



Press Release: 6 July 2015

For immediate release

The peatlands inspire another day of creativity

Caithness born artist Madeline Mackay hosted a drawing workshop on 4th July where the peatlands provided both the material and the inspiration. The event formed part of a series of creative activities delivered and funded by the Flows to the Future.

Students followed Madeline's lead as she skilfully applied her preferred medium to large sheets of clean white paper. Pots of premixed "pigment" consisted of peat and clay in rich earthy shades from almost black to reddish brown.

Northlands Creative Glass provided the perfect venue for a day of productivity, mucky hands and amusement. The room was still decked out in a peatlands theme recently used to inspire over 100 children from 7 local schools, their beautiful glass mini-beasts providing a splash of bright colour to an otherwise earthy decor. A collection of archive photographs from Caithness Horizons, Dunbeath Heritage Centre and Strathnaver Museum provided some context and further inspiration.

At the end of the day it was astonishing to see how everyone's differing approach had created a large volume of work in so many styles. One of

the students said it was “an exciting, imaginative event which fired an esoteric response to the peatlands”.

Some of the artwork, together with the archive photographs will form part of an exhibition to mark International Bog Day at Caithness Horizons on 27 July 2015 from 11am to 3 pm.

The Flows to the Future project gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund



PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1) Madeline Mackay (1673)**
- 2) Mucky hands (1732)**
- 3) The materials (1742)**
- 4) Student at work at easel (1745)**
- 5) More work at table (1693)**
- 6) Volume of work (1778)**

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, The Northern Deer Management Group and The Environmental Research Institute. It liaises with local community groups, , the Scottish Government’s Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate and the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust. It is independently chaired by John Henderson of Scrabster Farm, Caithness.

RSPB Scotland is the lead partner in The Flows to the Future project, a Peatlands Partnership project, which gratefully acknowledges funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the following funders and supporters; Environmental Research Institute, European Regional Development Fund, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Peatland Action, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, RSPB,

WREN, Scotland Rural Development Programme, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Tubney Trust.

CONTACT DETAILS

Alan Tissiman RSPB Public Affairs Manager can be contacted on 01463 228810 or 07775 227614 or alan.tissiman@rspb.org.uk

Caroline Eccles Project Manager - Flows to the Future Project, working on behalf of The Peatlands Partnership, Tel. 07590 441475 or caroline.eccles@rspb.org.uk

Ian Mitchell, Secretary, The Peatlands Partnership, c/o Scottish Natural Heritage: Tel 01408 634063 or peatlands_partnership@snh.gov.uk