

Dear Roots & Shoots Members,

Happy New Year.

I have to admit that January and February are my least favourite calendar months – cold, dark and a bit miserable. But hope is here, Spring is on the way and given how quickly time passes will be here before we know it!

And we have a lot to celebrate here at RGS – there are almost 700 groups taking part in our programme! What a great achievement and thank you to all those who have spread our message and engaged more schools and more importantly, to those taking part.

I attended the JGI Global meeting towards the end of last year where representatives from our offices around the world come together to share ideas and updates on our various activities. I was thrilled to learn that RGS UK is one of the most successful countries of the Institute's programme – topped only by China, USA and Tanzania. Keep up the good work!

The awards event on December 14th was a roaring success and we now have secured a major new sponsor.

We will try to visit as many schools as possible over the coming school year but if you particularly feel we need to visit your school then please get in touch and tell us why!

We look forward to hearing from you.



Tara Golshan
Executive Director, Education



The Roots & Shoots Awards



As part of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programme, schools from across the UK were invited last December to Regent's Park, London to take part in a prestigious Awards ceremony in the presence of Dr Jane Goodall and Livia Firth, Creative Director of Eco Age and wife of actor Colin Firth.

The event took place at the Zoological Society of London's headquarters - a charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats and where Dr Jane saw her first chimpanzee.

Students prepared creative showcases of their contribution in the area of people, animals and the environment and were presented with certificates and awards from Dr. Jane Goodall and Livia Firth.

Thank you so much for letting us be part of such a great scheme. We have all come back totally inspired by Dr Jane. I spoke to students in assembly this morning about her. Well done to you for all you're planning.

Lesley Sleight
Queen Elizabeth II High School

Thanks for everything yesterday. We had a great time there and were really impressed with all the other schools. Very inspirational for us all.

Andrew Latham
Penryn College

To be in the presence of the quietly enigmatic and dynamic energies that are Dr Jane is like placing a seedling in a patch of warm sunlight". The seedling will grow and strive to grow towards that light – the light of vision, commitment and hope. Dr Jane has and continues to inspire and forests of hope are ever growing through Roots and Shoots. It was a privilege and an honour to be there – a memory that all of us will draw on.

Stephanie Diamond (Teacher)
St. Luke's Science and Sports College

Roots & Shoots UK has expanded



Introducing Jasmina Marcheva

Finally, some help in the office. Phew! It's tough running the programme with just one individual! Jasmina Marcheva, Roots & Shoots Assistant is joining us and will help to answer any questions about the Roots & Shoots programme and support you in your activities. Please don't hesitate to contact her by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or suggestions for future projects.

Mission Reports...

Roots & Shoots Group award Queen Elizabeth II High School

As students of Queen Elizabeth II High School and young Manx citizens, we were concerned about the increasing carbon emissions from our school transport. We conducted a survey on vehicle use. This included vehicle make, model and journey length. We then decided on planting trees to counter-balance one year's transport emissions of exhaust gas and other pollutants. We calculated that we would need to plant 4490 trees to redress the balance. So far 2800 trees have been planted in the local area. We organised a



number of events within school to address this issue, such as cycling to school in order to encourage less vehicle use, building a bike shed from recycled materials, organising cycle buses, influencing local government to promote cycle lanes and setting up a tree nursery for all new students. Our vision is to become carbon neutral with our school transport.

We have named our project "tREe -CYCLE" because we are reducing Carbon Dioxide

Roots & Shoots individual award Rayan Asfari

This year I was invited to attend the Roots & Shoots awards at ZSL. This was a huge honour for me seeing as not only would I have the privilege of meeting my hero Dr. Jane Goodall again but I would also meet other students from other schools who had been working for the same cause. My entire calendar had been on countdown for this day for the last four months and nothing was to stop me from enjoying it. During my day at the zoo my group and I were exhibiting our presentation to countless people, but they all had one thing in common: to help the earth and the environment. Soon it was time for the awards ceremony. I had already been told that each school was to be given an award but there was one that particularly interested me; this was the individual award. I thought I might have a chance of winning so I asked the staff and they informed me that the winner's



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group had already been informed.

As disappointed as I was, I was still having a great day, having spoken to Dr. Jane and been filmed by the BBC. At last when the Individual award was presented, it had turned out that I had won!

When we first started Roots & Shoots in my school I had no idea it would become so big or such a success. However, with hard work, dedication and enthusiasm from the whole school, we managed to invite Dr. Jane Goodall to the school. This was a huge thrill for me because she is my idol and I dream of following in her footsteps and studying chimpanzees. After she visited the school, we continued to have success with the program until we were invited to the awards.

here our gold winners of 2009 tell you about their work...

emissions by planting trees and encouraging cycling to school. The green issue is further promoted by the use of re-cycled materials.

Roots & Shoots gives students the inspiration to expand the project further and promote action to encompass care for the community, environment and animals. All year 7 students planted trees on the school grounds and groups of students built bird boxes and made bird feeders; linking in with the tree project. Students conducted a community project by undertaking a Fair-trade survey in local shops. This was in order to promote an understanding of the wider world.

Our project is well rooted within school and our shoots are branching off not only into the local community but also to the wider Island Community.

Winning the individual award is a life changing experience and shows that Roots & Shoots cares for every one of their members and is truly a unique multi-purpose programme. Roots & Shoots is one of the greatest hopes for youth because it helps in so many ways. In addition, it is almost exclusively run by young members, teaching them independence and how to care for the environment. The Roots & Shoots individual award is the greatest title I have ever been given and I hope to carry on with this programme and work with chimpanzees when I am older. This programme has changed my life and my attitudes towards the natural world and life. I hope it does the same for you. The power of youth is global.



Spring Term Mission Brief

Welcome back to the Spring term.

This term, in the Dustbowl Mission, Chrono-bot R00T5 travels to a future where crops have failed leading to dust storms. Kent is a strange, almost lunar landscape, with little or nothing growing.

This is a big change that has happened over many years. Over time, climate changes can affect organisms in lots of different ways, and one of these is whether there are bees to pollinate the plants.

Conservation of pollinating insects today can prevent future crop failure and the resulting catastrophic dust storms. What can YOU do to help?

Every individual can make a difference...

plant a wildlife garden!

Maintaining and protecting our green spaces is vital. They provide shelter and refuge for bees and many other species in a world that is constantly being developed. A wildlife garden can be big or small. A carefully planted hanging basket will provide food for many different bees and insects. A window box, or perhaps a corner of the sports field that is not in use, could enable pupils to create a haven for animals and a great place to spot some beautiful native birds and insects.

Check out the "Plan and plant a wildlife garden" activity in the Dustbowl section of the Roots & Shoots website at www.rootsshoots.org.uk.

Kent may yet be saved!



Environmental Leaders at Penryn College

Check out www.rootsshoots.org.uk today!

From the enthusiastic beginnings of a small group of concerned students the Environmental Leaders Programme at Penryn College has become an integral part of the College with students playing a key role in the decision making and planning processes around school.

Every student involved in the Eco-school and Roots & Shoots programme joins as an apprentice leader and by showing a commitment through regular attendance and action, as well as developing their understanding of environmental issues and leadership skills, students progress through the programme to become Team leaders, Eco-Committee members and for a few Eco-Mentors.

With the Eco-Committee meeting every Tuesdays and a full Eco-school meeting taking place on Thursdays significant progress is made on key areas of the college's Eco action plans including developing a recycling road show, measuring our carbon footprint, reducing our energy use by 10% and creating an organic market farm.

Here is what inspired some of our students and how they inspire others;



'I really care about our environment and wanted to do something active'

'Being involved in Roots and Shoots has really opened my eyes to the different projects people are doing. The best thing about winning the gold award was to be able to talk to other students, like me, on what they had achieved and plans for the future'

'I really enjoy working with other students on their projects hoping they become inspired just like I was'

Written by Andy Gooding, Yzobel Wilkinson, Zoe Ashbridge, Matt Bassett

Tell us about your activities!

Don't forget to post a story on the website to keep us updated on how you are getting on. Share any of your ideas, hints and tips for getting the most out of some unusual spaces so we can all help make a difference.

If your school already has a wildlife garden, why not try your hand at "Phenology" or the study of Spring? By monitoring and recording the first appearances of birds, animals, insects and plants in your wildlife garden this spring, you can check how these appearances have changed over time – and we can see if climate change is having an affect on wildlife. Check out the "Springwatch" activity in the Dustbowl Mission.



Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

MISSION POSSIBLE

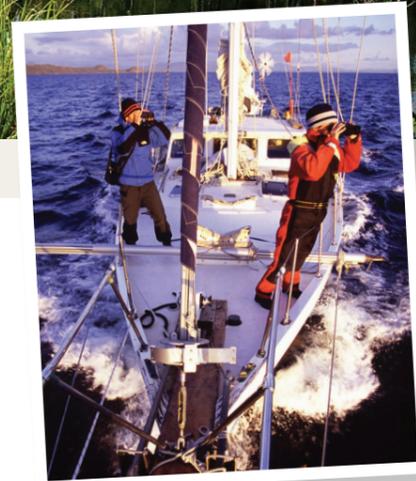
SPRING 2010

Earthwatch offers free places to Roots & Shoots teachers

Roots & Shoots has formed an exciting new partnership with Earthwatch.

Founded in 1971, Earthwatch is an international environmental charity which engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.

As part of this, they offer a programme called Earthwatch Educator Expeditions - places on Earthwatch research projects for secondary level teachers from the UK. Whilst on the projects the teachers develop field research techniques by assisting scientists in the field. They also take part in facilitated discussion sessions aimed at helping them integrate the conservation messages from the research into their teaching, to inspire their pupils on environmental topics, and to bring about change within their school to



help it to become more sustainable. The teachers are then asked to produce learning resources from their experience and encouraged to apply for a small grant from Earthwatch to implement an environmental project at their school.

This year Earthwatch are offering Roots & Shoots teachers free places on their expeditions. You could sail the beautiful Hebridean Islands surveying cetacean populations, or travel to the remote wetlands of Belarus to help preserve this fascinating ecosystem. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Please let us know if you are interested in a future Earthwatch expedition by contacting Jasmina on 020 7022 1995.

Tesco Charitable Trust sponsors Roots & Shoots

We have some wonderful news to share with all our members this month. The Tesco Charitable trust has joined the R&S programme as one of our key sponsors.

The Trust was set up on 1 June 1987 to support national and local community charities and also aims to support local communities.

- On a local level, they support the needs of employees, customers and communities around our stores;
- On a national level, they have initiatives that address identified need through existing charities' activities;
- On an international level, they help their business and supply chain to make a difference in their locations.

For Roots & Shoots the partnership with Tesco is a major opportunity and is the first time we have enlisted a corporation within our sponsorship supporters. Here's to a long and fruitful relationship!

