

Editorial

The month of May saw lots of media coverage for the cross-community Forest School project in North Belfast, involving Currie and Holy family Primary Schools. We got coverage in the Awards for All website, Radio Ulster, the local Belfast community channel NTVV and finally BBC Northern Ireland Newsline.



Link takes you to Awards for All article

<http://bigblognorthernireland.org.uk/2015/05/14/forest-school-brings-children-together-at-a-peace-wall-gate/>

Aideen Hickey, a teacher at Holy Family School, said the project had brought the children together: "The kids had thought of it as two parks. They didn't realise it's the same park but just divided by the wall. They were a little nervous at first, but now we're in lesson four they all know each other and have become friends.

20 minute television footage on the Forest School project with Holy Family and Currie Primary Schools on NTVV. Go to Focal Point 26 May and click to view <https://vimeo.com/album/3314578/video/128894192>



Open College Network

NIFSA has been working with the Open College Network for over eight years. We worked with them to develop the only Northern Ireland Forest School qualification.

We were honoured when they asked NIFSA to write a testimonial for their new website.

Check out the new Open College Network NI (OCN NI) website. NIFSA developed the Forest School Leader award with OCN NI and is recognised OCN NI Assessment Centre <http://www.ocni.org.uk/testimonials/>



Resources



<https://projectwildthing.com/>

Project Wild Thing is a film led movement to get more kids (and their folks!) outside and reconnecting with nature. The film is an ambitious, feature-length documentary that takes a funny and revealing look at a complex issue, the increasingly disparate connection between children and nature.

And Project Wild Thing is much more than a film, this is a growing movement of organisations and individuals who care deeply about the need for nature connected, free-range, roaming and outdoor playing kids in the 21st century. Hundreds of people have already committed huge amounts of time, energy, resources and money to help get the project where it is today. Which is really just the beginning.

The journey started in late 2010 with film-makers [Green Lions](#) exploring a film approach to an emerging issue coined 'nature deficit disorder' in kids. A collaboration formed with the [National Trust](#) who were also looking at the issue and through the [Britdoc Foundation](#) support for the development of the film and movement has gathered along the way from [RSPB](#), [Play England](#), [Play Scotland](#), [Play Wales](#), [NHS Sustainable Development Unit](#), [TFT](#), [Woodland Trusts](#), [AMV BBDO](#) and Arla foods.

In summer 2012 Greenlions formed a collaboration with [Good for Nothing](#), helping co-create the foundation of David Bond's nature marketing program, this was supported by generous contributions from the [Do Lectures](#), [TYF Adventures](#), [Eden Project](#) and [Al Kennedy](#).

In the autumn of 2012 the Natural Childhood Summit hosted by the National Trust brought together hundreds of organisations to explore the challenges and issues more widely and collaboratively.

Project Wild Thing emerged and thousands of people have pledged to support the project a year before the film has launched. A Kickstarter campaign raised further funding from hundreds of awesome individuals around the world to finish the film production.

In January 2013 [Swarm Partnership](#) came on board with support from the [Esmee Fairbairn Foundation](#) and [The Wild Network](#) was hatched. The network is an open, growing collaborative group of organisations big and small seeking to tackle the many issues raised in the film and champion the wonders of being outside. An advisory group was established with the [WildLife Trusts](#) currently heading that up.

Example of activity

Leaf letters

