

Thu 28/04/2022 12:53

Dear Colleagues,

### **Next Year's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Next year will be our 80<sup>th</sup> and we are looking to put on a number of related 80<sup>th</sup> events across the year. We want to make the focus about staff, centres, who we are and what we do. Other celebrations and staff conferences have been badly interrupted by Covid and some centres were not able to celebrate their own significant anniversaries. The actual anniversary date is in December which is why we want to do things through the year. Carol Decker is leading on plans but we need to set up a small group of staff to capture ideas and work on practicalities. The aim is to put together a plan and budget to present at the next board of trustees in July. Please do contact Carol if you would like to be involved.

### **Email signatures and direct lines**

It's good to see the new brand rolled out in our new email signature, I'd particularly like to thank Charles for his work on this; it's not just a case of pressing a button to make it happen. On another note can I remind you all to please phone colleagues directly rather than using the Central Sales Team as an internal reception and operator service. They are heading into a really busy phone and email time with our customers and do not really have the time to provide this additional service.

### **Sustainable Education Strategies**

It's not often that a government strategy comes out as better than expected. Perhaps because expectations are generally low. But last week's Department for Education [sustainability strategy](#) had been improved since the draft. The GCSE in natural history caught most of the media attention and we managed our fair share of print and radio coverage. We think it has become our most commented on Facebook item. There is more about the strategy in the monthly policy monitoring report (see below). Like buses, two such strategies have come along at once and this evening [National Association for Environmental Education](#) - a fellow charity - is launching a Young People's Learning and the Environment Manifesto. FSC will be zooming into that event.


### **Royal Society of Biology discount membership offer**

We are a membership organisation of the RSB and this means that staff and trustees are eligible to join the RSB at a 50% discounted rate for the first two years. The membership page of the website is [here](#).

### **Free BioLinks course**

The [Invertebrates for Beginners](#) online course has plenty of study content, activities and assignments that can be completed in your own time. The cut off for completion is the end of 2022. It is open to all, including staff who may want to have a go at completing it and please feel free to share with anyone you think may be interested.

### **Monthly Policy Monitoring Report**

A number of you have asked about the Monthly Policy Report and its attendant cartoons. After a Covid enforced break, the report is back and instead of sending out another email, it will in future be a link on the catch up.  [April's is here](#). For those of you that are new to the update or have gone to sleep since the last one, please remember that it's a light hearted and therefore internal document only. It's not intended to be copied and pasted into external documents, letters to MPs, media work or updates for others in the sector. Apparently, the Policy Officer doesn't view plagiarism as a flattering *hommage*. If you need an official briefing then please contact Joy and she can provide you with something more appropriate. And cartoon free.

**Welcome to FSC**

John Ramirez, our new Peripatetic Cook in the North

Andrew Redman is joining Nettlecombe Court as a Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Grace Philips is starting at Slapton Ley as a Seasonal Tutor

**Thank you**

I would like to say thank you to Vicki and the team at Bishops Wood for hosting me yesterday, and also for their suggestions and candid responses to my questions.

Keep safe and stay well

Mark