

**January 2013**

## Editorial

2012 was a fruitful year for EOE. It saw the introduction and development of our new website:

[www.eoe-network.org](http://www.eoe-network.org)

thanks to the energy and creativity of the team at bsj-Marburg.

The Board planned and helped organise a very successful seminar at Derwent Hill Outdoor Education Centre near Keswick in the English Lake District. We were fortunate in working with Steve Lenartowicz, the director and his team who secured EU funding and delivered a great atmosphere. There are further comments on the Derwent Hill seminar in this Newsletter.

Kirsti Pendersen Gurholt resigned as chair of EOE after an excellent term in office. She was heartily thanked at the AGM. Her annual report for Sept 2011- Sept 2012 is included. Chris Loynes from the University of Cumbria was welcomed as our new chair and Kaye Richards became a new member of the Board.

One particular outcome of the Derwent Hill seminar was the opportunity for special interest groups to meet, share ideas and make plans for future projects. You will find further information in this Newsletter. There is also an update on EOE's ongoing project, "Breaking Barriers".

Best wishes for the New Year.

Geoff Cooper.

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# Annual Report

Sept 2011 – Sept 2012

The mission of the European Institute ([www.eoe-network.org](http://www.eoe-network.org)) (EOE) is to bring together and develop networks among social and youth workers, teachers, academics and students concerning Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning across Europe.

The Board of the EOE consists of Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Chair, Peter Becker, Vice-Chair, Jochem Schirp, Treasurer, and with Andy Ashworth, Jari Kujala, Robbie Nicol, Ralf Westphal, Barbara Humberstone as board members. Magda Jedrzejczyk, Geoff Cooper and Irena Kokalj are co-opted members, and Andy Williams, Chris Loynes, Pete Higgins as corresponding members.

The Board and the executive committee has had four meetings; in Metsäkartano October 2011, in Derwent Hill November 2011 and August 2012 to plan the 2012 European conference, and in Stockholm in August 2012 to plan the 2013 European conference.

The main task for the Board has been the planning and cooperation with Derwent Hill Outdoor Education & Training Centre – UK, in organizing the 12<sup>th</sup> European Conference titled: *Outdoor learning as a means of promoting healthy and sustainable lifestyles and social inclusion for young people*, held in the Lake District, UK October 26-30th 2012, including 85 participants representing 12 countries. The Board wants to thank the Centre Director Steve Lenartowicz for his co-operation, hard work and financial support put into the planning and preparations for this conference, in collaboration with Geoff Cooper and Chris Loynes. The Board is also grateful to senior lecturer Erik Backman for his collaboration in organizing another conference in Stockholm 2013, on *Urban nature: inclusive learning through youth work and school work* (see page 6).

The Board sincerely appreciate the efforts of bsj-Marburg for their work and financial

contribution in designing and reopening the EOE-network logo and web-site; [www.eoe-network.eu](http://www.eoe-network.eu).

The Board is grateful to the EOE sub-groups and members who through their efforts disseminate the ideas of the EOE-network across Europe. The interest in the work of the EOE is increasing and new members are joining the network. The work of the EOE is voluntarily based. The main challenge for the board is to find the time and resources to finance the administration of the website, the Newsletter, produce new publications, initiate new projects and plan conferences. The board is constantly looking for new partners to organize conferences and is open to suggestions and ideas from its members on any issues.

**Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Oslo.**



## 2012 Conference at Derwent Hill

EOE continues to bring together a diverse group of youth workers, teachers, outdoor leaders and researchers with a common interest in outdoor learning. The 2012 conference at Derwent Hill Outdoor Education Centre was no exception. It proved a lively mixture of presentations, workshops and outdoor activities. A glance at the

programme showed the diversity of sessions including engaging with youngsters with autism, developing inquisitive play, presenting ideas for forest schools and adventure therapy and workshops on art, drama, charcoal making and mobile ropes courses.

The idea for a conference in the English Lake District was conceived in Finland. Steve Lenartowicz, director at Derwent Hill Outdoor Education Centre was quick to give a positive response. It was timely as it coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre. With the help of Board members plans progressed rapidly and it was decided to have a particular focus on "Outdoor Learning as a means of promoting healthy and sustainable lifestyles and social inclusion for young people". This theme related well to the EU "Youth in Action" priorities and Steve secured funding for 74 delegates from across Europe including Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

One notable success of the conference was the forming of several interest groups. There were meetings of practitioners interested in developing a European network of outdoor education centres; those keen to share ideas on adventure therapy; and those wishing to collaborate on outdoor research.

Derwent Hill proved an excellent venue for the Conference. Delegates commented on the informal, friendly atmosphere, good food, helpful staff and superb location with lakes, woods and mountains on our doorstep. We'd like to say a big "thank you" to Steve and his team for organising and hosting such a wonderful event.



## Conference 2012- Discussion Forum

Towards the end of the conference there was a Discussion Forum chaired by Geoff Cooper with a panel consisting of Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Ralph Westphal, Kaye Richards and Felix van Ditzhuijzen. Felix was asked to express the concerns he had raised in Finland 2011 about health and safety regulations in France that he felt were putting undue pressure on his work with disaffected young people. He asked EOE to support him in establishing a professional code of practice for the EOE membership. Discussion followed on what could realistically be provided by EOE beyond a description of the work of the many diverse organisations that make up the membership. There was a general feeling that EOE at this stage did not have the time or resources to establish codes of practice that might require accreditation.

There was also some discussion on how EOE could raise the profile of outdoor learning with policy makers. It was felt that the website was a starting point and would lead to a larger membership and networking.

## A new EOE Research Network formed

Would you like to join an EOE network interested in research?

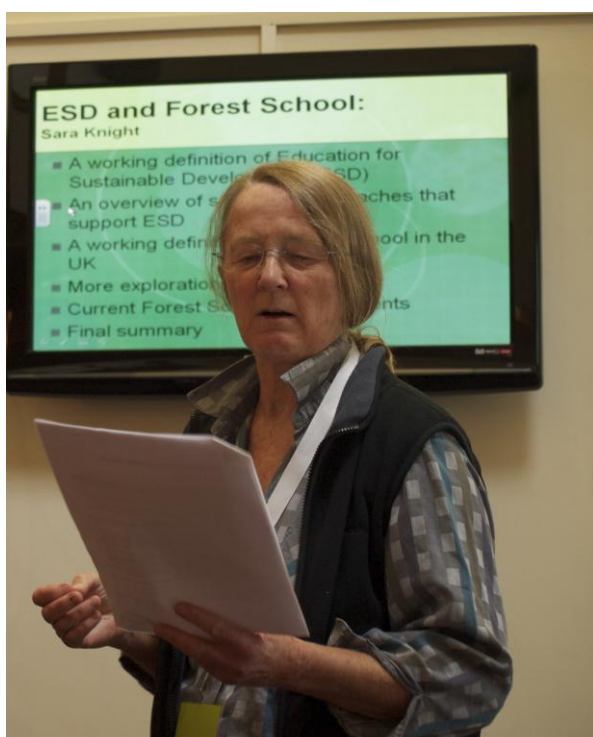
At the Derwent Hill Seminar in October members met to discuss the formation of a network within EOE with an interest in



promoting collaborative research activities. Many potential research strands were discussed including:

1. The cultural origins of outdoor education.
2. Sustainability and outdoor education.
3. Learning and identity and the concept of transitions (child:adult, adult:parent etc).
4. Sociological approaches to outdoor learning – linking OL to the development of community and values.
5. Place and the senses including the place and identity and place and activity as a sensory experience – and links with a sense of self.
6. Care and responsibility: the need for research into the values base of OL – possibly as a revision of Hahnian approaches
7. Vocational / skills for work approaches
8. The health agenda such as obesity, psychiatric health etc
9. Lifelong learning and aging: the potential for research into the long-term impact of OL and activity levels / engagement in an aging society.

The group also noted shared areas of research strength around Teacher Training, Further Education and sociological approaches and that the EOE represents a valuable resource for trans-cultural studies, practice-led / informed research, links between formal and informal sectors, and for potential collaboration in large scale (pan-European) research.



This was a rich and wide ranging conversation that could lead to exciting collaborations across Europe. If you are active in research, a practitioner keen on your work being studied or have ideas for collaborative research projects please contact Colin Wood [c.wood@worcs.ac.uk](mailto:c.wood@worcs.ac.uk) or Barbara Humberstone [Barbara.humberstone@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Barbara.humberstone@bucks.ac.uk) for your details to be added to the membership of this group.

## Outdoor Centres network

Irena Kokalj chaired this group meeting and reports:

The EOE conference at Derwent Hill produced a very good working atmosphere. One of the outcomes of the conference was an agreement for closer cooperation between six outdoor education centres, which have a lot in common. They are all residential centres that work with youth and school groups. They have similar interests and hope to develop some joint projects in the future. Irena is applying for EU funding to co-ordinate a planning meeting in Slovenia in May and prepare a programme for future cooperation.

The representatives of the centres are: Chris Loynes from Threshold, UK. Geoff Cooper, Low Bank Ground, Coniston, UK. Ilpo Kauppinen, Metsäkartano youth and wilderness centre, Finland. Irmina Lachacz, Szkoła Aktywnego Wypoczynku Frajda, Poland. Jochem Schirp, Simona Lison bsj Marburg, Germany. Sue Walker, Derwent Hill, UK. Irena Kokalj, CŠOD, Slovenia.

## Breaking Barriers

Lawrence Chapman reports on this project which supports disabled young people to learn in and through the outdoors. This work has been going on since 2003, but since 2011 we have undertaken 3 exchange trips with Witchenhouse special school in Altdorf near Nuremberg. In July 2012, 50 camped in Lowestoft and had a week of canoeing sailing and celebrating the Olympic flame coming through the town. To celebrate 10 years of

Breaking Barriers we are planning to host about 60 from 5 or more European countries at the Calvert Trust in the UK for a week in September 2013. Any disabled group of young people that are interested in joining the celebratory week please contact: [lchapman@ashleyschool.co.uk](mailto:lchapman@ashleyschool.co.uk) the video compilation can be viewed at <http://www.ashleyschool.co.uk/index.php/projects/39-breaking-barriers>

## **EOE 2013 Seminar Announcement and Call for Papers**

The Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences (GIH)  
(<http://www.gih.se/In-English/>)

in partnership with the

European Institute for Outdoor Adventure  
Education and Experiential Learning (EOE)  
(<http://www.eoe-network.eu/home/>)

and

The Swedish Outdoor Promoters (FF),  
<http://www.friluftsframjandet.se/quest/hem>

welcomes contributions to the 13<sup>th</sup> EOE  
Seminar

***“Urban nature:  
inclusive learning through  
youth work and school work”***

**5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013, at  
The Swedish School of Sport and  
Health Sciences (GIH), Stockholm,  
Sweden**

schoolteachers, university staff and youth workers from various fields of practice. The seminar will examine the different ways and purposes of approaching and using nature in outdoor education. Networks for practical cooperation and knowledge transfer will also be created. Besides the generally accepted educational philosophy of outdoor education that being in natural landscapes and confronting and exploring natural phenomena can stimulate the educational processes of individuals, this seminar has a particular focus on urban nature. An increased globalisation and the growth of cities have made it even more important to highlight the boundaries between nature and civilisation from educational and experiential perspectives. The possibilities and limitations of urban nature are also linked to issues of democracy and inclusion due to the displayed social and cultural patterns of various outdoor practices.

We are currently inviting contributions for lectures, posters and practical workshop presentations. For more information about registration, the submission of abstracts and the conference itself, see the seminar website at <http://www.gih.se/EOE2013> . or contact [erik.backman@gih.se](mailto:erik.backman@gih.se)



(pictures: Derwent Hill, UK 2012)

This seminar will bring together practitioners and academics from around Europe who are interested in outdoor and experiential education linked to formal education and non-formal youth work. It is aimed at