

Primary School Workshops

Threads and Stitches of our Changing Landscape

Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre

Monday 16th – Friday 20th October 2023

Photo gallery

To mark the final week of the 'Threads and Stitches of our Changing Landscape' exhibition in The Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, we ran a week of workshops at the exhibition for local primary schools.

During the workshops the children were busy bees learning about peat bogs, pollinators, wildflowers and how our ancestors have changed the landscape. While the children moved through the exhibition, we used the textiles from the Conflict Textiles collection to discuss how we can help the environment and protect it in the future. The children then planted their own mini wildflower meadows to take back to their schools. To do this they used native wildflower seeds and compost made from food waste bin rubbish and planted them in egg boxes. As the egg boxes decompose, the children will be able to watch the seeds grow, and most importantly the local bees and butterflies, will be able to enjoy them for years to come! Inspired by their learning about bees and Janet Wilkenson's 'Messenger Bees', each child made their own bee using recycled paper. These bees which fit together to form a honeycomb will go on display in Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre in early 2024!

150 children participated in the workshops from 7 different primary schools. The schools were Limavady Central, Roe Valley Integrated, Gaelscoil Neachtain, Carhill Integrated, Portrush Primary School, St Patrick's and St Joseph's, and Carrowreagh Primary School.

The workshops were facilitated by Grace McAlister (Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme), Lisa Russell (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Biodiversity Officer) and Jamie Austin (Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Service).



Children from Portrush Primary School (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).



Pupils from Carrowreagh Primary School had lots to say about 'Life with and without bees' by Janet Wilkinson (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).



Looking closely at 'Our Allotments, the Pride of New Barns' by Linda Adams. (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).



Pupils from Gaelscoil Neachtain beside some of the textiles from the Conflict Textiles collection which consider deforestation and food supply. (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).



Looking at some of the museum collection objects to understand how our ancestors changed the local environment (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).



Lisa Russell (CCGBC Biodiversity Officer) talking to pupils from Roe Valley Integrated Primary School about bogs, wildflowers and pollinators. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



Filling egg boxes with compost. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



Pupils from Portrush Primary School carefully planting their mini-wildflower meadows. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



Pupils from Roe Valley Integrated Primary School planting wildflower seeds in egg boxes. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



Pupils from St Patrick's and St Joseph's with their mini wildflower meadows. (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).



Jamie from CCGBC Museum Services showing children how to make their own bees. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



Pupils from Carhill Integrated Primary School with their bees. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



A busy bee honeycomb created by one of the participating schools. (Photo: Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)



Children from Limavady Central Primary School (Photo: CCGBC Museum Services).

Compiled by Grace McAlister (Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership)