



**Learning by doing:
developing creativity,
confidence and character**

Waldorf Education Easter Conference

Elmfield School, Stourbridge, DY8 2EA

14th – 17th April 2014

Book your place at www.elmfield.com

Welcome to the 2014 Waldorf Education Conference, hosted this year by Elmfield School, Stourbridge



With more than 20 courses, numerous discussion groups and excellent evening speakers, this is an education conference with something for everyone. Our aim is to ensure you return to school feeling fired up and full of new skills to develop young people.

The theme this year is **Learning by doing: developing creativity, character and confidence**. So, why this theme? Firstly, Waldorf education has learning by doing at its heart. The craft curriculum holds a unique place in helping children discover what is good, beautiful and true –in that order. Secondly, research and experience in the classroom tells us that there are profound benefits of kinaesthetic learning but we don't always capitalise on this as educators. Thirdly, children today have become disconnected from the fundamental activities and processes that underpin our lives. Buying bread or soap requires no understanding of the raw materials and historical, social and scientific processes that underpin these products' existence. Children need to unravel and experience these processes if they are to have an engaging, memorable and deep education which develops creativity, confidence and character. And yes, bread making and soap making are among the many creative courses on offer!

Our courses aim to equip teachers with the skills to deliver experiential learning. You may never have imagined attending a course on blacksmithing, using puppets or pedagogical theatre, but we invite you to challenge yourself and bring back an array of new skills to enhance your school and your teaching. We have some outstanding course leaders and speakers.

We look forward to welcoming you on 14th April. Above all, we look forward to children and teachers experiencing more of the wonders of learning by doing!

Elmfield's Easter Conference Team



Delegates will attend two courses during the conference. A morning course, run over three mornings and an afternoon course, run over three afternoons. There will also be morning singing and movement sessions. On day two and three there will be evening speakers and a range of discussion groups after lunch. Delegates will share their learning in a final session on day four.

Once you have read about the courses, please choose your top three morning courses and top three afternoon courses. Then write these on the booking form and send it to us. Booking forms received by 14th February will be subject to an early bird discount.

Questions? Ring 01384 394633, email easterconference@elmfield.com

To read more and book your conference place, visit www.elmfield.com



Morning courses

AM1 Woodwork for Children aged 4 - 8 years*

This course will introduce teachers to whittling and carving in the classroom or outside. Participants will make simple toys for the children and for the children to make themselves. We will look at the Why?, How? and What? of wood crafts with early years children and how to introduce them. We will look at age appropriate projects, health and safety aspects, what tools are needed and the use and care of tools. Above all, this course will be a simple hands-on experience for beginners with whittling / carving tools, small treasures and lots of ideas to take home.

Winnie Mossman taught for many years in the Bristol Steiner School kindergarten, and has taught arts and crafts to older children, as well as playgroups, mixed kindergartens and toddler groups. She was a core tutor on the Plymouth Early Years Foundation Degree course and now teaches part-time on the NESWEC Teacher Training Course. She is an Early Years Advisor and Mentor. **Maximum of 10 participants on this course. Delegates will need to purchase a small tool kit from Winnie on the first day which delegates will then keep. This costs £7, payable to Winnie on the first day.*

AM2 Making Puppets - Discover the Power of Puppetry!

Puppets have been used since the earliest times to animate and communicate the ideas and needs of human societies. Here is your chance to make your own table top, hand, finger or string puppets. Whilst making the puppets we will have a glance at the various types, their history and tradition.

Elisabeth Faulkner grew up in a small Swiss village. She has lived and learned in different parts of the world and experienced various ways of life. When she became a mother and discovered the importance of early childhood she decided to train as a Waldorf Kindergarten teacher. She has lived in England since 2000 and has been a Kindergarten Teacher at the Meadow School in Bruton, Elmfield Kindergarten in Stourbridge and is now at the Steiner Academy, Frome. Making and using puppets is an important feature in her work.

AM3 The Young Child and the Importance of Doing

Under the age of seven, children learn through an active response to the environment which surrounds them. What are the essential ingredients for the environment? Why do we do what we do in the Steiner Waldorf early childhood setting? What is behind our choice of activities? Which activities should we prioritise and how should we bring them to the children? How do we support self-education of the will for the young child in the modern world?

Jill Taplin spent many years as a kindergarten teacher and now teaches, mentors and advises those who work in Steiner Waldorf early childhood in various part of the world. She enjoys writing and speaking about the needs of young children today.

AM4 Pit Forging & Blacksmithing (must be booked with PM4)

'Strike whilst the Iron is hot'. Construct a pit forge and carry out basic blacksmithing. Appropriate for all class teachers of Classes 4-11.

Maximum of 10 delegates on this course, which must be booked with PM4.

Bernard Graves is the founder of Pyrites – Living & Learning with Nature. He is also a consultant and tutor for Experiential Education & Teacher Training.

AM5 Soap Making

Who made the first soap? How did they make it? Was this a scientific fluke? Alchemical wonder? Intention or accident? Soap making encompasses an incredibly wide array of subjects and practical activities that are stimulating for teachers and students at various stages of the learning journey. It is a craft that takes us deeply into the natural world of plants, plant essences and the cycles of the year. It takes us into human history from pre-industrial processes to post-industrial production and marketing. In the workshop sessions we will trace this history through practical processes that begin with the earliest of soap making methods and conclude with cold-processes soap-making. Along this journey we will touch on botany, herbal medicine, alchemy, chemistry, social studies ... and more!

Jonathan Code (MEd.) has worked in a variety of capacities at Ruskin Mill Trust (RMT) for 14 years. He has worked with Crossfields Institute for the last 2 years and is currently Programme Lead for the MSc in Practical Skills Therapeutic Education, accredited by the University of the West of England. Jonathan is an adult educator, researcher and teacher whose interests focus on Goethean science, the history and philosophy of science, alchemy, education and biodynamics. He has experience in theatre and performance, therapeutic education and organisational development.

AM6 Outdoor Clay Creations for Pupils and Teachers of all Ages and Abilities

Marcus Rowlands will share his understanding of working outdoors through the medium of clay, whether it's sculpting on trees, creating a field of animal spirits or learning how to work with Cob through sculpting and making Bread Ovens. This will be a hands-on shared learning course.

For over 20 years **Marcus Rowlands** has been transforming school environments and exploring the way communities approach outdoor learning in state, private and early years settings. He has created bespoke projects, which resulted in permanent learning resources. He works alongside parents, staff and children to create long lasting and heartfelt projects connected to the Outdoors. He also creates participatory artworks and community interventions in public spaces, working with Architects, Sculptors, Movement Artists and Photographers.

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AM7 Bread Making for Pupils of all Ages - Bread 2 Share

The course will be an interactive approach to the creative potential of bread making - how this engages with the imagination and in turn develops an individual's sense of community, nourishment and wellbeing. We'll work with organic ingredients and take a slow, sensory route through the process. We will explore the curriculum and different age groups to understand that what enables a disabled 7 year old also enables an able bodied 14 year old. Bread making seamlessly involves the educational components of number work, weighing, cooking, food awareness and the weaving in of science and magic as the dough rises. We will work with the idea that bread making embraces differences in gender, age and nationality. Prepare to make bread – and eat it!

Sarah Goudie is a practising artist with over 15 years' multidisciplinary practice in sculpture and drawing. Teaching and supporting adults with learning disabilities for the past 5 years has set the foundations for developing *Bread2share*, a community interest company that works with the creative potential of bread making. This work reaches adults and children with different physical and learning disabilities – working with people to develop their imagination and stimulate their confidence through activity.

AM8 Doing Science: Experiment and Experience in Science Main Lessons

We shall try out some science activities in Middle and Upper School Science and explore the educational context that surrounds these experiences and activities. The course is relevant for any middle school class teacher anticipating science main lessons. It will also be of interest to upper school teachers. We shall work particularly with physics, but ideas for work in chemistry, Mathematics and Biology can also be provided. Course participants can email the course leader before the conference with specific requests: alexandermurrell@hotmail.com

Alexander Murrell completed the full time Waldorf Science Teacher Training Course and then taught at Wynstones School, mainly teaching Physics and Mathematics for 21 years. He is active in Science Teacher Training and has carried out training work with whole school faculties.

AM9 to be confirmed



AM10 Pedagogical Theatre and Music

This course is suitable for teachers of children of all ages. *Days 1 & 2: pedagogical theatre.* These mornings will explore the educational context of theatre – in particular the class play. We'll work on choosing the story / theme, style and form of performances for children of different ages and on playwriting techniques that originate in the children's own responses to the story. We will examine age-appropriate ways of working with the theme of class plays and look at such things as 'pedagogical casting'. *Day 3: music in its pedagogical context.* In the third session we will explore techniques that build confidence in young singers, through a workshop led by Caroline Price and members of Stream of Sound choir. All days will be participatory so please bring something loose and comfortable to work in.

Gavin Ferris (first two sessions) has been working as a Waldorf Class Teacher for over ten years and is the current Class 3 Teacher at Elmfield. Prior to teaching, he worked as an actor, director and theatre animateur.

Caroline Price (last session) is the UK's longest serving Waldorf music teacher. Caroline leads one of the region's best choirs, Stream of Sound, which is comprised largely of current and former Elmfield students aged 13-25.

AM11 Making and Using Plant Dyes

Experience the simplicity of plant dyes and the natural world of plants. At the beginning of the workshop we will forage the grounds of Elmfield for suitable materials and from that we can discover what exciting colours reveal themselves. During the process we can discuss what plants are suitable for dyeing and how these could be grown at your school. Why not plan and plant a garden with your pupils, then use these plants later for dyeing processes later in their school journey? A large library of books and resources will be available for delegates to use during the workshop. *Maximum of 12 delegates on the course.*

Mary Wilson has been teaching dyeing and weaving to teachers and student teachers for over 15 years and has also been an Art Therapist for the past 4 years.



Afternoon courses

PM1 Using Puppets - Discover the Power of Puppetry!

Puppets have been used since the earliest times to animate and communicate the ideas and needs of human societies. Here is your chance to discover the power of puppetry. Perhaps you have a character in mind that you would like to incorporate into a story; perhaps you would like to stage your own favourite story. One thing is certain, we will have fun and who knows, we might make up a new story ...

Elisabeth Faulkner grew up in a small Swiss village. She has lived and learned in different parts of the world and experienced various ways of life. When she became a mother and discovered the importance of early childhood she decided to train as a Waldorf Kindergarten teacher. She has lived in England since 2000 and has been a Kindergarten Teacher at the Meadow School in Bruton, Elmfield Kindergarten in Stourbridge and is now at the Steiner Academy, Frome. Making and using puppets is an important feature in her work.

PM2 Soap Making

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PM3 Trial by Fire. Cancelled.

PM4 Pit Forging & Blacksmithing (must be booked with AM4)

'Strike whilst the Iron is hot'. Construct a pit forge and carry out basic blacksmithing. Appropriate for all class teachers of Classes 4-11.

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Bernard Graves is the founder of Pyrites – Living & Learning with Nature. He is also a consultant and tutor for Experiential Education & Teacher Training.

PM5 Science: The Study of Nature (and the Nature of Study)

We'll attempt to imagine science in its natural context, taking it out of the 'laboratory' and recognise how scientific thinking naturally permeates and unites our world and the way in which we explore it. Through games, exercises, discussion and (of course) experiments suitable for a class, we aim to help place science in a light that participants can both relate to and bring back to their teaching whatever their backgrounds. We address the conceptions and miss-conceptions of science in the modern world and consider some historically significant interpretations, particularly those of Steiner, and how they can be integrated into contemporary science. Participants will hopefully gain a more comfortable understanding and confidence in science even though they may never directly teach science, be able to link science into a cross-curricular system and/or find new ideas for their own scientific teaching methods.

Eli Vantoch-Wood was schooled at York Steiner School and then gained A-levels in the sciences. He graduated from the University of Leeds with a degree in Medical Microbiology and then again with a Ph.D. focusing on pollution degradation. He worked in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and biocide industries and has worked as a science teacher for 8 years.

PM6 Tinkering. Pupil-led, fun, creative and can be facilitated by any teacher!

'Explore Tinkering' offers positive ways for teachers to work alongside their class, and enables every child of any age to MAKE, BUILD & INVENT. A BLAST of surprising inventiveness! Exploring wonderful paraphernalia with the potential to become stories, characters, worlds, and much more.....

Marcus Rowlands revels in the joy of making, and looks for any opportunities to build and invent in a resourceful and positive way. He has 20 years' experience planning, delivering and managing creative projects in mainstream and alternative education settings. He also creates participatory artworks and community interventions in public spaces, working with Architects, Sculptors, Movement Artists and Photographers.

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PM7 How to Transform Perceived Deficits into Competence, Confidence and Creativity in Your Classroom

The course will explore ways in which subject and class teachers can expand their understanding of different learning proficiencies as well as possible stumbling blocks in the learners' paths. If our role as educators is, to remove these hindrances then being able to identify them, appreciate them and help the learner transform them is key to our task. The course will seek to fire teachers' imaginations to think and feel differently about the children in the classroom and to develop lessons that support the children to transform perceived deficits into competence, confidence and creativity.

Ann Swain was a class teacher before training with Rosemary Gebert and taking on the role of Learning Support teacher at Michael Hall. During those 20 years she trained as a Neuro-Developmental Delay therapist and Johansen Sound Therapist as well as completing the Bothmer Movement training. Her current work is as an independent SEN advisor and adult educator. She is currently studying Educational Neuroscience and will be running the 3rd Align for Learning SEN training seminar in Sept 2014.

PM8 to be confirmed

PM9 Experience Forest School and its link to the Waldorf curriculum

This course will give a practical experience of Forest School, the positive use of tools, making useful and artistic objects out of natural materials. We will cook on the fire and build an obstacle course out of ropes and poles. The course will also include some basic guidance on outdoor cooking hygiene and health and safety.

Fabienne Danjou was schooled in Alesia, Jarna and Perceval Steiner Schools. As a city child, she relished her long summers in the countryside and woodlands. Out of this experience, she has grown to value the children's connection to nature. She trained in Forest Schools for all ages in Bishops Wood centre in Worcester and is also a qualified Waldorf Kindergarten Teacher, having completed her training in Steiner House, London.

PM10 Willow projects for the classroom and school grounds

This course aims to provide teachers with the necessary skills to teach pupils how to make items that complement lessons. Together we shall explore the many applications of willow and place this versatile plant into context with subject matter. The emphasis will be on technique so that teachers feel competent, confident and inspired to take this extension to learning into the classroom. This will also be an opportunity to bring creativity into the school grounds. Using willow enhances a sense of stewardship for the earth. We will make a variety of items suitable for the different ages and stages of development with the possibility of creating a simple group sculpture.

Carine Van Gestel is Landscape Steward at the Steiner Academy Hereford and has taught various crafts at the Academy. She travels across the country installing willow structures and sculptures and is a workshop leader for teachers and pupils in a wide range of settings. Her speciality is empowerment through hands on experience.



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Evening Events

Monday 14th April 7.30pm

Jonathan Code is an educationalist who believes passionately in the power of crafts and practical activity to develop people. He leads the MSc in Practical Skills in Therapeutic Education, accredited by the University of the West of England. Jonathan is an adult educator, researcher and teacher whose interests focus on Goethean science, the history and philosophy of science, alchemy, education and biodynamics. He has experience in theatre and performance, therapeutic education and organisational development.

Tuesday 15th April 7.30pm

David Bond is an award-winning director, producer and writer of documentaries and short films for Channel 4 and the BBC. He graduated from the Met Film School in 2004 and since then his broadcast films have explored social and political themes. Released in cinemas, shown on Channel 4 and around the world, ERASING DAVID (2010) was David's first feature documentary. It explored and exposed our all-pervading culture of surveillance and social media. His latest project, launched in 2013, is Project Wild Thing. This was a personal adventure and a crusade to encourage children to rediscover nature. The project was described by the Telegraph as "A gripping story of the desperate struggle to lead our computer-crazed children back to nature". See a trailer here <http://greenlions.com/projects/project-wild-thing-trailer/>. David will share this adventure with us, before screening his documentary for those who wish to see it.

Wednesday 16th April 7.30pm

There will be a choir concert followed by a barn dance. The choir concert will be led by Caroline Price, the UK's longest serving Waldorf music teacher. Caroline leads one of the region's best choirs, Stream of Sound, which is largely comprised of current and former Elmfield students aged 13-25. Our ceilidh band will be a well-known local group – led by a former Elmfield teacher!

Discussion Groups

Tuesday 15th April 1.45pm – 2.30pm

- Judyth Sassoon – Science and Goethean Observation

Wednesday 16th April 1.45pm – 2.30pm

- Kevin Avison – Thinking in Practice: comprehending action and learning
- Birmingham Forest Schools – Forest School in Practice

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Our caterers

We're proud to have appointed caterers who share our values. **ChangeKitchen CIC** is a social enterprise vegetarian catering company that only produces tasty, healthy, ethical food with a difference but whilst doing so supports people furthest from the labour market back to work through voluntary and paid work placements.

