

Evanton Woods – a great place to learn outdoors



This project, based in Evanton Community Woodland, gave participants the opportunity to complete a John Muir Award – which involves, discovering, exploring, and helping to sustain the woodland, and sharing the knowledge and skills gained in the project, with others.

Reading, writing, talking and listening skills were key to this project, as the group recorded and shared the work they did. At the same time the project aimed to provide opportunities for individuals to develop their confidence in discussion and working as a group.

Tasks included:

- Finding out about woodlands
- Finding out about John Muir
- Working with others to complete tasks
- Discussing shelter design and building a shelter
- Making a fire and cooking on it
- Discussing and agreeing conservation activities to support the woodland, and completing these. These included thinning trees and making bird tables and bat boxes
- Sharing the knowledge gained, through posters and other written work, such as poems



Here are some of the participants' comments about their experiences and the knowledge and skills they have gained:

- **Learnt about "Shelter building, making things, learnt about different types of bats and the sound they make"**
- **"I felt it was good being in a group doing things together such as ... lighting fires, pond dipping."**
- **"Really enjoyed taking part in the course"**
- **"I have thought about what it would be like to do this back in John Muir days, when he did this."**
- **"Felt brilliant"**
- **"I liked being in the woods"**



Shelters
Skilful
Strong
Safe and secure
Bushy
Camouflaged
Piny
Prickly

Safe
Hopefully
waterproof!
Warm and cosy

Full Group Poem

What's happening in Ross & Cromarty?

Two New Daytime English (ESOL) classes

Alness and Dingwall have new daytime English classes – the Alness Class is for families – on a Thursday from 9.45 to 11.15 in the Perrin's Centre. In Dingwall there is a class for complete beginners at 10am to 12 noon on a Friday, in Dingwall Community Centre. For details of these classes or more information on our other classes, contact Iona or Steve.



Working with Dingwall Community Library to Bridge the Digital Divide

Adult Learning have been working with Dingwall Library to support a beginners' class in digital technology – helping people develop their skills on desktop computers, laptops, tablets and phones.



Highlighting Adult Learning and Support for Literacies

Working with partners we have supported events in Ross and Cromarty - to highlight the work we do and reach a wider group of people. These have included:

- Mid-Ross Partnership Event in Dingwall Academy
- Invergordon Arts Centre Open day
- Taster Event in Ullapool – with a Health and Well-being theme
- Catalyst Project Events, Alness – an Action for Children project seeking to work with families in Alness to explore addiction and recovery.

Community Growing and Learning - Balintore

Working with partners, NHS and Seaboard Cares, a growing project, involving the Community Polytunnel at Hilton of Cadboll school, aims to support local residents who want to learn about growing their own food and sharing easy ways to use this food in healthy recipes. The project will also help people learn about composting. Easy to use instructions for growing locally relevant fruit and vegetables will be produced and recipe ideas will be collected and shared. These growing instructions and recipes will be made available to anyone in the community who is interested.



Invergordon Project to support digital literacies and explore local heritage

High Life Highland funded Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) to run a project in Invergordon that supported people to develop their digital skills, while researching local history. The final event took place in the Invergordon Library, where members of the local community were invited to join the group to find out about their work.



Tutor Training, CPD and Partnership

- 3 Supporting Adult Literacies learning (SALL) courses
- 2 Tutor Network and Training Days
- 2 Adult Learning Partnership meetings for Mid and east Ross
- 2 Adult Learning Partnership meetings for Ullapool & Gairloch and associated districts.
- Development of e-newsletter to circulate relevant information around partners and tutors

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