

DeeSong - Burns & Rivers

22nd June 2007



*DeeSong - Burns & Rivers
Banchory pupils with Graham Stephen*

Pupils from three Deeside primary schools participated in the 'DeeSong - Burns and Rivers' project, which is a series of workshops aimed at encouraging young people to write songs inspired by their local stretch of the River Dee.

The workshops, part of a national education project managed by Burnsong - Scotland's national song writing initiative - aim to raise the children's awareness of environmental issues, while developing their musical and expressive skills.

The primary schools involved are Banchory, Aboyne and Kincardine O'Neil. The initiative started in April 2007 when local environmental experts took the pupils on river walks to help them learn more about the river, its wildlife, and environmental issues, such as water quality and flooding. During the river walks the children made drawings and took notes and sound recordings, to help them remember the experience.

A songwriter and a musician then visited the schools over a period of eight weeks, helping the children to produce their own work. Graham Stephen, David Hunter and Grace Banks provided the tuition.

"I go to the Dee all the time but I never realised how interesting it was".
(pupil from Aboyne primary school)