

Green News

November 2007

Ringwood School's Green Carnival float

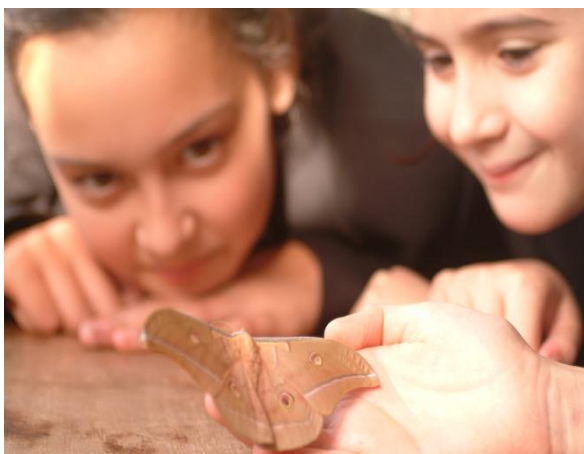
The float was called 'Global Dawning' and was awarded 3rd prize in the topical, humorous and feature category in the afternoon procession at the town carnival. Mrs. Lax, a CTA in expressive arts brilliantly organized the whole float. The float was based around the problem of global warming, and included: a papier-mache dome with South America on it, two oil rigs, two mining co-operations, two rainforests, a recycled man and lots of plastic bottles. People dressed up as orangutans, divers, gorillas, some came in plastic bags, and some students wore tops made from paper or polythene bags!

Mrs. Lax said "We entered a float for the first time in a number of years and it was a great success - we won 3rd prize in the afternoon in our class. A lot of hard work went in to the planning, preparation and building by a fantastic group of students. We had students & staff dressed as endangered animals including gorillas, penguins and orangutans. I would like to thank our many staff, students & sponsors that helped . Here's to next years' carnival - let's make it a good one!"

Animals

Chinese oak silk moths

Our most recent additions to the menagerie of animals in Mrs. Hickman's lab are some Chinese oak silk moth caterpillars which, after munching through tons of oak leaves, have become silky cocoons. The silk is immensely strong. One has already hatched into a beautiful moth (see below). The other cocoons have been put outside to stop them metamorphosing before next spring.



Katie and Steph with the newly hatched moth



One of the caterpillars – head on!

Our raised beds

The end of the first year of our raised beds we produced lots of salad vegetables that were used on Eco Day, lots of potatoes and about 40 onions. All of them were huge. They were grown from seed provided by HDRA, an organic gardening scheme that we belong to. The onions were used in school meals, given to students or sold to staff.

Huge beetroot were harvested for use in A- level biology. Normally for this particular A-level investigation the school would have to spend £15 on the beetroot used. By growing our own we have saved money. One beetroot was deliberately left to flower and 'bolt' and its seeds can be used next year. A Year 12 biology student used the last two beetroot to make fat-free beetroot and chocolate cake that she shared with her whole class in the lesson!



Year 12 biology students work with the beetroot



Beetroot growing in the raised beds



Some of Ringwood's Groundforce Team that grew and harvested the beetroot

Solar or Wind Power

To keep you updated on our power supply

Some Year 8 students have met with the Head, concerned that as a Green flag Eco School and we have no energy-saving boiler, no thermostats on radiators and no alternative energy. They discussed these issues with the Head who agreed to look into the possibility of solar panels on the next building on the school site. This is good news and what happens next will be in the Green News, so look for the next issue to keep updated.

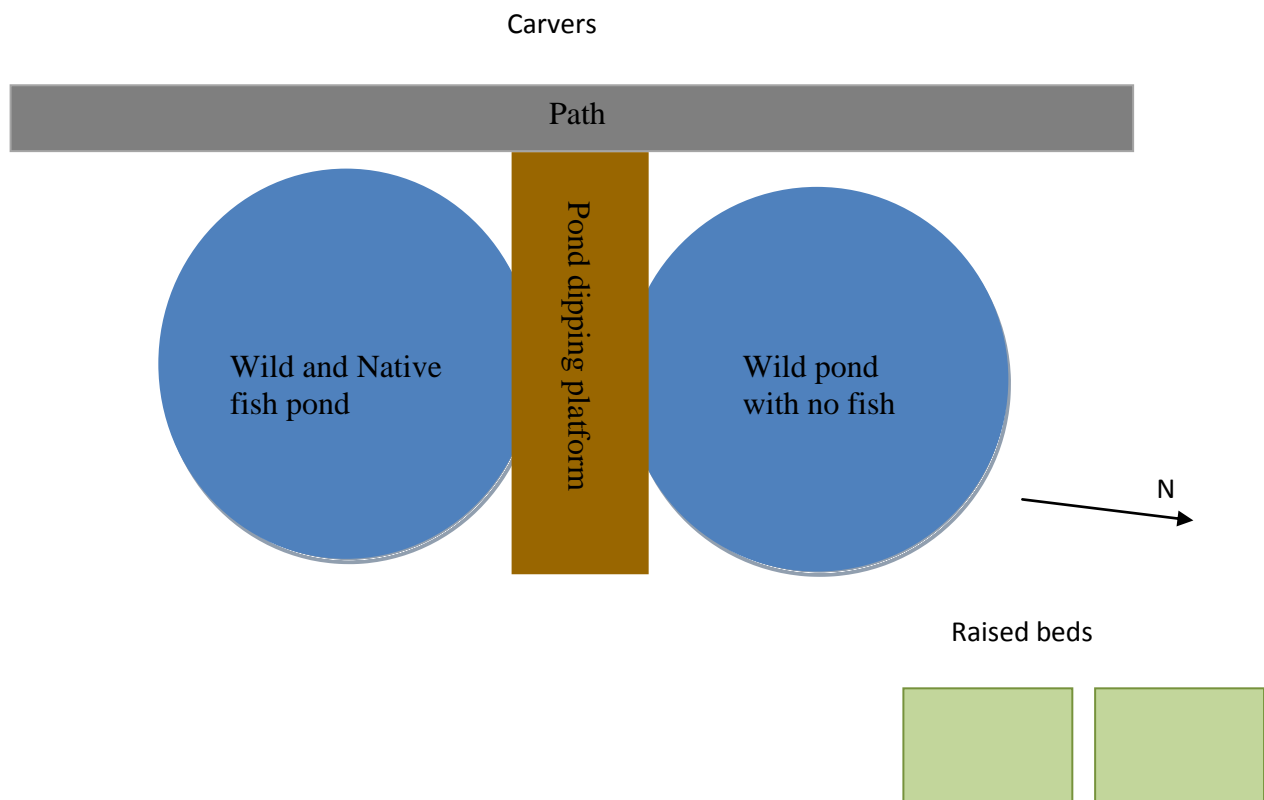
Ponds

The new science ponds are going well. Both have been dug and one has been lined, at the moment. Both will be wild ponds but the finished one will be left with plants and invertebrates. It has been filled with water and wild animals from the old pond have moved homes, it now houses: about 4 frogs, as well as some nymphs and lots of bugs. The other pond will contain a few native British fish.

We hope to monitor the effects of fish on invertebrate numbers, comparing the two ponds. At the moment we are trying to get funds for some decking to allow pond dipping in both. (If anyone knows someone or somewhere we can get it cheaply then please e-mail Jenny Baldwin or Mrs. Hickman.)

Many thanks to Richard Trim who came in for free and who spent a few days doing the digging and helping with re-housing of the animals. He didn't just give his time – he helped students work on the project too. Also thanks to everyone who helped out.

The ponds should soon look like this:



Mukti Mitchell

Mukti Mitchell is a carpenter who decided to demonstrate how to save the world by sailing around Britain in a zero-emission micro yacht to promote a low carbon lifestyle. At each destination he hosted talks on insulation to bikes, public transport local food and low energy holidays. He sailed in his hand built boat 'Chance', that has a special hull that helps 'Chance' to stay upright. It cannot capsize! He spoke to us about his journey and how he was interested in climate change. He has inspired many people and is an excellent example of what you can do.

We Are What We Do

On 15th October, the global social change movement We Are What We Do launched its invitation to every young person in the UK to answer the question, 'What would you ask one million people to do to change the world?' We Are What We Do, the organisation behind the Anya Hindmarch "I'm NOT a Plastic Bag" and the international best seller, 'Change the World for a Fiver,' will turn the winning entry for this huge national competition into a massive national campaign in 2008 to inspire as many as one million to action!

Mrs. Hickman attended the launch party held at the One Aldwych Hotel in London. She said, "It was a fun party and it was great to see images of Ringwood students holding up pictures of their Actions on a giant plasma screen. A huge mural was created by the young people present and I was very sorry that our students couldn't be there. The favorite Action of the evening was the one thought up by students at a school in Newham 'Turn Your Music Down!'"



A drawing created by children during the launch party

Have you done a poster for this competition?

It doesn't take long! Some of our students have already entered. This is what you do. Go to www.smallactionsbigchange.org.uk and then 'How to take part' and follow the instructions! You can register yourself. If you can't manage this, ask for Miss Weston's help

'Sustainable Suggestions'

Do you have any ideas for what we could do to the School to make it greener and can't come to the meetings? Do you want to help out with the raised beds this year? Do you want to just do your bit? Do you want your questions answered? If you do, or you want to help out with the next edition of the Green News please e-mail: Jennifer Baldwin (Year 8)

Coming up: A Big Dig - planting a hedge round the pond area; patching up the Willow dome with willow from Minstead; making environmentally friendly cosmetics/toiletries and a Christmas party

Good luck with all of your eco activities everyone!

Jenny Baldwin (Year 8)
for the Eco Group