

Thu 24/03/2022 12:56

Dear Colleagues,

Whilst some of us will be trying to work out if yesterday's budget statement will leave us better or worse off, Sam Dhadwar will be doing the same for FSC. One of the announcements that might have been missed amongst the news on tax and fuel is that the Chancellor is to review the apprenticeships levy to see if it can work better, and announced renewed focus on vocational training. As it happens this week's catch up touches on some of the opportunities available for training and careers, including stories from our own staff.

Joining the FSC Youth Council

Applications are now open for the latest round of Youth Council places. If you know anyone aged 16-25 who would be interested in joining eleven other like-minded young naturalists, please [send them this link](#). There's an opportunity to help us shape our youth related offers in particular. Council members provide an essential role for us by ensuring that courses and opportunities are what is needed for those looking for a pathway into nature based careers or specialist study. The deadline is 10th April.

Jellyfish and Their Allies

Bek Trehern joined FSC as an intern with an unusual combination of skills which she has developed in full since being with us. One aspect of her role has been to produce some new identification charts and her latest one about Jellyfish and their Allies [can be seen here](#). During a whirlwind year, Bek has gone on to work closely with partner organisations, deliver training, organise and develop online courses, mentor our first ever Youth Council, and even join one of the Young Darwin weeks. In December, Bek was promoted to Engagement and Training Officer. She is continuing her work with the EcoSkills team to develop and deliver courses, but is now also working closely with our marketing team on the Trees for Cities project and also a brand new online [career workshop](#)

Future of Orielton

I am pleased to say that we have had quite a lot of interest in Orielton since it went on the market in January. We have now received an offer, and we will keep you posted on how that progresses. Unfortunately an impending sale does limit our flexibility and means that offering the site to house Ukrainian refugees, sadly isn't an option but it was good thought and we will continue to look at other ways to help.

Help for Ukraine

Thanks to those who have sent ideas in to Joy. We will leave suggestions open for another week. Just to help with your brainstorming, as a charity ourselves there are some rules and restrictions around simply donating to other charities, so this will need to be taken into account. It's not surprising that the use of our centres has been suggested, particularly when they are not needed by our customers. Another idea has been related to passing on the "out of date" first aid kit contents when they get changed over as many items are unused and unopened. We will continue to consider your ideas.

Staff Survey

We will be emailing you a very short Pulse Survey imminently, as I said it will be short and it will also be anonymous. Please take a few moments to complete, it as it really does help us to get a sense of how you are feeling at the moment.

Special Mention

I've had a flurry of special mentions which always make great reading. If your nomination isn't in this week, it hasn't been forgotten and I will include them in the next few catch ups.

Ella Scott, our HE Student Placement at Malham Tarn has been nominated by two people: Since starting as the sole HEP at Malham Tarn last year she has been the cement that has held the centre together. She started last year without a Centre Manager being available, and no permanent education team, but got stuck in anyway. In the last few weeks she has seen the departure of the Centre Manager and with other staff being off sick, she has stepped up, and I am told is the key stable component in the staff team there, doing administration, teaching, domestic roles, community relations and just about everything else. All this is done with a pleasant manner and no complaints. Ella has shown an incredible willingness to step up and has coped well with everything that has come her way. So heartfelt thanks go to Ella from me, but also from her colleagues who clearly value what she has brought to Malham.

Welcome to FSC this week:

Corrine Braham and Gemma Postuma are joining Margam, and Charlie Marsden is joining Castle Head as Hospitality and Catering Assistants
Apprentice Francesca Darvill is taking on additional duties at Blencathra as a General Assistant.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark