



Windermere Reflections EBulletin No. 2

December 2011

Many of the 19 projects are now underway and opportunities for community involvement are growing by the week!

Scroll down to read more about volunteer and training opportunities, upcoming events and news from the various projects....

NEWS...

Train the Trainers

Project leader: University of Cumbria



Participants on two courses 'Issues in the Windermere Catchment' and 'Coordinating Volunteer Groups' have now completed their training and a further set of courses are running in the New Year.

Students on the first 'Issues in the Windermere catchment' course learnt about the hydrology of the catchment and the issues of phosphates, soil erosion, fisheries depletion, climate change and habitat deterioration through both classroom-based and field work. One participant said "I have really enjoyed the course and I am feeling very inspired" See below for details of 2012 courses.

Restore the Shore

Project leader : South Cumbria Rivers Trust

Volunteers from the FBA carried out a short boat patrol to assess existing locations of Common reed (Phragmites) in the south basin of Windermere. Three locations have now been identified to conduct some experimental fencing to protect the reeds.



Secret Windermere

Project leader: Friends of the Lake District

In November, children from Langdale C of E. Primary School had a fascinating tour of planets, solar systems and the universe at their school, with Kendal Astronomer Stuart Atkinson on November 8th. Mark Squires, head teacher, commented "That was inspiring, it took me right back to watching astronomer Carl Sagan at a similar age to them."

Amazing questions from children included "Are there different dimensions of space? What is proof of the big bang theory? "How come planets going round the sun don't get sucked in?"

A week later, inspired by their' exploration into outer space, some 65 budding young astronomers, staff, parents and locals from the Langdale, attended an evening's star gazing (Tuesday 15 Nov) near Blea Tarn. A clear night, there were thousands of stars, too many to count, a good view of the Milky Way, Jupiter, and several shooting stars. "On a good dark night in an ideal location you may see as many as 3000 stars. Being able to see 30 or more at once is sign of a good dark sky. In a city, because of the light pollution you might be lucky to see a handful" said Judith Moore, Friends of the Lake District Policy Officer.

Secret Windermere is working with young people from local schools around the Windermere area to find out about tranquillity and where it can be found. The "Dark Skies" element of the project is introducing the importance of dark skies and being able to see the stars as part of the natural environment. Annie Masson, Education Officer for the Friends said "we were lucky to have such a clear view at Blea tarn, elsewhere stars are obscured by a veil of light. Using lighting more wisely and directing lights down where they are needed, would help us to see the night sky better, reduce energy use, save money and reduce disturbance to wildlife".

EVENTS...

What? *FREE* joint TALK on climate change and water quality

- 'Everything you ever wanted to know about climate change but didn't like to ask' by Dr Kate Rawles, University of Cumbria
- 'How you can make a difference to local water quality' by Windermere Reflections project officer
- Find out here about volunteer opportunities, University of Cumbria's postgraduate course designed for outdoor professionals 'Greening Outdoor Practice' and other free University-accredited training courses



When? Tuesday 10th January 6.30-8.00pm Lakeside YMCA National Centre, Lakeside, Newby Bridge LA12 8BD

All welcome.

Let us know you are coming so we can make sure we have enough tea and biscuits

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Reflections on History is up and running. Come along on the 18th February 2012 to learn all about the heritage side of Woodland Surveying. There'll be half a day of expert talks followed by an opportunity to get out and see sites that have previously been surveyed. There'll be plenty of opportunity for you to put what you've learnt into action as the project develops.

Get in touch to find out more, liz.davey@environment-agency.gov.uk Tele: 015394 34401. Venue to be confirmed.

WINDERMERE REFLECTIONS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

What? Event support for our formal launch- help with preparation, set up, meeting and greeting, serving drinks and canapés, photography and car parking duty.

When and where? One day w/c 2nd January and/or daytime of 18th +19th January for set up and/or evening of Thursday 19th January, Ambleside

What? Poster drop offs- we regularly advertise events, volunteer and training opportunities in local shops and businesses. We'd like it if you could adopt a small patch near to your home/work.

When? We will send you posters by mail to deliver out as events come up, probably once a month

What? Windermere Reflections general office support

When and where? January onwards, time commitment to be agreed – regular help would be great! based at Ambleside

What? Help with planning and organising Windermere Reflections public launches at various venues around the catchment.

When and where? From January onwards – events to take place in the Spring. Based at Ambleside, but some of the work could be home-based

What? Attending and supporting events around the catchment. These events are aimed at raising awareness about the issues and what people can do about them.

When and where? Ongoing, all around the catchment area.



What? To help develop a best practice 'toolkit' for sustainable organised recreational challenge events. This may involve research, communications and liaising with stakeholders.

When and where? From January, based at Staveley

What? Working with businesses with one-to-one informal advisory visits in order to raise awareness of the phosphate issue and encouraging the use of phosphate-free detergents.

When and where? Ongoing, all around the catchment area

What? Windermere Reflections 'Ambassadors' needed. We need people who are willing to spread the word about the issues the catchment is facing, and about the exciting projects which Windermere Reflections is offering.

When and where? Ongoing, all around the catchment area

Plus

What? Volunteer Induction days; come along and find out more about the programme, have some basic health and safety training and meet other volunteers.

If you are intending to volunteer with us, we would like you to attend one of these sessions. We will be putting on more sessions into the spring and summer.

When? Evening of Thursday 1st March - time and venue TBC

If you would like to sign up to an induction day or one of the above opportunities, please contact debbie.binch@environment-agency.gov.uk Tele: 015394 34401

COURSES

The University of Cumbria is running training courses in sustainable catchment management and volunteer management. The courses are free and are open to everyone. Each course contains an assessment and leads to attaining university credits.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch amanda.hancock@environment-agency.gov.uk Tele: 015394 34401

What? Course: Leading a volunteer group
The course content includes; leadership and motivating skills, assessing risks, staying safe, planning tasks to ensure successful completion by volunteers

When?
5 Wednesdays starting 29th Feb to 28th March



To find out more and enrol, go to;

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/Courses/Subjects/ArtsHumanities/Short/LeadingVolunteerGroup.aspx>

What? Course: Issues in the Windermere catchment

The course content includes; managing the issues of phosphates, soil erosion, fisheries depletion, climate change and habitat deterioration, how Windermere's water catchment area functions, understanding the impacts of human and environmental actions on the landscape, interpreting these issues for the public

When? Tuesdays starting 21st Feb to 27th March

To find out more and enrol, go to;

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/Courses/Subjects/ScienceNaturalResources/Short/IssuesintheWindermereCatchment.aspx>

What? Course: Managing the Windermere catchment

The course content includes; managing the issues of phosphates, soil erosion, fisheries depletion, climate change and habitat deterioration, working with multiple stakeholders, inter-dependency of the issues, developing an integrated management plan for a specific area

When? 5 Wednesdays starting 29th Feb to 28th March

To find out more and enrol, go to;

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/Courses/Subjects/ArtsHumanities/Short/ManagingWindermereCatchment.aspx>

Meet the team....



This month Helen Moriarty, Nurture Lakeland Project Leader for Love Your Lakes

In a nutshell..... 'Love Your Lakes'

Aim is to reduce use of household products containing phosphates

These include dishwasher tablets and laundry products



High phosphate levels are damaging to the lake as they can cause algal blooms

Windermere Reflections - Linking Lakes, Landscapes & Lives

Windermere Reflections is a Heritage Lottery Funded 3 year programme which will work with the whole community (locals and visitors) to encourage positive action for the Windermere catchment. There are 19 projects running, all delivering improvements to the catchment. They include on the ground conservation work, information provision, training and volunteering opportunities, learning opportunities and the chance to celebrate and appreciate our environment. The programme brings together all kinds of people with different skills, knowledge and understanding. It's a partnership working towards a healthy catchment. In addition to HLF the core funding partners are the Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, the National Trust, and the University of Cumbria.

Contact details; Windermere Reflections office Low Nook, Rydal Road, Ambleside,
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