

Thu 10/02/2022 12:14


Dear Colleagues,

### **All Staff Zoom**

During next week's all staff zoom there will as usual be a chance to ask questions at the meeting but if you have thought of some already, or you can't make the live meeting but want to pitch in, please send them in advance to Joy. This is to make sure that we leave time to cover them. There is almost always someone who thinks of a really good question and is still frantically typing away when the meeting ends.

### **Staff Rep Vacancies**

I've found that FSC isn't short of staff with opinions. So instead of just wondering out loud about how things work and why decisions are made, why not play a bigger part in FSC's future? You could step forward and take up a role of becoming a staff voice on one of FSC's committees. The role is open to all staff and all committees are interested to hear from you and your colleagues as you represent them. If you are interested in seeing the bigger picture, Jennie Comerford who has recently become a staff rep is very happy to have a chat about how she has recently become more involved.

We are currently looking for reps for the Board of Trustees and the Education Strategy Committee. With two reps for each committee the workload is shared. So if either this appeal or a chat with Jennie convinces you to stand, please complete the  [Interest Form](#) and return it to Susan [s.appleyard@field-studies-council.org](mailto:s.appleyard@field-studies-council.org).

### **National Landscapes Review**

Before the pandemic, The Glover Review looked at England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and came up with some bold and also some common sense recommendations. There were some really good proposals on how they can be better looked after and more be accessible for everyone whilst balancing this with their role in nature recovery. In particular the idea that there should be *a night under the stars for every child* really caught the imagination.

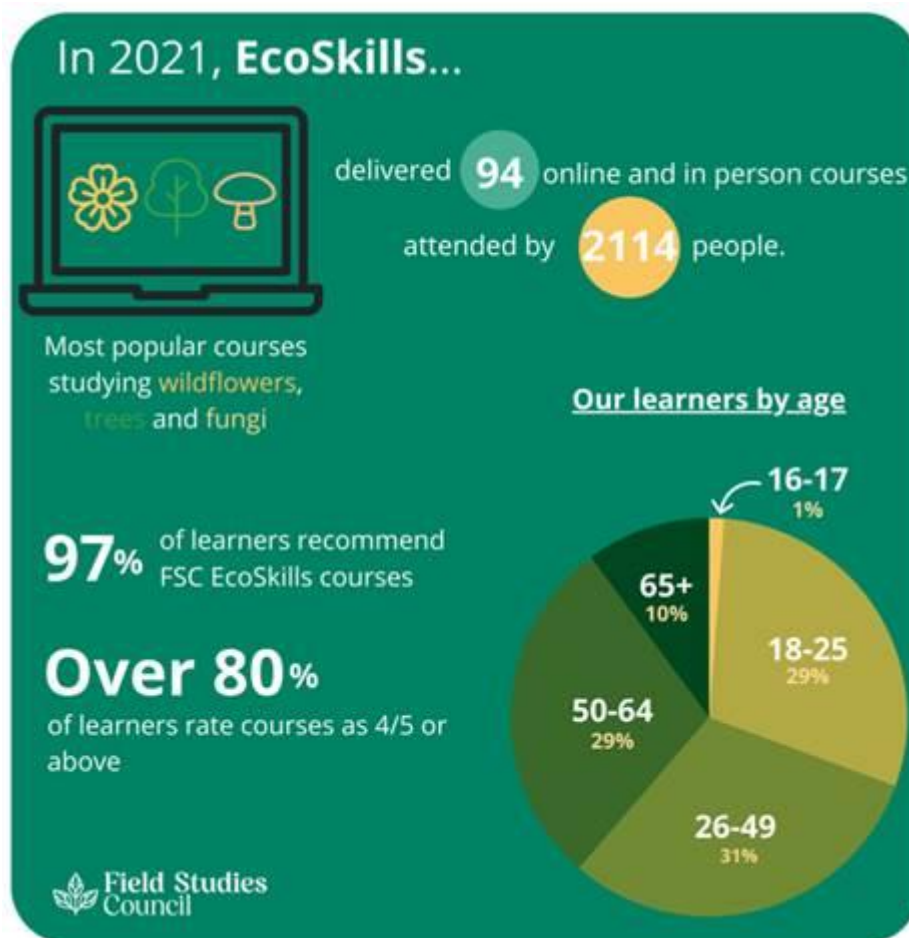
DEFRA has now [responded to the proposals](#). Sadly it's as if a giant mood Hoover has removed some of the more creative and ambitious ideas. There is a consultation because some of the suggestions that have remained will require statutory changes. FSC staff are involved in meetings with DEFRA and our partners and will be doing a response. But as many of you visit, work and live in or near these national landscapes or crucially would like to do so if there was any affordable housing, you [can respond as an individual too](#). Government doesn't have the best record on truly understanding rural issues so it's a chance to get your voice heard.

### **FSC Strategy: Quadrant Diversify**

Continuing a very brief look at key elements of the [FSC Strategy](#), Quadrant 3 is *Diversify our offer in order to expand our reach and enhance our resilience*. Last week's focus was on protecting our core business with schools and universities, but at the same time we are working to extend what we offer to more diverse audiences. This can include making the most of new opportunities such as the new T levels and the changes in agriculture. Our partnership in the Trees for Cities project has helped us reach new audiences and set out below is an example of how Eco Skills have been doing the same.

Despite 2021 being a year of challenges for the roll out of Eco-Skills: Field Studies Council's new centrally coordinated, revised programme of formal adult natural history learning there has still been much to celebrate. This is a testament to the dedicated team of engagement officers and coordinators, associate tutors and great venues and is reflected throughout the evaluation data.

With nine months' delivery now under their belts the EcoSkills team have been able to reflect on the year past and adapt processes, courses, and communications for 2022 and beyond. They have moved to a system of quarterly scheduling and launching of courses with quarter 2 now live. Eco skills are launching a range of new learning courses too. From webinars for those taking their first steps into green careers, through to seal biology and ecology or discovering ferns. Work is well underway for the imminent launch of an Eco-Skills Associate Tutor induction course to run through the Moodle online learning platform.



### HR Team Update

We have had a few changes in staff within the HR team recently, with a warm welcome to Amanda Logan and Iwona Kurpiewska who have joined us to work on recruitment and Gus (aka David) Goodwin who is covering Employee Relations and HR project work. Here is a link to [PDF Your HR Team and who to ask 2022.pdf](#) and showing their contact details. Can I please remind staff to use the following email addresses for any queries relating to general HR and Payroll matters [hr@field-studies-council.org](mailto:hr@field-studies-council.org) and for recruitment please use [recruitment@field-studies-council.org](mailto:recruitment@field-studies-council.org)

### Welcome to FSC

Conscious that I've often mentioned recruitment difficulties in the catch up, it's only right that we also celebrate successful appointments. Staff have also mentioned that it would be really helpful to

know who is now in post. I'll try to do this regularly and not miss anyone but this first one is a bumper edition to welcome those that have joined us since the start of the year:

- New Centre Managers Elke Scheibler Millport and Sian Lane at Margam Park.
- Senior Tutor Alice Ball, Tutors Adam Goodlad, Anna Harrison and National Nature Reserve Ranger Kieran Shaw-Flach at Slapton.
- Juniper Hall's new Hospitality and Catering Assistants Ana Lopes and Louisa Noorland
- Education team leader Darryl Sleath at Margam, joined by tutors Rhian Griffiths, Robyn Seabrook and Cheuk (Steven) Yin Chan
- Max Bodmer joined Epping Forest as a tutor
- Scarlett Bielecka and Lisa Richards are our new Customer Service Advisors
- Jacob Robinson has joined publications as their Business Development Officer.

And finally congratulations to those who have recently been promoted or moved from causal to permanent.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark