

Thu 14/07/2022 10:23

Dear Colleagues,

Nature for Everyone

I mentioned this campaign a couple of weeks ago. The Levelling Up department may have been bereft of political leadership earlier in the week but work continues elsewhere. Two 'Nature For Everyone' related amendments have been tabled in Committee Stage of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. These will be discussed in September, but if you haven't already done so, please add your voice to the campaign to ensure access to nature for everybody. You can [sign the petition here](#).

Political Changes

You will probably have noted that there is increased activity in Parliament as the competition for leader of the conservative party takes place. The immediate impact of this turbulence meant that we held off from writing our usual welcome letter to the new Secretaries of State for Education which was just as well as you have probably observed that they changed over pretty rapidly. We don't know if the appropriately named James Cleverly will survive the new PM's next reshuffle but he is in place now and we have written to welcome him to the role. Some of the functions of government are carrying on regardless but others of interest to us could be delayed. We are awaiting an announcement about who has won the tender for the National Nature Park and Climate Leaders Award. Originally it was to be today, but I suspect it has in that usual language of government "slipped".

New Free Courses

Much more interesting than identifying unknown politicians as they flit up and down Downing St, BioLinks have developed two new online courses in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation. The good news is that they are free. You can sign up to learn more about some of our most distinctive butterflies and moths in the UK through self-study content, quizzes and a live webinar with the tutors. These courses have stuck a chord. Since going live on the 29th of June, we've seen 890 sign up for the butterfly course and 553 for the moths. Although this course is free, it's a great chance to grow our audience and make them aware of all the other things we do.

You can sign up using the links: Identifying Distinctive Butterflies
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/376123313957> and Identifying Distinctive Moths
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/376443080387>

#WildlifeWednesday

The Marketing team have started a weekly quiz to engage viewers on our Instagram and Facebook profiles to testing their wildlife knowledge. The first quiz was all about butterfly identification, where followers had to choose the correct photo of the species in question. Last week was a chance to see how well followers knew wildlife tracks and signs. Featuring photos of otter footprints, deer rubbed tree trunks and a magpie feather, all had to be identified correctly. This week they have created a true or false spider facts quiz, to see just how much followers know about spiders.

At the end of each quiz, a link is provided to the corresponding Eco Skills courses, so they have a chance to learn more by attending one of our natural history courses. It's been a fun feature to engage followers and the teams have even had messages from those who had done well, and those not so well.

Welcome to FSC:

Ellen Monaghan is joining Head Office as our new Natural History Learning Development Officer

Helena James is starting as a tutor at Preston Montford

Kirsten Hughes at Flatford Mill and Erin Holdsworth at Preston Montford are joining us as Hospitality and Catering Assistants

Stay safe and keep well

Mark