



Down
To
Earth



CENTRE FOR PRACTICAL SUSTAINABILITY
& NATURAL BUILDING

www.downtoearthproject.org.uk

Down to Earth Project Newsletter

Recruiting now for Sessional Workers!

D2E is a fast growing, innovative project which works through the outdoors enabling personal development, experience of sustainability and the development of vocational skills.

Due to the seasonal and sometimes unpredictable nature of our work, we are expand-

ing our bank of Sessional Workers to flexibly support us in the delivery of programmes and workshops.

These Sessional Workers will experience the full diversity of D2E and work alongside our experienced core staff team.

We need workers who can offer a wide range of practical skills, as well as a diverse skill base in supporting 'vulnerable' and 'hard to reach' groups.

For job description, person specifications and the application form, please see our website—or give us a call.

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Inside this issue:

[Recruiting Now for Sessional Workers](#) **1**

[Garden Volunteer—keen to try organics?](#) **1**

[Down on the farm... new arrivals](#) **1**

[D2E leading in industry innovation](#) **2**

[Lois makes an academic splash](#) **2**

[Diary Markers: Courses, Events, Volunteer Days..](#) **2**

[With thanks to...](#) **2**

Garden Volunteer—keen to try organics?

Experienced in growing veg? Time to put back into your community?

The Garden Volunteer will maintain our small organic vegetable and fruit garden for around

1 or 2 days per week and possibly, following training and a CRB check, have some involvement with groups. For details, see our website, or send us an email.



Down on the farm..... New arrivals

We have two cute new Oxford Sandy Black piglets who are very keen to make friends. They arrived from Pontyberem, Carmarthen last month and are now 3 months old...We're very keen to sell our practically

zero food mile pig meat locally— so do call in to pick up your top quality rare breed cuts. .

Also new are our Welsh Harlequin Drake and Khaki Campbell ducks, who like eating snails in the garden!



New Ducks out in the snow....

Emma Thompson, Key Stage Four Education Centre says:

“Down to Earth have provided our young People with a fantastic, fun experience, the memories of which will stay with them for ever. The young people developed as individuals in both their personal and practical skills through the activities offered. The activities provided by the project were carefully planned to offer a unique balance of fun and development of skills. All of the young people participated to the full with the support from the excellent staff team who were able to work in a way which encouraged inclusion for even the most challenging of young people.”

Down to Earth is becoming recognised as an industry leader in research and innovation in outdoor learning....

After excellent feedback from a presence at the 2010 IPA conference, Down to Earth Project are returning to their 2011 conference , ‘Playing into the Future – surviving and thriving’ 4 – 7 July - Cardiff, to

present two papers:

“Exploring the value of exploration, play and adventure as an integral part of therapeutic journeys” and “Down to earth project: sustainable outdoor classrooms and their influence on children's play”.

Earlier on in the year, Down to Earth Project will be represented at the Swansea Environmental Educational Fo-

rum (SEEF) conference 'Practical Support and Ideas for Developing School Grounds'. on 24th March at the Guildhall, delivering workshops in developing sustainable outdoor classrooms and grounds.

For information see www.seeforum.org.uk/schools, phone 01792 469816 or email education@environmentcentre.org.uk.

Lois makes an academic splash

Our Therapeutic Development Worker, Lois Woodward, received her Masters degree in Developmental and Therapeutic Play from Swansea University in February. Before coming to D2E she worked as an outdoor pursuits instructor leading climbing, hill-walking, kayaking, canoeing and other adventurous activities. To develop Lois's

already keen interest in aiding young people's personal development and making therapeutic use of the outdoors, D2E supported her study on the MA. Over the last 2 years, groups at D2E have provided Lois with valuable research data and Lois has produced invaluable research demonstrating the effectiveness of



Lois Woodward, MA

therapeutic outdoor programmes.



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Diary Markers: Courses, Events, Volunteer Days...

Sun 20 March Volunteer Day. Learn cleft oak fencing!

Sun 17 April Volunteer Day.

Sun 15 May Volunteer Day.

Thurs 26 May Working with 'Hard to Reach' groups through use of the outdoors. Training course for youth and community workers and

teachers (free).

Wed 1 June Go wild with your child! Have fun, get muddy, build fires. For 6-12 yr olds with one adult per child, £60 (for adult & child).

Thurs 2 June Wild Child! Set your child free for the day - play scheme for 8-14 yr olds,

£30 (per child).

Sun 12 June Volunteer Day Early booking is essential for all our courses, events and volunteer days. Volunteer days are free—and we have lovely organic cakes and biscuits!

With thanks to....

As ever, we wish to thank our partners and volunteers for their support, and our funders, without whom our

project would not be possible: BIG Lottery Fund, HLF, Welsh Assembly Government Sustainable Development Fund

(Gower AONB), WCVA, SCVS, Tudor Trust and Environment Wales.

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