



RSPB Nature Positive Changemakers Programme in partnership with Glebe House

October 2023 to May 2024 (one session per term)

“Save our seedeaters and other special nature – an exciting project to introduce young people to some of the very special County Down wildlife!”

Background

RSPB’s **Nature Positive Changemakers Programme** is an experiential outdoor learning initiative with a strong community-focused approach. It aims to increase partnership work within primary and secondary schools along with youth and community organisations through direct engagement with and upskilling of existing teachers and youth leaders.

Through this approach, RSPB will educate, up-skill and mobilise greater numbers of young people to help tackle our nature crisis; we will embed the principles of positive action at a much earlier stage in children’s learning and development; and,

through the cascade approach of upskilling existing and new leaders, we will see transformation of mass areas of development for nature.

The Programme – Oct 2023 to April 2024

The programme will be delivered over the academic year 2023/24 and will include **one face-to-face on-site workshop per term** delivered within the grounds of the nature-rich site at Glebe House in Strangford. Participants will be introduced to a range of engaging nature-based activities and games and will be provided with the necessary support and mentoring to develop and deliver practical nature-focussed sessions, within their own setting, with their respective pupils/youth groups. There will be a particular focus on young people helping special County Down wildlife including seed-eating birds such as the house sparrow and yellowhammer along with bumblebees including the common carder bumblebee and native Irish honeybees.

Autumn Term

Workshop One: facilitated by RSPB

Date/Time: Twilight Session on 3rd Oct from 3.45 to 6.15pm OR Weekend Session on 7th Oct from 10am to 12.30pm

Venue: Glebe House, Strangford

This session will focus on discovering and exploring the exciting habitats at Glebe House including grassland, hedgerow, woodland, pond and allotments using RSPB Wild Challenge activities

- **“Look closer” scientific equipment to** explore nature close-up from magnified viewers to wildlife cameras
- **Minibeast safari** – exploring invertebrates found in water and on land
- **Habitat heaps** – creating homes for invertebrates
- **Plant safari** – native Irish wildflowers and trees
- **Planting for Wildlife** – native seed collecting and planting
- **“BSBW”** (Big Schools Birdwatch) the biggest citizen science bird survey in the world

- **“Food and Water for Wildlife”** easy recipes to help birds over the winter months

Winter Term

Leader-led Activity: Supported by RSPB

Date/Time: TBC (Jan/Feb 2024)

Venue: Leader’s/Teacher’s own grounds/local space

The youth leaders/ teachers will consolidate learning with their young people/pupils in their own grounds/ local greenspace and undertake the Big Schools Birdwatch (BSBW) and supporting activities with RSPB support.

- **“BSBW”** Big Schools Birdwatch
- **“Food and Water for Wildlife”**

Spring Term

Workshop Two: facilitated by RSPB and Glebe House staff

Date/Time: TBC

Venue: Glebe House

The participants will return to the nature-rich setting at Glebe House where the focus will be on planting for people, planting for wildlife and making homes for nature. The workshop session will also offer participants the opportunity to explore RSPB’s new

resource game introducing the work which RSPB do in partnership with local farmers to help yellowhammers and other seed eating farmland birds.

- **“Planting for wildlife”** helps our birds, mammals and pollinators including the rarer red-tailed bumblebees
- **“Habitat Heaps”** provides damp places for minibeast to live which provide food for growing chicks and their parents too
- **“Minibeast and Plant safaris”** are all about which minibeast and wildflowers are around us

Summer Term

Workshop Three: facilitated by RSPB

Date/Time: TBC

Venue: Glebe House

This evaluation and planning workshop will support the participants to explore potential future nature-focussed projects including creating homes for nature, mini native tree nurseries, house sparrow nest box building with local Men’s shed, connecting with local nature-friendly farms and True Harvest to forage for native wildflower seeds. The focus will be on involving older young people becoming “new leaders” co-designing their own mini action for nature projects, in their own communities and schools, and ensuring sustainability of the training.

- **Joint exploration of the needs and way forward for each participant/youth group/school**
- **Enabling groups to access Glebe House, as a nature-focussed resource, and cascading learning to other leaders within their youth group/school.**
- **Identification of volunteers, to be based at Glebe House, to support leaders/teachers bringing groups for saving nature projects and securing a second new cohort of youth leaders and teachers.**

