

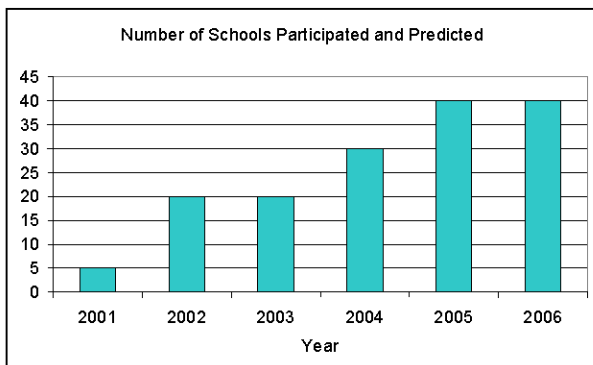


# Clyde in The Classroom® 2004 Newsletter Special

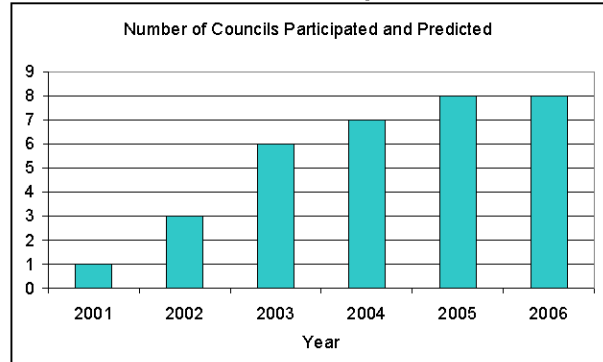
## History

The Clyde River Foundation is a charity which researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries and promotes environmental education throughout the catchment. Clyde in the Classroom® encourages children to participate in conservation. It introduces pupils to river ecology and biodiversity by utilizing the lifecycle of the most common fish in the Clyde catchment, the brown trout.

Clyde in the Classroom was launched in 2001 with a trial intake of five schools in Glasgow. Since then, the project has seen a huge increase in the number of schools taking part, with 30 participating in 2004. To date, some 2000 children from 80 schools in seven local authority areas have been involved in our environmental education project. With ongoing financial support from Scottish Natural Heritage and the participating local authorities, we now have the facility to accommodate 40 schools in each of 2005 and 2006.



### School Participation



### Council Participation

Our aim is to engage with all of our eight councils for the 2005 project.

In 2004, we had three fun-filled launch days at the Glasgow Science Centre (GSC) during which the pupils explored the exhibits and saw an aquarium depicting a typical Clyde Tributary.



### Launch Day at the Glasgow Science Centre

At the end of the project, fish were released to 30 local burns (from Douglas in South Lanarkshire to Balloch in West Dunbartonshire) over a two week period before Easter.



East Dunbartonshire Council

## Aim

The aim of the project is to promote awareness of river ecology among children. This project allows the pupils to see first hand one of the many fish species which can be found in their local river. Clyde in the Classroom provides an interesting starting point from which pupils can begin to investigate ecological and biodiversity issues.

## Technical Info

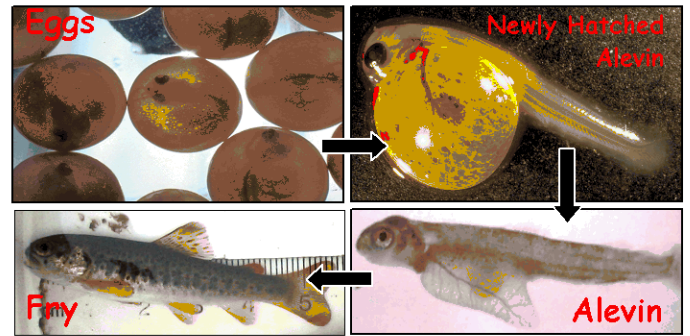
Each school receives a classroom hatchery which comprises two acrylic tanks, one containing trout eggs, pebbles, thermometer and an air stone and the other a water filter and ice packs. The photograph below shows the eggs and pebbles in the right tank and the ice pack in the left tank.



The tanks are enclosed in a polystyrene box to help maintain low water temperatures. The pupils maintain the water temperature at 10°C by changing the ice pack twice daily. Additionally they have to ensure that any dead eggs or fish are removed from the tanks to prevent water fouling.

The following photographs illustrate how the egg hatches and the pupils get their first sight of a baby trout, known as an alevin. The alevin has a yolk sac which provides the growing fish with all the nutrients it requires during its initial growth stage. When the yolk sack is fully absorbed, the

alevin is known as a fry, and is released by the pupils to their local burn.



## Launch Day

To launch the project, each school visits the Glasgow Science Centre (GSC) where they are given a talk on the River Clyde and factors affecting its fish populations. The children are also introduced to the classroom hatchery and what they are required to do to look after their fish. The pupils also have time to explore the science mall exhibits at the GSC. Our observations suggest they find it fun but it can be rather tiring!





## Release Days

Once the fish have absorbed all the yolk sac the pupils are then taken to their local river to release the fish. The release day allows the pupils to see that their fish are being given the chance at life in the local river.

This day also shows the children that there actually is life in their local burn and that their fish could do well there, providing the pupils with an incentive to help look after their local burn. Below, the children from Swinton Primary are being given a talk about the river and river safety while pupils from Ralston Primary have their bagged fish at the ready and are about to release them into the White Cart at Pollok Country Park.



Thirty schools were involved in the 2004 project, each receiving 250 brown trout eggs (7500 eggs in all). In the end, we released 4000 surviving fry into different tributaries of the River Clyde! Three schools share first place for the largest number of surviving fish, these are **St Ninians Primary, Swinton Primary and Ashcraig**. Well done!

## Top Grades!

On completion of the project we asked each school to give feedback. The following quotes were provided by teachers directly involved in the project. Everyone enjoyed it! Our feedback questionnaire scored us an average of 4.7 out of 5.0!

The whole experience really brought science in the classroom to life. It totally captured the interest and enthusiasm of the class.

**Millersneuk Primary - Greg Caldwell**

Excellent project. Marvellous experience for all the children. Engendered a lot of interest from staff, parents and pupils alike.

**St Ninians Primary - Leandra Robertson (Depute Head Teacher)**

I have involved my school with this project for several years. All aspects of the project have been dealt with to my satisfaction and to my childrens' enjoyment and interest. I recommend it to any school. Many thanks to Willie the Fish!

**St Philips Primary - Tom Connor (Head Teacher)**

The children were completely caught up in the project and it certainly brought their learning to life.

**Thorn Primary - Marion Stewart**

Constant visits to monitor fish, very reassuring. Day visit to GSC, grabbed childrens' attention from the very start, put the project in context, made children feel involved and important. Release day good fun, gave children some input into caring for their environment, positive conclusion to the project.

**St Philips Primary - Colette Canon**

Pupils and staff enjoyed this experience and learned a lot from it.

**Rashielea Primary - Gordon Manson**

Children and janitor thoroughly enjoyed this and got a lot out of it.

**Neilston Primary - Jane McDermott & Lorna Gowdie**

Attention to detail on release was excellent and vital for us (special needs)

**Ashcraig - David Imrie**

This raised pupils' awareness of the environment. All year groups took an interest in this and were continually asking questions.

**Coatbridge High School - Eva Keir**

Caused great excitement for pupils in the class and their peer group but also generated great interest from other pupils and parents alike.

**Ralston Primary - Sheena Andrew**

**TEACHER FEEDBACK**

# Volunteers

The Clyde River Foundation allocates a volunteer to each school, to visit weekly and support the teachers and pupils during the project. Our volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and we welcome the involvement of anyone with an interest. The volunteer plays a crucial part in the project as they can answer any questions or dispel any worries.

Each volunteer is trained by the Foundation and undergoes an Enhanced Disclosure through SETPOINT to fulfill our commitment to child protection. If you wish to become a volunteer for 2005 please contact Caroline or Willie at the Foundation who will be delighted to hear from you. You can volunteer for a little or as much involvement as YOU wish. In the meantime we would like to extend our grateful thanks to Tara Cochrane, Mary Tatner, Heather Sinclair, Harry Crossthwaite, Alex Grozier, Sandy Smith and Peter Roderickson for all their help with Clyde in the Classroom 2004.

# STOP - Press!

This newsletter is not the only publication covering Clyde in the Classroom 2004 - Douglas, Heriot and Swinton Primary Schools got their local newspapers involved.

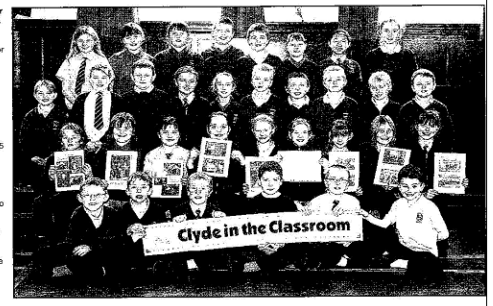
## Rearing fish in the classroom

Douglas Primary pupils take part in project to hatch brown trout eggs



## Pupils take part in conservation project

YOUNGSTERS were shown how to care for their environment when they took part in a conservation project.  
Primary five pupils from Swinton Primary School visited the Glasgow Science Centre for the launch of the 'Clyde in the Classroom' project.  
They watched a multi-media presentation on the history of the river and learned all about trout, how the fish live and what they need to survive.  
As part of the project a small fish hatchery containing trout eggs was delivered to the school.  
The hatchery was positioned outside the P5 classroom and the children had to check on the eggs daily and keep a record of their progress.  
Only a few trout eggs were lost during the early stages and five weeks later the children took the remaining 'ry' and released them into the River White Cart in Pollok Park.  
Class teacher Linda Gardiner said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole project and learned so much about conservation issues."  
They were reluctant to let the fish go in the end, but it was a great hands on experience for them.  
"We would like to thank the staff at the Science Centre for their help and support."



The Paisley Daily Express, Thursday, April 22, 2004

## PUPILS HATCH SUPER PLAN FOR DAY OUT

Kids release their tiny trout into dam

By GAIL CAMERON

PUPILS at a Paisley primary school got up to something fishy during a very special field trip.  
The youngsters visited Durnockstock Park to release hundreds of tiny trout into the dam there.  
They had hatched the fish eggs in their classrooms as part of a conservation project.  
The children from Heriot Primary were among the first to arrive when they went to the park to release the fish.  
And they made a real splash by joining the Clyde River Foundation along to watch the fish being released.  
Class teacher Wilma Murphy explained: "We managed to hatch more than 200 brown trout eggs, and every child had some fish in a wee plastic bag to release."

"They really enjoyed taking part in this project, which aimed to get them involved in conservation."  
"They took things very seriously when it came to looking after the eggs and they were determined they would name their fish before they let them go."  
The primary five pupils were given micro-writing kits to write the fish tank was kept clean and the eggs were properly cared for as part of the conservation project, called Clyde in the Classroom.  
Saint Mc Murphy: "At first the eggs just looked like wee orange peeps, but when we let them go they were more like tiny tadpoles."  
"The children took over the running of the project, making sure the water and the temperature in the tank was correct."  
"They thoroughly enjoyed the project from start to finish."



RELEASE ME: Fraser Harvey, 6, prepares to eat his trout fish



FIN-TASTIC: These kids from Heriot Primary, Paisley, had a whale of a time at Durnockstock Park where they released hundreds of tiny trout into the dam there.

# Thank You!

The Foundation would like to thank everyone involved in making Clyde in the Classroom 2004 a huge success, too many people to state in such a small space! Pupils from Oakgrove Primary passed on their thanks in the form of cards.

Thank you.....

## Contact us

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Glasgow, G4 0NG  
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The Clyde River Foundation is supported by: Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, Bank of Scotland, Clydeport, The Crown Estate, The Ernest Cook Trust, The Esme Fairbairn Foundation, Fisheries Research Service, Fishmongers Company, The Forestry Commission, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow University, The Grayling Society, Ironside-Farrar, Landuse Consultants, Lithgows Ltd, McGrigor Donald Solicitors, The PF Charitable Trust, River Clyde Fisheries Management Trust, RPS Consultants, Salmon & Trout Trust/Salmon & Trout Association, Scottish Coal, Scottish Natural Heritage, South Lanarkshire Council, University of Strathclyde, Whitley Animal Protection Trust, Wild Trout Trust & local angling clubs and associations.



# School Talk!

This supplement allows the pupils to say their piece!

## St Charles Primary

When Mrs Mazzoni told us we were one of the Schools who won I wasn't very excited as I didn't understand why. The whole class were really excited and that's all we spoke about.

We went to the Science Centre and saw a video and we learnt lots more and I understood everything. They asked us questions, we got to ask them questions. We all had a really good time and so did the other schools.

They came with the tank and we were really excited. We had to start keeping the temperature at 5°C and under. We got the eggs a few weeks later. They didn't really do anything but we were still happy.

We then made a rota so that we knew who's shot it was. The person who was on fish tank went in checked the temperature, changed the ice packs, made sure there were no dead eggs, made sure there was no scum and wrote down the temperature.

The very last thing we had to do was release them. We went to Falside Road to the burn. We all got to have four trout each. By this time they had nearly grown. We got to name our fish, mine were called:-

Izzy  
Dizzy  
Mizzy  
Fizzy.

My fish got stuck in its bag so I had to lift it out.

If our primary sixes were to do this I would definitely recommend it!

by Kirsten Kane

## Coatbridge High School

Coatbridge High School produced their very own DVD. If you would like a copy please contact Caroline at the Foundation Office

Barrowfield P.S

126 Barrowfield St

Glasgow

G40 3SL

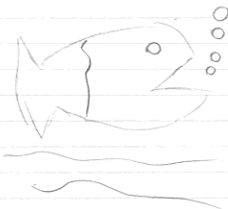
21/4/03

Dear Caroline and Tara,

Thank you for letting us take care of the alevins. We were a little 'upset' because some of them died. We all were very happy to come and release the fish we all enjoyed looking after them and would love to look after them again.

Thank you

Bianca Fitzpatrick



## Barrowfield Primary

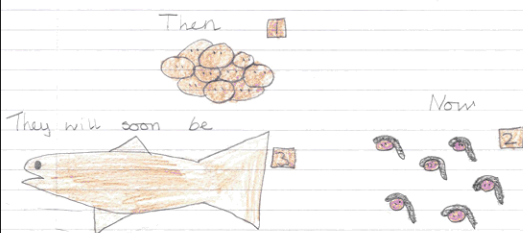
Swinton Primary School  
2 Rindmuir Road  
Glasgow

23rd March 2004

Dear Caroline,

Thank You for helping us with our project Clyde in the Classroom. It was a fun thing to do. I really likes learning about trout eggs and their life - cycle. I would never encourage another class to do it because I liked it that much and would want to do it again.

Yours Sincerely  
Megan Finton.



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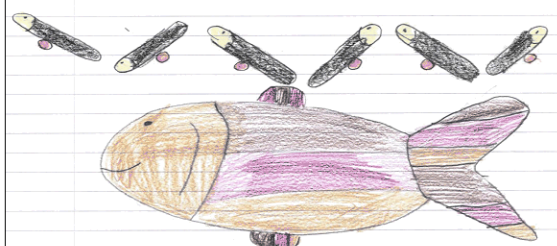
Swinton Primary School  
Rindmuir Road  
Glasgow

23rd March 2004

Dear Caroline,  
Thank you for letting us come to the Science Centre and letting us to look after the trout eggs. Also thank you for all your help with our Clyde in the Classroom project. I was so interested in the Clyde in the Classroom project because I liked looking after the trout and learning and learning about them and their lifecycle. I would really like to do this project again.

Yours Sincerely

Gemma Houston P5



# St Marys Primary

On January 22nd I went to the Glasgow Science Centre with the rest of my class. We left the school about ten o'clock and arrived about quarter to eleven. We were greeted by a kind employee of the centre.

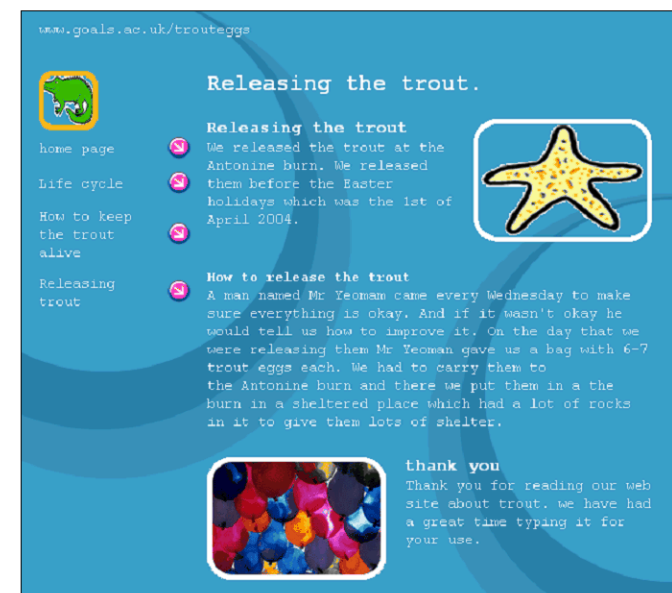
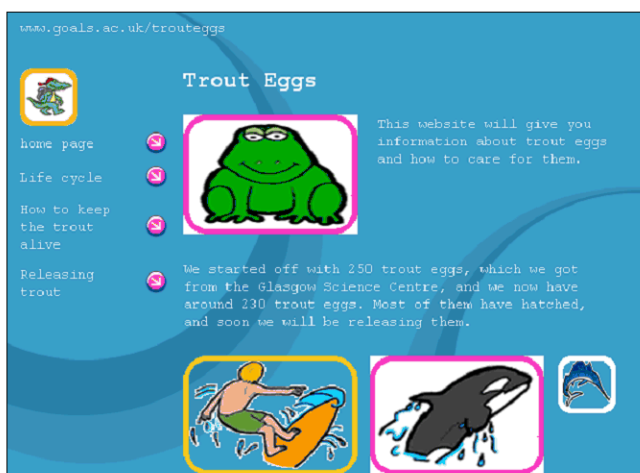
When we entered the centre we were given tags so that if we got lost we could ask an employee to return us to our class. Then we were taken to a cloakroom to store our belongings. After this we went to see the exhibits which were truly fascinating and cool. After that we had our lunch in an eating facility which also held all of the other schools. When lunch was over we went to the shop and I bought two pencils and six rulers. Next came the talk about "Fish in the Clyde" which was the main purpose of going to the centre. We learned about the life cycle of the trout and the different type of fish there. Then we went down the stairs to a type of hall and there we were told how to look after the fish. They showed us a dead trout in its egg because if an egg dies we need to get it out as quickly as possible.

I thought the trip was great I learned a lot and I found it very interesting and exciting. I hope that the fish do not die!

James Lardner

St Marys Primary school took writing one step further and produced a web -site. The pupils entered it into a competition and won second prize! Below are some screen shots taken from the site but please visit it at

[www.goals.ac.uk/trouteggs](http://www.goals.ac.uk/trouteggs)



By Rosie Beth McCaffrey

# Glendale Primary

Nicole

## Clyde in the Classroom

We went to the Science Centre to get a talk on how to look after the fish and tank. When we got the tank we had two weeks to get used to keeping it cold, then we got the trout eggs. After a week or two we thought the fish had all died but one survived we called him Nemo. After about a week we got little fish most of them survived. Then a few weeks later we went to Pollok Park and went down to the White Cart Water where we realised all the fish. I really enjoyed looking after the fish.

Mariam

## Clyde in the Classroom

When our teacher told us we were going to look after some trout eggs, as part of the Clyde in the Classroom project I was like 'oh no', but that's not how I was feeling when we let them go. We visited the Science Centre and the people who were in charge of the project gave us interesting talks on how to 'look after' the eggs. We waited until the tank was brought to the school and then two weeks later the fish arrived. I felt happy, excited and looking forward to watching them grow. All of my class were really sad when we discovered that all the eggs had died but someone from the Clyde in the Classroom project came and told us that all the eggs had died apart from one, who we decided to call Nemo. We got the next stage of trout which was called alevins, so that was good. We had to change the ice bottles twice a day. We went to Pollok Park, and at the river called White Cart, we put some fish in bags to release them we even gave them names. I was very sad when we had to let them go but also very happy because I knew we had looked after them from when they were alevins to Fry's.