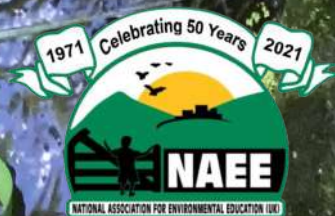


NAEE's Kenrick Days

Celebrating 10 years of the
school bursary scheme in the
West Midlands

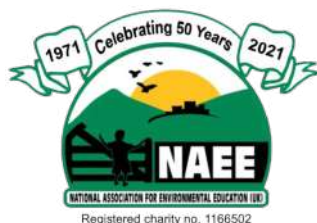


Registered charity no. 118650

The National Association for Environmental Education (NAEE UK) is an independent charitable organisation that supports and promotes teaching and learning about the environment in the formal education sector.

The mission of NAEE is to restore the role of environmental education across the school curriculum. We seek to enrich the local and global environmental awareness of young people by encouraging interaction with their environments, in order to lead future generations towards a better understanding of their role to conserve the Earth's finite resources through a more sustainable lifestyle.

naee.org.uk info@naee.org.uk



NAEE's Kenrick Days provide bursaries for school visits to environmental education centres in and around Birmingham.

Hugh Kenrick was a passionate advocate for birds and wildlife and his legacy has helped thousands of children enjoy learning in the outdoors. The bursary scheme was set up by his wife Anne in his memory. She was equally passionate about the impact of environmental education on young people.

naee.org.uk/apply-for-a-school-bursary kenrick@naee.org.uk



Cover image: Pond dipping during a Kenrick Days school visit to Martineau Gardens.
Image: S. Zaidane, Welsh House Farm Community School

Foreword



The Kenrick Days bursary scheme gives pupils the opportunity to learn about their environment by visiting one of the excellent teaching centres around Birmingham. Such experience is vitally important, and the bursaries contribute towards the cost of transport, entry to the centres and teaching sessions. Without this funding, many schools could not afford such visits.

In 2012, Anne Kenrick recognised this funding gap and donated money to the National Association for Environmental Education (NAEE) to administer bursaries for Kenrick Days. It is thanks to the dedicated staff at NAEE, and the enthusiasm of teachers and those at the environmental centres, that this scheme has now benefitted over 6000 pupils. This is not just *talking* about environmental education but *delivering* it to the next generation.

My mother was a passionate advocate for environmental education and it was her wish that pupils from inner-city schools should get the opportunity to get their hands dirty, learn about the source of their food and appreciate the natural environment. As a former chair of a school governing body, I fully supported the donation to NAEE to fund the bursaries. In later life, as her eyesight failed, my mother enjoyed me reading out the letters from pupils and reports from teachers, which proved what a valuable learning experience had been achieved by these visits.

The demand for school visits is increasing and there is capacity at the environmental centres. **This is vital environmental education, and we need to ensure more children can benefit, particularly at a time of rising transport costs.** If you would like to support this scheme, please contact NAEE.

John Kenrick

Outdoor educational experiences are so profound for our children. It is important for children who live within inner-city Birmingham to understand environmental issues and also experience the curriculum come alive in real-life contexts.

The unique selling point of the Kenrick Days scheme, and the environmental education centres, is the highly engaging cross-curricular learning opportunity. This has enabled our children to assume the role of scientists. They have explored gardens and habitats, investigating and classifying the plants and animals that live there. Our children learn and remember more, which enables them to apply their prior learning and connect this back at school.

Our children return from their visits inspired, enthused and passionate about the preservation and sustainability of our local community and global environmental issues.

Kabir Ahmed, Deputy Head Teacher, Heath Mount Primary School, Birmingham



Pupils from Heath Mount Primary School acting out insect pollination during a Kenrick Days visit to Martineau Gardens. Image: Aqsa Hussain

Hugh Kenrick Days



"We all want the experience and excitement of environmental education for our own children, which will help them to grow up with the knowledge and understanding to care and protect their inheritance: the natural world. It is my own hope too, that all this effort and inspiration might bring greater respect and care for all humanity."

Anne Kenrick

In 2012, the 100th edition of NAEE's termly journal – Environmental Education – proudly announced that NAEE had become *"a provider of environmental education"* with the launch of the Hugh Kenrick Days bursary scheme. In memory of her late husband, who was a keen naturalist, our Vice President Anne Kenrick donated her family charitable trust to further the cause of environmental education for young people, particularly in the inner-city areas of Birmingham.

Anne Kenrick was always very passionate that children should get their hands dirty, wanting them to handle a worm, and to know that an egg doesn't just come from the supermarket. She was keen for children to understand where their food comes from and to grow their own vegetables at school. Her involvement with environmental education in Birmingham had begun when she created the first classroom at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, inspired by a visit to Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden in South Africa. Here, city-based children could learn about their local natural environment, and the Kenrick Room is still used for school visits today.

Early ideas for how to best use the money included buying 'Hugh's Bus' to transport children to off-site visits. However, it was decided that the money would fund bursaries for schools to spend a day at one of the environmental centres which were (then) staffed by Birmingham City Council's Outdoor Learning Service. Led by Sue Fenoughty, former Environmental Education Advisor to Birmingham LEA and a long-term member of NAEE, Hugh Kenrick Days were born.



Lozells Primary School pupils investigating minibeasts during the pilot Kenrick Days visit in 2012. Image: Heatha Gregory

Their teacher said that the visit *"provided opportunities for classroom-allergic pupils to shine and engage with skills that could begin a lifelong passion for gardening [...] It has been a delight to see pupils who struggle with academic subjects being enthused to come to lessons, learning science through practical experience."*

The other initial venues for Hugh Kenrick Days were Mount Pleasant School Farm, Hams Hall Environmental Education Centre, Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Birmingham Nature Centre. In the first full year of bursaries, 10 schools were awarded grants and just over 400 pupils benefited from the visits.

In 2014, Birmingham City Council decided that its Outdoor Learning Service was no longer financially viable. All the council-owned environmental education centres, including Bell Heath and Hams Hall, were closed. However, thanks to a Cadbury family trust, Mount Pleasant School Farm was able to remain open. Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Martineau Gardens both continued their education provision with teachers employed directly by them; and RSPB Sandwell Valley was added to the list of centres in 2020.

Anne Kenrick died in 2020. Her passion for environmental education – including a real keenness for children to learn where their food comes from (*"their bread starts as a blade of grass, ... milk comes from a cow, eggs are laid by hens and the wool in their jumper originated from a sheep"*) – was greatly appreciated and she is sadly missed. But her legacy continues: in 2022, the Hugh Kenrick Days bursary scheme celebrated the visit of its 6000th pupil (see pages 5-7).



"Without environmental education, children and adults alike cannot really understand the need to live more sustainable lifestyles. After years of battling to keep environmental education alive, the Kenrick Days scheme gives NAEE the opportunity to put it into practice, with the help

of the schools and environmental centres that will benefit from the Kenrick bursaries."

Sue Fenoughty

The project was launched with a visit by Year 3 pupils from Lozells Primary School to Bell Heath Outdoor Centre, where the pupils carried out activities related to their science work on life cycles and habitats. They were able to *"investigate pond and stream life; two new activities which, due to the school's location, had not been possible in Lozells"* (Y3 teacher).

This was followed by a second 'pilot' visit: students from St Paul's Community School – a secondary school for pupils who had been excluded from mainstream schools – visited Martineau Gardens as part of the Environmental Land-Based Science GCSE.

Schools who want to apply for a Kenrick Days bursary begin by submitting an application form, outlining how their planned visit will develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the environment and help to foster caring attitudes, and how it links to other environmental education activities at the school.

Priority is given to schools who have limited or no access to 'green' areas on their site, in order to give their pupils a chance to experience a more natural environment, away from city streets and buildings. They are also encouraged to include key words such as environment, climate change, biodiversity and sustainability, and to give details about the location and demographic of the school, for example Deprivation Index and percentages of Free School Meals/Pupil Premium.

"We are an inner city school on a main road with only a small area which we can use for growing plants, vegetables etc. It has a tiny pond and trees. We use it as much as we can with the children right from nursery exploring the outdoor environment. It is only big enough to take one class at a time and with that many it is quite busy! We focus on the environment with every year group so that by the time they leave they have a good understanding of climate change, sustainability and their role in protecting the world."

Ladypool Primary School

"In our school we have 24.3% of children who are Pupil Premium/Free School Meals, which can impact the children's wellbeing and the ability to afford educational visits that can enhance their learning. This is even more important, given the amount of learning lost during the Coronavirus pandemic."

Calshot Primary School

The maximum amount that a school can receive is £400, on receipt of a short report written by the lead teacher (see pages 8-11 for some examples) and copies of the invoices from the centre and for transport. Schools can also apply for a second £200 bursary in a subsequent year, and then can apply again for the full amount after five years (to enable a greater range of schools to benefit).

Since the scheme began in 2012, 145 bursaries have been awarded, to 111 different schools, which represents almost 7000 pupils. Many of the schools (91) are in Birmingham, but schools from other parts of the West Midlands are also eligible to apply, with schools from Solihull (12), Sandwell & Dudley (3), Coventry (2), Wolverhampton, Worcestershire and Walsall (1 each) also receiving bursaries. The schools also span the age ranges/phases with 86 primary schools, 6 nurseries, 11 secondary schools and 8 special schools receiving bursaries so far.

In March 2022, a celebration event was held at Martineau Gardens to mark the 6000th school pupil to attend a Kenrick Days visit. The event was attended by a class of Year 3 pupils from St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School, John Kenrick and members of the Kenrick Days Team. This school was chosen because they had missed out on their funded visit due to the Coronavirus pandemic; also, Mrs Kenrick used to visit this school (which is close to Birmingham City Centre) to given them items for their 'nature table'.



Pupils from Calshot Primary School pond dipping at RSPB Sandwell Valley. Image: Ashleigh Taylor

There was a special celebration cake, and each pupil was given a cupcake with a sunflower motif, plus a packet of sunflower seeds to plant. (Sunflowers were Mrs Kenrick's favourite flower).

"Two years ago, St Catherine of Siena was awarded a grant to take pupils to Martineau Gardens to develop their environmental education. This year, our Year 3 pupils were able to take full advantage of this, taking a very eco-friendly walk from school to the gardens and participating in wonderful workshops that linked very well to their science learning in their plants topic. Here are some quotes from the pupils:

'I liked drawing the flowers because art is fun.'

'I liked acting as a part of a flower because role play is fun and I learned about the parts of a flower.'

'I liked tasting the mint plant because it smelt nice and tasted nice.'

'I think the woodland walk was interesting and fun, especially the Meet a Tree game.'

'I liked working with Juliette and learning about different parts of a flower.'

Mr Taylor: 'Martineau Gardens was a great trip and Year 3 learnt lots about plants, seeds and nature!'

All of the children behaved ever so well – even the chair of the association was very complimentary about the children! I would like to thank NAEF for helping to organise this trip and inspiring environmental education within Year 3."

Callum Woolman,

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School



Celebrating the 6000th Kenrick Days pupil. Image: Lisa Carpenter

Celebrating 6000 pupils





Sensory exploration, herb tasting, imaginative play and cake eating: celebrating the 6000th Kenrick Days pupil with Year 3 children from St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

Middle photograph above: Tim Bruton, Martineau Gardens Chair of Trustees (second from left); John Kenrick (centre) and members of NAEE's Hugh Kenrick Days Team (left to right) – Juliette Green, Nina Hatch and Ben Ballin.

Images: Lisa Carpenter lisacarpenterphotos.com

School visit case studies

EYFS visit to Mount Pleasant School Farm: Langley Primary School Nursery Kathryn Grahame

At Langley Nursery, we are aiming to provide the children with an understanding of the importance of caring for the world around us and gain a better understanding of where our food comes from. Our Kenrick Days visit to Mount Pleasant Farm played an important part in helping the children on their journey, working out the world around them and how they fit into it.

We went to the farm in two groups, with each group spending half a day at the farm. We travelled by bus and from the moment the doors opened, the children were immersed in the experience: the smell and the sounds of the animals flooded in. This was a rich experience; it provided the children with an opportunity to be up close to the animals. It started with feeding the sheep and lambs by hand. A few of the children were reluctant to get close at first but became confident with holding out their hands for the animals to eat from. We watched the pigs eating some apples and Nina explained that these pigs would be used for food in the future. This is something that many of our children wouldn't previously have considered.



Mount Pleasant School Farm Centre Manager Nina Hatch with Langley Nursery pupils. Image: Kathryn Grahame



A Key Stage 2 pupil on a Kenrick Days visit from Ladypool Primary School meeting the sheep. Image: Gillian Twaite

Next, we collected eggs from the hen house before going into the coop to meet the chickens. This involved some counting of the eggs and discussion about how eggs are sold to make money, supporting the children's mathematical understanding. The children were then able to care for the chickens by filling their food trough and then giving them corn by hand.

The children learnt a variety of new vocabulary and used their developing language skills to talk about their experiences back at school. We looked at our photographs of the day and discussed what happened and the things that were surprising and interesting to the children. They drew pictures of the animals and used the phonics they are learning to write simple words.

This was the children's first visit outside the nursery setting. They had a fantastic time and were made very welcome. This was a huge benefit to their confidence building as part of our personal, social and emotional development. **The experience will be a treasured memory for years to come.**

Mount Pleasant School Farm is a sustainably-built classroom on a working dairy farm which has cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. A day at the farm provides a variety of 'hands on' experiences linked to the school curriculum, including where our food comes from and animal diets (omnivores, carnivores and herbivores).

mountpleasantschoolfarm.com

"Kenrick Days enable pupils to have a 'hands on' experience of where and how their food lived, or grew. This should make them more likely to grow up appreciating and questioning what we eat, how we care for both animals and plants, and have an awareness of the environmental dilemmas increasingly facing our food production."

Nina Hatch, Centre Manager, Mount Pleasant School Farm

Primary visit to Birmingham Botanical Gardens: Highters Heath Community School Emma Mudge

Our Year 5 pupils had the pleasure of visiting Birmingham Botanical Gardens, thanks to the funding provided by the Kenrick Days bursary. We had been learning about forests around the world, and part of this unit was for the children to learn all about tropical rainforests. The Botanical Gardens was the perfect place for the children to go to, in order to help them visualize what the rainforest looks and feels like, and to understand the tropical climate, and how it differs from the weather in the UK.

63% of our pupils are Pupil Premium, which places us in the highest quintile for deprivation nationally. This means that the majority of our pupils come from families who are unable to provide the range of experiences that many families would consider usual. As a result, a large number of our pupils have trouble relating to other people's experiences and understanding contrasting places in the world, as this is so far removed from their own day-to-day experiences. Going to the Botanical Gardens was not only an opportunity to build a more concrete understanding of the climate and ecosystem of the tropical rainforest, but it also enabled them to create long-term memories which will assist with future learning and understanding – particularly in geography and science.

The workshop that we attended was well-planned and very informative. Much of it reinforced the learning in the classroom, but it also provided the chance for the pupils to see, feel and hold real-life exhibits such as giant seed-pods, preserved rainforest insects and plants. The highlight of the day for many pupils was the chance to be able to hold a live animal – the snakes and stick insects were a favourite!

We were delighted that the workshop also encouraged discussion around protection of the rainforest, and about how we can begin to create a more sustainable future by utilising the amazing products that the rainforest can offer, but balancing that with conservation and an understanding of the importance of this habitat. **I have no doubt that this has impacted upon their attitudes towards the environment, locally, nationally and globally.**

The links to the curriculum were perfect for the topic that we have been teaching – understanding and comparing regions in the world, recognising the impact of human activity on the environment, understanding and becoming more knowledgeable about various habitats, ecosystems and differences in plants and animals.

We had an amazing day at the Botanical Gardens, and we are incredibly grateful for the support of NAEF and the Kenrick Days scheme in facilitating this important educational visit.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens has indoor glasshouses where pupils can investigate plants from different climates, including tropical rainforest and desert, and large grounds for plant and habitat studies, senses work and orienteering. There is also an animal collection that can be studied during sessions.

birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/education



A pupil from St Gerard's Catholic Primary School doing the Rainforest Challenge during a Kenrick Days visit.
Image: Laura Jones



Pupils from Dickens Heath Primary School investigating desert plants at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Image: Jennifer Atkinson

"For ten years, the Hugh Kenrick Days bursary scheme has been invaluable in facilitating schools, who may not have access to nearby green spaces or who may struggle with the cost of an off-site visit, to visit Birmingham Botanical Gardens and experience what we have to offer to excite, educate and inspire students of all ages about plants, the planet and wildlife. We are so appreciative of this scheme, as so many students have been able to visit the Gardens who may not otherwise have had the opportunity."

James Jarvis, Education Manager, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Secondary visit to Martineau Gardens: Bishop Challoner Catholic College

Sarah Flynn Vilic

Our Eco Group spent an excellent day at Martineau Gardens, combining fun with learning about our environment and planning for our forthcoming Peace Garden. At Bishop Challoner Catholic College, we are currently building a new block of classrooms, and an area outside the new build has been set aside for our Eco Group to create a Peace Garden for the benefit of the whole school community. One of the main aims for our visit was to learn about how to design a garden, as this is a completely new project for the group, and to learn about the types of plants we could include.

On arrival at the gardens, the group played games in the woodland, gleefully going on a minibeast hunt, and identifying trees they'd been led to whilst blindfolded by using their other senses. This set the tone for the day – a fantastic combination of fun and learning!

We were fortunate enough to speak with a horticultural therapist, who gave the group a lot of ideas for planning

their garden, inspiring them to look at the symbolism of plants when thinking of what to include. They are very keen on planting Ginkgo Biloba after learning that it became a symbol of hope; as we walked past it later, one pupil said, *"Did you know it survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima?!"* The group then tasted a variety of herbs to decide which ones to plant around school – chives were especially popular!



Creating a mood board for the school Peace Garden, inspired by Martineau Gardens. Image: Sarah Flynn Vilic

In the afternoon, the staff at Martineau Gardens helped the group to create mood boards for the Peace Garden, which they then presented to each other. Some chose flowers that matched the school badge, whilst others divided the space into different sensory zones “so that people can use the senses that most calm them down when they need it”. Their mood boards are a joyful mix of colour and symbolism – on their return to school, they showed their work to the Principal, who was impressed with their creativity!

The Eco Group arrived back at school brimming with ideas and enthusiasm for creating not only the Peace Garden, but also for reinvigorating other green spaces around school. We are eagerly awaiting the completion of the new build, so that we can begin work on our Peace Garden. **In the meantime, they are putting into practice the knowledge they gained from our trip by planting flowers to attract pollinators in planters around school.**

Martineau Gardens is an organically-managed community garden where pupils can carry out activities linked to plant growth, food crops, invertebrates, food chains, and explore a range of different habitats including a pond, wildflower meadow and a SLINC (Site of Local Interest to Nature Conservation) woodland.

martineau-gardens.org.uk/education/schools



Year 2 pupils on a Kenrick Days visit learning about herbs with Katie, one of the Education Tour Guides at Martineau Gardens. Image: St Chad's School

“Kenrick Days visits are a wonderful way of bringing children into new environments and encouraging them to take part in all kinds of activities, from pond dipping to plant identification. The natural environment links with every aspect of the school curriculum, from science and geography to art and literacy, and helps children expand their horizons beyond the classroom.”

Jenni Fryer, CEO, Martineau Gardens

Special school visit to RSPB Sandwell Valley: Priestley Smith Specialist School

Alison Hannington



A pupil from Priestley Smith Specialist School investigating their catch from pond dipping. Image: Alison Hannington

Pupils in the ALG group visited RSPB Sandwell Valley to explore pond and land invertebrates. The visit should have originally taken place in the summer term of 2020 to enrich our topic on nature. Unfortunately, due to Covid lockdowns, this could not take place. We are incredibly grateful to NAEF for enabling us to re-arrange our visit for Summer 2022.

All pupils at Priestley Smith Specialist School are visually impaired and members of the ALG group are pupils, aged 12 to 17, who have additional learning needs. The visit has enriched our curriculum by extending their knowledge and experience of the environment and

living things, enabling them to explore nature in a tactile way. **This visit enabled pupils to experience nature first-hand as many of them do not get this opportunity, spending the majority of their time either at home or in school.**

Lucy Fleming – the RSPB Learning Officer at Sandwell Valley – catered beautifully for our needs and our pupils gained so much from the visit: not just academically, but also personally and socially. Pupils were able to build upon their prior knowledge of insects and land minibeasts and were introduced to creatures living in a pond that they had never encountered before. On our return to school, all the pupils were able to evaluate the trip and identify something they had learned, never done before and enjoyed the most.

The pupils' feedback included:

- “I learned about water insects and snails.”
- “I learned how to go pond dipping.”
- “I had never used a magnifying glass before.”
- “I’ve never shaken a tree before.”
- “I never touched a slug before.”
- “I enjoyed everything because we got to do lots of different activities and I caught a dragonfly nymph.”
- “I enjoyed catching the ramshorn snail and calling it Gordon Ramsay!”
- “I enjoyed everything because of the minibeasts. I caught the king of the pond!”

Since our initial bursary bid in 2019, an allotment and sensory garden have been established at school. Our pupils' knowledge, understanding and experience of the environment have developed and we are now able to build upon our RSPB Sandwell Valley visit to utilise the school grounds.

RSPB Sandwell Valley is a nature reserve with woods, wetland, meadows and garden habitats. Their school programmes help pupils to develop science and geography skills, as well as exploring nature.

rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/school-trips/sandwell-valley



New experiences: pupils from Holy Souls Catholic Primary School in one of the bird hides at RSPB Sandwell Valley. Image: Tracey Pettigrew

"Working with NAEF has provided a fantastic opportunity for RSPB Sandwell Valley. We've welcomed teachers to our site who didn't know the reserve was here until they found out about us from information provided by the Kenrick Days scheme. It has been wonderful to be able to work with children who, in many cases, have very limited experience of spending time in nature. The reports submitted after school visits have been wonderful to read. It's great to hear how the visits have inspired children, what they've learnt and what they've really enjoyed about their time with us. It's also been fantastic to know how the settings are building on the work they've done at the reserve when they return to school."

Lucy Fleming, Learning Officer, RSPB Sandwell Valley

Looking to the future

Thanks to the vision and benevolence of the Kenrick family, thousands of pupils from schools around the West Midlands have benefited from funded visits to environmental education centres over the past ten years.

The longevity and tenacity of NAEF to remain in the field of environmental education has been supported by donations like this. But this is a mutual relationship, where our determination to keep going, come what may, has attracted support from people who want to know that their donations have an impact where it matters most.

With the longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 school closures and lockdowns, plus rising costs (particularly for coach travel), there has never been more of a need for these bursaries.

Over 6000 pupils have benefitted – both through their experiences on the day and the subsequent linked learning back in the classroom. We are not just *talking* about environmental education, but *delivering* it to the benefit of pupils and teachers.

We want to give this opportunity to more pupils, and we need your support. If you are able to help NAEF to support this bursary scheme, which has a real impact on pupils in the West Midlands, their curriculum and their schools, and prioritises inclusive access to environmental education for urban children, please contact kenrick@naef.org.uk.

naef.org.uk/apply-for-a-school-bursary



Image: Lisa Carpenter