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Book of Abstracts

28 June – 2 July 2017

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A Playful Approach - Want to go on a Boggart Hunt?

As outdoor educators, we have a diverse range of roles. Dyer (2004:26) suggests we may be enchanters, as we enhance environments and/or experiences so that participants can connect with nature in creative ways. Barlett (2008:1077) echoes this, calling for increased attention to re-enchantment - 'the phenomena of sensory, emotional, and nonrational ways of connecting with the earth's living systems'. In this workshop, we will explore the concepts of playfulness and enchantment, through a mix of discussion and activities, with the aim of understanding why this is important. We will be playful with voice, storytelling and natural art – and responsive to the individual needs of participants and the environment.

A Boggart is a fictional character that requires imagination to bring to life and to interpret. They embody a sense of mischievousness and the unexpected (Hayes, 2015). 'Stories have been told about a race of little people called Boggarts for at least a hundred and fifty years... all the reports say that Boggarts are always bright and cheerful and that they love singing and dancing' (Mills, 2000). Like dialect, the spelling of Boggart varies depending on location, with the northern Boggart contrasting with the southern Boggit. Wherever they are found, and however they spell their name, they have a favourite past-time of confusing grockles (a grockle is a holidaymaker, found mainly in Devon and Cornwall, although also known to spend time in Cumbria). Join us as we hunt for Boggarts amongst the magical folk, enchanted woods and faraway trees of Plymouth.

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Author Biography

Tracy Hayes is a member of IOL and a Lecturer at the University of Cumbria. She has recently completed her PhD by researching the relationship that young people have with nature, using a creative approach including stories. She enjoys being, and playing, outside.