



May newsletter 2012

 **Welcome** to BHee's first newsletter of the summer term!

This is a great time of year for discovering the wildlife in and around your school so book now to take advantage of BHee's free **wildlife workshops**.

Despite the recent April showers, the drought restrictions continue, so see what **Southern Water** is offering free to schools to help them to **reduce their water use**.

Many thanks to St Andrew's Primary for hosting April's **BHee twilight** focusing on wildlife gardening. For those who weren't able to attend, all the follow-up resources are available on our website www.bhee.co.uk.

The next BHee twilight will be on **Wednesday 27th June** as part of the brilliant **Brighton Heritage and Environment Festival** at Moulescombe Primary School. Keep an eye on the **BHee website** for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!

Helen and Katie



In this newsletter:

Eco-schools – it's not too late to apply for your Green Flag award this year

BHee Environmental Review documents – downloadable templates designed to support primary schools with their Eco-Schools work

Competitions – singing, gardening and bin busting!

Bike It – news from Sustrans' 'Bike It Ben'

Travel to school – find out what the school travel team have been up to

Dates for your diary – what's happening locally and nationally

 **Congratulations** to the following schools for their recent Eco-Schools awards:

Bronze: St John the Baptist RC Primary, West Blatchington Primary



Silver: Patcham High, Portslade Infants

Green Flag: Balfour Primary, Dorothy Stringer



 **Why not** finish the school year by celebrating your first Green Flag award? If you submit your application very soon there's a good chance you'll get an assessment before the summer holidays. Check the **Green Flag criteria** online, then **contact Helen** if you need advice about preparing for your assessment - it's really not as daunting a process as it might seem! If you're not ready for your Green Flag this year, make sure you self-certify online for your Bronze or Silver award, and celebrate your achievements with the whole school community.

 **NEW BHEE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DOCUMENTS**

Eco-Schools provides a template for conducting an **Environmental Review**, but also encourages schools to develop their own format. BHee's new Environmental Review documents are specifically designed for primary pupils, and can be customised to suit your school. Download them from the **BHee website**.



 **Go wild!**

Calling all schools with Elm Trees in or near their grounds...

Brighton & Hove is fortunate to be home to the National Elm Collection, including the largest and oldest surviving English Elms in the world! BHee is offering **free workshops** for pupils to find out why these trees are so special and to learn about the fascinating wildlife they support. For further details go to our website **www.bhee.co.uk**.

Need a bit of help developing a wildlife garden in your school grounds?

Autumn is the perfect time to develop a new or existing wildlife garden, so now's the time to start planning. **Contact Katie** to book a time to discuss your school's needs. The BHee website also has a wide range of **downloadable information sheets**, including how to support wildlife in your school grounds during the summer term, a risk assessment template for school ponds, and where to source wildlife-friendly plants.

Southern water is offering **grants** to schools to support projects such as creating water efficient gardens, sensory gardens, wildlife habitats or ponds. Apply online at **www.southernwater.co.uk**.



Free stuff

Southern Water is offering **free water butts** to schools in drought restricted areas.

They are also offering **free cistern bags** to reduce the amount of water used when flushing toilets. Order as many as you need online from the **Southern Water website**.

Brighton & Hove City Council would like to know how many schools are taking advantage of the cistern bag offer. After you've placed your order please email **EWT@brighton-hove.gov.uk** with your school name and how many bags you have requested.

The Woodland Trust is offering **free trees** to schools as a part of their Jubilee Woods celebration, in packs of 60, 105 and 420 saplings. If you would like to share a pack with other schools, please **email Katie** with how many saplings you would like and she will order and co-ordinate the distribution. For full details see **www.woodlandtrust.org.uk**.

Friends of the Earth is offering **free bee-friendly seeds** to help you to attract more bees to your wildlife area - go to **www.foe.co.uk**.



Competitions

'BHee' a song writer...

We are challenging pupils from Brighton & Hove schools to write an Eco song / rap as part of our 'One Planet: One Voice' competition. Full details will be circulated to schools later in May, but it's not too early to mention the competition to colleagues so they can plan ahead.

Take the bust your bin challenge!

If you would like to reduce waste in your school, Wastebuster's 'Bust Your Bin Challenge' is a great way to slim your bins. For more details visit the **Wastebuster website**.

Garden competition

Once your school wildlife area is looking good why not enter the Big Wildlife Garden competition at **www.bigwildlife.org.uk?**





Bike It mountain bikes in action



Bike It

The Bike It project has been running in Brighton & Hove for 5 years and is now in 31 schools across the city, with a particular focus at the moment on the Lewes Road corridor. It is run by Ben Sherratt, otherwise known to all his schools as 'Bike It Ben'. To find out what he's been up to recently see the [news section](#) on the BHee website.

Contact Ben on **07824 813556** or
Ben.Sherratt@sustrans.org.uk



School travel update

It has been a busy start to the year for the School Travel team with a further five schools in the city launching WOW - 'Walk Once a Week' schemes. Brighton & Hove Albion players visited Coldean Primary School to encourage the children to get their walking shoes on. Find out more on the BHee website's [news page](#).



Craig Noone and Strider with WOW winners



Dates for your diary

Click on the links below for more information or check out our calendar at www.bhee.co.uk

21 – 25 May	'Walk to school' week
21 – 25 May	The Great Plant Hunt
5 June	World Environment Day
26 – 28 June	Brighton & Hove Environment and Heritage Festival
27 June	BHee twilight

If you have any news you'd like to share in the next newsletter or on our website, please contact [Helen Peake](#) or [Katie Eberstein](#).

BHee is a partnership service delivered by Resource Futures and Sussex Wildlife Trust, funded by Brighton & Hove City Council