

Thu 21/07/2022 12:48

Dear Colleagues,

### **Heeding the Warning**

Thank to you all of you who monitored the weather warnings, sent excellent advice to staff and those who adapted planned activities to make them safer for our customers. Climate change has intruded dramatically into government business too. A few days ago I had a Teams meeting with an MP who had to place her IT equipment in her freezer to keep it working during our conversation. Teams Meetings in an ice box might become another new normal.

### **The Case for Green Infrastructure**

Every now and again I come across excellent interviews and Radio 4's World Tonight on Tuesday was one such example. It's worth a listen and might be of particular interest to those teaching about urban geography and deprivation. Jon Burke made a succinct case for urban trees (having been instrumental in planting several thousand street trees in Hackney) and explained the direct line that can be drawn between lack of tree cover and deprivation. He clearly demonstrated the role of green infrastructure in bringing down temperatures in urban areas. You can hear the piece [here](#) starting 20 minutes in with a first hand account of what living in a hot urban environment is like for people with underlying health conditions.

We are directly involved in both of these issues. Last week's catch up highlighted the campaign to level up access to [nature for everyone](#) but especially in deprived neighbourhoods. FSC is also a partner in the [Trees for Cities Forgotten Places project](#) which is targeting seven of our most deprived coastal towns. The free virtual courses 'Identifying Broadleaf trees in Summer' that we are delivering for residents in seven town and cities from Ramsgate to Hull, will be running shortly, you can see the details [here](#).

### **Invite for staff and trustees to discuss volunteer roles**

What could the Field Studies Council do differently with more volunteers? What roles would benefit volunteers, our learners and the charity? Our Director of Eco-Business, Philip Turvil, is inviting staff and trustees to meet for 90 minutes in early August to discuss these big questions. We won't be discussing process. Rather, thinking what *could be*.

We already have volunteers in different teams and, of course, our volunteer Trustees. This meeting is about potential next steps. This follows lots of ideas and updates that have circulated in the last couple of months, including as part of our 10 year plan. If you're interested in discussing volunteers, please email Philip at [p.turvil@field-studies-council.org](mailto:p.turvil@field-studies-council.org)

### **Bees Needs Week**

You might struggle to get a passport or driving licence, but some parts of government are still functioning, including Bees Needs Week. Visitors to Head Office may have noticed the growing number of beautiful wildflower verges sown by the local council. Research has just been published which found that crops visited by pollinators had more stable yields, something of vital importance in a world of unstable food supplies. The week focuses on 5 simple steps we can all take to help pollinators which probably don't come a surprise to many of you: grow more flowers, shrubs and trees, let your garden grow wild, cut your grass less often, don't disturb insect nests and hibernation spots and think carefully about whether to use pesticides. You can find out more about the week, and pollinator monitoring schemes [here](#).

**Welcome to FSC:**

Neil Titford is the new General Assistant at Slapton Ley

Megan Crisell has joined Juniper Hall as a Tutor

Mark Baker is the new Governance Support Officer at Head Office

Abbey Charlwood at Juniper and Poppy Burner at Slapton Ley are joining us as Hospitality and Catering Assistants.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark