littering' riverbeds](#)

### Research and interest

#### **Relationships between outdoor and classroom task settings**

A [PhD study](#) informs the case for embedding outdoor learning in the Scottish early years' curriculum, particularly, through support for transition and underachievement

#### **Dartmoor Naturally Healthy project**

This [report](#) into the 'Green Care' project is now available and provides evidence that exposure to natural environments has demonstrable physical and mental health benefits

#### **Character Education update:**

A [new survey](#) of over 450 practising teachers across the UK has revealed that 80% feel that a greater focus on character education in schools would have a positive impact on pupil attainment

#### **Scotland: Outdoor Learning Hubs**

A funded research [project](#) was to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy through "Outdoor Learning Hubs" formed around two primary school clusters

#### **Adventure Activities Licensing Service**

The [latest update](#) on the review of AALA.

For info providers offering activities in scope should continue to hold a current Licence

#### **LOtC Mark**

The [LOtC Mark](#) is designed for schools, it supports and develops Learning Outside the Classroom across all curriculum areas through an accreditation process.

For further information about the work of [Groundwork South](#), check out its website.

There are opportunities for schools, communities and families to engage with Groundwork South and to benefit from its work, if you are interested please contact us

## Statement from Gary Jacobs, Executive Director, Groundwork South

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the Trustees of Groundwork South have agreed to integrate the Trust's management structure with that of Groundwork London with immediate effect.

This is aimed at providing a stronger platform for the delivery of Groundwork's projects and services to communities across the south of England. Oxfordshire Outdoors is now in its second full year as part of Groundwork South and continues to provide high quality courses for schools and a wide range of other groups.

## Groundwork South and TESCO Bags of Help projects

Have a look to see what you might be able to do with a little extra from [GWS and the Tesco bags of help](#) scheme, with up to £4000 available for community based projects.

- ◆ Purchasing items which will benefit local community groups such as sports kit, specialised medical equipment, art and crafts materials, spades, litter pickers, camping equipment.
- ◆ Improvements to a building that benefits the local community such as a Scout or Guide hut, church or village hall, changing facilities for sports.
- ◆ Developing an outdoor space play area, allotment, park, school grounds, woodland or wildlife area.
- ◆ Running a community event or activity such as fun runs, village fete, clean-up day, tree planting, bird watch.
- ◆ Supporting seasonal activities such as purchasing new Christmas lights, supporting a Christmas meal for the homeless or a Diwali celebration event for the community etc.

Is this something your school and community could benefit from? Use the link to contact Groundwork South and find out more

To find out how Groundwork South can support you please contact:  
[Tara.haling@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Tara.haling@groundwork.org.uk)