

Naturedays Newsletter

Spring-Summer 2018

Naturedays has delivered environmental education to children and adults throughout the Highlands of Scotland for over 30 years. We are supported by The Aigas Trust for Environmental Education and based at Aigas Field Centre. Our newsletter will keep you updated with what has been happening at Naturedays and what is coming up.



SCHOOL BOOKINGS

If you want to book a last-minute school trip before the summer holidays you had better be quick, because we only have two dates left! Bookings are rolling in for the autumn term too.

Naturedays offers a wide range of programmes for nursery, primary and secondary students, including National, Higher and Advanced Higher biology and geography. Each course is tailored to the groups' specific needs and interests.

Contact us to find out more!

NATURE CLUB

Send your budding nature lovers on new adventures throughout the summer holidays! Nature Club will be held on Tuesdays between 9.30 and 15.30, starting on the 3rd July. Anyone aged 6-12 is welcome.

This year, if your child attends 4 Nature Clubs, they will get their 5th for only £10 instead of the usual price of £25 per child. This will also mean they qualify to achieve their John Muir Discovery Award because they will have discovered, explored and conserved an amazing wild place (more information overleaf).

FAMILY DAYS

Your whole family is invited to spend the day at Aigas for a variety of games and activities. All you need is your packed lunch and enthusiasm! This year, you could take part in a bioblitz to find out what lives at Aigas, test your wilderness survival skills and build homes for wildlife.

Family Days last from 10am until 2pm, are suitable for all ages and are run on a donation-only basis (recommended donation £5 per person).



Check our website for dates and to book on Nature Club or Family Days!!

WHERE TO FIND US

Naturedays will have stalls at the following events this summer:

Kiltarlity Community Gala
Kiltarlity, 16th June

Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival
Kiltarlity, 2nd – 4th August

Bright Beaully Fair
Beaully, 18th August

Come along and see what games and activities we have on offer!

CONTACT US... Whether you have a comment, question or would like to make a booking, we would love to hear from you.

US... www.naturedays.org.uk | naturedays@aigas.org.uk | 01463 783670.



SECONDARY FIELDWORK

As pupils make their subject choices for the next school year, enquiries are coming in about what we can offer for secondary school students.

We are delighted to have groups of S1-S6 students at Aigas and design customised courses for science, biology and geography groups.

Whether you would like your students to practice their investigation planning and data gathering skills, gain hands on experience of Field Techniques for Biologists or collect data for their National 4 or 5, Higher or Advanced Higher assignments, we can help. Our Education team are experienced at carrying out and teaching fieldwork, and all sessions are tailored to meet the SQA requirements where necessary.

PRIMARY PROGRAMME UPDATE

We have two new sessions to offer primary 1-7 children visiting us this year.

In 'A Journey through History', children explore how the climate and people have changed our landscape since the last ice age, and how our landscapes have changed us.

Meanwhile, 'Conservation Challenge' offers students a hands-on approach to local conservation. Tasks will vary throughout the seasons but could include building bird boxes to take back to school or helping to maintain habitats on the Aigas estate.



JOHN MUIR AWARD

John Muir was a Scottish Naturalist who dedicated his life to conservation and wildness.

The John Muir Award is available to people of all ages and recognises their efforts to learn about, conserve and share their own wild place.

Earlier this year, Rachel attended John Muir Award training in Findhorn, meaning we can now offer the award to visiting groups. If you would like your pupils, children or friends to start working towards an Award, please get in touch!

“In every walk in nature, one receives far more than he seeks.”

John Muir

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Sign up to our mailing list at
www.naturedays.org.uk
 or by emailing naturedays@aigas.co.uk

 @naturedays

 @aigasnaturedays



NATUREDAYS' OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Over winter, the team travelled to primary schools and nurseries throughout the Highlands delivering our Winter Survival outreach programme. With the arrival of spring we developed a brand new outreach programme, all about Energy Flow. We tried it out at primary schools on Skye, and children had lots of fun learning how energy moves through food webs, some of the weird and wonderful things animals do to find food, and how marine plastics can interrupt natural energy flows. Since then, we have taught the sessions to nearly 300 primary and nursery pupils in their schools and playgrounds.



Primary school pupils trying out binoculars generously donated to Nuredays by Aigas Field Centre regulars, Jim and Wendy

WILDLIFE GARDEN

We are making a wildlife garden at the back of the Magnus House.

In the last few weeks we have made a caterpillar garden using old tyres. These were painted by children on Aigas Field Centre's Nature's Child programme in 2017 and planted with native wildflower seeds donated by Kew Garden's Grow Wild scheme. This will provide essential pollen and nectar for butterflies and bees throughout the summer.

Bulbs planted in Autumn by our wonderful Rural Skills group have flowered, and new herbs are starting to grow in the freshly weeded sensory garden. Over the summer we will build a new compost bin, develop the bird feeding station and keep adding to our ever-expanding bug hotel. Watch this space for more updates!



RANGER TRAINING

You might meet some new additions to our team this year!

In February and March we made the most of Aigas Field Centre's annual Aigas Ranger Training Scheme to improve our knowledge of Highland natural history, social history, geology, forestry, land use and more.

Even better, the Nuredays team led a week of training. Rangers learned about the Scottish education system, Curriculum for Excellence, group management, adapting sessions for participants with additional support needs and how to plan an effective lesson. At the end of the week, they planned and taught workshops on food webs, plastics and predator-prey relationships to children at our local primary school. The Nuredays team love working with the Rangers, and it's great seeing them use their new-found skills with adult guests at the Field Centre.

You will be sad to hear that Charlie is leaving at the end of the month to take on a new adventure. We will all miss her, but we look forward to introducing her replacement in the next newsletter!

NATUREDAYS AND GDPR

As you will be aware, new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come begin on the 25th of May 2018.

If you want to keep hearing from Nuredays, you must sign up to our newsletter by emailing us or following the link on the website.

Our Privacy Policy has also been updated and is found at www.nuredays.org.uk