



# Primary Geography Sustainability Conference

The British School Muscat

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012



## Programme for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February v3

TIME	TITLE	OUTLINE	LED BY
8.00 – 8.30am	Registration		Sixth Form
8.30 – 8.40am	Welcome	Welcome to BSM and to conference	Lynda Haynes
8.40 – 9.30am	<b>Key Note Speech</b>	What are the doorways to sustainability?	Bill Jerman – Headteacher of Hampton Hill Junior School, Richmond and Regional Leader for London for The National College.
9.30 – 10.00am	Coffee		
10.00 – 10.50am	<b>Geography of Happiness</b>	Workshop – mapping happiness in the world and within school. This is a practical workshop with plenty of ideas to use with Primary School children.	Tamsin Turner
10.00 - 10.50am	<b>The Route to a Green Flag Award in British Schools in the Middle East</b>	Seminar– members of The British School - Muscat Green Team will share their experience of becoming an Eco-School and the journey they have taken towards applying for Green Flag status.	Liz Bagheri and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Green Team
10.00 – 10.50am	<b>Sustainability through Art in KS1 – Natural Sculptures Inspired by Andy Goldsworthy</b>	Workshop - practical ideas and workshop using natural objects from the beach and the desert to develop sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. There will be an opportunity to look at children's work as well as having a go yourself.	Lyn Ellman-Brown Alison McIntyre Gail Venus
11.00 – 11.50am	<b>Sustaining Geography – Primary to Senior School Using the School Environment</b>	Practical Primary School geography fieldwork activities to be carried out on site. Activities will include: orienteering, sound mapping, OS map work and investigating microclimates. Primary School children will be demonstrating skills for you to try out in your own schools.	Mike Kidman Ruth Hine BSM children

**MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS**

P.O. Box 1907, Ruwi 112, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: (+968) 24600842 Fax: (+968) 24601062

E-mail: [admin@britishschoolmuscat.com](mailto:admin@britishschoolmuscat.com) Website: <http://www.britishschoolmuscat.com>

11.00 - 11.50am	<b>Sustainable Planting in Schools in The Gulf</b>	Ideas for planting sustainably, including the use of a water box. Anne will give advice on gardening for Primary School children and show how to make a simple bird bath and pot pond.	Anne Love – author of <i>'Gardening in Oman and The UAE'</i>
11.00 - 11.50am	<b>Sustainability in Foundation Education</b>	Workshop of practical ideas for use in Foundation Stage, including the use of an outdoor space and composting.	Nina Benjamin Diane Garrison
12.00 – 1.00pm	Buffet Lunch		
1.00 – 1.50pm	<b>Desert Voices: Sustaining Traditions in the Desert</b>	Talk on Bedu of Oman	Mark Evans MBE - General Manager of Outward Bound Oman and author of <i>'Desert Voices'</i>
2.00 – 2.50pm	<b>Sustainable Schools and the Doorways to Sustainability</b>	Workshop giving practical suggestions to take back to schools.	Bill Jerman
2.00 – 2.50pm	<b>Recycling in The Middle East</b>	Discussion group on recycling in the Middle East with a focus on successes. Delegates invited to share what works well in their schools and to share resources. The Environmental Society of Oman will present on how they are helping with recycling locally.	Chaired by Susanna Detnon  Environmental Society of Oman
2.00 – 2.50pm	<b>Developing Oman Sustainably</b>	Presentations on how Oman is developing tourism.  Oman Sail – developing tourism and youth opportunities in a sustainable way  The Muttrah Port Development – Sustaining a community from commerce to tourism	Chaired by Tamsin Turner
3.00 – 3.30pm	<b>Plenary and Thanks</b>	A panel, made up of some of our speakers and workshop leaders, will answer questions around issues that have arisen over the course of the day.	Chaired by Lynda Haynes Panel: Ruth Hine, Mike Kidman, Nina Benjamin, Tamsin Turner, Bill Jerman, Mark Evans
3.30pm	Information for Fieldwork on Friday		Tamsin Turner
4.00pm	Transfer to Hotels		

## Programme for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Delegates will be picked up from hotels at 8:00a.m, and returned to hotels at lunchtime.

### **Riyam Park and Muttrah Walk**

Max numbers 20

Led by Ruth Hine and Mike Kidman

**How has Muttrah developed?**

**What evidence is there of growth and change?**

*This trip will be led by two experienced geography teachers. Mike Kidman is Head of Geography at British School-Muscat and Ruth Hine, a previous Head of Geography at schools in Kent, is now working full time in the British School – Muscat Primary School.*

The walk will begin at Riyam Park and follow the donkey pathway/original oil pipeline up the hill to view Muttrah. Observations will be made of developments such as: land reclamation to build the corniche road, development of the original road into a dual carriageway; gentrification of the fish souq area. Further observations will be made for signs of Muttrah's future in terms of the changing use of the port from commerce to tourism.

The walk continues down to an abandoned settlement, where remains of houses, wells, terraces and falaj system can be seen. We will discuss why people chose to settle here and why the village was abandoned.

At this point there will be two options:

#### **Option 1**

Complete the walk through the wadi, this will require some scrambling and climbing over rocks. The walk will end at the Muttrah Souk.

#### **Option 2**

Retrace the route taken to the waiting minibus and drive to the Souk.

The two groups will meet up at Muttrah Souk where we will look at old and new development in the residential area behind the souk.

### **Native Species Walk**

Max number 20

Led by Liz Bagheri and Clive Winbow

**Which species are native to Oman?**

**Why is growing native species important to sustaining the desert environment?**

**How can we introduce native species into our schools?**

*Liz Bagheri is Head of Science at The British School-Muscat and also coordinates the Senior School Green Team. Clive Winbow is an expert in local plant species and has written, 'Native Plants of Oman: An Introduction'*

This walk will give an opportunity to view some of Oman's native flora and fauna and to see the importance of how they sustain the environment first hand.

### **Boat Trip: Sustaining our Coastline and Marine Environments**

Max numbers: 12

Led by Jonathan Turner and Toni Birchall

**What is the impact of construction on the coastal environment?**

## **How can we minimise our impact on coastal environments?**

### **What can we do to preserve coastal environments?**

*Jonathan Turner is the Managing Director of Masirah International Marine and Technical Services. He is an expert in marine development and the environmental impact of marine construction. Toni Birchall is the Deputy Head of The British School – Muscat Primary School and is an experienced class teacher.*

The bus will take us to the marina at Bandar Rawdah where we will be transferred to the boat. The boat trip will follow the coastline to look at the construction of coastal defenses and their impact on sustaining the environment. We will look at the development of the Shangri-La and debate sustaining Muscat's economy through tourism, against the impact on a unique coastal environment. Jonathan Turner will share his knowledge on industries' attempts to compensate for construction damage with schemes such as the laying of reef balls to form an artificial reef.

### **The Falaj System at Gala Village**

Max numbers 20

Led by Tamsin Turner and Lyn Ellman-Brown

#### **What is the falaj system?**

#### **How important is the falaj in village life today?**

#### **What are the stages of the falaj system?**

*Tamsin Turner is the Primary Humanities Coordinator at The British School – Muscat. She also coordinates The Primary School Green Team. Lyn Ellman - Brown is an experienced Year 1 teacher, also at The British School-Muscat.*

One of the learning objectives in the KS2 Geography Programmes of Study is to understand how people seek to manage and sustain their environments; the falaj system in Oman is an excellent example of how a traditional system does just that even in a modern world.

Our walk begins in the village of Gala, a short drive from Muscat. Here we will have the opportunity to look at village life. We will look at the use of the falaj in the village for irrigation, showering and ablutions and observe how water is shared, as well as the order in which it is used. We will then trace the falaj system to the aquifer, stopping to look at the shafts, which service the underground water system. We will discuss why this system is still being used in Omani villages today.