

Welcome to our first newsletter

Introducing Geography Champions

For those who don't know, this is a DCSF funded project to develop local networks to support primary teachers in England. Up to 54 local networks will be developed over the next two years across the regions, led by our 'Champions' who are a mix of primary teachers, heads, LA and independent consultants and ITE trainers. The Champions project forms part of the second phase of the Action Plan for Geography and we hope to inspire teachers to use geography as a valuable resource within the primary curriculum. Find out more by joining the dedicated [Champions networking website](#) – registration is free and only takes a few seconds.

STOP PRESS! More than 100 people have signed up to the official Geography Champions Ning in the first month, and the numbers are rising rapidly...



[See the map of Champion networks](#)

Engage virtually or through face-to-face meetings and develop your professional expertise in using geography as a stand-alone or integrated subject within the primary curriculum.

Involved in primary education? Sign up for the Champions network: share plans, resources and support; engage in professional dialogue on key issues, and find out what's happening near you.

Fieldwork resources, literacy links, community cohesion, sustainable schools, personalised learning, 2012 projects, global issues, Primary Geography Quality Mark, lesson ideas, Primary Review ... start a discussion or blog, find out something new.

Ninging the New Year in

Using social networking sites or 'Nings' can be a fantastic way to feel supported wherever you are. The [Geographical Association Ning](#) is for anyone with an interest in geography and/or teaching and already has more than 360 members. Explore the GA Ning homepage for information about individual interest groups and associated Nings. Registration is completely free and only takes a few seconds. Don't forget to bookmark the [Champions Ning](#) too!

WORKING TOGETHER ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR GEOGRAPHY



Geographical Association
Royal Geographical Society with IBG
Advancing geography and geographical learning

Group	Champions	District
Geography Quality Mark 10 members	31 members	1 member
Primary Practitioners 19 members		
Project X 8 members		
Primary Geography Quality Mark 16 members		
Geography and Education Dissertation 3 members		
Supporting Geography Teacher Networks Group 28 members		
LOTG WG workspace		
Citizenship Working		
Learning Outside the		
Young People's		
Primary Geography		

News round up

The Rose Review of the Primary Curriculum has provoked much discussion and there is still time to have your say. See discussions about [what advice to give to schools](#); read the first [GA response](#) to the review, or contribute to what you think [children should know at age 11](#). More information about the government initiated 'Rose Review' and also the independently funded 'Alexander Review' can be found on the [GA](#) and [GTT](#) sites.

Would you like recognition of and accreditation for your school's work in primary geography? Find out about the Primary Geography Quality Mark (PGQM) [here](#). If you are a GA member you can access the PGQM VLE and see work submitted by other schools.

Events, links and resources can be found on the [Early Years and Primary](#) section of the [Geographical Association](#) website and in the [Curriculum Making](#) section of the [Geography Teaching Today](#) website: Geography subject leaders, Barnaby Bear, Resource catalogues, IWB project, Young Geographers, Kenya map, National Year of Reading and World Book day, Primary Handbook materials, lesson plans and pupil work and much more...

School Leadership consultation

The DCSF and the NCSL are formally consulting on the proposed National Standards for School Leadership.

The proposals have been developed in consultation with the Social Partnership. The Partnership consider that they are at a stage where it is appropriate to consult with all interested parties before further developing, refining and finalising the standards. You can access the consultation [here](#).

How about a school fruit garden?

Training courses on creating and maintaining a school fruit garden and organic gardening are being held in January, February and March in the Yorkshire and the Humber and West Midlands regions.

Run by [Garden Organic](#), the courses are free of charge and suitable for beginners and schools working towards a Food for Life Partnership Mark award. For further details and to book a place, visit the [Food for Life Partnership](#) website.

Champion Network meetings 2009

Please see the [Events](#) listing for all details and updates

Wed 21 January from 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Leon House, 233 High Street, Croydon
Organised by Lynne Dixon & Jenny Webb
[Further information](#)

Tue 10 February from 4:30pm to 5:30pm
Anglo European School, Ingatestone, Essex
Organised by Graeme Eyre
[Further information](#)

Thu 12 February at 4:15pm
Cheddar First School, Somerset
Organised by Jean Donald
[Further information](#)

Thu 12 February from 4:00pm
St Mark's School, Somerset Road, Salisbury
Organised by Becca Brant
[Further information](#)

If there's a meeting near you please come along and bring a friend!

Meeting the challenge of change

Our global future: How can education meet the challenge of change? DEA has been working with members, policy-makers, practitioners, politicians and other colleagues to look at how education policy can prepare children and young people for their global future. Ideas received by 19 January 2009 will be used to inform DEA's policy platform.

To find out more about the programme and the ways in which you can respond, visit the [DEA website](#).

Four and twenty blackbirds?

19 January 2009 The RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch is now in its seventh year. In 2008 over 45,000 UK schoolchildren took part.

A free teachers' pack containing colour booklets, curriculum links, identification posters and counting charts is available to all schools. Call the Big Schools' Birdwatch hotline on 0300 456 8340 or [register online](#)

Spring Term 2009 Primary and general events

More detail for many of these plus secondary courses can be found [here](#).

JAN

Engaging boys in the curriculum through the outdoors

29 January 2009, 4:00 - 6:00pm

£30 (Cream tea included)

Northmoor Trust Hill Farm Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

[Jane Millin](#) or phone 01865 409 405.

Website: [Teacher Training events at the Northmoor Trust](#)

FEB

Creating a green vision for your school

5 February 2009, 7:00 - 10:00pm

£40 (Includes a glass of wine)

Northmoor Trust Hill Farm Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

An evening for Heads and governors email [Jane Millin](#) or phone 01865 409 405.

Website: [Teacher Training events at the Northmoor Trust](#)

NCSL Leadership Network event

5 February 2009, 10:00am to 3:00pm

Free

Hagbourne Church of England Primary, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxfordshire

For further details and to register for the event, visit the [National College for School Leadership](#) website.

Developing the Sustainable Primary School

11 February 2009

Elvin Hall, Institute of Education, London, WC1H 0AL

One day conference organised by the Institute of Education's Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education. For enquires, contact Sue Grant by [email](#) or on 020 7612 6588.

MAR

GA Quality Geography Conference

Central London: Tuesday 3 March 2009

Birmingham: Tuesday 10 March 2009

The GA Quality Geography Conferences for primary and KS3 will explore the nature, effects and impact of the Geography Quality Marks. See the [Quality Geography Conferences](#) page to find out more.

Gifted and talented learning in the outdoors

19 March 2009, 1:00 - 4:00pm

£40 (Cream tea included)

Northmoor Trust Hill Farm Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

email [Jane Millin](#) or phone 01865 409 405.

Website: [Teacher Training events at the Northmoor Trust](#)

Spring Term 2009 Primary and general events

Association of American Geographers 2009 Annual Meeting

22-27 March 2009

Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas

Join 8,000 geographers, GIS specialists, and environmental scientists from around the world for the very latest in research, policy, and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. Visit the [AAG website](#) for more information, to submit an abstract or to register your attendance.

Growing Schools Conference 2009

23 March 2009

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

The conference aims to support all teachers from Early Years through to Secondary [Growing Schools website](#) for more details.

The Education Show 2009

26-28 March 2009

NEC, Birmingham. Come and find the GA at the [Subject Association Information Point](#). Find out more on the [Education Show](#) website.

How to integrate citizenship, sustainability and eco-schools into your development plan using your school grounds

26 March 2009, 1:00 - 4:00pm

£40 (Cream tea included)

Northmoor Trust Hill Farm Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

For further information and bookings, please email [Jane Millin](#) or phone 01865 409 405.

Website: [Teacher Training events at the Northmoor Trust](#)

APR

GA Annual Conference 2009

16-18 April 2009

University of Manchester

For the 2009 GA Annual Conference we will be returning to Manchester. The Conference theme is 'Investigating Geography' and will focus on how students can investigate geography both in and out of the classroom; how geographical education can be investigated through research; and how academic geographers extend understanding through their investigations. Visit the [Annual Conference](#) pages for further information and online booking.

Using your school grounds to teach the curriculum

30 April 2009, 4:00 - 6:00pm

£30 (Cream tea included)

Middle Barton School, North Oxfordshire email [Jane Millin](#) or phone 01865 409 405.

Website: [Teacher Training events at the Northmoor Trust](#)

Some useful dates

23 January Appetite for Action Challenge Day

Global Action Plan challenge making the connection between the environment and the food we eat.

26 January Chinese New Year begins and will be the year of the ox

27 January Holocaust Memorial Day - The Holocaust Memorial Day remembers victims and survivors of the Holocaust, as well as other genocides from around the world.

31 Jan to 7 Feb National Storytelling Week

Increasing public awareness of the 'oldest art form in the world'.

The **Global Dimension** website has some useful case studies:

Telling stories

[Zlata's Diary Literacy Hour ideas](#)

[Story telling in Ghana and Scotland](#)

[Studying literature from around the world](#)

You may also want to revisit [Maps and Stories](#) a free resource from the [Geographical Association](#)

Some useful dates

2 February World Wetlands Day The theme for 2009 is 'river basins and their management' with a catchy slogan of **Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all.**

6 February UNICEF Day for Change This year's focus is on child health and well being in Papua New Guinea.

21 February International Mother Language Day

Promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism

23 February Start of Fairtrade Fortnight

Promoting the principles and products of fair trade and the links between consumers and producers.

4 March World Book Day

21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

22 March World Water Day

Network Highlight

Well done to Sharon Witt and the [Hampshire Network](#) for leading the way with 28 members already, many of whom are 'becoming teachers' who look sure to have loads of fantastic ideas when they start their careers shortly in school. Visit their group for some amazing visual resources and ideas.



It worked perfectly and the children were able to see what we had been discussing in lessons for days! It was such a brilliant lesson and it was at the end of the learning on rivers so children were really able to show what they had learnt! I have never seen such enthusiasm!!



When I taught Year 5 about rivers we used clay to make our own river profiles out in the playground. It was a perfect day to get outside using water, stones and any natural materials the children wanted! (Oh the freedom!) I also illustrated meanders and deltas using a sandtray and deposition using a gutter!

Year 4 students explore the potential for using play dough, sand and water trays to enhance children's understanding of rivers and coasts.



