

Thu 11/02/2021 14:43

Dear Colleagues,

With the combination of covid restrictions and record low temperatures to deal with this week I am sure that we could have done without the prophets of doom telling us not to book our summer holidays as well! We are told that we should have some sense of the government recovery roadmap on 22 February. We will look carefully at the proposals and the implications as soon as they are released. On the upside, Sunday is Saint Valentine's day and the good news is that when you are making your romantic plans this year you don't have to worry about whether to book a table at your local restaurant or have a cosy night in. There is still time to get a card too if you had forgotten.

Equality Diversity and Inclusivity Seminars

A number of staff have enjoyed a series of free webinars called 'Inclusivity in the Outdoors', delivered by Institute of Outdoor Learning (IOL) and wanted to bring them to your attention. The intention of the webinars is to

- offer staff within the sector an opportunity to update their individual knowledge
- develop EDI awareness and actions within the sector and with individual organisations
- help influence the sector and change EDI within the Outdoors

The webinars run until June and we will put more information on the staff website, but the next four will be on 24 February and then the 10th, 24th and 31st March. You can find out more and catch up with previous seminars [here](#).

A new Beetle Book

Publications have seen a strong sales at the start of the year, helped by the launch of a new Atlas [The Histeridae, Sphaeritidae and Silphidae of Britain and Ireland](#) for the Biological Records Centres (that's clown, false clown and carrion beetles to non-experts). This specialist book includes some identification keys and has been getting a lot of interest on twitter as well as some air time on Radio Northampton. Sales are now £6k. The top seller chart so far this year is the Top 50 Garden Birds with 1,200 sold, no doubt sales have been helped by the Big Garden Bird Watch and #primarynaturelive.



BBC Coverage

Just in case you missed it [here](#) is a link to the bid to open outdoor education centres.

The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review

You may have seen or heard reference to climate change and economics earlier this week. On Tuesday the government published a report on biodiversity and economics by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta. In summary the global economic system is built on buying and selling, but often, no one pays for the most basic goods and services that sustain life — water to drink, soil to grow food, clean air to breathe and rain forests that regulate the climate. The report argues that continuing to ignore the value of nature in our global economy threatens humanity itself. If you would like to delve further the review can be found [here](#)

Standing for Staff Reps – deadline approaching

As mentioned in my catch-up email of 28 January, don't forget that there is still time to volunteer to be a staff rep on the Board of Trustees, Finance & Administration Sub-Committee, Audit & Risk Management Sub-Committee or Education Strategy Sub-Committee. Information about what this involves can be found on the FSC intranet – *Document Archive/Committees and Groups/Staff Representation on Committees* ( [here](#)). Information about each of the Committees can be found in the [Trustees](#) section of the intranet; minutes and papers from past meetings can be found under *Document Archive/Committees and Groups/...* If this is of interest, please complete the  [Interest Form](#) and return it to Susan Appleyard (s.appleyard@field-studies-council.org) by **Monday 15 February 2021**.

Special Mention

Despite the restrictions of Covid, key aspects of FSC business are continuing and I would like to thank those involved in the large and complex process of capturing and reporting on FSC's Carbon data. This has involved hard work from Paul, Julie and the infrastructure team but also Chris Price and his team as they fitted in lots of carbon queries around their already busy day jobs.

Addendum sent 16:37

No-one expects the Spanish Inquisition

Publications were contacted for a Health and Safety Covid Spot check late last week. Inspections have been taking place in Telford's business park and on this occasion it was a virtual 'information gathering' visit rather than an 'inspection'. This involved a phone call and inspectors have a fixed script of questions to go through which takes about 20-30 mins. Bek reported that with the vigorous FSC approach to H&S it was straightforward and we have been told that nothing needed changing or improving. This is good news on several fronts- the first is that we are doing all we can to keep publications staff safe, but in a week when I have written to MPs to convince them that it is possible for FSC to deliver Covid Secure visits, a failed inspection would have severely damaged our reputation. So now is a good time to thank you all for sticking to the rules and to remind staff who may have joined us recently that the Covid Secure Training is a really important part of proving to inspectors that we are compliant, so please take the time to complete the course.

MPs Correspondence

As mentioned above, I have written to all centre MPs again with specific and completely do-able asks to help this sector play its role in helping learners catch up. Those that have always responded quickly and positively even if it's just passing their concerns to ministers did so again but this time we have had proper responses from two that have never engaged much with us before, with one wanting to ask further questions in the house. Another MP has agreed to join the APPG but there's an ant at every picnic and unfortunately one sent us a somewhat haughty reply with a link to the guidelines on school visits as if we hadn't read them before. MPs are of course a mixed bag, but as we have seen this year it only take a few really get stuck into an issue and that all the effort spent regularly engaging, explaining who we are and what we do can pay off when we need them to do something in a time of crisis.

All Staff Wellbeing & Westfield Health Zoom Sessions

In response to the feedback from the recent Staff Wellbeing Check In, please join HR and Chris Walmsley from Westfield Health for a session on Health & Wellbeing. Find out more about what is available along with the details of the Westfield Health scheme, types of cover for you and your family, what benefits you can claim for and how, plus details on the rewards available.

Dates for the sessions on zoom are: **Monday 22 February at 3pm & Wednesday 3 March at 1pm** and invitations will be sent shortly.

Keep well and stay safe

Mark