

# CONFERENCE 2015



## the Forest School Association invites you to their 2015 Conference

23-25 October 2015 at Condover Hall, near Shrewsbury

**Fees: Conference with accommodation in Condover Hall dorm (Fri+Sat) all meals (FSA Member £175. Non-member £215)**

**Non-residential conference (Fri, Sat + Sun) all meals (FSA Member £150. Non-member £170)**

**Day rates and Student rates also available.**

### Keynote speakers:



#### ■ SATURDAY - Bob Hughes

Internationally renowned for his work in the field of playwork, Bob has been a playworker since 1970. He has run three adventure playgrounds

and now runs PlayEducation an independent playwork research and training consultancy. His current professional interests are play and evolution, and the quantum world of play.

In his keynote, Bob will be looking at the challenges of working with 'play' in the Forest School context. He will also be exploring the role of the Forest School practitioner with regard to 'play' during Forest School sessions.



#### ■ SUNDAY - Sue Waite

Forest School's Fit: How do Forest School principles work in the wider field of outdoor learning?

Sue Waite is Associate Professor (Reader) in the Plymouth Institute of Education. Her research into

outdoor learning includes studies of Forest School, decline of provision of outdoor learning in schools and issues of transition, health and wellbeing outcomes from woodland activities and place-based learning. She currently leads the Natural Connections Demonstration Project funded by Natural England, DEFRA and English Heritage and convenes Plymouth University's outdoor and experiential learning research network. She is author of many published articles in this field and an edited book *Children Learning Outside the Classroom: from birth to eleven*. The second edition of this, featuring a chapter on Forest Schools by Mel McCree and Jon Cree, will be published in October 2016.

#### ■ PROGRAMME

We are going to have an informal skills share in the bar and outside on the Friday evening – do bring your Forest School skill to share!

#### Friday evening

- Networking and skills share

#### Saturday:

- Yoga or Tai Chi
- Breakfast
- Bob Hughes Keynote
- Discussion workshops on Play and Principles
- Lunch
- In depth 2 hour workshops (choice of 20)
- Regional Networking
- Forest School Auction
- Evening meal
- Evening entertainment

#### Sunday:

- Autumn Dawn Chorus
- Breakfast
- Sue Waite Keynote
- Working with Mindfulness in Forest School
- Creative approaches for putting Principles into Practice
- Lunch
- Forest School around the World
- Summing up and conference close

Workshop details over >>>>>

**BOOK NOW!**

For further information and booking form please see:  
[www.forestschoolassociation.org/national-forest-school-conference-2015/](http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/national-forest-school-conference-2015/)

# Workshops

## 1. The Quest for the Child Led Session

(led by Lily Horseman)

An adventurous quest into giving up the role of leader to the children and young people you work with. This workshop is based on some work that Lily has been doing with groups that incorporates rites of passage and transitions, the hero's journey, group agreements, quests and missions, collective decision making, with a dollop of mucking about in the woods and organised chaos. Through this we will explore how to manage our role as a non leader both emotionally, practically and dynamically.

## 2. Earth Education- a 'head' 'heart' and 'hands' approach to living lightly

(led by Mark Jefferys)

Earth Education programs are magical learning adventures designed to help participants construct ecological understandings, build personal feelings for the natural world, and make decisions about their environmental actions. This session will explore the aims and methods of this programmatic approach, and will include an 'Earthwalk' - a light, refreshing touch of nature, focussing on the senses.

## 3. Plant games, Hawthorn leather & Cordage

(led by Marina Robb)

This workshop will give you a chance to learn inspirational games that connect young people (and adults) with plants. We will play simple but effective games that teach about the plants, make some simple plant cordage and harvest and make some Hawthorn leather.

## 4. Natural Musicians

(led by Chris Holland)

How to use natural objects, patterns and sounds to facilitate playful music making sessions outdoors... that are also ways to awaken enthusiasm and interest for doing literacy, numeracy and science.

## 5. Parents and FS. Family Wild Club: resilience for nature connection; resilience for children; resilience for FS in schools?

(led by Kate Griffiths & Rosie Linford)

Do you work with parents and children together using FS approaches? Do parents get "in the way" at your sessions? Are you a parent yourself? Whatever your interest in parents and FS come and share stories, strategies and skills, while hearing about Family Wild Club. Can our vision deliver triple resilience?? Make your own mind up, and reflect on the role of parents in embedding or undermining FS. Wild Club was designed by Kate in 2014 with funding from South Downs National Park Authority. Partners included Sussex Wildlife Trust and Brighton University (to measure impact).

## 6. Incorporating yoga into your Forest school

(led by Jane Downing)

A completely hands on workshop, that can be directly replicated or simply take some of the techniques and integrate into your practise. Starting with a group Mandala that we will make from natural materials; moving on to a fun yoga session, incorporating story telling. Finishing with a beautiful guided relaxation. Don't worry you don't need to have any yoga experience or be able to tie yourself into a pretzel! There will be some time at the end for any questions and a handout will be provided with the structure of the session should you wish to replicate.

## 7. Hammock Camping and Camp Craft

(led by Clive Edwards)

Learn about different types of hammock and how to set them up correctly so you stay warm and dry. I will also look at good camp craft and general skills.

## 8. Playing with Story

(led by Carol Graham)

This workshop will explore how stories can support play and how play can give rise to stories in the Forest School environment. There will be opportunities to pool ideas and to try out different activities - along with tips on the telling of stories at Forest School.

## 9. Kindle a Spindle

(led by Katie Rees)

Learn the ancient art of the drop spindle - craft your own spindle, prepare and understand your wool fibre and learn how to spin it! The whole process encourages the magical flow of Forest School; the spindle lives in pockets and is brought out in quiet moments - in the den, round the fire or on the bus on the way home. Making a tool that works is something to be proud of; making your own wool - that seems like magic!

## 10. Setting up a Nature Kindergarten (for Early Years)

(led by Sam Victoria)

There is a lot to think about if you love teaching outdoors and want to set up your own Forest School kindergarten. This is a workshop where we can talk about the highs and lows and how to make it possible. Guidance on registering with Ofsted and all the necessary requirements to turn your passion for Forest School into a rewarding and successful business.

## 11. Forest School and Montessori - Just how compatible are they?

(led by Nicky Kennedy)

Montessori is an educational philosophy that is often linked to Forest School...but why? There are many reasons, both in the theory and from practical activities that I can share with you. For example what is "Education of the Senses"? (a major part of the Montessori curriculum) and how can we develop it through Forest School. What did Montessori write about education in nature? Do Montessori schools really teach children how to use knives and saws at 18 months? Montessori developed something called a Three Period Lesson and we are using it at Forest School all the time, but where? Is her work and theory of 100yrs ago still relevant to today? The marriage of Montessori and Forest School is a magnificent one. Come and find out, ask questions and learn some new Montessori based activities to use in your Forest School practice.

## 12. The Stuff of Dreams? A place in the woods for all our Forest Schools

(led by Jenny Archard and Deb Millar)

This workshop is about sharing our visions of what we aspire to, and then grounding that in the reality of running settings in woodland for wider social benefits. We'll look at working with communities, involving volunteers, planning permission, legal structures and funding. Owning or leasing a site is a daunting prospect, but rewarding if that is your thing - and possible if you do it with others. We hope you come away with stronger dreams, practical hints and real steps to take to make them real! And a plan of action, if that is what will help you.

## 13. Playing with food

(led by Jenny Doyle)

This workshop explores the connection between food, play and emotional well-being. It is said that smells and memories go hand in hand and this is especially so in childhood. At a time when children's food and diet is in the spotlight we will discuss issues facing practitioners when cooking with groups whilst cooking some simple tasty recipes.

## 14. Working with Wonderful Willow

(led by Clair Hobson)

Willow is a wonderful medium to work with - so versatile and of course a sustainable learning resource. During this workshop we will talk about different types of willow and their soaking requirements. I can also introduce you to a choice of various suppliers. As we have 2 hours, we will aim to make a few simple willow items suitable for complete beginners and children! We will aim to make a willow star, willow ring which can be turned into a crown, woodland mobile, decoration or to play hoopla; a willow flower, platter and cornucopia type of shape. If you are allergic to aspirin, it is highly advisable you bring along some plastic gloves to wear please.

## 15. Nature Nourishes Nurture

(led by Dr Sara A Collins)

Nature Nourishes Nurture aims to provide practical ideas to promote nature in a Forest School setting. Observing and interacting with the natural world enables children to develop a positive relationship with their local environment. Interacting with and understanding the natural world builds empathy for the wider environment, and knowledge of a child's place in the world and future stewardship. The workshop will be 'hands-on', exploring our own reaction to a close encounter with a wild animal and how we might influence a child's reaction. Ideas for observing wildlife over a period of time will be accompanied with resource details and examples for the attendees to make and take away.

## 16. myForest for Education: online mapping and woodland management planning for your Forest School site

(led by Jen Hurst and Sarah Lawfull)

myForest for Education is a new, free, easy to use, online tool specifically designed for Forest School Leaders, environmental educators and teachers. In this workshop you will map your own Forest School site, complete an ecological impact assessment and develop a management plan for your site. Trainers Jen and Sarah will be on hand to help you with any aspect of woodland management planning for education and will help you get the most out of myForest for Education. You will be sent a site survey form before the conference and you will be required to bring your own laptop with wifi/internet connection to use in the workshop.

## 17. Forest School in Higher Education: Sharing experiences and exploring potential

(led by Bob Pilbeam)

Universities are increasingly engaging with Forest School by delivering experiences, facilitating work based learning and research by students, offering higher awards and publishing academic research. This workshop will seek to share and compare experiences and explore the potential for further development both within Universities and with those who might wish to work with Universities. For example this might be by conducting research, developing research agendas, offering placements, or continuous professional development.

## 18. Progression using the fixed blade knife

(led by Sarah Robertshaw)

In this session we will take knife use 'back to basics'. We will look at different methods of cutting, which woods to choose, how to split wood and whittle and we will make an elder whistle and a feather stick or flower

## 19. Using Forest School ethos in Corporate Leadership

(led by Vicki Stewart)

This workshop will showcase how the Forest School ethos can be utilised for adult leadership corporate groups. Participants have the opportunity to cast a pewter object as part of an example activity. An analysis of the project - to create an innovative leadership culture with corporate groups - will be presented, together with the benefits and disadvantages of using Forest School for work with adults. Participants will run through the pewter activity. Their reflections, and insights and experience will inform a workpiece of ideas for using Forest School with adults in a wider context.

## 20. Playing with Fire

(led by Chris Salisbury)

Taking your fire further at Forest School - being more inventive and creative - how to play with fire safely and encourage deeper thinking and learning.

## 21. Autumn Land Art - Celebration of Colour

(led by Richard Shilling)

Autumn brings to us the richest natural palette of the year and is a very productive time for land artists who work with leaves and colour. In this workshop we will search out the colours present in the environment around us and create sculptures with what we find. My style of ephemeral land art sculpture is all about the process of immersing yourself into the environment and as your senses open to what is there creating a sculpture that reveals those things to the viewer. We will go through this process and practitioners will then be able to apply that to any place at any time of year and help children create land art sculptures.

Please complete with your full details and your booking requirement.

Accommodation at the venue is limited so we cannot guarantee to be able accommodate everyone. However, a search for accommodation on the internet for the Keswick area will list many B&Bs, Guest Houses and Hotels as well as campsites. **PLEASE TICK BELOW TO BOOK**

Single day bookings include lunch. Full Conference booking Includes lunch on both days and big fire BBQ on Saturday evening. All accommodation bookings include breakfast.

Your full name:	
Your full address:	
Your phone no.	
Your email address (vital for updates)	

**I WOULD LIKE TO BOOK FOR:**

<b>CONFERENCE</b>	FSA Member	Tick ✓	Non member FSA	Tick ✓	Full time students & unwaged	Tick ✓
Full Conference: Sat 12th & Sun 13th	£170*		£195		£99	
Saturday 12th Conference only	£110*		£135		£49	
Sunday 13th Conference only <b>NOW £70</b>	<del>£110*</del> <b>NOW £70</b>		£135		£49	
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>						
Superior Twin Friday 11th & Saturday 12th	£88		£88		£88	
Superior Twin Saturday 12th	£44		£44		£44	
Saturday 12th night camping	£16.50		£16.50		£16.50	
Friday 11th & Saturday 12th night camping	£33.00		£33.00		£33.00	
Dormitory bunk beds Friday night	£27.60		£27.60		£27.60	
Dormitory bunk beds Saturday night	£27.60		£27.60		£27.60	
<b>TOTAL TO PAY</b> £____.____	* using Coupon Code via the FSA website					
<b>PLEASE PAY BY CHEQUE OR BACS*</b>						
<b>By cheque - enclosed</b> Y / N						
<b>By BACS* (within 7 days)</b> Y / N						

\* To pay by BACS you MUST reference your payment. Please use first name initial/.surname/CONF (e.g J.BLOGGS/CONF)  
BANK DETAILS: Cooperative Bank. Sort Code 08-92-99 Account No. 65593138. CHEQUES payable to **Forest School Association.**

**Send the booking form/cheque to:**  
**FSA, Warwick Mill Business Centre, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle, Cumbria. CA4 8RR**