



Termly newsletter of the Hampshire Outdoor Service

Down deep in Wales

Britney, a member of the Award Project, gets to grips with caving during their recent visit to the Hampshire Mountain Centre.

The Award Project, part of Outdoor Education, PE and Sport, and funded by Hampshire County Council, works with targeted young people between the ages of 14-18, using the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award to engage, inspire and promote personal growth and development. The Award Project achieved record results for 2010 and has been highlighted by the Regional Director for D of E as a benchmark for others to follow.

Read more about the Award Project on Page 11

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Educational Visits Coordinator - news roundup

Outdoor Education, PE & Sport - 01962 876218

Thank you and well done to one and all ...

Welcome, and well done to all EVC's and other interested parties! EVC's continue to improve communication between ourselves and group leaders and others managing educational visits and ventures. All of which means better value – benefit for everyone concerned, which is excellent news! Congratulations also to all our new www.hampshireoutdoors.com (Evolve) users. Secondary schools are up and running (not quite 100% - come on the last few!) and Primary schools are finding it easy and useful! We have to admit that the training has been successful – I wonder if it because it has been taken over by **Carole Warmington** and **George Tranham** from the admin team? Well done George and Carole - the feedback has been very good (too good in fact, the rest of us are under pressure!)

Risk - Benefit and the Big 12!

It is pleasing to note how much colleagues have taken to starting any visit or venture planning by asking what is the **benefit** of it – clear aims and expectations are arguably one of the key factors in a successful visit. EVC's have long argued this and their now famous **'BIG 12'** is getting used much more widely. This started as a training task – advice to your colleagues in school or your establishment – a summary set of 'essential elements' to a successful visit or venture. Please let us know what you think or if you can improve on the current version:

- ✓ Where's the value – benefit? Colleagues, children and young people must be clear about the aims, purposes and expectations of the visit or venture. When it is targeted and planned for, it happens!
- ✓ Ensuring that your behaviour management strategies travel off site and/or enabling a clear code of conduct are absolutely essential, with everyone (participant, leaders, parents ...) knowing where they stand.
- ✓ Ratios and leader responsibilities mean nothing if you do not have the right leaders! Experienced, well-prepared leaders make it all happen.
- ✓ Being very clear about leader roles, responsibilities and communications is important – who is in charge and of what, how tasks are shared and deployed.
- ✓ Supervision strategies must be understood and agreed, with the young people having shown that they are ready for or practiced in the ones selected. Successful head counts make leaders happy!
- ✓ Choosing the right activities and programme balance is critical to keep children and young people 'on task' –

not only matched to need and relevant, but 'tried and tested' is best! Get them involved in their own risk management as part of the process.

- ✓ Something will happen, Plan Bs and Cs for weather, group, travel issues, group mood and interests, successful sessions etc are also critical. Never be forced into going ahead with something you know needs changing or adapting.
- ✓ Know your group: their behaviour in different contexts, how they respond to each other and adults, successful control and discussion strategies ...
- ✓ Don't throw good ideas and practice away – review each venture and adapt or amend your practice/the planning for next time, or for different groups.
- ✓ Good leaders are developed from

early support experiences, through a form of apprenticeship and increased responsibility. No-one should feel isolated or on their own.

- ✓ Use the 'my child' test. Whether you have children or not, would you let them go on this venture?
- ✓ Talk to the Outdoor Education, PE and Sport Service – that's what we are there for!

Mental maths outside at Shakespeare Infant School



Trailblazer news ...

We often find ourselves reassuring schools that they are already Trailblazing and, following their co-ordinator training, they really should register for a welcome pack and the Coordinators website password, which opens up a huge array of free resources. Is it possible you're one of these schools - not sure what to do next?

If you're now at the stage where you want to become an **active** Trailblazer school, but are still not confident or clear about the next steps, then we're here to help you. **Clare Dobbs** is now back from her maternity leave, and would be delighted to hear from you or help to get you on the way.

To help those at the start of the process, **Jen Aston** of **Shakespeare Infant School** writes an article (page 3) to explain her experience of Trailblazer. After just one year of introducing the scheme, it is clear outdoor learning is now second nature in this school. Hearing how Shakespeare has made progress may help you to make that next step...

Trailblazer can offer whole school training days, and there are some cluster groups of supportive teachers and we're always on the end of the phone.

If you aren't a Trailblazer school yet, next training is on **10 June 2011 @ Lepe Country Park** - just contact me for more information!
01962 876214 or email (claire.bishop@hants.gov.uk)



Trailblazer

Trailblazer continues to be very successful as THE outdoor learning project in Hampshire. Each term, over 20 new schools get involved, attending the termly co-ordinators training day. Getting started with Trailblazer can seem a tad daunting if you've never really had an opportunity to immerse yourself in outdoor learning. However, the presence of hundreds of Trailblazer schools across the County now means there is a real pool of collegiate support and examples of good practice - and there's no better way to gain confidence than to look at the way others have approached Trailblazer.

In this issue, **Jen Aston** of **Shakespeare Infant School**, Eastleigh, gives an account of how they got started ...



How did Trailblazer begin at Shakespeare Infant School?

Following our 2009 **Ofsted**, an area to develop was the effective use of the outdoors in the Early Years. As developments and improvements were made in this area, and the impact it had on the children's learning was seen, it was decided that effective use of the outdoors could improve teaching and learning in the whole school.

As a lover of the outdoors, when I was asked to lead Trailblazers at Shakespeare Infant school, I was really interested to find out more about the award and what it entailed!

The Trailblazing team led a thoroughly enjoyable inset day at our school which all of the staff participated in. Despite some staff being unsure about being exposed to the outdoor elements for a whole days training, by the end of the day everyone was laughing and having fun whilst also being excited about the learning opportunities 'the outdoor classroom' could provide.

How did we implement Trailblazers?

Initially, it was agreed that we would plan three Trailblazing activities into each half term, however it soon became apparent that we were trailblazing all the time!!

I truly didn't need convincing that Trailblazers was a great award and that it was right for our school, although a lot of time was spent thinking and worrying about how we could record the activities

and the time we spent trailblazing. We decided to keep it very simple and log the time we spent learning outdoors on half termly planning grids per year group, rather than the children having individual record sheets. For our school, this has worked brilliantly and has been effective, quick and manageable.

After a year of Trailblazing every child in the school had completed 100 hours of outdoor learning and been awarded a gold certificate!!

What are the benefits?

At the beginning of the year, we were Trailblazing to build up minutes to achieve an award. However, a year on, it is so obvious to us all that Trailblazing is about providing the children with outdoor activities which enhance the children's learning experiences and achievements. The children love to be outdoors and are always excited and motivated, although going outside to learn is not a treat, but an integral part of our teaching.

Why has it been successful?

Trailblazer has been a great success and it

has had a huge impact on the teaching and learning which takes place at Shakespeare Infant School. It has been such a success because we approached it as a whole school and have worked together during insets and staff meetings to share ideas and implement changes to our planning. It has also been successful because Trailblazers is not an 'extra' but it has become part of our long term planning and is always closely linked to our classroom activities and learning in all areas of the curriculum. We only use Trailblazers to enhance what we were already doing and our Gold Award is proof enough that we believe Trailblazers really does enrich the children's learning experiences.

What next for Trailblazers at Shakespeare Infants?

Following an extremely successful first year of Trailblazers, we are now working to sustain and embed the effective use of the outdoors in all areas of the curriculum and ensure that there is a consistency through out the school. Most importantly we want to ensure that the children's learning is of high quality and fun!

In their own words - what Trailblazer means to Shakespeare children ...

"When we go outside and we get to explore more things, its easier to write because there is more to write about" Year 2 child

"Looking at things closely helps me in other subjects" Year 2 child

"I loved turning the trees into faces. It helped me draw my portrait!" Year 2 child

"Writing after we have been trailblazing can be difficult because I've always got too much to write about" Year 2 child

Trailblazers is all really fun!" Year 1 child



Water, Wellies and War Ships.

Year 8's from **Woodland Middle School** recently spent a week at **Calshot Activities Centre**, completing a busy and fun filled residential of **Geography** and **History** Field Studies along with **Adventurous Activities**.

Each student completed a full day River Study investigating the changes in geomorphology from the source to the mouth. Following which the students decided how to best present their data to the rest of the group, this included drawing accurate cross sectional profiles of the river channel. The students really rose to the challenge, and some excellent graphical work was completed as well as brilliant explanations of why the river changes as it does.



Geography field studies in the New Forest ...

But the learning didn't end there! In the afternoons personal and team building skills were developed and the students flourished completing **Climbing, Skiing** and other adventurous activities under the guidance of our experience instructors. They also had a chance to try out **Track Cycling**, in our Velodrome.. the only one in the south of England.

Party leader, **Julie Barrows** said of their visits to Calshot ' We visit to expand the Geography and History Curriculum through Field Studies, and support the P.E. curriculum through various sporting activities. The centre staff are very supportive, knowledgeable and professional at all times'.

A day was also spent at the **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**, where students learnt about life on a Tudor war ship. This linked in with work that was done in school, and students had the opportunity to see Calshot's own **Tudor Castle**, built during the reign of Henry VIII.

If you would like further information about organising a residential Field Studies and Activities course at **Calshot Activities Centre**, please contact us on **02380 892077**, or **Calshot.ac@hants.gov.uk**. **www.calshot.com**

Hannah Cheek - Field Studies Manager



2010 BBC Children In Need 24hr Trackathon

Calshot breaks record!

On Saturday 19 November eight teams, including one composed of Centre staff, took part in a 24hr endurance challenge to raise money for **BBC Children In Need**. Each team rode 3 x 1 hour slots carrying **Pudsey** bear around the **Calshot Velodrome** as far as possible non stop for 24hrs.

To give readers an idea of how it feels to pedal a track bike over 20mph for a full hour...The first 20 minutes really get your heart rate up and it all seems like very good fun, the second 20 minutes you start to get tired and your legs start asking you the question "why are we moving so fast for so long?!!" The third 20 minutes your legs are screaming for a break, your back really hurts, the seat has become an implement of torture, your neck and wrists are so stiff you doubt that they'll ever straighten out again and your brain is just trying to shut out all the pain and concentrate on not causing a crash at over 20mph that will undoubtedly take out all your team-mates!!!

Our three allotted 1 hour rides were at 5pm, 1am and 7am. We started off fast then settled down to a steady pace of between 21-23mph. After varying amounts of sleep, we were back on the track at 1am and put in a great team performance again raising the pace to 23.1mph. At around 6am we re-grouped bleary eyed and wobbly legged and after one huge effort in which every team member used up every last ounce of energy, we brought Pudsey home averaging 22.7mph.

It was a fantastic achievement to cover nearly 70 miles in 3 hours and more importantly **The Calshot Crusaders** raised £1000 for BBC Children In Need.

Left - Spot the stuffed bear ...
Calshot Centre staff prepare for 24 hours of track cycling



Geography in action across the New Forest ...

The geography department of **St. John's College**, Southsea, has developed strong links with **Calshot's Field Studies Department** over many years. Groups from Year Seven to Year Thirteen have enjoyed the benefits of fieldwork in the New Forest and coastline covering a wide range of activities with the specialist teachers at the Centre.



'A' Level geography in Lyndhurst - St Johns students at Calshot

In 2010 eighty Year Eight pupils involved themselves in a study of the **River Darkwater**, from its source in the Forest to its mouth at Lepe. 'A' Level students gained and understanding of Coastal management strategies from Barton-on-Sea to Hurst Spit, and also investigated urban issues in Lymington, as well as physical aspects of the River Lymington. This proved to be very important preparation for their AS and A2 examinations in the summer.

The outstanding GCSE results of our

Year Eleven in 2010, with 100% A-C grades and over 70% at A*/A grade, was in no small part due to their 'Calshot fieldtrip' to Lyndhurst and Marchwood, which helped them prepare their GCSE coursework, accounting for 25% of total marks.

As a College we very much value our relationship with Calshot, and really appreciate the enthusiasm, dedication and expertise of all the staff involved.

Peter Hyde, Head of Geography, St. John's College, Southsea.

Calshot news roundup

Despite the current economic climate, schools are still very keen to engage in outdoor learning, and Calshot's instructional staff are as busy as ever. The new crop of trainee instructors started this term, undergoing their 8 week training, which will enable them to teach virtually all the 30+ activities offered across the centre

We also continue to invest in the centre and its equipment - new track bikes and new Picos (sail boats) being the latest acquisitions.

On the facility side, this winter saw the complete refurbishment of the downstairs toilets and showers in Houston House, and in Keymer House, providing modern, individual units for children and adults.

Take a good look round when you come to the Centre - there's always something new to see and use.



Right - the calm before the storm. Calshot Schools liaison and Senior Instructor Tracey Penna at the Outdoor Show in London in January.

Calshot (and the other Outdoor Centres) will also be at the HCC Primary Heads Conference in Southampton on March 16, with staff to answer questions and provide information about the full range of education and learning offered by Hampshire Outdoor Centres.





“Every child has inside th
If we don't fill it with something which
they will fill it with something which is

Active involvement in the learning process is far more effective than passive listening. The outdoors has a way of giving immediate feedback about your progress when learning a new skill.

People learn best when they can see the relevance of what they are learning. The outdoors does this really well with immediate results and it's FUN. This makes your job as a teacher easier and takes some of the pressure off you in the classroom.

**“I hear and I forget,
I see and I remember,
I do and I understand”.**

Learning should involve seeing, listening, discussing, interacting, hands on experience and sometimes even smelling and tasting.

Multi sensory experiences will bring your pupils to life, show you sides of them you never knew and bring out the best in all of them.

And best of all, you get to relax while group trainers who have undergone thorough skills training do all the work for you!



Opening in S
Hampshire's newest Outdoor Centre
Plan YOUR group visit at:

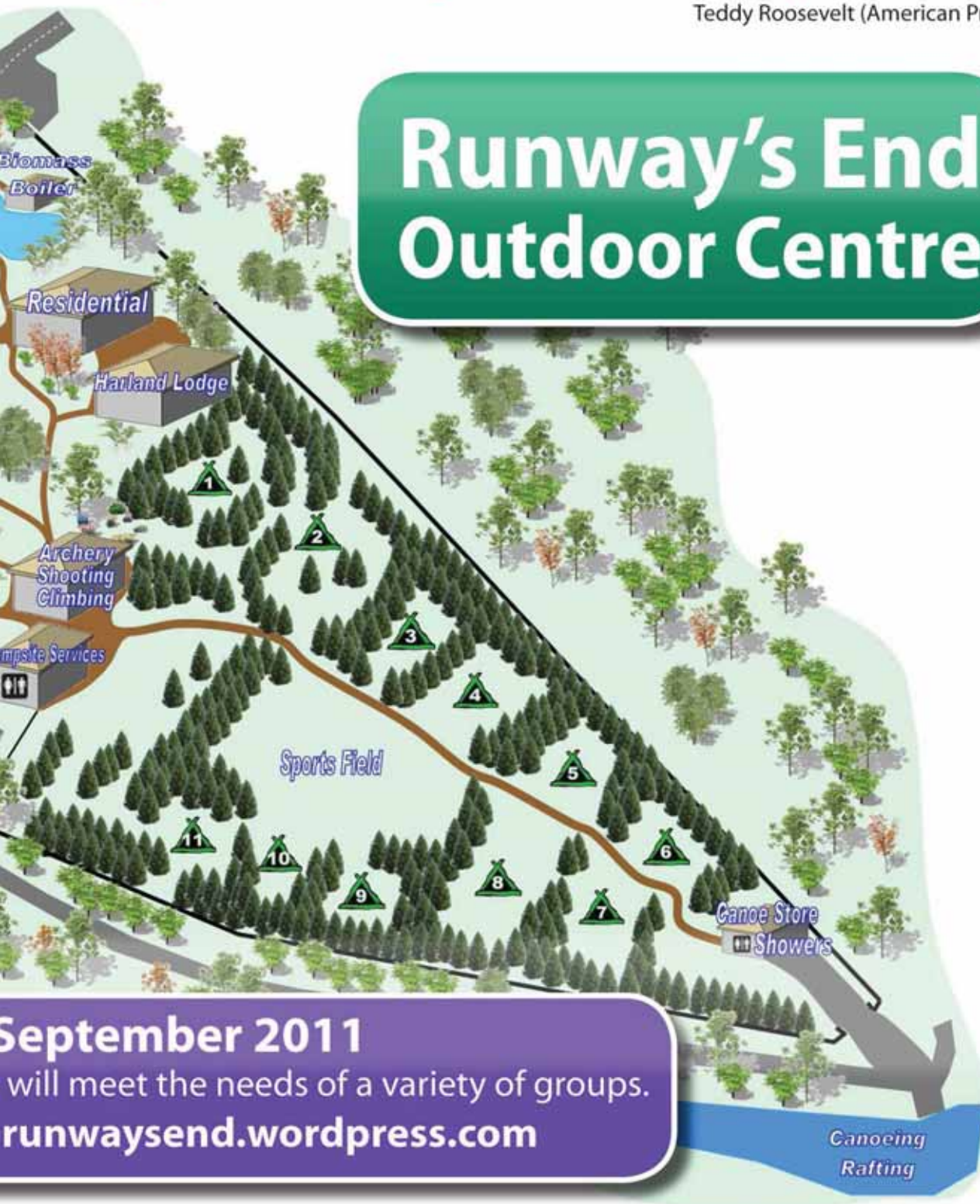
GU11 2RE
07808 390 580
www.hants.gov.uk/runwaysend



them an aching void for excitement.
is exciting and interesting and good for them,
exciting and interesting and which is not good for them."

Teddy Roosevelt (American President)

Runway's End Outdoor Centre



September 2011
will meet the needs of a variety of groups.
runwaysend.wordpress.com



Tile Barn emerges from the long and rather chilly winter in good form and is busy getting ready for the new season. Groups and visitors coming this spring and summer will see some great new developments. Read on to discover new toilets, a summary of last years Aiming High, new curricular work, and a real emphasis on training ...



New Toilet Block for Tile Barn

Plans are now in place for the new toilet / shower block at **Tile Barn** (right) and permission has been given for building work to begin. This began in **February 2011** and should be complete by the early summer. We do apologise for any impact of groups whilst the work takes place - temporary facilities will be in place until the new building is complete. The brand new building will be in the same place as the existing block and include individual; shower/changing cubicles, toilets, sinks, accessible & group leader facilities and an undercover D of E washing up area.

Down with the old - the current toilets at Tile Barn are demolished ...



Aiming High 2010

Aiming High has been very busy with successful finales from both **Hayling College** and **Park Community** years 8 and 10. All the groups accomplished a large variety of tasks which helped to develop both personal and social skills.

Park Community Year 10 were fortunate enough to participate in the new **ASDAN Activities Award Scheme**. This enabled the students to gain a variety of outdoor certificates such as Mountain Biking, First Aid and BCU Paddle Power Start certificate. This programme has been a huge success, providing young people who find structured learning significantly challenging, an alternative curriculum. All in all Aiming High 2010 has had a challenging, prosperous year and we all look forward to what 2011 may bring.



Craig Lindsay - Tile Barn

After Schools options ...

We are continuing to work with Hampshire Primary schools to offer an after school club programme. The programme can include basic map and compass work, cooking skills, tent work and team building activities; aiming to raise awareness of outdoor pursuits, raise self esteem and to build friendships. Programmes can be tailored to suit the needs and requirements of each school.

Please contact us if you would be interested in us running a programme at your school (see contact below ...).

Curriculum Support ...

Traditionally Outdoor Centres have been viewed purely as activity providers, primarily looking at development of skills such as; teamwork, leadership, etc. However, **Tile Barn** would like to highlight that this is not always the case. Whilst maintaining this tradition, the Centre is also working with schools to develop ways in which it can support and extend their curriculum.

A recent example would be the development of a day that will provide a safe and exciting approach to enrich the school's history and science curriculum. The event will also act as a focus the children will plan towards and then report on after, adding further depth and interest to other areas of their curriculum.

David Norrish
01590 623160
tile.barn.centre@hants.gov.uk



Apprenticeships

Working at Tile Barn for about a year now has already given me a huge boost in my self-confidence and led me to facilitate a wide range of groups and abilities. The Instructors here have been really helpful in passing down their knowledge and skills to make sure I succeed in gaining my NVQ 2. With nine months remaining until I finish, I look forward to the support of the Tile Barn team to make sure I not only complete my apprenticeship but I leave here having enjoyed every last moment. -

Chris Oliver - Tile Barn Apprentice

I have been working at Tile Barn for just under a year now and already I have managed to gain new and exciting qualifications which will contribute towards my future. Working at Tile Barn



has given me confidence to deliver activities to a wide range of groups. The Instructors are really friendly and have given their own time to help me develop skills that I need to complete my NVQ 2. The college have given me a great opportunity to enhance my skills. I have improved my abilities dramatically in activities such as Kayaking, Mountain Biking and Climbing, which are all activities that Tile Barn provide. I am looking forward to coaching and learning to lead sessions in the new year. -

Sam Graves Tile Barn Apprentice

Green shoots in Wales ...

Winter in the Brecon Beacons has now receded, and the Hampshire Mountain Centre is gearing up for its new season - not that it's been quiet during winter at all. Many schools and youth groups took advantage of the warm surroundings of the centre to provide a mountain experience for their young people between November and February. However, the winter has provided centre staff with the opportunity to spruce the centre up, replace and repair kit and equipment, and generally ensure that groups coming over this next year continue to have a and exciting, safe and rewarding visit.



Will Moy is a relatively newcomer to the Centre, having arrived as an instructor in 2010. Here, Will sets out his view of how the last year has gone, and some of the new developments that have happened in recent times ...

From forest to mountain ...

It's now been a year since I was given the opportunity to work at the Hampshire Mountain Centre. Some of you may remember me from working at Tile Barn in 07-08. Since then I've enjoyed a year out of work, travelling to some incredible places around the world and snowboarding in the alps.

Now relocated to the Brecon Beacons, I've returned to the Hampshire Outdoor Service and have been working full time since April. Outside of work much of my free time is spent enjoying some of Wales's and the UK's world class crags, rivers, mountains and surf.

The past year at HMC has provided some great new challenges, developing my skills delivering safe, educational and

challenging activities. The team and I have worked very hard this year ensuring HMC courses go over and above the expectations of our groups.

The year has seen many new developments around the centre including a large kit store, a new kitchen for the Longbarn and increasing the canoeing provision allowing us to deliver journeys on the fantastic rivers in the area. We are all looking forward to see what the coming year has in store and hope to be 'extending the challenge' to you soon.

Will Moy, Instructor, HMC

Will Moy, instructor at the HMC, battles through white water to develop his skills ..



Centre Bookings 2011-12

The Mountain Centre is now taking group bookings for 2011 -12. The website (see page 12) contains much information, and an on-line booking form. Alternatively, call the Centre Director, Roger Lee on 01874 622914 to discuss details, arrange a pre-visit, a school visit, or a booking.

Mountain Leader Training

The Mountain centre is the venue for HCC's Mountain Leader and Walking Group Leader training and assessment. If you are interested in leading your own groups in the hills, then these courses are for you. The next ML and WGL courses at the Centre are:

 8-15 April 2011 and
 21-28 October 2011.

For more information visit www.hants.gov.uk/education/outdoor-education or call 01962 876214 claire.bishop@hants.gov.uk

Beaulieu Development Centre

Although managed from Tile Barn, the Beaulieu Development Centre continues to operate as a personal development / team building and problem solving site in its own right. In the past year or two it has maintained a very specific focus on young people, with the number of schools and youth groups using it rising dramatically.



2010 has seen many groups, old and new, use the development centre. The centre has been used in different ways, from basic teambuilding days with primary groups, to more in-depth work with prefect groups. Our prefect training days in particular have allowed us to work with young people from schools to develop their leadership and communication skills which they can then use back at school.

If you are interested in using the centre to help deliver your student development needs - whether to prefects, Gifted and Talented, groups with behavioural and other targeted needs, do get in touch with us. Call the Centre on 01590 623903 or e-mail to bdc@hants.gov.uk **Craig Lindsay**

Education for Coastal Change ...

Calshot Activities Centre Field Studies Department, Lepe Country Park, and the New Forest National Park has been working with The **CCATCH** project. (Coastal Communities Adapting to Change).

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of coastal change due to sea level rises and develop a plan for the future stretch of coast from Calshot to the mouth of the Beaulieu River.

The team have been developing resources to use with school groups, to explore the impacts of sea level rise on our stretch of coastline. The sessions that have been developed can be used with Key Stages 2, through to A' Level Groups, and can be run as day sessions at either Lepe or Calshot, or as part of a week long residential course of Field Studies and Adventurous activities at Calshot Activities Centre.

Sessions include **'Houses on the Shore'** where students build model houses and sea defences, then observe how the houses survive when the tide comes in! **'Markers on the beach'** will be a series

of signs at Lepe and Calshot to promote thoughts about the impact of a rise in sea level for the people who visit and live near the shore.

See if you can spot them next time you come down to visit. All the new resources can be used to enhance the Coastal Management and Environmental Study courses that we already deliver.

For more information about educational visits to Calshot please phone **02380 891267** or visit **www.calshot.com**. For visits to Lepe Country Park contact **02380 899108**

Hannah Cheek, Field Studies Manager, Calshot Activities Centre



Houses on the shore -
- being built



.....and washed away ...

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom Update

The **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom** continues to perform its unique function in ensuring every child experiences the world beyond the classroom walls as an essential part of their learning and development, the driving ethos behind the **Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom**. As they establish ourselves as a financially independent charity, developing their membership scheme becomes a key priority for 2011.

LOtC Quality Badge

2010 has seen a healthy increase in uptake of the LOtC Quality Badge, with around 800 organisations having been accredited to date. Significant progress has also been made in promoting the scheme to schools, with the vast majority of local authority outdoor education advisers advising schools to look for the LOtC Quality Badge when organising educational visits in order to reduce red tape and gain assurance regarding the safety and educational quality of the provision.

Political influencing

Ofsted has reiterated its 2008 report which concluded that LOtC contributes significantly to raising standards of education and should be an integral element of long term curriculum planning. It also added that **"it is crucial that equal and full access to learning outside the classroom is ensured for all learners"**.

Referring to the revised school inspection arrangements, which evaluate the extent to which pupils' enjoy their learning and achieve well, and assess the impact of a school's external partnerships on pupils' learning, **Ofsted states "Clearly, a curriculum is only likely to have these qualities or attributes if it provides substantial opportunities for pupils to learn outside the classroom."**

In addition, the **"Government absolutely believe that outdoor learning is vital and provides so many opportunities for young**

people to expand their horizons and to put learning into context, so that they can actually see what is happening and are not just learning the theory. Moreover, outdoor learning provides opportunities to break down barriers... It is able suddenly to boost the confidence of many children who may not succeed in other activities in the classroom".

(Minister of State for Children and Families **Sarah Teather**)

This support for learning outside the classroom is widespread and very encouraging, and the Council will continue its efforts to influence policy in 2011 with a view to ensuring that LOtC is placed at the heart of the curriculum.

www.lotc.org.uk



Freeze frame drama via Trailblazer - Shakespeare Infant School

The Award Project - Skills for Life ... Canal Boat Residential 2010

During the summer holidays, and as part of an ongoing 'Skills for Life' programme, the Award Project took a group of 6 young people to Braunston to spend a weekend on a Canal boat. The residential was aimed at providing the group with a new experience alongside the opportunity to put into action independent living skills. The young people took charge of the weekend by working up rotas of who would cook and clean and even did the shopping for the weekend before arriving at the canal boat.



Through the locks - The Award project engage in some tricky manoeuvring ...



Serious game play on the canal boat - Leader Tim Symington is most put out at losing £200 on Park Lane ...

When we arrived at the canal boat we were met by our skipper, **Tim Symington**, who put us all to work immediately. The young people were shown the ropes (no pun intended!!) and we set off on our two day journey.

On the first morning we awoke to torrential rain which did put a damper on things to start with! The group did not let this deter them and after all donning waterproofs were ready to get stuck in. We were all shown how to work the locks along the canal which at first looked rather daunting to us all but by the end of the weekend we were all confident and took control of them with ease. Tim also spent time with young people individually teaching them how to skipper the boat which the all the group fully engaged with.

There were two young people onboard who were particularly frightened of water and so it was an extra challenge for them to engage, there were a few shaky moments whilst they gained confidence in their ability but by the end of the weekend both young people were manning locks and had also spent time

skipping the boat.

I had never taken young people on to a canal boat residential previously and so did not know what to expect. I would now however highly recommend it to all groups out there looking for something a bit different. The canal is a perfect environment to work with young people on group work and learning how to they impact on others. There is no escaping once you are on board, as living space is very limited, and so it forces you to work together as a group and be respectful of each other. There are plenty of opportunities to engage young people individually as well as in groups and I can promise you that you will all be exhausted at the end of each day from manning all the locks!

The Award Project will definitely be using the new Hampshire canal boat with a new group and two of us are even trying to gain our skipper ticket to be able to go it alone next year so fingers crossed!

Sam Saye
The Award Project

The Great Snail Hunt at Selborne



A group of Year 5 gifted and talented pupils from **Liss Junior School**

came on a mission. Their summer term visit was to explore the opportunities presented by various habitats surrounding **Gilbert White's Field Studies Centre**. The Great Snail Hunt took place early in the autumn term. Led by **Simon Millard**, Principal Teacher at Gilbert White's Field Studies Centre, and ably supported by **Frank Fearn** and **David Whittle**, Science Inspectors for Hampshire County Council.

The pupils, now Year 6, chose to investigate the number of snails on Selborne Hanger. Following scientific principles of data collection, the children used quadrats along a belt transect to investigate the number of snails at different locations. As explained by Simon 'So often in classroom based science, limitations of time, equipment and resources permit collection of data on a small scale only. This in turn restricts the ability of the child to use their higher order investigative skills.'

Said **Andy Burford**, Head at Liss Junior School, who accompanied the pupils, 'The Great Snail Hunt was an exciting, first-hand experience of real science and it inspired them to complete some excellent follow-up work in the classroom.'

If you would like to learn more about this or any of the exciting hands-on science activities available at **Gilbert White's Field Studies Centre**, please contact **Simon Millard** on 01420 511517 or fieldcentre@gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk.

Downloadable booking forms are available from www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk.



Hampshire's 2011 Open Silver D of E Expedition

Cycling or Walking - you Choose

If you are interested please come along to one of the information evenings to find out more.

Information Evenings

**28 February 2011 at 1800
Havant Open Centre
The Original Place
136 Purbrook Way
Havant
PO9 3SU**



**3 March 2011 at 1930
Winchester Open Centre
Henry Beaufort School
East Woodhay Road
Harestock
Winchester
SO22 6JJ**

If you have any questions then please contact either;

**DofE Field Officer Chris Golby on chris.golby@hants.gov.uk
DofE Field Officer Fiona Smith on fiona.m.smith@hants.gov.uk**

To book your place on an information evening, or to find out more if you can't make either session, please contact

**DofE Admin Officer Abby Roch on dofe@hants.gov.uk
www.hampshireopensilveraward.tk/**

The next copy of *Out There* will be produced for May 2011 We welcome your news and views about outdoor learning, and examples of young peoples' work from the outdoors.

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