

# National Forest School Conference 2017



## PROGRAMME & NOTEBOOK



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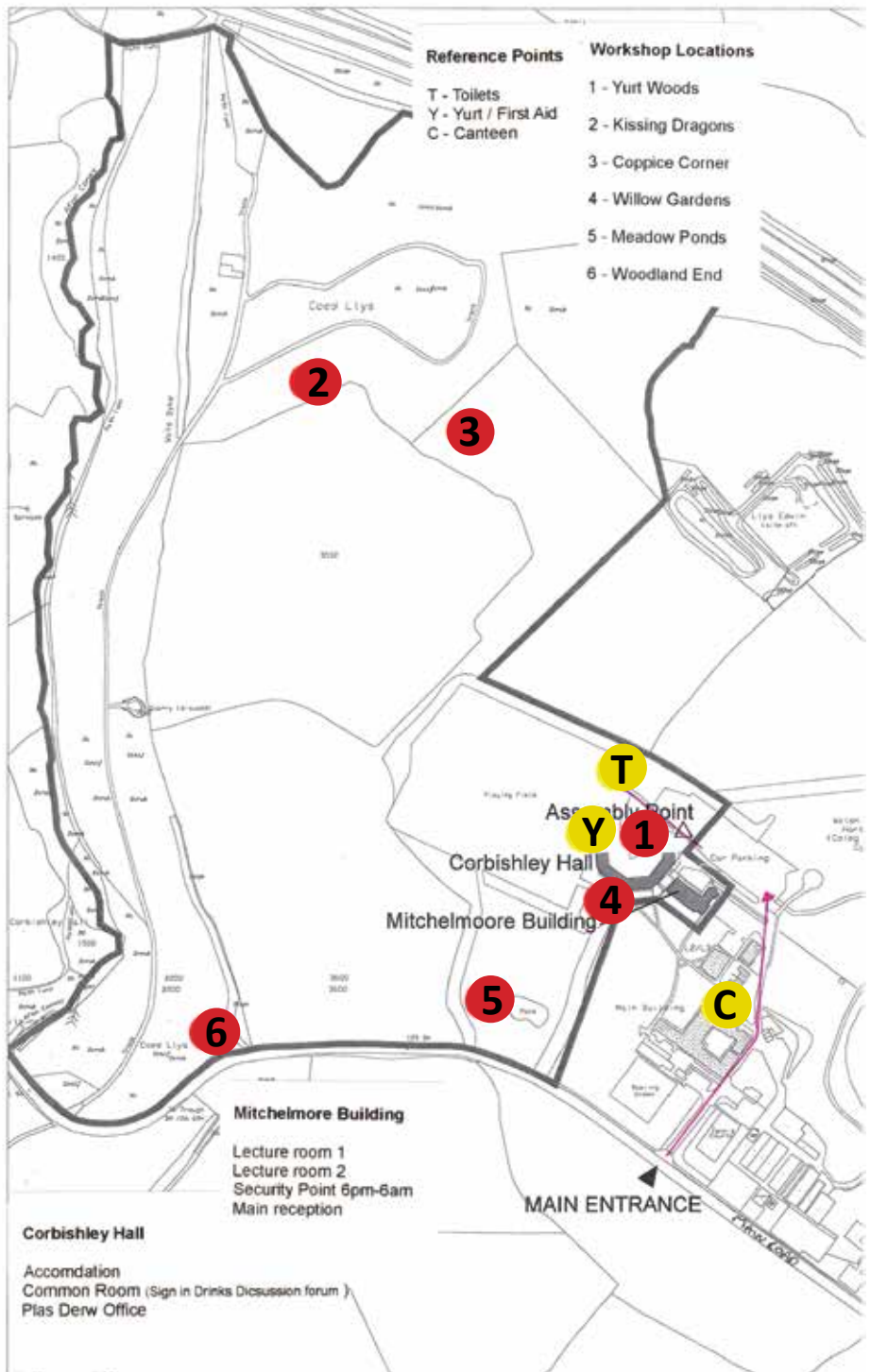
## 2017 CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

FRIDAY	
17.00 - 22.00	Arrival & Registration / Networking & Socialising
18.00 - 20.30	Canteen Supper
19.00	Mystical Flora Walk – Carl and Sarah Resulting from Plas Derw’s Historical Healers project this walk will tour the grounds with discussions on the Flora found on site and their association with Folk Law and healing. Meet at <a href="#">Kissing Dragons</a>
20.00	Utterly Butterly Ukelele - <a href="#">Yurt Woods</a>
SATURDAY	
07.30 - 08.30	Breakfast
08.30 - 09.15	Registration and Networking
09.15 - 09.30	Welcome Address by Jon Cree - <a href="#">Sports Hall</a>
09.30 - 09.45	Comfort break and walk to first workshop
09.45 - 11.45	Workshop
11.45 - 13.45	Lunch and Networking
13.00 - 14.30	Workshop
14.30 - 15.00	Comfort break
15.00 - 17.00	Workshop
18:00	Evening meal (Hog Roast) / Bar open – <a href="#">Canteen Garden</a>
18.00	Drumming (Natural Rhythm) - <a href="#">Yurt Woods</a>
	Harpist (Emmy Broughton)
19.00	Solo Guitar (Virginia)- <a href="#">Yurt Woods</a>
20.00	Bat and Moth Walk - <a href="#">Kissing Dragons</a>
20.00	Mystical Flora Walk – Carl and Sarah Resulting from Plas Derw’s Historical Healers project this walk will tour the grounds with discussions on the Flora found on site and their association with Folk Law and healing. Meet at <a href="#">Kissing Dragons</a>
21:00	Virginia and the Dream Keepers - <a href="#">Patio</a>
SUNDAY	
07.30 - 8.30	Breakfast
09:00 - 10.30	Workshop
10.30 – 11:00	Comfort Break
11:00 - 12.30	Workshop
12:00 - 13.30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:00	Closing statement



**Please look at the notice boards around the site for additional activities.  
The workshops and timings may be subject to change.**

# FSA National Conference 2017 SITE MAP



## 1 Wellbeing Assessment

with Jon Cree

To justify our Forest School provision, we must demonstrate the impact it has on wellbeing. This workshop will explore several ways of defining wellbeing and how we work with our learners at Forest School to assess our wellbeing, learners and practitioners alike, so it feels like an integral part of the Forest school experience.

**Presenter:**

*Jon is a FSA Director and has been involved with training in environmental and outdoor learning for over 30 years and been a Forest School trainer for 10 years. He has worked at FSC Bishops Wood Centre for the last 17 years as training co-ordinator and manager of teenage programmes.*



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## 2 Re-igniting the Spark within

with Iza Moon

This workshop will be a soothing and uplifting journey of original Soul-Full Songs, interspersed with enchanting Storytelling, poignant Poetry and empowering visualisations. It will culminate in an outdoor Fire Ceremony, an ancient and magical form of ceremony, where participants will be led through this ancient and incredibly memorable experience.

**Presenter:**

*Iza is a travelling Songstress, Poet, Storyteller and Alternative Therapist. She has been drawn to alternative ways of living my life, and has lived 'off grid' for the last 12 years.*



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## 3 Free your imagination, free your voice, and free yourself

with Iza Moon

Using group singing and storytelling, Iza will be inviting participants to be involved in a joyful journey of the imagination through creative, soulful expression. She will lead some simple, uplifting group singing where we will feel the exhilaration, harmony and strength that comes from working together as One Common Voice.

**Presenter:**

*Iza is a travelling Songstress, Poet, Storyteller and Alternative Therapist. She has been drawn to alternative ways of living, and has lived 'off grid' for the last 12 years*



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# WORKSHOPS

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## 4 *Meditation and Mindfulness for Wellbeing*

with Vanessa White

This workshop will offer participants an introductory session on the use of mindfulness and meditation for wellbeing. It will include a guided, walking meditation (in barefoot for those who would like to). You will also get the chance to participate in activities that support mindful participation using natural materials and the environment. These may include felt making, basic weaving or natural art formations.

**Presenter:**

*Vanessa is a mindfulness and meditation teacher who qualified in 2016 as well as a L3 Forest School Practitioner. She runs 8-week mindfulness and meditation for wellbeing courses and for insight courses. She also facilitates for the Learning Through Landscapes national charity.*



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## 5 *Voices from the Heart*

with Elizabeth Swift

The workshop will give Forest School leaders the confidence to introduce songs and singing to Forest School practice. It will look at Natural Voice techniques and practices that help make singing an easy and integral part of Forest School practice and gives everybody the chance to have a good outdoor sing too!

**Presenter:**

*Elizabeth Swift is a co-founder of the Forest School organisation, huathe, and divides her working time between training Forest School leaders; leading Forest School projects; lecturing on early years degree courses and leading natural voice singing groups. She set up huathe in 2011 with Carol Middleton to help reconnect adults and children to nature, to each other and to themselves. In 2015 she set up the first FireChoir! Singers gather in the woods and, after lighting a fire together, sing to reconnect to themselves and nature.*



## 6 *The Happiness Tree - A Magical Healing Story*

with Danny English

This workshop aims to merge storytelling with the therapeutic benefits of spending time in the outdoors. Danny will be telling a magical and unique story of his own that deals with the topic of healing through nature connection and includes the opportunity to make a willow crown..

**Presenter:**

*Danny is the founder and Director of CommuniTree, an Outdoor Education project operating in Greater Manchester and Lancashire.*



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## 7 *Sit Spots for Wellbeing*

with Dr Chris Walton and Mell Harrison

This workshop focuses on inspiring the facilitation of sit spots for children, young people and ourselves. A series of sensory activities and stories build up to create a solitary 'sit spot' in nature. In turn, this shows how a creative and slow pace to nature connection can support the creation of space to improve wellbeing. The workshop will also offer the opportunity to discuss how sit spots could be integrated into Forest School for all ages and you will hear about the latest research in this area.

**Presenter:**

*Mell joined the Green Light Trust in 2016 and has been facilitating Nature Connection work for over 15 years. She has worked with all ages and abilities, facilitating through the theories of Forest School, Earth Education, Nature Connection and Environmental Education.*

*Until he retired in 2015, Chris was Co-Director of the Ringsfield Eco Activity Centre in Suffolk. He is a Baptist minister and his lifelong care of children and young people resulted in his PhD research that investigated the responses of children to solitude in the natural world.*



## 8 *Great Forest School Bake Off*

with Mell Harrison

This workshop will be a practical session experimenting with campfire cooking to develop creativity, help build self-esteem and support teenagers' holistic well-being. It will involve foraging common plants and conclude with a 'Great Forest School Bake Off' using different cooking techniques.

**Presenter:**

*Mell joined the Green Light Trust in 2016 and has been facilitating Nature Connection work for over 15 years. She has worked with all ages and abilities, facilitating the theories of Forest School, Earth Education, Nature Connection and Environmental Education.*



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## 9 *Projects with Willow, Obelisks and Wreaths*

with Sue Croasdale

This workshop will demonstrate, how therapeutic and rewarding, creating projects with willow can be for all ages. It will introduce willow as a craft resource for Forest School demonstrating how to make obelisks and wreaths to take home. There will be an opportunity to share ideas, discuss costs with accessibility to materials too.

**Presenter:**

*Sue is a lecturer in Childhood Studies at Blackburn College in Lancashire, teaching on the CACHE Level 3 Childcare and Education (with Early Years Educator Status) to students in the Further Education Sector. She has long had a passion for outdoor play. As part of her Masters study, Sue did research into Forest Schools that sparked her desire to train as a Forest School educator.*





## 10 *Natural Rhythm*

with Bearnumber9

This workshop aims to promote the therapeutic, life quality, and community benefits of the use of drumming and rhythm within Forest Schools. The session is held around the fire in a traditional 18ft Native American tipi. We start with an introduction to the benefits of drumming, a history of the frame drum, and the use of rhythm. Through hands on experience, we will show participants how they can integrate regular drumming and rhythm within their sessions using a traditional frame drum.

**Presenters:**

*Benny Cartwright is a craftsman, musician, and music teacher.*

*He has been practising and teaching mindfulness, presence and deep listening through music for many years. Benny makes beautifully hand crafted drums using fresh hide and native wood.*

*Claire Cartwright is a home educating mum who has a deep love, respect and appreciation for the natural world. Her work as a home educator led her to train as a Forest School practitioner. She practises various forms of Reiki and includes drumming in her healing sessions.*



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## 11 *The Utterly Butterly Ukelele Project*

with Steve Nutter and Nick Penny

The Utterly Butterly Ukulele Project is a music and junk instrument making workshop that will amaze and amuse you, and help you learn a lot while having fun! At the workshop, you will make your own TUB-Ukulele. We will teach you how to play a repertoire of songs, and then do an end of day performance with the assembled TUB-Uke orchestra and the Utterly Butterly Band. TUBUP will also be providing some entertainment on Friday evening for campers

**Presenter:**

*Steve is a full time multi-instrumentalist and composer who has been working in the field of community arts for over 20 years. Nick has visited more than 2000 primary schools with his junk instrument making workshops. He has presented a children's' educational programme for Channel 4 and had a book shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Prize.*



## 12 *Inspiration - Idea sharing / Problem solving*

with Mark Clarke

Are you a 'Newbie', a long time served practitioner or anywhere in between? The 'Idea Sharing/Problem Solving' round table workshop is for all. Do you have an idea, problem or question you would like to discuss with a like-minded, positive, supportive group? Do you need to work out some issue or need a recommendation for a source of tried and tested equipment or resource? Then this workshop is for you.

**Presenter:**

*Mark is currently training to be a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner with a Primary School in Lincolnshire. He has experimented with a range of work activities including furniture making and teaching and started Craft Times, a small creative business, with his wife delivering practical workshops and activities, mainly at events and festivals in the UK. He went on to design and make Kinetic Sculptures inspired by nature and the environment as part of a three year "Energy from Art" project he set up in 2010.*



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## 13 *Autism and Forest School*

with Michael James

The workshop aims to raise autism awareness amongst Forest School practitioners with little prior knowledge of ASD, to discuss the benefits of a Forest School approach for autistic learners, and provide an opportunity for those already providing sessions that include autistic learners to share practice and ideas. It will involve activities that will help to focus on the needs and experience of autistic learners and will involve role-play scenarios to encourage people to put the approaches discussed into practice.

**Presenter:**

*Michael works for The National Autistic Society as Forest School Coordinator based in Bath & North-East Somerset (BANES), a role that involves managing and delivering Forest School to adults with ASD.*



## 14 *Looking Back Moving Forward*

with Plas Derw Trust

It is easy to be stuck in a rut or to focus all your attention to one aspect of Forest School and lose sight of the benefits of other aspects. Each new group of participants brings new dynamics and sometimes-new problems or hurdles. With this in mind, we have created a session that allows participants to refresh their thinking, share thoughts and ideas on best practice and develop new strategies for dealing with behaviour including case studies and discussion.



**Presenter:**

*Plas Derw Trust run a variety of outdoor and environmental education projects with schools and community groups. Since 2013 our subsidiary company PDT Training and Education Ltd has been delivering Forest School courses along with a variety of Professional development courses centred on outdoor learning.*

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## 15 *Nature in Words and Numbers*

with Plas Derw Trust

Many school teachers are undertaking Forest School training so how can Forest school sessions incorporate the curriculum without losing sight of the Forest School ethos. Focusing on the key stage 1 Literacy and Numeracy skills this workshop will give your ideas and inspiration for activities to meet the curriculum during your Forest School session.



**Presenter:**

*Plas Derw Trust run a variety of outdoor and environmental education projects with schools and community groups. Since 2013 our subsidiary company PDT Training and Education Ltd has been delivering Forest School courses along with a variety of Professional development courses centred on outdoor learning.*

## 16 *Social Value*

with Eleri Lloyd from Mantell Gwynedd

'What Wales is doing today the rest of the world will do tomorrow' This is an introductory session on Social Value and Social Return on investment. The What, Who, Why and How. Social Value to us means the value of the things that change because of activities you do and it is a great tool for demonstrating the worth of your work to stakeholders and can be used to strengthen grant applications.



**Presenter:**

*Eleri has worked in the third sector for many years and supported various organisations to develop and improve their sustainability. Most recently she's worked on developing Social Value Cymru to assist organisations to demonstrate their value. Social Value Cymru is part of Mantell Gwynedd, the Voluntary Council. Social Value Cymru provides social value support, advice and consultancy services to third sector organisations across Gwynedd and beyond.*



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## 17 *Experimenting with Yoga and Bodywork in Nature*

with Suzy Strudwick

A practical session for people to understand a little of the theory behind what links yoga with wellbeing, experience the positive impact of yoga and bodywork for themselves (hopefully in the outdoors) and to get some ideas about how and when yoga and bodywork could be used in a Forest School session.

**Presenter:**

*Suzy has been a full-time Forest School leader for 9 years, working in and around Croydon, Surrey and Sussex and has lots of experience of working with children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and is a qualified youth worker.*



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## 18 *Making and playing the "Viking Game"*

Apologies. This workshop will not now be running.

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## WORKSHOPS

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### 19 *From Glue Sticks to Relationships*

with Sarah Hennessey

This workshop will look at the ways in which young people with attachment issues can have difficulties within the structure and expectations of a traditional school setting. It will explore how using an outdoor setting and participating in imaginative and creative arts can offer an alternative way of working with young people who are struggling to manage their own emotions and to develop the empathy needed for collaborative working.

**Presenter:**

*Sarah has worked as a teacher, with children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. She has a Masters in Art Psychotherapy, trained, and worked as a freelance Forest School Leader. She has worked with children with attachments difficulties, Autism, ADHD and many other presentations.*



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### 20 *Simple Products from Coppice Hazel*

with the Woodland Skills Centre

A practical workshop to show how hazel can be grown as a sustainable woodland material using simple tools that to create a variety of simple projects.

**Presenter:**

*Led by staff from the Woodland Skills Centre all of whom are level 3 Forest School Leaders, level 3 Social Forestry Practitioners and experienced craft tutors.*



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### 21 *Introduction to Writing for Wellbeing*

with Deborah Alma

A gentle introduction into writing for the self for those with little or no experience of writing. Through a series of exercises, conversations, and looking at your own life experiences, Deborah will help you to transform some of your material into imaginative writing. The workshop will focus on the positive, help to achieve self-acceptance, calmness and be properly in the moment. There will be no pressure to share your writing.

**Presenter:**

*Deborah Alma has an MA in Creative Writing, taught Writing Poetry at Worcester University and works with people with dementia and in hospice care. She is editor of Emergency Poet- an anti-stress poetry anthology, The Everyday Poet- Poems to live by (both published by Michael O'Mara), and her True Tales of the Countryside is published by The Emma Press. The Emergency Poet Prescriptions will be administered from Deborah's ambulance during Saturday afternoon.*



# Conference theme: Wellbeing in the Woods

by Lily Horseman,  
Chair of FSA



**T**oday in the woods I have been thinking a lot about levels of wellbeing. It has been the hottest day of the year so far. Deep in the woods I, along with other members of the group found ourselves in that deep state of flow characterised by a single point of attention and total immersion. We were able to follow our own ideas and interests. I became engrossed in sticking twigs and natural bits and bobs into clay to make blob goblins, searching around for things that caught my attention, delighting in the funny characters that emerged. Others were making dens and fairy houses and I reflected on how the woods offer such rich opportunity for us to find our flow and how the long-term nature of Forest School allows us to find these moments of flow. I also experienced moments of feeling overwhelmed as the competing needs of the group who were hot, thirsty, tired and were challenging themselves to raise their skill level manifested. Recently I

was listening to a podcast which included a section on the theory that we can only hold seven things in our working memory. This really resonated with me as I thought about those overwhelming moments. I maybe already had 4 things in my head; what we were doing next, keeping an eye on time, the levels of involvement that people were experiencing, where was my own water bottle? Then as needs manifested that number of things at the front of my mind went up to 8, 9 or 10 things all at once.

I'm sure this feels familiar to all Forest School practitioners. These two states characterise so much of our work in the woods. We feel those moments of 'overwhelm' as we deal with, not only the needs of the groups we work with, but the differing agendas and values of those around us.

As one of the FSA directors, and Chair of the Board, I find that we have these moments too. The sense of wellbeing in



the board comes from the collegiate way in which we work and the support we try and give one another. The Board is a working entity and in the last few months we have been working on developing the Recognised Forest School Provider Scheme, the Trainer Membership and the Conference of course. The FSA Board have also been working with members of the Forest School Trainers Network to revisit and review the Forest School qualification and bring the criteria more closely in line with the Forest School ethos.

What these recent pieces of work have highlighted is the importance of the Principles and Criteria that make up the Forest School ethos. It has also highlighted some of the areas in which they could be clearer. The long-term aspect which helps us find our flow has recently become a hot topic for discussion. What defines long-term? The Forest School community understands this to be longer than six weeks but how much longer? The FSA has been doing some work recently to engage with this debate and consider what this means for practitioners. The other aspects of the Forest School ethos will also need some consideration over the next few months and years as we try and refine

and hone understanding of what Forest School means. Within this discussion we acknowledge that the competing needs of the Forest School community present us with a challenge. The conference is always a good opportunity to explore this face to face and to connect with others to discuss and debate.

The conference is also a good opportunity to connect with others who face the same challenges. The festival feel of this year's conference will provide lots of opportunities to be fully present and engaged with others who share your values and passion. I have a real sense of sadness that I can't be at the conference. Long standing commitments mean I will be elsewhere this weekend. Previous conferences have contributed enormously to my own sense of well-being; the support, the opportunity to explore what Forest School means for us all are part of what I value so much.

We in the Forest School Association value those organisations and individuals who do so much to support us. For this year's conference our special thanks go to Birnbeck Insurance who are the main sponsors of the event. It is thanks to them that we can make this space and time for you to work on your own wellbeing, explore deeper what Forest School means for you and the rest of our community and I hope you find yourself in that flow state at some point over the weekend. ❖

Lily Horseman,  
*Chair of FSA.*

*Photos with Creative  
Commons License*



# 'Into the Woods'

by Danny English

Danny English believes that the key to health and wellbeing is a connection to nature.

**A**nother beautiful winters day welcomes me into the woods, the frost is sticking firmly to the ground and the mosses hanging from the elder trees seemed to have aged over night; their thick green beards have turned a magical glistening white that now hangs heavily from the otherwise bare tree.

Working in a wood every day is something I feel forever grateful of, to rhythmically move through each day's meandering light while journeying through the peaks and troughs of the changing seasons, truly brings me closer to understanding our precious place amongst this great intricate web of life. It has helped me understand that if we open our eyes, hearts and minds to everything that is happening around us, nature can be a truly wonderful guide in helping us understand so many beautiful lessons about ourselves, each other and her very own beauty.

As an Outdoor Educator and Forest School Leader I firmly believe in connecting with nature through deep and emotive experiences. Deep in our ancestral routes lies a drive to learn about, discover and connect with nature. This is a drive that, as a result of our modern lifestyles, has become suppressed and replaced with 'quick-fix' news or sound bites of advice passed around through social media. If you've felt the strains and stresses caused by the contemporary nine to five and have retreated to a local wood, a distant

mountain top, a serene river bed or a silent field then you'll have also felt the healing properties that accompany nature's great lessons.

A disconnection with nature is not the only disconnection that we have witnessed in recent times. We've also witnessed a disconnection from our communities and also a disconnection from our selves. These disconnections have been taking place for a long time and only now are we beginning to realize the true implications of this, I believe that these disconnections are the route cause to most of the challenges faced today. A rise in depression and obesity mean that children and adults are less active and more routinely medicated than ever before, self-care has been neglected and replaced with a frantic race to secure financial stability. A rise in far-right wing politics; hate crimes and xenophobic behavior are the result of fragmented communities that lack personal interaction and understanding of their differences, and most worrying the state of our planet in the form of the ecological crisis and climate change leave our very home at risk.

Working in a wood there are two lessons that I am often reminded of, firstly the idea that the only thing that is permanent is constant change and secondly the understanding that, with the right environment growth will always take place. As true as the old oak leaves fall to the ground in autumn the young ash sapling will push its





head through the leaf litter in the spring. Nature's rhythms are so old and so attuned and so pure that they are true and unwavering. Our rhythms on the other hand are easily distracted, our senses are attracted to bright lights and sweet scents while our egos swayed by the promise of something greater than ourselves.

The question we are faced with is, how can we heal our disconnection while realigning with nature's simple universal rhythm? I remember once moving into a red brick two up two down terrace property in a small northern industrial town. My outdoor space was a three-meter square concrete flagged yard; no pots, no weeds, no earth, no leaves. For a while I felt totally disconnected from the space and thought there was no hope for developing a relationship with this little corner of the Earth. I spent numerous hours wishing for a nicer outdoor space that would give me more pleasure, I dreamt of moving to a house with a large grassy garden with flower beds, a pond, a rock garden and a vegetable patch. In my longing for more I lost sight of the true potential of the space. This continued for a while and it was only when I changed my way of thinking that I began to understand my role in this. I switched from a place of wanting to a place of giving. I realized that the ecosystem in that space was barren and broken, there was a lack of love and care and if I chose, I had in my heart all that was needed to make it feel loved again. That spring I decided that the natural rhythm inside me was ready to engage and in doing so was ready to cultivate, initially it wasn't seeds and plants, the initial cultivation was one of kindness.

I lifted concrete slabs, built raised beds, instated pots, planted seeds, cared for

vegetables and turned over soil with my bare hands. I had a scrap pile for the slugs and snails and the bird table began to attract a plethora of chirpy feathered friends. In late summer and autumn, I watched the bees come and collect pollen and with my daughter we picked and ate vegetables. During the process, I discovered how to plant, when to water and feed, when to harvest and when to leave plants to follow their own path. I learnt about the feeding habits of birds and I marveled at the intricate slow movement of the snails and the rapid scurrying of the earwigs. I chose to give and in return I was unexpectedly rewarded with so much.

That summer was a string of valuable lessons that I carry with me in my practice as an Outdoor Educator with both adults and children. I learned that often we find ourselves in situations that struggle to raise the spirit, we find ourselves disconnected from our work, our play, our communities, nature and ourselves. We long for something better, we strive for something grander, we dream of something easier. In doing so we further disconnect from our true potential. Instead of longing, striving and dreaming I learnt to switch my focus to cultivating kindness.

If the problems of modern society lie within a disconnection from self, each other and the natural world then cultivation could be the solution. When we cultivate we grow and nurture, when we cultivate kindness towards ourselves we grow conscious of our needs and nurture our soul from a place of acceptance and growth; when we cultivate kindness towards each other we grow more tolerant and understanding of each other's needs and beliefs while nurturing relationships that support and celebrate diversity and the plethora of ideas and energy that emerge from that; when we cultivate kindness towards nature we grow a deeper understanding of the way, like our own mothers, she supports our health; physically emotionally and spiritually and we begin to nurture that relationship and develop a deep sense of love that leads us to passionately care for her. ❖



### Danny English

*Danny is the founder and Director of CommuniTree, an Outdoor Education project operating in Greater Manchester and Lancashire.*

*Photos 1. with Creative Commons License; 2. from Danny*

# About the Forest School Association

The FSA is the professional body and dedicated voice for Forest School within the UK. We are devoted to promoting quality Forest School for all.

## Our charitable purpose

*“The advancement of education for public benefit through promotion and support of quality Forest School in the United Kingdom using any means to enable all children, young people and adults to benefit from increased opportunities for high quality and varied educational experiences in the natural world.”*

## To do this we:

- Communicate a strong, clear vision of what Forest School is.
- Develop and maintain the curriculum content for approved Forest School qualifications.
- Work together to increase opportunities for people to experience quality Forest School in the UK.
- Provide a central point for collecting, storing and sharing information about Forest School and good practice in Forest School (including notes on good practice, advice on choosing leaders, and advice on choosing trainers).
- Stimulate, store and share practitioner and academic research and learn from it.
- Work collaboratively with other organisations with similar goals and in related areas.

## Who can join?

We are an inclusive, forward-looking and democratic membership organisation. We are open to all levels of Forest School professional and all those interested in providing and growing opportunities for people to experience quality Forest School within our UK nations. Go to <http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/membership-options-page/> for information on our range of membership schemes.

## How will we work towards ensuring high quality?

- As a self-governing professional body we will work with approved training providers to deliver FSA endorsed Forest School courses and Forest School qualifications.
- We will endorse training providers who meet the criteria for good practice (currently in development).
- We provide publicly accessible information about qualified Forest School practitioners.



# FSA Recognised Forest School Provider Scheme



At the Forest School Association (FSA), we believe that Forest School plays a key role in increasing children's life chances by improving self-confidence and communication skills and offering experiences of risk and challenge in a natural wooded setting.

**As the national body for Forest School our aim is to see 'quality Forest School for all' happening in practice. We have therefore launched a new scheme for schools & organisations to recognise 'good' Forest School practice nationally, the FSA Recognised Forest School Provider Scheme.**

We believe that any school or organisation providing Forest School to children would also want to share 'good' Forest School practice with others. The scheme provides the opportunity to do just that by promoting 'good Forest School practice' to the public and Forest School community via our FSA Recognised Forest School Provider online map.

Once your school or organisation has become a '**FSA Recognised Forest School Provider**', you will be able to display a certificate and electronic badge on your website, paperwork and/or premises.



**Up until 31st July 2017, the new scheme is being offered at an early bird, introductory annual membership offer of £55. Thereafter, annual membership will be £100 if you apply in 2017.**

Details of how to apply for the scheme and the range of other benefits available can be found at [www.forestschoolassociation.org/membership-options-page/](http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/membership-options-page/)

## New Trainer Membership just launched!

We have now introduced a process those who train and assess Forest School courses to become a FSA endorsed through a rigorous Quality Assurance process. Through this scheme trainers can demonstrate they meet a variety of standards associated with providing quality training experiences in line with the 6 core Forest School principles. For more information go to:

[www.forestschoolassociation.org/membership-options-page/](http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/membership-options-page/)

## Tree-mendous people I met at the FSA Conference 2017!

<b>Who?</b>	
<b>Where would I find them?</b>	
<b>Contact details...</b>	
<b>What do they do?</b>	
<b>Who?</b>	
<b>Where would I find them?</b>	
<b>Contact details...</b>	
<b>What do they do?</b>	
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<b>Who?</b>	
<b>Where would I find them?</b>	
<b>Contact details...</b>	
<b>What do they do?</b>	



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A young boy with light brown hair, wearing a red shirt, is hanging upside down from a thick tree branch. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest with green leaves and tree trunks. A wooden sign is attached to a branch above him.

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Contact [Liz@muddyfaces.co.uk](mailto:Liz@muddyfaces.co.uk) if you want to discuss any ideas.

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