



Fiona Stone, freelance educator, Stepney City Farm

How did you get where you are today?

I spent 8 fascinating years working for Central Government before feeling a pull to get out of the office and started volunteering with the youth club at Stepney City Farm. After 2 years moving into, and then out of, mainstream secondary teaching I got the opportunity to run environmental education workshops at Stepney City Farm.

What tips would you give someone starting out in your field?

Volunteer! It's the easiest and best way to try out a new role, (or get into a new career) and to get a real sense of what it's like working for different organisations.

What inspires you? Or who?

The incredible staff at Stepney City Farm. I have never met a group of people so committed to their roles and bettering the charity they work for. Working alongside people with clear values had helped me clarify my own values and choices, especially what I consume and purchase more widely.

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

Sledging down a steep hill in Epping Forest, dodging the trees with my Dad.

What project are you most proud of?

A current one working on a community growing project with a group of Bangladeshi women on a small housing estate in Whitechapel.

What's your favourite game or activity?

Tug of war. There's a massive inter-city farm young farmers tug of war each year at Capel Manor and it's the simplest way to build team spirit, win or lose!

What's your favourite eco-place in London, and why?

I sound like a broken record but Epping Forest, especially the area around the Robin Hood pub and Stepney City Farm.

Do you have a recommendation to LEEF members?

Try getting involved in projects to set up new eco-places in London. It's amazing the boost you can get from even trying to set something new up and spending time with like-minded individuals from all walks of life in your local area.

What are you working on at the moment?

Trying to set up a community animal farm in Brixton, finishing my Forest School essays, running a gardening project for adults with mental health needs at Mudchute City Farm, running the gardening group in Whitechapel, tutoring looked-after children in maths.

How would you like to see Environmental or Sustainability Education develop in the next 10 years?

Far more work supporting the emotional needs of looked after children and young adults leaving care, through environmental therapeutic work and more generally.



Profile of a LEEF Fellow

This fellowship was awarded on;

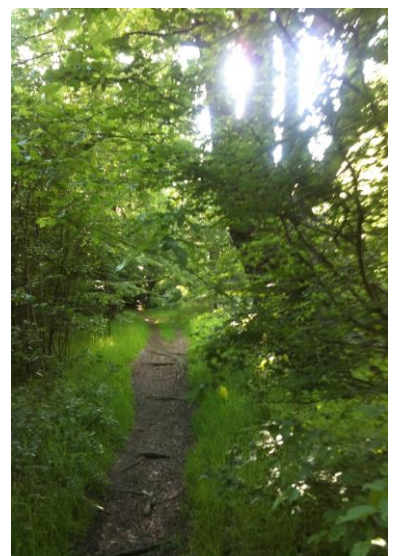
Tuesday 12 July 2016

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;

www.leef.org.uk



Epping Forest in full summer growth.