

## Emily Munn. Education Officer, The Urban Studies Centre



### **How did you get where you are today? LEEF!**

*I sought an alternative path from my previous role of project managing wind farm developments to work with people in the outdoors. After some time out, retraining and volunteer/freelance roles in environmental and adventure education in London and Wales, someone kindly forwarded me a LEEF advert for a position with the Urban Studies Centre. So, via a few other employers, here I am!*

**What tips would you give someone starting out in your field?** *Try many different roles to find out what you love and how you like working so that you can use your skills and strengths to their best.*

**What inspires you? Or who?** *People who are driven to make a positive difference in the world - that and the curious minds of the children that I work with.*

### **What is a significant memory of being in nature as a child?**

*The sound of a wood pigeon in the garden; making snow caves one cold winter and riding back on the corn trailer at harvest time. I grew up on a farm so this and being part of a children's camping organisation with earth based philosophies had a huge influence on me.*

**What project are you most proud of?** *Every time I watch the video created for our Shepherds Bush Market Heritage project a broad smile beams across my face. Connecting young people to their local place and its community is a real joy.*

**What's your favourite game or activity?** *Ones that make people laugh. There are so many! Big interactive games in woods or fields like Puttocks (ask me later) or sensory (and fun) nature connection games like 'You're Only Safe If' are brilliant too.*

**What's your favourite eco-place in London, and why?** *At the moment its Sydenham Hill Woods - a little bit of wild really close to where I live. That or anywhere with a view that allows you to see the lay of London and imagine how it has changed.*

**Do you have a recommendation to LEEF members?** *Keep up connections with new and familiar friends in social events or continue to go on training courses- they are continuous source of inspiration and connection as to why we do what we do.*

**What are you working on at the moment?** *This summer we are working on our new Education Programme brochure for schools. I will be putting together work from 5 schools all about children's perspectives on the past, present and futures changes in the Earls Court area - to create a guide for local families. I'll also be planning the nature connection day that Maia and I are holding on 23<sup>rd</sup> September - Come along! - And personally getting ready for more study towards my MA in Outdoor Education.*

**How would you like to see Environmental or Sustainability Education develop in the next 10 years?** *It has been a real privilege to work with and train teachers in the West London area. I'd love to see sustainability and place based outdoor learning being embedded in teacher training as well as curriculum practice.*



### **Profile of a LEEF Fellow**

This fellowship was awarded on:

Tuesday 12 July 2016

At the Royal Parks Foundation Education Centre, Hyde Park

LEEF fellowships are awarded to recognise excellence in Environmental and Sustainability Education

To find out more about LEEF;

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