

Thu 19/05/2022 13:30

Dear Colleagues,

I've just had a meeting with the Department for Education to explore working with them on the new sustainability strategy. Jacob Rees Mogg would have been horrified by a slight interruption due to the arrival of what might have been a non-office based plumber, but I'm not going to tell. These things make our civil servants all the more human. This week's catch up comes with a number of opportunities – none of them paid unfortunately, but we are looking for presenters, a guest editor and the government is looking for scientific advisors.

#ClimateChangeLive

Building on the success of #FieldworkLive and #PrimaryNatureLive, we have secured funding from the British Ecological Society for #ClimateChangeLive. It's a programme of live broadcasts about the impact of climate change on biodiversity. They are open to all but targeted at those aged 14 -21. Live broadcasts presented by our tutors will show viewers some of the impacts of climate change happening at our own locations e.g. increasing numbers of the Asian Shore Crab at FSC Flatford Mill. There will also be interviews with those looking to use nature based solutions for managing or mitigating climate change. Participants will be encouraged to start their own mini investigations into climate change at home, upload data and explore how they can make a difference instead of feeling helpless. Thank you to Dr Bethan Stagg, our Digital Learning Officer who secured the funding.

Proposed Bill in Scotland to Ensure Residentials

It's very early stages for this great idea, championed by MSP Liz Smith. The purpose behind the bill is to ensure that all 12-16 year olds in local authority and grant aided schools in Scotland have the opportunity to experience outdoor learning residentials. The first stage of the process is to gather views and iron out any potential problems. FSC will be doing a response but there is nothing to stop staff or trustees responding as individuals. All the details are [here](#).

Natural History Live Webinars: seeking presenters

Following on from the success of the Biolinks Natural History Live webinars, the EcoSkills team will be continuing free live webinars (with optional donations) on a variety of topics. These webinars have so far attracted almost 7,000 attendees. The plan is to run these webinars quarterly with seasonal extras where relevant. The team are looking for presenters to deliver talks of around 40 minutes via Zoom about UK Natural History. If you have expertise in a certain species or subject, are involved in any projects, charities or volunteer groups, or know someone who might be interested, please send an email to Emily Gilford e.gilford@field-studies-council.org for more information about how to get involved.

Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology

The PM is looking for three new members to join the above. Unfortunately, it's not a way to implement the recent advice from a government minister to work longer hours and/or get another job as the positions are unpaid. If you or you know anyone who meets the quite robust criteria and you quite fancy having the opportunity to provide independent advice to the Prime Minister and government on the implications of science and research you can [apply here](#).

Guest Editor

I'm looking for a guest editor to help with the catch up on Thursday 9th June. In the recent past, guest editors have come from sales, marketing and external projects. FSC is not short of people with something to say, so get in touch with j.blizzard@field-studies-council.org if you would like to take on the role for a week.

Young Darwins' Scholarship: closing date is soon

Applications are coming in for the [2022 Scholarship](#) programme which is 90% subsidised. With additional bank holidays, exams and a well-known tendency to leave things to the last minute please do remind any young people in your life to apply. The deadline is 5th June.

Alex MacFie

Alex has taken the decision to leave the FSC. I'd like to thank her for her hard work starting as Millport's Centre Manager and latterly as Head of Education and Operations (North). She was also instrumental in the development of our HEPs programme. We all wish her the very best for the future.

A thank you

The marketing team wanted to thank staff who have really helped them by using the marketing@field-studies-council.org email to contact them as recently requested. The team are not quite up to full strength but have come a long way from the days when Anna Lewis held the fort. Thank you to her and to the others who have stepped in, stepped up and continue to do so.

Welcome to FSC:

There's been a recent bumper crop of new starters in the last few weeks which is very welcome news. I've just been sent the updated list and I'll work through it over the next few catch ups

- Mark Taylor recently joined Margam Park as Maintenance Officer and Olga Carnall as Malham Tarn's Casual General Assistant.
- Michael Richardson and Ben Lock at Castle Head, Anita Puddicombe at Juniper Hall and Lisa Cork at Preston Montford have all joined us as Hospitality and Catering Assistants
- Joanna Roberts is our new Administrative Assistant at Blencathra
- Amy Dennett has joined Head Office as Customer Relations Assistant
- Jennifer McGowan has joined Rhyd-y-creuau as a Tutor
- Finley Dennison has returned to Slapton as General Assistant

Stay safe and keep well

Mark