

Thu 07/04/2022 09:53

Dear colleagues,

Staff Survey Results

Thank you to the 202 members of staff who completed the pulse survey. The average time to complete was 81 seconds, not too onerous, so if you didn't complete it this time I would encourage you to do so next time. These surveys are really useful for getting a snapshot of how you are feeling and measuring trends. I will come back to you with the analysis soon but at first glance we have some work to do, so we will be rolling up our sleeves and getting on with it.

Nature Friendly Schools project comes to an end

After two and a half years the Nature Friendly Schools project ended last week. Thanks to staff from across FSC (there are too many to mention here) who have supported the development and delivery of the project in numerous ways, particularly Sam Thurston, Dave Elphick at Castle Head and Jennie Comerford, National Grants Officer. The project's positive impacts on children and young people and school staff wouldn't have been possible without your support and expertise.

Since the start of the year an undoubted highlight has been supporting 22 schools to enjoy Nature Friendly Schools residentials at five FSC locations. School staff and pupils who took part have shared some fantastic feedback. A teacher shared that their residential experience at FSC Preston Montford had a "fantastic impact on resilience and good impact on pupils' teamwork". All teachers who attended a Nature Friendly Schools residential agreed that the experience has positively impacted their confidence to deliver independent outdoor learning – a key outcome of the project.

To discover more stories from the last three months of the project take a look at the Nature Friendly Schools twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/NatureFSchools>. A more in-depth update will be shared in next week through a staff news blog post.

Tree planting at Slapton

A team of regular, occasional and new volunteers alongside staff at Slapton went tree planting recently within the National Nature Reserve at Slapton Ley. With 1,500 trees to plant in hedge formation in a short space of time, it was quite a daunting task. The weather was not kind but even so the crack team arrived and got stuck into the work and the mud too. Everyone was still smiling at the end, and all the trees have been planted, ready to grow into a fabulous hedge which will become home to creatures such as the rare [Cirl Bunting](#). Thank you to everyone who pulled together to get this done.

Wildlife ID Guides

As part of our involvement with Generation Green (a government funded project to connect young people to nature) over 5,000 free wildlife ID guides have now been sent out. There is more about our guides and the project here on a new [YouTube video](#) made by the team.

Darwin Scholarships Now Open

In what will be our 10th year of the programme, [Darwin scholarships](#) - where 90% of the costs are subsidised- are now open for applications. There is a programme for 16-17 year olds, and another for 18-25 year olds. The FSC Youth Council have advised on content so we are confident that it will be as relevant as possible to the needs of young naturalists. There is a mix of residential and day options. As 100% of last year's scholars would recommend the programme to other young people with an interest in nature, we expect places to fill up fast. Please do encourage those you know in that age group to apply by 5th June.

EDI Survey Reminder

Yesterday we were at 212 sign ups and 157 completions so please don't forget to do your EDI training as we are aiming to complete training by today!

Special Mention

There has been more than one recent nomination for staff in the north. The way in which the whole team both old and new, between and within centres have pulled together in difficult times means that I am reluctant to do a long list as it risks missing people out who have stepped in or stepped up to help deliver to our customers. So I would like to thank all of you and look forward to being able to do so in person when I visit you in the next few weeks and months.

Welcome and Welcome back:

Hilary Bushell is now Acting Centre Manager at Malham Tarn

Adele Dawson is back at Castle Head as administrator and joining her are Thomas Raymond and Molly Hayward (our HEP) in Hospitality and Catering roles.

Melanie Collins has joined Rhyd-y-creuau and Jessica Edgley has joined Nettlecombe as Hospitality and Catering Assistants

At Slapton, David Blair is the new Maintenance Assistant, Janice Jackson the new General Assistant, Nicola Lumby the new Hospitality and Catering Assistant Bella Moor is the new Administrator Jordan William has joined Flatford Mill as Education Support Assistant.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark