

Thu 03/06/2021 11:18

Dear Colleagues,

### **Couldn't organise a catch up in a brewery**

This weekly catch up could be the only catch up left standing. Joy Blizzard's oft quoted mantra is that when it comes to effecting large scale change 'There is no silver bullet. And there isn't a plastic bullet at a tenth of the cost'. It's a shame that the government hadn't grasped this because the £1.4bn plastic bullet option announced yesterday was always going to look poor when the £15bn silver bullet option had been so comprehensively leaked. The Catch Up Tsar, in keeping with historical precedent set by previous Tsars, resigned yesterday and exited the stage in dramatic fashion. Why ask an acknowledged expert if you then don't take his advice? Perhaps the money will be found behind the new Downing Street sofas.

This isn't the only muddled thinking displayed in recent days. However, we will certainly not waste a good political crisis that has highlighted the scale of the catch up needed. It makes Ofqual's plans to limit fieldwork opportunities look even more out of step, many children won't have a chance to study first hand if the plans succeed. We are continuing to press our case about the Ofqual fieldwork debacle with MPs, members of the outdoor Learning APPG (a group of cross party like-minded MPs who keep working away on our behalf and ask awkward questions) and the Chair of the Education Select Committee.

### **Jobs for a Green Recovery**

The Chair of the Education Select Committee has always been clear about his focus on educational opportunities for all including the skills needed for a fulfilling job. It's why FSC's lobbying work links the skills developed by fieldwork to future work as well as further study. With perfect timing the Green Alliance has produced a report [Jobs for a Green Recovery](#) which clearly sets out the huge role green jobs can have in levelling up and nature recovery. Areas that are struggling the most economically have the highest potential for environmental improvements and, therefore, the greatest opportunity for green jobs growth. With almost half a million people living in communities without trees or access to green space there are obvious benefits for health and wellbeing too. It's not a long report and has lots of maps to keep the geographers happy so it's well worth a read. A key highlight is that nature investments have a high cost-benefit ratio, for example with £4.60 back for every £1 invested in peatland, £2.80 back in woodland, and £1.30 back for salt marsh creation.

### **All Staff Talks**

Would you like to speak at an upcoming all staff talk? They have been a really popular way to connect staff, names and faces from across FSC and develop a much better understanding of what we all do. Your stories matter so please use this [one minute long online form](#) to put yourself and others forward to share interests and plans. Furloughed or not, any role and any level. The talks only need to be 2-5 minute long. Double acts and Q&A-style welcome. No PowerPoint. Just faces!

### **Special Mention Dave Morgan**

Many of you will have enjoyed working alongside David Morgan over the last 15 years. His techy skills and interpretation of data are renowned, and he is well known for his love of Narwhals and influential role in embedding GIS best practice across FSC Education teams. Dave also brought fresh perspectives, a sense of joy to the workplace and played a pivotal role in supporting and motivating

colleagues across FSC in new areas of development. Dave got in touch with us last week from his one-year secondment at Esri UK (GIS mapping software specialists) where he is working as a GIS Education Consultant. He is excited to have been offered a permanent contract to continue his work with the Esri UK Schools Team and so will not be returning to FSC in December. We wish Dave well in his new job and know that our paths will still cross through the longstanding partnership between FSC and Esri UK. A leaving card (Padlet) and gift collection is being coordinated by Jennie Comerford – drop her an email for the links.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark